



Connections:



King of kings Lutheran Church

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What Are Your Summer Plans?

'To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.'

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

I recently received a copy of a report from a local outreach agency. In it the coordinator (who had just joined their team one year ago) wrote about all that had happened during the last 12 months. She said she'd endured a lot of mishaps, restructuring, learning, laughing and growing – but through it all she felt her job had truly been a gift from God. Now she was giving serious thought to what she had done with this gift. What an awesome question to pose to ourselves. We've all been given special gifts; but how many of us ignore them and let them go to waste?

The month of June is almost upon us. For some that means the current school year is winding down, graduation details are in the works, and vacations are in the early planning stages. For many it means that our schedules, as we know them, may be changing. For my house it will involve 3 weeks of driver's training for our teenage daughter and lots of walking for me as I continue to train for a 60 mile adventure. For someone else it might involve some quality gardening, extra visits with extended family or time devoted to a special project. During the fall, winter and spring many of us find ourselves caught up in our hectic schedules, often putting lots of demands and responsibilities on ourselves. Someone once told me that it is o.k. to say 'No' once in a while, but I admit that's one I still find myself struggling with. Every year I find myself saying 'Just as soon as summer comes and things slow down a bit, I'll find some time to do _____' (you can fill in the blank with whatever you've been putting off). The point is that we all have gifts and talents that we should be tapping in to, not just for what we'll get out of it, but because of what it could potentially do for someone else.

Everything God does starts with a seed. The Bible tells us that He gives seed to the sower. If you are person with a gift or passion and have a desire to bless others and sow the seed, God will make sure that you have plenty to give. You'll never be able to out give God. The Bible says He will pour out blessings on you that you can barely contain. God wants to do His work on this earth through you. He has equipped each one of us with the tools we need to help others and perhaps even be their miracle. Each day opportunities present themselves for us to show God's love and compassion to others. We have the time, the abilities, and the heart to meet the needs of others, helping to bring (spiritual) healing and offering hope and encouragement. I think summer is a perfect opportunity to make the time (or take the time).

Whatever you choose to do during these summer months, keep God at the heart of it and every decision you make because God must have first place in our lives. Trust me, summer is a great time to take a well-deserved break; but just because it's summer doesn't mean that we should skip out on God or doing things for others. Take the break you need this summer, but while you're at it think about what you can do with your special gift.

Enjoy the season,

Jennifer Meyers
Administrative Associate

June 2010

Special points of interest:

- Summer Red Cross Blood Drive
Scheduled for July 26th

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Backyard BBQ and Music Series

Who: All are welcome, especially neighbors and friends.

What: Join us for a night of great grilled food, live music, and outdoor games and fun.

Where: The Backyard of King of kings Lutheran Church

Why: Great food, music, fun in the summer ... why not!

When: Saturday nights from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Bring: Your own lawn chairs and beverage.

June 19

Bratwurst and Baseball

Music by DCMARX: Classic and Modern Rock

July 31

BBQ Rib Competition

Music by: Either Jet Rodriguez or Andrew Robinson

August 14

Pig Roast

Music by: Either Jet Rodriguez or Andrew Robinson

We are reaching out to our neighbors near the church and inviting them to join us for this fun-filled summer series. Please plan on attending and invite friends and family to join us.

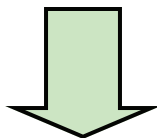
Vacation Bible School is 'Setting Sail'

Mark your calendars to save the date for our High Seas Expedition this summer at King of kings. The ship sets sail **August 2nd - 6th**. Get ready to splash and make waves through God's Word as we plan to transform our church for this incredible journey. To make this a successful trip we need as many hands on deck as we can get.

We have various areas where you can volunteer.

Please visit the website to see the many volunteer opportunities available and sign up today.

Don't forget to register your children for VBS at the website as well.



www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/kok

In The Beginning

The story of creation found in Genesis 1 and 2 is a story about beginnings; the beginning of life, time, and the created world. The creation story tells us that God is the creator of everything and all of life. God is the source, the originator, the unmoved mover. The creation story tells us that all that God created was "good" and was pleasing to God. The nature of creation is ordered and done with intention and purpose. The creation story also tells us who we are as human beings. We are created "in the image of God" (1:27) and endowed with special powers and responsibilities to care for and be stewards of creation. The story of creation is powerful, rich, and has profound implications for who we understand ourselves and God to be.

The story of creation is also highly debated and discussed. In our day, the ongoing battle between creationism and evolution has dominated the conversation of these ancient texts. In the midst of the squabbling, yelling, and politicking have we missed the point? Do our ancient stories tell us something even more important than how creation came to be? For me the short answer is yes. The creation story gives an answer to the existential question of why. Why do we exist? What is the point of life? Who am I? What is the meaning of life? If we get bogged down in endless and nonsensical debates over what really happened, we miss the much larger point Genesis 1-2 is trying to make. So let us look to the scriptures themselves and see what God is really up to.

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." Genesis 1:1-3

God is the creator of all things and began creation with the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God. It is the wind from God which creates the conditions necessary for creation to commence. In Hebrew, the word *ruah* means: wind, breath, or spirit. So literally it is a wind/breath/spirit of God which causes creation to begin. This is profoundly important. The spirit of God comes over the face of the waters and starts it all. All of creation, all of life begins with the Spirit of God. Similarly, in Genesis 2, the first man comes alive only when the breath/spirit of God is given.

"Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being." Genesis 2:7

Creation begins with the spirit and human life begins with the spirit. It is the spirit of God which brings life, renewal, and restoration to creation. Without the spirit we are like dried up and left for dead bones. (see Ezekiel 37)

The other key element of the story of creation is how God creates. In Genesis 1, God creates by speaking. God repeatedly says: "let there be....and there was..." God literally calls things into existence by the power of God's word. This is profoundly important because as Christians we understand Jesus to be the living embodiment of God's word.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-4,14

God creates by speaking the word and the word is Jesus Christ. It is through Christ and the Spirit that creation came to be (how about that for an explanation of the trinity). God's word literally has the power to create reality, the power to take potential and make it actual, and the power to transform lives.

The story of creation firmly establishes God as creator and tells us a great deal about God and the creation. The story of creation also tells us a lot about human nature and the meaning of life. To be created in God's image implies an intimate connection between God and humanity that is not found elsewhere in creation. Human beings are set apart and given power and responsibility for the creation. (We do really well with the power side, not so much with the responsibility side.) God also allows Adam to participate in creation by naming the animals (2:19-20). As such, human beings can be understood as participants with God in the ongoing creation of the world and can be seen as created co-creators.

God created us for relationship, to live together in harmony with the created world and live in harmony with the Lord. The story of creation tells us fundamentally that we were created for relationship with God, given powers and responsibilities to be stewards of creation, and to live within the boundaries God sets before us. As we begin to see in Genesis 3, it doesn't take long for this good and pleasing creation to lose focus and become askew. That story will have to wait.



Please check out Pastor Ben's blog at:

<http://biblestudyinsideout.blogspot.com/>

Would You Like To 'Adopt-A-Plot'?

King of kings has various planting areas surrounding the church that we like to call 'Adopt-A-Plots'. They are groomed areas with shrubs, perennials, or annual flowers. They add to the appearance of our church grounds. While we have a Levite ministry whose purpose is to cut and maintain the lawn, we need other people with a green thumb (but not required) to plant and/or maintain the Adopt-A-Plot areas. We currently have several plots available that need summer care.

Would you be interested in planting a few flowers in an area and then maintaining them for the summer season? You'd just need to stop by every other week and see if any pruning or weeding needed to be done.

For those of you who already have a designated 'plot', please be sure to clean it up and have it prepped for the season by the first week of June.

If you're interested in acquiring a 'new' plot or have questions about your 'current' plot - please contact Nancy Beitler at 586-247-4702 or by email at nbeitler@yahoo.com.



'Holy Grounds' Needs Your Help

Holy Grounds is our gathering space in the lobby where we serve coffee, specialty drinks and homemade baked treats on Sunday mornings. We are looking for additional adults to join this ministry team.

We have two shifts available on Sunday mornings: 8:30-11:00 a.m. (which involves setup and serving) and 10:00 a.m.-cleanup (which involves serving and cleanup). Those who work a shift are encouraged to attend worship the day that they are scheduled. We need 2 people per shift. Depending on the number of people on the team, you may only be needed once a month (or more if you prefer).

We will provide the necessary training.

It's a great way to meet other people, not to mention it's a lot of fun.

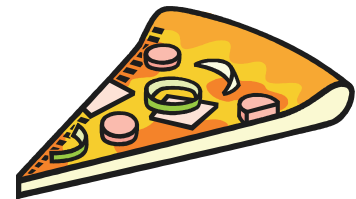
If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Nancy Beitler at: nbeitler@yahoo.com or at 586-247-4702



An Update
From Sunday School . . .

**Our last day of Sunday School
is June 13th.**

**Our 'End of the Year'
celebration will be during
the 11:00am service ONLY.
We will have outdoor games
and pizza for lunch!**



Youth & Children's Programs will resume in September

Sunday School
(preschool - 6th grade)

† Will meet at both
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

For more information contact
Stacey Lambert
248-561-3473
or the Church office
586-566-8660

Confirmation
(7th & 8th grade)

† Meets on Wednesdays from
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Check the schedule for
specific events.

For more information contact
the Church office
586-566-8660

C.H.A.O.S.
(9th - 12th grades)

† 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

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

Join us for weekly worship:

We have Contemporary Praise Worship
& Sunday School
at **BOTH** 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

Contemporary Praise Worship, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.



Sermon Series:

*Total
Forgiveness*