

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Synod Assembly

I often tell people what a joy it is to be part of the Olsburg / Walsburg Lutheran Parish and to serve as their interim pastor. It is true! It is a joy and a privilege to serve these two great congregations. I see in you remarkable qualities - the deep care that you have for one another, your strong faith, your faithfulness in worship, your rich history and traditions, your love and concern for children and youth, your joyfulness, your desire to help people in the community and beyond, and much more.

Of course, you have concerns about the future, disappointment that there aren't as many people in worship as there once was, worry over shortage of money. But don't let your concerns keep you from seeing all the great work God is doing among you. You can and you should feel very good about your church!

I see a bright future for each congregation. God has blessed you with the rich gift of the Gospel. There are lots of opportunities for growth, especially with the number of unchurched or previously churched people living in the area. There are a growing number of children in each congregation's educational ministry. Know that God has good things in mind for you!

May 15 will be an important day for us as we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost. On this day we remember how Jesus empowered his followers with the gift of the

Holy Spirit. Jesus continues to give this gift to his church today. Jesus makes sure we have what we need to be the church in our time and place. How can we not have a great future with such a gift?

Let's use the gift! In a few short weeks, each congregation will have Vacation Bible School. What an excellent time this will be to invite neighbors and friends and family to send their children to VBS where they will learn about God's love for them and have a great time with other children.

Just as the spring rains prepare the ground and vegetation for summer's growth, so God is at work showing his blessings upon us so that we may grow in grace and be filled with the Holy Spirit and reach out to others with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

So then, "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

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 15. 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.

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

Grace and the Church

At the time of the early church, shortly after the resurrection of Christ, the church consisted mainly of the poor, those who were healed, helped, visited, fed. Those poor people took it upon themselves to feed the poor, visit the sick and the imprisoned, respect the aged, comfort the bereaved, etc.

Today most church members are responsible, well-to-do, able to help people, etc. (At least this is true in the United States!) But most of the church's focus is not on doing the will of the Lord, but on growing bigger, building buildings, being respectable.

Perhaps the church today needs to get an awareness of being helped. That we are what we are by the grace of God. And since it is grace that has been given to us, we seek to share that grace.

Where the church recognizes the grace of God, the church grows. Where it is forgotten, the church dies. Significantly the church in Africa is growing rapidly. In the United States the church is dying.

(From the newsletter of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas)

Joys and Sorrows

- † We grieve with the family of Ruby Andersen who died on March 24, 2016.
- † We rejoice with Callie Webster who will graduate from Blue Valley High School.
- † We rejoice with Chris and Megan Hedden. Chris and their daughter, Madison Avery were baptized March 27th at Walsburg.

Next newsletter items and articles will be due June 24.

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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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)
- 25 Mason Scofield (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)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)

June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)
- 2 Barbara Burkland (O)
Jordan Hagenmaier (W)
- 4 Nicki Beadle (O)
- 6 Marvin Johnson (O)
- 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)
Macy Berry (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 Burkland (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: Mary Kay Henry; Bill, Janet and Cindy Neilson

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

May Communion Ushers: Bill Johnson; Aneta Hagenmaier

June Communion Ushers: Bill Neilson; Kathy Sundgren

***May Lay Readers:** 5/1 Dennis Peterson; 5/8 Jane Larson; 5/15 Rita Nelson; 5/22 Sheri Storer; 5/29 Diana Hargrave

***June Lay Readers:** 6/5 Sandy McCool; 6/12 Mary Kay Henry; 6/19 Jerry Baer; 6/26 Lynne Berry

Olsburg

May Ushers: Bill Monser, Kirby Burkland, Blake Vargo, Woody Kasselmann

May Communion Assistants: 5/1 Kirby Burkland; 5/15 Mary Nelson; 5/22 Becky Avery; 5/29 Gregg Gibson

June Communion Assistants: 6/5 Ashley Rice; 6/19 Diane Nelson

***May Lay Readers:** 5/1 Bill Monser; 5/8 Coleen Esping; 5/15 Jan Cooper; 5/22 Joyce Cantrell; 5/29 Kathy Monser

June Lay Readers: 6/5 Kraig Kasselmann; 6/12 Kristi Fronce; 6/19 Laura Clifton; 6/26 Luellen Kasselmann

May Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

June Altar Committee: Mary Nelson, Donica Nelson

***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.**

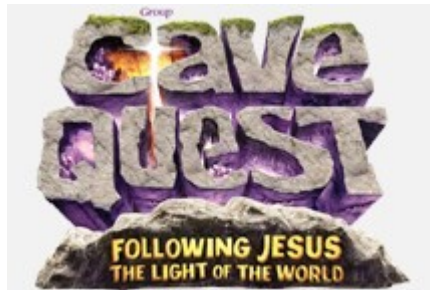
WALSBURG SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

The photo below shows Walsburg Sunday School children having fun making bird feeders with pine cones, bird seed, and peanut butter. The children's upcoming Bible Stories include The Ascension, The Holy Spirit, and Paul's Letters. Sunday, May 22, will be the last day of children's Sunday School which will resume again in the Fall when the 2016-2017 school year begins.



Thanks to everyone for a successful children's Sunday School year!

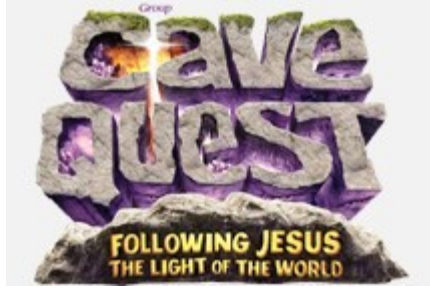
INVITE CHILDREN OF YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS TO WALSBURG'S VBS!



At Cave Quest VBS, kids explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love. Cave Quest VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes). Plus, we will help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Children will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through ELCA Good Gifts program, that will let the children in our community show God's mighty love to needy kids in the United States. Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to join us at Cave Guest closing each day at 12:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary, a daily exploration of Jesus—the light of the world!

So mark these dates on your calendar: June 20 – 24. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 1:00 p.m. Call this number (785.320.2540) to register your children for this life-changing adventure! Or register online at <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/walsburg>.



The Brightest Week of the Summer!

At Cave Quest VBS, kids will explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love. Cave Quest VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids sing, see, hear, touch and even taste!

Mark these dates on your calendar **May 31st –June 3rd**

The fun starts at 9 am and will
end at 11am at the Olsburg

Lutheran Church

for any child 3 years old and potty trained to 5th grade

Register by May 13th to receive a FREE Cave Quest t-shirt

Register on-line at:

<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/olsburglutheran>

e-mail the registration information to woodyk@twinvalley.net

call Luellen Kasselmann at 468-3682

Cave Quest Olsburg Lutheran VBS Registration Form

Participant's first and last name _____

Age _____ or Grade entering fall 2016 _____ Participants shirt size _____

Parents/Guardians first & last name _____

e-mail _____ phone # _____

Volunteer? Yes _____ No _____ Any particular volunteer area _____

Other Happenings

High School Graduations

Blue Valley High School will hold Baccalaureate on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Blue Valley High School Graduation will be held Saturday, May 21 at 1 p.m. at the High School.

Riley County High School will hold Baccalaureate on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Riley County High School Graduation will be held Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the High School.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Again this year Olsburg Lutheran Church is asking for volunteers to mow the church lawn and the lot to the east. A sign up sheet is posted in the narthex. We hope you take this opportunity to sign up. Thank You!

Olsburg LCW News

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

April 30th - The LCW is having a plant sale on the church lawn from 8:00 am - noon. The plants are from 5-H Greenhouse in Wamego. This is a great opportunity to get your Mother's Day flowers! If you can help that day, please sign up for the time you would like on the sheet in the narthex.

The Central States Synodical Women's Convention is July 29-31 in Springfield, MO. If there is a woman who would like to go and represent our church, see Kathy for registration information. The LCW will pay the expenses.

Memorial Day Service

The Olsburg Community will gather on Monday, May 30, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Mariadah Cemetery. Following the short service at the cemetery, all are invited to a potluck lunch at the Olsburg American Legion.

Walsburg WELCA News

The annual Convention of the Central States Synodical Women of the ELCA will be held July 29-31, 2016, in Springfield, Missouri. The theme is Faith Moves Mountains. We would like to send a delegate and participants to the convention. If you are interested, please contact Aneta for information.

The Walsburg Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA have been accepted by the Dillon's Community Rewards Program. Our NPO number is 57505. Our group members and supporters can now enroll their Plus Shopper's Card into the program at their secure website. Once the necessary steps have been completed, each time an enrolled member or supporter shops using their Plus Shopper's card, our organization earns rewards. Please contact Aneta if you would like enrolling directions.

2016 Synod Assembly



**June 2nd through June 4th
Hyatt Regency, Wichita, KS**

Giving in Hope is the theme of the 2016 Central States Synod Assembly. **Grace Duddy Pomroy** and the **Rev. Len Dale** will be our keynote speakers. Assembly will begin on Thursday evening with dinner and worship. Friday's agenda includes presentations and workshops on giving and stewardship, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the River Festival activities on Friday night. We will conclude on Saturday with business and worship.



Grace Duddy Pomroy is a lay, stewardship ministry leader. She graduated from Luther Seminary in 2012 with a Master of Arts degree in Congregational Mission and Leadership. She served as the Assistant Director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders at Luther Seminary and the Executive Director of Operations for Kairos and Associates and the Joshua Group. She is the co-author of the recently published stewardship book, *Embracing Stewardship: How to Put Stewardship at the Heart of Your Congregation's Life*, as well as author of the 2013 ELCA stewardship resource, *Stewards of God's Love*. She is currently the Financial Education Specialist at Portico Benefit Services.



Pastor Dale has served in a wide variety of contexts and types of ministry. He has served as a pastoral assistant in youth and campus ministry, mission developer of a new congregation, Chaplain in a state C.D/M.I treatment center, Interim Director of the Lutheran Center in Olongo Po City Philippines, pastor in large and small churches, Mission Director – ELCA, Bishop's Associate and Director of Evangelical Missions. As Director of Evangelical Missions and Bishop Gustafson's associate, Len works with new congregational development, transformational ministry, and stewardship. He is staff liaison to the Church and Society Team and oversees the work of the stewardship and mission tables as well as the grant process for new and renewing congregations through the ELCA.

Workshops focusing on stewardship are being offered as part of the plenary sessions on Friday, June 3rd. Because space is limited for each workshop, Assembly attendees will select three workshops they would like to attend. Workshop schedules will be distributed at Synod Assembly Registration on Thursday, June 2nd. Here are the 11 Please visit <http://css-elca.org/synod-assembly> to view the workshop descriptions.