

Life Together

March 2022

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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*Next newsletter items and
articles will be due March 25*

Life Together is published

Reflections by Pastor Keith

We are Easter people! We are people who cling to the promise of God: *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* (Isaiah 43:19)

Easter is coming! But now we find ourselves in the wilderness. The road to Easter travels through the wilderness. But let's not grumble and complain. The wilderness can teach us valuable lessons about life, especially life with God. Most of all, the wilderness can teach us to turn to God who "will make a way in the wilderness" and lead us to the Promised Land.

In the wildernesses of life - in times of doubt, illness, sorrow, loss - the temptation is strong to question the loving presence of God. So also is the temptation strong to place one's loyalty with a false but immediately gratifying god (power, wealth, fame, etc.). When we try to make it through the wilderness on our own we run into dead end after dead end.

For nearly two years, the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic. We have

seen the number of hungry people around the world rise sharply. We have also seen disasters wreaking havoc and conflict uprooting lives. The world can seem like an overwhelming wilderness.

In Lent, we wander with our ancestors, longing for new life in a land of promise and opportunity. We are reminded of our dependence on God and the many ways that sin separates us from God, from one another, and from the future God has promised us. Even in the most challenging times, Lent teaches us to trust God and cling to God's promise: *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday falls on March 2. We will gather for worship at 6:00 p.m. at Olsburg, and at 7:15 p.m. at Walsburg.

We begin the Lenten journey with confession. We confess our sins. We confess how we have turned to our own ways, rather than following God's way. We confess that we have not loved God with our whole heart and mind and strength. We confess that we have not loved others as ourselves. We repent and turn to God for forgiveness and renewal of life.

During the service, ashes will be smeared on our foreheads. Ashes are a sign of our repentance, a sign of humility, a sign of mourning for sin and separation and lost life, a sign of death. Ashes are also a sign of cleansing (ashes are an ingredient in soap) and our desire for new life, life with God.

Wednesdays in Lent

Each Wednesday after Ash Wednesday we will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

- On March 9 we will gather at Walsburg.
- On March 16 we will gather at Olsburg.
- On March 23 we will gather at Walsburg.
- On March 30 we will gather at Olsburg.
- On April 6 we will gather at Walsburg.

During these midweek services we will reflect on our wilderness experiences and seek to learn what God can teach us as we travel through the wilderness.

Sundays in Lent

The Scripture readings for the Sundays in Lent follow Jesus from his temptation in the wilderness to days just before he was arrested and nailed to the cross.

- The First Sunday in Lent - Jesus is tempted in the wilderness
- The Second Sunday in Lent - Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
- The Third Sunday in Lent - Jesus addresses questions about tragedy
- The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Jesus tells the story about the Prodigal Son
- The Fifth Sunday in Lent - Mary anoints the feet of Jesus

Please join our Lenten journey through the wilderness. I invite you to trust that God is indeed making a way in the wilderness, leading us toward God's new day. Come, let us journey together!

Keep the faith. Love God. Love others. Be the people of God!

The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Keith

Holy Week

April 14, Maundy Thursday, worship at Olsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 7 pm

April 15, Good Friday, worship at Walsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 7 pm

April 17, Easter, Sunrise service at Walsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 6:45 am

April 17, Easter, Festival Worship at Olsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 9:00 am

April 17, Easter, Festival Worship at Walsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 11:00 am

March birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

Birthdays

- 1 Katie Burklund (O)
Jared Henry (W)
Roberta Hartford (W)
- 2 Donna Nelson (W)
Brianna Olson (W)
- 4 Lelanie Hillocks (O)
- 5 Justin Ricketts (O)
- 6 Garrett Nelson (O)
Jenny Plummer (O)
- 9 Taellor Howland (O)
Preston Miller (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)
- 22 Joshua Hinkle (W)
- 23 Jonathan Nelson (O)
Brooklyn Rice (O)
- 24 Jacob Hinkle (W)
- 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)

Joys and Sorrows

+ We sorrow with the family and friends of Walsburg member, Norma Coutermarsh, who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on January 27, 2022.

+ We sorrow with the family and friends of Walsburg member, Shirley Strauss, who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on Feb. 5, 2022.

+ We sorrow with the family and friends of Walsburg member, Eldon Sundgren, who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on February 8, 2022.

+ We sorrow with the family and friends of Walsburg member, Willard Johnson, who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on February 18, 2022.

Members in service

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

Olsburg Ushers: Karl Kasselmann; David Gibson; Jon Nelson; Lee Cantrell

Olsburg Communion Assistants: 3/2 (Ash Wednesday) Coleen Esping; 3/6 John Lowry 3/20 Jacob Nelson

***Olsburg Acolytes:** 3/2: Jace Ricketts; 3/6 Brooklyn Rice 3/13 Addison Gibson; 3/20 Ida Kasselmann; 3/27 Kaden Gutsch

***Olsburg Lay Assistants:** 3/2 Karl Kasselmann; 3/6 Kraig Kasselmann; 3/13 Jan Cooper; 3/20 Patty Nelson; 3/27 Kathy Ricketts

Altar Committee: Coleen Esping; Joyce Cantrell

Walsburg Ushers and Greeters: Lee & Roberta Hartford; Lynne Berry; Lori Rogge

***Walsburg Communion Ushers:** Vern Bulk and Roger Sundgren

***Walsburg Lay Assistants:** 3/6 Jane Larson; 3/13 Jerry Baer; 3/20 Becky Nelson; 3/27 Rita Nelson

***Walsburg Acolytes:** 3/6 Harper Befort; 3/13 Mason Scofield; 3/20 Teske Nelson; 3/27 Brody Willimon

Altar Committee: Diana Hargrave

Receive The Newsletter

We want you to get the newsletter - either by email or by postal mail. If want to receive the newsletter by email, send your email address to Shelly at sburklun@ksu.edu. If we already have your email address, but you want to receive the email by postal mail, please inform Shelly.

Interested in Membership?

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Olsburg or Walsburg Church, talk to Pastor Keith, either in person or send him an email at keithw4870@gmail.com.

No Coast Regional Youth Gathering

In place of the ELCA National Youth Gathering, Camp Tomah Shinga has opened their doors for a 5-day youth gathering in July. This will be a week immersed in the beauty of Creation surrounded by all of God's children, and serving the surrounding communities. Partnering with the *Central States Synod* and *Bethany College*, we are excited to serve the central states (and beyond) for an alternative ELCA National Youth Gathering. With special guest speakers, high ropes, service projects and much more, this is an event your youth group won't want to miss!



To read more or register for the event, visit: <https://camptomahshinga.com/youth-gathering>



Summer 2022 Registration is LIVE!

Run, don't walk, to our summer program page to learn about the different programs, the schedule, and to register: [Learn More at: https://camptomahshinga.com/summer-camp](https://camptomahshinga.com/summer-camp)

Know of someone who would be great summer staff? Send them [here: https://camptomahshinga.com](https://camptomahshinga.com)

Walsburg Sunday School News

Sunday School Children Send Valentines

Walsburg children enjoyed designing Valentine cards for friends at the Leonardville Nursing Home and for Hunter Mittleider, who is serving our country in Poland.



What Is Happening in Sunday School?

In the month of March, the children will continue to enjoy opening songs about Jesus' love for them, listen to a video about the Bible story of the day, hear the Bible story, and join in activities and crafts that reinforce the Bible story. For the month of March, our Bible stories are as follows:

- March 6 - Jesus is Tempted
- March 13 - God's Covenant with Abraham
- March 20 - God Provides
- March 27 - The Prodigal Son

Thanks to our dedicated teachers/helpers for their willingness to share their love of Jesus with the children of our congregation!

2022 Synod Assembly -- June 9-11, 2022



"Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."

[The Earth Charter - The Way Forward](#)

Registration Now Open

https://reg.learningstream.com/s_reg/reg_registration_maintenance.aspx?ek=0034-0011-33d30077f0004e5f8a4c161e7debb255

Important Information, Forms, & Deadlines:

Forms can be found here: <https://www.css-elca.org/assembly>

[Voting Member information and waiver](#) -

Due March 1, 2022

[Assembly Partnerships](#) - Due April 15, 2022

[Nominations](#)

[Nomination form](#) - Due April 15, 2022

[Resolution Guidelines](#)

[Resolution form](#) - Due April 15, 2022

Information from the Call Committee—Save the Date

Our churches are in the process of making a call for a new pastor. The councils have set a date for April 2nd for everyone in the congregations to meet Pastor Kaylie. Be watching your bulletin for more information.

WE'RE SPREADING GOD'S LOVE

this Lent by making Personal Care Kits for those in the poorest parts of the world.

GIVE TODAY AT LWR.ORG/HOPE.

A SEASON OF
HOPE
LENT


LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF



Olsburg Lutheran Church Women are spreading God's love this Lent by making Personal Care Kits for those in the poorest parts of the world. The congregation is invited to bring the items listed and leave them in the box in the narthex. The Personal Care Kits will be assembled by the LCW and taken to the Lutheran World Relief ingathering in the fall. Thank you for making a difference in the life of someone in need.

Each kit will need:

- 2-3 bars of soap (total of 8-9 ounces)
- 1 light weight bath towel (dark colors preferred)
- 1 large tooth comb
- 1 metal nail clippers
- 1 toothbrush