



King of Kings Lutheran Church

“Centered in Christ, we love all, welcome all, and pursue justice and peace”

September 2018

WWW.KOKLUTHERAN.ORG

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Pastor's Message

*“Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul”* Psalm 143:8

Greetings Saints of King of Kings!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” at the Churchwide Assembly in 2009. The full statement may be read here:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SexualitySS.pdf?_ga=2.18043312.827155953.1535391880-1327333110.1516923940

When I came to King of Kings 14 years ago, my second week here I walked into Bible Study and the group was beginning a study on what would become this social statement. There were many different points of view, and a lot of good discussion, and I remember being pleased that the congregation was so willing to discuss this topic, especially with a new pastor.

This social statement, like the others, is exploring what it means to live faithfully in a complex world. To be faithful means to be trustworthy. What does it mean to be trustworthy when it comes to human sexuality? Human sexuality not only involves sexual intercourse, but a whole range of “relational, emotional, and physical interactions.” (p.1 of the summary) In other words our sexuality is about who we are and how we interact with others.

We were created good and sexuality is a gift from God. Human sexuality can be used for good and it can be used for harm. God also gave us laws to help us relate in compassionate ways to others in the community.

Marriage can be a place we especially express our sexuality. Marriage can offer commitment and public accountability that build trust and build community. However, marriage can be a place of great harm. This church affirms a commitment to support those who are at risk in marriage, and those who are divorced. The church does “not favor cohabitation outside of marriage, although it recognizes the social forces at work that encourage such practices.” (p. 3 of the summary) Lutherans are called to support families of all kinds, so they can provide safety for their family members. Congregations must be places of safety for all kinds of families.

Only recently has the church become aware that same-gender couples have been seeking life-long commitment and public accountability, as well as the legal support offered in marriage. Although, the church has historically seen marriage as a commitment between a man and a woman, now the ELCA is open to different opinions on the topic and pastors and congregations may choose to respond based on their beliefs and agreements.

The statement affirms that we need to find healthy ways to live out our sexuality, whether we are in an intimate relationship or not. This includes having a healthy body image. The ELCA calls for the sexual education of children and teens.

The church stands against harmful social forces that influence sexual behavior, all forms of sexual exploitation, using human sexuality to sell products, poor workplace boundaries, and clergy sexual abuse.

In conclusion, we have this gift of human sexuality from God. God is faithful and trustworthy and loves us no matter what. We want to use this gift for good and not harm, for the building up of the community and the Kingdom of God. Our churches also want to use the gifts God has given to support families of all kinds for the good of us all.

Peace, Pr. Aimee 



Upcoming Worship Schedule

September 02	Informal Worship
September 09	Blended Worship and Potluck
September 16	Blended Worship
September 23	Traditional Worship
September 30	Blended Worship with Church of God of Prophecy with a POTLUCK!*

***Our joint service will be bilingual with Pr. Juan preaching. Be thinking about what dish you want to bring for our potluck.**

Wow two potlucks AND a wine & cheese tasting at the Nobles, we'll have good eats this month!

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 4 million members in more than 10,000 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.

Welcome Back



Welcome Back: Choir, Sewing for Others, Bible Study, and Backpack Buddies. **SAC, Property Team, Social Justice, Spirits & Theology, have been meeting all along but would welcome YOU to join them at any time!**

I always think of the school year as the ‘beginning of the year’ and with all these activities resuming after a summer hiatus it definitely feels like a new year. If you would like to try something new, below is a list of opportunities and their schedules.

Backpack Buddies We are celebrating our twelfth year of partnership with Milwaukie Lutheran Church to provide nutritious lunches on the weekends to students at Milwaukie Elementary School. To kick off the year, we hope you will bring a food item for a child’s backpack or a check to support the program. Make checks out to King of Kings and on the memo line write, “Backpack Buddies.”

The King of Kings Chancel Choir will begin a new season of enhancing worship with anthems and liturgical support on Wednesday, September 5. Rehearsal begins at 7:00 pm and ends at 9:00 pm. If you have a passion for inspired choral music and wish to contribute to worship by singing, please join us. Sight reading is not required, but you must be willing to have a good time with others who love to sing.

SAC Stewardship Action Core (SAC) is a committee of church members who are called to educate ourselves in the careful and responsible management of all things entrusted to our care and to share that vision with the congregation. Currently we are planning Commitment Sunday which will be October 21. You are invited to join us.

Sewing for Others resumes in full force September 11 at 9:30 am. You don’t even have to sew. You could cut quilt squares using a provided template or use yarn to tie the quilt top to the backing. Pastor Aimee usually joins our group for reading of the upcoming Sunday’s scripture lessons and we are active in praying for the congregation and the community.

The **Social Justice Group** will continue to support efforts to alleviate the housing crisis in Clackamas County. We also want to explore ways to back other social justice issues as well. What causes cry out to you? What are you passionate about? Help us discern our next steps when we meet on Tuesday, September 4, at 3:45 pm.

Wednesday Bible Study Beginning September 12 we will be continuing our three-year track to read every word of the Bible. On average, we read 5 chapters a week. We will post the readings ahead so that you can follow along even if you can’t join the Wednesday group. We read together at Bible study and discuss what it means to us and how we apply the lessons in our daily life. Even if you can’t attend every week, you could certainly jump in any time to study a particular book that interests or challenges you.



As a part of our **Welcome Back** we are having a **Potluck** on September 9. Those whose last names that begin with **A-G**: please bring desserts; **H-M**: main dishes; **N-Z**: salads. Y’all come! Bring a pal! Everyone is welcome!

Stewardship Action Core (SAC)

The **Stewardship Action Core (SAC)** is a committee of church members who are called to educate ourselves in the careful and responsible management of all things entrusted to our care and to share that vision with the congregation.

Gratitude

As most of you know, the theme this year for the Stewardship Action Core is gratitude. We have so much for which to be thankful, it is hard to know where to begin. When we have such abundance, it is easy to not think seriously about it. Gratitude can almost become a cliché.

Like most of us, Sandy and I have many things to be thankful for. However, for this article, we have selected just one: We are truly grateful for each other!

Ours is a 2nd marriage for both of us. We each lost long term spouses to cancer much too soon. We don't minimize the loss we experienced, and we would not want anyone to go through the grief that we did. It was indeed a trying and troubled time.

So why are we thankful? Many people go through life without ever finding a true partner. Someone with which to share joys and sorrows without judgement or pretense. Someone to be a best friend as well as a spouse. We are so blessed to have found that person twice!

For what are you truly grateful?

Blessings,
Greg & Sandy Peterson



Spirits & Theology or

Bible & BREW

Time: Tuesday, September 12 @ 6 pm

Place: Flying Pie Pizza, 16691 SE McLoughlin Blvd.

Fellowship abounds and ideas about spiritual matters are exchanged in an informal and public setting. Each month the group reads a chapter of *Faith in Action: A Handbook for Activists, Advocates and Allies*. Each reading is 2-3 pages which can be accomplished quickly before the discussion begins if you don't have your own copy of the book. Living with Disability is this month's topic.

Come when you can. Bring friends. All are welcome.



King's Cupboard News



Great things are happening at King's Cupboard!!

Statistics: In August, we served 100 families/323 people. Year to Date we have served 777 families/2427 people. Volunteers average 55 people per month giving over 300 hours of their time and talents.

In July, Grocery Outlet Bargain Market in Milwaukie, held an Independence From Hunger fundraiser. Over \$10,000 dollars were raised and just over \$5000.00 was donated to King's Cupboard. *Thank you Grocery Outlet!!!*

In August, we received just over \$1000.00 from Providence Milwaukie Hospital and a gift of \$500.00 from residents of The Springs. *Thank you Providence and The Springs residents!!!*

There have been some changes in recent weeks including: A second freezer downstairs donated to us by Bobby and Charlotte Cunningham. Bobby has served the pantry for many years and is "retiring", at least for awhile!! *Thank you Bobby!!!* for your dedication and hard work.

King's Cupboard continues to work toward our goal of feeding each person that comes in, a 3 to 5-day supply of healthy food. We have new goals to increase the amount of food we give and also to move toward new and healthy options.

Special thanks and gratitude to so many that serve in so many ways. King's Cupboard is a blessing provided by each and every person who gives of their time, money, talents, prayers and dedication.

All are welcome to come and join us as we are blessed to serve our hungry neighbors.

Thank you



Thank you to all who share their gifts and talents as counters of the Sunday offering. This dedicated group of people sort through all the giving envelopes in the offering plate, decipher our handwriting, add up all the categories of giving, and deposit the money in the bank.



Thank you to:

Graham and Bobbe Backman

Gary and Margaret Noble

Greg and Sandy Peterson

Bob and Marlene Seymour

Mary Zellharie and Gene Zaharie

We appreciate your hard work and attention to detail! Thanks for your service to God and to King of Kings!



Member of the Month

Stella Quinn-Carder

When did you become a member of King of Kings?

I guess I joined when my moms adopted me in February. Although I am 12 years old, I haven't been confirmed yet.

Why did you decide to become a member? OR What would you say to someone who is looking at our church?

Wow, this church has a lot of interesting people who all have been very friendly to me. They made me feel like I fit in right away.

What activities do you participate in? I am coming to the office every work day with mom. I keep an eye on her and Pastor Aimee to make sure that they don't need my help. Sometimes I have to herd them around and remind them to take a break outside. They tell me I am on probation until we make sure this is a good placement.

What other hobbies do you enjoy?

My favorite hobby is eating, so you could say I'm part chow hound!

What is your work? Greeter. I recently found my calling as an office dog, specifically CHURCH office. The nicest people seem to stop by the office and on Pantry days I get to greet even more people. I think they like having an 'official' greeter.

Tell a little of your family and what you like to do for fun.

Well, my other mom recently went over the Rainbow Bridge and I was so lonely at home, you can't imagine. Only the two cats to keep me company, while they might be part of my family they don't really like hanging out with me very much. (Besides that, one of them is nearly as big as I am and she's kind of scary).

As far as my family origins goes that is mostly a mystery. Besides chow hound and herder, Mom says I am part Lhasa Fatso (that's the pot calling the kettle black, don't ya think?!) Everyone knows it's Lhasa Apso.

So far, the best fun I've ever had is meeting new people at church, so drop by any work day so we can get acquainted!

P.S. Mom says I get to come to church on October 7, see below for more info about that!

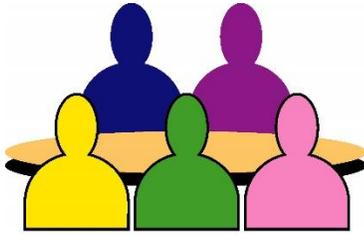


St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 7

Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with the blessing of the animals – well behaved pets of all kinds are welcome! Bring a photo or a stuffed animal if you can't bring your pet. We will have a blessing in memory of special pets that have died.





Council Highlights

In attendance: Mike Foley, Kathy Pearsall, Mike Brooks, John Pederson, Jamie Sandness and Pastor Aimee

Relational Meeting: The question is ‘What if God wrote your bucket list?’

- † Mike Foley has agreed to work with Jamie to set up a “Tithly” account, so that donations to the Pantry can be made electronically.
- † **Christian Education:** Bible school went well, 14 registered children, thanks to all volunteers
- † **Executive Committee:** A brief meeting regarding the hiring of a custodian.
- † **Financial Secretary’s Report:** Giving is meeting 99.4% of the congregational need
- † **Social Justice:** Had their first Safe Overnight Shelter discernment meeting. A discernment team is forming.
- † **Food Pantry:** 103 families were served in July feeding 372.
- † **Property:** The roof has been patched. There was a brief discussion about fundraisers, to help cover the possible \$30,000.00 in future repairs and furnace replacement.
- † **SAC:** October 21st will be the chili feed, associated with commitment Sunday. And the Pacific Crest Trail ‘Walk’ is going to continue, promoting stewardship of the body, because the response has been great.
- † **Pastor’s Report:** Custodians have been hired and have done their first cleaning.

Pastor is going to be doing some continuing Ed in October, a lectionary retreat with the other Pastors in our cluster.

We thank LaVern for filling in the for Susan, while she was caring for her Mother.

Committees will be featured as “Member of the Month” (Liaison to take group photo). This will help to inform the congregation of the various committees and what they do.

Downstairs Space: Jamie is going to look in to window signage to advertise: Meeting Space Available.

Council Goals: Basketball Hoop: Some of the money has been donated.

Play Structure: On hold, pending decisions about housing decisions.

Web site: No progress.

Connecting with the neighbors: That is happening through the SOS process.

Bench: In process.

Plant-able Cross: Has been approved and will be worked on, once the weather is cooler

Movie night: October 20.

Emergency policy/Fire Drill: Carbon dioxide sensors are needed for the building. Mike Brooks will determine how many are needed.

Next meeting date: September 18, 2018

September Council person of the month: Mike Foley



Period of Purple Crying

The purpose of Click for Babies is to raise awareness about the **Period of Purple Crying** which if not understood can lead parents or caregivers of infants to shake these crying infants. For the past 3 years, some KOK knitters and crocheters have made purple hats as part of this campaign. The campaign continues through October so there's still time to make a couple of purple hats. Anyone interested can see Mary Z or go online to Click for Babies to learn the parameters (7" diameter, 4-6" high, mostly purple and very soft) and knit or crochet away.

Equally important to the hat facet of this campaign is the "Telling" -sharing with others the significance of the **PURPLE** letters in the campaign and the "Donating" of money to support the educational efforts.

Please ask new parents if they know about this **PERIOD OF PURPLE CRYING**. Help them learn about it and what actions they can take to help their child and themselves. Everyone who is around newborns needs to be aware of this Period. For more information, check the display on the bulletin board at the back of the social hall or go online to **The Period of Purple Crying**, or <http://clickforbabies.org/about-click-for-babies-campaign.php>.

THE LETTERS IN PURPLE STAND FOR

P

PEAK OF CRYING

Your baby may cry more each week, the most in month 2, then less in months 3-5

U

UNEXPECTED

Crying can come and go & you don't know why.

R

RESISTS SOOTHING

Your baby may not stop crying no matter what you try.

P

PAIN-LIKE FACE

A crying baby may look like they are in pain, even when they are not.

L

LONG LASTING

Crying can last as much as 5 hours a day or more.

E

EVENING

Your baby may cry more in the late afternoon & evening.

THE WORD PERIOD MEANS THAT THE CRYING HAS A BEGINNING AND AN END

Bottledrop



Return your bottles and cans and donate the proceeds to KOK.

How it works: Pick up a special green bag in the office, take it home, and put your refundable bottles and cans in the bag. Once your bag is full, return it to the office and we will return it for you. That is Gary Noble will. They only accept 2 bags at a time, so give Gary a heads up if you need to bring more.

Thanks Gary!

GOODBYE AND GODSPEED *Kecia*

Due to health concerns Kecia was not able to continue as our custodian. We thank her for several years of cheerful, detailed and energetic care of the church.

NEW CUSTODIANS *Ana & Daniel Espinosa*



Ana and Daniel come very highly recommended and experienced. They have cleaned the church twice and their attention to detail is already noticed. They are very friendly and hardworking. If you have suggestions for them, please contact someone on the Executive Team: Pastor, Mike Foley, John Pederson or Sharon Konsa who will communicate with the custodians.

NEW MEMBER: *Angie Luttrell*

On Sunday, we welcomed new member Angie Luttrell. Angie has been coming here for awhile and is so happy to be joining the church. She can most often be found with the children. She loves babies and loves to help.

She lives just down the street at: 14320 SE Bevington,
Milwaukie, OR 97267
503-659-3905

Angie's birthday is August 30.

Join MACG and Creator's Sanctuary Team

Saturday, Sept 15th, 5-7pm

at Creator Lutheran for Food & Conversation to better understand Measure 105 and help prevent racial profiling of Oregonians.

How do we respond to upcoming Measure 105, which would end Oregon's 30-year Sanctuary status?

Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) MACG is an alliance of 24 faith, labor, health education and community organizations in the Portland Metro Area dedicated to building a base of everyday citizen leaders to effectively stand for change they want to see in their communities. Current issues teams are tackling include houselessness/affordable housing, immigrant rights, and environmental justice.

Creator's Sanctuary Team (Immigrant Justice Team) are asking – "How do we live out the ELCA Oregon Synod's decision to become a Sanctuary Synod?"

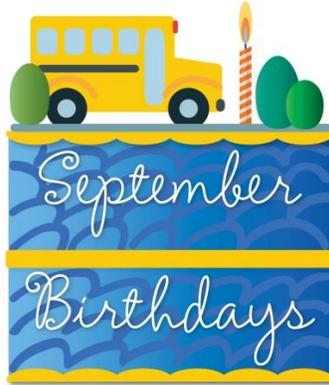
Let's Celebrate!



God's Blessing to you as you celebrate...

September Birthdays

1 Katherine Hinds
1 Ning Lin
2 Lynn Lin
4 Nick Hance
7 Barry Burns
8 Penny Charman
9 Tom Rutger



9 Loren Stolin
10 Mike Brooks
17 Phyllis Borge
19 Ellen Burns
21 Adonica DeVault
22 Susan Brooks
22 Cathy Pederson
30 Vicki Rutger

September Baptisms



10 Aimee Bruno
25 Selma Eckert
27 Grace Lopez



13 Gene Zaharie & Mary Zellharie
15 Mike & Patty Hess
18 Bob & Sioux Smith



If we miss YOUR special day, PLEASE let the church office know, we may not have the information. THANKS!

Prayers & Thanksgivings. . .

Family & Friends of Margaret Wittrich *at her death August 22; service to be held here on
September 24 at 10:00 a.m.*

Family & Friends of Kathy Nedrow *at her death Pastor Aimee's cousin; at his death*

Family & Friends of Michael Graham *Pastor Aimee's cousin; at his death*

Family & Friends of Betsy Quinn *Susan Carder's mother; at her death August 3*

Mike Brooks *Heart valve replacement on September 4, before lung surgery*

Chris Christensen *Ellen Burns' sister; infection*

Carolyn Potter *Skin cancer on her hand, recovering from surgery, struggling with diabetes*

Irene Thurston *LaVern Mortensen's sister; suffering from Osteo and Psoriatic arthritis*

Sharon Konsa *Broken shoulder in two places, no surgery needed*

Rachel Hartwell Butler *Bonnie Cowden's niece; at the death of the father of her child.*

Kiernan Hartwell *Grandniece of Bonnie Cowden; ulcerative colitis*

Maya *Sister of Savita Davis; heart & kidney problems*

Betty Pogue *Recurrence of bladder cancer; on hospice*

Tracy *Pastor Aimee's mother in law's friend, recovering from surgery*

David Schmitz *Larry & Donna's son; diagnosed with acute leukemia*

Amanda *Tom & Lisa Hiller's niece; young mom with cancer*

Carol Shelly *LaVern Mortensen's BFF; undergoing chemo*

JR Potter *Life threatening autoimmune disorder*

Prayers will be left on our prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

Please notify Pastor Aimee if prayers are needed for a longer period.

