

# Lift *together*

January 2018

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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## From the Desk of Pastor Keith

Happy new year! By the grace of God we enter a new year with the songs and stories of Christmas still ringing in our ears.

As I reflect on our celebration of Christmas, what is remarkable to me is that a baby born over 2,000 years ago in an insignificant village in a third world country today rules the hearts and lives of billions of people. In the past 2 millennia countries have risen and fallen. Political dynasties have come and gone. Powerful women and men have stepped to center stage of world history, only to be replaced by someone else. But for 2,000 years people have looked to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! Because of Jesus, the world is changing!

Sure, there are a lot of problems in the world; we definitely have work to do. We constantly hear about the problems, but let's not overlook the good things that are happening.

I recently read a newspaper article titled, "Why 2017 Was the Best Year in Human History." The article said, "A smaller share of the world's people were hungry, impoverished or illiterate than at any time before. A smaller proportion of children died than ever before. The proportion disfigured by leprosy, blinded by diseases like trachoma or

suffering from other ailments also fell."

It went on to say, "Every day, the number of people around the world living in extreme poverty (less than \$2 a day) goes down by 217,000 . . . Every day, 325,000 more people gain access to electricity. And 300,000 more gain access to clean drinking water. . . Just since 1990, the lives of more than 100 million children have been saved by vaccinations, diarrhea treatment, breast-feeding promotion and other simple steps."

The author of the article didn't say what accounts for these good things that are happening. But if you ask me, it is because people all over the globe are quietly working to help others. Just like what I see at Olsburg and Walsburg! I see people caring for one another, reaching out to help neighbors, praying for those in need, giving money to feed the hungry, and on and on it goes.

It doesn't always make the news or grab the headlines, but it happens. We may think what we are doing is not much, but it makes a difference in the world.

I don't know what is motivating the millions of people throughout the world who are making good things happen,

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but I do know about the folks of Olsburg and Walsburg. You are doing good because you are following Jesus Christ! You are letting the light of Jesus shine through your words and actions.

Because of Jesus working through you and many others, the world is changing!

So don't give up. Don't think what you do doesn't matter. It does! Keep following Jesus! Keep letting the light of Jesus shine through you! And thank you. Thank you very much for all you do! May the Lord bless you in this new year!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Keith

**Annual Meeting Dates**

**With Annual meetings coming up quickly, all annual reports are due to Shelly by Jan. 21st. Audit committees will need to meet the week before I can make copies. Thank you!**

**Olsburg Annual Meeting**

February 4 – 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 11— Annual meeting following worship.

**Lent Begins Soon**

The Season Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 14. We will gather that day in each congregation for an evening service of the Imposition of Ashes and reception of Holy Communion. The Olsburg service begins at 6:45 p.m. and the Walsburg service begins at 8:15 p.m. These services mark the beginning of our Lenten Journey.

The Olsburg and Walsburg worship committees are planning the theme for our midweek services and will announce the theme in the coming weeks.

**Weekly Midweek Worship**

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

Feb. 21 – Walsburg

Feb. 28 – Olsburg

March 7 – Walsburg

March 14– Olsburg

March 21– Walsburg

**Holy Week Schedule**

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

Palm Sunday (March 25)

Maundy Thursday (March 29)

Good Friday (March 30)

Easter (April 11)

**“Souper” Bowl Kick Off Party at Walsburg**

Walsburg Lutheran Church will host its annual "Souper Bowl Kickoff" lunch on Sunday, January 28.

The Fellowship/Outreach Committee will coordinate this event immediately following the worship service by serving hot soup, relishes and desserts. The public is invited to attend and bring cans of soup and/or cash to help support the Food Pantry.

**Rejoicing with our Members**

✠ We rejoice with Ryder and Finley Balaun who were baptized at Olsburg on Sunday, December 10. Their parents are Nick and Whitney Balaun.

**Note of Thanks**

Many thanks for all 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! Pastor Keith and Carol.

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

# January 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)
- 15 Jeremiah Brenner (O)
- 16 Ethan Bohnenblust (W)  
Madison Hedden (W)  
Witten Ricketts (O)

- 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)

## January Anniversaries:

- 7 Mike & Debbie Hagenmaier (W)

## Members in service

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

### Olsburg

**Olsburg Ushers:** Kent Nelson; Kyle Clifton; Bill Monser; Woody Kasselmann

**Communion Assistants:** 1/7 Gregg Gibson; 1/21 Mary Nelson

**\*Acolytes:** 1/7 Grady Kasselmann; 1/14 Brooklynn Zoeller; 1/21 Emma Kasselmann; 1/28 Kaden Gutsch

**\*Lay Assistants:** 1/7 Kathy Monser; 1/14 Kraig Kasselmann; 1/21 Brooklynn Zoeller; 1/28 Karl Kasselmann

**Altar Committee January:** Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping

### Walsburg

**Ushers and Greeters:** Dennis & Donise Peterson; Trenton & Lynn Hargrave

**\*Walsburg Communion Ushers:** Bill Neilson & Kathy Sundgren

**\*Walsburg Lay Assistants:** 1/7 Linda Toomire; 1/14 Don Nelson; 1/21 Dennis Peterson; 1/28 Sheri Storer

### Altar Committee: January:

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.**

## Olsburg LCW collecting items for Nancy Holt Whitesell

The LCW asked Nancy for a list of things she still needs. The list is in the narthex. Please check off the item(s) you plan to provide so she doesn't get duplicates. Thank you!

## Walsburg Sunday School News

“Someone Has a Birthday” was the Christmas program presented by the young children’s Sunday School on December 17 at Walsburg Lutheran. Five children also joined in playing bells. In the afternoon, the children brought smiles to the Leonardville Nursing Home residents as they shared the Christmas Program in Santa hats!



Walsburg children singing at Leonardville Nursing Home.