

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

Olsburg Council mtg. minutes

page 3

*November and December birthdays and anniversaries
Members in service*

page 4

Olsburg Swedish Supper

page 5

This and That

page 6

Outreach and Fellowship Opportunities

page 7

Bible Study Schedules, Getting ready for Christmas, and Olsburg Fund-raising information

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 Burkland
Cell 785-532-9853
Home 785-468-3370
sburklun@ksu.edu

Pastor

Gordon Sandquist
Home 785-293-5603
Gordy cell: 785-747-7831
gsandquist001@luthersem.edu

Parish Information

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

From the Desk of Your Pastor

Last week, 13 members from Walsburg and Olsburg Lutheran Churches gathered for a Leadership Retreat at the Randolph VFW. During the day, we studied chapters 2, 10 and 16 as a grounding on our work and discussion of developing "purpose statements" and guiding principles.

Some of you may be familiar with the work that has been done in the past on "mission statements." Olsburg has had a functional mission statement of "Become disciples, Live as disciples, Make disciples in Christ Jesus" and Walsburg has proclaimed "More disciples living more faithfully by the power of the Holy Spirit." These were working statements before I arrived over four years ago.

As we look forward and work hard to discern what God is calling us into for the next decade, these purpose statements and guiding principles help us discern more clearly and act more boldly in our decision making. The work that these people did in our 6 1/2 hours together IS NOT a finished product. It is only the beginning of some very healthy conversation about God's work among us.

The different "purpose statements" that were lifted up were –

- ✠ "We are a welcoming family of faith, grounded in Christ, living God's word through service and fellowship."
- ✠ "We are to welcome, praise and serve God."
- ✠ "We are a family of faith, following Christ in Love, Word, and Community."

Olsburg's first stroke "guiding principles" came down to;

- ✠ A community of faith
- ✠ Inviting and welcoming
- ✠ A place for saints and sinners
- ✠ Remembering the past and embracing the future
- ✠ Growing and sharing in faith, so that all might know Jesus Christ

Walsburg's first stroke "guiding principles" came down to;

- ✠ Recognize Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- ✠ Called to discipleship
- ✠ Praise God through prayer, fellowship, baptism and communion
- ✠ Invite, welcome and share the Gospel
- ✠ To be a blessing, living a life to share with others

I want to applaud these leaders for their good and faithful work for the church and the mission we are all called into. The conversation isn't over by any means and we would like for you to include these thoughts in your own prayer time and faith conversations. Look for future opportunities to work on these principles and join in the conversation.

Our purpose needs to be more than simply keeping the doors open and paying the bills! I leave you with this quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer – "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others."

Blessings and Hope
Gordy

OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Minutes for September 19, 2012

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Jan Cooper called the meeting to order. Pastor Gordy began the meeting with a short reading from Matthew 18.

Members present: Jan Cooper, Laura Clifton, Kristi Fronce, Coleen Esping, Kirby Burklund, Woody Kasselmann, Jim Nelson, and Pastor Gordon Sandquist.

Reports

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was reviewed. Coleen moved to approve the report. Kirby seconded. The report was approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented. Jim moved to approve the report. Coleen seconded. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ Gordy thanked all who helped with his ordination reception, the Sunday School Ice Cream Social, and also the lunches that have been held following funeral services.
- ◆ Shari Holt has asked that she be released from her Council position.
- ◆ Discussion concerning the 2013 Budget needs to begin soon.
- ◆ We may want to begin discussion on moving the altar table out from the wall so there is actually a table to work behind during communion, etc. Ideas for possible changes were discussed.
- ◆ Confirmation will be October 28th. There will be three confirmands – Casey Nelson, Callie Webster, and Simone Sandquist.
- ◆ Bible Study will start next week and will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday's of each month at the church.
- ◆ Greater Church – There was a clergy consultation in Salina. Gordy will be a Dean of Area 4.
- ◆ Gordy has joined the K-State Lutheran Campus Ministry Board.

- ◆ The Synod Council meets in November. They are asking for a 1% increase in giving.
- ◆ October 20th – There is a leadership event scheduled for both Olsburg and Walsburg church members at the Randolph VFW from 8:30am to 3:00pm. Jan will discuss lunch plans with Dennis.

Committee Reports

No reports.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Elections: Elections for council and committee members will be held in October. There will be four positions to replace on the board.

Olsburg Cemetery Fund: We discussed possible options for fundraising. Due to the fact we will no longer receive interest from a CD, we need to consider budgeting and fundraising for this additional expense. We discussed a Dillon's debit card as one fundraising option. We will look for more information on the debit card and other ideas for fundraising at our next board meeting.

Kristi moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded. The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Olsburg 2013 Yearbook Deadline

All information for the Olsburg yearbook needs to be turned into Shelly no later than **December 1, 2012.**

November and December birthdays and anniversaries

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

November Birthdays

- 1 Christopher Deetjen (W)
OJ Schultz (W)
- 2 Alan Hubbard (O)
Casey Nelson (O)
- 3 Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 4 Mark Fronce (O)
- 17 Matthew Sundgren (W)
Tristan Kulp (W)
Kristin Hageman (W)
Shane Allen (W)
- 18 Luellen Kasselmann (O)
- 19 Jessica Munson (O)
Mary Kay Henry (W)
- 21 Lawrence Andersen (O)
Jane Larson (W)
- 24 Kyle Clifton (O)
- 25 Pat Gibbs (O)
Karl Kasselmann (O)
Forrest Johnson (W)
- 27 Mary Nelson (O)
- 29 Bill Neilson (W)

- 30 Elaine Olson (O)
Lee Stowell (O)
Dean Nelson (W)

December Birthdays

- 2 Loren Oman (W)
- 3 Willa Erickson (O)
Blake Fronce (O)
- 6 Carol Deetjen (W)
- 10 Carla Hageman (W)
- 11 Beverly Sundgren (W)
Rita Nelson (W)
Alyssa Kulp (W)
- 15 Loree Allen (W)
- 17 Vern Bulk (W)
LaRae Kraemer (W)
- 18 Kylie Grater (W)
- 20 Brian Monser (O)
Garrett Olson (W)
- 22 Tom Nelson (O)
Brandon Rogge (W)
- 26 Heather Nelson (O)
Mildred Nelson (W)
- 28 Rick Johnson (O)
Kent Nelson (O)
- 29 Jerome Flohr (W)

November Anniversaries:

- 2 Loren and Lorraine Oman (W)
- 9 Roger & Oneita Bohnenblust (W)
- 13 Allan and Paulette Kulp (W)
- 19 Raymond & Maxine Anderson (O)
- 22 Floyd and Julie Munson (O)
- 29 Dale and Eva Larson (W)
- 30 Russell and Terry Peterson (W)

December Anniversaries:

- 3 James and Janice Nelson (W)
- 9 Kenneth and Shawn Neilson (W)
- 11 Dennis and Donise Peterson (W)
- 24 Chris and Carol Deetjen (W)
- 25 Rich and Darnell Vargo (O)
- 30 Steve and Julie Strauss (W)

January 1-8 Birthdays

- 3 Darnell Vargo (O)
- 5 Gavin Hargrave (W)
- 6 Gary Holt (O)
- 7 Kenneth Neilson (W)
- 8 Julie Strauss (W)

Members in service

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during November and December.

Walsburg

November Greeter and Ushers: Vern, Kim and Lindsay Bulk, Sandy and Emma Glessner, Alicia Socfield

December Greeters and Ushers: Kermit and Jessie Sundgren, Linda Toomire, Jenny and Cassie Miller, Jerome Flohr

November Communion Ushers: Carl Larson, Vern Bulk

December Communion Ushers: Dennis Peterson, Lynne Berry

***Lay Assistants:** 11/4 Kim bulk; 11/11 Jan Neilson; 11/18 Dennis Peterson; 11/25 Milly Nelson; 12/2 Rita Nelson; 12/9 Jamie Hageman; 12/16 Mary Kay Henry; 12/23 Don Nelson; 12/30 Alicia Scofield

***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

November Ushers: Alan Hubbard, Woody Kasselmann, Jonathan Nelson, Blake Vargo

December Ushers: Jim Nelson, Shane Adams, Brian Clifton, Tom Nelson

November Communion Assistants: 11/4 Coleen Esping; 11/18 Kristi Fronce

December Communion Assistants: 12/2 Shari Holt; 12/16 Jim Nelson; 12/24 Jan Cooper

***November Acolytes:** 11/4 Brooklynn Zoeller, Callie and Codie Webster; 11/11 Kyle Clifton; 11/18 Kylea Ricketts; 11/25 MaKenzie Goff

December Acolytes: 12/2 Jacob Nelson; 12/9 Moniqu Sandquist; 12/16 Nathanael Martin; 12/23 Symone Sandquist; 12/24 7 pm MaKenzie Goff, Brooklynn Zoeller; Callie Webster 11 pm Kylea Ricketts, Jacob Nelson, Kyle Clifton; 12/30 Nathanael Martin

***Lay Assistants:** 11/4 Lee Cantrell; 11/11 Patty Nelson; 11/18 Susan Adams; 11/25 Bill Monser; 12/2 Coleen Esping; 12/9 Becky Avery; 12/16 Jan Cooper; 12/23 Joyce Cantrell; 12/24 Kathy Monser; 12/30 Kathy Ricketts

November Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

December Altar Committee: April Brenner, Shelly Burklund

Olsburg Lutheran Church

56th Annual

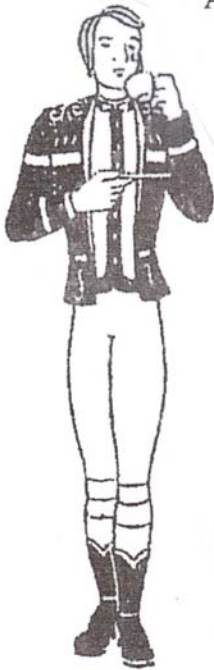
SWEDISH SUPPER

Saturday, December 1, 2012

4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Adults - \$13.00

Children 6 - 12 - \$6.00



Tack så mycket

Tickets: Luellen Kasselman

Telephone 785 / 468 - 3682

or

785 / 565 - 1240

or

woodyk@twinvalley.net

Tickets also available at:

Union State Bank Olsburg & Randolph

or

Loberg Grocery - Olsburg



Var så god

The Red Velvet Chair

They had just returned from out of town. John's dad had died. He was quite elderly and death was not a surprise. As I stepped inside their home into a spacious foyer, there in the middle of the floor sat a red velvet chair and a few small boxes of keepsakes.

As John took my coat he said, "We just got home and I unloaded the car. This was dad's favorite chair."

John's dad was a man I knew and I had the opportunity to visit with on several occasions. He was a man of faith. He had worked hard his whole life and been a great husband and father. Once he owned a large home and a business. His wife had died ten years earlier and he had spent the last few years in an assisted living setting and then finally in a small town nursing home.

As I sat visiting with John and his wife I thought about the red velvet chair and the few boxes in the foyer. That is what was left. That was all. But, of course I was wrong. There was so much more. There were the memories. There was the faith shared with his family. There was the Christian faith lived out by being a business man of integrity. There was the living example of 50 years of faithful marriage. There was being a great dad to children.

The size of the pile in the foyer did not matter. It would have made no difference if John would have had to use a semi to haul his dad's belongings. It would not have mattered if there had been a house, a cabin and a winter place in a warm climate. When death comes, possessions are not what is important.

I can see John's dad sitting in the red velvet chair. I can see the gentle smile on his face. I can hear the kind and affirming words coming from his mouth.

He knew there was more to life than possessions. He knew the good news of Jesus. He lived the good news. He was bold in how he gave generously throughout his life to the work of the church and many other charitable organizations. He spoke openly about our call, as people of God, to give. I will remember that and so will John. The red velvet chair might be around for several more years and the contents of a few boxes might be treasured by future generations, but the life lived in Christ is what matters.

As we prayed it was in thankfulness for a life lived, a life shared and healing for those that would grieve. The red velvet chair was not included.

Adapted from a story by -- Rev. Gary Langness (2010)

Purchase 2013 Calendars

The 2013 calendars are available for purchase. From January's "moonrise over Lake Superior, to the "Hoar Frost" in December, the pictures are stunning. Each month's picture includes a scripture and each Sunday presents a short passage to "dwell" on for the week. These are great calendars for display in your homes and also are very appropriate for those "stocking stuffer" Christmas gifts.

Each Calendar is only \$6. Please leave cash or check in the envelope near the "calendar box." All proceeds support the Senior High ministry throughout the year. The "Calendar Box" is located in the narthex of BOTH Olsburg and Walsburg Churches.

Olsburg Lutheran provides these calendars as a fund raiser. The youth (and future youth), thank you for your continued support.

Advent Devotionals

Through a gift to the People of Olsburg and Walsburg, we will have an Advent Devotional this year. The first Sunday of Advent is December 2. Be sure to pick one up in the narthex by then.

This year, we chose "Awaiting the Wonder," by Tim Wesemann. Each day of devotional has a short story, a scripture passage, some questions to ponder and a short prayer.

Promise yourself this Advent, to set aside a few minutes each day to "gather at the manger," we together we will worship the Christ Child, Jesus, who has made sure that wonder will never cease!

Devotionals will be available in November, and are provided on a first come basis.

Advent 1 (December 2, 2012) begins a new church year, and with this new beginning, we begin "lectionary cycle C" which has as a central focus the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of Luke is unique in being the first half of a two-part work. Part two, the Acts of the Apostles, continues the story with what happens to the church after Jesus ascends.

Luke, the third gospel, like the Christmas story it contains, brings unique gifts to the gathered, listening community. The first two chapters contain a narrative

found in no other gospels – one that we know so well, it would be hard to imagine the church year without it.

There are a number of other stories unique to the gospel of Luke which help us see more clearly a couple of major themes. One clear theme in Luke is the great reversal of roles as the reign of God approaches, when the powerful are brought to account and the lowly lifted up, and the bringing of good news to the poor is prayed out throughout the gospel.

Another theme of this gospel I show the scriptures of Israel (Old Testament) are the authoritative witness to the claim that Jesus is the true Messiah. This is brought to the front more richly in this gospel than in the others. The year of Luke brings many texts and figures before us in eager expectation that through their witness, the Holy Spirit will open our minds to understand, so that we too might be a witness to the grace and hope of Jesus Christ is all we do.

Let us respond with glory and praise to God as we lend witness to his abundant, and abiding grace.

Hunger in the United States

For many families, November means sitting around a table filled with the abundance of the fall harvest. But for the 48 million Americans (including 16.2 million children) who struggle with food insecurity, November, like the rest of the year, is about worrying where their next meal will come from.

ELCA World Hunger works not only globally, but also locally, to help those in need. Through partnerships with ELCA congregations and organizations, ELCA World Hunger supports soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters and other ministries to people around the country that assist them in getting back on their feet.

Learn more about how your gifts are at work in the United States by visiting www.ELCA.org/domestichunger.

Caring for the World's Refugees

Kakuma refugee camp in northwestern Kenya is home to about 100,000 refugees, all of whom have been forced from their homes in neighboring areas because of armed violence or natural disasters. It's a place filled with struggles; but it's also full of hope.

The camp is managed by the Lutheran World Federation and supported by your gifts to your church, the ELCA and ELCA World Hunger. Together, the doors of over 20 schools have been opened and advanced at Kakuma, providing basic education and meals to 15,000 school children every day.

More importantly, though, the programs at Kakuma bring hope for a brighter future. "What I want in my life is just to live with my family in peace in a secure place," says Diadem, a young woman who has been living in Kakuma after being displaced from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "I know that I'm secure, and I'll know that no matter what, I'll just live happily."

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help make this work possible – providing opportunities to many who would otherwise be uncertain about where they would get their next meal or where they would sleep at night.

Gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in nearly 50 countries around the world, including the United States. Your gifts above and beyond the offerings you regularly make to your congregation make a life giving difference.

Olsburg Sunday School and Outreach and Fellowship Committee collecting Non-Perishable Food Items

You are invited to bring non-perishable food items to Olsburg Lutheran Church during November and December. The Sunday School and Outreach and Fellowship Committee will collect the items and deliver

them to a local food pantry. Thank you for helping with this cause!

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Walsburg – Nov. 12, 7:30 – Promised Land
Nov. 26, 7:30 – Davidic Rule
Dec. 10, 7:30 – Jesus' Family Tree
Dec. 24 – No Bible Study this Week!

Olsburg -- Nov. 14 – No Bible Study
(Gordy's at Bishop's Convocation)
Nov. 28, 7:30 – Sinai Covenant
Dec. 12, 7:30 – Promised Land
Dec. 26 – No Bible Study

If you haven't participated yet, it's OK to jump in at any time and be a part of the learning and conversation.

Time to Decorate the Churches

Olsburg – November 18 after Worship services, we will decorate the outside so they are a part of the Swedish Supper festivities on December 1.

December 8th (Saturday) we will gather at 4:00 PM to decorate the inside of the church. As a part of our decorating fellowship, we will enjoy a meal of pizza together after all the work has been completed. Bring the children and your appetite for a fun evening of preparation.

Walsburg – December 2nd, immediately following worship, we will gather for a meal and get all the trimmings out for the tree, balcony, window wells etc. Meat (sloppy joe sandwiches) will be provided. Bring chips, salad, desert, relish, etc. to share. Questions? Call Roseanne Johnson.

OLSBURG CEMETERY FUND-RAISER

We have a continuous fund-raising opportunity available through Dillons; And the funds raised through this program will go toward the OLSBURG CEMETERY Fund.

Here's how it works: You purchase a Dillon's gift card for \$5.00, which has \$5.00 already credit on it. This is a RELOADABLE gift card.

And ONLY this card is connected to the fundraiser. It probably looks like other Dillon's gift cards, but this one is programmed/scanned to our fund-raiser. So DON'T throw it away, just continue to RELOAD money on it and use it for all your shopping at Dillon's. You may pay for your reloaded card with cash, check, or major credit card. So if you do any shopping at Dillon's it would greatly benefit the OLSBURG CEMETERY Fund if you would purchase one of these and use it each and every time you shop at Dillon's. You may need to get more than one if you have others in your family that do your shopping there as well.

You can use it for groceries AND at the gas pumps.

You have to remember that you have to reload your card at the register before your purchases are scanned ... or already have money on the card before you want to use it. If you use a Dillon's plus card, you still need to present /or use that for your points or sale items.

HOW THIS HELPS THE OLSBURG CEMETERY FUND:

When we reach \$5,000 or more in reloads, within Dillon's four-week cycles, we will receive a rebate check for 5% of the total amount. If we don't reach \$5,000 in a cycle, our funds will carry over into the next cycle. ex.: \$5,000 would equal \$250.

The church will receive the check which goes into the OLSBURG CEMETERY Fund since the church is responsible for all maintenance of the cemetery.

If you know of anyone who wants to help out this worthy cause since it's actually a community need/cause, please let them know how to get their card as well.

You can contact Mary Nelson, 785-776-7347 or Tami Howland at Union State Bank (785-468-3341) to get your card(s) . THANKS!



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage PAID
Olsburg, KS 66520
Permit No. 2

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish
12410 Union Road
Leonardville, KS 66449-9617

Address Service Requested

Worship Schedule

Olsburg Lutheran Church Sundays 9:00 AM
Walsburg Lutheran Church Sundays 11:00 AM

Christmas Worship Opportunities

Olsburg Lutheran Church December 24 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM
Walsburg Lutheran Church Julotta Worship Service December 25 6:00 AM

We look forward to seeing you!