

# Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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*Next newsletter items and articles  
will be due May 27*

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Easter leaves no doubt - every person is important and every person is needed!

When the women went to the tomb on that first Easter morning and discovered that Jesus had risen, they immediately went and told all the other followers of Jesus what had happened. Good news like that just had to be shared!

In the weeks to come, the followers of Jesus learned how much they needed each other. They learned the importance of being together. The New Testament book of Acts tells the story of these first Christians. We are told, "All who believed were together..." and "they spent much time together." (Read about this in Acts 1 & 2) Why? Because they learned they were the Body of Christ! And a body can't function well unless all the parts are working together.

We are the Body of Christ today! More specifically, we are the Body of Christ in the Olsburg and Walsburg communities! And just like the early Christians discovered, every person is important and every person is needed!

We need every single person in order to thrive as congregations.

We need our young families and we need our older families. We need our single adults and we need our married adults. We need folks who are new to the congregations and we need folks who have been around awhile. God has given each one of you gifts that are needed by the Body of Christ so that together we can be Christ in the world.

Easter teaches us that being part of the Body of Christ is about "we" not "me." Now I realize this is counter cultural. Our culture emphasizes the individual. Our culture teaches us to think about what "I" want and need. Our culture says that what is most important is "my interests, my time, my schedule, my money." But Easter gives us a different vision. Easter shows us the power of "together." Easter teaches us that Christ raises us to a new life - a life with God, a life as part of the Body of Christ, a life lived in community.

There is something more about Easter. Easter is about the future. And I am not just talking about heaven. I am talking about what we do between now and when we get to heaven. Look around, nature tells us that now is the time to plant seeds.

So also, Easter teaches us that now is the time to plant seeds of faith.

Now is the time to plant seeds that will grow and benefit generations to come. Do we want to be just two more rural congregations that slowly die, or do we want to be living, vibrant witnesses to the risen Christ in this part of the world for a long time to come? Now is the time to plant the seeds, to be in worship every week and show our young people how important this is, to tell the story of Christ to our friends and neighbors, to give strong financial support of our church, to serve those in need.

God has already given us what we need to be vibrant congregations, vibrant expressions of the Body of Christ, vibrant ways Christ is at work in the world - and not just at the present time, but for a long time to come. God has given us YOU! Which is to say, YOU are important and YOU are needed!

Thank God for Easter! Thank God for raising us to new life! And thank God for you! Yes, I am very grateful for you and what God will be doing through you in the days and weeks to come.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Keith

### **When Empty Means Full**

The true story is told of Stephen, an 8-year-old child who was mentally challenged. His Sunday School classmates were noticing it more and more. In April, the teacher asked all eight children to hide within an empty Leggs pantyhose container one small object that represented new life in spring.

Fearing that Stephen might not have caught on, and not wanting to embarrass him, the teacher had the children place all unlabeled containers on her desk so she could open them. The first had a tiny

flower. "What a lovely sign of new life!" said the teacher. The donor could not help but erupt, "I brought that one!"

Next came a rock. That must be Stephen's, since rocks don't symbolize new life. But Billy shouted that his rock had moss on it and moss represented new life. The teacher agreed. A butterfly flew from the third container, and another child bragged that her choice was the best sign of all. The fourth Leggs container was empty. "It has to be Stephen's," thought the teacher, reaching quickly for a fifth. "Please don't skip mine," Stephen interjected. "But it's empty." "That's right," said Stephen, "The tomb was empty, and that's new life for everyone."

Later that summer Stephen's condition worsened and he died. At his funeral on his casket mourners found eight Leggs pantyhose containers, now all empty. "In truth, in very truth," said Jesus, "a grain of wheat remains a solitary grain unless it falls into the ground and dies; but if it dies, it bears a rich harvest." - from Martin Marty in Context

### **Words of Wisdom**

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." Martin Luther

# May 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)  
Nathan Wiens (W)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)  
Crystal Strauss (W)
- 10 Dan Holt (O)  
Rich Vargo (O)
- 11 Tyler Lane Hargrave (W)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 14 Jackson Hoehner (W)
- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
- 17 John Lowry (O)
- 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 Burklund (O)
- 28 Wes Holt (O)
- 28 Woody Kasselmann (O)
- 30 James Nelson (W)

- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)  
Calley Berry (W)

## May Anniversaries:

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (W)
- 7 Bill and Kathy Monser (O)
- 10 Jim and Diana Nelson (O)
- 14 Russell and Lynne Berry (W)  
AJ and Calley 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)

## Members in service

**T**hank you to these members for their service to the parish during May.

### Walsburg

**May Ushers and Greeters:** Mary Kay Henry, Jared Henry; Bill & Roseanne Johnson; Andy & Valerie Hoehner

**May Communion Ushers:** Lee Hartford; Marlene Jenkins

**\*May Lay Readers:** 5/5 Lori Rogge; 5/12 Gracie Scofield; 5/19 Sheri Storer; 5/26 Sandy McCool

### Olsburg

**May Ushers:** Bill Monser, Kirby Burklund, Byron Nelson, Woody Kasselmann

**May Communion Assistants:** 5/5 David Gibson; 5/19 Kristi Fronce

**\*May Lay Readers:** 5/5 Karl Kasselmann; 5/12 Kathy Monser; 5/19 Kraig Kasselmann; 5/26 Kristi Fronce

**\*Acolytes:** 5/5 Kylea Ricketts; 5/12 Jarin Brenner; 5/19 Jordyn Gutsch; 5/26 Kaden Gutsch

**May Altar Committee:** Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

**\*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.**



# **ROAR**

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**May 28<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Olsburg Lutheran Church**

**WE WELCOME ALL CHILDREN 3 years old (and potty trained) to those who are completing the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Register your child by May 1<sup>st</sup> either on line 1<sup>st</sup> to receive a FREE ROAR t-shirt.**

**EASY to REGISTER on-line at:**

**<https://www.myvbs.org/olsburglutheran>**

**Questions - call Luellen Kasselmann at 565-1240**

**WALSBURG VBS – June 24-28, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Ages: 3 years (potty trained) - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Registration begins: May 1, 2019

Take an epic adventure to engage the whole herd. At Roar VBS, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. The 5-day VBS experience where kids learn *Life is Wild and God is Good promises to be a great experience for kids and adult helpers.*

Kids learn God is good ...

Day 1: When life is unfair

Day 2: When life is scary

Day 3: When life changes

Day 4: When life is sad

Day 5: When life is good

Volunteers are needed to help throughout the week. If you can help in any way, please contact Sarah Diamond, Alicia Scofield, or Sheri Storer. A list of needed supplies will be posted in the Narthex in early June.

## Other Happenings

### High School Graduations

Blue Valley High School will hold Baccalaureate on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Blue Valley High School Graduation will be held Saturday, May 11 at 1 p.m. at the High School.

Riley County High School will hold Baccalaureate on Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Riley County High School Graduation will be held Saturday, May 18 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!

### Memorial Day Service

The Olsburg Community will gather on Monday, May 27, 2019 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 Church Clean-Up Day

Walsburg will hold a church clean up day Saturday, May 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Rain date is May 18.

### 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](mailto:sburklun@ksu.edu). If we already have your email address, but you want to receive the email by postal mail, please inform Shelly.

*Life together*



# Plant Sale

**May 4**

**8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**at Olsburg Lutheran Church**

Nice selection of bedding plants and hanging baskets

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

**Proceeds benefit  
charitable projects**



Thanks to Thrivent for supporting this project