

# Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

January/February 2013

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## **From the Desk of Your Pastor**

### **What is Authentic Christian Community?**

I have been studying these past couple months around the qualities that make up an authentic Christian Community. Time and again, I have been brought back to Leviticus 19:18 – “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.” It seems, that the true meaning of love of one’s neighbor is not that it is command from God which we are to fulfill, but that through it and in it – we meet God.

Matthew 25 calls into a similar community in which it is through relationship with the other (neighbor) that we experience God’s presence and action. More and more, I am understanding that the kind of community in which this happens is not what we might first expect. We are invited to find God in community with those who are distinctly different from us.

Jesus is telling us that when we make contact with the one who is different, the one whose world is not like ours, we begin to allow God into our lives in radical and authentic ways. When we journey with the one whose assumptions surprise us, whose

judgments conflict with ours, whose worldview disquiets us, and when we stop pretending that the differences aren’t real, we enter into community not only with the other AND, we meet God.

In the months and seasons ahead, pray that you (and we as a community) might be more intentional about journeying WITH “the other” in your midst, (and in the world) in new and different ways, as you continue to meet God.

Thanks  
Gordy

### **More than Enough**

Paul asks the Christians at Corinth to give an offering for the Christian people in Jerusalem who are living in extreme poverty. This portion makes a case for a generous response. I invite you to read the following passage as a personal letter from God (through Paul) to you and to everyone in our congregation:

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (CAV)  
“Remember that the person who sows few seeds will have a small crop; the one who sows many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more

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than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the scripture says: 'He gives generously to the needy; his kindness lasts forever.'"

This passage, is an appeal to give above your present giving level. How well do you think it was received 2000 years ago? How well are you receiving it?

When people are asked to stretch in their giving, there are voices that cry out:

"Who me?"

"We are not talented enough."

"We are too poor."

"We do not have the leadership."

"We are too old or too young."

"We can't meet the budget we have."

"If only we had more people."

"If only we have more youth."

"If only we could get some rich and talented members in our congregation."

I have heard these responses (and many similar) in congregations that worshiped 40, and those who worship 4,000. These are the voices of people whose mindset has bought into the myth of scarcity. This myth generates fear and defines people as deficient.

Here is my response. – First, regardless of size, God has given you and your church opportunities to join Jesus in loving the world. YOU are called to continue the work that Jesus began. God expects that the church will love mercy, do justly and walk humbly. Jesus states that we are to "love God" and to "love our neighbor" as ourselves AND, Jesus commissions us to make disciples.

Every congregation and every person is called by God to enter into mission locally and globally. We may not know clearly what that looks like, so we prayerfully begin, writing down thoughts, talking about options and intentionally committing ourselves to live this out.

Second, God provides all that each

of us needs to do what God calls us to do. We have more than enough talent, leadership, imagination and money available. We are called to make a diligent effort to encourage, discover and identify the assets God has entrusted to our care. God is extravagant with each of us and with God's church.

A more than enough perspective is biblical. It is rooted in the confidence that God will provide. A missional congregation trusts God and generously sows seeds of love in the world. The more we trust God and join Jesus in being the hands, feet and voice that God employs to bring God's love, hope, joy, peace and justice to the world, the more we will be living into the church we are called to be. This includes giving generously of the time, talent and financial gifts God has entrusted to each of us.

Blessings and Hope on the journey.  
Gordy

**Area Ministry Gathering**

Once a year, we have the opportunity to gather together with people from other Lutheran congregations in the area. The Bishop of the synod encourages all congregations to not only be represented by their leaders, but to have people present who are interested in their congregation and the greater church. **You all are invited!**

This year's area ministry gathering will be **February 2**, from 9 AM to NOON, at First Lutheran Church in Manhattan. There will be large group conversations, small group activities and a fellowship lunch hosted by K-State Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Come show your support and learn more about how we all are making a difference in the Kingdom of God.

Call Gordy or sign-up in the narthex with your intent to attend. See you there!

# January and February 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 Bohnenblust (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)

## February

- 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)

- 9 Becky Holt (O)
- 10 Phillip Monser (O)
- 12 Shane Adams (O)
- 13 Alicia Scofield (W)
- 14 Vincent Smith (O)
- 16 Jessie Sundgren (W)
- 17 R.J. Bokelman (O)
- 23 Loretta Hoerman (W)
- 24 Brad Haller (W)
- 28 Makayla Vargo (O)  
Madison Vargo (O)  
Valerie Peterson (W)

## January Anniversaries:

- 7 Mike & Debbie Hagenmaier (W)
- 16 Brian & Laura Clifton (O)

## February Anniversaries:

- 14 Dean and Donna Nelson (W)

## Members in service this month

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

### Olsburg

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

**February:** Casey Nelson, Marvin Johnson, Nick Cooper, Kevin Burklund

**Communion Assistants:** 1/6 Woody Kasselmann; 1/20 Kirby Burklund; 2/3 Laura Clifton; 2/13 Ashley Cooper; 2/17 Coleen Esping

**\*Lay Assistants:** 1/6 Kristi Fronce; 1/13 Laura Clifton; 1/20 Patty Nelson; 1/27 Susan Adams; 2/3 Becky Avery; 2/10 Bill Monser; 2/13 Coleen Esping; 2/17 Jan Cooper; 2/24 Joyce Cantrell

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

**February:** Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

**\*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.**

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### Walsburg

**Ushers and Greeters: January:**

Dennis and Donise Peterson  
Trenton and Lynn Hargrave;

**February:** Aneta Hagenmaier; Theresia Hagenmaier; Don and Rita Nelson

**Communion Ushers: January:**

Don Nelson and Jamie Hageman;

**February:** Gary Hargrave and Roger Sundgren

**\*Lay Assistants:** 1/6 Don Nelson; 1/13 Alicia Scofield; 1/20 Janet Neilson; 1/27 Dennis Peterson; 2/3 Milly Nelson; 2/10 Jane Larson; 2/17 Rita Nelson; 2/24 Jamie Hageman

**Altar Committee: January:** Janet Neilson; **February:** Janice Johnson

### Installation of 2013 Council Members

February 10 during worship. All Council members are encouraged to attend to be installed on Council for the 2013 year. Installation will be immediately following the sermon.

On Jan 27 Walsburg will host a "Souper" Bowl Kickoff soup luncheon immediately following church with cans of soup donated for food pantry. Bring all your canned goods (and any other food and cash donations) so they can be sent to the Riley Food Pantry. Soup and dessert provided by Outreach Committee.

### Walsburg Annual Meeting

Feb 10 - breakfast at 10am before church to review annual meeting packets, then have annual meeting immediately following church service and be done close to 12:30. This is a format we used last year and it seemed to work well. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex.

### Financial Records for Annual Audit

Please have all financial books in the Walsburg office by January 20 so they can have their annual audit. The Audit Team will need them the following week for their report to the congregation. Thanks

## **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 fund-raiser. 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) .

### **UPDATE:**

We have raised a little over \$630.00 to date! Keep using those gift cards and help our cemetery!

Thank you!

# Life together

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Leonardville, KS 66449-9617

**Address Service Requested**

## **Adult Bible Study**

Connecting God's story with ours.

**Walsburg** – January 28, February 11, February 25 – Walsburg gathers at 7:00 PM

**Olsburg** – January 23, -- Olsburg meets at 7:30 PM

## **Olsburg Annual Meeting**

January 27 – Gather at Noon for a “pot-luck” lunch. Bring a dish to pass, and if everyone brings dessert, we'll have a sweet meeting. The Annual meeting will follow immediately after lunch.

## **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner –

**February 13**

**Olsburg – 7:00 PM**

**Walsburg – 8:15 PM**

We have a tradition of gathering in each congregation for this evening service for the Imposition of Ashes (remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return) and celebration of Holy Communion. This service sets off the beginning of our Lenten Journey

## **Weekly Midweek Worship**

During Lent, we will gather each week at 6:15 for a light supper followed by worship 7:00 PM

February 20 – Olsburg

February 27 – Walsburg

March 6 – Olsburg

March 13 – Walsburg

March 20 – Olsburg

## **Holy Week Schedule**

Watch the weekly bulletins for our Holy Week schedule for Maundy Thursday (March 28) and Good Friday (March 29) times and locations.