

Lifetogether

August 2019

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

Reflections (continued)
Walsburg Sunday
School News
Walsburg Ice Cream
Social
Blessing of the
Backpacks
Walsburg Votes for
Window repair
Olsburg LCW
collecting LWR School
kit items

page 3

Birthdays,
Anniversaries, Joys
and Sorrows
Members in service

page 4

Words of Wisdom
A Story About Growing
Thank you

Reflections by Pastor Keith

One of the most important tasks of the church is passing the faith on to others - especially to our children and grandchildren! Let me repeat: One of our most important tasks is to pass our faith on to our children and grandchildren! This is not just a good thing to do. It is what God wants. In fact, God has commanded us to do so!

This is what we do as church. That means all of us. Parents, yes. Grandparents, yes. Pastor, yes. Sunday school teachers, yes. But it doesn't stop there. We are all in this together. Praying. Providing financial resources. Talking to children at church. Welcoming them. Encouraging them. Sharing our faith with them.

August is back to school month. Parents are getting their children ready for school. Teachers are preparing lesson plans. College students are moving in. It won't be long and school will begin.

Parents, remember this: When it comes to your child's education, don't leave out Sunday! There is more to your child's education than math and computer science. Children need to experience God's love and begin to grasp the awesomeness of the Christian faith. They need to grow in their relationship with God and with other Christians.

A word that has been whirling around in my head for the past several weeks is "repetition." Children learn through repetition (as we all do!). Being exposed to something now and then may help a little, but when the exposure happens over and over again, that's when learning happens.

I have been reading the book, Rich Learning. The author, Dr. Rich Melheim, explains that neurons (in our brains) are like tiny wires. When you repeat a song, a phrase, a jingle, the body secretes a dose of fatty tissue called myelin that insulates the wires. Electricians know if a wire is insulated better it will fire more efficiently. Repetition helps the brain do just that. Repetition causes nerve cells to fire more efficiently. And the result is long-term retention. Repetition is an important ingredient in how we learn.

In a sermon recently, I told a story about our son Ryan. When he was about three, I decided to teach him the Lord's Prayer. It was our practice to have prayer with Ryan every night as we tucked him into bed. So on this particular night I went into his room, sat down on his bed, and said, "Ryan, I think you are old enough to learn the Lord's Prayer." Ryan gave me this puzzled look and said, "what's

Continued on page 2

that?" I said, "it is the prayer Jesus taught us. It goes like this: Our Father who art in heaven." And with that Ryan's face lit up and he continued, "hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come." He said the whole prayer. Neither Carol nor I had taught him the prayer. He had learned the prayer by listening to the congregation pray every Sunday morning. That's what repetition does. It leads to learning.

I am amazed what older people remember. Even when their minds don't work as good as they once did, they still remember what they learned as children. They may not recognize friends and family members, but when you pray the Lord's Prayer with them they know the prayer. Bible verses, prayers, familiar hymns, the bread and wine of Holy Communion - this they know because they learned this as children. Over and over again they heard the Bible verses, they said the prayers, they sang the hymns, they partook of Communion. That's what repetition does. It leads to learning.

What happens when you sing a song for the first time? You spend a lot of energy trying to figure out how the song goes. But after you have sung the song a number of times, you then can focus on the meaningful words and the beautiful melody and the song becomes embedded deep inside of you. That's what repetition does. It leads to learning.

A relationship doesn't automatically happen the first time you meet someone. But after you spend time together, talking, listening, doing things together, helping each other, a relationship begins to blossom. That's what repetition does. It leads to learning.

I know everyone is very busy these days. But this is important. We make sure our children learn to read. We also need to make sure they learn to know God and the great love God has for them. Repetition. Showing up. Week after week. Relationships grow. Faith deepens. And God smiles!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

Walsburg Annual Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendar to attend the annual Walsburg Lutheran Church ice cream social on Sunday, August 18. Sloppy Joes, ham sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, homemade ice cream and pie will be served from 5-7 p.m. Freewill donations will be accepted. A silent auction will also be held at the same time as a fundraiser for stained glass window restoration. Everyone is invited to enjoy an evening of good food, fun and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be posted to help with work shifts, food donations and obtaining silent auction items.

August 18—Blessing of the Backpacks

9:00 a.m. Olsburg Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Walsburg Worship Service

Join us for "Blessing of the Backpacks" on Sunday, August 18th, during regular worship service. Children of ALL AGES are encouraged to bring their backpack or work bag for a blessing for the new academic year.

Sunday School Begins Soon!

Walsburg Sunday School begins on Sunday, August 18, at 10:00 a.m. in Memorial Hall. Classes will be available for children from 3 years of age (must be potty trained) - 6th Grade. Notify Sheri Storer if you are able to teach or help in any way with teaching, assisting, or providing supplies.

Walsburg votes to contract with Cathedral Crafts, Inc.

At Walsburg's Special Congregational Meeting held July 28, 2019, it was voted to contract with Cathedral Crafts, Inc., Winona, MN, to do the restoration of the church's stained glass windows. Their bid is \$114,000. Fundraising opportunities will continue to be announced with the next one scheduled for the annual ice cream social and silent auction on August 18, 2019.

Olsburg LCW collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits

During August the Olsburg LCW will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Items needed for each kit are:

- Four - 70 sheet spiral notebooks
- One ruler with centimeters
- One pencil sharpener
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One pair of blunt scissors

Items may be left in the box in the narthex.

August birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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

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)

- 1 Tim and Sandy Zoeller (O)
Jeremy Dick and Sarah Diamond (W)
- 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)

Sorrows

- ✠ We sorrow with the family and friends of Clayton Neilson who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on July 3, 2019. Clayton is the son of Kenneth Neilson and Shawn Neilson, the brother of Tori and Haley, and the grandson of Bill and Jan.

Joys

- ✠ We rejoice with Katie and Jordan Hagenmaier on the birth of their son, Michael Jordan Hagemmaier who was

born on July 16. Michael has two older sisters, Abigail and Adelaide. The Hagenmaiers are part of the Walsburg congregation.

August Anniversaries

Members in service for August

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

Olsburg Lay Readers: 8/4 Jan Cooper; 8/11 Karl Kasselmann; 8/18 Kathy Monser; 8/25 Kraig Kasselmann

Olsburg Acolytes: 8/4 Jace Ricketts; 8/11 Jarin Brenner; 8/18 Jordyn Gutsch; 8/25 Kylea Ricketts

Olsburg Ushers: Marvin Johnson; Nick Cooper; Karl Kasselmann; David Gibson

Assist Pastor during Communion: 8/4 Karl Kasselmann; 8/18 David Gibson

Walsburg Ushers and Greeters: Brad & Dena Haller; Carl & Jane Larson; Dale Larson

Walsburg Communion Ushers: Jeremy Dick; Gary Hargrave

Walsburg Lay Assistants: 8/4 Jennifer Byarlay; 8/11 Don Nelson; 8/18 Sarah Diamond; 8/25 Amber Befort

Walsburg Acolytes:

***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.**

Next newsletter items and articles will be due Aug 19.

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.

Editor/Parish Coordinator
Shelly Burklund
Cell 785-532-9853
Home 785-468-3370
sburklun@ksu.edu

Interim Pastor
Keith Wiens
Home 785-776-5348
Cell: 785-341-1600
keithw4870@gmail.com

Parish Information
Olsburg 468-3500
olc@olsburglutheran.org
Walsburg 293-5367

Words of Wisdom

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

"If we want to help Christendom, we most certainly have to start with the children . . ."
Martin Luther

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20

"To cling always to God and to the things of God - this must be our major effort, this must be road that the heart follows unswervingly." John Cassian

A Story About Growing

"How tall am I now, Mother?" Donny asked almost every day. Donny wished he could grow faster. Sometimes his mother would put him against a wall and measure him. Then Donny would stand on his tiptoes in order to be as big as possible. Donny wanted to grow fast. "Eat your vegetables and drink your milk, and God will make you all grown up soon," said his mother.

Vegetables and milk are good for growing tall, but tall is not the only way to grow. God wants us to grow also in knowing the Lord. The Bible says, "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We grow by learning God's Word. God's Word is like milk. This milk helps us grow as Christians. That is why we should want it just like a new baby wants milk.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:2

Thank You!

Carol and I want to thank you for remembering the 45th anniversary of my ordination. You helped us celebrate in grand fashion with a joint worship service in the park, a delicious potluck dinner, with cards and gifts and many gracious words. It was a fun day, a day we will always treasure. We are so very grateful for all of you and the opportunity to be part of your community of faith. God's blessings to you! Pastor Keith

