



Connections:



King of kings Lutheran Church

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

Living In The Moment

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16

There is something truly wonderful about the Fall in Michigan. As the colors turn, as the air turns crisp, as the days grow shorter I find myself appreciating in deep and profound ways the beauty of life. What I have found most interesting is how Fall seems to encourage a desperate urge to enjoy the moment to the fullest. We need to make the most of our warm Fall days because we know winter is coming. We need to take time to walk outside and enjoy the Fall colors because the leaves will soon be gone. We need to enjoy the foods of the harvest before pumpkins and other delectables are out of season. Fall is the ultimate “carpe diem” time of year; enjoy it because we don’t know how long it will last.

Focusing on the present and living the most in the moment are keys to living a fulfilling and contented life. We cannot change the past and the future isn’t here yet, what we have is now. Living in the now is not always easy, as many of us are either dwelling on our past or obsessed with the future. How many times have you found yourself thinking about and going over your past? Do you beat yourself up for bad decisions or mistakes? Do you remind yourself of the negative things in your past? When we dwell on our past, positive or negative, we keep ourselves from living in the moment we are in. Conversely, when we are solely focused on the future, positive or negative, we keep ourselves from living the moment we are in. I find myself living mostly in the future, thinking about all the different possibilities of what could be. I go through all the if-then scenarios and contingencies, and all the plans that are needed. In thinking so intently on the future and things that could be, I often overlook and miss what is.

Jesus understood that human nature tends to keep us from truly enjoying the moment we are in. He understood that the joy of life can be missed if we aren’t prepared to live in the moment. In the gospel of John, Jesus talks extensively about eternal life and how it changes the way life in the present is lived. Jesus said to the disciples: **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)** Eternal life is more than just a promise for life everlasting, eternal life has

powerful implications for how we live our life in the present. The present reality of eternal life is experienced through a relationship with God.

To be in relationship with God means that my life is deeper, more meaningful, and qualitatively better than my life would ever be without God. Living life daily with God makes life beautiful, rich, and true. Life with God is life in the present, and when I know God has secured my everlasting future, I am truly free to enjoy the moment that I am in. So enjoy the Fall, don’t worry about the Winter or long for past summer days, enjoy the moment you are in because it is always a gift from God.

Peace,
Pastor Ben

November 2008

Special points of interest:

- Judelaire's Chorale Concert
- Help Decorate For Christmas
- Parents, Teens and Money Matters

Inside this issue:

Library Information	2
Bible Study	3
Lighthouse Collection	4
Sunday School / Confirmation & CHAOS Schedules	5
Strength and Comfort	6
Thinking About Joining KOK?	7



Parents, Teens and Money Matters

We are offering a workshop called **Parents, Teens and Money Matters** developed by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans on Wednesday, November 19th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The workshop is geared for students ages 11-14 (this includes 6th grade students) and can help you and your (pre) teens:

- ◆ Understand what being a steward means.
- ◆ Make intentional money choices about sharing, saving and spending.
- ◆ Talk about money and values in your family.

The workshop is free and:

- ◆ Parents receive a take-home resource workbook including a conversation starter checklist.
- ◆ Teens receive a Cash Cache™, a personal money management organizer.

Attendance is required for all confirmation students. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend as well. It is necessary to sign up in the church office no later than November 10th so that enough materials will be on hand for the workshop. If you have any specific questions, please contact Pastor Ben or Cherie Schankin.

For additional information, feel free to contact Ryan Mackinder, our local Thrivent representative at

ryan.mackinder@thrivent.com.



No products will be offered for sale at this educational event.

Library Ministry Assistant

Do you love to read books and visit libraries? Do you love to organize things? A Library Ministry Assistant is needed to help with the following responsibilities: filing returned books, music, movies, etc. to the library shelves on a weekly basis; checking off returned items on the Check In/Out Return form; prepar-

ing and sending out Past Due letters; inventory assistance twice a year; keeping the library books and other items in order and dusting the shelves. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Laura White at 586-677-1607 or at laurajwhite123@yahoo.com.



MISSING CDs ~ If you borrowed a CD from the Church Library and did not sign it out, please let us know. If you are not done with them - that's o.k. We just need to know where they are so we can keep a proper inventory.

Family Christian Store - Ministry Builder Stickers

Christmas shopping time is nearly upon us and many of our members and friends shop at the **FAMILY CHRISTIAN STORE** on Hall Road and Schoenherr (southwest corner). Every time you make a purchase from the store any time during the year, ask the cashier for **Ministry Builder Stickers**. One sticker is

given for every \$5.00 of merchandise that is purchased. For every 20 stickers saved, \$5.00 worth of new store products can be redeemed by King of kings. The King of kings Library uses these stamps to purchase new books/videos/music for the library.

A good way to remember to ask for

the stickers is to have a sticker put on your frequent buyer card. No need for you to collect all 20 stickers, just place your stickers in Laura White's mailbox so she can combine them with others to purchase new library additions. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Context Matters

“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Aeropagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you ...”

Acts 17:22-23

The Apostle Paul was the most effective and best preacher and evangelist in the early church. He traveled extensively throughout the region of the Mediterranean Sea proclaiming the gospel to all whom he met, both Jewish and Gentile. Paul truly never let an opportunity to share the gospel pass, he looked for openings to share God's grace and took them.

After reading the book of Acts several times in recent days, and being familiar with Paul's own writing, it has become increasingly clear that Paul was a truly gifted and effective communicator. Paul understood how to deliver the message about Jesus so that it could be received and understood. Depending on who Paul was talking with he shaped his message and method accordingly. Paul was an expert in reading the culture and context of the places he visited and sharing the good news in ways people responded to. Paul didn't change the message of the gospel, it is always God's grace, but he changed the methods he used to share the

gospel depending on his audience. Paul was a contextual theologian, who took seriously the lives, values, and beliefs of those whom he shared.

In Acts 17 we see how Paul contextualizes the gospel for the Greeks in Athens. The Greeks worshipped many gods and were open-minded to new ideas or insights. In fact, the Greek philosophers were obsessed with discussing and debating ideas and would do so in public meetings all day. When Paul comes to Athens he comes across a group of philosophers and decides to share the gospel with them (of course he doesn't miss the opportunity). But Paul shares the story of the gospel in a totally different way with the Greeks than he would with his fellow Jews. With a Jewish audience, Paul talks about the original covenant with Abraham, the law, and prophets and demonstrates how Jesus is the fulfillment of God's long promised messiah. This approach, while effective with a Jewish audience, would be meaningless to Greeks. Paul puts the gospel in terms that the Greeks would understand. He talks about the shrine to an “unknown God” and uses quotes from Greek poetry to share the gospel. The message is the same, but the method varied depending on who it was shared with.

For me context is everything. If we want to share the message of who God is and what God has done in our lives with others, we must first

understand where the other person is coming from. We must first seek to understand the other person, we must humbly listen, we must share openly. Context also means having a deep understanding of culture. To share effectively we must understand the values and beliefs of the culture they belong to.

Perhaps an example is needed. Suppose you wanted to have a discussion with a teenager. Would it help to understand something about teenage culture? Do you know what kind of music teenagers listen to? Do you know what Facebook is? Do you text? In order to effectively communicate with teenagers we have to understand teenage culture, appreciate teenage culture, and share our messages in terms that make sense within the teenage culture. This is not easy and requires us to be open and willing to move beyond ourselves and our own values and appreciate the values of others. It is difficult but it is also extremely effective when done well.

We are all called to share Christ with those God places in our path, through our actions and words. In order to do so we must, like Paul, be willing and able to understand context and communicate in ways that can be received.

For more 'brilliant' insights, check out Pastor Ben's blog @

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

It Takes A Village

Many of you have heard the expression “It takes a village to raise a child.” A new small group is forming - it's for any one, any age, who is a mother or father. Whether your child(ren) are good or challenging, young or old.

We want to be a support group for each other. Video presentations, occasional guest speakers and books will be our references.

Come and make some new friends. Come and share your knowledge, your questions, your laughter and your tears.

We will meet each month on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be November 18th.

We hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please call Sandy Sylvester at 586-726-9535.

Lighthouse Outreach: Christmas Gift Bag Collection

Our Christmas collection for area children is taking place again this year in the form of the Lighthouse Christmas Gift Bag Collection. King of kings is joining the Lighthouse Outreach Center in their effort to distribute gift bags with needed items (personal hygiene items, hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, books, crafts, socks, gift cards) to more than 1,500 area children ages newborn through 18.

These gift bags may be the only gifts some of these children receive

during this holiday season. **Please return your gift bags, gas or grocery cards no later than December 7th.**

We understand that we are currently in the midst of a tough economy, but there are always going to be those that have less than we do.

Please contact Kathy McKinney (586-336-3786) or Jennifer Meyers

“ These gift bags may be the only gifts some of these children receive during this holiday season.”



(586-566-8660) with any questions. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Join Us As We Decorate For The Christmas Season

Join us on **Friday, November 28th** at **10:00 a.m.** to help decorate the inside of the church for the Advent season. We'll be hanging the garland and decorating the Christmas tree. **We would like some men to join us in putting up the tree and hanging some of the higher items.** If we have enough adults, we may be able to finish it all in one day. If not we'll dig in again on **Saturday, November 29th** at **9:00 a.m.** to finish things up.

Please consider sharing a few hours of your time with us. If we

work together I know we can accomplish our task even quicker.

Contact Nancy Beitler at 586-247-4702 if you have any specific questions.



Don't Miss The Judelaires' Performance

The Judelaire's will be performing their 2008 Christmas musical concert on **Saturday, December 13th** at **7:00 p.m.** It is a wonderful festive performance that the entire family can enjoy. Stan Harr, musical director, and some of the members of the Judelaire's are also members of the Detroit Concert Choir. We have enjoyed having them with us the past few years. It is always a wonderful time for everyone.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Bring your family and friends with you. All are welcome!

Right after the concert a fabulous dessert and refreshment table awaits you.



Sunday School

Please note that there will **NOT** be a Sunday School class held on Sunday, November 30th. That will be part of the Thanksgiving Break for the children. Sunday School will resume the first Sunday in December.



Powerhouse Live Presents ...

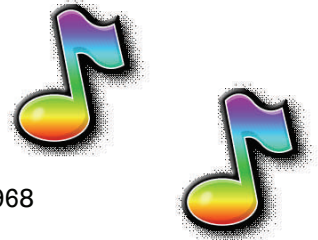
On **Friday, November 21st** King of kings will be hosting a youth concert beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Bring a friend or two and join us. The concert will consist of '3' bands: **'The Fabulous'**, **'Almost Free'** and our own youth band **'C.H.A.O.S. Theory'**.

The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person. Concessions will be available throughout the evening.

You can check out the 'myspace' pages for two of the bands at the following addresses:

The Fabulous:
www.myspace.com/thefabulousband
&
Almost Free:
<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=20956968>



Confirmation:

CHAOS:

November

- 5th Servant Event
- 12th Learning Night
- 19th **Parents, Teens & Money Matters Workshop**
- 26th No Class - Thanksgiving Break

November

- 5th Servant Event @ 8:00 p.m.
- 12th Integrity Night with Pastor Ben @ 8:00 p.m.
- 19th Fellowship Night - Movie Night @ 7:30 p.m.
- 26th No Meeting - Thanksgiving Break



A Time For Strength And Comfort By: Jennifer Meyers

There doesn't seem to be anyone lately who is not dealing with some sort of stress in their lives. There's the stress of an election year, the stress of a worsening economy, and the stress of not knowing what tomorrow will bring. I've heard it said that things happen in spurts sometimes, although I'm not sure exactly why that is ... probably just coincidence. I know someone whose mother recently passed away, three others who are dealing with an aging parent and all the decisions that brings, and I can't tell you how many people I know who are looking for a new job. Then there are those who are dealing with health issues and depression or loneliness. I read a book once called 'Don't sweat the small stuff ... and it's all small stuff' by Richard Carlson, PhD. ... though I don't think any of these issues could be considered 'small things'. As bad as we may think any one of these issues is on any given day, what would be even worse is if we did not know God and the strength only He can give us.

I found myself searching the Bible scriptures and found many that emphasized strength .

Job 4:3 "In the past you have encouraged many people; you have strengthened those who were weak."

Psalms 29:11 "The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace."

Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

Isaiah 40:31 "But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

If we hold true to our faith and know in our hearts that God is always with us, we will be empowered with unlimited strength and never be alone. I believe that gives us strength on the inside to keep going. It's the strength on the outside that will come from our families, friends, fellow church members, co-workers and neighbors. It is our responsibility to be there to support each other on the good days and the bad ones alike. We may not be in a financial position to help the friend who is worried about paying his next mortgage payment, but we could certainly invite them over for a cup of coffee and some conversation. Let that friend know that they are not alone. We could remind them what it says in Psalm 91:14-16 ...

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

We can't allow ourselves to become so caught up in our own stresses that we hold ourselves back from supporting someone else. Support should be a two-way street. We do what we can - when we can. I think God would be so proud of each of us if He witnessed us working beyond our own person. It reminds me of what Pastor Ben talked about in a recent sermon. He spoke of boundaries; the boundaries we have placed on us by others and the boundaries we create for ourselves. If we are responsible for setting certain boundaries for ourselves, then we also have the power to alter them or even eliminate them.

It is important for us to remember that we are all human. Not every one fits into a society stereotype (which

are most often untrue to begin with.) Obviously there are some people who need to take responsibility for the bad choices that they have made, but it is also very important to remember that not every one is in a present undesirable situation solely because of their choices. Most people do not 'ask' to lose their jobs, no one 'asks' to be stricken with a disease, and no one 'asks' to become a burden to their children when they become older. We need to show each other grace and become more supportive.

With strength comes comfort. According to Webster's dictionary, comfort means: to give strength and hope; to ease grief or trouble. No matter what stresses or difficulties you might be facing today, God wants to bring you comfort. "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you..." -Isaiah 66:13.

In a time when there is so much uncertainty around us all, let us remember the positives; the strength God has for each one of us and the comfort we can provide for each other. You know what they say: 'There's strength in numbers'.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, November 3rd
2:30-8:15 p.m.

Call the Church office
to make an appointment.

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 **BOOK CLUB** will resume meeting on the 3rd Thursdays of each month. The next meeting will be November 20th at 7:00 p.m.
- † **THANSGIVING EVE WORSHIP** will be held on Wednesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m.
- † The **CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on both Thursday & Friday, November 27th & 28th.
- † Help us **DECORATE THE CHURCH** on Friday, November 28th at 10:00 a.m. (& Saturday, November 29th at 9:00 a.m. if we're not done).

Thinking about joining King of kings?

We personally invite you to join us for our next **New Member Orientation** on **Sunday, November 16th at 3:00 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

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



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

Pastor Ben Sandin

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STERLING HTS., MI
PERMIT # 268

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

MAIL DATE:
October 27, 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.



Join us for
Thanksgiving Eve
Worship
Weds., November 26th
7:00 p.m.