

Lifetogether

January/February 2016

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

*From the Desk of
Pastor Keith, continued*

page 3

*Members in Service
Birthdays and
Anniversaries
From the Desk of
Pastor Keith, continued*

page 4

*Olsburg Annual
Meeting information
Walsburg Annual
Meeting Information
Ash Wednesday and
Lent Schedule
"Souper" Bowl
Kickoff Party
Rejoicing with our
Members
Expressing
Sympathy with our
members
Notes of Thanks from
members*

page 5

Old/New at Olsburg?

page 6 & 7

*Olsburg Sunday
School News
Walsburg Sunday
School News*

page 8

Outreach opportunities

*Next newsletter items and
articles will be due Feb. 15*

From the Desk of Pastor Keith

The days of 2015 have come and gone. We stand now at the beginning of a brand new year. We dare to enter this new year with great hope because we know that God will be with us. Isn't it wonderful that the beginning of a new year so closely follows Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, which means "God is with us!"

I want to thank each and every one of you for your partnership in Christ's mission throughout 2015. From teaching Sunday school to caring for our facilities, from praying to witnessing, and in so many other ways, you ministered to others in the name of Christ! For your faithful ministry I thank you!

We will face new challenges in 2016. We face these challenges, though, with confidence, knowing that God will empower us with the Holy Spirit for our ministry this year. I encourage you to offer yourself to the Lord again this year. Be open to how Christ wants to work through you. Say yes to God and to what God gives you to do in this new year. Let's give our best to God, because God deserves the very best!

I also want to take this opportunity thank you for the cards, gifts and

all the expressions of love and support you gave to Carol and me during the Christmas season. We are truly blessed to work with you in our life together and look forward to serving with you in 2016.

Again I want to say - please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of help to you or your family. Let me know if you are going into the hospital, desire communion at home, seek baptism for yourself or someone you know, have concerns, or simply want to talk. Phone numbers to reach me are 785-776-5348 (home) and 785-341-1600 (cell). My email address is keithw4870@gmail.com.

May the Lord richly bless each and every one of you in this new year!

Pastor Keith Wiens

The Year of Luke

Welcome to the Year of Luke! Luke is the third Gospel in the New Testament and is filled with many wonderful and familiar stories. We will be hearing a lot from Luke this year. In fact, 46 out of the 52 Sundays the Gospel reading will be from Luke.

(Continued on page 2)

Life Together is published bi-monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish. Deadline for calendar and other items is the last Monday of each month.

Editor/Parish Coordinator

*Shelly Burklund
Cell 785-532-9853
Home 785-468-3370
sburklun@ksu.edu*

Interim Pastor

*Keith Wiens
Home 785-776-5348
Cell: 785-341-1600
keithw4870@gmail.com*

Parish Information

*Olsburg 468-3500
olc@olsburglutheran.org
Walsburg 293-5367*

Luke is truly a gift to the church. Luke tells us about Jesus' birth, infancy and childhood. From Luke we hear the stories of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the Pharisee and the Publican, the Healing of the 10 Lepers, Mary and Martha, Jesus and Zacchaeus. Luke gives us wonderful songs - the Magnificat, the Benedictus, Glory to God in the Highest, and Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace. The church's calendar follows Luke's chronology. The Apostles' Creed is based on Luke.

What can we expect to hear from Luke? From beginning to end, Luke tells of Jesus. Luke stresses that Jesus came to bring salvation to everyone. We will hear a lot about salvation which is of upmost importance to Luke. Luke uses the word more than any of the other gospels. We will hear about healing, and hospitality, and repentance, and living in community, and reformed economic relations, and love of God and love of the neighbor. Luke talks about peace more than the other three Gospel writers combined. Women play a prominent role in Luke, as do the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.

How will Luke help us this year? Most of all, Luke will proclaim the good news of Jesus and give us assurance of God's grace and mercy! In addition, Luke will encourage us to be more gracious and welcoming, more compassionate, more forgiving, more loving. Luke will challenge us to reach out to neighbors, near and far, be more concerned about those who are hurting, work to help those who are down and out. Luke will urge us to share the story of Jesus with all, because the gift of salvation is for everyone. Luke will inspire us to grow in our praise of God!

Let us pray: Blessed Lord God, you speak to us through the words of Luke. Grant that we may hear them, read, respect, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises,

we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Why Worship?

These comments are by Pastor Kevin Strickland, Director of Worship in the ELCA.

"I remember a story that former Presiding Bishop H. George Anderson once told. He said that after his first wife died he felt as if he couldn't worship, but he forced himself into the assembly week-in-and-week out. He said there were times when he couldn't sing, recite the creeds of the church, join in the prayers of the assembly, or add his voice to the living saints, but he kept going.

"He kept going and said that, when he couldn't sing, the assembly sang for him. When he couldn't pray, the assembly prayed for him. When he couldn't recite the creeds, the assembly did on his behalf. When he could not add his voice, the assembly was there.

"The assembly was there, gathered around word proclaimed and word sung, a bath of grace to splash in and a table of mercy to dine at, sending and serving; all gathered around the centrality of faith in Jesus. When we worship, we do so, together, and never alone. We get to worship with the saints gathered, and the "company of heaven."

"I have heard many tell me over the years that they don't get anything out of worship and so they just don't go. For them and for you who may have felt that way a time or two, I encourage you to remember it isn't about what we receive as a consumer. When we gather for worship, we are not gathering for our own sole purposes or spiritual egos. When we gather for worship, we 'get' to gather as the body of Christ and we

January and February birthdays and anniversaries

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

January Birthdays

- 2 Skyler Zoeller (O)
Landry Zoeller (O)
- 3 Darnell Vargo (O)
- 5 Gavin Hargrave (W)
- 6 Gary Holt (O)
- 8 Julie Strauss (W)
- 9 Jerry Bohnenblust (W)
Emily Nelson (W)
- 10 Marlene Jenkins (W)
- 14 Jeremiah Brenner (O)
- 16 Ethan Bohnenblust (W)
- 18 Russell Berry (W)
Lacy Brown (W)

- Chase Gibbs (O)
- Mitch Adams (O)
- 19 Dawson Dick (W)
- 25 Bailee Howland (O)
Jan Nelson (W)
- 27 Brandon Nelson (O)
- 28 Alan Nelson (W)
- 29 Ryker Befort (O)
- 30 Bee Erickson (O)

February

- 1 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)

- 9 Becky Holt (O)
- 10 Phillip Monser (O)
- 12 Shane Adams (O)
- 13 Alicia Scofield (W)
- 14 Vincent Smith (O)
- 16 Jessie Sundgren (W)
- 17 R.J. Bokelman (O)
- 23 Loretta Hoerman (W)
- 24 Brad Haller (W)
- 28 Makayla Vargo (O)
Madison Vargo (O)
Valerie Peterson (W)

January Anniversaries:

- 7 Mike & Debbie Hagenmaier (W)
- 16 Brian & Laura Clifton (O)

February Anniversaries:

- 14 Dean and Donna Nelson (W)

Members in service

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

Olsburg

Ushers: January: Kent Nelson, Kyle Clifton, Gregg Gibson, Woody Kasselmann

February: Casey Nelson, Marvin Johnson, Nick Cooper, Kevin Burklund

***Communion Assistants:** 1/3 Ashley Rice; 1/17 Gregg Gibson; 2/7 Kraig Kasselmann; 2/10 Kirby Burklund; 2/21 Diane Nelson

***Lay Assistants:** 1/3 Kristi Fronce; 1/10 Laura Clifton; 1/17 Luellen Kasselmann; 1/24 Patty Nelson; 1/31 Tom Nelson; 2/7 Becky Avery; 2/10 Bill Monser; 2/14 Coleen Esping; 2/21 Jan Cooper; 2/28 Joyce Cantrell

***Acolytes:** 1/3 Brooklynn Zoeller; 1/10 Emma Kasselmann; 1/17 Skyler Zoeller; 1/24 Grady Kasselmann; 1/31 Jace Ricketts; 2/7 Kaden Gutsch; 2/10 Landry Zoeller; 2/14 Kylea Ricketts; 2/21 Brooklynn Zoeller; 2/28 Emma Kasselmann

Altar Committee January: Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping; **Feb.:** Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

Walsburg

Ushers and Greeters: January: Dennis and Donise Peterson Trenton and Lynn Hargrave; **February:** Aneta Hagenmaier; Theresia Hagenmaier; Don and Rita Nelson

Communion Ushers: January: Rita Nelson and Kathy Sundgren; **February:** Aneta Hagenmaier, Bill Johnson

***Lay Assistants:** 1/3 Don Nelson; 1/10 Alicia Scofield; 1/17 Janet Neilson; 1/254 Dennis Peterson; 1/31 Jane Larson; 2/7 Rita Nelson; 2/14 Harold Storer; 2/21 Diana Hargrave; 2/28 Sandy McCool

Altar Committee: January: Roseanne Johnson; **February:** Daina Hargrave

***If you are unable to be present for your assignment, please find a replacement and contact the church office so the correct name will appear in the bulletin.**

(continued from page 2)

“get” to do this together. For me, it is a reminder that - in a world that can often feel really big, scary and individualistic - in the church’s worshiping community I am reminded that I don’t journey alone and I don’t lift my living voice as a solo act for God. We do it together!”

Annual Meeting Dates

With Annual meetings coming up quickly, all annual reports are due to Shelly by Jan. 17th. Audit committees will need to meet the week of Jan. 18th. Thank you!

Olsburg Annual Meeting

February 7 – Gather at Noon for a “pot-luck” lunch. Bring a dish to pass, and if everyone brings dessert, we’ll have a sweet meeting. The Annual meeting will follow immediately after lunch.

Walsburg Annual Meeting

February 14 — Annual meeting following worship.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner –

February 10

Olsburg – 7:00 PM

Walsburg – 8:15 PM

We have a tradition of gathering in each congregation for this evening service for the Imposition of Ashes (remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return) and celebration of Holy Communion. This service sets off the beginning of our Lenten Journey

Weekly Midweek Worship

During Lent, we will gather each week at 6:00 for a light supper followed by worship 7:00 PM

February 17 – Walsburg

February 24 – Olsburg

March 2 – Walsburg

March 9– Olsburg

March 16 – Walsburg

Holy Week Schedule

Watch the weekly bulletins for our Holy Week schedule. March 20 is Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday (March 24) and Good Friday (March 25) times and locations.

“Souper” Bowl Kick Off Party at Walsburg

The annual "Souper Bowl Kickoff" lunch will be held Sunday, January 31. Fellowship/Outreach Committee will coordinate this event immediately following the worship service. If you are interested in helping with the soup lunch, please contact a member of the Outreach

Committee. Please bring cans of soup and/or cash to help us support the Food Pantry. There are many families that need our help, so you are encouraged to attend and show your support while enjoying fellowship and hot soup.

Rejoicing with our Members

- ✦ We rejoice with Rowdy Rusty Berry who was baptized on November 1 (Walsburg).
- ✦ We rejoice with Mason Cooper Rice who was baptized on December 6 (Olsburg).

Expressing Sympathy with our Members

- ✦ We sorrow with the family of Harold V. “Smitty” Smith who died on November 27 (Olsburg).

Notes of Thanks from members

The Clifton family would like to say “Thank You” to all the support that we have received over the last several months. It has been a long road and we certainly couldn’t have done it without all of you. The meals, the gifts, the rides to rehab (thank you Gregg and Woody) are so very appreciated. We are blessed to have a caring church family. Thank you.

The Cliftons

Thank you so much for the delicious Christmas plate. I do appreciate your thoughtfulness in thinking of me.

Thanks! Willa Erickson

Thank you to the Walsburg Women of the ELCA who always remember me at Christmas time. I love the cookie plate and look forward to snacking while running bulletins!
Shelly Burklund

The family of Harold Smith (H.V., Smitty) would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and other expressions of kindness shown during this difficult time. We are especially thankful to Pastor Keith, Alice Marie Gibson and Tony Ridder and the Olsburg LCW for the wonderful lunch.

Old/New at Olsburg?

If you have attended Olsburg Lutheran Church lately you have seen this. This is a **Swedish Ljuskrone** – Pronounced “Use – kron – a”



The origin of the *ljuskrone* is unknown, but the custom was at one time well known in Sweden. *Ljuskrone* were actually in use before the introduction of the Christmas tradition of the evergreen tree.

A typical style of *ljuskrone* was made to stand on its own base. This style usually had an even number of candle arms on each level and could be rather large in size. Some, when wrapped, appeared more tree-like, standing five to seven feet tall. The base of the *ljuskrone* was usually made of wire, wood, and/or metal pieces wrapped and sometimes soldered to form the structure's shape. Candle cups consisting of metal cylinders or wire hoops, were attached to

each arm to hold the candles in place. The entire base was then covered with strips of newspaper, cloth, and paper that were wrapped and layered very tightly to create a sturdy structure. The final layer consisted of crepe of silk paper was all white, but could be seen in festive colors. This paper was cut into narrow strips, then wrapped around the frame of the *ljuskrone* to create a delicate, lacy appearance.

Immigrants to Kansas have always maintained customs from the Old Country in order to hold memories close at heart. Holiday observances usually echo practices from generations back. At one time in Kansas, the Christmas season meant a time when families dipped candles to be placed in the windows of Swedish American homes. The candles were lit on Christmas morning. Special foods were prepared in honor of Christmas. *Lutfisk* (codfish), *kringlor* (rolls), *ragbröd* (rye bread), *potatiskorv* (potato sausage), *sill* (herring), *bruna bönor* (brown beans), *köttbullar* (meatballs), *lingon* (berries), *ostkaka* (pudding), and *risgrynsgröt* (rice pudding) was served. Christmas presents were opened on Christmas Eve, reading the Christmas story and singing traditional Christmas songs were also part of the custom. The family would then attend church. Swedish American families in Kansas today continue to practice these time-honored traditions.

An Esping cousin of mine (Luellen Kasselmann), Marla Ann Elmquist, stopped by early December and picked up the Swedish *Ljuskrone* that she knew our church had. She said she would decorate it the way it should be and then return it to our church for us to enjoy. The day she brought it back and Coleen and Luellen were there to see what a beautiful part of our church history/tradition we now have to be used during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

We thank Marla Ann Elmquist for restoring this piece for us!

Olsburg Sunday School News

The Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program on the 13th of December telling the story of Jesus' birth. The program was narrated by the older children, while the younger ones recited Bible verses and sang some songs. The congregation joined in on several Christmas carols to help the children complete the message of Jesus' birth. Following worship the Outreach and Fellowship committee organized a delicious brunch for all to enjoy.



was laid following his birth. After the paint had dried they painted yellow on it to represent the straw in the manger. They then glued on a small blue oval on for his blanket and a white circle which had his face on it. As you can see in the picture, baby Jesus is laying in his manger.

In the next activity they made a red and white candy cane out of beads which they were able to take home and put on their own Christmas trees as an ornament.

And last, but not least, they enjoyed decorating and eating sugar cookies. The children had their choice of different shapes of cookies, different colors of frosting and the hardest decision they had to make was deciding which type of sprinkles to put on top. Frosting their cookies and then getting to eat them was the highlight of their morning!

Thanks for sharing your children with us as look forward to the rest of our Sunday School year and watching your children grow in their faith.



On December 20th the children had three activities to do during Sunday School while singing along with Christmas carols which they listened to as they worked. In the first activity they made a hand print, after putting their hands in brown paint, to make the manger where Jesus

Walsburg Children's Sunday School News

Ten young children are participating in Walsburg's Sunday School and it is a joy each Sunday to see the children enjoying Bible stories, singing children's songs of faith, giving a weekly offering, and enjoying being a part of this children's ministry.

Upcoming Bible stories for January and February include the following: Jesus' Baptism, The Disciples, The Lord's Prayer, Woman at the Well, A Storm, The Centurion's Servant, Jesus Blesses the Children, Jesus Heals Two Blind Men, The Sower.

Thanks to those who have donated snacks and/or shared their time and talents with the Sunday School children.

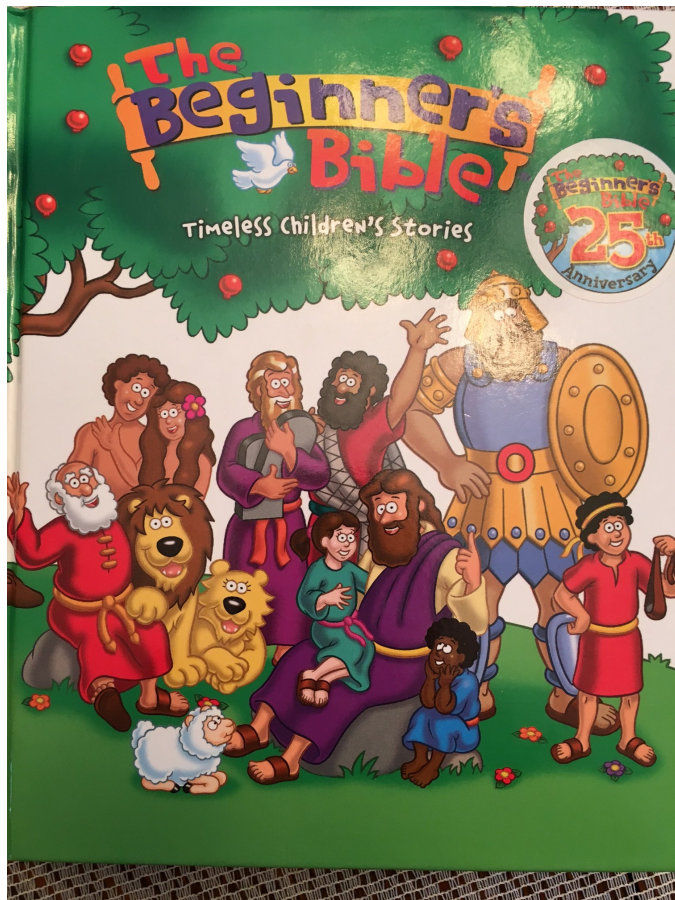
Children Sing at Walsburg Worship

On December 20, the Sunday School children, with their bright smiles and beautiful voices, sang "Angel Band", "Away in a Manger", and "Go Tell It On the Mountain". Thank you to the children and to Ruthie Stone for her accompaniment on the guitar.



Gift to Walsburg's Sunday School Children

On December 20, Walsburg's young Sunday School children each received a copy of "The Beginner's Bible", which includes timeless children's Bible stories with beautiful illustrations included with each story. This Bible was a gift to each child from the church.



Walsburg VBS

Mark your calendars for Walsburg's 2016 Vacation Bible School! The dates will be **June 20 – 24**, 2016. In early February, the Education Committee will begin planning for this exciting week for children. If you would like to help with this year's VBS, please contact Sheri at 785.320.2540 or sheriastorer@gmail.com.

Your Participation is Appreciated and Benefits the Olsburg Cemetery!!

It's time to renew your Dillons reward shoppers card. Log into your Dillons.com account. Click on view your account, Click on Community rewards, if you have enrolled already Olsburg Lutheran Church will be visible. There is also a Organization number of 10319. Click on edit. Then enter the Organization number of 10319 or Olsburg Lutheran Church. You will get a screen as shown below. Click on the dot next the Olsburg Lutheran Church, click on enroll. You are now enrolled in the Community rewards program, which benefits the Olsburg Cemetery. Thank you for your participation!!

Find your Organization

Enter your organization's number or at least 3 letters of your organization's name and click 'Search'.

10319

Search

View All Organizations

Select your Organization

View:

Organization Name	Address	Number
<input type="radio"/> OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH	P.O. BOX 128, OLSBURG KS, 66520	10319

Click 'Enroll' to complete your enrollment.

Enroll Cancel

Your donations can help!!

You've undoubtedly seen news coverage of the flooding that has devastated the St. Louis area. The Mississippi has crested there and that crest is moving south. St. Louis and smaller communities near tributaries like the Meramec are inundated, and as the waters recede the clean-up effort will begin. This is where our assistance is critically needed, and I strongly encourage you to get involved.

Lutheran Disaster Response works through local affiliates, and its affiliate in Missouri is Lutheran Family and Children Services. That agency is coordinating relief efforts. You can help by collecting monetary donations for disaster relief and recovery – cash is the most flexible donation that can be made as it not only allows the purchase of necessary items but it also helps stimulate the local economy when items are purchased locally. To donate or volunteer, please go to www.lfcsmo.org/flooding-in-2015.

Make no mistake: our sisters and brothers are struggling, and they need our help. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in a desperate region.

Peace,
Roger Gustafson, Bishop