

Life Together

January 2010

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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*Next newsletter items
and articles will be due
January 25.*

From the Desk of Your Pastoral Leaders

(Christian community is like the Christian's sanctification. It is a gift of God which we cannot claim. Only God knows the real state of our fellowship, of our sanctification. What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God. Just as the Christian should not be constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases.

Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate...

For Jesus Christ alone is our unity. "He is our peace." Through him alone do we have access to one another, joy in one another, and fellowship with one another.

As I prepare for a two week residency with 24 other diaconal ministry candidates, I am struck with the constant wisdom that Dietrich Bonhoeffer offers in his book, "Life Together." This book

is an "account of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. It reads like one of Paul's letters, giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups."

From a personal perspective, I believe that this book is a witness of one who was in authentic relationship with God. His experience of grace in that relationship made it impossible for him to ignore the call to stand for peace and justice in Germany among his fellow Christians during World War II – even to the point of death. He is one who helps us to see that relationship with God results in lifestyles that are sometimes uncomfortable and occasionally even dangerous.

So what does this mean for me? This is one of our required readings for the formation event. Diaconal ministry is a vocational calling to stand as a conduit between the world and the church so that the world might know the power and promise of Jesus Christ. It is a process of discerning how I might step out to better serve both the world and the church. It isn't about putting on programs, but rather it is about

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Deadline for calendar and other items is the last Monday of each month.

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listening to the Word and the world in prayer and then serving those both near and far. I will be gathering with prospective leaders who are serving in social agencies, homeless shelters, prisons and hospitals. A few of us come from church settings. Only one other spiritual director will be present. It will be a time of learning and of growing.

What does this mean for a family or a larger community? What a question. As I write this in the bedroom of our condo, we have five middle / high school kids floating between the two condos, the swimming pool and the kitchens looking for food. In this extreme setting, we are called to care for each other's kids even if we don't agree with parenting techniques. We take turns caring for the kid whose parents left early. We trade off cooking duties even when we are exhausted. We walk gently with topics that get too hot, too fast. We suspend judgment on different life choices and make space for each other to discern decisions at their own pace. Do we do this perfectly? Never. Each adult has already had their subtle way of taking a time out to cure their "cabin fever." The point is that this is more art than law. In the long run, our time together will be much more memorable than the nutritiously balanced meals or the perfectly planned events. We are together looking to make some memories and we find them in the occasional quiet spaces with a niece getting ready for college, with Papa who gets real quiet amid the low level roar that accompanies our pack of middle schoolers, or with Nana who pitches in on the 1500 piece puzzle that looks impossible. They aren't planned or anticipated, but rather special surprises in the chaos. For that we are grateful.

What does Bonhoeffer's quote mean for a church community? That would be a wonderful quote to ponder as we head

into a new calendar year. It's not about a bunch of programs or doing things right. Rather it is about cultivating a rich relationship with God and seeing how that might transform the relationships among us. I love what Bonhoeffer says, "The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases." Gratitude is a good thing.

May you know the love and promise of Christ, abundantly in 2010, and give thanks.

Sonja and Gordy Sandquist

A Special Thanks to Shelly for preparing hundreds of bulletins for services that did not happen. You are awesome!!

Thank you to all who sent Christmas greetings. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers.~~

The Sandquists

January birthdays and anniversaries

If you know of a member whose birthday is not listed, please contact the church office.

Birthdays

- 2 Skyler Zoeller (O)
Landry Zoeller (O)
- 3 Darnell Vargo (O)
- 5 Gavin Hargrave (W)
- 6 Gary Holt (O)
- 7 Kenneth Neilson (W)
- 8 Julie Strauss (W)
- 9 Jerry Bohnenblust (W)
Emily Nelson (W)
- 10 Dale Larson (O)

- 11 Ardeva Gibson (O)
- 16 Ethan Bohlenblust (W)
- 18 Russell Berry (W)
Lacy Peterson (W)
Chase Gibbs (O)
Mitch Adams (O)
- 19 Kris Burnett (W)
- 25 Bailee Howland (O)
Jan Nelson (W)
- 27 Brandon Nelson (O)
- 28 Alan Nelson (W)
- 30 Bee Erickson (O)
- 31 Paulette Kulp (W)

February 1-8

- 1 Helen Wieters (W)
Dick Flohr (W)
- 2 Julie Higgins (O)
- 4 Nicholas Allen (W)
- 4 Lynn Webster (O)
- 5 Dale Larson (W)
- 5 Daniel Higgins (O)
- 6 Lynne Berry (W)
- 7 Roseanne Johnson (W)

Anniversaries:

- 7 Mike & Debbie Hagenmaier (W)
- 16 Brian & Laura Clifton (O)
- 9 Kenneth & Shawn Neilson (W)

Members in service this month

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during January.

Walsburg

Ushers: Trenton Hargrave, Chris Deetjen, Dale Larson, Jim Nelson,

Greeters: Lori Rogge, Chris and Carol Deetjen, Delores Grater

Communion Ushers: Gene Henry, Travis Hageman, Dena Haller, Christopher Deetjen

***Acolytes:** no list received

***Lay Assistants:** 1/3 Doug Kraemer; 1/10 Kim Nelson; 1/17 Jamie Hageman; 1/24 Alicia Scofield; 1/31 Carol Deetjen

Flowers for Church: Volunteers; please check with the Altar Committee.

Altar Committee: Carla Hageman, Diana Hargrave

Olsburg

Ushers: Rich Vargo, Gregg Gibson, Woody Kasselmann

Communion Assistants: 1/3 Kirby Burklund; 1/17 Joyce Cantrell

***Acolytes:** 1/3 Bailee Howland; 1/10 Blake Vargo; 1/17 Bryon Nelson; 1/24 Callie Webster; 1/31 Jacob Nelson

***Lay Assistants:** 1/3 Shane Adams; 1/10 Shelby Adams; 1/17 Shelby Peter; 1/24 Susan Adams; 1/31 Tami Howland

Altar Committee: Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping

***If you are unable to be present for your assignment, please find a replacement and contact the**

Installation of Council Members

Olsburg will install council members for 2010 during worship on January 10. All council members, new and returning are invited to participate in a ritual of prayer before the congregation.

Olsburg Annual Congregational Meeting

Olsburg Lutheran Church will hold its annual Congregational meeting January 17th. The afternoon will begin at 12:00 noon with a potluck lunch. The meeting will follow the meal at approximately 1:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Life Together

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Leonardville, KS 66449-9617

Address Service Requested

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Olsburg, KS 66520
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Confirmation

January Meeting Location: Olsburg

Wednesday, January 6th *History of
Communion*

Wednesday, January 13th *Take and Eat*

Wednesday, January 20th *Benefits of
Communion*

Wednesday, January 27th *The Greatest
Prayer*

Pastor Gordy and Pastor Jeremie Vore from St, Mark's in Waterville will be guiding us through this month of crazy schedules. We are pleased to have 3 additional students from Waterville joining us making for a group of 10 kids.

For review, when we have class in Olsburg, all students go home for dinner. A car pool will leave from the parsonage at 6:30 PM, stopping in Randolph for a pick-up. Class will start at 7:00 PM and end at 8:15 PM.

SALT Bible Study

(Stewards Attending Life Together)

This faithful group that attends to God's Word will gather in January during the following Mondays from 7:00 – 8:30 ish PM

January 4

January 18

Beth Moore Bible Study

January 25 at 4:30 PM in the Olsburg Pastor's Study

This is an ongoing study, but you can still jump in.

Contact Sonja Sandquist if you are interested.