

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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From the Desk of Pastor Keith

“Life is not fair!” In the weeks to come, we might say this as we gather for worship and hear the stories St. Luke tells about Jesus. As we “tag along” with Jesus we will see lots of injustice.

We will encounter people who have lost their way and are looked down upon by others. We will encounter a dishonest person who prospers. We will encounter poor people who don’t prosper and don’t have all the benefits of the rich. We will encounter lepers - outcasts, people shunned by all and forced to beg for a living. We will encounter a helpless widow who pleads for justice. We will encounter a tax collector who makes a good living by cheating others. Time and time again we will shake our heads and say, “This is not right. Life is not fair.”

We see injustice all around us. Is it fair that Heather was born to an alcoholic father who beats her up every time he gets drunk? Is it fair that Jose gets an inferior education because his school can’t afford to hire better teachers? Is it fair that Charissa’s company cancelled the company’s health insurance plan because of rising costs and she was refused health care because she had no means to pay? Is it fair that Aman was not hired because his skin was dark and he spoke with an accent? It’s a tough world. There isn’t much justice out there.

And when there is no justice, life can be cruel.

There is, “though,” a moment when justice does prevail. There is a moment when there is no discrimination. No biases. No prejudices. No favoritism. There is a moment when everyone is treated alike, a moment when every individual is treated as a person of worth and value. This is the moment when we eat the bread and drink from the cup in the meal we call Holy Communion!

When we eat this meal we eat as equals. No one is better than any one else. Every one of us has made mistakes. None of us is the kind of person God wants us to be. We all come to this meal as beggars.

And what we receive is grace. Every one of us. We are accepted and loved and forgiven. There is no favoritism here. Rich and poor, black and white, old and young, female and male - all are treated alike. We are all valued as people for whom Jesus gave his life!

JoAnn, who is a wealthy businesswoman, and Peter, who lives on the street, kneel side by side. It is a moment of justice. Kabul, who is black, and Suzanne, who is white, drink from the same cup. It is a moment of justice. Aman, who can’t get hired, and

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Charrisa, who was denied health care, are fed at this Table. It is a moment of justice.

This is indeed our finest moment. It is a defining moment. It is a transforming moment. In this moment all who eat together experience a new reality, the reality of God's incredible justice. This is where justice begins. This is the moment when justice breaks through and a new reality is experienced. The more we eat the bread and drink from the cup the more we experience God's justice. Come, my friends, let this meal transform you and help you to live in a new way, the way of God.

Pastor Keith Wiens

Joy and Sorrow

- † We rejoice with Sarah Diamond and Jeremy Dick upon the birth of their son, Owen, who was born on July 12. He has a big brother, Dawson. Owen had open heart surgery a week later and after nearly two months in the hospital he is now home. Owen was baptized by Pastor Keith in the hospital on August 9.

- † We rejoice with Olivia Werner who was baptized on August 21. Olivia is the daughter of Jayson and Katie Werner and the granddaughter of Kevin Burklund.

- † We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Theresia Hagenmaier. Theresia was a member of Walsburg.

What Are You Really Putting In The Offering?

The money I put in the offering . . . That money is me. To earn that money, I gave away a portion of my life. That part of my life is gone. Forever. Now the only thing I have to show for it is the money I earned in exchange for it.

So when I put money in the offering plate, I'm not merely supporting the church. That money represents my life. I'm putting my life in the offering plate.

And when the plate is presented at the altar, it's my life that is presented. All of it. My life the way it really is. Offered right back to God, who gave it to me in the first place.

September and October birthdays and anniversaries

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

September Birthdays

- 4 Shirley Strauss (W)
- 5 Jeff Howland (O)
- 7 Codie Webster (O)
- 8 Ramona Johnston (O)
- 9 Amber Befort (O)
- 10 Shelly Burklund (O)
Richard Strauss (W)
- 12 Gevon Holt (O)
- 15 LeRoy Bohnenblust (W)
Monica Hargrave Schultz (W)
Sarah Diamond (W)
- 17 Cole Schultz (W)
- 19 Brian Clifton (O)
- 20 Joshua Hagenmaier (W)
Morgan Vargo (O)
- 22 Steven Johnson (O)
Jared Fronce (O)
- 25 Mylene Davis (O)
Chris Deetjen (W)
- 26 Ernest Grater (W)
- 28 Ray Miller (W)
Donald Cobler (O)
- 30 Kraig Kasselmann (O)

October Birthdays

- 2 Price Oman (W)
- 4 Norma Coutermarsh (W)
Tori Brenner (O)
- 5 Wava Peterson (W)
Lindsay Bulk (W)
- 7 Donica Nelson (O)
Matthew Hagenmaier (W)
- 9 Dennis Peterson (W)
Jamie Bohnenblust (W)
- 10 Charity Johnson (W)
David Ahlerich (W)
- 11 Mary Lou Gibbs (O)
- 12 Jamie Hageman (W)
Jason Hageman (W)
Lotta Larson (W)
- 13 Eldon Sundgren (W)
- 14 Patty Nelson (O)
Lynn Hargrave (W)
- 16 Joseph Hubbard (O)
Marjorie Grater (W)
Norman Johnson (W)
- 18 Jan Cooper (O)
Kim Bulk (W)
- 20 Callie Webster (O)
- 21 Cajsia Larson (W)
- 24 Jean Peterson (W)
- 25 Pam Holt (O)

- 26 Jerry Erickson (W)
Larry Bohnenblust (W)
Sheri Storer (W)
- 27 Diana Hargrave (W)
- 28 Debbie Hagenmaier (W)

September Anniversaries

- 1 Dallas and Mylene Davis (O)
- 4 Alan and Kristin Bohnenblust (W)
- 5 David and Jeannette Pultz (W)
- 12 Gregg and Alice Marie Gibson (O)
Rick and Irene Johnson (O)
- 16 Bart and Norma Coutermarsh (W)
- 19 Carl and Jane Larson (W)
- 20 OJ and Monica Schultz (W)
- 26 Ernest and Marjorie Grater (W)
- 27 David and Rosie Ahlerich (W)
- 30 Kent and Mary Nelson (O)

October Anniversaries:

- 1 Jeff and Tami Howland (O)
- 6 Mark and Kristi Fronce (O)
- 10 Larry and Sandy Glessner (W)
- 19 Lee and Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 28 Jacob and April Brenner (O)

Members in service

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during September and October .

Walsburg

***September Lay Readers:** 9/4 Diana Hargrave; 9/11 Sandy McCool; 9/18 Jerry Baer; 9/25 Mary Kay Henry

***October Lay Readers:** 10/2 Lynne Berry; 10/9 Mary Larson; 10/16 Linda Toomire; 10/23 Don Nelson; 10/30 Alicia Scofield

***September Greeters and Ushers:** Carl & Jane Larson; Dale Larson; Brianna Olson

***October Greeters and Ushers:** Lynne Berry; Calley Berry; Kermit & Jessie Sundgren

***September Communion Ushers:** Aneta Hagenmaier; Bill Johnson

***October Communion Ushers:** Kathy Sundgren & Bill Neilson

Altar Committee:

***September:** Dena Haller

***October:** Mary Kay Henry

***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

***September Ushers:** Dan Holt; Karl Kasselmann; Bill Monser; Curtis Gutsch

***October Ushers:** Kirby Burklund, Jacob Nelson, Nick Cooper, Lee Cantrell

***September Communion Assistants:** 9/4 Mary Nelson; 9/18 Diane Nelson

***October Communion Assistants:** 10/2 Ashley Rice; 10/16 Laura Clifton; 10/30 Gregg Gibson

***September Lay Assistants:** 9/4 Kristi Fronce; 9/11 Laura Clifton; 9/18 Luellen Kasselmann; 9/25 Patty Nelson

***October Lay Assistants:** 10/2 Tom Nelson; 10/9 Becky Avery; 10/16 Bill Monser; 10/23 Coleen Esping; 10/30 Jan Cooper

***September Altar Committee:** Donica Nelson; Mary Nelson

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

***September Acolytes:** 9/4 Landry Zoeller; 9/11 Kylea Ricketts; 9/18 Brooklynn Zoeller; 9/25 Kaden GutschEmma Kasselmann

***October Acolytes:** 10/2 Skyler Zoeller; 10/9 Grady Kasselmann; 10/16 Jace Ricketts; 10/23 Kaden Gutsch; 10/30 Landry and Skyler Zoeller, Grady Kasselmann

Olsburg Sunday School Invites You to a Morning of Family, Food, and FUN!

The Sunday School is sponsoring a fun filled morning, **Sunday, Sept. 18 at 10:00 a.m.** Designed for Pre-school to High School age youth to enjoy activities with adults. Everyone is invited!! A quick brunch will be served with music and activities to follow. This active, upbeat event provides a great opportunity for everyone to invite their friends and neighbors to join us at church. Please try to attend, it won't be as much fun if you're not there!

Olsburg LCW and Sunday School Join in Collecting Items for Lutheran World Relief

The LCW and Sunday School invite the congregation to join in gathering items for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Items may be left in the box in the narthex.

Items needed for each kit are:

- **FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- **ONE** pencil sharpener
- **ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- **FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- **ONE** 2 1/2" eraser

It is not necessary to purchase every item on the list, we will purchase items to fill in as needed. LCW will provide the backpacks. You may also make a monetary donation if you prefer. LCW will also purchase school supplies to be donated to McCormick Elementary School and Randolph Middle School to be given to students who need them.

Fall Festival

Mark the date! On Sunday, September 25th, Olsburg and Walsburg Churches will join with 10 other ELCA churches in our area for a Fall Festival from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. You might say we are hosting the event since it will take place at Nelson's Family Farm near Olsburg. There will be games, fellowship, food and a closing worship service. Folks agreed that last year's Fall Festival was very enjoyable. This year's Festival will be even better. You won't want to miss it!

Guest Night/Salad supper at Walsburg

The Walsburg ladies will be hosting a Guest Night/Salad Supper September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Bill Peterson, Pastor of St. Paul, Herington, and Heborn, Burdick, and former Olsburg/Walsburg interim PMA will provide the program. All Walsburg ladies are requested to provide a large salad or two and join in an evening of entertainment. Please RSVP to Jane 293-5714 or Aneta 293-5252 TODAY.

Walsburg WELCA Collecting Personal Care Kit Items for Lutheran World Relief

WELCA is collecting personal care kit items and soap for Lutheran World Relief. The congregation is invited to participate in this project. Please have your items to church by October 2nd as we will be assembling the kits and packing quilts for delivery to Salina on October 6. **Items needed are:** Light-weight bath size towel (maximum 52" x 27") dark color; Bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) soap in original package, we do need lots of soap for health and baby kits.; Adult-size toothbrush in original package; Sturdy comb; Metal nail clippers (attached file, optional)

Election Time at Walsburg!

Walsburg will hold Congregational Elections on **Sunday, October 9th**, immediately following worship.

Come and Go Shower for Lindsay Bulk and Morgan Shorter set for October 2.

Lindsay Bulk and Morgan Shorter will be the guests of honor at a Come and Go Couples Wedding Shower to be held from 2 to 4 pm, October 2 in Memorial Hall. All members are invited to attend and extend their best wishes to the couple. The couple is registered at Target. Service Committee #1 will host the afternoon.



Walsburg Fall Clean Up

Fall Clean UP October 1st
We Need Helpers
We have work for everyone
Inside the church and yard work
9am to 12pm

You are welcome to come early and

Please come and be part of the Fun!



Camp Tomah Shinga Noisy Offering

This year, both Olsburg and Walsburg will once again be participating in Camp Tomah Shinga's "quarter challenge" during the month of October. These dollars (quarters) raised help make camp more affordable for many young people in the region, and a week of camp changes lives. For some, it's a week of "confirmation camp" where the group lives in committee with others and each participant is affirmed in the truth that God loves them, God matters, and (they) matter to God. For others, it is a week of fun and games, worship and bible study, and an experience of how following Jesus makes a difference in the world.

Regardless of why they might show up for a week of camp, at some point in their life, they will look back to their week at camp and discern if in fact they are participating in the world as a fully devoted

follow of Jesus Christ. Also – those counselors who care for and lead discussions during the week of camp, a high percentage of them go on in life to be leaders in the church in some way.

Your change, quarters, dollar and larger gifts, really do make a difference in the Kingdom of God. So, go find some change and fill up those cans each week in this years "noisy offering" Camp Tomah Shinga "Quarter" challenge. Thanks in advance for your support!



October 30 is Reformation Day

I look forward to seeing all of you this October 30. Wear **RED** to church to honor Reformation Sunday.

Camp Tomah Shinga Annual Quilt Auction, Come Join Us!

Come out to Camp Tomah Shinga and participate in our largest fundraiser of the year! We will have the quilt auction, silent auction, games and activities for youth and adults, and some incredible food! This fundraiser helps to keep the organization running year round, and available to people of all ages! If you are unable to attend and would like to make a gift to camp, please contact Ben Fulton at Tomahshinga@gmail.com!

Here are the details:

When-October 22nd, 2016 from 10:00am-4:00pm (quilt auction ends at 1:00pm)

Where-Camp Tomah Shinga, 7821 E Lyons Creek Rd, Junction City, KS 66441

Who-EVERYONE

If you have quilts to donate we are still in need of many quilts to auction off. For information on where to send them please contact Jacob Spilker at 785-238-3654 and he will get you the information needed.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Walsburg Has a Potluck Dinner on the Calendar for October 9th, in Appreciation of Pastor Keith

Pastor Appreciation Potluck is scheduled for October 9th. Please watch your bulletin for more information on this event.

Retreats at Camp Tomah Shinga

Camp Tomah Shinga is offering several Fall Retreats. Check out their website at <http://tomahshinga.com/retreatsevents/>.

Walsburg's Sunday School Welcomes Children

On Sunday, August 21, Walsburg Sunday School children welcomed a new Sunday School year followed by a "Blessing of Backpacks" during the worship time. Six children are currently registered. For the second year, we are using Spark's curriculum and our Bible stories for August, September and October include the following:

- 8/21 Adam and Eve
- 8/28 The First Sin
- 9/4 Joseph and His Brothers
- 9/11 Joseph Helps His Family
- 9/18 Baby Moses
- 9/25 The Burning Bush
- 10/2 Manna, Quail, and Water
- 10/9 Deborah
- 10/16 God Calls Samuel
- 10/23 David is Chosen
- 10/30 Solomon Builds the Temple

If you would like to help with Sunday School in any way, please see Sheri, Alicia, Kathy, or Mary Kay.

God's Global Barnyard Project a Success!

With monies donated in "little red barns" by VBS children and Walsburg members, nearly \$200 was sent to the ELCA Good Gifts Program with a request to purchase chicks (20) and pigs (6) for families in need. Thank you for your participation in God's Global Barnyard project!



Church Together: Giving in Hope Area Ministry Gatherings

**We Are Church Together for the Sake of the World.
What Does It Mean to Really Live Into This?**

*When Bishop Eaton reminds us of our church-wide mission,
does this question come to mind? Join Bishop Gustafson*

and other synod staff as we gather on a Sunday afternoon to explore what it means to be Church Together and how Giving in Hope strengthens our connection with each other. Times have changed. . .and stewardship has changed. It is difficult to teach or practice stewardship unless we have a clear understanding of what it looks like today. We want to help you and your congregation develop a mindset and heart for generosity in order to grow our capacity to serve the world. This gathering will help us to see our gifts as tools God gave us to minister to the world around us, with the love of Christ.

This three hour event includes dinner at no cost and the following activities:

- ❖ **Giving in Hope Stories** – Share stories of how giving has made a difference – for the giver and receiver.
- ❖ **Ministry "Speed Dating"** – Get to know the needs of multiple ministries in 10-minute presentations.
- ❖ **The New Stewardship** – "Stewardship" has changed. Find out what it looks like in 2016 and beyond.
- ❖ **Celebrate Our Successes** – Celebrate as we worship and share a meal together.

Our gatherings across our synod are being supported by a grant from the Stewardship of Life Institute. All are invited to attend, especially council members and stewardship teams.

Your area ministry in Central Kansas (Area Ministries 3 & 4) will gather on:

Sunday, October 9 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**at Camp Tomah Shinga, 7821 E Lyons Creek Rd,
Junction City, KS 66441 [Map It](#)**

Please [register here](#) for this event OR go online at:

www.css-elca.org/area-ministry-gatherings

so we may plan for the preparation and serving of the meal.

Rostered leaders and PMAs will gather again on **Monday, October 10 from 9:30 a.m. – noon** at Camp Tomah Shinga, 7821 E Lyons Creek Rd, Junction City, KS 66441

Central States Synod, ELCA

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