

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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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*

From the Desk of Pastor Keith

Friends of Jesus grow! They listen to Jesus, learn from Jesus, imitate Jesus, do what Jesus says and do what Jesus does. They don't sit still. Their relationship with Jesus grows. They get to know Jesus better and better. They learn to trust him more and more. Their love for him deepens and matures.

Friend of Jesus grow throughout their lives. Growth begins in baptism and continues until the day when life on this earth ends. They never stop growing.

We grow by spending time with Jesus. Especially important is time hearing God's Word and being fed in the Meal of Holy Communion. These are the tools the Holy Spirit uses to help us grow. Friends of Jesus make it a point to use these tools at every opportunity because they want to grow.

Sunday School for children and youth has begun. This is an important way they grow in their relationship with Jesus. Be sure to invite the children you know to come. Offer to give them a ride. Continue to encourage them throughout the year.

I pray that each of you will experience growth in your relationship with Jesus this fall. Whether you are young or old, new to the faith or quite mature, I pray that you will challenge yourself and take some new steps this fall to help you grow.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

Education and The Reformation

Martin Luther was a strong advocate of education. That's not surprising since he was a trained educator. But his encouragement and support of education went deeper than that. It grew out of his study of the Bible and his desire that everyone grow in their understanding of the Scriptures and in their relationship to Christ.

Luther was very involved in his own children's spiritual growth. In fact, his Small Catechism, which was published in 1529 and is still used in the church today, was compiled in part as a result of the religious instruction he led in his own home. "When I get up in the morning, I pray with the children the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and then some Psalm," he said in a sermon in 1530. Repetition of prayers and Scripture, he believed, made one strong in faith. That was true for him as well. He said, "Here one forever remains a learner. Though I am a great doctor, I haven't yet progressed beyond the instruction of children."

Luther was an advocate of education for all ages, women and men, girls and boys. Lutherans have continued this emphasis on education to this day. They believe that education in the content and practices of the Christian faith is essential. They have a long-standing focus on education of children and youth in the home and in the church. Adult learning happens in conversation, in worship, in service to others, and in a variety of formal and informal educational efforts.

Wherever Lutherans have gone in the world, they have established schools for children and youth, teaching religion and other subjects because they deem all aspects of God's world worthy of study. Around the globe, they support thousands of early childhood, primary, and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities and seminaries.

Life together

Lutherans support public education. Many Lutherans serve as teachers and aids, school administrators, and board members at all levels of public education. In 2007 the ELCA adopted a social statement titled "Our Calling in Education." In this statement they committed themselves to work to ensure that all have access to high-quality education for the common good. For the sake of serving the world, Lutherans value education not only in the Christian faith, but also about the world we serve.

Worship and Children

Worship is a wonderful activity for people of all ages, including children. Even very young children respond to the music, the liturgy, and the actions of worship. While it is hard for young children to sit for an hour (it can even be hard for adults!), here are a few tips to help them worship:

- + Smile at a child and shake his or her hand during the sharing of the peace. Remember to smile and greet the parents as well. A smile goes a long way, a frown can discourage for life.
- + Sit where your children can see what is going on.
- + Encourage children to do all the actions - sitting, standing, shaking hands, making the sign of the cross, walking forward for a blessing during communion. As they get older, they can help with taking up the offering, lighting candles, and greeting people.
- + When children are able to read, point out the words and songs in the bulletin and hymnal. Encourage them to participate.

Children are capable of participating in much of the worship service. Whether you have a child or not, we can all help the littlest ones among us to participate in worship. May we all come to know the rich blessings of worshipping together!

September birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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)
- 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)

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)

† We rejoice with Jarin Brenner, Jordyn Gutsch and Kaden Gutsch who received their first communion at Olsburg on Sunday, July 30.

† We rejoice with David Gibson who has rejoined Olsburg Lutheran Church after moving back to the area.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

***Lay Readers:** 9/3 Jane Larson; 9/10 Janet Neilson; 9/17 Mary Kay Henry; 9/24 Sandy McCool

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

***Communion Ushers:** Marlene Jenkins; Bill Johnson

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

***Communion Assistants:** 9/3 Mary Nelson; 9/17 Kristi Fronce

***Lay Assistants:** 9/3 April Brenner; 9/10 Becky Avery; 9/17 Bill Monser; 9/24 Coleen Esping

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

***Acolytes:** 9/3 Emma Kasselmann; 9/10 Kaden Gutsch; 9/17 Landry Zoeller; 9/24 Ida Kasselmann

Olsburg Dillons Fundraiser---

The 2017 2nd quarter Dillon's Fundraiser total is in, and Olsburg Lutheran Church received \$177.54 (22 supporter households), going into the Olsburg Cemetery Fund. Thank you for your participation!!! Remember anyone can register their Dillon's Plus card online and choose Olsburg Lutheran Church to support the Olsburg Cemetery fundraiser. Once you are registered, simply use your Dillon's Plus card with purchases and your totals automatically go toward the fund-raiser. If you have questions on enrolling, please see Mary Nelson. Thank You!!!

Walsburg Women of the ELCA have calendars available

The 2018 God's Creation Wall Calendars are now available. The Walsburg Women of the ELCA are selling them for \$7.00 each. The calendars have beautiful pictures and space available for writing your appointments, birthdays, etc. They are great for personal use and also make great Christmas gifts.

Walsburg Sunday School/VBS Good News:

Offerings collected for last year's Sunday School and Vacation Bible School totaled over \$400.00. This amount has been sent as a monetary gift to ELCA Good Gifts program for the purchase of small live animals to help the less fortunate in our world. Thanks to all who participated

Walsburg Sunday School kicked off another year on Sunday, August 20. Again this year, the children will be learning Bible stories, songs, etc. from Augsburg's Sparkhouse curriculum.

Mark Your Calendars: Walsburg's second **annual hayride/weiner roast** is scheduled for Sunday, October 29! Stay tuned for more detailed information.

