

Life Together

March/April 2013

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

*From the Desk,
continued
Stewardship
thoughts
Worship Schedule
From the Greater
Church (ELCA)*

page 3

*Birthdays and
Anniversaries
Members in Service
Olsburg Cemetery
Fund Raiser Update*

page 4

*From the Greater
Church, continued
Ministry in Music*

Next newsletter items and articles will be due April 22.

Life Together is published 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

Pastor

Gordon Sandquist
Home 785-293-5603
Gordy cell: 785-747-7831
gsandquist001@luthersem.edu

Parish Information

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

From the Desk of Your Pastor...

This is from an article I found this past month by David Briggs in "The ARDA" (Association of Religious Data Archives) which outlines *Five Hopeful Signs for U.S. Congregations*.

The number of Americans with no religious affiliation continues to rise. Fewer young people are going to church. And the effects of the recession have placed greater burdens on religious institutions in a time of shrinking resources.

In the midst of all the challenges, there are also some very hopeful trends emerging about the health and mission in our churches of today.

In the midst of "shrinking" numbers who worship each week, here are five hopeful signs for congregations in the United States.

- 1) More Caring Ministries: people are more active outside the sanctuary walls in social service or advocacy groups as well as contributing to these groups in addition to their local congregation.
- 2) The percentage of worshipers with a college degree rose from 38% in 2001 to 47% in the latest survey. This has many long-term effects on the ministry and mission of a congregation.
- 3) Most congregations are keeping up with the changes in technology that are happening. In a survey conducted in 2009, over three-quarters of U.S. congregations had

established a website and over half of these congregations make sure they are updated at least monthly. Almost 75% of congregations use e-mail for both communications and discipleship support.

- 4) Research finds that there is a continuing trend toward more diverse leadership. And though 6 in 10 worshipers are women (for some reason, men don't think worship is as important), and almost 30% of pastors are women, -- these women in leadership are much more satisfied in those positions than their male counterparts were a couple decades ago, AND this diverse new leadership is much stronger in welcoming and discipling new people.
- 5) In this latest survey, 87% of worshipers said they were satisfied in their spiritual life, 82% say they almost always experience a sense of God's presence, inspiration and joy in worship, and almost 90% say that worship helps them with everyday living.

The challenge in this high rate of satisfaction in many congregations may also indicate an unwillingness to change to welcome younger generations and new neighbors into their congregational communities.
(continued on the next page)

As we continue to discern our “core values” and “guiding principles,” how might these hopeful signs in the current research be both a catalyst to move forward AND a guiding light to the dangers of complacency.

I will close with a statement one of my co-workers used many times in his ministry – “God is good, all the time...”

Blessings and Hope
Pastor Gordy

Stewardship Thought –

One day, while walking through the streets of Manhattan, KS – a man see in a store window the most beautiful, the largest, most magnificent pearl he has ever seen. Instantly he knows he must have it. So, he enters the store and an old guy comes in the storeroom from the rear of the store. He says to the shopkeeper, “I want that pearl. How much is it?” The shopkeeper says, “How much do you have?” “Well, I have \$500 in my pocket.” “Good, I’ll take that. What else do you have?” “Well, I have a F-250 King Cab outside, low mileage, about 2 years old, paid off.” “Good, I’ll take that also. What else do you have?” “Well, I have two CD’s worth about \$40,000.” “Good,” says the shopkeeper, “I’ll take those also. What else do you have?”

This goes on and on. The man gives away his house, his equipment, all of his acreage and livestock, even his family. Until finally the shopkeeper says, “Okay, here. The pearl is yours.”

The man turns to leave the store. And, as his is walking out, the storekeeper stops him and says, “Hey, you know what? That family of yours? I don’t need a family, so I’m going to give them back to you. But remember, they are mine now, not yours. You must take good care of them. AND that house and farm land, well, I don’t need any property so you can have that back too. Although it does belong to me, I just want you to care for it. And as for the CD’s and the stocks and the F-250 and even the \$500, you can have it all back too. But remember, it is all mine. Take it. Use it wisely. Take good care of it for me.”

So, the man left with everything he had when he walked into the store plus the great pearl. But there was a big difference. He walked into the store owning everything he had. He walked out owning nothing. Instead, everything he had before was now a gift.

How are you being called to use the gifts God has given you?

Blessed and faith-filled Lenten Journeys
Gordy

Life together

Seder Meal

March 28th, 6:00 P.M.

Walsburg Lutheran Church

Sign-up for participation and different food items in the narthex of each church.

Consider inviting friends and family to the Holy Week event.

A short service of healing, reconciliation and communion will follow our Seder Meal.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Good Friday

March 29th, 7:00 P.M.

Olsburg Lutheran Church

We will observe our traditional service of light this Good Friday as part of Holy Week. A symbolic stripping of the altar, into the darkness and emptiness of death is a part of this service.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Easter Sunday

March 31st

Walsburg Easter Sunrise @ 6:45 A.M. Breakfast following

Olsburg celebration of Easter and Holy Communion @ 9:00 A.M.

Walsburg celebration of Easter and Holy Communion @ 11:00 A.M.

Invite your friends and family to the pinnacle of the church year as we celebrate the resurrection of our savior, Jesus the Christ.

Midweek Worship

March 6th – Olsburg

March 13th – Walsburg

March 21st – Olsburg

Gather for soup and sandwich fellowship at 6:00 P.M. each evening followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary with a short message and teach on “Making Sense of the Cross.”

John Zavier, the executive director of Camp Tomah Shinga will be with us for worship at both churches on Palm Sunday, March 24th. We are looking forward to a great summer of camp, and hope some of our young people will be able to participate. Thanks for your continuing support and mission.

From the Greater Church (ELCA) and what we might be called to –

ELCA Poverty Ministries is a multi-faceted approach to the scandal of poverty in a wealthy nation. This work is grounded in God's unflagging commitment to people who are poor and oppressed, articulated by the prophets and embodied in the life of Jesus. The ELCA has expressed its commitment to those in poverty in its Constitution (4.01.c.), the social

2

(Continued on the back page)

March and April birthdays and anniversaries

Birthdays

March

- 1 Katie Burklund (O)
Raymond Nelson (W)
Jared Henry (W)
- 2 Donna Nelson (W)
Brianna Olson (W)
- 4 Marian Smith (O)
Jeanette Pultz (W)
Jennifer Kulp (W)
- 6 Garrett Nelson (O)
- 9 Taellor Howland (O)
- 10 Donald Campbell (W)
- 11 Tami Howland (O)
Christy Nelson (O)
- 12 Bev Stowell (O)
Mike Hagenmaier (W)

- 14 Janet Neilson (W)
Gary Hageman (W)
- 16 Marla Webster (O)
- 17 Floyd Munson (O)
- 18 Bart Coutermarsh (W)
Cindy Neilson (W)
Andrew Kalmer (W)
- 20 Peggy Johnson (O)
- 21 Richard Gibbs Jr. (O)
- 21 Ashley Cooper (O)
- 23 Jonathan Nelson (O)
- 27 Kent Burklund (O)
- 28 Kylie Gibbs (O)
- 29 Timothy Zoeller (O)
Amanda Esping (O)
Stacy Deetjen-Dawes (W)
- 31 Rich Cooper (O)

April

- 7 Roger Bohnenblust (W)
Travis Hageman (W)
Jackie Frintrup (O)
Jarín Brenner (O)
- 8 Irene Johnson (O)
Roger Sundgren (W)
- 9 Aneta Hagenmaier (W)
- 11 Kelsey Lawrenz (W)
Christopher Hubbard (O)
- 13 Brian Johnson (O)
- 19 Russell Peterson (W)
- 17 Tristin Kraemer (W)
- 20 Trenton Hargrave (W)
- 26 Doug Kraemer (W)
- 28 Kevin Burklund (O)
Kirby Burklund (O)

Jacob Nelson (O)
Susan Adams (O)
Emma Bohnenblust (W)
Rob Scofield (W)

Members in service

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during March and April.

Walsburg

March Ushers and Greeters: Carl & Jane Larson; Ralph and Mary Larson; Gary and Diana Hargrave

April Ushers and Greeters: Mary Kay Henry; Sandy McCool; Richard and Shirley Strauss

March Communion Ushers: Carl Larson; Vern Bulk

April Communion Ushers: Norman Johnson; Lynne Berry

***March Lay Assistants:** 3/3 Lynne Berry; 3/10 Jerry Baer; 3/17 Diana Hargrave; 3/24 Sandy McCool; 3/31 Linda Toomire

***April Lay Assistants:** 4/7 Kim Bulk; 4/14 Sandy Glessner; 4/21 Mary Kay Henry; 4/28 Don Nelson

March Altar Committee: Sandy McCool

April Altar Committee: Lynne Berry

Olsburg

March Ushers: Jacob Nelson, Shane Adams, Jim Nelson, Lee Cantrell

April Ushers: Brian Clifton, Tom Nelson, Mitch Adams, Blake Vargo

March Communion Assistants: 3/3 Diane Nelson; 3/17 Mary Nelson; 3/28 Julie Munson; 3/31 Becky Avery

April Communion Assistants: 4/7 Woody Kasselmann; 4/21 Kirby Burklund

***March Lay Assistants:** 3/3 Kathy Monser; 3/10 Kristi Fronce; 3/17 Laura Clifton; 3/24 Patty Nelson; 3/28 Susan Adams; 3/31 Becky Avery

***April Lay Assistants:** 4/7 Bill Monser; 4/14 Coleen Esping; 4/21 Jan Cooper; 4/28 Joyce Cantrell

March Altar Committee: Shelly Burklund; April Brenner

April Altar Committee: Coleen Esping; Joyce Cantrell

***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.**

March Anniversaries

- 9 William and Janet Neilson (W)
- 22 Dan and Shari Holt (O)
- 23 Don and June Campbell (W)

April Anniversaries

- 2 Vern and Kim Bulk (W)
- 11 Kevin and Barbara Burklund (O)
- 18 Ray and Jennifer Miller (W)
- 20 Eldon and Beverly Sundgren (W)
- 21 Steve and Peggy Johnson (O)
Gary and Carla Hageman (W)
- 30 Jamie and Kristi Hageman (W)

OLSBURG CEMETERY FUND-RAISER Update

Thank you for your continued support to raise money for the Olsburg Cemetery Fund Raiser through the Dillons rechargeable gift cards. This money goes for maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. We want to continue it to look nicely maintained for folks to see when they drive through Olsburg. Your generous support has raised over \$800 to date. Please continue to use your cards to keep the funds coming. Cards are still available! For information or to get your card, contact Mary Nelson, 785-776-7347 or Tami Howland at 785-468-3341 (Union State Bank). Thank You!

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish
12351 Union Road
Leonardville, KS 66449-9617

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olsburg, KS 66520
Permit No. 2

statement "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All" and in implementing the strategic directions.

4.01.c -- Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.

A social statement on economic life...we commit ourselves as a church and urge members to:

- address creatively and courageously the complex causes of poverty;
- provide opportunities for dialogue, learning, and strategizing among people of different economic situations and from different regions who are harmed by global economic changes;
- give more to relieve conditions of poverty, and invest more in initiatives to reduce poverty

In the course of implementing each of these strategic directions, the churchwide organization must and will:

...confront the scandalous realities of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual, physical, personal, and class barriers that often manifest themselves in exclusion, poverty, hunger, and violence;

Poverty Ministries seeks to respond to domestic poverty by standing in solidarity with, being committed to, and accompanying people who are experiencing poverty and powerlessness.

Music in Ministry



The Walsburg Lutheran Church is honored to welcome guest organist Dr. David Pickering for a special concert on Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Pickering is an Assistant Professor of Music at K-State and will be playing the recently refurbished Hinners pipe organ. Our sincere thanks to family and friends who participated in the fundraising efforts for this special project which was completed last fall. Following the concert, a reception will be held in Memorial Hall where a freewill offering will be collected for the Community Food Basket of Northern Riley County.