

**King of Glory
Lutheran**

Church and
Preschool

2500 Borchard Road
Newbury Park, CA 91320

805-498-4812

www.kog.cc

December 2011

Volume 12 No. 12

The King's Courier



Living
NATIVITY

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:30am

Sunday School at 9:45am

Adult Bible Study 10:45am

12/11- 4:30pm Advent Reflection &
Remembrance

12/24 5:00pm Christmas Eve

12/25-9:30am Christmas

**King Glory 2011
Council**

Pastor: Christine Sage

805-498-4812

Walt Chandler
President

Dick Schwartz
Vice President

Sue Meser
Secretary

Gary Block

Lynn Fallis

Natalie Faltin

Karen Malotte

Susan Premo

Pat Meredith

Office Manager

Pam Gushue

Preschool Director

805-498-0567

Tom Dawes

Treasurer

Carol Browning

Music Director

Mission Statement of
King of Glory Lutheran Church:
**Uniting People,
Uniting Purposes,
Uniting Paths in Christ**

OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours

Wednesday—Thursday—Friday

10:am – 3:30 pm

Phone: 805-498-4812 Fax: 805-498-7912

Website: www.kog.cc Email: kog@kog.cc

Church Council 3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm

Preschool Board 3rd Thursday @ 5:15pm

Choir Rehearsal Each Tuesday @ 7:00pm

Hospitality Committee

3rd Sunday after worship

Worship Committee

4th Sunday after worship



Dear KOG family,

This month we join Mary and Joseph as they journey to **Bethlehem**, in Hebrew "**the House of Bread**"—where they will welcome the Christ child into their lives in a new way.

The journey can be arduous. There is excitement and beauty along the way. There are hills to climb. There is often distraction and danger. Like Mary, we carry great potential and expectation within us; like Joseph, we may worry over many responsibilities.

Along the way, our King of Glory church family and Preschool provide us with **companions for the journey**. Companions in Latin means "with bread". These are the ones with whom we will share the path this season, the ones who will help us and nourish us along the way. Some will talk and sing and laugh with us, making the journey shorter and lighter. Children will scamper around bringing their sense of truth, of wonder, and of eagerness. Experienced folk will add their wisdom about the joys and challenges of the journey ahead.

We are providing a brief **Advent Brochure** especially geared for families with children—or anyone "young at heart"—to enjoy once weekly family devotions. Please share it with your friends. The brochures are available in the Welcome Center and at the Preschool. We are also providing suggested **Scripture** Passages for you to practice reflective Lectio Divina during this season.

Some of those with whom we make the journey to Christmas will need our attention and care. May we gain a sense of peace and the joy of God's presence as we minister through listening, helping, serving, and sharing our bread—the bounty and resources God has loaned us during the past year to care for, to invest, and to distribute.

Some of us enter the season with heaviness, a sense of loss and grief over many things: personal loss of a loved one or of a relationship, loss of health or of independence, loss of financial security or of trust, loss of hope when we struggle unceasingly without relief. We offer to be your companions and invite you to join us for our special **Advent Service of Remembrance and Reflection on December 11 at 4:30**, as the sun is setting (invitation inside.) Please invite your friends and neighbors for this special quiet service, especially those going through some loss or difficulty during this season

*"Upon the way to Bethlehem, Till time shall bring release,
However dim and rough the path, May not our footsteps cease,
Since at the end for us awaits The guerdon of His peace!"*

(from The Way to Bethlehem, Clinton Scollard)

Bring your friends and join us for **Worship** during **Advent** and **on Christmas Eve at 5:00** and **Christmas Morning at 9:30**.

May you journey with Jesus the Christ this Holy Season, and may you know His Peace which passes understanding.

*In Christ's grace,
Pastor Sage*

Worship

	<i>Worship Season/Color</i>	Readers	<u><i>Flowers</i></u>
12/4	2nd Sunday in Advent Blue	Nanci Frederick	In Loving Memory of Cindy Crocker
12/11 9:30am	3rd Sunday in Advent Blue	The Chandlers	Bob & Chris Stine for KC's 13th Birthday and In Memory of Jimmy Underwood
12/11 4:30pm	Reflection & Remembrance		
12/18	4th Sunday in Advent Blue	Sue Meser	Bob & Christi Marriner for Lindsey's 21st Birthday
12/24 5pm	Christmas Eve White	The Lees	Poinsettias In Memory or In Honor of your Loved Ones
12/25 9:30am	Christmas Day White	The Hinderers	

Dear KOG Members and Friends,

This is the month when the whole country joins us in thankfulness. For some Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday because it is a special time with family that all cultures can enjoy, and because it is upbeat with the thankfulness theme. As Christians we give thanks every day for the love God showered on us.

Those who worship hollow gods, god-frauds, walk away from their only true love. But I'm worshipping you, God, calling out in thanksgiving! And I'll do what I promised I'd do! Salvation belongs to God!" [Jonah 2](#)

As a church we give thanks by serving as well as by singing. Our services and our service are expressions of our gratitude for God's love for us. I am in awe of the beautiful expressions of worship and sharing that I see at KOG.

The KOG council voted on how to share our benevolence funds with ELCA Synod, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Camps, and Lutheran Homes. The Council group cares deeply for the mission of KOG and for the people in the church. Our discussions range from financial details to visions for the future. It is an open meeting if you would like to visit. Council has also been looking ahead to Advent and Christmas activities. Please look at the updated calendar on the KOG website.

With thanks for Grace, Walt Chandler



December 2011 Preschool News

We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving Holiday. It's hard to believe that the Christmas Season has begun.

Our Thanksgiving Feasts were fantastic. It was such a joy to share this time of thanksgiving with all our friends and family. Thank you to all our wonderful church and parent volunteers for all their help and the delicious food we shared at our feast.

We want to thank all who participated in the Annual Cookie Dough Fundraiser. We are pleased that the fundraiser helped both the Preschool and the MOPS/POPS programs this year. We also hope everyone enjoyed the Toppers Pizza Night fundraiser. It is always fun to dine with friends. We will have a King of Glory Night at Islands in Newbury Park on Wednesday January 11th from 5pm – closing. Watch for the flyers, they will be in your box in January. Your participation in our fundraisers is truly appreciated.

We also want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Christmas Shoppe Toy Drive. Your generosity to this toy drive, especially this year, is a blessing to many families in our local community.

Our Annual Preschool Christmas Program will be on December 8th and 9th at 9:15 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary. As always our King of Glory church family is invited to help us rejoice. We look forward to seeing you and all our preschool families and friends as we celebrate

“Happy Birthday to Baby JESUS”

Church Member priority registration for the 2012-2013 preschool year is January 18th – January 31st. To receive your King of Glory Church member discount, 10% on tuition, please mention that you are a church member when you turn in your registration paperwork. The registration fee of \$110 is due at the time of registration. Please call the preschool office @ (805) 498-0567, to inquire on availability and arrange for a tour.

Preschool will be closed December 19th – January 2nd. School resumes Tuesday, January 3rd.

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

The King of Glory Preschool Staff

MINISTRIES

Special Adult Bible Study for the Christmas Season

A special adult Bible study is planned for the Christmas Season. The class will look at the two Christmas Narratives in the Gospel of Matthew and Luke. We plan to take about 4 weeks—depending on discussion and interest—to cover the similarities and differences between the two accounts. The class should come away with a new appreciation of the Gospel Message in those 4 powerful chapters. Join us in the Sanctuary right after you get your coffee, starting December 4th. Bring your Bible. The Lutheran Bible, if you have one. Study will be from Raymond Brown's "The Birth of The Messiah".

MOPS/POPS Meetings

During the month of December we will not have the MOPS and POPS Meetings, but will reconvene beginning **January 8th, 2012, for MOPS and January 29th, 2012, for POPS.**

King of Glory Women's Bible Study (LIFT)

Our noon Bible Study in December will explore the healing power of Jesus as we continue our study of Mark's Gospel (4:1 to 6:29) with special emphasis on 4:40 "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" — We will meet on December 12th, at noon at Joann Krebs' home (805-498-6029). Bring a friend — reach out.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will not be meeting in December. Look for the announcement of the January **monthly** meeting date in January's newsletter and bulletin.

Supporting Our Preschool

Please recycle and support our Preschool! They are collecting **Inkjet cartridges** (HP, Lexmark, and Dell) all year. Please drop off in the Preschool Office. They also collect **Campbell's** product labels; the collection bin for labels is located near the front gate.

Preschool now needs: Pine Cones, 42 oz. Oatmeal Canisters (or the same-sized Trader Joe Coffee cans) and the old style "tractor feed" computer paper. Thank you!!

Save the Date for the **KOG Preschool "Fin-tastic Fundraiser"** at **Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill** (1930 Newbury Rd., Newbury Park), on **Tuesday, December 13th, 11a.m.-9p.m.** Watch for flyers in the Welcome Center or get them from the Preschool office.

Altar Guild Help Needed

No one is signed up for the Altar Guild for December (and we'll soon have a new sign-up sheet for 2012). This is an easy but important ministry, preparing the altar and sanctuary for our worship services. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the lower stairwell. Please see Sue Premo with questions or to volunteer.

Women's Retreat

We want you to know that we have a speaker for our event – Dr. Karen Marie Erickson has been highly recommended by a number of women who have participated in her retreats. Her biography is impressive: “Her faith and learning was fostered by pastors and teachers in Lutheran elementary and secondary school and her undergraduate education.” In addition to teaching she has been in the helping profession of therapist at Lutheran Social Services, been Assistant Dean of Student Services at Concordia College. She earned her Doctor of Psychology (more about her in our next Courier), and she loves Women's Retreats!

So, mark your calendars for **2012 - May 4-6**.

Here's a Christmas Gift Idea – give a gift to help defray the cost of retreat as a gift of love to a friend or family member – think of who could benefit with this experience of learning more about Christian Joy and how to experience it in our daily lives?

Have a wonderful Christmas and Joy as you look forward to our Retreat.

Retreat Leaders: Nancy Dawes, Renate Lee.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Alternative Christmas

November 27th & December 4th plus 2 Preschool dates: contact Walt Chandler. This will be an opportunity to support organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, and Fair Trade micro businesses in third world countries.

Come Help KOG Serve the Community Meal Each Third Saturday

King of Glory supports the Conejo Valley Shelter Program through feeding our less fortunate neighbors on the 3rd Saturday of each month across the street in the fellowship hall of St. Julie Billiart Catholic Church.

On November 19th, we served Ham & Gravy, mashed potatoes, fruit salad, green salad, vegetable dish, 1 gallon 2% milk, 2 gallons of juice, rolls or bread, and dessert. Many thanks to the many hands that cooked and served.

Please remember to sign up in the church Welcome Center to bring an item for the next meal: December 17th.

Adopt an Angel

Reminder to bring all wrapped gifts to church on or before **December 12th**. Melody will be taking the gifts to Lutheran Social Services for distribution. Thank you to all who participated in this Ministry. Christmas Blessings!

FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies' Christmas Party

The party has been changed, it will be **Friday, December 9th**, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Joann Krebs, 158 Knollwood Dr., Newbury Park. Please bring a goodie to eat and a wrapped Christmas gift to share. To support the Winter Shelters at St. Julie's, please bring new socks for men or women. All women are invited to come and get to know each other.

King of Glory Christmas Party

The KOG Christmas party will be Sunday, December 18th, 4:30 pm, at Carole Johnson's home, 1917 Seabreeze Street, Newbury Park. This is a potluck dinner so bring what you like and we are sure everyone else will like it too.

Birthday Club

If you enjoy a good lunch out, great conversations and an opportunity to wish Happy Birthday to the honorees of the month, mark your calendars and join us the 1st Monday, December 5th, at Country Harvest in Newbury Park at 11:15am. Our Birthdays in December are Janet Hinderer and we will sign a card for Rosemary Butler. RSVP to Joann Krebs, (805) 498-6029.

Bunko

This group will be meeting the 2nd Saturday, December 10th, at the home of Carole Johnson, 1917 Seabreeze Street, Newbury Park, at 6:00pm. Any questions, call Carmen Barton at (805) 376-2164.

King's Readers Book Club

KING'S READERS book club will not be meeting in December. Next meeting will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, January 18th, at Bonnie Bartlett's, 419 Pacific Circle, Newbury Park, (805) 499-6935, to discuss CLEOPATRA by Stacy Schiff. Please join us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Is Here!

On Sunday, **November 27th**, we began a **new liturgical year** (Year B), with gospel readings from another evangelist—Mark—for much of our year. **Advent** is a season of preparation and waiting, a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate at Christmas the wonderful gift of the Incarnation—God-with-us, Emmanuel. Primary themes of Advent are hope, darkness/light, repentance, watchfulness, preparation, expectation of the incarnation of Christ on Christmas, and anticipation of the fullness of time at Christ’s second coming. Our liturgical color for the season is blue, suggesting hope.

The **Advent wreath** has its roots in pre-Christian European times, when people waited for the return of the sun in the dark season of winter and lit candles and fires. As early as the Middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. The Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, represents eternal life and Christ’s victory over death. If evergreens are used, they are a sign of the faithfulness of God to God’s people, even in death, and the lighted candles are a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world. We have one rose and three blue candles. The rose candle is lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent, which was traditionally known as *Gaudete* Sunday, from the Latin word for “Rejoice,” anticipating the joy of the Christmas season.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!



Tot Drop-and-Shop

Saturday, December 3, 8:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for parents to drop off the kids for a few hours of shopping. Children (must be potty-trained) celebrate the upcoming season with a party (games, crafts, lunch and more). RSVP is appreciated by calling the KOG Church office at 805-498-4812, by Monday, November 28th. A freewill offering will be accepted as a fundraiser for the Women’s Retreat. Registration and Emergency forms are required and can be obtained in the Welcome Center or Church office. **Volunteers are needed**; contact Ardath Schwartz or the church office, (805) 498-4812.

Church Decorating Help Needed

On **Sunday, January 8th**, as we transition from the Christmas season into Epiphany, we’ll take down the Christmas tree and other “greens” hanging in the church and welcome center. We could use some volunteers to stay after worship that day to help with this. Thanks for volunteering!

Poinsettia Donations

We are ordering Poinsettias to decorate our worship environment for Christmas. If you would like to donate the cost - \$10 - of a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Center. (Names of those honored/remembered will be listed in the Christmas bulletins.)



Come and Celebrate Christmas with Us!

Saturday, December 24th—Christmas Eve
5:00 P.M. Family Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, December 25th—Christmas Day
9:30 A.M. Christmas Lessons and Carols (the Christmas Story in Scripture and Song)



Christmas Blessings

The constant refrain on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the Christmas Season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. It may make us ache for loved ones who are far away or who are struggling with a myriad of problems.

The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the gut wrenching loss of a child, the loneliness of no longer having a beloved spouse to share each day, the loss of a dear family pet - all can contribute to a feeling of being alone, of 'feeling blue' in the midst of the society around us which seems bent on 'being happy' and 'celebrating'. There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and can't get into the festivities others seem to be able to do

It's at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone.

Please accept this invitation to be with us - a time to move from feeling 'blue' ... to experiencing the wonder and hope of Christmas.

No need to RSVP - our doors will be open to all who come, so please feel free to invite others to come with you, as your support, or if you know of others who finding that Christmas hurts, please let them know that they are most welcome.

Advent Service of Reflection and Remembrance:

An Invitation

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined. Isaiah 9: 2b

Sunday, December 11, 2011

4:30 p.m.

King of Glory Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Please join us in a brief service of prayer, scripture, meditative music and simple Communion. We will light special Advent Candles in recognition of loss and in hope of redemption. We will also have the opportunity to light individual candles in memory of departed loved ones or as prayers of hope for ourselves or for those in distress at this time, such as those serving away from home during the holidays, those going through economic hardships, those going through broken relationships, or those who are ill, weary, isolated, or highly stressed during this season. God's presence is for those who struggle, and God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

We hope this service and the chance to share with us will help you glimpse the wonder and hope of Christmas.

Feel free to invite others to come with you as your support, or if you know of people who are finding that Christmas hurts, please let them know that they are most welcome.

Holiday Health

Advent is upon us—a time of reflection, a time of expectation.

Many of us will enjoy all the moments of fellowship.

Some of us will find that the extra activities will add stress to our lives and take away from the joy of the season.

Here are a few tips to help you care for yourself and others during this holiday season. No matter what your circumstances this year—prosperity, new challenges, illness, or loss, may you know the miracle of Jesus' birth and the Peace that only Our Lord can give. Pastor Christine.

#1. Our families do not have to resemble the "perfect family" image. We are what we are at the moment. Often family issues come to the surface during the holidays. Unreal expectations can send us spiraling downward. Help yourself accept your situation, or work toward some personal resolution.

#2. Keep it simple. If you're already busy, try not to take on something new. Try not to busy yourself just to avoid your upset feelings. If you start a new tradition, let something else go. Choose something easy to accomplish; something that makes you feel good inside.

#3. Be aware of the warning signs of depression: low energy, feeling down most of the time, wanting to avoid socializing, eating more or less, sleeping more or less, feelings of hopelessness or despair. If you have a combination of these, don't hesitate to see a professional therapist to get some help.

#4. Take good care of yourself. You can't give to others if you're "running on empty". Call a friend, pray, take a walk, write in your journal, sit down for a cup of tea, take a nap.

Only have a few seconds?

Take a few slow, smooth, deep, continuous breaths .With the "in" breath you might try a silent prayer: "Lord, have mercy..." With the "out" breath: "...on me." slight smile, or smiling with your eyes. It resets your nervous system.

Invite the **Holy Spirit** into your mind and heart. God is with you in the present.

Together we have faced challenges before, and we can face them again.

King of Glory

Lutheran Church and Preschool

2500 Borchard Road

Newbury Park, California 91320

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Sunday Schedule:

9:00am All ages Childcare (until 12 noon)

9:30am Holy Communion Worship

9:45am Sunday school (ages 4+)

10:30am Coffee and Fellowship

10:45am Adult Bible Study

Newsletter Deadline:

18th of the month