

Lifetogether

January 2011

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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From the Desk of Your Pastoral Leaders

Wow! What a month. It has been a bitter sweet month of ministry, community and celebration. Why bitter sweet?

Walsburg Lutheran has been and will continue to understand the ramifications of the vote in November and trying to be who God has called them to be in this time and this place with all who are gathered. While there is a sadness about the friends who are no longer gathering for worship, there is also a light spirit of cooperation in trying to do what is needed for the greater community to not only care for those inside the walls, but to be a people who welcome others. The Walsburg highlights of the month include: an outpouring of help and donations for the care packages to students; an incredible decorating party complete with tasty lunch and quick but effective work by more than 20 people; a fabulous Luther League Christmas Program; an incredible morning of Julotta worship and a festive Sunday of worship on the 26th with Christmas Carols and readings. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all the people who are stepping up to take on jobs and roles that are needed to make ministry run smoothly. Your willingness and your enthusiasm is inspiring. You are a beautiful gift to the Church. Now, on to your sister church...

Olsburg Lutheran also had a bitter sweet month that started off with a bang with the 54th Annual Swedish Supper (yes, that was during this month) that hosted

hundreds for traditional foods. More importantly, those that served the supper showed off hospitality that is commendable. Thank you for all your donations of time and food. I hope you were able to do some story telling while you gathered. The following weekend, the Outreach and Fellowship Team hosted a wonderful decorating and pizza party that morphed into a 50th Birthday Party for Pastor Gordy (celebrated by people from both churches and the community). Many thanks for helping celebrate this milestone. The month continued with beautiful offerings of talent from the Sunday School, a great Middle School Christmas Party and then finally a beautiful night of worship with more than 120 showing up during the two services on Christmas Eve. Thank you for inviting your friends and neighbors. We saw more of our friends and neighbors during the week of Christmas because of the funeral for a dear Olsburg Member, Darlene Marcerone. While we celebrated her life in the heavenly Kingdom, we will miss her presence among us. Finally, again on the 26th, we were able to share a little more Christmas with the hymn sing and readings – a beautiful way to end the month.

The purpose of this recap is to take time to review and breath and maybe understand why you might be a little fatigued. There has been a lot going on! So much of it is good stuff. January always brings a rhythm of renewal and planning and preparing for the upcoming year with a fresh

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Life Together is published monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish. Deadline for calendar and other items is the last Monday of each month.

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reminder of how God continues to be with us in all matters of faith and life. It is a time of Epiphanies. So what might that mean for Olsburg and Walsburg? For starters, both churches continue to discover how God calls them to be the church in this time. Walsburg has an additional set of challenges, but they are not unmanageable. Our challenge to you as December comes to a close and January begins with ideas of renewal, please earnestly pray and discern God's will for your life as a disciple and our lives together as the Church. That is where we begin. That is where will meet us and bring us along. More details will follow. Well done, good and faithful servants. Sonja and Gordy

J-Term Schedule at Seminary

January Term Classes are quickly approaching. Both Gordy and Sonja will have a split schedule this year. Sonja will be heading to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota on January 8 during which she will officially begin with Cohort 4 of Distributive Learners on the Masters of Divinity Track working towards ordination. It will be about a 4-5 year process. Her two weeks of learning will include the following classes:

The Mission of the Triune God II - An encounter with other religious world views in a way that relates our identity as Christians with our knowledge and experience of others as we live in a common world.

Telling the Story: An introduction to the place and purpose of preaching in the ministry of the church. The course considers the nature of oral communication, the principles of rhetoric, and the steps in moving from the biblical text to the sermon. Students also develop public speaking skills.

Gordy will join her on campus for a week beginning on January 16 (after worship) during which he will take the following classes:

The Gospel of John: Study of John's Gospel as the context for reflection on the mission of the church and preparation for pastoral leadership (Haha!)

Congregational Care – Equipping

Caregivers: This course presents theological and sociological foundations for care giving as a function of the whole Christian Community. It explores models of congregational care and develops an outline needed for equipping lay people to partner with professional staff in the ministry of care.

Gordy is in Cohort 1 of the Distributive Learning Track working towards a Masters of Divinity. He is currently considered to be on internship and is scheduled to finish and be ordained within the next two years.

Sonja will return on the 22nd and Gordy will return on the 29th. Mary Ellen and Richard Sandquist (Gordy's parents) will be with the girls during the week that both of us are at seminary.

Here is the schedule for the primary pastoral care leadership during the month of January:

January 1-15: Pastor Gordy
January 15-22: Pastor Jeremie Vore (contact Jan Cooper or Dennis Peterson first)
January 22-29 Pastor Sonja

THANK YOU!

Many thanks for the cards and gifts for Gordy's 50th Birthday Party and for Christmas. We had a wonderful time celebrating this big milestone for Gordy and will always remember the time and place and people who celebrated with us! We appreciate both your friendship and partnership in ministry.

January birthdays and anniversaries

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

Birthdays

- 2 Skyler Zoeller (O)
Landry Zoeller (O)
- 3 Darnell Vargo (O)
- 5 Gavin Hargrave (W)
- 6 Gary Holt (O)
- 7 Kenneth Neilson (W)
- 8 Julie Strauss (W)
- 9 Jerry Bohnenblust (W)
Emily Nelson (W)

- 11 Ardeva Gibson (O)
- 16 Ethan Bohlenblust (W)
- 18 Russell Berry (W)
Lacy Brown (W)
Chase Gibbs (O)
Mitch Adams (O)
- 19 Kris Burnett (W)
- 25 Bailee Howland (O)
Jan Nelson (W)
- 27 Brandon Nelson (O)
- 28 Alan Nelson (W)
- 30 Bee Erickson (O)
- 31 Paulette Kulp (W)

February 1-8

- 1 Helen Wieters (W)
Dick Flohr (W)
- 2 Julie Higgins (O)
- 4 Nicholas Allen (W)
- 4 Lynn Webster (O)
- 5 Dale Larson (W)
- 5 Daniel Higgins (O)
- 6 Lynne Berry (W)
- 7 Roseanne Johnson (W)

Anniversaries:

- 7 Mike & Debbie Hagenmaier (W)
- 16 Brian & Laura Clifton (O)
- 9 Kenneth & Shawn Neilson (W)

Members in service this month

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

Olsburg

Ushers: Rich Vargo, Blake Vargo, Gregg Gibson, Woody Kasselmann

Communion Assistants: 1/2

Laura Clifton; 1/16 Joyce Cantrell

*Acolytes: 1/2 Jacob Nelson; 1/9

Bailee Howland; 1/16 Shelby Adams; 1/23 Nick Cooper; 1/30 Makayla Vargo

*Lay Assistants: 1/2 Kristi

Fronce; 1/9 Kyle Clifton; 1/16 Laura Clifton; 1/23 Lee Cantrell; 1/30 Luellen Kasselmann

Altar Committee: Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping

***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 Monday Night Bible Study – *The Enneagram*

January 3rd and 24th at 5 p.m. in the Pastor's Study

We will cover the next part of discovering how God has gifted each person for ministry. The enneagram includes nine types. Our goal is to discover which type each person is and then consider how we live out of that type in both good and challenging ways.

Olsburg Sunday Morning Bible Study:

Meet in the front of the church at 10 Am for conversation and bible study with great coffee!

Walsburg Monday Night Bible Study

January 3rd at 7 PM in Memorial Hall.

The group will do a study on the Book of Revelation. We will continue where we left off. New participants are always welcome!

Service Project: “Nothing But Nets”

Thanks to all who contributed \$150 to the “Nothing But Nets” Initiative. Fifteen families will have access to a pesticide treated net that will cover a family of four for about four years. This effort will help decrease the incidence of malaria disease which often kills young children who get bitten by infected mosquitoes while they sleep. This is an initiative of the Central States Synod and the ELCA. We are proud to be a part of a church that is working on the effort! More opportunities will be available in the future!

Confirmation

Wednesday, January 12th in Waterville

Pastor Gordy may need help transporting kids to Waterville after practice. Please call if you are able to help out!

Wednesday, January 26th in Olsburg Kids will be picked up at Blue Valley, fed and then delivered to Olsburg for class.

Olsburg Annual Congregational Meeting

Olsburg Lutheran Church will hold its annual Congregational meeting January 16th.

Life *together*

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