

# Life Together

July 2019

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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## Reflections by Pastor Keith

On June 10, I met with our two church councils, along with the call committee, to discuss where we are at with calling a pastor. It has been four and a half years since I began serving as your interim pastor. During this time the call committee has worked faithfully and diligently, putting in long hours. Four candidates have been considered, but none of the four was a good match. It has now been well over a year since the synod identified a possible candidate for the call committee to consider.

At the meeting on June 10 we discussed the growing shortage of pastors in our church. For example, at the recent synod assembly I learned that in the past year, our synod (174 churches in Kansas and Missouri) gained four new pastors, but lost 20 pastors to retirement or moving out of the synod. And so we confronted the question, what if we don't get a new pastor any time soon? While the right pastor could show up at any time, we talked about the possibility that it could be quite awhile before that happens. And so we must prepare for this new "normal," while at the same time keeping our eyes on the goal of calling a full time pastor.

As we seek to accomplish this larger goal, we dare not just coast along. We must aggressively strive

to be the church God wants us to be in this part of Kansas. This includes, at the very least, clarifying what it is that God wants us to do, studying options for pastoral leadership in congregations of our size, identifying leaders within our congregations to take on some pastoral responsibilities, and growing congregational income and active membership.

When I started as your interim pastor, the agreement was for me to work half time. Each year, though, the number of hours has increased, to where now it is nearly full time. I need to make some adjustments. I would like to have more time and greater flexibility to pursue retirement - to spend time with family and grandchildren, to do numerous projects I have been waiting to do for years, to travel, and so forth.

I am certainly willing to continue working with you - if that is your desire. And I am looking forward to helping you transition into a new way of doing ministry in our two congregations. Also, since we are moving into a new "normal," I am sensing that I need to give more attention to planning, leading, teaching and mentoring. We need to make adjustments so that all of this can happen.

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At the June 10 meeting of the two councils and call committee it was agreed that since we do not foresee our interim situation changing any time soon, we need to develop a plan of action for the next few years. The councils and I will be working on this in the coming months.

Meanwhile, keep the faith! Pray daily. Worship weekly. Read the Bible. Serve in and beyond the church. Give generously of your time, talents, and financial resources.

Remember, we have what we need in order to do what God wants us to do at this time, in this place! In Philippians 4:19 God promised to “fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in Christ Jesus.” And God will do that!

I would like to close with a prayer we prayed together at the June 10 meeting: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Keith

### **Words of Wisdom**

Troubles are often the tools with which God fashions us for better things.

“I can do plenty alone . . . but with God, I can do more!” Ken Taylor

Behold the turtle. It makes progress only when it sticks its neck out.

“A generous person will be enriched.” Proverbs 11:25

# July birthdays, anniversaries, joys and sorrows

**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)  
Alexis Plummer (O)
- 12 Jim Nelson (O)  
Brett Dawes (W)  
Owen Dick (W)
- 13 Jana Arellano (W)  
Jeremy Dick (W)
- 16 Jennifer Braylay (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)

## 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)

## Joys

- † We rejoice with Heather Nelson and Ross Olsen who were united in marriage on June 1. Heather is the daughter of Patty Nelson and granddaughter of Bee Erickson. Heather and Ross make their home in Colorado.

## Members in service for July

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

### Walsburg

**Ushers and Greeters:** Vern Bulk; Jennifer Byarlay; Mike & Becky Nelson; David Ahlerich

**Communion Ushers:** *Valerie Hoehner & Trenton Hargrave*

**\*Lay Assistants:** 7/7 Mary Kay Henry; 7/14 Jerry Baer; 7/21 Diana Hargrave; 7/28 Carol Wiens

**Altar Committee:** Diana Hargrave

**\*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:** Jim Nelson, Gregg Gibson, Jon Nelson, Tom Nelson;

**Communion Assistants:** 7/7 April Brenner; 7/21 Kraig Kasselmann

**\*Acolytes:** 7/7 Emma Kasselmann; 7/14 Kaden Gutsch; 7/21 Grady Kasselmann; 7/28 Ida Kasselmann

**\*Lay Assistants:** 7/7 Becky Avery; 7/14 Gregg Gibson; 7/21 Brooklynn Zoeller; 7/28 Coleen Esping

**Altar Committee:** Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping

## 2019 OLSBURG COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Children from the community enjoyed the theme, ***ROAR...Life is Wild God is Good!*** during our Community Vacation Bible School. The children learned that God is always with them, whether they are lonely, they worry, struggle, or do wrong, Jesus is always with them and He will rescue them. ***God is Good*** could be heard loud and clear as the children responded with that phrase during the time spent together before and after the different stations the children rotated through each day.

***THANK YOU*** to everyone who sent their children and we want to especially thank the youth and adult helpers who gave of their time and helped with VBS all week. We couldn't have accomplished what we did without all of you and for that we are very appreciative. We had 31 children, 7 youth helpers, and 17 adults during our successful week of VBS.

I want to thank each and every member of Olsburg Lutheran Church who donated their time to either be in charge of one of the stations or be a helper with the children as they moved from station to station. Also, to those who purchased items we needed or baked cookies for our VBS this year. We couldn't have had such a successful Community VBS without your support.

**Mark your calendars now and plan on attending  
Community Vacation Bible School  
May 26 - May 29, 2020**



# 2019 OLSBURG COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





# 2019 OLSBURG COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**JOINT WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE  
PARK  
SUNDAY, JULY 21  
10:00 A.M.  
RANDOPHL CITY PARK**



Please make plans to join Olsburg and Walsburg Lutheran Churches on Sunday, July 21st at 10:00 a.m. for a joint worship service.

Pastor Keith was ordained as a minister on July 21, 1974 (45 years ago)!

He will share stories of 45 years of ministry with us, we will sing his favorite hymns, and enjoy fellowship time.

The Outreach and Fellowship committees and Councils of each church will provide table service and drinks.

Please bring a dish to share.  
Bring your lawn chairs and help us honor Pastor Keith!

Would you like to be in charge of or help with games? Please contact Shelly Burklund.





## WALSBURG'S 2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A BIG "Thank You" to all those who supported our Vacation Bible School in any way this past week (time and talent, supplies, food items, cash, prayers, etc.) The children attending heard daily messages that "God is Good" even when life is unfair, when life is scary, when life is changing, when life is sad, and when life is good.

