With God at the center, our mission is to Feed Physical Hunger, Spiritual Hunger and the Hunger to be in Community.

FROM THE DESK (and the heart) OF PASTOR LARSON

If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.
— John 13:17

If you were asked to write an article for the month of February, I would imagine that it would include something about love. Maybe you’d even reference 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Colossians 3:12-14, 17 or Jesus’ command from John 15:12-14. (By the way I intentionally left out the scripture reference for the sake of room, but also in the hopes that you would take time to look them up on your own. Besides, I could just envision you reading them and saying, “yah, yah, yah, I know” and simply glossing over them.)

Yet each of these passages of scripture give us a glimpse into what love is intended to look like—relationships that are filled with patience, kindness, compassion, forgiveness—and I’m not just talking about the marriage covenant, but each of our relationships. In fact, after reading these descriptions, I would imagine that we would all shake our heads in affirmation saying, “This is what I want my relationships to look like.”

However, it’s one thing to know what scripture says, it’s another thing to put it into practice.

This month, the challenge is simple: to practice what we preach, to not simply know what God intends for our relationships, but to seek to live it.

The first action item is to look up the passages of scripture, print them or write them out, pray over them, and seek to live them out daily.

In Christ,
Pastor Jon

What is Lent?

Wednesday Services, Feb. 17–Mar 24 6:30 p.m. at Church & Online

The season of Lent represents the 40 days that Jesus fasted, prayed, and was tempted in the wilderness. For Christians, it is a time of reflection and self-examination that begins with Ash Wednesday, moves us through Holy Week and prepares us for the Celebration of Easter. During this season we gather on Wednesday evenings for a midweek worship service. As part of our midweek services we will be focusing on the theme of “Hope” as we reflect on the seven “I Am” statements of Jesus as recorded in John’s Gospel. Our prayer is that this journey will be a blessing to your heart and spirit. Midweek services will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please note that you can attend service either in person (please register on our website) or online.

Ash Wednesday

February 17 6:30 p.m. at Church & Online

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. As part of our Ash Wednesday service we will be having the Imposition of Ashes. Rather than coming forward, worshipers will be invited to use ashes to make the sign of the cross on their own foreheads as a symbol of our frailty, repentance and our total dependence on God. The tone of the service is more contemplative in nature and causes us to pause and reflect on the depth of God’s love for us. During this service we will also have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion as we remember the gift of salvation we have received in Jesus—that through him we find forgiveness and new life. Ash Wednesday services are at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to attend in person, remember to register on our website. If you are choosing to participate in the service online, please be sure to pick up ashes and communion kits which will be available at the church office.

Our Lent Devotional

There are times in our life when our circumstances can leave us feeling hopeless, especially when they go on for so long. We can start to wonder if things are ever going to get better, or if we will ever get the answers we need, the help we desire and the spark of hope we are longing for. But no matter what our circumstances, our hope is only and always found in Jesus Christ. He is with us through every journey, through every twist and turn of life.

As we continue to journey with Christ through the Gospel of John, we will also spend some time focusing on HOPE this Lent season. It can be hard to hang on to hope through trying times. The disciples themselves knew and experienced that when Jesus, who was all they had hoped for, died on the cross that Friday. All hope seemed to be lost until they found the tomb empty on Sunday. This lent we will be sharing stories and devotionals that focus on hope to help inspire hope in you!

Our Lent Devotional “40 days of Hope” will be available in digital or hard copy formats on February 12.
Open Council Positions
As per our Constitution, King of Kings identifies potential leaders to serve on behalf of the congregation. This year’s open leadership positions on the Church Council are as follows:
- 1 Executive Team Member (3 year term)
- 1 Member at Large (2 year term)
- 1 Secretary (2 year term)
In addition we will also be searching for 3 members to serve on the Nominating Committee (1 year term).
These positions will be voted upon during our Congregational Annual Meeting. Position descriptions are posted at the bottom of our home page of our website (see right) and there are copies available upon request. To submit a name for consideration please e-mail Pastor Jon at jon.larson@kingofkingswoodbury.org. Please be sure to keep our current Nominating Team (Daren Weiger, Lynda Paulson and Scott McKinnon) in prayer as we enter into this discernment process.

Annual Congregational Meeting
**Sunday, February 28  12:30 p.m. at Church**
Please plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting at church on Sunday, February 28 at 12:30 p.m. when we will approve the budget for 2021 of $1,960,000 and vote on open Council positions. As per our Constitution, King of Kings identifies potential leaders to serve on behalf of the congregation. This year’s open leadership positions are posted online and there are copies available upon request. To submit a name for consideration, e-mail Pastor Jon at jon.larson@kingofkingswoodbury.org.

CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

**Sunday Forum Online**
**Sundays 8:30 a.m.**
Our current study is *Simon Peter-Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton. Peter was an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He was quick-tempered and impulsive, yet he possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow Jesus, yet struggled with fear and doubt. For questions or to get the Zoom link, please contact Jim Ries at jim.ries@oracle.com.

**Man Up Men’s Ministry**
**Saturdays via Zoom**
Virtual fellowship begins at 8:45 a.m. Bible study follows from 9:00–10:30 a.m.
No registration or cost required. Men of all ages are invited to participate in this five-part series, where Pastors Bryan Loritts and Matt Chandler use Paul’s words in Ephesians to address race, racism, and injustice. Through teaching and honest dialogues, Bryan and Matt will unpack the hard truths about America’s racial past and present and suggest a pathway forward of healing, justice, and hope for multi-ethnic harmony in the church. Full details and the schedule are on our website. For questions, contact Man Up at man_up@kingofkingswoodbury.org.

**PM Book Club**
**Monday, February 8  7:00 p.m. via Zoom**
Our February PM Book Club meeting will be held via Zoom, when we will be discussing *The Poppy Wife: A Novel of the Great War* by Caroline Scott. This book has us looking at an area of France not often considered. Jan Olson will be leading the discussion. Contact Tami Olson at tami.j.olson@gmail.com to get the link for the online meeting.

**Alzheimer’s Support Group**
**Every Third Tuesday: February 16  7:00–8:00 p.m. via Google Meet**
The Alzheimer’s Association® caregiver support groups are conducted by a trained facilitator and are for caregivers, family and friends of those with Dementia/Alzheimer’s or memory loss. The support groups offer a safe place to find support and exchange practical information on care-giving challenges, share feelings, needs, and concerns while also learning about community resources. If you are interested please contact Anna DeCorsey at annadecorsey@gmail.com to get the link to the online meeting.

**Toastmasters Club**
Have you ever considered your communication and leadership skills? Toastmasters is a great way to improve them! King of Kings has a special faith-based group to hone your communication skills, as well as connect with other faith-filled individuals in a safe and encouraging atmosphere! We call ourselves the King’s Speakers. We have met at King of Kings, but right now we are meeting via Zoom, which can help your online acumen as well! Please come and check out the impact that Toastmasters—and King’s Speakers—could have on your life! For more information, email Laura Griffith at tmlg@live.com.

**The King’s Speakers | Toastmasters**
Toastmasters is for anyone over 18 years. We meet on Thursdays from 7:00–8:00 p.m.

**The King’s Youth Speakers | Gaveliers**
The Gaveliers is for anyone under 18 years, middle and high school preferred. We meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.
Connection Groups!
There are TWO connection groups available for ALL students in 9th – 12th grade! One group meets on Monday’s at 7:00 p.m. while another group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Both groups are diving into the book of Romans, meeting on Zoom! If you have questions, please go to our website for more details!

First Communion
King of Kings is excited to observe the tradition of First Communion with our fourth grade students and older children who have not yet had any formal communion instruction. As part of their learning experience, students will observe communion and talk about how we experience it now, as well as how we typically experience it. Participate in one of three workshop options to explore the various aspects of Holy Communion, experience a Seder meal, and write a prayer in preparation for their First Communion celebration. We also have an at-home option for families, as well as the in-person workshops.

Serve Camp
August 9–13, Cost: $130
Registration is OPEN! Come serve the community with your peers! We will spend our week serving at various service organizations throughout the community! We will work in gardens that produce food that’s given to those in need, pack meals that will be distributed to the hungry, and spend time talking together about how we are called to serve our neighbor! For more information, go to our website!

Registration Is Open!
Registration is now OPEN! Find our class options for 3’s, 4’s and 5’s on our website. While you’re there, we’d love for you to take a look at our Virtual Tour of Ready Set Grow Preschool! See our awesome classrooms where so much learning and growing happens! If you have questions, please contact Andrea Villanueva by calling 651-738-9346 or emailing her at andrea.villanueva@kingofkingswoodbury.org.

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Simply text the keyword: RIGHTNOW KOKLC to 41411 and you will instantly get registered to our RightNow Media account.

Save the Date! 7th–9th Grade Retreat
April 10  1:00–4:00 p.m.
We are doing things a little different this year...we will join all three grades together and only have ONE retreat, to be held on one afternoon here at church! We are going to be exploring spiritual practices and even have an opportunity to experience several of them! Look for registration information to be coming out soon!
Virtual Tour of Mission Partners
Pre-Tour Intro Session: Wednesday, February 24 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Tour: Monday–Friday, March 1-5 7:00–8:00 p.m. each day
Come along on a virtual tour of our mission partners! You’ve heard about our partners and the great work they are doing in communities here and around the world. Now is your chance to experience their work and see how our benevolence gifts are impacting lives and improving communities. This experience will be online using Zoom.

We will visit: Christian Cupboard Emergency Food Shelf, Iringa Hope, Linaje Escogido Church in Honduras, the St. Paul Area Synod, and St. Croix Family Resource Center Teen Drop-in Center.

The last virtual mission trip was meaningful in so many ways. Here are some reflections from the virtual travelers:

**I didn’t want our sessions to end. The opportunity to interact with our mission partners opened my eyes to our shared love of Christ and how valuable King of King’s mission work is to our Christian commitment to feed spiritual and physical hunger in other countries and right here at home.**  
—Joey Johnson

**Seeing that I have never taken an actual mission trip, I was very pleased my husband and I joined other KOKs people on the virtual Honduras trip. We learned very much about [our partner’s] efforts to help others and to share God’s word. Our small group discussions were also very good and helpful. I highly recommend others join such mission trips in the future.**  
—Bonnie Harma

“Last fall’s virtual mission trip to Linaje Escogido Church in Honduras was a great experience and most informative. Not only did we tour the church and get a glimpse of the services they provide, we were able to meet and speak directly to the founders who remain the ministerial staff. I strongly recommend taking part in future virtual mission trips to visually experience our mission partners!”  
—Carol Pressley

Registration is free and will be available on the church website in February. Contact Elizabeth Hendrickson, Director of Missions, at elizabeth.hendrickson@kingofkingswoodbury.org with any questions.

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**Minneapolis FoodShare Month**

March is Minneapolis FoodShare Month. Help us raise $10,000 for Christian Cupboard Emergency Food Shelf!  
Watch for more information coming soon.