

Lift *together*

February 2018

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

*From the Desk of
Pastor Keith, continued
Sympathies
Ash Wednesday
Mid Week worship
Schedule, Holy Week
dates
Correction to Olsburg
Yearbook
Baby Shower invitation*

page 3

*Members in Service
Birthdays and
Anniversaries*

page 4

*Olsburg Lutheran
Church Women invite
you to help them
collect items for
Lutheran World Relief
Pictorial Directory*

*Next newsletter items and
articles will be due Feb. 26*

From the Desk of Pastor Keith

This year the season of Lent begins on February 14. As I have been preparing for this season, with all the extra worship services, I thought of the hymn "We Plow The Fields and Scatter," (number 681 in our hymnal). The hymn begins:

*We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by
God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.*

This is the time of the year when we begin to "plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land." Whether farmers preparing to plant their crops or gardeners preparing their garden, this is the time of the year when we start the work which will lead to a great harvest.

Lent is like that. It is a time for plowing and scattering the seed. It is time for turning over the soil of our lives, loosening up the soil, getting rid of weeds that have grown up. It is time for planting the good seed into the soil of our lives so that we may enjoy the rich fruits of the harvest.

The season begins with Ash Wednesday. On this day we pray, "Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ." Lent is a time for turning over the soil, repenting of our sins, seeking new and honest hearts, turning our lives around. That's what we do in Lent.

We also sow the seed. The seed which produces a great harvest is the Word of God. So during Lent we open our lives to this seed. During the Sundays in Lent we will follow Jesus on his way to the cross, listening to him, letting his Word change our hearts, renew us and redirect our lives. On Wednesdays we will view four portraits of Jesus, the four ways the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John portray Jesus. This will help us grow closer to Jesus and fill us with renewed faith and courage for living in new ways. This Lent seeds of new life will be planted and the new shoots will be fed and watered by God's almighty hand.

(Continued on page 2)

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I invite you to join me in a prayer that comes from Thomas a Kempis, a church leader from the 15th century.

*O my Lord Jesus,
trusting in your great goodness and mercy,
I come to you as a sick patient comes to a Healer,
as one who is hungry and thirsty to the Fountain of Life,
as a beggar to the King of heaven,
as a servant to the Lord,
as a creature to the Creator,
and as a desolate person to a kind and compassionate Comforter.
You know me,
that I have no goodness of my own to merit your blessing.
Therefore, I confess my unworthiness,
I acknowledge your goodness,
I praise your kindness,
and I give thanks for your boundless love.*

Have a blessed and Spirit-filled Lent.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

Sympathies

† We sorrow with the family and friends of Loran Oman who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on January 17, 2018. Loran was a life long member of Walsburg Lutheran Church.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2018. Services will be held at Olsburg beginning at 6:45 p.m. Services will be held at Walsburg beginning at 8:15 p.m.

Weekly Midweek Worship

During Lent, we will gather each week at 6:00 for a light supper followed by worship 7:00 PM
February 21 – Walsburg
February 28 – Olsburg
March 7 – Walsburg
March 14– Olsburg
March 21– Walsburg

Holy Week Dates

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

March 25 (Palm Sunday)
Maundy Thursday (March 29)
Good Friday (March 30)
Easter (April 1)

Please correct your Olsburg Yearbook!

Please make the following corrections in the Olsburg Yearbook. I apologize for the errors! The Committee for Growth section should be eliminated and the Committee for Community should have Ashley Rice's name added to the listing of committee members.

Olsburg Lutheran Church Women are hosting a baby shower for David Gibson and Courtney Bell.

You are invited to a baby shower for Courtney Bell and David Gibson on February 25 at 2:00 pm. Courtney and David are expecting twin boys and have been busy preparing for the birth of their baby boys! They are registered at Target and WalMart. Please join us in helping them prepare and celebrate.

February birthdays and anniversaries

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

24 Brad Haller (W)
28 Makayla Vargo (O)
Madison Vargo (O)
Valerie Hoehner (W)

February

1 Dick Flohr (W)
Helen Wieters (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)

February Anniversaries:

14 Dean and Donna Nelson (W)

Members in service

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

Olsburg

Ushers: Casey Nelson; Marvin Johnson; Floyd Munson; Kevin Burklund

Communion Assistants: 2/4 Kraig Kasselmann; 2/14 Gregg Gibson; 2/18 Ashley Rice

***Acolytes:** 2/4 Landry Zoeller; 2/11 Ida Kasselmann; 2/14 Grady Kaselman; 2/18 Jace Ricketts; 2/25 Jarin Brenner

***Olsburg Lay Assistants:** 2/4 Patty Nelson; 2/11 Tom Nelson; 2/14 April Brenner; 2/18 Bill Monser; 2/25 Coleen Esping

Altar Committee: Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

Walsburg

Ushers and Greeters: Aneta Hagenmaier; Marlene Jenkins; Don & Rita Nelson

***Communion Ushers:** Marlene Johnson; Bill Johnson; Lee Hartford

***Lay Assistants:** 2/4 Mary Kay Henry; 2/11 Jane Larson; 2/18 Janet Neilson; 2/25 Alicia Scofield

Altar Committee: Janice Johnson

***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 Lutheran Church Women invite your help in collecting items for Lutheran World Relief

The Olsburg congregation is invited to partner with LCW in collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits during Lent. Donations may be left in the box in the narthex.

Items needed are:

- 1 Bath Towel (light to medium weight)
- 1 Adult size toothbrush
- 2-3 bath size bars of soap
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clippers

Pictorial Directory

The dates for the Olsburg/Walsburg pictorial directory have been set for February 19th at Walsburg and February 20th at Olsburg. The hours are from 2:00-9:00pm each of these days. Please see the handout in the narthex for more details. Appointments may be scheduled on-line at this website - (Olsburg) <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y99thx6q/> (Walsburg) <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y99t0xz4/>

Health Kit Contents



- 1 Bath Towel light to medium weight



- 1 Adult size toothbrush
- 2-3 bath size bars of soap



- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clippers



More information at <https://lwr.org/wp-content/uploads/Personal-Care-Kit-Assembly-Instructions.pdf>