

Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Reflections from Pastor Keith

I remember when I was in high school and on the track team. I ran in the 880 yard relay. I was usually the third runner. In those days the two best runners ran first and fourth, with the slower runners in the second and third position. That was me, a little slower, but at least I was on the team. And I didn't want to let the team down.

We practiced. Every day we practiced. We ran sprints. We ran long distances. And we practiced passing the baton. Races can be won or lost as the baton is passed from one runner to the next. I practiced and practiced. I didn't want to be the one who let the team down. I lived in dread of dropping the baton. That would be absolutely horrible, for then the race would surely be lost.

Generations come and go, they say. And it is true. But there is that all important passing of the baton from one generation to the next. It is has been said that Christianity is just one generation away from extinction. If any generation fails to pass the baton on to the next generation, then the faith dies.

Thank God that for thousands of years the generations have been faithful. The faith has been passed on from one generation to the next until finally it has come to us. And

now it is our turn to pass the faith on to others.

Each year on All Saints Sunday (the first Sunday in November), we remember those who have gone before us and who passed the baton of faith to us. We thank God for them. We thank God that they passed the faith on to us.

Now it is our turn. It is our turn to sing the praises of God each week. It is our turn to teach the faith. It is our turn to serve those in need. It is our turn to finance the work of the church. It is our turn to reach out to our neighbors and invite them to faith in Christ.

After all, if we don't, who will? Who will pass on the love of God? Who will tell the story of Jesus? Who will tell the Christmas story of his birth? Who will tell the Epiphany story of his baptism and ministry? Who will tell the Lenten story of his passion and death? Who will tell the Easter story of his resurrection? Who will tell the Ascension story of his Kingly rule? Who will tell the Pentecost story of the coming of God's mighty Spirit?

If we don't, who will? Who will announce the forgiveness of sins? Who will offer a word of hope and encouragement? Who will take towel in hand and wash the feet of

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those who are tired and worn out? Who will take bread in hand and feed the hungry? Who will proclaim the good news that God has come to save us? Who will do this? It is our turn to pass on the baton of faith.

Long ago the prophet Isaiah urged the people to have strong faith. Don't give up, he said. Don't drop the baton. There is a prize for those who win the race. In chapter 25 we read, "The Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines. . . And the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth."

That's the prize awaiting you as well. Take the words of Isaiah to heart. Know that God is planning a great party for you. Keep working hard. Be diligent about your ministry. Don't give up. Don't drop the baton. The team is counting on you. God is counting on you. And God wants to help you.

Down through the years God has fed his people with a special meal. Food to give them strength. Food to give them energy. Food to give them stamina. Food to give them courage. Food to help them in the race. A simple meal, but oh, so powerful! Bread and wine. But not just bread and wine. There's more. Much more. For in and with the bread and wine comes Christ. The Body of Christ. The Blood of Christ. Christ is the real power in this meal. This is the food we need - the food we need often!

Come and eat. This meal is for you. It is the family meal. It is for you and for all the saints. This meal will help you be faithful and do your ministry. This meal will help you pass on the faith to others.

To my knowledge, God doesn't have a back up plan. God is counting on us to pass on the faith. God is counting on each of us! All

of us are needed! Isn't it incredible that God would entrust such vital work to folks like you and me? And yet, that is exactly what God does!

Keep the faith. Love God. Love others. Be the people of God!

The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Keith

Important Days in November

November 7 All Saints Sunday
First Communion for seven of our children
Dedication of the carillons at Olsburg

November 21 Christ the King Sunday
Last Sunday in this church year

November 25 Thanksgiving Day
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good!

November 28 First Sunday in Advent
A new church year begins

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November birthdays, anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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)
- 7 Abigail Hagenmaier (W)
- 9 Tristian Kulp (W)
- 10 David Ahlerich (W)
- 11 Mason Cooper Rice (O)
- 17 Matthew Sundgren (W)
Tristan Kulp (W)
Kristin Hageman (W)
Shane Allen (W)
- 18 Luellen Kasselmann (O)
Valeria Rogers (W)
- 19 Mary Kay Henry (W)
Trinity Meader (W)
Ava Crain (W)
- 21 Jane Larson (W)
- 23 Thomas Halstead (W)
- 24 Kyle Clifton (O)
- 25 Karl Kasselmann (O)

- 27 Mary Nelson (O)
- 29 Bill Neilson (W)
- 30 Dean Nelson (W)

November Anniversaries:

- 1 Lee and Roberta Hartford (W)
- 9 Roger & Oneita Bohnenblust (W)
- 11 Dennis and Donise Peterson (W)
- 15 Brad and Ashley Rice (O)
- 29 Dale and Eva Larson (W)
- 30 Russell and Terry Peterson (W)

Joys and Sorrows

+ We rejoice with Landry Zoeller and with Skyler Zoeller who were confirmed in the Christian faith on Sunday, October 3. Landry and Skyler are juniors at Blue Valley High School in Randolph. Their parents are Tim and Sandy Zoeller.

+ We sorrow with the family and friends of Olsburg member, Raymond Anderson, who joined

the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on October 13, 2021.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

***Ushers & Greeters:** Norman & Janice Johnson; Jeremy & Anita Hinkle; Jennifer Byarlay

Communion Ushers: Vern Bulk & Valerie Hoehner

***Acolytes:** 11/7 Izabel Nelson; 11/14 Harper Befort; 11/21 Mason Scofield; 11/28 Teske Nelson

***Lay Assistants:** 11/7 Carol Wiens; 11/14 Izabel Nelson; 11/21 Jennifer Byarlay; 11/28 Amber Befort

Altar Committee: Lynne Berry

***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: Kyle Clifton; Tom Nelson; Woody Kasselmann; David Gibson

Communion Assistants: 11/7 Kirby Burklund; 11/21 Coleen Esping

***Acolytes:** 11/7 Tori Brenner, Brooklyn Rice, Emma Kasselmann; 11/14 Skyler Zoeller; 11/21 Jace Ricketts; 11/28 Addison Gibson

***Lay Assistants:** 11/7 David Gibson; 11/4 Tom Nelson; 11/21 Jan Cooper; 11/28 Becky Avery

November Altar Committee: Becky Avery; Donica Nelson

How Do We Thank You?

How do we thank you?
Let us count the ways.
Fill our hearts with words
Of honor, love and praise.

Father God, you make us
Fingers, knees and nose.
Each a crafted artwork
Standing on ten toes.

Beans you give us, trout to grill.
Pasta, pears and peas.
Turkey legs, scrambled eggs.
Butter-bread and cheese.

Then you make porcupines,
Whales and walruses,
Skunks and monkeys, wiggly worms,
Bees that sting and buzz.

Purple phlox, daffodils,
Aspen, oak and pine,
Seaweed, daisies, cactus,
Rose and columbine.

Now our biggest thank you -
For a lowly stall,
For Calvary and Easter,
Salvation for us all.

All these gifts and blessings
Sent from heaven above
And our gracious Savior
Filling us with love.
Father God, we thank you:
Hear our songs and praise!
Make us always thankful
All our living days.

Olsburg Office News

Please turn in all information for the Yearbook to Shelly no later than December 6, 2021. Not sure what you need to turn in? Please see the list below:

From Council Chair: List of 2022 council members and Property Committee. List of Church Officers. Monthly (include date) list of who is assisting Pastor during communion

From Head Usher: Usher and Receive offering monthly list

Lay Reader list

Acolyte list (from altar guild)

LCW committees, officers

Any other information you would like added to the yearbook.

Thank you for helping me meet this strict deadline!

Shelly

Walsburg Office News

Please turn in all information for the Yearbook to Rita Nelson no later than December 7, 2021. Thank you!

Stay Connected

If you use email, we would greatly like to add you to our church's email list. In this way you would receive the weekly bulletin, "Pastor Keith's Reflections," the monthly newsletter, and other congregational announcements.

If you are not currently on this list and would like to be added, give your email address to our parish coordinator, Shelly Burklund. Her email address is sburklun@ksu.edu.

A Reminder

If you are not able to make it to our worship gatherings on Sunday morning, you may mail your offering to your respective congregation.

Olsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Alice Gibson, 113 S. 1st St, Olsburg, KS 66520

Walsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Lynne Berry, 14180 Crooked Creek Rd., Leonardville, KS 66449.

We are very grateful for your support which enables us to do the work of Christ in many ways!

Save the Date!

The Walsburg Children's Christmas Program is being planned for Sunday, December 12.



Annual Hayride/Wiener Roast

Loads of Fun! On a cool, crisp early evening on Sunday, October 17, nearly 60 children and adults enjoyed outdoor activities at church including a hayride provided by Roger and Kathy Sundgren and a wiener roast/s'mores with Dennis and Donise Peterson providing the fire for roasting and warmth! With a bountiful supply of food provided, including homemade ice cream and treats for the children, attendees found their way home with another memory of a fun activity with church family and friends! Check out our church website for photos taken.

Manhattan Walk to End Alzheimer's

Thank you to those who donated and/or participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Manhattan's City Park on Saturday, October 23. Walsburg Walkers raised over \$1,300 to help support the efforts to help increase awareness, education, caregiver support, and funding for finding a cause/cure for this dreaded disease. Together, we are making a difference in this vision of the Alzheimer's Association of "A World Without Alzheimer's and all other dementias."

Joint Parish Office Update

I have been looking over member information for both churches. This information includes Dates of Birth, Wedding Anniversaries, children, their dates of birth, dates they were baptized and confirmed. Dates you were baptized and confirmed. Have you children gotten married, had children of their own, transferred their membership somewhere else? Current address.

There are membership forms located at both churches. I would so appreciate if you would fill one out for your family.

Next newsletter items and articles will be due Nov. 25.

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.

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