



Connections:



King of kings Lutheran Church

Office: 586-566-8660; Fax: 586-566-8263; E-mail: office@koklc.org; Website: www.koklc.org

Go, See What God Is Doing

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

If anyone speaks in a tongue, two - or at the most three - should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret ...

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

(1 Corinthians 14:26-32)

Do you expect to see God at work in your daily life? Are you looking for the signs that God is active? Are you sharing with others what you see?

Paul was a wonderful teacher and pastor of the early church and was extremely concerned that the budding Christian communities he helped establish would be hospitable to all people. Paul went out of his way, time and time again, to address the real and present needs of the people, and encouraged them to find ways to live together in community.

In his letter to the Corinthians, and in particular in Chapter 14, Paul is trying to bring order to a chaotic and unruly worship experience. It seems as though the people are so excited to share their "God stories" in worship that they are not taking turns. Everyone wants to speak at once and the unstructured nature of worship is causing problems for the church. Can you imagine what it would be like to have this problem? What would our church be like if people came together and eagerly shared their stories, so eagerly in fact that they tripped all over themselves trying to share?

It seems that Paul's exhortation to bring order to worship has been taken extremely seriously in the history of the church. We like order and tradition and predictability - this is human nature. Chaos and disorder are disturbing and threatening. But are we missing something? Could we use a bit more disorder in our lives? Are we making room for the Spirit of God to intercede and show us something new? Are we making time to listen to God and one another?

In our life together as the church, I would love to have the problem of the people of Corinth. I would love to have so many powerful stories of what God is doing in our lives that we have to be reminded to take turns.

An even bigger issue for us isn't order or disorder in worship. I believe many haven't yet opened their eyes to see what God is up to in the world. God is alive and moving in our lives and in the world. Are you looking? We can easily get so caught up in our busy lives that we don't even look for God. Or perhaps even worse, we believe that God is not present in our everyday lives. But God is present in all of life: at home, at work, at the grocery store, on the street, and even in the church. So start looking for God and you will see. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9) Then come and share with the rest of us, I promise we will all get a turn.

Peace,
Pastor Ben

July 2008

Special points of interest:

- Thrivent Financial
- Pictorial Directory
- Registration Forms available now for all Fall Youth & Children's Ministry programs
- Church office closed on July 4th

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There's Still Time To Schedule Your Appointment

We are excited to announce that we are finally going to create a **'new'** pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help each of us to connect names with faces. We have so many new people active at King of kings since our last directory was created in 2004.

We invite you to come and have your picture taken. We are striving for 100% participation. We have appointment sheets available in the lobby or you can call the Church office.

Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free direc-

tory and a complimentary 8x10 Custom Natural Portrait. You will only have to come once for photography and portrait viewing. You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment, if you choose. You can dress formally or casually, it's completely up to you.

We are holding photography sessions on Monday & Tuesday, July 21st & 22nd. This will be a great time for those who have family members home from college. We want everyone to be included.

In September we will hold additional sessions (for those who were



busy vacationing or unavailable during the summer). Those sessions will be held on Monday & Tuesday, September 8th & 9th.

We would love for 'everyone' in our family to take part in this special project. If you are homebound and unable to make it in, please contact the Church office. We've made special arrangements to be able to include you.

If you haven't already ... schedule your appointment today!!!

Thrivent Financial For Lutherans

When was the last time you had a financial checkup? When you hear the word 'checkup', what comes to mind? Most likely it's your physical health. But checkups are just as critical to your financial health - which may be equally as important.

Most financial experts recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year. The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help.

Thrivent Financial offers simple, affordable ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings plan. Or a recent job promotion may mean it's finally time to start saving for retirement.

Regular financial checkups are one of the most important ways you can

ensure you're doing what's necessary today to help you achieve your long-term financial goals.

For a financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Ryan Mackinder at (586) 726-8899 ext #114 or at Ryan.Mackinder@thrivent.com today or visit www.thrivent.com.

Small Group of the Month: '40-n-Fit'

A new small group recently formed for those of us who need structure to help us get exercise on a regular basis. The group is open to anyone who wants exercise - but being 40 is merely a guideline, not a requirement. Perhaps there are days when you feel 40, which is great if you're 50 or 60, not necessarily if you're 25.

They've started off with walking. Each week on Wednesday night they walk for a minimum of 1 hour on a different path. They've walked starting at Mae Stecker Park and connected to Heritage Gardens (24 Mile & Van Dyke) and on the Macomb Orchard Trail beginning at 25 Mile & Shelby Road. They've

decided to take advantage of the outdoors during the summer and proceed indoors this winter for a weekly class or perhaps ice skating.

Interested? Give Jennifer Meyers a call at 586-566-8660 and she'll let you know where they'll be meeting this week.



For a while now I have had the distinct pleasure of writing about a different King of kings' member each month in the 'Faith Face' column of the newsletter. I get excited about the idea of hopefully helping each of you get to know another KOK member better. Generally, every time one of us comes to church we see other people. Some of them we may already know well, some we may only know casually, and some we may have never met. That's where I come in. I get the luxury of picking someone, sitting down with them for a conversation, and then writing about them in the hopes that I can share that conversation and my perspective with you. Someone asked me just this week, "How do you pick who you are going to write about?" I told them, "Naturally I like to keep it somewhat balanced. I try to establish a variety; some subjects are male,

some are female, some are a bit older and wiser, and some are younger and overflowing with enthusiasm. But the common thread seems to be that for one reason or another the person I choose has stood out to me. Maybe because I've personally seen them or heard them or because someone dropped me a hint and told me they thought that person was really interesting and I found myself feeling curious." I realize that there are probably more people at King of kings that I haven't met yet than those I have. That is part of what makes it so exciting and challenging for me. Everyone has a unique gift or talent that God has given only to them. I like to see people acknowledge their gift and be able to use it every day to do God's work; whether that gift helps children or adults or helps encourage or support people or circumstances. I welcome everyone's

suggestions wholeheartedly. If there's someone you know that you think has an interesting background or story to share, please let me know. I hope that I am able to continue writing this column long enough to get to know each of you a little better.

Last month I was fascinated by my conversation with Ed Bouvier. After talking with him I felt like I'd known him my entire life. It felt like the kind of conversation I would have had with a grandparent over a tall cold glass of lemonade on a breezy summer day. I hope you were able to join us recently when we honored Ed with a verse of 'Happy Birthday' and a cake for his 98th birthday. This month I've chosen someone who inspires me with her voice. I invite you to join me now as I share with you a recent conversation I had with Robin Klotz.

Meet This Month's Faith Face: Robin Klotz

Have you ever been blessed to view a picture someone had painted and felt like you were looking at it through the artist's eyes; as if you knew exactly what they were thinking when their brush touched the canvas? Have you ever been to a restaurant and had such a delicious meal that you wondered just how the chef was able to create such a wonderful combination of flavors? Having a God-given talent and being able to execute it for the pleasure and goodness of other people is a blessing. Recently I had the privilege of listening to an amazing voice during a couple of our Sunday worship services. While I thoroughly enjoy hearing the King of kings' praise band, I was truly moved when I listened to 2 different songs where a certain woman's voice was highlighted. I felt compelled this month to talk with Robin Klotz because her singing genuinely touched me.

Robin and her husband, Ed, have been married for 15 years and currently reside in Sterling Heights with their 3 children: Felecia (11), Jonathon (9) and Nicholas (4). Robin volunteers weekly at her children's school and is a substitute crossing guard. Her hobbies and interests include computerized puzzle games, listening to music, doodling, and baking cakes for her children's birthdays. Some of her edible specialties have been a treasure chest cake for Nicholas and a camping cake for Felecia - complete with a bonfire. When I asked her what Jonathon's choice was for his recent birthday she shrugged and said "He wanted one of those large chocolate chip cookies from the Nestle' Store. I always tell them they can choose, so I had to let him have it." Surprisingly, Robin hasn't been recruited yet for the KOK baking team ... hmmm, I'll



"... singing is a release. I can get any emotion out when I'm singing. It doesn't matter if I'm happy or sad or angry. I can express myself ..."

bet that will change. Whatever Robin does with her time she says 'family comes first'. She stays active at KOK by leading the Euchre small

Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crisis, and a Revolution of Hope By Brian McLaren (2007)

In *Everything Must Change*, Brian McLaren calls Christians everywhere to take seriously the life and message of Jesus and to apply Jesus' message to the issues we face in the world today. McLaren's book is powerful and compelling, issuing to each of us an unyielding challenge to fully embody Jesus' life and work.

In McLaren's view, Christianity in American culture is a domesticated and tame version, or even a distortion, of what Jesus had in mind. When we focus solely on our own relationship with Jesus and our own hopes for eternal life to the exclusion of caring for and serving our fellow humanity and creation, we miss an essential aspect of Jesus' message. McLaren gives renewed focus and attention to Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God. McLaren effectively argues that the Kingdom of God is not just an end of time reality, but is present in our world today. "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the good news." (Mark 1:15) As Christ-followers we are called to participate in the unfolding Kingdom of God by working toward transform-

ing the world into the world God intends for us.

Two centering questions that drive this book for McLaren are: "what are the biggest problems in the world?" and "what do the life and teachings of Jesus have to say about the most critical global problems in our world today?" These are thought provoking questions, which cause us to think and re-think how our words, actions, and lives are either participating or resisting God's in-breaking kingdom.

In *Everything Must Change*, McLaren addresses what he considers to be some of the most critical problems facing us today offering analysis and opportunities for transformation. McLaren addresses many issues, including: unfettered global consumption which fails to respect global limits, the fundamental and growing gap between the rich and poor in our world, and the deep desire for protection and security fueled by violence and fear.

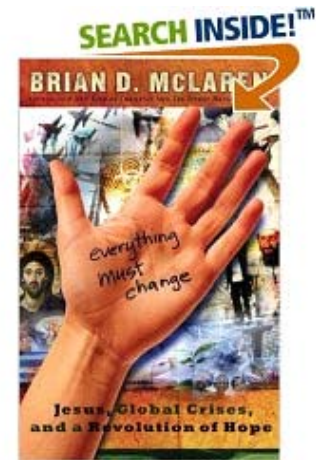
McLaren addresses these issues with a fundamental hope that we can actually, through Christ, transform the world and transcend these global issues. While sobering,

Everything Must Change is a convincing and inspiring book which would be well suited for anyone interested in applying their faith to real world issues. Each chapter is accompanied by discussion questions which are ideally suited for small groups.

Be sure to include this book on your summer reading list.

Peace,

Pastor Ben



Items Wanted For The Church Library

As part of the Renewal 2008 Project, the current library will be moved into the old Operations' office this summer. The library currently has a minimal selection of children/family oriented DVDs. We would like to increase our selection of family movies and are looking for donations of **used** 'G' and 'PG' rated DVDs. Only movies that have been approved by the Dove Foundation (www.dove.org) will be accepted.

Please drop off your donations in

the library box with your name attached to the donation. Examples of types of movies we are looking for would be "National Treasure", "Ratatouille", "Spy Kids", or "High School Musical".

If you have specific questions you can contact Laura White at 586-677-1607 or laurawhite123@yahoo.com.



More Volunteers Needed for Power Lab VBS

Power Lab will soon be here ... August 4th-8th, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Please consider being part of this "POWERFUL" children's ministry program. Visit www.koklc.org, click on Vacation Bible School to learn more and sign up.

Any questions, contact:
 Diane Kraabel, VBS Director
 586-731-6684
 Kristen Leach, Pre-K Director
 586-412-3669
 Robin Klotz, Assistant Director
 586-323-1366



Do You Have Any "Sciency" Props? (To Donate or Borrow)

If you have any of the following items that you could 'donate' or our crew could 'borrow', please contact Diane Kraabel, VBS Director, at 586-731-6684. Items can be put in the storage room to the left of the kitchen. Please put your name on the items.

Overhead Transparency Projector

3 **LARGE** water jugs - the kind used for home/office water-cooling systems

3 White, Styrofoam coolers

LARGE cardboard boxes (appliance, TV size, etc.)

Microscope

Static Electricity Ball

Lava Lamp

Black Light

Bubble Machine

Test Tubes & Beakers (or any clear containers that resemble them)

Christmas Rope Lights

LOWES or **HOME DEPOT** gift cards



Sunday School ... See What's In Store!



Elementary Sunday School (1st-6th Grade)

Just imagine a Sunday School classroom where our kids are examining Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and can paint their OWN version while discussing God's promise to Abram when God said, "Look at the sky and try to count the stars; you will have as many descendants as that." (Genesis 15:5, Good News). Or enter another room where our kids are learning & discussing the "Ten Commandments" while watching clips of *"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"*.

What's it called? It's **PowerXpress**. This rotational-style format will allow your child to experience the Bible story in many different ways. When children see AND hear AND do, they retain 90% of the experience. As a result, the Bible story and its meaning will have a better chance of

mention, from a leader's standpoint, it's easy to prepare & use since you'll be leading the same Bible Story Unit for several weeks, just presenting it to different groups of kids, similar to a Vacation Bible School format. For example, the *Art Station Leader* will teach the hands-on art project to Group A Kids one Sunday & then teach the **same** art project to Group B Kids the following Sunday.

Who can make these Bible stories come to life for our kids? You and other adults who have special interests in either, art, movies, science or story telling.

Can you commit to leading a Station for as little as a month or perhaps rotating with a friend? Stations include Art, Movies, Bible Stories & Science. All stations come with complete, easy to follow instructions & ways to relate your Station to the Bible. PowerXpress Sunday School is HANDS-ON ... FLEXIBLE ... & INTERACTIVE! To learn more, go to www.powerxpress.com.

Pre-K & K Sunday School (for age 3 yrs - kindergarten)

Studies indicate young children need the stability of a single classroom and a stable teaching team in order to learn. They also thrive with creative & innovative teaching styles. That's why, this year, our preschool & kindergarten kids will be experiencing **Live B.I.G.** This curriculum will help our kids age 3 yrs-kindergarten learn about God's Word and how it applies to their lives through fun and engaging lesson plans, colorful kids' books with in-class activities to take home, and short video clips to enhance multiple sensory learning. *Parents can learn more at **iLiveBIG.com**.

Contact Diane Kraabel, Sunday School Coordinator, to join either the PowerXpress Team or the Live B.I.G. Team (586-731-6684 or dkraabel@wowway.com).



Faith Face Article continued from page 3 ...

group, singing with the praise band, and volunteering for vacation bible school; in fact, she's volunteered for VBS every year that she's been here except for one - the year Nicholas was born. She has been a member of King of kings since the fall of 2001; and ironically enough, began singing with the praise band before she became a member of the church. While she has many hobbies, singing remains her passion.

Robin enjoys many kinds of music including contemporary Christian music, pop, country ... a little bit of everything (even heavy metal). She's always had the desire to sing. "I think I've been singing since I was born. I've sung in church choirs and school choirs, but I don't do karaoke and I've never sung the national anthem. When I was a little girl and only knew the title of a song or a few words, I would keep singing the same words over and over and over. My sisters just wanted me to stop. I think I drove them crazy." Robin has always had the aspiration to sing and someday 'make it big', but truly feels that as long as she is singing - she is happy. She feels that "...singing is a release. I can get any emotion out when I'm singing. It doesn't matter if I'm happy or sad or angry. I can express myself when I'm singing." I'll bet we all wished we had an outlet like that to be able to express ourselves.

I asked Robin to share with me a special 'God moment' in her life when she felt truly inspired. She mentioned attending a music conference in Chicago once with a few members of the praise band. There were speakers, discussions, and a variety of music. "I had always known God and knew that He was in my life, but while I was there I had a real 'light bulb experience'. I felt my first real connection to God and to this day every time we sing a song that I first heard there at the conference I get this amazing rush, sometimes feeling overwhelmed. Music and singing are just my way of feeling connected."

I always like to ask people for their perspective on the best way for others to get involved and connected when they come to King of kings or any other church. Robin suggests finding what your true passion is and looking for a way to apply it. If you're not sure where to begin, just try something new. It doesn't matter if it's through music, art, playing Euchre, bike riding, gardening, a Bible study, or serving as a greeter before a worship service. The key is to 'get connected'. You'll make friendships in no time at all and develop a support system that knows no limits.

The next time you attend one of our worship services, keep an eye out for Robin and then say hello. If you don't see her at first, you may hear

her. She has an infectious laugh, that is both contagious and friendly. As Robin says, "People have told me that they know I'm in the building long before they actually see me, because they hear me. I'm not sure if that's good or bad, but it's me."



Playground Planning Underway

Do you have a gift for planning children's play areas? Are you able to help the children at King of kings have a place to call their own for fellowship? If so, we need you!

Please contact Michelle Carley at 586-246-0661 if you want to be a part

of this team and help redevelop the children's playground area located on the south side of the church.

All imaginations and suggestions are welcome!



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 next **GO! Study** session will be on Thursday, July 24th at 7:00 p.m.
- † Just a reminder that there will be **NO Saturday evening worship** or an **8:30 a.m. Traditional worship service** during the summer months.
- † 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.



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 piece of mind.

For further information and our next orientation date, please contact Bill Bond at 586-731-9635.



Youth & Children's Programs ~ Returning In September

Sunday School

† Returning in September

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

Confirmation

† Returning in September

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

C.H.A.O.S.

† Returning in September

For more information contact
Pastor Ben
586-566-8660

We are now accepting registrations for all fall youth & children's programs. You can register online by following the links at www.koklc.org. Registration forms are also available on the Welcome Desk in the church lobby.





King of kings Lutheran Church
47500 Schoenherr Road
Shelby Twp., MI 48315-4771

Pastor Ben Sandin

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

MAIL DATE:
June 23, 2008

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.



Sermon Series ~

Deep Questions of Faith