

# Lifetogether

January/February 2017

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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## From the Desk of Pastor Keith

Happy new year! The days of 2016 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. (How fortunate it is that the beginning of a new year so closely follows Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is called 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 2016. Week after week and month after month I have observed you sharing your gifts and ministering to others in the name of Jesus. The Spirit of Christ is at work in and through you! For your faithful ministry I thank you.

Carol and I also want to thank you for the cards and gifts and expressions of Christmas joy and hope during the Christmas season. What a joy it is to be part of these two great congregations!

It has now been two years since I began serving as your interim pastor. The time has gone by quickly. It is truly a wonderful privilege to serve with you and I look forward to our continued partnership in the months to come.

Some of you have asked about the process and progress of calling a new pastor. Perhaps now is a good time to review how this happens.

1. *A call committee has been appointed made up of three persons from each congregation. They have completed a Ministry Site Profile which describes the two congregations and identifies our needs. The call committee has submitted this to the synod office.*

2. *The synod staff is now beginning a search for possible candidates who match the needs of the congregation and upon identifying these individuals, will give names and background information about these candidates to the call committee.*

3. *After receiving names of potential candidates, the call committee studies the background information of each candidate and selects one or more candidates to interview.*

4. *When the call committee identifies the person they believe is right for our two congregation parish, the call committee recommends the candidate to the church councils. The councils may choose to interview the candidate.*

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**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

5. *The church councils either approve the recommendation and recommend the candidate to the congregation or reject the candidate.*

6. *When a candidate is recommended by the councils, a congregational meeting is scheduled at each church and the congregations vote on the recommendation. If the congregations approve the recommendation, a call is extended to the pastor; if the congregations do not approve the recommendation, the process starts over.*

7. *When a call is extended, the pastor decides whether or not to accept the call.*

8. *After the pastor accepts the call, the pastor notifies his or her congregation. Usually 30 days notice is given. The pastor then begins her or his ministry with us.*

How long will this take? There is no way of knowing. Meanwhile, we have work to do. The mission of Christ continues in the Olsburg and Walsburg communities!

So then, as we begin this new year, please be in prayer for our churches and let us move forward in the confidence that God will be with us and will empower us with the Holy Spirit so that we can faithfully witness to Christ's saving work.

As the word of the Lord says, "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Pastor Keith Wiens

**A prayer by Thomas a Kempis from his book *Imitation of Christ*.**

I realize that two things are essential for me in this world; without them this life would be unbearable.

I need food and light.

These you have given me: your blessed sacrament for the refreshment

of my soul and body and your Word as a lantern for my feet

to show me the way I should go.

Without these two gifts,

I cannot live well.

For the Word of God is the light of my soul,

and your sacrament is my bread of life.

**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 before I can make copies. Thank you!**

**Olsburg Annual Meeting**

February 5 – 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 12 — Annual meeting following worship.

# 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)  
Madison Hedden (W)
- 18 Russell Berry (W)  
Lacy Brown (W)

- Chase Gibbs (O)
- 19 Dawson Dick (W)
- 20 Colt Kasselmann (O)
- 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)
- 13 Alicia Scofield (W)
- 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 Hoehner (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:** 1/1 Bill Monser; 1/8 Coleen Esping; 1/15 Jan Cooper; 1/22 Joyce Cantrell; 1/29 Kathy Monser. **February:** 2/5 Kraig Kasselmann; 2/12 Kristi Fronce; 2/19 Laura Clifton; 2/26 Luellen Kasselmann

**\*Acolytes:** 1/1 Grady Kasselmann; 1/8 Brooklynn Zoeller; 1/15 Emma Kasselmann; 1/22 Kaden Gutsch; 1/29 Landry Zoeller. **February:** 2/5 Ida Kasselmann; 2/12 Jace Ricketts; 2/19 Jarin Brenner; 2/26 Jordyn Gutsch

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

*Life together*

### Walsburg

#### Ushers and Greeters: January:

Dennis and Donise Peterson  
Trenton and Lynn Hargrave;

**February:** Aneta Hagenmaier; Marlene Jenkins; Don and Rita Nelson

#### Communion Ushers: January:

Bill Neilson and Kathy Sundgren;

**February:** Aneta Hagenmaier, Marlene Jenkins, Bill Johnson

#### \*Lay Assistants: 1/1 Linda

Toomire; 1/8 Don Nelson; 1/15 Rita Nelson; 1/22 Sheri Storer; 1/29 Mary Kay Henry. **February:** 2/5 Jane Larson; 2/12 Janet Neilson; 2/19 Alicia Scofield; 2/26 Dennis Peterson

#### Altar Committee: January:

Roseanne Johnson; **February:** Donise Peterson

**\*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.**

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner –

**March 1**

**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

March 8 – Olsburg

March 15 – Walsburg

March 22 – Olsburg

March 29– Walsburg

April 5– Olsburg

## Holy Week Schedule

Watch the weekly bulletins for our Holy Week schedule times and locations.

April 9th (Palm Sunday)

Maundy Thursday (April 13)

Good Friday (April 14)

Easter (April 16)

## “Souper” Bowl Kick Off Party at Walsburg

The annual "Souper Bowl Kickoff" lunch will be held Sunday, January 29. Fellowship/Outreach Committee will coordinate this event immediately following the worship service. 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 Dylan Harper Stanfield who was baptized on November 26. Dylan is the daughter of Scott and Erin Stanfield and the granddaughter of Roger and Ruth Stone.

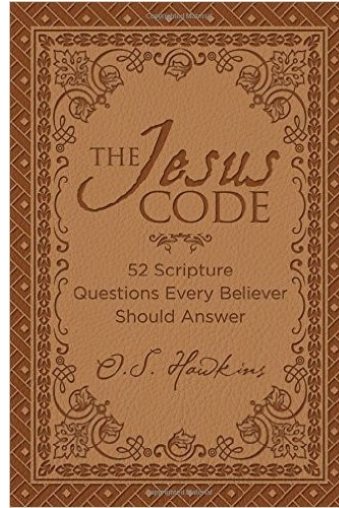
✠ We rejoice with Jackson Lake Hoehner who was baptized on November 27. Jackson is the son of Andrew and Valerie Hoehner and the grandson of Dennis and Donise Peterson.

## Note of Thanks

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 Burkland

## Olsburg WELCA Offering Bible Study Opportunity



The Olsburg WELCA Executive Board is hosting a once a month Bible Study beginning January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Bible Study material is entitled, "The Jesus Code – 52 Scripture Questions Every Believer Should Answer", written by O.S. Hawkins. Everyone welcome!

## Olsburg Cemetery Dillons Fundraiser Update

We have learned that Dillons will NOT require anyone to "re-enroll" for the community rewards program for 2017. If you are already participating, it will continue as is. Thank you for your participation!!! Remember, anyone can register their Dillon's Plus card easily at [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards) and choose our Church to support the Olsburg Cemetery Fund. Thank You for your support to help in the maintenance of the Olsburg cemetery!!!

## Walsburg Sunday School News

We are blessed to have 14 young children attending Walsburg Sunday School. It is a joy to teach these children who love to learn about Jesus by singing songs, hearing Bible stories, doing crafts, and having a snack each Sunday.

The lessons for January and February include:

- Simeon and Anna
- The Boy at the Temple
- John the Baptist
- Jesus Goes to Nazareth
- The Disciples
- Four Friends
- Ten Men Healed

The Good Samaritan

Over 30 young children and adults participated in the Walsburg caroling on Sunday, December 11. The carolers sang for residents of Leonardville Nursing Home and Autumn Hills, and Leonardville resident, Betty Peters. The group returned to the church for chili, hot chocolate, and cookies! A fun time was had by all.

Thanks to all those who help with Sunday School each Sunday and to the parents/grandparents who bring the children to Sunday School. You are appreciated!

## Walsburg VBS Dates: June 26-30

