

# ***KOG Connection—May 2021***

## ***Deacon's Corner***

Dear KOG friends,

This article was in my inbox this morning from Adult Lutherans Organized for Action. I thought the letter was timely as many are struggling to “rejoin” society. Some of us have become so comfortable at home, or so anxious when away from home, that we don't quite know how to move forward. I found the tips in this article to be friendly, gentle, and hopeful. I hope you enjoy the wisdom it contains.

I also wanted to let you know that on Sunday, May 16, our Care Ministry Team will have a special worship service to highlight the wonderful ministries our members are leading. Whether you may need some extra TLC for yourself or your family, or whether you feel God's calling to participate in one of these wonderful opportunities, we hope you will be with us on that day as we talk about sharing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time, Deacon Leah.

### **Breaking Out of Our Cocoon**

Stay home. Wear a mask. Maintain social distance.

Messaging during the past year has been strong. Fear of the invisible, but potentially deadly SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) has kept us home-bound and dramatically re-shaped nearly every aspect of daily life.

But with the increasing availability of effective vaccines to fight the dreaded coronavirus, messages are changing. Permission to break out of our cocoons is becoming a drumbeat.

Fully vaccinated, we can safely visit a neighbor. While masked, we can shop for toilet paper at a fully stocked store. And finally, our hungry arms can wrap around those we love the most.

Flip the switch. Start living again.

And yet, many of us older adults are only creeping toward normalcy. **We naturally cling to the routines that helped keep us safe; letting go will take time.** The extended months of isolation might accentuate our age-slowed response. Anxiety that built during confinement can undermine our confidence to resume activities. We might hesitate to transition out of isolation while risks loom.



After being fully vaccinated, consider these suggestions to safely re-enter society:

1. **Honestly assess your comfort level** with in-person socializing. Identify elements that will allow you to feel safe while navigating beyond your house.
2. **Break out with brief, in-person social moments.** Intentionally reach out to your neighbor. Go outside to talk with a friend who is dog walking. Start with small moments of humanity near home.
3. **Stay up to date.** Check your church website to learn the current schedule for in-person worship and small group activities. Confirm which protocols are still in place.
4. **Seek help if needed.** Post-pandemic responses include anxiety, anger, depression and withdrawal.
5. **Be patient with yourself and others.** We have suffered social deprivation for more than a year. Initial contacts might be awkward; stretching social muscle will take time.

God has led us through the Valley of COVID. He has been faithful. He is still present and in control. He is preparing an eternal home for us, but our time has not yet come. Until then, safely step into a new normal. **Discover fresh possibilities to learn, grow and serve. Let the promises of Jesus, which sustained you and me through these difficult months, fill your heart with hope.**

*ALOA Board of Directors*

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

#kogkids May 2021

It's starting to feel like spring! I imagine you and your families are trying to find a new normal as life is getting busier by the moment. It feels as though we went from not having enough to do, to now having way too much on our plates.

Before everyone's schedules start filling up, here are some dates to put on your calendar so you can stay connected to your church family!

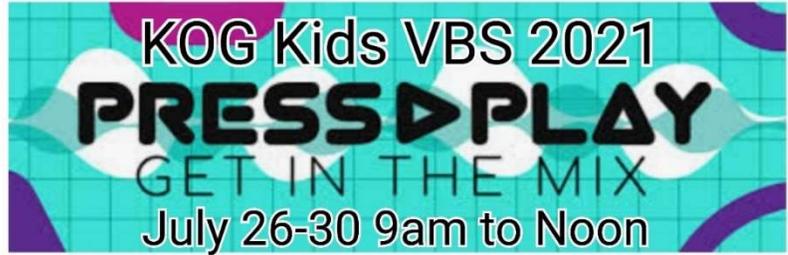
### **SAVE THE DATE**



## PRESS PLAY: GET IN THE MIX

Something remarkable can happen when a child starts learning to see themselves the way God sees them. To us that's real confidence.

In 2021, we're planning a VBS that encourages every child to know that because of Jesus, they can have confidence because . . .



- ❖ They are known.
- ❖ They belong.
- ❖ They are forgiven.
- ❖ They can change.
- ❖ They can make a difference.

### MEMORY VERSE:

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

**DAY 1 Bible Story:** Who is Jesus? John 10:14 and John 14:6 (Gospels supporting)  
Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I am known.

**DAY 2 Bible Story:** The Calling of the Disciples, Luke 5:1-11, 27-32  
Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I belong.

**DAY 3 Bible Story:** Zacchaeus, Part 1, Luke 19:1-9  
Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I am forgiven.

**DAY 4 Bible Story:** Zacchaeus, Part 2, Luke 19: 8-9  
Bottom Line: I can have confidence because I can change.

**DAY 5 Bible Story:** The Story of the Lost Sheep, Luke 15:1-7  
Bottom Line: I can have confidence to make a difference.

### REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 23rd

Staying Safe! We will be meeting in person on campus! Please remember to bring a mask!

If you have any questions or concerns in regard to the safety measures, view our KOG Covid-19 Guidelines for all of our meeting times or would like to make other arrangements for an online element for your student, please let me know!

Amanda Pulos, [kogkids@gmail.com](mailto:kogkids@gmail.com), 714-604-3373

For more information about KOG Kids Ministries please visit the website <https://www.kogchurch.org/community/cyf-2-3/> or email me at [kogkids@gmail.com](mailto:kogkids@gmail.com)!

## Preschool News

### **Teacher Appreciation Week:**

Teacher Appreciation Week is when teachers get the extra credit they deserve. The big day is Teacher Appreciation Day on May 5th, but



teachers are just so great that they get a whole week to savor our appreciation. We will be doing a "Good Morning Snack Bar" on Monday, May 3rd for all of the KOG Teachers and we need your help in making it special! There are a total of 15 teachers.



[Sign up here!](#)

Please visit our website calendar for future dates and more information about the preschool:

<https://kogchurch.org/preschool/>

Kelly Ramirez, Preschool Director

## **Women of the ELCA Events**

*(Information regarding Women's Ministry)*

### **WELCA Board Meeting:**

Board meetings are held the first Monday of the month and our next Board meeting is Monday, May 3 at 7 pm in Little Ed, the then-current safety rules permitting.



### **Events and Dates to Remember:**

Joy Circle: Monday, May 24 at 9:30 am, on Zoom. Please contact Gwen TeGantvoort for the Zoom meetings details.

Faith Circle: Saturday, May 22 at 10 am, at the home of Linda Arnett. Please contact Catherine Marcum for meeting details.

**\*\*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:**

In this month of May we wish to lift up all mothers. Grace and joy are sent their way. The devotion they have bestowed on their children is appreciated beyond words. We remember Jesus' mother, Mary and how she cared for the most important child ever born. Life could not continue without mothers' guidance.

Blessings to mothers from the prayer warriors!

If you wish to pray for our church community with us, just contact the church office or Cynthia Thornburg.

Blessings to all!

**Great News: Paycheck Protection Program Loan #1 forgiven!**

On April 22, 2021, we received notice that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has forgiven our PPP Loan of \$149,636.

After congregational approval KOG applied for this loan early last year and received the funds at the end of April 2020 as a loan which is now forgiven. All funds were dispersed within the strict guidelines of the program, allowing for forgiveness of the full amount. These funds have allowed us to retain our employees at the church office as well as at the preschool despite the pandemic. It allowed us not only to support our employees and their families during these difficult times but also to continue with our ministries and be God's hands and feet.

Respectfully

Bernd Steinebrunner, KOG Treasurer

**Council Liaison Report – Outreach:**

Prayers that our year+ not being able to have normal churchwide or community Outreach activities has a finish line in site.

All didn't come to a complete stop... We were able to sustain weekly food donations for LSS, and a modified King's Kitchen meal distribution for our neighbors in need. And even without in-person meetings, quilters continued creating so that distribution of quilts to shut-ins, grads, and Family Promise gave comfort to many.

It is with joy and anticipation we can now look forward to expanding our congregation's participation in community Outreach efforts as the restrictions are revised and eased. We are hoping to continue having a working relationship with:

- the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter.
- Habitat for Humanity has restarted its local builds, so we will tell you when and where you can volunteer some hours.
- "God's Work, Our Hands", the ELCA's churchwide Day of Service will be September 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you have some ideas and are willing to share or help; WE NEED YOU. Planning committee will start preparations for GWOH beginning of June. More to follow.

Be Blessed to be a Blessing,  
Karla Bjorklund, Outreach Liaison.

**Council Member Ministry Liaisons**

**Administration:** Gerry Marecek

**Campus Use:** Deb Cooper

**Children, Youth, & Families:** Bob Stolte

**Discipleship:** Paul Wallace

**Hospitality & Fellowship:** Jeanne Steinebrunner

**Mutual Ministry:** Paul Wallace

**Outreach:** Karla Bjorklund

**Endowment:** Bernd Steinebrunner

**Prayer and Care:** Rhonda Fisher

**Facility & Maintenance:** Morgan Ellson

**Preschool:** Nikki Busch

**Health & Safety:** Gerry Marecek

**Stewardship:** Steve Schubert

**Worship and Music:** Malinda Willmore

**Property Upkeep:**

We are blessed to be able to return to in person worship and return to using our facility for our ministries and community outreach. This also means there are quite a few maintenance items that were deferred during the shutdown.

Our next monthly Property Workday is Saturday, May 8th. Some of our tasks we hope to complete are inspecting ceiling light fixtures for bad lamps, changing batteries in the four Fellowship Hall smoke detectors, sprinkler maintenance, drip emitter installation in the Patio planters, re-securing the screens on the Preschool fencing, and weed removal at the south end of the parking lot, and cleaning the bird droppings off of the cross light on the front of the church.

We will be meeting at 9 am in Little Ed for work assignments and hopefully some light refreshments. If you aren't available that day, but have other available times, please let me know. Thank you again for all you do to keep our facility available for use.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact [Alan Marcum](#). Hope you can join us for our next Property Workday on Saturday, May 8th at 9:00 am.

Alan Marcum

**"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*

KOG serves up a free meal to anyone in need on the third and fifth Thursday of every month. Volunteers gather at 4:30 pm, and our "take and go" dinner is served at 5:30 pm. All are welcome. We are grateful for the support from KOG members who support this ministry with their prayer, service and financial support through Thrivent Action Teams. You can help from home by providing us with 30 PB&J sandwiches, baked goods, fruit, packaged snacks, laundry soap, toiletries or bottled water. Contact Karen Wallace for more details.

**Mark your calendar now for these upcoming King's Kitchen Meals:**

May 20, June 17, July 15 & 29, August 19, September 16 & 30, October 21, November 18, December 16 & 30

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!

**Donate to Lutheran Social Services:**

9:00 – 10:00 am, Tuesdays, King of Glory

Want to help others during the COVID-19 crisis? Rich Bandurian will be at the church every Tuesday morning from 9 – 10 am to collect any donations of non-perishable food, diapers, etc. Click [here](#) for a list of needed items.

Thank you to all who continue to care for those in need in our community.

Contact Rich Bandurian if you have any questions.

**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.

**Property Workday—May 8:**

Property Workday will be on Saturday, May 8, at 9 am. We meet on the patio. Please join us, even if you only have an hour or so. Contact Alan Marcum at [wb6rqm@gmail.com](mailto:wb6rqm@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you would like to be added to property workday email group.

**Facility Task Force Meeting—May 18:**

The Facility Team will be meeting on Tuesday, May 18, at 7 pm and **will be held on Zoom**. If you wish to attend, please contact Alan Marcum for the Zoom link. We are looking at projects, both big and small, that we can accomplish in 2021. Contact Alan Marcum at [wb6rqm@gmail.com](mailto:wb6rqm@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you would like to be added to property workday email group.

**KOG Connection Deadline—May 19:**

The deadline to submit articles for the **June** KOG Connection is Wednesday, **May 19**. During this time, it is particularly important to inform your ministry participants of any changes. Please submit your articles in a timely manner and please be sure to send your articles regarding ministry events to [newsletter@kogchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@kogchurch.org). Thank you!

**"The King's Kitchen" Community Meals Outreach—May 20:**

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, when we return to serve at tables, being a table host chatting with our guests.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Lauren Windhorst	11
Sharon Gee	14
Laura Warren	16
Letitia Johnson	19
Kathleen Ault	24
Benjamin Poteet	25
Leeann Murphy	26
Lynda Soria	27
Linda Arnett	29

*Happy Birthday!*

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

Trisha and Brent Gable 11 years on May 1
Karen and Paul Wallace 24 years on May 3
Mary and John Schuler 57 years on May 9

Roberta and Glenn Osterode 53 years on May 10
Leah and Carl Lind 5 years on May 28
Kim and Tom Nemec 16 years on May 28

*Happy Anniversary!*

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