



Connections:



King of Kings Lutheran Church

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Summer Days

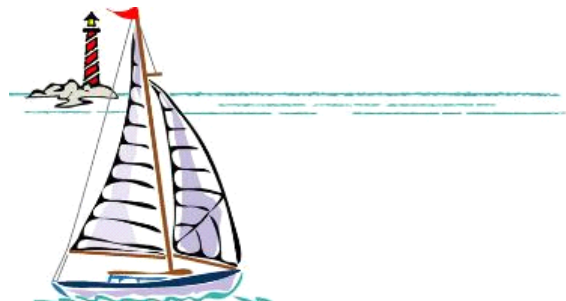
The days of Summer are now fast approaching. Each day we are blessed with more and more sunlight, and soon we will experience our Summer Solstice (June 20). Several years ago, my mother, who is award winning watercolorist, did an entire art exhibit on the solstice. She painted over 40 original paintings that were focused on the life-giving power of the Sun. It was truly a remarkable exhibit with a vast array of sunrises, sunsets, and everything in between. I have always been in awe of the great variety of colors our Sun can display. One simply cannot witness the beauty of a Lake Superior sunset and not be blown away by the majestic beauty of God's creation.

For many, including myself, Summer is a time to get out and enjoy nature. Whether you are a hiker, biker, fishermen, kayaker, or simply a nature lover, Summer weather provides us the opportunity to enjoy the richness and splendor of the creation. This summer I am planning several small and large Michigan outdoor adventures, including the Pictured Rocks and the Keweenaw Peninsula. I hope that you and your family take some time to get out there and explore our natural world, you will be blessed and reinvigorated.

For me, spending time in nature is more than simply good exercise and an appreciation for natural beauty, it has always been a spiritual experience. I remember watching the Lake Superior waves rhythmically crash into the Canadian rocky shoreline and realizing the depth and wonder of God's creation. A week spent on Isle Royale gave me a reprieve from the "real world" and allowed me to feel God's peace and serenity. I could go on and on about the spiritual aspects of our natural world, and to know that God created all of this for us to enjoy and to look after, it is truly awesome.



So get out there this Summer and enjoy the beautiful creation God has made. While you're out there offer a prayer of deep gratitude and thanksgiving for all God has created, including you and me!



Peace,

Pastor Ben

June 2008

Special points of interest:

- Pictorial Church Directory
- Crop Walk
- 60 Soccer Balls

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You Ought To Be In Pictures

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 will soon 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 will be 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.

Watch for more details coming soon!

Woman to Woman

Woman to Woman program - (formerly known as Mentoring Women and Connecting Women) will be coming to King of kings this August.

Women walking together in faith, will gather once a month for 11 months. Each month they will read a book, then meet at either Laura Wroza or Judy Zimmerman's home, where they will have dinner, pray and have lesson and discussion time.

There will be a cost to cover the monthly books and some additional materials. Please pray about your involvement in this special group of women. Group size is limited - there are only 8 openings available. Contact Judy Zimmerman at 586-805-9329 or Laura Wroza at 586-247-5032 if you think you may be interested.

They will be happy to answer to any of your specific questions.



Woman To Woman

Small Group of the Month: Adopt-A-Plot

Ever wonder who plants the colorful flowers around the church, trims the shrubs and keeps the grounds weed-free? It's all due to wonderful people, like yourself, you choose to adopt a plot of ground around the church for the summer months.

Do you have a green thumb and

like to plant beautiful flowers and plants? If you do ... great ... if you don't ... that's ok too. We have a few plots still available that need some color, but we also have many freshly mulched areas that just need to be maintained approximately every other week or so. With the fresh mulch, the weeds are limited and



easy to spot and maintain. Interested yet? Contact Nancy Beitler at 586-247-4702 and she'll get you set up with a plot that needs some attention.

Faith Face ~

Last month I gave you a 'two for one' by introducing you to our first 'Faith Couple', Frank and Eleanor Kempkens. I hope you had an opportunity to say hello to them.

The month of May seems to have been even more active around King of kings than the month before. By the time you read this article we will have just experienced our second Powerhouse Live concert, the

outdoor spring clean up day, and our Confirmation service. It's so nice to see so many things taking place and to see so many people getting involved in different activities. I've been seeing young children, teenagers, parents, and just his morning HIS GANG was quilting in the Fellowship Hall. One of the many familiar faces I see each month on quilting day (the second Wednesday

morning of the month) is Ed Bouvier. Ed is extremely friendly, always arrives with smile on his face, and always has something to offer. He's very special to all of us, which is why I've chosen to write about him as this month's 'Faith Face'. I hope you'll soon feel as uplifted as I felt after I sat down for a chat with him. Ed is a true inspiration to everyone, young and old alike.

Meet This Month's Faith Face: Ed Bouvier

I heard someone mention a short while ago that King of kings' 'oldest' member would soon be celebrating a milestone. Ed Bouvier joined the King of kings' congregation in March 1997. He is indeed our oldest member, because he will be celebrating his 98th birthday on June 11th. Normally people don't always want to admit to their age, either because they feel too old or too young. But age is just a number. When you come across someone like Ed who has seen a lot, experienced a lot and still has a tremendous amount to offer – one can't help but be proud to say that they have an upcoming birthday.

Ed grew up in Detroit with one older sister. He and his family attended St. Luke's Lutheran Church where he was baptized. As a child his family attended the German services there. They later attended First English Lutheran where he was confirmed and sang in the junior choir before heading back to St. Luke's. He married there in 1937 to his wife Eileen. He and Eileen were married 69 years before she passed away in 2006. Ed has one daughter, one granddaughter, and two great grandchildren (a boy and a girl).

Ed was only able to complete a 10th grade education, but amazingly enough worked for the Uniroyal Rubber Company for 44½ years. He was just 17 when he started working

as a mail boy. He then worked in their office for eight years, before meeting Eileen. They fell in love and decided they were going to need more money, so he transferred within the company and began working in the factory. Within 2 years he became a supervisor. He laughed and said that part of his job was "quite a challenge" because everyone in his department was a woman. His department produced oil fuel cell tanks for military airplanes. Ed took an early retirement at the age of 62. The ironic part is that after all those years he's NEVER seen the infamous 'Uniroyal Tire with the World's Fair Ferris Wheel' inside.

Ed is extremely talented and has had many hobbies throughout the years including growing extreme vegetable gardens, woodworking, quilting and restoring cars. In earlier times he loved to grow vegetables. At one point, he and Eileen lived in the country (which had always been a dream of his) where he maintained his biggest garden. It eventually grew out of control and he brought Eileen a large amount of vegetables. She asked him, "What am I going to do with all of this?" Ed replied, "Can it!" He chuckled and said she responded with, "Ed, don't forget ... I'm retired too!"

Ed also mastered woodworking.



"... I think God has a plan for everyone. It must be His plan for me to live so long."

He built desks including special ones for his daughter and his pastor. He built doll houses and toys. He was very proud, though, of the 'ark' that he built. "I read about Noah's Ark in the bible and tried to build it to scale. Mine had 3 floors, but I couldn't see well enough to make the individual animals."

It was easy having a conversation with Ed. His eyes would light up every time he started remembering something special. He still has a passion for cars. He bought his first car for \$525; a 1929 Model A Ford in Antilucite Blue. He remembers that when he was 17 he wanted a car. His

The Spirit of Renewal By Pastor Ben Sandin

God grabbed me. God's Spirit took me up and set me down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones. He led me around and among them - a lot of bones! There were bones all over the plain - dry bones, bleached by the sun. He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Master God, only you know that." He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones: 'Dry bones, listen to the Message of God!'" Ezekiel 37:1-4

Spiritual renewal is an extremely important key to life with God. As we go journey through life, we inevitably have times of triumph and trial, joy and pain, delight and despair. While it is easy to identify God's work in our lives in times of great blessing, we often feel cut off or disconnected from God in times of difficulty.

Ezekiel 37 is a profound story about how the spirit of God has the power to renew and revitalize our lives. Ezekiel, the great and eccentric prophet, is placed in the valley of dry bones. As he gazes across the desert he sees an endless array of dried and sun-bleached bones. These bones represent fellow Jews who were exiled from the promised land, cut off from their homes, families, culture, and religious practice. The bones were literally the people of Israel, dying out in a state of physical and spiritual draught. It is within this context that God asks Ezekiel: "can these bones live?" Can these who have been cut off from their source of life, be brought back to life? Can God restore and renew life? Ezekiel's answer demonstrates his great faith: "only you know".

Our spiritual walk with Christ is not always easy or pleasant, and we do go through times of suffering and struggle. Jesus himself spoke often of times of trial and tribulation, times

of spiritual dryness, and sufferings we would endure. *"When people realize it is the living God you are presenting and not some idol that makes them feel good, they are going to turn on you, even people in your own family. There is a great irony here: proclaiming so much love, experiencing so much hate! But don't quit. Don't cave in. It is all well worth it in the end."* (Matthew 10:22-23) It is never easy to follow the Lord, and the world will and does resist. We go through times of struggle and spiritual dryness, but the spirit of God has the power to bring renewal. As Ezekiel responded to God's call to speak a word of prophecy to the dry bones a miraculous event started to take place. The bones began to come together and took on flesh and blood. These reconstructed bodies stood before Ezekiel as a vast multitude, a great army of God. But, the bones didn't come to life until the spirit of God, from the four winds, came upon them. When God's breath, or the spirit ('spirit', 'breath', and 'wind' are all the same word in Hebrew and Greek) comes onto the dry bones they come alive. And so it is with us, we can walk

around physically alive but spiritually dead. We need to seek renewal in the Spirit to fully experience the life God has called us to live. To fully serve and love the Lord, we need the spirit's renewing presence.

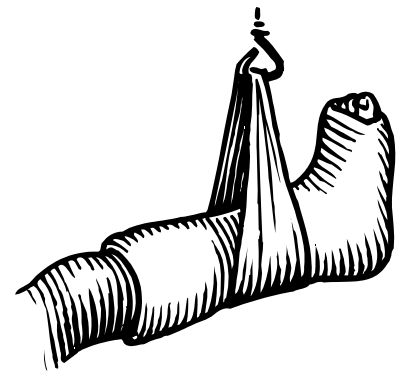
And yet, the spirit of Renewal is not some miraculous event waiting to happen, it is not something outside of ourselves we must wait to come upon us. The spirit of God is already active and present in our lives. Each breath we take is God's spirit inside of us. *"Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."* (Genesis 2:7) We already possess the resources for spiritual renewal, it is a gift already given to us. When we seek renewal from the Lord, it will be given. When we refocus and dedicate our lives to Christ, we will experience renewal. When we connect and reconnect our lives to our brothers and sisters in Christ, we experience renewal.

As we move forward together seeking to respond to the gifts God has blessed us with, may we be filled and refilled with the renewing Spirit of God.

Hospital Visits & Prayer Available

Are you currently in or scheduled to go in the hospital? Would you like someone from our Hospital Visitation team to visit you while you're there? Perhaps you would like to be added to our prayer list during your time of need.

We want you to know that we are here for you if you need us. All you need to do is contact the church office and we'll take care of the rest. But we can't be there for you if we don't know.



Habitat For Humanity Is Building Again!

This year, Habitat For Humanity has a longer season to build and lots of opportunities for you to volunteer.

It's a very rewarding experience; one that will have you wanting to help again year after year. We need to know, though, which of you are interested. There are no specific

skills required. There is a variety of work available for different skill levels.

Please contact Mark or Kristen Schultz to let them know you might be interested. They can be reached at 586-726-1718 or by email at mark24@wowway.com or

kristen1019@wowway.com. This will help them to know how many projects to sign us up for.



GO! Study Sessions Are Underway

Our **GO! MAKE!** vision calls us to take seriously Jesus' Great Commission. Yet while we can all understand and agree that we are called to share our faith with others, how do we actually do it? How can we GO! for God in ways that are welcoming not offensive, faithful not pushy, effective not aggressive? Together we will discover how to give authentic witness to what God has done in our lives and how each of us has something to offer.

Come join us for a new exciting study of how we can GO! for God. These sessions are focusing on how each of us can plant seeds of faith in

our everyday lives and help people understand and experience the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ. These sessions are part bible study, part book review, part small group discussion, and center on mutual support, prayer and relationships. Together we will read 3 books:

Just Walk Across the Room

by Bill Hybels

More Ready Than You Realize

by Brian McLaren

The Secret Message of Jesus

by Brian McLaren

The cost for these 3 books is \$25.

The Study Sessions take place on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We had our first session on May 22nd. You can still join in though. The next sessions will be June 26th, July 24th, August 28th and September 25th.

Childcare will be provided, if requested.

Please contact the office if you would like to participate.

Our Crop Walk Date Has Been Set

For all of you who have been anxiously awaiting the Crop Walk to take place, we want to let you know that we needed to schedule it for Saturday, October 4th.

We realize the walks have been pleasant when held in the month of

May, but think about how colorful the autumn colors will be. More information will come as the date gets closer. Please contact Sandy Sylvester at 586-726-9535 if you have any specific questions.



GO Soccer Balls

Since PowerLab VBS Registration is now underway, we want to introduce you to this year's VBS's outreach program to kids in Africa ... it's GO Soccer Balls. Yes, you read it correctly. We couldn't believe our eyes the first time we read this in our VBS literature. We believe this is a sign that we, at King of kings, had to offer this VBS to our local community and

and had to be part of this sport's ministry in Africa. We hope you agree.

Soon the PowerLab team will be offering you a chance to sponsor 1 or more of these "GO Soccer Balls". The GO Soccer Balls are an important part of the weeklong VBS experience and ultimately, will be shipped to Africa as part of the

Gospel Outreach Sports Ministry Program.

Please keep an eye out for the "GO Soccer Ball" display in the lobby.

Diane Kraabel, Director, 731-6684
Kristen Leach, PreK Director,
412-3669

Robin Klotz, Asst. Director, 323-1366



Faith Face Article continued from page 3 ...

mother told him he would have to save his money for a new one. He wanted to fix up an old one (like his friends), but she insisted that he work hard and save his money for a new one first. To this day he still thinks that she just didn't want him driving yet and thought that if he had to save the money, it would take him longer. When Ed became older he enjoyed restoring cars. Eileen would even help him by sewing the interiors. He restored 2 Model T's, 3 Model A's, a '37 Packard (which won a national award), and an Alpha Romero. He would buy the junky shell, and then restore it to its former beauty. He drove his restored cars in many parades, including a special Mustang convertible in the local Romeo parade. He was asked many times 'How can you sell one of your cars after you've

put so much time into it?' He would reply, "I enjoy the restoring part. I like to restore them, sell them, and then use the money to buy a new one. Besides I can only drive one car at a time."

I asked Ed if he had any special thoughts on life in general and specifically what his secret to longevity was. He replied, "I've never done anything special. I think God has a plan for everyone. It must be His plan for me to live so long." He also said, "I've always been thankful to my parents for bringing me up as a Lutheran. It's a big part of who I am and has guided me in many of the choices I've made." As for King of kings and the people here he reflected "...the very first time Eileen and I came to King of kings there was a friendly face there waiting for us ... we have a good

church here and everyone should feel welcome."

The next time you spot Ed, which is usually in a suit and tie, be sure to wish him a 'Happy Birthday'.



*Be Inspired by Faith
and Those You Meet*

Worship on the Edge

As we move forward in the coming weeks and months, we begin a new chapter in the life of King of kings. With our GO! MAKE! vision and Renewal 2008, we are seeing new and exciting movement and change at King of kings. Our new worship service, "The Edge", is part of this dynamic and missional movement. **The Edge will begin on June 1st at 11:30 a.m.**

Many have asked me what The Edge will be about, and while we do have some definite ideas of where we might be headed, we remain open to the Spirit's guidance. As the summer progresses, we will gain a better idea of what this worship service will be all about. I ask for your prayers and support, but also your patience.

I want to share a few key words and thoughts about The Edge which may be helpful. After much discussion

and prayer, four keywords stand out for The Edge: **participation, informal, relationships, mystery.** The Edge will look to embody these qualities in all that we do.

Perhaps a few examples would be helpful. The Edge will be highly participatory. We will look for ways to engage people in all aspects of worship (music, sermon, communion, prayer, etc.). For example, the sermon will be participatory, with dialogue and discussion. The Edge will also be more informal than formal. We may not have a set order of service or liturgy, or from week to week what we do and the order we do it may change. The Edge will be intentional about enabling relationships to form and deepen, with opportunities to share and connect. The Edge will acknowledge the mystery of God, by being Spirit focused and led.

Ultimately, these words and descriptions, while designed to be helpful, cannot replace the personal experience of worship at The Edge. Please consider checking it out and seeing how we can together be faithful in this new worship expression. For some, The Edge is an exciting new development and will be met with enthusiasm and energy. For others, the Edge may be outside of their comfort zones. At King of kings we respect and honor one another for who God has created us to be. There is room for all of us at King of kings and through the love and grace given freely to us by Christ, we can love and serve each other. Let us bind ourselves to one another in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ben

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, June 26th at 7:00 p.m.
- † Our next **New Member Orientation** is scheduled for Sunday, June 22nd at 3:00 p.m.
- † Just a reminder that beginning Saturday, May 31st & Sunday, June 1st there will be **NO Saturday evening worship** or an **8:30 a.m. Traditional worship service** during the summer months.
- † The **Euchre Small Group** will meet on Friday, June 20th at 7:00 p.m.
- † 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 on Sunday, June 22nd from 3-6:00 p.m. 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, 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
'Interim'
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





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Pastor Ben Sandin

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

MAIL DATE:
May 19, 2008

Beginning June 1st ~
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 ~
Marks of Discipleship

Coming Soon:
Deep Questions of Faith