

Life Together

May/June 2013

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

Break the Giving Barrier

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*Next newsletter items and articles
will be due June 23.*

*Life Together is published
monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg
Lutheran Parish. Deadline for
calendar and other items is the
last Monday of each month.*

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I am writing in response to a statement I've heard again in both congregations – “If you talk about money, there will be people who stop giving altogether!”

So my question to you – “How much should I give to God through the Church?”

The bottom line is that the amount of money you give, and the quality and quantity of your time and talent offerings, are very personal decisions. These decisions are based on your intimate relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and your sense of accountability to the people of God for the many gifts and blessings you have received as we share our ministries together. No one can tell another what they can or should give. It is an awesome responsibility, glorious privilege and prayerful opportunity. That said, let me share with you some specific information and biblical guidelines for our giving.

Core Truth – Stewardship is recognizing that all that we are and all that we have come as gifts from God. God has called us to be good and faithful stewards of the gospel, the earth, our lives, our relationships, our time, our property, our talents, AND our money.

This calls for a basic, life transforming management decision in our lives: “Here I am, Lord, take me, all of me, **all that I am, and all that I have.**”

Once we make this decision and commitment, our lives are never the same again.

“God owns everything. God owns me. Period.”

In Romans 12, Paul admonishes

us to present our entire lives (who we are and all that we have) to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God as our spiritual worship.

I want you to know that as your pastor, I am praying that the members of both Olsburg and Walsburg, everyone, will give our entire lives to God, all our relationships, and 100% (YES, 100%) of our annual income and earthly possessions to God for God's glory.

Back to the question – “How much should I give to God through the Church?”

Rather than picking a figure for your offering to God at Walsburg or Olsburg out of the air, I invite, encourage and challenge you to become a percentage giver. This means that your financial offering will be determined by the specific percentage of your gross (or net) income that you choose. This is a biblical formula for growth in the grace of giving, -- give as God has blessed you. For centuries, Christians have considered the tithe (giving 10% of gross or net income) as the launching pad for generous giving.

Some of you may already practice this, and as a reasonable first step for the rest, I recommend that you start your journey of being a percentage giver at 3% to 5%. Each following year, you reevaluate God's gifts and your commitment to growing in God's grace, and increase this percentage by 1-2%. For some of you, you may want to start at a higher percentage, and I would encourage you to do this for a three month period. You might be amazed at how your perspective changes...

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Whenever percentage giving is talked about, two big questions always arise.

“Are we talking about gross or net income?”

“Does the percentage include or exclude other charitable giving to all the other things we support?”

The short answer – “Who cares!” Once you accept the principle, discipline and blessing of percentage giving, you will continue growing in the grace of generous giving, always asking “how much more?” rather than “how little can I get by with?”

A pastor I once worked with stated it very blunt – “Don’t let the devil do your arithmetic when it comes to giving to God and God’s work.”

As you grow in percentage giving, I can promise that you will also grow in your joy in what it means to be the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Gordy

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

As both Congregations look toward moving into the “new” hymnal which has been available for over six years, we are looking for you, the people of Walsburg and Olsburg, to ask questions, expect many similarities, anticipate some new things, and pray that we can embrace a smooth transition.

As we look forward, both congregational Councils would like to provide you with an opportunity to memorialize, recognize, or honor a loved one – living or with the saints eternal – by providing funds to purchase one or more hymnals (**ELW**). The cost for each is \$22.50. We will need about 100 hymnals in each congregation. In addition, to lead worship with the new ELW, we will need Accompaniment Books for organ and piano, as well as the Leaders Ritual Addition for the Altar (or Communion Table). These run about \$300 total. If you are interested in memorializing one of these leader books, please talk to Pastor Gordy. A bookplate will be placed in each book memorialized, with appropriate information for who is being remembered or honored.

Both Congregations have funds available through memorial monies and, the councils

also believe this is an important opportunity for each of us participates in the ongoing life of the community by honoring, recognizing, and memorializing the people and events in our history.

Donation forms will be available in the narthex through the summer, and completed forms (with a check for purchase) can be placed in the offering plate.

Wear Red to Church May 19

Pentecost is Sunday, May 19.

Please wear the color Red to church. Thank you.

Memorial Day Remembrance at Olsburg

There will be a Remembrance Service on Monday, May 27 at the Maridahl Cemetery in Olsburg. The service will be followed by a Potluck dinner held at the Olsburg American Legion Building. A freewill offering will be accepted. The offering proceeds go to the upkeep of the cemetery. All are invited.

June Anniversaries:

- 1 Woody and Luellen Kasselmann (O)
Tom and Donica Nelson (O)
- 6 Lee and Beverly Stowell (O)
- 7 Daniel and Julie Higgins (O)
- 9 Raymond and Milly Nelson (W)
- 10 Kirby and Shelly Burklund (O)
Roger and Ruthie Stone (W)
Gary and Diana Hargrave (W)
- 11 William & Roseanne Johnson (W)
- 13 Brandon and Lori Rogge (W)
- 17 LeRoy & Claryce Bohnenblust (W)

May and June birthdays and anniversaries

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

May Birthdays

- 2 Jessa Kulp (W)
- 2 Cindy Olson (W)
- 3 Zachary Holt (O)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)
Crystal Strauss (W)
- 9 Sonja Sandquist (O/W)
- 10 Dan Holt (O)
Rich Vargo (O)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 14 Clayton Neilson (W)
- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
- 20 Kermit Sundgren (W)
Dusty Holt (O)
- 21 Alice Marie Gibson (O)
Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 24 Emily Cook (W)
- 26 Raymond Anderson (O)
Shari Holt (O)
Kathy Monser (O)
- 27 Lynn Burkland (O)
- 28 Wes Holt (O)
- 28 Woody Kasselmann (O)

- 29 Donald Holt (O)
- 30 James Nelson (W)
- 30 Lila Bestwick (W)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)

June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)
- 2 Barbara Burkland (O)
Jordan Hagenmaier (W)
- 3 Amy Pultz (W)
- 4 Nicki Beadle (O)
- 6 Marvin Johnson (O)
- 7 Gary Hargrave (W)
- 8 Kiffnie Holt (O)
- 9 David Gibson (O)
Travis Bohnenblust (W)
Trevor Bohnenblust (W)
- 14 Laurine Catt (O)
- 15 Coleen Esping (O)
- 17 Deanna Barnes (O)
- 18 William Johnson (W)
- 19 Erin Gutsch (O)
Ruthie Stone (W)
- 20 Brooklynn Zoeller (O)
- 20 Lorraine Oman (W)
- 21 Destinee Cantrell (O)
Dena Haller (W)
- 22 Nick Cooper (O)

- Monique Sandquist (O/W)
- Adam Larson (W)
- 23 Josie Stone (W)
- 24 Tyson Strauss (W)
Haley Neilson (W)
- 28 Linda Toomire (W)
Jacob Hagenmaier (W)

May Anniversaries:

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (W)
- 4 Dustin and Jessica Holle (W)
- 5 Arlo and Wava Peterson (W)
- 7 Bill and Kathy Monser (O)
- 10 Jim and Diana Nelson (O)
- 14 Russell and Lynne Berry (W)
- 15 Donald and Rita Nelson (W)
- 15 Rob and Alicia Scofield (W)
- 16 Alan and Sharon Hubbard (O)
- 26 Jon and Emily Cook (W)
Jason and Jamie Hageman (W)
- 28 Gordon and Sonja Sandquist (B)
- 29 Shane and Loree Allen (W)
- 30 Gene and Mary Kay Henry (W)
- 31 Rich and Jan Cooper (O)

Members in service

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during May and June.

Walsburg

May Ushers and Greeters: Jerry and Pat Erickson; Bill, Janet and Cindy Neilson

June Ushers and Greeters: Jerry Baer; Bill and Roseanne Johnson; Ruthie Stone

May Communion Ushers: Roger Sundgren; Aneta Hagenmaier

June Communion Ushers: Jamie Hageman; Gary Hargrave

***May Lay Readers:** 5/5 Alicia Scofield; 5/12 Janet Neilson; 5/19 Dennis Peterson; 5/26 Milly Nelson

***June Lay Readers:** 6/2 Jane Larson; 6/9 Rita Nelson; 6/16 Jamie Hageman; 6/23 Lynne Berry; 6/30 Diana Hargrave

Olsburg

May Ushers: Bill Monser, Nick Cooper, Kirby Burkland, Woody Kasselmann

May Communion Assistants: 5/5 Laura Clifton; 5/19 Ashley Cooper

June Communion Assistants: 6/2 Coleen Esping; 6/16 Diane Nelson

***May Lay Readers:** 5/5 Kathy Monser; 5/12 Kristi Fronce 5/19 Laura Clifton; 5/26 Patty Nelson

June Lay Readers: 6/2 Susan Adams; 6/9 Becky Avery; 6/16 Bill Monser; 6/23 Coleen Esping; 6/30 Jan Cooper

May Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

June Altar Committee: April Brenner, Shelly Burkland

***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.**

Endowment Fund Distributions

Last month, the Olsburg Council moved to distribute income from the “missions” portion of the endowment fund to three different entities.

\$800 to support Pastor Alexander Lapachencko in Arsen'yev Russia. This pastor works in our Companion Synod in Russia, a huge geographic area in which 150 congregations still exist after communist rule and are served by just a hand-full of trained pastors. The Central States Synod is raising three years of support for Pastor Alexander, and each \$800 gift covers one month of salary and expenses.

\$500 will go to support Hillside Community Lutheran Church in Spring Hill, Kansas. It is our newest congregation in the area under development. The congregation has been served by their first pastor for almost two years, and they are in the process of buying a building from the American Baptists which is in a great location at a great price. This gift will help them continue to be a witness to God's grace and love in Spring Hill.

\$500 has been sent to Children's Memorial Lutheran Church as they move more intentionally into a redevelopment time. This congregation is located in NE Kansas City, and serves a community where many people are living in poverty. This gift will help support the mission developer pastor who will be working with the congregation as they revitalize their mission.

Each of these gifts was made available because of gifts which were given decades ago to the endowment fund. Both Olsburg and Walsburg have endowments which have been used for assorted interests both “within” the walls of the church and “outside” into the world. These gifts were given, so that the mission and ministry of each of these congregations could continue in bold and dynamic ways, long beyond the last earthly breath taken by those who gave them.

I write this as a reminder that many of you have accumulated asset far beyond what you ever imagined. You have worked hard in caring for these assets as a steward of all that God has given. Have you considered how those

assets will be distributed “at your last breath,” and have you considered giving back to God a portion of these accumulated assets through your church. There are a number of means to make this happen, but it must be planned out in advance. A representative from Lutheran Planned Giving can help you work things out.

What might God be calling you to leave for the future mission in the world?

Schlitterbahn Waterpark – “Faith and Family Day”

All Senior High and Middle School aged Youth

Mark your calendar for Saturday June 1. Cost is \$27 per person. Advance sign-up is required by May 19. Sign-up forms are in the narthex, and checks can be made out to “Luther League.” **Friends are Welcome**

We will leave from the Randolph Senior Center parking lot at 8 AM and return home by 9:30 PM

Pack a cooler lunch or bring money for lunch. Transportation is provided. If you are an adult and interested in going – we may need drivers (no drivers under age 23) and your ticket (to the water park) will be covered. Contact Gordy

Organ Concert Celebration

Many of you were present for the wonderful event Sunday, April 28 which included a rededication of the pipe organ, a short overview of the extensive refurbishment which was done on the organ and an excellent presentation by Dr. David Pickering including a couple of congregation hymn sings. There were over 170 people present. After the concert, over 140 people gathered in Memorial Hall for fellowship and reception, where sandwiches, cheese and crackers, fruit and deserts were served.

Looking through the list of attenders, they came from Leonardville, Green, Randolph, Olsburg, Waterville, Manhattan, Salina, Topeka, Oregon and a few other places. A huge thanks to Rhonda for her organization and vision in setting up the program, and all the folks who brought food and assisted with all the different components of hospitality.

Life *together*

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