



Connections:



King of kings Lutheran Church

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“Now is the winter of our discontent”

- opening line from *Henry III*; William Shakespeare

Let's be honest: the weather has been truly awful this winter. It has been cold, snowy, and unrelenting. Even for me, a veteran of long depressing winters, this has been no fun and I am longing for days of spring, sunshine, and warmth. I know there are many who feel similarly, and some who truly suffer during this season.

In winter, we are restricted and confined, kept indoors by snow and ice. In winter, we struggle to keep warm and keep our spirits up. Compounding this is the current international financial crisis. We are worried about our jobs, our homes, our retirement, and our way of life. Anxiety, doubt, fear, and winter, what a glorious combination! In the midst of all these dis-ease, unhappiness, and discontentment, is there any good news to share?

As Christians, whether we know it or not, we have a deep storehouse of resources to combat difficult and challenging times. Scripture is filled with the story of God's faithful action, intervention, and deliverance on behalf of God's people. The stories of the exodus from Egypt, exile from Babylonia, and of course Jesus' sacrificial death remind us of God's deep love and compassion for us. God is neither absent nor unconcerned with our pain and suffering. God's compassion and love for us is infinite and absolute.

It is also true however, that God does not shield us from unpleasant and difficult circumstances. God gives us strength to endure and the reminder of his presence, but the human experience is often filled with times of discomfort, pain, suffering, and hardship. God does not cause these things to happen, but they are allowed. For us then, times like these become opportunities for growth and development. What can we learn about ourselves in the midst of difficulty? How is this time in life preparing me for something later? How can I use this time to give God glory?

Times like these are never easy and require strong faith and confidence in the enduring presence, goodness, and love of God. Yet, we also know how this story will end. In Christ, we have our clearest picture of God's heart. In Christ, we have a God of resurrection and redemption. In Christ, we experience the complete and total transformation of our lives and our world. In Christ, God transforms life from death, hope from despair, faith from fear, grace from guilt, victory from defeat. With full and certain knowledge we proclaim to the world, by the death and resurrection of Christ, confidence that despite a long and dreary winter, spring is on the way.

“I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:11-13

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ben

February 2009

Special points of interest:

- Soup Suppers
- Adult Study: Faces of Evil
- VBS Needs You !

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Lenten Worship Schedule

Plan to join us during this Lenten season with several worship opportunities on Wednesdays, as well as special services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Wednesday services will highlight special 'faith stories' from some of our members.

All Wednesday Lenten worship services will be preceded by a Soup Supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. Spend an hour before the service sharing soup and fellowship. Watch for sign up sheets to be posted on a bulletin board in the hallway with the drinking fountain. You can sign up to bring to a pot of soup to share. Please plan to bring your own bowl and utensils.



Ash Wednesday ~ February 25th

Soup Supper @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

1st Wednesday in Lent ~ March 4th

Soup Supper @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

2nd Wednesday in Lent ~ March 11th

Soup Supper @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

3rd Wednesday in Lent ~ March 18th

Soup Supper @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

4th Wednesday in Lent ~ March 25th

Soup Supper @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

5th Wednesday in Lent ~ April 1st

Soup Supper @ 6:00 p.m.

Worship @ 7:00 p.m.



Palm Sunday ~ April 5th
(featuring First Communion)

Maundy Thursday ~ April 9th

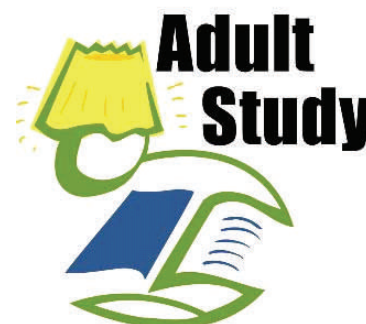
Good Friday ~ April 10th

Easter Sunday ~ April 12th

Adult Study: Faces of Evil

This course will investigate the nature of evil and explore the variety of ways evil manifests in our world today. We will discuss evil from a biblical, historical, and theological perspective and how we are to respond as Christians. We will utilize readings from scripture, theology, current events, and literature. We will read at least one novel together. This course will expand your mind and give you tools to

combat the seen and unseen evil in our world. Pastor Ben will lead this course on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. during Lent.



Follow Jesus By: Pastor Ben Sandin

What does it take to be a follower of Jesus? What does it mean to be a disciple of the crucified and risen Jesus?

I have been thinking about these questions deeply over the past several years. As a pastor, it is my job, my calling, to empower and enable people to become followers of Jesus. **So what is a disciple and how do you know if you meet one?** Put another way, would a stranger be able to tell, by looking at your life, that you were a follower of Jesus?

This is a tough question which causes us to deeply examine our lives and most likely repent and seek forgiveness. Lutherans, in particular, have difficulty understanding discipleship. We know that being a good person and making Godly decisions are not what achieves and maintains our relationship with God. It is only through God's amazing gift of grace and love, and not by our own doing, that we can be in relationship with God. Yet being convinced of our inherent sinfulness does not excuse us from the path of discipleship.

It is not enough for us to simply accept the gift of grace and believe the right things about Jesus. (Well in a sense this is enough, at least in regards to our salvation.) God expects us and needs us to be agents of grace and peace in the world, to be God's hands and feet, to share the love of Christ with a hurting and suffering world. We cannot make this kind of impact unless our lives become transformed, sanctified, and prepared by God's love and grace. We cannot become these kinds of people without growth, change, and discipline.

Being a disciple is an important and most necessary calling. Being a

disciple of Jesus requires work and effort. Being a disciple of Jesus requires us to make sacrifices and live lives that are different from those around us. Jesus was constantly challenging his would-be followers to change their lives, to allow God to transform them to whom they were created to be.

'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.'

Mark 10:20-22

In the story of the rich young man, Jesus discusses the transformation a person of wealth must undergo. The young man had been faithfully following the law his entire life and yet Jesus asked for more. It was not enough simply to follow the law, the young man had to give up what he held most dear; his wealth. It isn't being wealthy that is the problem for him, but it is the elevated status wealth played in his life which required change. It was a challenge to give up what he held most dear in order to fully follow Jesus. Being a disciple means more than following the law and having the right beliefs, being a disciple means submitting our lives to God. Being a disciple means putting God first. The young man was happy to follow God when it was easy, but when it required sacrifice he fell apart.

To become a disciple we must give our heart and our lives to God, without holding back. It is a difficult, sacrificial, arduous road. But it is a road which leads to our transformation, growth and liberation. A road which leads to the life God intended for you, and life which

positively impacts the world. I pray that God might grant you the strength and courage to follow Christ with your entire heart and life, knowing that neither your ability nor inability to become a true disciple will change your salvation, but through God's grace you have been afforded the opportunity to live a life of significance and meaning.

What is keeping you from being a true disciple?

What are you holding back?

For more biblical insights, please check Pastor Ben's blog at:

[http://
biblestudyinsideout.blogspot.com/](http://biblestudyinsideout.blogspot.com/)



First Communion Classes

First Communion classes will be led by Pastor Ben and offered for those in 2nd grade or older who have not yet received their First Communion.

Classes will run for 3 weeks on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.; March 18th, March 25th & April 1st.

Children will be able to make their First Communion on Palm Sunday, April 5th at the 10:00 a.m. Contemporary worship service

If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up for the classes, please call Jennifer Meyers in the Church office at 586-566-8660.



Altar Flowers

Each weekend a floral arrangement is placed on the Altar during worship services. These arrangements are purchased by members and friends of King of kings. For \$20 you can sponsor the altar flowers for a given weekend 'in honor' or 'in memory' of someone or a special occasion (a baptism, an anniversary, a loved one).

A sign up poster is located on a bulletin board in our main hallway. Pick a weekend that works for you and fill in your name and designation.

You are welcome to pick your arrangement up and take it home with you anytime after the Monday night worship service.

It's a wonderful gesture that honors someone or something special to you.

Stop by the sign up board or call Jennifer Meyers in the office at 586-566-8660 to see if a date is available.



How Do You Get Your Church Newsletter?

How do you get your Church newsletter? Do you get a paper copy in the mail or do you have computer access and print your own copy at home? We are happy to accommodate whichever way works best for you.

If you currently receive yours through the mail and would like to start printing your own, just let us know by emailing Jennifer Meyers at jmeyers@koklc.org. She'll add your

name to the congregational email list and let you know through email when the current newsletter has been posted on our website (www.koklc.org). It's that simple.

If you currently receive our newsletters and attend another church and would like your name removed from our list, please let us know.



Vacation Bible School Needs You!

Remember last year? We turned King of kings into PowerLab, a wacky science lab where kids were "powered up" by God's Word. This summer we hope to do it again with your help. We're seeking 4 key players to join the VBS Leadership Team and get the ball rolling:

- ~ Director
- ~ Assistant Director
- ~ Pre-K Director
- ~ Assistant Pre-K Director

If you would like to know more, please contact:

Diane Kraabel
Sunday School Coordinator
586-731-6684
dkraabel@wowway.com



Please Mark Your Calendar

All Sunday School kids are invited to attend worship with their families on February 15th & 22nd. Please note: Sunday School will resume March 1st

with a new series on "Friendship". For more information, please contact Diane Kraabel, Sunday School Coordinator, at 586-731-6684

Used Cell Phones, Used Ink Cartridges, and Empty Pop Cans

The CHAOS group (high school youth) are continuing to collect used cell phones (phones & batteries only), used ink cartridges, and empty pop cans.

Empty pop cans can be dropped off in plastic bags and left in the Fellowship Hall, just outside of the CHAOS

room door. The group will be happy to turn them in for you.

The cell phones and used ink cartridges can be dropped off in the labeled collection boxes located in the coat room. Please check the list (by the drop off box) to see if we are able to use the model of ink

cartridge that you have.

All money raised will go towards future CHAOS events and projects.

Thank you,
Tim Mackey

Confirmation:

February

- 4th Servant Event
- 11th Fellowship Event - Feather Bowling
- 18th **No Class Due to Winter Break**
- 25th Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7:00 p.m.
* Learning Night

Confirmation classes begin at 7:00 p.m.

CHAOS:

February

- 4th Servant Event
- 11th Fellowship - Game Night
- 18th **No Meeting Due to Winter Break**
- 25th Integrity Night with Pastor Ben @ 8:00 p.m.



Getting To Know You By: Jennifer Meyers

There has not been a new 'Faith Face' article in our newsletter for a few months now. This was done purposely so that it would not become overly routine. If you are newer to King of kings and not familiar with the Faith Face articles, the concept was meant to focus on a particular member or couple from King of kings and help you get to know them a little better; what their interests were and what areas within the church they had become involved in. It helped in putting a name with a face that you'd seen.

During the last few years King of kings has been blessed with many

new members. I think everyone will agree that no matter who you are it takes a while in a new place to meet new people, get comfortable and become connected. It does not matter if you are starting at a new school or job, or moving into a new house in a new neighborhood. The same goes when you begin attending a new church; everyone needs to give themselves time to get comfortable and become involved with ministries and activities both inside and outside the church. What better way to assist new members get to know all of us than to help each of us get to know them. Hopefully you will take

the time to read these "Getting To Know You" articles and then be proactive. It is much easier for us to introduce ourselves to a new member than expect a new member to introduce themselves to a roomful of strangers. Let's take advantage of these 'Getting To Know You' articles and discover what we have in common with our fellow neighbors.

I'd like to thank the Mackintosh family for being so fearless and accommodating as the first subjects for this article series.

A Warm Welcome To The Mackintosh Family

Let me introduce to you Todd and Susan Mackintosh and their children, Emily (age 5) and Brian (age 3). The Mackintoshes joined King of kings just last December. Todd and Susan are both originally from Ohio. They married in 1997, but have spent the better part of the last ten years living and working in Indiana. Todd worked for Delphi and is now working directly with GM. They are one of the few families who have actually transferred in to the state of Michigan rather than the other way around. We gladly welcome them here.

Todd and Susan were very active at their last church in Indiana. When they made the move here, they began looking for a new church home. That can often be a very involved process in itself. They wanted to attend an ELCA church, so they began with a search on the Internet. They found King of kings and decided to give us a try. According to Todd, 'We like the 10:00 contemporary service. We really like that the kids' Sunday School is held at the same time. Emily is able to get more out of her Sunday School and we're able to

pay more attention to worship. Brian is in the nursery and loves it there.' Susan added, 'We used to attend the traditional style worship at our old church. If we slept late, we'd go to their contemporary service - but it was really different for us. A little too 'out there'. We really enjoy the contemporary worship here. It has a lot of the traditional things we were used to but at the same time it feels real friendly and comfortable for us. It's different than the contemporary style we came from.' They agree that King of kings is the right fit for them.

Todd and Susan are anxious to get involved and see where they will fit in. They plan to wait just a bit, though, till they've had an opportunity to meet some other people. They have already taken the initiative by signing up for Pastor Ben's 'What does it mean to be a Lutheran?' 5-week study. Todd says they enjoy continuing their learning process. They plan to attend Bible studies and perhaps some small groups. To them it's all part of continuing on their journey with God. Last year Todd attended a 'Great Banquet' weekend in Indiana; very similar to the Via de Cristo



offerings we have here in Michigan. Susan said she might be interested in attending one in the future as well, if she can handle leaving Todd at home with the children for a weekend.

Todd and Susan keep themselves busy outside of church with their hobbies. He enjoys golf and she is an avid scrap booker. Of course, they are both busy with all that goes along with being parents of two younger children.

Take a minute the next time you see them and introduce yourselves. It'll be a fun process to discover just how much we all have in common with one another.

Things You Should Know . . .

- † For information regarding scheduling a **Baptism** or **wedding** at King of kings, please contact Jennifer Meyers, Administrative Associate at 586-566-8660.
- † The **HIS GANG** quilting group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join them.
- † The **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** is held on the 1st & 3rd Saturday mornings of the month at 8:00 a.m.
- † The **BOOK CLUB** will resume meeting on the 3rd Thursdays of each month. The next meeting will be February 19th at 7:00 p.m.
- † **SUNDAY SCHOOL** will **NOT** be held on both February 15th & 22nd due to the school Winter Break schedule
- † **LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES** will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. A **SOUP SUPPER** will begin at 6:00 p.m.
- † The **CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING** is scheduled for Sunday, March 1st at 12:45 p.m. Council elections will be held at the meeting for '4' available positions.

Thinking about joining King of kings?

We personally invite you to join us for our next **New Member Orientation** to find out what it means to be a Christian, Lutheran and a member of the church.

We will take the time to answer your questions and provide you with enough information to make the right choice for you and your family.

We are able to provide childcare during all of our New Member Orientations for your convenience and peace of mind.

For further information, please contact Bill Bond at 586-731-9635.



Youth & Children's Programs

Sunday School

† Meets at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays

For more information contact Diane Kraabel
'Interim' Sunday School Coordinator
586-731-6684

Confirmation

† Meets on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Check the schedule for specific events.

For more information contact Cherie Schankin
Ministry Associate
586-566-8660

C.H.A.O.S.

† Meets on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

Check the schedule for specific events.

For more information contact Tim Mackey
586-532-9032





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Pastor Ben Sandin

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We're on Schoenherr Road, just north of 21 Mile Road

MAIL DATE:
January 26, 2009

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us for weekly worship:

Contemporary Praise Worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
'The Edge' Worship, Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
Contemporary Praise Worship, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.



*Upcoming
Sermon Series:*

*'Encountering Jesus:
How Jesus
Changes Lives'*