

# **KOG Connection—March 2020**

## **Pastor's Corner**

Dear King of Glory family and friends,

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

It still feels strange to use that Easter greeting when we have not yet been able to gather in the Sanctuary together to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. It is hard to believe that it is now May, which means we have had a closed church office, sanctuary and preschool for a month and a half. When all of this began, I was still hoping we would be able to resume worship by the time holy week rolled around. So many of our expectations have been dismantled beyond recognition since COVID-19 hit our shores. In many ways, we are quite like Jesus' disciples. Even though they knew the truth of his resurrection, I imagine in those weeks following his return, their expectations as to what it all meant and what the future would hold were also dismantled and slowly replaced with new realities. Such a process is uncomfortable and difficult for anyone, whether a first century Jew or a 21<sup>st</sup> century American Christian. Our Bishop in the Pacifica Synod, Rev. Dr. Andy Taylor, has written a reflection on this, which you can read following my opening words here. I hope you find both challenge and comfort in the wisdom he shares. There are two things, however, that I want to make sure to point out from his reflection.

The first thing is that we are now, as church leaders and as society members, realizing that the process of gathering together again and having worship resume as "normal" is likely to be a long and drawn out one, which may never actually return to the "normal" we expect. The Wisconsin Council of Churches in Christ has written some guidelines for Christian leaders to use to begin thinking about what it will look for congregations as society reopens. I'd like to share one specific paragraph from that report:

*"Please understand: for at least the next year, we anticipate our lives to be shaped by the timeline set by COVID-19. We face difficult choices between conflicting needs and imperatives. But we must avoid framing our situation in terms of a false choice between reviving the economy — or our churches — and saving lives. If we don't continue our efforts to contain the virus, a new wave of infections and deaths will cause further damage, and we will lose what we've gained from the measures we've already taken. And if we push the envelope too far by reopening our buildings and resuming gatherings prematurely, we may unfairly force on our more vulnerable members the choice between keeping themselves and others safe and participating in congregational life like everyone else."*

These were sobering words for me when I read them, but I see in them an important truth. We will need to be very careful and intentional with worship, our campus and one another, as our communities reopen. And this is likely to be a long process, especially as second or third waves of outbreak are appearing more and more inevitable. There is no black and white choice between saving the economy (businesses, churches, etc.) and saving lives as both are inextricably linked. There is so much grey and contextual nuance that will be found in each step along the way. And we as Christians are called to both value all human life and alleviate the spiritual, emotional and economic hardships others suffer around us. As much as we all long to resume the

life we knew, let us strive above all else to not put the most vulnerable in our midst at greater risk of harm. I thank you for your patience and trust as our KOG leaders begin to navigate what this all will look like for our beloved faith community.

On that note, I also wanted to share the news that we are reopening our preschool on May 1. This is a small and incremental opening that is especially geared toward providing needed childcare for essential workers. The preschool is instituting practices of heightened social distancing, security and hygiene according to the California Department of Education and new licensing regulations, thus no one will be allowed to enter the school except working staff and enrolled children who have all passed health screens. Our church office will remain closed as most staff can perform their essential functions from the safety of their homes. There has been no discussion yet of when we may resume gathering in the Sanctuary as we await further orders from our Governor and public health officials here in California, and as mentioned above, it will likely be a slow, cautious and very intentional process.

The second point the Bishop made is that whenever we are able to meet again in person, "we will not be the same." We will be a changed people, but as people of faith, it is our belief and trust that God is using this time to make that change something that is even more lifegiving. God is reshaping us in ways that we don't even know yet that will make us even better equipped to see God's work in our lives, to proclaim God's goodness and love, and to effect positive change in Christ's name for the sake of the world. Have you glimpsed any of these changes yet? Have you had an opportunity already arise to witness, share or nurture in a new way? Let us each be watchful for God's movement amid this time and mindful of how God may be changing us and our expectations for God's greater glory. We will not be the same, but we already knew that. As Paul writes to the churches in Corinth, in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" So much has and is passing away, but God's hand is upon us bringing about a new faith, a new hope, and a new life that can exceed even our greatest expectations. Christ is risen! And he will help us arise as well as we embrace our new reality as his disciples.

Serving with you in Christ,  
Pastor Kinndlee

## ***Pacifica Synod e-Message***

**From the Bishop  
A Time of Change**

April 27, 2020

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20*

Dear members and friends of the Pacifica Synod,

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I find myself in this Easter season noticing more than I had in the past how much the lives of the disciples changed with Jesus' death and resurrection. They had lost one

of their number, Judas, and had to deal with the reality of his betrayal of Jesus, and of them and their trust. They had to give up all notions of earthly power and wealth, realizing that the Reign of God would not bring them material comfort or political power as they had thought. They were given a new mission—to make disciples of all nations, to baptize, to teach. They were to live as Jesus' followers, trusting not in earthly power but in the power of Christ that is made perfect in weakness. Instead of living long lives of prestige, James the brother of John would be the first to be martyred, and tradition has it that ten of the eleven remaining disciples were put to death for their faith. It was a harder life than the one they had envisioned, but it was a life filled with meaning and purpose, and filled with hope that the God who conquered death would continue to put to death all systems that drain human beings of life on this earth, and would work in and through them to bring life and joy in this life, and when this life is over, would lead them into eternal life. They embraced a life that brought suffering and lived in faith and hope that God would be at work in and through them to make a difference in the world.

We currently are facing lives filled with more suffering and hardship than we could have imagined just a few months back. Many of us are separated physically from those we love. We see friends via the internet, we talk over the phone, but we are asked to keep our distance from all who live apart from us in order to protect them, and ourselves, from the coronavirus. But, like the early disciples, we do not face these hardships alone. Jesus says to us, "I am with you always to the end of the age," just as he said it to the early disciples. And because Jesus is with us, we can continue the journey our Lord has placed before us. We can continue to proclaim the good news that God is alive and active in our world, that the Holy Spirit is among us giving us all we need to face the challenges of this day, that God who is mother and father of us all continues to gather us as beloved children and calls us to love each other as a good mother enables her children to love each other because they know how deeply she loves them.

We are in this together, friends and members of the Pacifica Synod. And we continue on this journey together. But many of you are asking, what happens when this journey ends? When can our churches come back together? When will we be able to worship in the same building at the same time, singing and praying and communing as we did in the past?

I would urge you to be patient for a while longer. Our governors still have shelter at home orders for all of us. Hawai'i's order has been extended through May 31, and California's continues without a timetable to end. Public health officials have not yet said it is safe to gather even a few at a time. Which means that if we meet too quickly, we will endanger the lives of our neighbors. When Jesus was asked which the greatest commandment was, he responded as follows: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31) The way we show our love for God on earth is by loving and protecting our neighbors. In order to protect the lives of our neighbors, we should keep distance for as long as public health officials request that we do so. This means we should not plan to return to public worship until we are cleared to do so.

When we do come back together, we will need to carefully consider how to do so. The virus will not be gone, and experts are stating that we will need to meet first in smaller groups, probably of no more than ten at a time. Churches may want to meet in person, but there should be consideration for those who will not feel safe to meet—those

in high risk groups, such as those over 60 or those who suffer from respiratory or other health conditions. Even if some worship is done in person, those who have stayed at home and need to continue to do so should not be forgotten. Online worship, bible study, and fellowship will be with us for a while.

We in the office of the Bishop are encouraging pastors, deacons, and church councils to discuss how congregations should re-open when our governors and public health officials say we may do so. We encourage these leaders to continue to listen to advice from health officials as to how many can safely gather. Distancing will still be required, and singing will be difficult, as singing can spread the virus from greater distances. Masks may need to be worn at public gatherings for some time, which will make the reception of communion difficult. There are many issues for congregations to consider. Luckily, there are others in our society who are thinking about such issues. The governor of Wisconsin is allowing churches to hold public worship, and the [Wisconsin Council of Churches put together a guide for thinking about how to safely do so](#). I found this a helpful resource in thinking through some of the issues involved in being church during this time of COVID-19, and I encourage you to read it as you think about how your own church may ensure safety for those who gather once gathering is allowed.

No matter when or how we meet again, we will not be the same. The disciples found a new energy and enthusiasm for ministry due to the changes they experienced after Easter. I pray the same will be true for us. As you walk through the challenges of this day, keep your eyes open for the opportunities Jesus brings you to share your faith, to help your neighbor, to live in grace, hope, and love. Let us use this time to give witness in word and deed to the God who loves us and rose from the dead for us. And let us continue to use our lives to praise God by helping our neighbors have all they need to live and thrive.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Bishop Andy Taylor/ he, him, his  
Pacifica Synod of the ELCA  
1801 Park Court Place, Bldg. C  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
714.692.2791  
[www.pacificasynod.org](http://www.pacificasynod.org)

## ***HONOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR US***

by Audrey Novak Riley  
4.30.2020 | Devotions, Women of the ELCA

**My mother was a registered nurse.** She wore a uniform to work—a crisp white dress, white shoes and stockings, a starched white cap with a black velvet ribbon on it, and a little gold pin with some Latin words on it. (We kids thought Mom looked beautiful in her white uniform.) Mom was proud of her profession, and she was good at it too.

But nurses' kids don't often see their mothers at work, so that wasn't what impressed me. I was impressed with her white uniform, [especially that snazzy starched cap](#). The amount of work she put into keeping that little cap up to her standards was astonishing.

Well, that was a long time ago. Even Mom was relieved when those crisp white uniform dresses gave way to white pantsuits and then (after she retired) washable, colorful, practical scrubs.

## **CONFIDENT AND COMPETENT**

And as I grew up, I came to understand that Mom's uniform—even the cap—was never the important part. The critical part of being a nurse, for her, was competence, and confidence in her own ability.

[Florence Nightingale](#), the founder of modern nursing, was born on May 12, 1820, 200 years ago. A confident and competent woman herself, she used all her considerable gifts to revolutionize the care of wounded British soldiers during the Crimean War, earning respect, gratitude, and honor worldwide. After the war, she established nursing and midwifery schools in England and wrote tirelessly on nursing, hospital management, and public health.

Florence Nightingale said, "How very little can be done under the spirit of fear!" Her courage, determination, and generous service promoted healing and wholeness in the society and the world. She is recognized in the ELCA's calendar as a renewer of society.

Only God knows how many people's lives have been improved, even saved, by Florence Nightingale and the millions of nurses who have followed in her footsteps. I know my life is all the better because of nurses, especially one Carol Helen Novak, R.N., and I'm grateful.

Audrey Novak Riley is director for stewardship for Women of the ELCA. May is National Nurses Month. And, the World Health Assembly has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse.

## ***Youth On The Go, Grow & Know***

#kogkids May 2020

Hello KOG Kids and Families,

Now that we are in the thick of this pandemic, I have worked on recreating our KOG Kids programs to be online. We have been meeting over the past few weeks it has been awesome so far.

Below you will find the weekly events and times along with the ZOOM link in BLUE to log in and join the fun! Each time we meet it is approximately 1 hour and parents joining is optional. Yes, I will entertain and teach your kiddos for you! If you have joined in the past, please use these links as they have changed.

I will be updating the [KOG Kids web page](#) weekly with any changes so please check it out regularly. I will also be adding a few events for our KOG Kids who will be graduating or being promoted in 2020 along with some outreach opportunities and a VBS game plan. So, keep checking for updates!

Another way you can stay connected with the KOG Kids program is through social media!

Follow us on: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)

I know firsthand how hard learning a new "normal" has been for myself, my daughter and family. I also know that connecting with a church family is so important for our children during this time to keep their hearts and spirit filled. All are welcome to come and meet with us even if this week is your first time!

Also, please don't hesitate to reach out if you are in need of anything or if you have any questions! I am here for you!

Blessing to you and your family,

Amanda Pulos

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

[kogkids@gmail.com](mailto:kogkids@gmail.com)

Cell: 714.604.3373

### **Mondays**

- KOG Kids Monday Craft Hour with Macey @ 3:00 pm on [Zoom](#)

Macey Williamson is one of KOG's 7th grade students and is an amazing artist. She has been doing crafts over zoom with my daughter, Danielle. She has offered to open this up to all of KOG Kids. This week they will be meeting and creating hand turtles. Macey will be taking the lead on this project and I will be supervising.

### **Wednesdays**

- Preschool Chapel Live @ 10:00 am on the [Preschool Facebook Page](#)
- 3-5th grader @ 1:30 pm on [Zoom](#)
- Pr-K to 2nd grade @ 3:30 pm on [Zoom](#)
- Confirmation & Middle School Group @ 5:30 pm on [Zoom](#)

### **Sundays**

- KOG Kids Time Sunday Morning Worship @ 11:30 am on [Zoom](#)
- High School Youth Group @ 12:30 pm on [Zoom](#)

## ***Preschool News***

Please visit our website calendar for future dates and more information about the preschool: <https://kogchurch.org/preschool/>

The Preschool will reopen May 1, 2020, with temporary hours 8-5 pm Monday through Friday. Only scheduled teaching staff will be allowed in the buildings during these operating hours. Tours for Summer & Fall enrollment will be conducted via Zoom, by appointment ONLY, during this time.



Athinia Huber, Preschool Director

## ***Adult Education – Virtual Bible Studies***

### **Mixed Group:**

*The Story*, by Randy Frazee, 1:30 pm, Wednesdays, begins April 29. Contact Debbie Bise.

### **Men's Study Group:**

We are re-starting the Men's Bible Study using Zoom. It will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and normally lasts 60-90 minutes. We will be using the ELCA's *Daily Discipleship* study (which can be found [here](#), we will be starting with Year A-Easter, Third Sunday of Easter), which follows the lectionary and will follow the sermon given on Sunday. Using Breeze, I sent an email to all men 21 and older who are active members. Please call me if did not receive an email, if you have any questions, or need help getting

setup on Zoom. Remember, you can use a regular telephone to listen in and participate on Zoom. I can be reached at 714.328.9968 or email me at [wb6rqm@gmail.com](mailto:wb6rqm@gmail.com).

Hope you can join us, Alan Marcum.

**Small Group Studies:**

*You'll Get Through This* by Max Lucado, video and book study, Wednesday evening at 7 pm, begins May 6 on Zoom. For more information, please contact Paul or Karen Wallace.

***Women of the ELCA Events***

*(Information regarding Women's Ministry)*

**WELCA Board Meeting:**

Next Board Meeting is Monday, May 11 at 7 pm in Little Ed. All women are welcome to attend. ***This will depend on whether we are allowed to gather.***



**Events and Dates to Remember: (Depending on whether we can gather.)**

Joy Circle: Monday, May 25 at 9:30 am, in Little Ed.

Faith Circle: Saturday, May 23 at 10 am, at the home of Linda Arnett.

***\*\*The WELCA study magazine is Gather\*\****

The subscription office can be reached by calling 800.328.4648 or <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gather-magazine-pages-49.php>

Cost: \$19.95 for 1 year/10 issues (free digital access)

***General Ministry News***

**From the Prayer Warriors:**

Why did God make so many flowers? All the many different flowers are not necessary. Although, flowers have some purposes, one kind of flower in one single color could've been made to meet all the needs. But God wants us to know his great love for us. So, He has given us this beauty. When flowers are seen blooming life feels so much more manageable. For it is inevitable that on occasion we will feel the weariness of life weighing us down. But we can always ask the Lord to renew our spiritual strength. With His help we can face and rise above our stresses and bloom!!!

Blessings to you and your family and friends!

**Family Promise in May:**

Unfortunately, we will **not** be hosting our next group of guests from Family Promise originally scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup>. Due to the current stay at home orders the temporary housing program that we help with has been suspended. The families that are in the program are being cared for and doing fine.

Our next scheduled week to host is July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the program will be back and running by that time. If you have any questions for me, I can be contacted by email at [wallace3251@att.net](mailto:wallace3251@att.net).

Take care and stay safe.

In His service, Paul Wallace

**"The King's Kitchen" Community Meals Outreach:**

**"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"**

*1 John 3:17*

Volunteers and donations are needed for our upcoming King's Kitchen Community Outreach Meal on Thursday, May 21. Cooking and set up begin at 4:00 pm and we are wrapped up by 8:00 pm. Our guests are with us from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Your presence will be a blessing to you and others!

Please support our BLESSINGS TABLE with donations of personal hygiene items, household cleaners and socks. All may be dropped off in our collection basket in the narthex. Our most urgent needs are for laundry detergent, dark color tarps, aftershave, men's deodorant, and sleeping bags. You can find more details in our binder in the Welcome Place kiosk. This ministry occurs on the 3rd and 5th Thursday of each month, so please plan to join us when you are available. Please also consider activating one of your Thrivent Action Teams to cover the cost of food and supplies. Please see Karen Wallace for questions.

John Borack: 714.716.7780 / popdude@aol.com

Karen Wallace: 714.501.2807 / wallacepark@sbcglobal.net

Karla Bjorklund: 714.757.3134 / uccolor2@gmail.com

Peace and Blessings!

**Text Giving Comes to KOG – 714.874.4777**

Text giving is a feature of Breeze, KOG's church management system software. Text giving provides a convenient way to give besides cash or check. Text giving uses either a credit/debit card or an electronic transfer (ACH) from your checking account.

The registration process is easy and once you are setup, a transaction can be completed in seconds. To use this feature, you simply text the word "Give" to 714.874.4777 and follow the prompts. Also, there will be complete instructions available on our KOG website. The contribution can be given to the General Fund, Facility Fund, or other funds selected depending on current church activities.

If you're currently enrolled in an electronic giving (transfer of funds) program with KOG such as Vanco or Simply Giving, there is no need to change over to text giving as there are additional fees associated with text giving.

**King of Glory Recycles:**

**Used ink cartridges, pull tabs and eyeglasses!** Please place them in the Welcome Place.

## ***Other Upcoming Events***

**Single Sisters in Christ Covenant Group:**

SSiC is not meeting at this time, they will resume again as soon as we are able to meet as a group in person. The study is "Every Day Deserves a Change" by Max Lucado. For updates and information call Marlys Buckey at 714.746.1224.

**Virtual Bible Studies—May 6:**

If you are interested in joining in one of the virtual bible studies, please check out KOG's [Facebook](#) page under events for more information.

**Property Workday—May 9:**

Property Workday will be on Saturday, May 9th, at 9 am. We meet in Little Ed for coffee, donuts, and work assignments. ***If our facility remains closed, the Property Workday will be canceled.*** We will try to wrap things up around noon and are specifically looking for volunteers interested in weekly upkeep of the planters on the right side of the Preschool entrance. We meet in Little Ed for donuts, coffee and work assignments. Please join us, even if you only have an hour or so. Contact Alan Marcum at wb6rqm@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to be added to property workday email group.

**Saved by Grace Covenant—May 16:**

Saved by Grace Covenant will be meeting on Saturday, May 16, at 6:00 pm, on Zoom. The link to the meeting will be shared by Alan Marcum. Our study this month will be from chapter 2 of “The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People” by Randy Frazee with Max Lucado.

**Newsletter Deadline—May 20:**

The deadline to submit articles for the June newsletter is Wednesday, **May 20**. Please be sure to send your articles regarding ministry events to newsletter@kogchurch.org or drop them by the church office.

**“The King’s Kitchen” Community Meals Outreach—May 21:**

5:30 pm – 7 pm. Volunteers are needed, so please consider lending a hand, whether it’s helping to prepare a meal, shopping, serving, greeting, cleaning up, or being a table host chatting with our guests.

**Facility Task Force Meeting—May 26:**

The Facility Team will be meeting on Tuesday, May 26th, at 7 pm in the Library. ***If our facility remains closed, the Facility Team meeting will be held on Zoom.*** We are looking at projects, both big and small, that we can accomplish in 2020. Contact Alan Marcum at wb6rqm@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to be added to property workday email group.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please visit this link <https://www.kogchurch.org/church-events/google-calendar-2/> on King of Glory’s website to view a full listing of calendar events.

# ***May Birthdays...***

Morgan Ellson	4
Kyle Dubuque	5
Patricia Hann	5
Susan Saurastri	6
John Lipot	7
Gary Bartz	9
Lauren Harper	10
Lynn Marecek	11
Lauren Windhorst	11
Sharon Gee	14

Laura Warren	16
Tish Johnson	19
Kathleen Ault	24
Benjamin Poteet	25
Leeann Murphy	26
Lynda Soria	27
Kayla Borack	28
Linda Arnett	29
David Fisher	29

***Happy Birthday!***

# ***...and Anniversaries***

Trisha and Brent Gable 10 years on May 1	Roberta and Glenn Osterode 52 years on May 10
Karen and Paul Wallace 23 years on May 3	Kimberly and Thomas Nemec 15 years on May 28
Mary and John Schuler 56 years on May 9	

***Happy Anniversary!***

If we have missed your birthday (25 years or more) or anniversary, please contact the church office.