

Life Together

May/June 2015

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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The Power of God

Mother's Day, graduations, end of school, Memorial Day, Father's Day, the beginning of summer, endless work on the farm - it is a busy time! And right smack in the middle of it all is the Day of Pentecost (May 24), the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. And what a gift this is! The Holy Spirit is the power, the energy, the fire of God! And that is exactly what we need - especially for busy days.

The Holy Spirit is the motor of the church. The Holy Spirit powers the people of God to do what Jesus wants. To be sure, the churches of Olsburg and Walsburg have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. And you have received the gift of the Holy Spirit!

You think you can't do what Jesus wants you to do? You think you can't tell others about Christ or feed the hungry or clothe the naked? You think you can't love your neighbors or help those in distress? Well, think again. You can! You may not be able to do everything, but you can do something and you can do it well. You can do it because Jesus has given you the

Holy Spirit! With the help of the Holy Spirit you can do what Jesus wants you to do!

I ask you to do two things. First, trust the promise. Believe that you have indeed received the gift of the Holy Spirit. And second, do what Jesus wants you to do. Whenever you do what Jesus wants you to do, the Holy Spirit helps you get the job done!

A Personal Word

What a joy it is to serve you! The churches of Olsburg and Walsburg are amazing congregations where the Spirit of God is at work! Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of help to you or your family. Let me know if you are going into the hospital, desire communion at home, seek baptism for yourself or someone you know, have concerns, or simply want to talk. Phone numbers to reach me are 785-776-5348 (home) and 785-341-1600 (cell). My email address is keithw4870@gmail.com.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Keith Wiens

The Festival of Pentecost

The church has three major festivals - Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Each festival celebrates a powerful act of God. Christmas celebrates the love of *God the Father* in sending a Savior. Easter celebrates the saving work of *God the Son* in rising from the dead. Pentecost celebrates the power of *God the Holy Spirit* working in and through the church.

The third major festival, The Festival of Pentecost, will be celebrated on Sunday, May 24. Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church. On this day the living, ascended Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his followers. The color of the day is red, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit. Please wear the color red to church on May 24.

Come to the Festival! Come and be stirred by the marvelous working of the Holy Spirit!

Senior Recognition at Olsburg

Olsburg Lutheran Church will have a Senior Recognition Reception Sunday, May 3 immediately following worship. All are invited to Fellowship Hall, May 3rd, to celebrate graduating seniors! We look forward to seeing you!

Memorial Day Remembrance at Olsburg

There will be a Remembrance Service on Monday, May 25 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.

Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

Mark June 13th on your calendar now! Olsburg Lutheran Church is planning a fundraiser to help Brian, Laura and Kyle Clifton. The Cliftons are members at Olsburg Lutheran Church. MARCH 14, 2015 At approximate 4:00 on pi day (March

14) Brian was burning the ditch by the house, the fire shifted, Brian stumbled and had to crawl out of the ditch. He is badly burned. Approximately 58% of his body has 3rd degree burns. He is currently at the St. Francis Burn Unit in Wichita. He will be moved to Rehab at some point. Be watching the bulletin for more information. All are invited! Friends, family, community members! Bob Avery will be barbecuing our chicken.

The LCW is organizing a care package for the Clifton's. Everyone is invited to bring a small item and leave in the bag in the narthex over the next 2 weeks. We will give the bag to Laura when she is in town.

On-Going Cemetery Fund-raiser at Olsburg Lutheran Church

Cemetery Fundraiser Update. We received a check for \$286.80, with 18 households participating this first quarter of the year. Dillons has committed to \$500,000 each quarter to community rewards organizations. There are over 500 organizations in Kansas that participate and the organization reward is based on the total that each organization purchases. Kindly continue to use your plus cards when shopping at Dillons. New participants are certainly welcome to join.

Mowing Schedule

Your chance to volunteer to mow the Olsburg Lutheran Church lawn this summer is as easy as signing your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex at Olsburg. There are still several opportunities to volunteer! Thank you in advance!

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 Cindy Olson (W)
- 3 Zachary Holt (O)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)
Crystal Strauss (W)
- 10 Dan Holt (O)
Rich Vargo (O)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
- 20 Kermit Sundgren (W)
Dusty Holt (O)
- 21 Alice Marie Gibson (O)
Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 26 Raymond Anderson (O)
Shari Holt (O)
Kathy Monser (O)
- 27 Lynn Burklund (O)
- 28 Wes Holt (O)
- 28 Woody Kasselmann (O)
- 29 Donald Holt (O)
- 30 James Nelson (W)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)

June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)
- 2 Barbara Burklund (O)
Jordan Hagenmaier (W)
- 4 Nicki Beadle (O)
- 6 Marvin Johnson (O)
Harold Storer (W)
- 7 Gary Hargrave (W)
- 8 Kiffnie Holt (O)
- 9 David Gibson (O)
- 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)
Adam Larson (W)
- 23 Josie Willimon (W)
- 24 Tyson Strauss (W)
- 28 Linda Toomire (W)
Jacob Hagenmaier (W)

May Anniversaries:

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (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 Jason and Jamie Hageman (W)
- 29 Shane and Loree Allen (W)
- 31 Rich and Jan Cooper (O)

June Anniversaries:

- 1 Woody and Luellen Kasselmann (O)
Tom and Donica Nelson (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)
- 17 LeRoy & Claryce Bohnenblust (W)

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: Norman Johnson; Alicia Scofield

June Communion Ushers: Rita Nelson; Kathy Sundgren

***May Lay Readers:** 5/3 Janet Neilson; 5/10 Dennis Peterson; 5/17 Jane Larson; 5/24 Rita Nelson; 5/31 Harold Storer

***June Lay Readers:** 6/7 Diana Hargrave; 6/14 Sandy McCool; 6/21 Jerry Baer; 6/28 Mary Kay Henry

Olsburg

May Ushers: Bill Monser, Kirby Burklund, Kraig Kasselmann, Woody Kasselmann

May Communion Assistants: 5/3 Kirby Burklund; 5/17 Diane Nelson; 5/24 Mary Nelson; 5/31 Becky Avery

June Communion Assistants: 6/7 Ashley Rice; 6/21 Coleen Esping

***May Lay Readers:** 5/3 Joyce Cantrell; 5/10 Kathy Monser; 5/17 Kraig Kasselmann; 5/24 Kristi Fronce; 5/31 Laura Clifton

June Lay Readers: 6/7 Patty Nelson; 6/14 Tom Nelson; 6/21 Becky Avery ; 6/28 Bill Monser

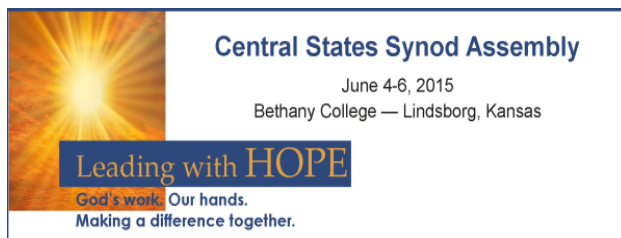
May Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

June Altar Committee: April Brenner, Shelly Burklund

***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 Looking for Confirmation Pictures

Have you been confirmed at the Olsburg Lutheran Church and is there a picture of your Confirmation group? The Confirmation pictures are not current and are missing from 2002 to present. Kylea Ricketts and Brooklyn Zoeller are working on updating the Confirmation pictures. If you could e-mail Kathy at ricketts@twinvalley.net or Sandy at zoeller@twinvalley.net a confirmation picture we will get the pictures printed. If you want to print your Confirmation picture, please make them 8 1/2 x 11". You can bring the printed pictures to church and place them in the Sunday School mail box. Please include the names of the Confirmands and the year they were Confirmed.



The Central States Synod Assembly will be held **June 4-6, 2015** at Bethany College, 335 E. Swensson, Lindsborg, Kansas 67456. Phone: 785-227-3380. We will begin on Thursday evening at 5:30 with dinner and conclude no later than noon on Saturday.

REGISTRATION MATERIALS --
Available NOW!

Your Future Pastors

It has been my privilege to represent you (and all the other people in the Central States Synod) on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC), which is one of the eight seminaries of our church. I will be

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attending a meeting of the Board on May 16-19 in Chicago and therefore will miss worship with you on Sunday, May 17. I am very grateful for the folks in each congregation who have agreed to lead worship that day.

Seminaries are vital to our church - they prepare our future pastors! I am concerned about seminaries, though, for three reasons.

First, we are facing a growing shortage of pastors in our church. Nearly 30% of the congregations in our synod are looking for a pastor. Even though enrollment at seminaries is increasing, it is not increasing fast enough to meet the demand.

Second, our seminaries are struggling to keep their doors open. Sixty years ago nearly 100% of the costs of seminary education were covered by the church. Today, about 20% of the costs comes from the wider church - the ELCA and the synods. The remaining 80% comes directly from students, alumni/ae, friends, congregations and other sources (like us!).

Third, the cost of a seminary education is making it harder for students to attend. When I graduated from the seminary in 1974, I was debt free. Today, many of the seminary graduates enter the ministry with significant debt. Will they be able to accept calls at churches which cannot afford to pay as much?

The seminaries are working hard to address these concerns. In the past few years I have seen great progress at LSTC! I am quite hopeful and confident that we will have good pastors in the years to come. We all need to work together,

though, to provide the support that is needed.

Letter from Bishop Roger Gustafson

We received a letter from Bishop Roger Gustafson of our Central States Synod. He writes:

“This letter brings with it a very simple message: thank you for your leadership in the central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Yes, as your congregation steps up and into the various challenges and opportunities that God places before us to do ministry in this synod and throughout the world, you are indeed leaders in ministry. . . Thank you so much for your faithfulness in supporting the mission and ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Central States Synod. It is a privilege to be in partnership with you.”

Swedish Genealogists Plan Visit

Olsburg Lutheran received a letter from the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg regarding preservation of old church records. Over the past few years they have been working on a project to help preserve the history and records of Swedish-founded churches across Kansas. This project helps preserve our Swedish-American heritage for future generations and makes sure that there are back-up copies should anything happen to original items.

There is now new interest from genealogists in Sweden about the history and records of Swedish-founded churches in Kansas. A group based in Lyrestad, Sweden plan to visit Kansas this summer. They plan to visit our church and would like to meet some of our members and see some of the older records/documents and photographs. The Director of the Old Mill

Museum will let us know a schedule and possibly when they will be at our church. Please pass this information on to any that may have an interest in this project or have photos/information to share with the Swedish group.

Announcements will be made in the bulletin as more information becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Gregg or Alice Gibson, 468-3523.

Next newsletter items and articles will be due June 25.

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

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Walsburg Invites Children to Everest VBS: Conquering Challenges With God's Mighty Power!



A summer kids' event called Everest VBS will be hosted at Walsburg Lutheran Church from June 22 to June 26. At Everest, kids discover what it means to hold on to God's mighty power in everyday life. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day begins with an opening Base Camp Sing & Play. Each day concludes with a Summit Celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 12:40 p.m.

Kids at Everest VBS will join in support of God's Global Barnyard, ELCA's World Hunger Project. Daily offerings will help families in need. Learn more about God's Global Barnyard at www.elca.org/goodgifts.

On Friday, June 26, at 1:00 p.m., the children will present a EVEREST program which highlights their week at VBS. Everyone is invited! Refreshments will be served following the program.

Everest is for kids from 3 years through 5th grade and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day. Lunch will be provided each day. For more information, call Sheri Storer at 785.770.6506.

A registration form has been included in this newsletter so that you can invite children of family, friends, and neighbors. Please share the Goods News of Walsburg's VBS with those you know.

To register, you may do any of the following: (1) Complete the registration form included in this newsletter and return to Walsburg Lutheran Church, Attention VBS, 12351 Union Road, Leonardville, KS 66449. (2) Place completed registration form in the VBS dropbox in the Narthex. (3) Register online at <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/WalsburgEverest>. Note: a registration form must be completed for each child attending.

EVEREST

Conquering Challenges with
God's Mighty Power

Registration Form

(One Per Child)



Child's name: _____ Child's gender: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

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Plant Sale

May 2

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

at Olsburg Lutheran Church

Nice selection of flowers, vegetables, and hanging baskets

Just in time for Mother's
Day and Memorial Day!

Proceeds benefit
charitable projects

