

MAY 2022

COUNCIL NEWS

**The Lord waits to be gracious to you... blessed
are all those who wait for him.**

Isaiah 30:18

What beautiful words. They can also be frustrating words. Waiting can often be a tense moment of anticipation, especially as we wait to welcome someone. All of us can probably say, we have felt this as we wait for a new lead pastor. We must remember that there is a plan, and God is with us as we wait. This should give us a sense of warmth and confidence.

65th Anniversary

We are blessed when we look at the history of King of Glory, a congregation started through the generosity of farmers in Iowa. As a matter of fact, do you know what happens in September 2023? King of Glory celebrates its 65th anniversary of serving the greater Dallas/Ft. Worth area. King of Glory is a wonderful example of a congregation blessed to share our faith, God's love, and presence.

We are forming a committee to plan events and celebrations to remember this important event in the life of our congregation. As of now, the 65th Anniversary Committee consists of:

- John Haynes
- Dawn Rosenquist
- Jon Schultz
- Shawna Reckmeyer
- Phil Thomas
- Lorna Weir
- Sonya Hohlt

More information will be forthcoming as the team starts to meet and plan... and we can all wait with anticipation and excitement for the celebration.

Financials:

King of Glory is a blessed and gracious church. When setting King of Glory's operating budget for 2022, the Council budgeted for offerings that exceeded 2021 offerings in hopes that with renewed focus and energy we might be able to reach a higher giving level in 2022.

For perspective, we ended the year in 2021 at a deficit, though we had cash reserves to cover. For this year, as of April 30th, we are operating at a deficit of \$34,000 for the first four months of the year. In addition, we are behind in our budgeted offerings by \$125,000.

As a congregation that is blessed, and also in a period of waiting, we need to ensure we prepare for our future. For example, it is important that we see an increase in offerings for 2022. At this time, we are asking you to prayerfully consider giving more than you pledged to the 2022 operating fund. If you have not made a pledge, please consider doing so at this time. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Gifts to Others:

As our recent letter from the Generosity Team outlined, we were blessed with our Miracle Offering Sunday. Part of our Miracle Offering Sunday effort in September was to give to others outside our church walls. To make a difference locally and more globally, we selected North Dallas Shared Ministries and ELCA World Hunger.

We are pleased to let you know that as of March 31st, we have given a total of \$174,482 (\$87,241 to each ministry).

Both ministries have been thrilled with these unexpected gifts. We should be proud that part of our celebration of KOG included this sense of generosity to those outside our walls. We shared our blessings.

Synod Meeting:

Five of our members served as delegates to the recent NT/NL Synod Gathering held at King of Glory on April 29th and 30th. We will be sharing more but we first wanted to share some initial thoughts and observations:

- **John Mathis:** I found it very reinvigorating to see a “full” sanctuary of dedicated disciples worshipping together with such enthusiasm and devotion. I look forward to the time when we can, as a congregation, be comfortable in meeting in person again. Additionally, participating in sessions such as this provide reaffirmation and strengthening of one’s faith simply by the close association, albeit brief, with others of common and robust conviction to the Lutheran doctrine. Holding the meeting at KOG makes one proud. A big thanks goes out to all who made things go so smoothly.
- **Angie Lee:** I could not have been more proud to represent KOG at this Synod Assembly. Our church truly represented what we profess to stand for in the best way! As a 50-year member and our arms wide open, we welcomed our Synod for sharing and learning together.

My greatest wish is that all members be aware and hear what happens at the Synod level. It is an amazing experience to realize how the world is impacted by the work of the ELCA at all levels. Thanks for allowing me to serve. Proud is not even a big enough word!

- **Becky Brakke:** A very important vote taken at the Synod Assembly was an approved Memorial to Restructure the Governance of the ELCA. (note: this is a request to intentionally study the current structure of the ELCA as it has undergone change since formed in 1988). The NT-NL Synod in Assembly voted to support a Memorial that has been initiated from a Susquehanna Synod. It would memorialize the 2022 churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Church in America to direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the Statements of Purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the Principles of Organization, and all matters pertaining thereunto, presenting its findings to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.
- **Valarie Remmars:** I was thrilled/humbled by how wonderful KOG was as a host, so many volunteers making everyone welcome. A takeaway from the sermon from Dr. Richie Butler. "Am I on the right or wrong side of history?" "Silence and inaction are allies of the wrong side of history. Love will put you on the right side of history." Throughout the last two years, it has been easy to just stay in my own little bubble with my husband and children. The pause button has been pressed. I personally need to get out and rekindle relationships that have been ignored. I need to act, as I do not desire to be on the wrong side of history. One of the other speakers, not sure which, encouraged us to tell three people about an experience at the convention.

- **Tad Doering:** What a wonderful couple of days at King of Glory on several levels. King of Glory did a beautiful job of hosting the Synod meeting. There were multiple times to be so proud of our staff, our music, and our members. The meeting was also a great reminder of how King of Glory is a part of meaningful ministries all over the Synod area as well as nationally and the world. This event made me proud to be an ELCA Lutheran. Examples included the ministry called “The Table” – a ministry for young adults in Frisco; The Mission Endowment Fund of the Synod – helping congregations across the Synod; the work of our Latino ministries here in North Texas. It was a great affirmation for Bishop Gronberg as he was unanimously re-elected to serve another six years as the Bishop of the NT/NL Synod of the ELCA. Blessings abound and we as Lutherans are gracious to many in our midst.

Senior Pastor Call Committee:

The call committee continues to meet weekly, working closely with the Synod office to evaluate avenues to find new candidates. Recently, we interviewed a candidate referred to us by the Synod. Unfortunately, we felt he wasn't a good fit for our congregation, so our search continues. As previously mentioned, with the Synod's assistance, we're pursuing all possibilities, including networking with the Presidents of the seven ELCA seminaries in addition to Directors, board members, and committees of those seminaries to ask for candidate referrals. As we've been told, finding great candidates takes time and King of Glory deserves a great candidate. Please join us in continuing to pray for patience, wisdom, creativity, and a candidate's discernment. We all know this process is in God's hands... and we wait with anticipation.

As mentioned in previous Council News, it is normal and common for new pastors to be found through the relationships and knowledge of a congregation, and it is worth reminding everyone of this opportunity to help.

*If you know of a pastor who might be a good fit, regardless of his/her current interest in moving or taking a new call, let the committee know by sending an email to **PCC2021@kingofglory.com**.*

Often pastors are thinking about a new next step, and we might be a welcomed call. Please remember, this is a delicate and highly confidential process for a pastor, his congregation, and KOG.

Please do not reach out directly to anyone other than our call committee. The Synod and committee work within some very specific guidelines to ensure the integrity of the process. We appreciate you!

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

-Your Church Council