

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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*Next newsletter items and
articles will be due Oct. 21.*

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From the Desk of Pastor Keith

This month is the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation. The Reformation had far-reaching impact not only on the church, but on culture, music, literature, education, government. It changed the course of history.

There is much we can learn from the Reformation. Certainly, we can learn that we need on-going reformation. We are not perfect and our institutions are not perfect. We need to continually seek how we can re-form, re-new, change so that we can more adequately be what God desires. This is not change for the sake of change. It is being faithful to the God who has made us and claimed us and called us to be servants like Jesus.

To be sure, the Reformation is about change - but not just any change. It's about the Gospel and the change that happens when the Gospel goes to work in the lives of people. It is about the Good News of how Jesus Christ changes people, people like you and me. It is about the Good News of how Jesus Christ changes the values, the spirit, the world-views, the culture, the laws, the institutions, the hopes and dreams of people. It is about the Good News of how Jesus Christ changes the world!

Yes, we have a ways to go. We have not yet arrived. So let's

continue the work of reformation. May the Reformation of five hundred years ago inspire us to be bold and courageous in the work of reformation today.

Both Olsburg and Walsburg are observing the Reformation on Sunday, October 29, with special celebrations. Watch the Sunday bulletins for information about the specifics. Be sure to attend what you can. Let's celebrate! But even more, let's be committed to the on-going work of reformation!

Five Hundred Years

Five hundred years ago Martin Luther kicked off the Reformation. He didn't intend to become famous or to divide the church, yet he changed the world, helping to usher in the modern era. Luther's preaching and teaching brought him into conflict with the church and the government, the Holy Roman Empire. This courageous stand by one man sparked a century of conflict. It started as a war of words, but eventually spiraled into actual war, changing Europe and Christianity forever, and contributing to the birth of our modern world.

Luther was born in 1483 in what is now central Germany. His parents tried to give him a good education and hoped he would become a lawyer. Instead, when he was twenty-one he became a monk. He set out to become an A+ monk,

Continued on page 2.

doing everything he could to please God, but was tormented by the sense that he could never be good enough.

In time he became incensed by the church saying, in effect, that if people purchased a certain document - an indulgence - it would provide God's forgiveness for their (or a loved one's) sins. When he began questioning this teaching, a fierce controversy began over the church's teachings on forgiveness, grace, and faith. Luther was eventually excommunicated from the church and outlawed by civil authorities, but his witness of God's forgiving mercy in Christ found many supporters.

Five hundred years ago this month, on October 31, 1517, Luther sent a letter to the Catholic archbishop of Mainz that urged renewed preaching of "the gospel and the love of Christ" instead of continued promotion of indulgences, which had "silenced" gospel preaching. He did not choose the day at random. Church representatives were actively marketing indulgences because the next day, November 1, was All Saints Day, a day when most people came to church. He enclosed a copy of his 95 theses, which were also posted on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg that same day.

Why is this important to us today? All of us continue to live in a culture where judgment, guilt, and shame are everyday experiences and where bullying words, abusive actions, and disgraceful discourse permeate our public and private lives. The indulgences controversy may be a relic of the past, but the healing and reconciling message of God's mercy and forgiveness in Christ that Luther and others proclaimed is still needed, and still surprisingly contested.

Luther wrote many influential books, most of which are still valued today. He created the Small Catechism to guide ordinary people in learning about God. He wrote hymns such

as "A mighty fortress is our God." He translated the Bible into the German language so that many people could read the word of God. He was a passionate and remarkable man, totally committed to helping everyone know the grace of God which comes to us through Jesus Christ.

While the Reformation began in Germany it quickly spread throughout Europe. Today the Lutheran family can be found in more than 100 countries, incorporating many languages, cultures, and histories; yet all share a faith identity rooted in the Reformation witness to the Gospel message of justification by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Some Quotes from Martin Luther

"Baptism is a 'once in a lifetime experience' that takes your whole life to complete."

"If we want to help Christendom, we must certainly have to start with the children."

"We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on."

"Christ does not need my good works, but my neighbor does."

October birthdays and anniversaries

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

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)
Creed Kasselmann (O)
- 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 Cajsa 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)

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

***Lay Readers:** 10/1 Amber Befort; 10/8 Alicia Scofield; 10/15 Jerry Baer; 10/22 Diana Hargrave; 10/29 Mary Larson

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

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

Altar Committee:

***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.**

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

***Communion Assistants:** 10/1 Ashley Rice; 10/15 Laura Clifton; 10/29 Gregg Gibson

***Lay Assistants:** 10/1 Jan Cooper; 10/8 Joyce Cantrell; 10/15 Kathy Monser; 10/22 Kraig Kasselmann; 10/29 Kristi Fronce

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

***Acolytes:** 10/1 Jace Ricketts; 10/8 Jarin Brenner; 10/15 Jordyn Gutsch; 10/22 Kylea Ricketts; 10/29 Skyler Zoeller, Kaden Gutsch; Emma Kasselmann

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) help make camp more affordable for many young people in the region. A week of camp changes lives. 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 realize what a difference it made in their lives. Your change, quarters, dollars 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 year's "noisy offering" for Camp Tomah Shinga!

Camp Tomah Shinga 17th Annual Quilt Auction

Come out to Camp Tomah Shinga on Saturday, October 28, at 10:00 a.m. 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 Camp 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.

Olsburg Lutheran Church Reformation Celebration

Olsburg Lutheran Church invites you to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on Sunday, October 29th! Regular worship with Holy Communion will be at 9:00 a.m.

Outreach and Fellowship will show the movie Martin Luther at 3:00 p.m. in fellowship hall. Following the movie, stay for soup, sandwiches and desserts! We look forward to seeing you on October 29th.

Walsburg Lutheran Church Reformation Celebration

Walsburg Lutheran Church invites you to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on October 29th! Regular worship service with Holy Communion will be at 11:00 a.m.

At 5:00 p.m., join us for hayrack rides and a weiner roast! We look forward to seeing you on the 29th!

Walsburg WELCA selling Wall Calendars

The 2018 God's Creation Wall Calendars are available from Walsburg WELCA. They are for sale for \$7.00 each. The calendars are great for personal use and also make great Christmas gifts.

Congregational Elections

Walsburg Lutheran Church held Congregational elections on October 8th following worship.

Olsburg will hold Congregational elections on October 22 following worship.

Walsburg LWR Donation

The afternoon of October 2nd the Walsburg WELCA Ladies packed 109 quilts, 36 personal care kits, 24 baby care kits and 9 lbs. of soap for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts, soap, personal care and baby care kits were loaded into Rita Nelson's van and delivered to the LWR Pickup in Salina on October 5th. We would like to thank our congregation and our quilting ladies for making this donation possible to Lutheran World Relief.

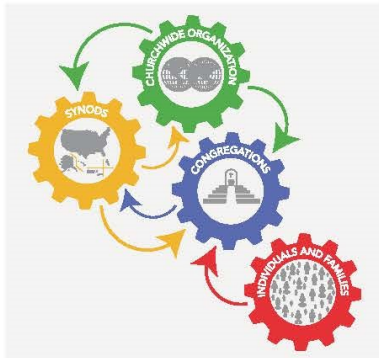


OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

AND
I WILL GIVE
you pastors
ACCORDING
TO MINE HEART,
which
SHALL FEED YOU
WITH
*knowledge &
understanding.*
JEREMIAH 3:15



WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their **congregations**, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local **synod** and the national **churchwide organization**.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

Grow the ELCA in the United States



Plant and support
357 new congregations.

- **Enable congregations to renew their ministries** and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- **Work together** with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- **Develop and share resources** for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world



Send 230 missionaries in more than 48 countries, and more than 84 Young Adults in Global Mission in 11 country programs.

- **As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches** and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- **Accompany new Lutheran churches**, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries



1.1 million
Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.

- **Preserve and maintain archives and historic records** of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- **Provide office space, equipment and human resources** for staff and operations.
- **Process 150,000 gifts** to ELCA ministries.
- **Equip congregations and synods** with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA



9,900
Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.

- **Support the work** of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- **Identify, connect and provide** ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and young adults.

Invest in **technology** and **communications**



Design and maintain communications tools

to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.

- **Connect members with one another** through new technology and systems.

Provide **governance** and **leadership**



65

Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

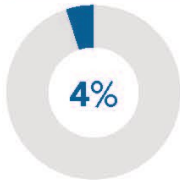
- **Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve** on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

Grow and **sustain** financial resources



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Address social issues and **work for justice**



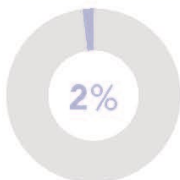
1 in 50

Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of **1 in 50** Americans.

- **Engage** in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- **Equip** members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

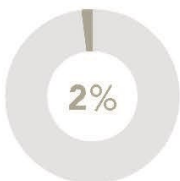
Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

Engage in **research** and **strategic planning**



Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.

Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith relationships**



Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.

- **Seek unity in faith and life** with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.