

Lift *together*

January 2019

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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From the Desk of Pastor Keith

A fresh start! Yes, that is what we need - a fresh start!

I want you to know that God is a God of fresh starts. Consider these words of the Lord. In Isaiah 43:18-19 God says, *"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

Then in Ezekiel 36:25-26 God says, *"I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."*

The New Testament also talks about God giving us a fresh start. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"*

And Revelation 21:5 says, *"See, I am making all things new."*

God is a God of fresh starts. God gives a fresh start not just once or twice, but every day! Each day is time for a fresh start. And certainly each year is time for a fresh start.

I want you to know that God is committed to helping you make a fresh start. God wants to help you become a new person. God wants to help Olsburg become a new congregation and God wants to help Walsburg become a new congregation. Isn't that why God came in Jesus? Isn't that one of the many reasons we celebrate Christmas?

Will you make a fresh start this year? A new year is a good time to commit to being in worship every week. A new year is a good time to develop a plan for spiritual growth. A new year is a good time to take on a new ministry. A new year is a good time to plan how you will help others this year. What will it be for you? How is God tugging at your heart? How will you make a fresh start this year?

And what will it be for each of our congregations? How is God tugging at us? What fresh start will we make?

Let's step out in faith. Are you ready? I am! And God is certainly ready to help us!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

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It is Luke's Turn!

This year we get to hear from Luke. Each Sunday we listen to a reading from one of the Gospels in the New Testament. Last year we listened to the Gospel of Mark. The year before we listened to the Gospel of Matthew. Now it is Luke's turn.

Luke is filled with many wonderful and familiar stories. 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 utmost 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!

What's It All About?

What is Sunday morning all about? If we took a survey we would probably get all kinds of answers. But what if we surveyed God? What would God say?

Psalm 95 is a good place to begin. "O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Notice the purpose of our worship. Not our needs, not instruction for living, not a chance to see our friends and neighbors. The purpose of worship is to "come into the Presence of God with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise," says Psalm 95.

Sometimes we hear people say, "Sunday morning did nothing for me!" But is worship just about *me*, about meeting *my* needs, about satisfying *my* desires? Or is it about God?

Sunday morning is not our time. It is not our time for sleeping in, catching up on our chores, or just chillin' out. It is God's time; it belongs to the One who made us, the One who comes to help us and save us, the One who comes to dwell in us and among us. Sunday morning is all about gathering together and focusing on God.

The surprise of worship is that when we humble ourselves before God and worship the Lord with all our heart and soul and might (see Deuteronomy 6:5), something happens to us. Our faith grows stronger, our hearts grow warmer, our joy grows more pronounced. And it all starts with God!

Annual Meeting Dates

Olsburg Annual Meeting

February 3 – Gather at Noon for a "pot-luck" lunch. The Annual meeting will follow immediately after lunch.

Walsburg Annual Meeting

February 10— Annual meeting following worship.

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)

Rejoicing with our Members

✠ We rejoice Courtney Bell and daughter Addison who became members of Olsburg Lutheran on Sunday, December 9.

Members in service

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

Olsburg

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

Communion Assistants: 1/6 Kraig Kasselmann; 1/20 Karl Kasselmann

***Acolytes:** 1/6 Kaden Gutsch; 1/13 Grady Kasselmann; 1/20 Brooklynn Zoeller; 1/27 Emma Kasselmann

***Lay Assistants:** 1/6 Kristi Fronce; 1/13 Bill Monser; 1/20 Jan Cooper; 1/27 April Brenner

Altar Committee January: Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping

Reminder

Our LifeTouch Mobile Directory is available online at <https://mobiiledirectory.lifetouch.com/201152/walsburg-lutheran-church>. The access code needed to get in to the directory is 18wlc.

Walsburg

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

Communion Ushers: Bill Neilson & Kathy Sundgren

***Lay Assistants:** 1/6 Linda Toomire; 1/13 Lori Rogge; 1/20 Dennis Peterson; 1/27 Sheri Storer

***Acolytes:** 1/6 Dawson Dick; 1/13 Harper Befort; 1/20; 1/27 Mason Scofield

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.**

Please correct you yearbooks! Alicia Scofield should no longer be listed for the Church Council as her term is ending. Thank you!

“Souper” Bowl Kick Off Party at Walsburg

Walsburg Lutheran Church will host its annual "Souper Bowl Kickoff" lunch on Sunday, January 27.

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.

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

WALSBURG VBS DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Walsburg Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be June 24-28, 2019.

WALSBURG SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

The stories and themes the Sunday School children will explore in Sunday School during the Winter sessions are:

- Jesus is Baptized
- Many Follow Jesus
- Jesus Blesses Children
- Jesus Teaches about Prayer
- Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man
- Jesus Calms the Storm
- The Widow's Offering
- The Transfiguration

WALSBURG CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Thanks to the Sunday School children for their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 16. The children did an excellent program telling the "Good News" of the Birth of Jesus. Also, thanks to Amber Befort for directing the children's program, including the children playing the bells. The program was a joy to all!



In the afternoon of December 16, the Walsburg Sunday School children presented their Christmas program to the residents of the Leonardville Nursing Home.

Walsburg children singing at Leonardville Nursing Home.