

Life Together

March 2017

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

The Small Catechism

page 3

*Birthdays and Anniversaries
Members in Service*

page 4

*Olsburg WELCA offers help to OLC
Youth wanting to attend Summer Camp
Olsburg WELCA Plant Sale
News from the Office
Midweek schedule
Holy Week Schedule*

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due March 24

Life Together is published bi-monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish.

From the Desk of Pastor Keith...

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 1. On that day, each congregation will observe Ash Wednesday with evening services. The service at Olsburg will begin at 6:45 p.m. and the service at Walsburg will begin at 8:15 p.m. The following five midweek services will alternate between the two churches, with Olsburg hosting on March 8. A soup supper will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. with worship following at 7:00 p.m.

Lent is a very special time for us. The season of Lent began between 200- 300 A.D. as a time of preparation for persons being instructed in the Christian faith before their baptism on Easter. Still today the church observes Lent as a time to grow in our understanding of the Christian faith. It is a time when we can worship and pray more often. It is a time to renew our baptismal vows and recommit ourselves to Christ and his mission.

This Lent offers a special opportunity. The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the reformation of the church. The precise date, October 31, 1517, is associated with Martin Luther's posting of Ninety-Five Theses against the sale of indulgences on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, which is now part of Germany. This anniversary will be observed in a

variety of ways around the world. One of the ways we here at Olsburg and Walsburg will observe the anniversary is to explore the Catechism during the midweek Lenten services. I have written an introduction to the Catechism which you will find below. Come, take advantage of this time to draw close to God! And be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you so that they too can draw close to God.

The Small Catechism

The Bible is a big book! Actually it is a library of 66 books, containing historical accounts, letters, poems, songs, prayers, lists, proverbial sayings, prophetic oracles, and much more. It is not a book that you can pick up and read cover to cover in an evening.

Wouldn't it be great to have a brief summary of the Bible and the rich message it proclaims? The good news is that we have such a brief summary. It is called the Small Catechism.

The Catechism which we use was compiled by Martin Luther. In a very brief form it summarizes what the Bible teaches. In fact, what we find in the Catechism all comes from the Bible. In the Catechism you will find the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes what the Bible teaches about God, and the Lord's Prayer. You will also find sections on Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confession and Forgiveness.

Why did Luther publish the Catechism? Well, in 1529 he visited a lot of people who lived in and around the German town of Wittenberg. And he was shocked! He couldn't believe how ignorant the people were of the basic teachings of the Christian faith. In fact, in the Preface to the Catechism he said, "The deplorable, wretched deprivation that I recently encountered while I was a visitor has constrained and compelled me to prepare this catechism, or Christian instruction. Dear God, what misery I beheld! The ordinary person, especially in the villages, knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith, and unfortunately many pastors are completely unskilled and incompetent teachers. Yet supposedly they all bear the name Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, even though they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed or the Ten Commandments."

And so Luther put together the Catechism. He wanted a simple tool that parents could use in the home to teach their children the Christian faith. He also wanted a tool that pastors could use to teach the faith in the church. He knew that if Christians are going to confidently live out their faith, and not just go through the motions, then church and home must work together to teach the faith.

Luther's Catechism begins with the Ten Commandments, rules so big and so demanding that, try as we will, we cannot live up to them. And that's the point - we need help. That's why Luther started with the Commandments. We can't please God on our own. The Catechism then takes us right to the Apostles Creed, which declares what God has done for us, how God loves us and cares for us, how God has rescued us from sin and death, and how God is at work in our

lives today. Next is the Lord's Prayer, which teaches us to turn to God for help. And then the Catechism takes us to Baptism and Confession and Communion, giving us what we need most - forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Like a physician treating a patient who is ill, the Catechism begins with the diagnosis of the problem, then offers treatment which leads to a cure.

The Catechism is not very big, but it addresses big issues. It addresses ethical questions like war and identity theft and abortion and sexuality and the environment. It points the way to securing justice and peace in the world. It takes on the question of who is God and how we can have a good and right relationship with God. It gives help for such troubling matters as guilt and despair and broken relationships. It teaches us how to live and how to live well and provides hope for our future. The Small Catechism packs a lot of punch into a very little booklet, a booklet so small that it can fit into your pocket or purse.

It is simple enough for children to grasp, yet profound enough to challenge every adult. It is tragic when we think we have outgrown the Catechism when we are confirmed. Luther himself said, "As for myself, I, too, am a doctor and a preacher - yes, and as learned and experienced as any of those who act so high and mighty. Yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism. Every morning, and whenever else I have time, I read and recite word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly."

During the season of Lent we will be taking a close look at the Catechism. We are going to open up its treasures and explore the riches of this gold mine.

This Lent, spend some time with the Catechism. Read it, ponder it, learn from it. For when you do, you will be drawn closer to God, to the God who loves you very much, the God who has made you into the very special person you are, to the God who has rescued you from sin and death, the God who wants to be part of your life and help you live a good life. You will get to know God better than you have ever known God before. You will become more confident in your faith and you will learn how better to live out your faith in the world.

March birthdays and anniversaries

Birthdays

March

- 1 Katie Burklund (O)
Raymond Nelson (W)
Jared Henry (W)
Roberta Hartford (W)
- 2 Donna Nelson (W)
Brianna Olson (W)
- 5 Justin Ricketts (O)
- 6 Garrett Nelson (O)
- 9 Taellor Howland (O)
- 10 Donald Campbell (W)
Rowdy Berry (W)
- 11 Tami Howland (O)
Christy Nelson (O)
- 12 Bev Stowell (O)
Mike Hagenmaier (W)
- 14 Janet Neilson (W)
- 16 Marla Webster (O)

- 17 Floyd Munson (O)
- 18 Bart Coutermarsh (W)
Cindy Neilson (W)
- 20 Peggy Johnson (O)
- 21 Richard Gibbs Jr. (O)
Ashley Rice (O)
Carol Wiens (W)
- 23 Jonathan Nelson (O)
Brooklyn Rice (O)
- 26 Gracie Scofield (W)
- 27 Kent Burklund (O)
- 28 Kylie Gibbs (O)
- 29 Timothy Zoeller (O)
Amanda Esping (O)
Stacy Deetjen-Dawes (W)
- 31 Rich Cooper (O)

March Anniversaries

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

Members in service

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

Walsburg

March Ushers and Greeters: Lee & Roberta Hartford; Gary & Diana Hargrave

March Communion Ushers: Trenton Hargrave; Sandy McCool

***March Lay Assistants:** 3/5 Sandy McCool; 3/12 Amber Befort; 3/19 Jerry Baer; 3/26 Diana Hargrave

March Altar Committee: Lynne Berry

Olsburg

March Ushers: Jacob Nelson; Shane Adams; Karl Kasselmann; Lee Cantrell

March Communion Assistants: 3/1 (Ash Wednesday) Mary Nelson; 3/5 Ashley Rice 3/19 Kristi Fronce

***March Lay Assistants:** 3/1 (Ash Wednesday) Patty Nelson; 3/5 Tom Nelson; 3/12 April Brenner; 3/19 Becky Avery; 3/26 Bill Monser

***March Acolytes:** 3/1 (Ash Wednesday) Grady Kasselmann; 3/5 Skyler Zoeller; 3/12 Brooklynn Zoeller; 3/19 Emma Kasselmann; 3/26 Kaden Gutsch

March Altar Committee: Donica Nelson, Mary Nelson

Olsburg Women Invite you to donate items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

The Olsburg LCW invites the congregation to bring items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits during Lent. Items needed are:

- **ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended;
- **TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping;
- **ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*;
- **ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging;
- **ONE** metal nail clippers (attached le optional), remove packaging. Items may be left in the box in the Narthex.

*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.

Sorrow

✠ We sorrow with the family and friends of Ralph Larson who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on January 31.

Time To Think About Summer Church Camp

The Olsburg WELCA group is offering \$100 to any Olsburg Lutheran youth member wanting to attend ELCA church camp this summer. For more information, please contact Kathy or Luellen.

WELCA Plant Sale

The Olsburg WELCA group will be having their annual plant sale the morning of May 6th beginning at 8 a.m. There will be a nice selection of flowers, vegetables, and hanging baskets. The proceeds will benefit charitable projects. Please come and help us support our church and community.

News from the Office

Thank you all for turning in your yearbook items and Annual reports. I am happy to have those two tasks put away for a year.

If you do not receive this newsletter by email, please contact me at sburklun@ksu.edu and ask to be added to the distribution list. Thank you.

Member information needed! Is a family member or a friend missing from our birthday/anniversary list? Are there members, past members, or deceased members that need to be removed? New members to add? Name changes, spouses other changes that need to be made to the list? Please email me at sburklun@ksu.edu. Thank you!

Mid Week Lent Schedule

You are invited and welcome to join Olsburg/Walsburg Lutheran Churches during the Lent season. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy soup and fellowship. Following our meals, we will go into the sanctuary for worship. Please invite friends and family.

March 1 Ash Wednesday
6:45 p.m. Olsburg
8:15 p.m. Walsburg

Soup Supper and Lenten Worship

March 8 6:00 p.m. at Olsburg
March 15 6:00 p.m. at Walsburg
March 22 6:00 p.m. at Olsburg
March 29 6:00 p.m. at Walsburg
April 5 6:00 p.m. at Olsburg

Please join us for any or all of the worship opportunities during Holy Week. Please watch next month's newsletter for more information about Holy Week.

Holy Week

April 9 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday
Worship at Olsburg
11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday
Worship at Walsburg
April 13 Maundy Thursday
April 14 Good Friday

We invite you and any guests to worship with us on Easter morning!

Easter

April 16 9:00 a.m. Easter Service w/
Holy Communion at
Olsburg
11:00 a.m. Easter Service w/
Holy Communion at
Walsburg



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Community Vacation Bible School Fundraiser
Saturday, March 4th
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

There will be a potato and banana split bar with all the toppings
or have a bowl of chili soup

Olsburg American Legion
Free Will Donation