

Lifetogether

July/August 2016

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Reformation 500 news

From the Desk of Pastor Keith

“All are guests in the Lord’s House!” Isn’t it absolutely wonderful that the Lord Jesus has invited you and me to come to a party in his house? It is true! Each week we get to be honored guests in his house!

For me, this is a wonderful and profound description of our worship each Sunday morning. There are three great truths here. We gather in the Lord’s house. We gather at the invitation of Jesus, our Lord. We gather as guests.

Let’s start with the “Lord’s house.” Sure, we call the place Olsburg Lutheran Church or Walsburg Lutheran Church. But it’s not our place. It’s the Lord’s house. We are just caretakers of his house.

Now the next truth. We gather at the invitation of Jesus, our Lord. It is Jesus who asks us to come. It is Jesus who wants us to be present. The invitation comes from the One who gave his life for us! But it is not just you and me who are invited to come. Jesus invites ALL to come! Everyone who shows up on Sunday morning has been invited by the Lord.

And that takes us to the foremost truth - we gather as guests. We are all guests of the Lord. This

makes us equal. The one who has been a lifetime member of the congregation is a guest as well as the one who comes for the very first time. The one who gives thousands of dollars a year to the congregation is a guest as well as the one who gives a few pennies. The one who is present every week is a guest as well as the one who comes now and then. I am a guest. You are a guest. We are ALL guests in the Lord’s house!

Now, what do you think would happen if we really believed we are ALL guests in the Lord’s house? What difference would it make? Would it change how we interact with each other? Would it change who we choose to speak to on Sunday morning? Would it change what we say? Would it change what we do before the worship begins? Would it change what we do after the worship is over? Would it change what we do and say the rest of the day and the rest of the week?

The March 2016 issue of The Lutheran magazine told about Sarah of Holy Cross Lutheran in Libertyville, Illinois. She said one of the reasons she joined the church was Art Schmieding, age 90, who always greeted her. “He was an incredibly warm person,

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and his intention was to make sure everyone felt welcomed and included,” she said. “He would engage in conversation about your life, what you had done this week, how you heard of us and how old your kids were.”

Each one of us can be like Art. We don’t have to be an “official greeter” to engage people in conversation and show a genuine interest in every person who comes to worship. This is something each one of us can do. After all, we are ALL guests in the Lord’s house!

Pastor Keith

Next newsletter items and articles will be due Aug 21.

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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Congratulations

- ✚ We rejoice with Donise and Dennis Peterson on the birth of their grandson, Jackson Lake Hoehner. Parents are Valerie and Andy Hoehner.
- ✚ We rejoice with Bill and Jan Neilson on the birth of their grandson, William Neilson. Parents are Eric and Anna Neilson.
- ✚ We rejoice with Blake Fronce and Tara Pfaff who were married on June 4.
- ✚ We rejoice with Shelby Adams and Brandon Callaway who were married on June 4.
- ✚ We rejoice with our graduates: Callie Webster (Blue Valley High School), Codie Webster (Kansas State University), Cajsa Larson (Kansas State University), and Jacob Hagenmaier (Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine).
- ✚ We miss Sarah Diamond and Jeremy Dick and their son, Dawson, who moved to Colorado.

Six Things To Say To A Guest In Worship

from a blog by Thom S. Rainer

1. “Thank you for being here.”
2. “Let me help you with that.”
3. “Please take my seat.”
4. “Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way.”
5. “Can I show you where you need to go?”
6. “Let me introduce you to _____.”

July and August birthdays and anniversaries

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

July Birthdays

- 1 Joan Schweer (O)
- 3 Carl Larson (W)
- 4 Evelyn Larson (W)
- 6 Gregg Gibson (O)
- 7 Blake Vargo (O)
- 8 Sharon Hubbard (O)
- 9 Joshua Cantrell (O)
Amy Hageman (W)
- 11 Julie Munson (O)
Richard Gibbs (O)
- 12 Jim Nelson (O)
Claryce Bohnenblust (W)
Brett Dawes (W)
- 13 Jana Arellano (W)
- 17 Nicole Holt (O)
A.J. Berry (W)
Kristi Hageman (W)
- 19 Monica Kasselmann (O)
April Brenner (O)
- 21 June Campbell (W)
- 22 Kristi Fronce (O)
- 23 Steve Strauss (W)
- 24 Nancy Whitesell (O)
- 27 Pastor Keith Wiens
- 29 Kathleen Sundgren (W)

- 31 Amy Burklund (O)
Jennifer Miller (W)

August Birthdays

- 1 Lori Rogge (W)
Trea Jameson Schultz (W)
- 2 Caleb Cantrell (O)
- 4 Harper Befort (O)
- 6 Kim Gibbs (O)
- 7 Mickey Burklund (O)
- 11 Kathy Ricketts (O)
Don Nelson (W)
- 12 Erin Stanfield (W)
- 13 Jeremy Dick (W)
- 14 Lee Cantrell (O)
Diana Nelson (O)
Janice Johnson (W)
- 15 Justin Befort (O)
- 18 Justin Campbell (W)
- 25 Mike Nelson (W)
- 26 Pat Erickson (W)
Ryan Gibbs (O)
Jeana Gibbs (O)
- 28 Arlo Peterson (W)
Devon Sundgren (W)
- 30 Willard Johnson (W)
Scott Kulp (W)
Brett Kulp (W)
- 31 Bill Monser (O)

July Anniversaries:

- 6 Roger and Kathleen Sundgren (W)
- 7 Keith and Carol Wiens
- 10 Justin and Amber Befort (O)
- 12 Pastor Keith and Carol Wiens
- 15 Victor and Cindy Olson (W)
- 17 Kraig and Monica Kasselmann (O)
- 21 Brett and Stacy Dawes (W)
- 22 Jessie and Kermit Sundgren (W)
- 30 Karl and Linda Kasselmann (O)

August Anniversaries

- 1 Tim and Sandy Zoeller (O)
Jeremy Dick and Sarah Diamond
- 5 Scott and Jennifer Kulp (W)
Lynn and Marla Webster (O)
- 9 Richard and Shirley Strauss (W)
- 12 Josh and Tricia Cantrell (O)
- 13 Trenton and Lynn Hargrave (W)
- 14 Jerry and Pat Erickson (W)

Members in service for July and August

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during July and August.

Walsburg

Ushers and Greeters: *July:* Raymond & Milly Nelson; Roger & Kathy Sundgren; Carol and Nathan Wiens. *August:* Brad and Dena Haller; Ralph & Mary Larson; David Ahlerich.

Communion Ushers: *July:* Sandy McCool and Trenton Hargrave. *August:* Alicia Scofield and Norman Johnson.

***Lay Assistants:** 7/3 Mary Larson; 7/10 Linda Toomire; 7/17 Don Nelson; 7/24 Alicia Scofield; 7/31 Janet Neilson; 8/7 Dennis Peterson; 8/14 Jane Larson; 8/21 Rita Nelson; 8/28 Sheri Storer

Altar Committee: July: Roseanne Johnson; August: Kim Bulk

***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

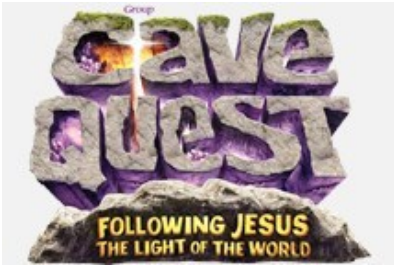
Ushers: *July:* Jim Nelson, Gregg Gibson, Jon Nelson, Tom Nelson; *August:* Marvin Johnson; Nick Cooper; Kraig Kasselmann; Brian Clifton

Communion Assistants: 7/3 Gregg Gibson; 7/17 Kraig Kasselmann; 7/31 Laura Clifton; 8/7 Kirby Burklund; 8/21 Becky Avery

***Acolytes:** 7/3 Kaden Gutsch; 7/10 Landry Zoeller; 7/17 Kylea Ricketts; 7/24 Brooklynn Zoeller; 7/31 Emma Kasselmann; 8/7 Sykler Zoeller; 8/14 Grady Kasselmann; 8/21 Jace Ricketts; 8/28 Kaden Gutsch

***Lay Assistants:** 7/3 Patty Nelson; 7/10 Tom Nelson; 7/17 Becky Avery; 7/24 Bill Monser; 7/31 Coleen Esping; 8/7 Jan Cooper; 8/14 Joyce Cantrell; 8/21 Kathy Monser; 8/28 Kraig Kasselmann

Altar Committee: July: Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping; August: Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser



2016 WALSBURG VBS: CAVE QUEST

The Walsburg VBS Planning Team, consisting of Alicia Scofield, Kathy Sundgren, Mary Kay Henry, and Sheri Storer, wishes to thank the following people for their wefforts in



making this year's Vacation Bible School program a great success. The leaders, teachers and helpers were Pastor Keith, Alicia Scofield, Mary Kay Henry, Kathy Sundgren, Ruthie Stone, Heather Stevens, Roger Sundgren, Lynne Berry, Jan Nielsen, Rosie Johnson, Don Nelson, Rita Nelson, Jane Larson, Diana Hargrave, Rob Scofield, Breezy Olson, Sheri Storer, and all those members who donated supplies, food, and/or cash. A special "thank you" for the support of the Church Council. A \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant was used to purchase children's t-shirts and supplies.

Fifteen children attended VBS. The attendees were: Alexzandra A., Mason B., Harper B., Ryker B., Macy B., Cole S., Trea S., Avery K., Trinity M., Royal N., Gracie S., Mason S., Logan W., Ragan W., Brody W.



An offering was taken each day during the opening worship service. The monies will be given to ELCA's Good Gifts program for the purchase of small animals to be given to those less fortunate. The congregation was asked to participate in this offering with the barn boxes to be collected on Sunday, June 26.

The VBS closing program was on Friday, June 24, at 1:00 p.m. with over 60 people (children and adults) in attendance. Children sang VBS songs, read Bible points, and a special Spotlight VBS, created by Alicia Scofield and Heather Stevens, was shown as part of the program. An ice cream sundae party followed the program.

One of the many highlights of the week was a visit by the Milford Nature Center with the guest speakers sharing information about God's creation of bats and other creatures that live in caves. An inflatable cave was available for the children to crawl into and explore creatures that live in caves.

A special VBS handmade banner, designed by Mary Kay Henry with the help of Heather Stevens, is on display in the Narthex. Placemats designed by Lynne Berry and created by the VBS

children will be used on the tables in Memorial Hall.

Thanks to all for a successful 2016 VBS program!



Walsburg Children's Sunday School will begin on Sunday, August 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

*Terri Storer, June 11, 2016 Reflection
Walsburg Lutheran Church, Walsburg, Kansas*

Harold Storer Memorial Project Dedication

The "Gathering Space" area outside the main entrance doors to Walsburg Lutheran Church was dedicated to the "Glory of God" on Sunday, June 26, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service in memory of Harold Storer. The poem below was written by Harold's nephew's wife following a visit the Storer family made to view the "Gathering Space" and Walsburg Cemetery.

The Gathering Space

The worn paths of generations
Too rich for words
Rooted in simplicity
Reflected in the silence

Calling us forth to
A Sacred space for sharing
Sensing the greetings, the hugs,
The embrace, the acceptance
The compassion
Shared Roots in God.
Bonding with nature
In the shade of trees and life,
Surrounded by the fertile soil of sustenance.

The peaceful presence of the cemetery
The gentle sway of plum bushes
Quail speaking their truth
The bobwhite beckoning,
Inviting us to rest and listen to the echoes.
No other sound except the grass growing
The gentle sounds of nature
The essence of being made of God.
Even the heat seems less
As we touch the earth with our feet
Firmly planted and grounded in connection with
you, Oh God.

The draw - the tug - the yearning for peaceful
space
For loved ones cherished
For love of God
For loving others
Hope and visions for generations
Coming Home.





A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who donated something, or worked, or both, to help make our Vacation Bible School very successful! We couldn't have accomplished what we did without all of you and for that I am very appreciative. We had 41 children, 6 youth helpers, and 16 adults helping with VBS this year. A very positive experience was enjoyed by all as they learned about **Jesus** and how **He is the light of the world**.

**Mark your calendars now and plan on attending
Vacation Bible School - May 30 - June 2, 2017**

Thanks again...
Luellen

Walsburg Ice Cream Social

The annual ice cream social will be held Sunday evening, August 21st from 5-7 pm.

Olsburg Sunday School News

Save the Date! Olsburg Lutheran Sunday School will resume August 21st at 10:00 am. There will be classes for children 3 years old through 8th grade. Some special activities are being planned for this special Rally Day so keep watching.

The Sunday School Ice Cream Social will be held August 28, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Come and enjoy sandwiches, chips, cake and ice cream. Money received from the free will donation helps support the Sunday School.



On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 statements for academic debate, igniting a conversation that changed the world. It has been 500 years since the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. . .and times have definitely changed. Tradition tells us that Luther posted his statements on a door with a nail, while in 2016 we can post our thoughts on social media with mobile phones and share them with the world in seconds.

Changing times require new approaches, and we as Lutherans are called on this anniversary not only to celebrate our part in history, but to honor Luther's legacy of faith by discerning what God is calling us to do NOW.

Inspired and guided by the theme *Freed & Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God's Grace in Action*, the Central States Synod Reformation 500 team has been working diligently to plan for a life-changing and inspiring year of re-formation for you and your congregation.

We don't want to just celebrate the past; we want to focus on what God is doing today and our calling as Christians moving forward. We don't want to be passive; we want to actively reach beyond the church doors and engage with others in our communities. And, we want to help our congregations grow in discipleship, so we may reform and renew our congregations and communities.

Our Central States Synod Reformation 500 initiative will include:

- **Interfaith Conversations** – We're inviting you to reach out and engage with other faith communities near you in interfaith dialogue and through shared projects. We will provide each congregation with a flash drive full of ecumenical and educational resources that will equip your outreach to neighbors of other faith traditions and help you ignite your own conversations. The flash drive will also include child, youth and family resources.
- **Synod-Wide Celebrations** – We're planning three large across our two-state territory in 2017 that celebrate God's grace in action. A Festival Worship service will culminate our Synod Assembly in Kansas City on June 10. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will serve as our preacher. Large gatherings in central Kansas and Missouri are in the works for late October. And we will help make resources available to help you to plan local commemorations.
- **Spiritual Growth Opportunities** – We want to help our congregations reform and be renewed. We're preparing educational events and curricula for local use (watch for more details to come when they are ready!), as well as three fun and meaningful study trips to Germany led by PhD candidate Rev. Mike Malone between December 2016 and December 2017. Our travel committee is working hard to keep these trips affordable so as many people as possible may participate.
- **Community Tree Planting** – We'll pick up our shovels and plant 500 trees in communities throughout Kansas and Missouri in 2017, in remembrance of the hope-filled words attributed to Martin Luther: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." We have proposed a tree-matching program in which our congregations, worshipping communities and ministry partners that purchase and plant trees, will receive a matching tree for each one planted. We will also encourage recipients to choose a community partner with whom to share the matching tree as a gift. All trees will be accompanied with a commemorative brick, as well as tree planting, tree care and liturgical resources developed in partnership with Lutherans Restoring Creation.

The Central States Synod Reformation 500 Team has been working hard to provide you with everything you need to enjoy this special anniversary and engage in God's call for us now. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to plan and facilitate this time of great conversation, commemoration, and active celebration of God's grace.

Look for our next Reformation 500 update at the close of Synod Assembly in June. . .along with the reveal of our new theme and logo! You can also see updates on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/cssreformation500](https://www.facebook.com/cssreformation500).