

King of Kings Lutheran Church Church Council Minutes

January 10, 2023

Attendance

Members in Person

Jen McKinnon, President
Jason Livingston, Vice President
Todd Dexheimer, Member at Large 6:55 pm
Rebecca Kurtz Schwanke, Member at Large
Pastor Jon Larson, Lead Pastor
Dianne Johnson, Executive Director
Jim Docken, Finance
Tami Olson, Secretary

Members Excused

Brian Gager, Vice President
Angie Olson, Treasurer

Guest Present Lynne Sonnek and Julie Rageth, Angel of Hope - Woodbury

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Jen McKinnon presiding.

Opening Prayer - Pastor Jon

Guest Presentation:

Lynne Sonnek and **Julie Rageth** were invited to the Council meeting to give an update and answer any questions about the **Angel of Hope Memorial Project**. Lynne and Julie are working together to have an Angels of Hope Memorial installed in Woodbury near City Hall close to the Veterans Memorial, with an Angel of Hope statue and memorial garden with remembrance plaques for those who have lost children.

Both Lynne and Julie have lost daughters and shared about their daughters and how they are creating a place and support community for parents who have lost children. They reached out to the Woodbury community and King of Kings responded by hosting a fundraising concert and followed up with an additional gift to support the project. The idea came from seeing an Angel of Hope memorial in Duluth across from amphitheater. The Angel of Hope is based on a Richard Paul Evans, best-selling novel The Christmas Box. There are 7 Angels in Minnesota and over 160 in the US, Canada and Japan. Woodbury's Angel is #164.

Dianne introduced Julie and Lynne and expressed gratitude and thanks for the wonderful gift godsend for the community. Both Lynne and Julie gave heartfelt thanks for all the support and gifts from King of Kings. Julie, the concert was amazing, we were all on the same page. Spirit Song choir had a majority of their choir to participate in this benefit concert.

Jason said, as your dates come closer on dedication and vigil, we will get our congregation involved. Jason asked about where we are in the process. The sculpture is at City Works in a box. The Angel is 4' 3" tall and has a wingspan of 5' 2". Working on bids and WSB engineering firm for drawings and planning with the city. Bids are coming down in price which is a nice surprise. The memorial will be located next to the Veteran's memorial near City Hall and this location makes it even more special. We are truly hoping to connect with all parents that this memorial will provide comfort and hope to. Julie said the memorial

plaques will surround this memorial and each will have three lines in which parents and loved ones can personalize. We are hoping that this can be online for easy access.

The current plan is to have the Angel installed in June. Kings of Kings wants to continue to partner and support you in this project. Annually, at every Angel of Hope statue across the country, there is a vigil at 7pm on the 6th of December. They talked about wanting to do dedication in the summertime.

Pastor Jon thanked Lynne and Julie for doing this from your heart and making this happen.

Jen thanked Lynne and Julie for coming in and sharing the project progress.

Approval of Agenda - Jen

Jason moved to accept the agenda.

Jen seconded the motion.

Motion passed (CC.23.01.01)

Approval of Prior months Meeting Minutes Jen / Tami

Rebecca moved to accept the minutes of the last regular meeting.

Jason seconded the motion.

Motion passed (CC.23.01.02)

Get to know ya question: Tell us one thing you're looking forward to in 2023.

- Everyone shared what they are looking forward to in 2023.

Business to Discuss

1. 2022-year end preliminary financial review and 2023 giving campaign update
 - a. With carpet appeal, we thought we might be \$100,000 short on our budgeted revenue yet as a preliminary look we will be coming in around \$1,991,000- only approximately \$42,000 short. Some of our expense lines will be less than budgeted including personnel yet some of the operating utilities will be so much more. In 2021 our Xcel bill was \$34,727 and in 2022 it was \$52,000. Although the building was used more in 2021, it was the increase in costs that caused most of this difference. Fellowship fund did not budget enough, but we used our fellowship budget to get people back. Jason added I would like to see us increase this line in 2023. Yet, all things considered, we should end in the black. Dianne said based on pledge cards coming in, keeping the 2023 budget flat may be our best option.
 - b. Biggest hit this year has been our investment fund in 2022.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

1. Jan 15th – Call / Search Committee Town Hall in the Multi-Purpose Room, 9:30 and 10:45 am and 1:00 via Zoom
2. Feb 7th – Council Meeting
3. Feb 14th – Executive Team Meeting
 - a. Jason noted that our executive meeting is on Valentine's day.
 - b. Pastor Jon said we can look at alternate dates.
4. Feb 26th – Annual Church Meeting (Jen and Jason both out of town) Brian will lead the meeting.

- a. Jason asked if anything interesting was coming up.
- b. Dianne talked about Godspell having performances at King of Kings, February 17- 19 and 24 -26 and tickets will be on the Open Door Community Theater website.
- c. Rebecca asked if we are back to our regular schedule in March. Yes.

2022 Strategic Focus Areas / Updates as needed

1. Worship Production – Jason
 - a. Not really any updates. Pastor Jon said Jake is part time and finishing his last semester in school. We are hoping to offer Jake a FT position as this area of technology is an important role for the future. Dianne had a couple things to add, the contemporary band have created a Spotify playlist. They are really being inventive. Watch the 10:45 bulletin for Spotify QR code. This is a trial to see how it works, and we would like to add to 9:30 service. Rebecca asked if QR code could be added to both bulletins.
 - b. Could we look at adding Spotify to our KOK app? Dianne will check into that. Jen suggested adding a Spotify link. I do love getting emails and getting weekly blast. It was really nice to have weekly.
 - c. Jason added, do you know what would be awesome, back to the Spotify playlist kind of idea. You would have to do like a podcast, every band member pick a song and talk about why they picked a song. Jen, like behind the music. Jason noted, like more curated music.
2. Facilities Committee – Jen, Todd, Jim
 - a. Jen said at this time we are waiting for the budget; it is not our goal this year to do everything. But be really thoughtful on our spending. We are putting together price tags on things and communication through email and waiting to hear where things are.
 - b. Jen said everyone knows what we are talking about. Café Jill looking at ideas for furniture. We are looking at that as a priority. The storage shed– garage barn raising. Jason asked on your last comment we talked about putting wood on the front counter. When we stored the manger in the storage room, we noticed that this space could be utilized better for storage.
 - c. Jen said to look at what can be removed before re-organized. Dianne said she was speaking to the retired men’s group and they are excited.
 - d. Jen got bids to modernize security system and revisiting the best configurations based on Dianne’s recommendations
 - e. Jen talked about MPR and how to configure space.
 - f. Jen added the dumpster enclosure needs replacing, and Jim added that the cement slab could also be replaced.
 - g. Jen said, Jill and I met again on the 28th and walked through all the bathrooms. What should be done, came down to the two bathrooms that need to be updated. We got new bids for flooring and tiles. Looking at powder coating walls.
 - h. Rebecca asked about the toilets if they were working well. There seems to be one toilet every Sunday that wants to continue to run.
 - i. Dianne said replacing the inside of the toilet is on the list. We are looking at our current toilets and how best to replace some of them.
 - j. Jen said there are furnace replacement needed and new Interior building signage.
 - k. We are not meeting regularly just updating bids.

3. Strategic Update on Leadership fulfillment (search/call process) – Brian
 - a. Ministry Site Profile - congregational input: The Call Committee has created our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and will seek approval from the congregation at three Town Hall meetings on January 15, 2023: 9:30am & 10:45am in the Multi-Purpose Room and 1:00 via Zoom (see below for Zoom link).
 - b. Once approval is received, the Synod will post the MSP to provide prospective pastors with information about who we are as a congregation and our needs for an Associate Pastor.
 - c. Call for 'nominations' from the congregation: In addition, the Call Committee will receive nominations for candidates from the congregation thru February 15, 2023.
 - d. Use of Search Firms: The Call Committee is recommending that if we don't receive viable candidates from the synod that the Call Committee will begin the process of identifying search firms who might be able to identify candidates for us.
4. Stewardship / Offering / Donor Engagement – Jason (2023 Goal)
 - a. Will try to develop a plan for activities and events to connect to members and donors in 2023.
5. Long Term Strategic Plan – Rebecca
 - a. Rebecca said that getting cost will help with the list.
 - b. I think its helpful in the short term to have this list, but I would like to plan for the future, like 5 years. I need to reconnect with Jim.
 - c. With the facilities work, not sure what to do with some of the items on MPR. I would like placeholder and high-level numbers to keep on plan.
 - d. Rebecca said I have a list going and happy to share.
 - e. Dianne added, one thing is we need more office space for staff.
 - f. Jen said we may need to bring in a designer to help.

STAFF REPORTS

Reports

1. Lead Pastor's Report (Jon Larson)
 - a. See appendix A for detailed report
2. Finance and Treasurer's Report
 - a. No Report – Angie's computer crashed – getting quick books reloaded.
3. Executive Director of Operations Report (Dianne Johnson)
 - a. See appendix B for detailed report.

Staff Report Review notes

- a. Jason really liked the updates this month.
- b. Todd asked about the New Member class.
- c. Jason said regarding the staff reports, I was at the Welcome desk, and someone asked about a new member class, they had not yet been signed up for a new member class yet. Pastor Jon said that is something on my radar, Pastor Dan and Dan Green to drive the new member class. Dan Green is creating a landing page. We are trying to align those things. Pastor Jon said the game plan is to go with March.
- d. See appendix C for detailed report.

Final meeting comments/notes:

- a) Rebecca said I have a question; I am on the email list for the volunteer signups. Is there a system in place where you can sign up online. If I could sign up online or on a website. Dianne said it's another thing getting volunteers now on the web sites. Jen suggested to put out QR codes.
- b) Nominating committee has been notified of open positions, Jason's spot is open a 3-year position.
- c) Member at large a 2-year position, Todd will put his name in again. Finance Chair position, Jim has already served two terms. The April meeting needs a big party for Jim. Jim will be on through May. Pastor Jon said we will keep people's names who may fill other roles, nominations can also be taken from the floor at the meeting. It is a very fluid open process to select people. If you have any other names to put on our radar, we have to keep our eyes open, would you ever consider being on council. Pastor Jon said to Jim, thank you for serving two terms.
- d) Jen brought up the "To do list" and asked do we review the role of council before next members come on board? Jason said when we get into the council meetings, we don't have time during meetings. Pastor Jon said we can look at the next executive meeting, Jason said he would be happy to take a look at it.
- e) Pastor Jon said as we look at the directory, look at the strategic plan, Benevolence is a conversation around the missions team, and will come out as we roll out the strategic plan. That will define itself in the future.
- f) Reviewed items on to-do list for high level timing.

New Business to Discuss:

1. Question from Nov meeting "how do we put expectations on members?"
2. Nominating committee has been informed of the open spots:
 - a. Executive Team – one 3-year term open
 - b. Member at Large – one 2-year term open
 - c. Finance Chair – position open (Thanks Jim for your 2 terms already served!)
 - d. Nominating Team – 3 spots open for a one-year term

Action Items and who is responsible

3. Dianne will check into adding Spotify App to King of Kings App.
4. Jason will take a look at the Role of Council.

Items on the "to do" list – add an approximate time frame for discussion?

1. The church will be reviewing the role of Church Council as it relates to the Role of the Exec Team
2. Review King of Kings Constitution and By Laws – waiting on updates from ELCA (Fall 2023)
3. Ready Set Grow – Andrea already planning for / doing tours for next year....
4. King of Kings gear / swag
5. Connection Strategy – directory, etc.
 - a. Jen, how do we engage people...too much for tonight.
6. Benevolence

Meeting Adjourned

Tami moved to adjourn the meeting.

Rebecca seconded the motion.

Motion passed (CC.23.01.03)

The meeting adjourned at **8:02 pm**

Closing Prayer - Pastor Jon

Appendix A: The Report of Pastor Jon Larson

Church Council Staff Reports - Pastor Jon Larson

Leadership:

- Since my last report, we welcomed Pastor Dan Clites to our team. Pastor Dan will be serving as our Interim Associate Pastor with worship and preaching responsibilities. We will be utilizing Pastor Dan's passion for student and men's ministry in order to support Michael Carmack in our Middle School and High School program and breathe new life into our Men's Ministry.
- One of the things that has been weighing greatly upon me is the need to offer a New Member Class/orientation. We are scheduled to have a new Visitor Landing Page on our website and we have numerous new faces that have been asking about a "New Member Class." This is something that I was not able to focus on and have asked Pastor Dan and Dan Green to take the lead on the Welcome/Connection event so it will work in conjunction with our visitor landing page. I am thankful to see movement in this area. The tentative timeline for the (working title "Starting Point") event is early March. It will be great to be able to start publicizing it as details get a bit more ironed out.
- While the "Starting Point" event is the priority, a wonderful byproduct of the two Dan's working together was to hear about the potential E3 strategy (Engage Equip, Empower). What's wonderful about this organic conversation is that it utilized the same language that we had been using within our Strategic Plan (Engage, Equip, Evolve).
- Due to the challenges and changes in 2020 I will be working on a revitalized Strategic Plan that will provide renewed energy and direction for the ministry of King of Kings. I am excited for what the future holds for this family of faith and what God is doing in and through this congregation.
- As we continue to live into our Org Chart we have made the shift to having All Staff Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and Leadership Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. To assist with communication and visioning, we will be leveraging our Quarterly Planning Sheets on Google Sheets. Staff members have access and will be keeping their areas up to date. Communication between supervisors and direct reports is key as we live into this new structure.

Stewardship:

- Thank you to Dan Green for taking the lead on this year's Stewardship Campaign and setting up video touchpoints. Pledge cards are currently being received and are due back by January 8. One of the key areas of focus in previous campaigns has been sharing a word of thanks with those who continue to support the ministries of their church home.

Worship:

- We are grateful for all the families that stepped forward this year to be a part of the Advent Candle lighting. One of the things I would like to review for 2023 is how we re-engage the congregation surrounding this symbolic practice.
- A big thank you to Jake Pickett, Jim Lindstrom and Sam Johnson for their leadership on Christmas Eve and for creating such meaningful worship services. While the traditional 1 and 9

services and 3 and 5 contemporary services were well balanced with music, we continue to have a need at the 7:00 worship hour. This will be a key evaluation point as we plan for next year.

- Since Christmas Eve was on a Saturday, we had one traditional service on Sunday morning at 9:30. The service was rewritten for a Service of Prayer and Blessing. Next year I am hopeful to have people come forward to receive a blessing for the New Year as we have done in the past.
- Christmas decorations: As we do in our own homes, it was nice to see the church decorated for Christmas and a big thank you to all those who helped get things put together and put away.
 - The tree decorations in the sanctuary and main gathering space were beautifully done and very tasteful. It was great having electrical brought into the center of the gathering space. This will also be used for other display needs.
 - The stained glass window of the nativity scene above the main sanctuary doors was gorgeous.
 - The vision of the stained glass windows surrounding the sanctuary came to life and really created a warmth to the space. The larger stained glass windows were built in such a way that we will be able to use them around the piano for our midweek Lenten services in order to create a more intimate space.
 - Thanks to Jason Livingston and Scott McKinnon there was an epic manger scene that families used as a photo op. The vision is to utilize the manger scene in a more significant way as we think about next year's display or to create an outdoor scene. Thank you to these two as well as Brian Gager for taking down the manger.
- The adjustment to the front end of Contemporary worship to allow our students experiencing a variety of worship components (Communion, Baptisms, Creed and Confession, Children's Messages and Jesus Jammers) has been well received. I still believe this is an important consideration for our 9:30 worship hour as well. This past week our students experienced a Baptism before heading to their classrooms and were encouraged to talk to their parents about their own baptism.
- I am in the process of working on all things Lent, Holy Week and Easter including updating and reviewing Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday (updated 2022) and Good Friday services and formats. Our weekend and midweek Lenten services will continue to follow the Gospel of Luke. Once again, we will seek to leverage the theme and topic that we focus on in worship each week with what our students will be learning as part of their Confirmation small group time.
- I continue to update worship planning pages and communicate on both weekly and upcoming needs with our Worship Coordinators. Worship Coordinator meeting set for Thursday, January 12.

General:

- I officiated three funerals - December 28, December 29 and January 10. One of the services was for a family from the community that was looking for a pastor to officiate the service for their loved one. It feels good to be a church that responds to community needs.
- Officiated a Committal Service on January 6 at Fort Snelling.
- Funeral Service scheduled for January 27

Care

- Along with providing Congregational Care, Susan Klosterman-Finke has participated in several funeral services, baptismal service, graveside committal services and lead worship at Stonecrest Senior Living (4th Sunday of the month). It is a blessing to have Susan onboard and working together in providing care for our congregation. Susan is really digging into her role in providing leadership in terms of our Visitation, BeFriender and Prayer Ministries.

Nominating Committee

- Initial communication to the Nominating Team went out outlining the process and congregational needs. This year we are looking for 1 Executive Team Member (3 year term), 1 Member at Large

(2 year term), 1 Finance Chair (3 year term) and 3 Members of the Nominating Team (1 year term). Current members of the Nominating team include Chris Gandhi, Molly Kodl and Jo Rettke.

- Bulletin and Web Communications sent to team.

Appendix B: Report of Executive Director of Operations, Dianne Johnson

Church Council Staff Reports - Dianne Johnson

Summary:

It has been quite a busy last month with Christmas services and getting the church prepared. A special thank you to Jason Livingston and Scott McKinnon on the beautiful manger scene!

Christmas services went well with the following in person attendance:

24-De c	
1:00	518
3:00	494
5:00	474
7:00	251
9:00	188
	192
	5

We also, throughout the day, had over 400 join us online.

Finance:

Although Angie’s computer crashed and this is just a quick preliminary- it appears that we will come in around \$50,000 behind our budgeted revenue, roughly \$1,983,898. I think that is solid results especially with the success of the carpeting appeal. It has been an amazing year.

Expenses were high in certain operating lines yet lower in others.

Budget proposal will go to the Finance Team for approval next week and we are looking at retaining the same budget as 2022 of \$2,032,500.

We did ask the congregation to return pledge cards this past Sunday and we are still receiving them. One note is to include an envelope with the pledge cards as some people wanted to have that confidentiality in handing them in during worship. I hope to expect more to come in these coming weeks.

A quick analysis:

We have received a total of 132 pledge cards returned for a total of \$494,065. Of these 132 pledge cards:

6 (5%) went down in their annual pledge for a total of -\$6,670.

17 (12%) first time pledges for a total of \$ 60,280.

48 (36%) increased their pledges for a total increase of \$25,780.

61 (47%) remained the same as 2022.

Facility update:

Greg has completed painting and he will return to do touch ups and door frames that were too cold to paint.

Carpet schedule:

Today - finish up the north hallway and Sanctuary

Wednesday - demo and carpet the hallway leading to the playground

Thursday - demo and carpet the hallway leading to room 204 and shop

Monday - demo and carpet inside RSG entrance doors to just past the coat rack hallway

Tuesday/Wednesday - demo and carpet moving towards welcome desk and hallway leading to playground.

Completing that week we may start down the hallway towards the receptionist desk and the offices.

The main office area will still need to be determined.

Personnel:

Staff reviews will begin in the next couple weeks to review and establish goals to work on in 2023.

Jake, Sam and Abby are really coming up with some great outreach tools- along with Abby's blog, they have created a Spotify playlist of the worship songs that members can play during the week.

We will have this in the bulletin, the app and on the website each week.

"The King of Kings Playlist: Keep the uplifting energy of Sunday worship going all week long with our Spotify playlist! Scan the QR code below to start listening now."

Appendix C: Staff Reports***Church Council Staff Reports***

Pastor Dan Clites:

Happy New Year everyone! I thank you for making my Christmas at KoK so meaningful...and fun! In collaboration with Pastor Jon and Dan Green, I am assisting in the development and launch of a more focused vision for the congregation. We are still in discernment, but moving forward with "E3, or 3E": Engage, Equip and Empower (while all the while, receiving encouragement). It is biblical, and not complicated to understand, yet extremely powerful in its implementation in-and-through everything KoK looks to do and be. In addition, Dan Green and I are putting together a "Starting Point" gathering for March with/for folks who are new to KoK. It will feature "Next Steps," which incorporate nicely into E3 thinking. When it's time to go into greater detail, I will gladly share. Perhaps Pastor Jon will elaborate with you if appropriate at this time. In addition, our men's ministry will take its next steps towards invigoration on Saturday, January 14th. As a large group that will feature smaller table discussion groups, we will take on the topic of "defeating repetitive sin." I truly believe this can lead our men back to being followers of Jesus that impacts the entire congregation.

Dan Green

-Currently working with Gemini in creating a landing page for new visitors. The purpose of this page is to funnel those who are interested in visiting to one place where there will be an introduction video to the church, FAQ, and a "Visit Us" function where they can pick a date to be (optionally) greeted by someone in-person at the church that can also give them a tour of King of Kings and get them familiar with the church. This latter portion will take some more legwork to get done, but right now the main thing is creating that page and funnel for visitors. The visitors will be driven to this page by our paid targeted social ads, whether from Google or Facebook. Dianne and I have agreed on spending \$1,000 on a three month trial of a Facebook ad to the Woodbury community, driving those people to the landing page to see the ROI. This will be the start of our digital outreach campaign (which will be a major theme going forward). First we need to test.

-Currently working on a 7 week email series to send to those who have attended King of Kings for the first time. It gives them an overview of who we are, what programs we offer, and how they can get plugged into the community. I have a full draft, and it will be completed by February. It will be something automatic that sends through our email service provider, Constant Contact once a visitor comes for the first time.

-Created a new email cadence for deeper engagement with those who are attending our services. On Monday's, those on our email list will get a "Sunday Recap" that gives them the homework for the week, the sermon in multiple formats, and an engagement question. That engagement question will be key to seeing what sermons have resonated with those the most. On Wednesday's, "Connection" is sent out about opportunities and events in the church. On Friday, I am utilizing Abbie (Content Writer) to write "Looking Forward to Sunday" where she writes about the worship songs we have coming up that weekend and the meaning behind them.

The purpose of this 3x a week email cadence is to make it very Sunday-centric and to create almost a "FOMO" impact to get people back into the doors of KoK. We still have many people who are watching online or who have dropped off from attending but still are on that list. I want them to feel like they are missing out on something. I will be using a lot of photos/videos from the church community to help create that effect.

Another purpose is to start building up a digital presence where if someone *is* worshipping online, they do have everything they need to stay informed and connected. This 3x a week email cadence is something we can use as "lead-candy" to get people to sign up for the list as well.

-I have successfully started clipping and uploading sermons to various podcasts websites using a service called "Buzzsprout". You upload it there, and it spits it out to as many places as possible. Right now we are on Spotify, but in the next month they should be on most major Podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts.

-Working with Pastor Dan on building out the framework for a "Starting Point" class in early March that is specifically for those new to King of Kings. A very low-key event that is fun, interactive, and gets those who are new comfortable with us.

-Working with Pastor Dan and Pastor Jon on revisiting our engagement plan in general, the E3 concept (Engage, Equip, Empower). Getting some legs underneath it currently.

As you can see, most of my work right now is surrounding building an infrastructure to be able to handle visitors when they enter the doors of KoK. I think it's important to build that first because of course we want more people to come, but we need to make sure we have the infrastructure in place to be able to bring the maximum amount of value that we can to their lives when they do visit us. Those are the major updates! Otherwise, doing all the little things and other general tasks of the job.

Susan Klosterman-Finke

I visited several of our shut-ins the last couple of weeks as well as connecting with members via phone calls. I'll be leading the Sunday service on Dec. 22 at Stonecrest as well as assisting with upcoming funerals.

Michael Carmack

- Preparing for our upcoming 2nd $\frac{7}{8}$ confirmation retreat option
- Working closely with the CSF team to prepare all summer programming opportunities - working to launch camp Sunday.
- Planning up coming HS and MS programming -

- Starting to work on marketing for the Fat Tuesday pancake dinner - this serves as an opportunity for families to earn some funds towards camps and mission trips.
- Starting to plan and lay out the plans for our Idaho Mission trip this summer

Laurel Bornholtz

- We had a very successful boutique on December 3 with 61 vendors and over 900 shoppers. Students earned \$20/hour for working at the event with other proceeds in reserve for chaperone expenses, continuing education and needs that may arise that aren't budgeted. De Granstrom will take over partial leadership of the event for 2023.
- Our winter/spring Bible studies are beginning this week and next. Our offerings are featured on the Welcome Desk to give people an opportunity to review the materials more closely. Nancy Nelson (Monday evening leader) sent 32 personal invitations to women who were either in her fall group or that she wanted to offer the opportunity to.
- Worked with a former coworker to design and create a 8.5x5.5" 2023 Summer Camps card as an update to our former camp booklet. The cards will be available at Camp Weekend on Sunday, January 15.
- The Call Committee is meeting 2x month and making excellent progress. I appreciate the opportunity to serve with the call team.
- I'm currently working on gathering Lenten resources for devotionals and activities at home for families.
- Michael and I met to talk about goals for our 2023-24 Confirmation program year. Stay tuned!
- I continue to team teach 9:30 4th grade and 10:45 3rd grade to be part of Children's Ministry and have hands-on experience with our curriculum and other programming.
- Striving to create connections with our Mission of the Month partners and our elementary/middle school programming. Our Confirmation students will be creating cards of encouragement for the guests of Loaves and Fishes this month.

Paula Arland

- The Christmas program was a part of worship in December. Middle school students helped share the story with Kids of the Kingdom children singing a variety of hymns and Christmas songs. 5th graders also read some poems. Wonderful way to end the first half of the year!
- Kids of the Kingdom students raised \$460 for their first half of the year offering which helped support Loaves and Fishes. We will be switching to supporting a global mission partner for the remainder of the year. Our 2nd graders raised \$147 as part of their Faith Milestone which was designated to support a refugee family through ELCA Good Gifts.
- Beach Bash is Friday, January 13. Looking forward to bringing summer back with fun games, crafts and a cool snack. Camp Wapo will be here to share what camp is like and a few counselors will also join us.
- Summer Kickoff is Sunday, January 15. Summer camp postcards will be available featuring our camp options for summer 2022. Working with Dan Green on updating registrations which will open the end of January. Camp Wapo registration opens on Sunday, January 15.

- 1st Grader Faith Milestone will be Sunday, January 29. Students and a parent will learn about the Lord's Prayer and how they can talk with God. They will share the Lord's Prayer through ASL in worship later in the year.
- First Communion information will be going out to families in the next week.

Elizabeth Hendrickson

- Our Spirit of Giving collection was successful again this year. We collected nearly 400 items, including 30 winter coats and 70 winter hats. Additionally, \$900 in gift cards were donated and \$627 was given for offering. Our partners, Community Thread and Open Cupboard were so grateful and happy to receive all these donations!
- I have been calendar planning for Missions activities in 2023, including new local events, mission trips, and volunteer opportunities.
- I am developing plans for a Lenten activity, called alfombras de aserrín, based on traditions from our partners in Honduras and Guatemala. Plans include a display in the Gathering Space and incorporating activities for children, youth, families and the whole congregation. More information coming in the next few months.

Andrea Villanueva