

# Lift *together*

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

January/February 2015

## *inside...*

### **page 2**

Pastor Keith's  
Greeting continued  
*Olsburg Annual  
Meeting information  
Walsburg Annual  
Meeting Information  
Lent Schedule  
Council Installation*

### **page 3**

*Members in Service  
Birthdays and  
Anniversaries*

### **page 4**

Christmas Letter  
from Bishop Eaton

*Next newsletter items  
and articles will be due  
Feb. 15*

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

### **Greetings in the Name of Jesus!**

It is a great privilege and joy for me to serve as your interim pastor. I have long admired the Olsburg and Walsburg congregations and for the past several months Carol and I have been discovering first hand that these are indeed two wonderful congregations of faithful people!

Now as I move from the pew to the pulpit, let me share a little about me. I am a native Kansan. I was born in southwest Kansas and lived in Copeland, a small town about 35 miles from Garden City, until I was seven when we moved to Pratt.

It was in Pratt that I met Carol and we started dating. Carol grew up on a dairy farm just outside of Pratt. When we finished college, we got married and moved to St. Louis where I entered seminary. I did three months of clinical pastoral education at the Topeka State Hospital in Topeka and a year of internship in Los Angeles.

After graduating from seminary, I was called to Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Bend, Kansas. Part of my call was to start a new congregation in St. John, a small

community 25 miles south of Great Bend. After a couple of years, Carol and I moved to St. John to give more attention to the fledgling congregation. Shortly after that, I also began serving the Lutheran Church in Garfield, about 33 miles west of St. John.

Both of these churches were in small, rural communities. While the congregation in St. John was brand new, the congregation in Garfield was over a hundred years old. It was rooted in the Swedish tradition with lots of Nelsons and Petersons and Andersons. Each congregation usually had about 35 - 40 people in worship.

In 1983 I was called to serve First Lutheran in Manhattan, first as an associate pastor, then as senior pastor. And I served there until I retired last June.

### **A Time of Transition**

The coming months will be a time of transition for us, as we grieve the departure of Pastor Gordy and his family. This will also be a time when we begin the process of selecting a new pastor. This means we will be doing a lot of hoping and dreaming and planning for the future.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*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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As your interim pastor, I am here to assist you during this time of transition. I have agreed to work half time, so I will not be able to do everything Pastor Gordy did. Two key parts of my ministry among you, though, will be leading worship and providing pastoral care. I will also be working closely with the leadership of both congregations to lead and guide us as we assess more clearly what God is calling these two churches to do and what kind of pastoral leadership will be best for these churches in the years to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of help to you or your family. Let me know if you are going into the hospital, desire communion at home, seek baptism for yourself or someone you know, have concerns, or simply want to talk. I am not good at reading people's minds, so be sure to contact me. Phone numbers to reach me are 785-776-5348 (home) and 785-341-1600 (cell). My email address is [keithw4870@gmail.com](mailto:keithw4870@gmail.com).

I am excited to accompany you during this time of transition. I look forward to the coming months, to getting to know you better, and joining with you in doing the work God has called us to do.

**Annual Meeting Dates**

**Olsburg Annual Meeting**

February 1 – 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.

**Walsburg Annual Meeting**

February 8 — Annual meeting following worship. More details will be announced in the weekly bulletin.

**Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner – **February 18**

**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 6:00 for a light supper followed by worship 7:00 PM

February 25 – Olsburg

March 4 – Walsburg

March 11 – Olsburg

March 18– Walsburg

March 25 – Olsburg

**Holy Week Schedule**

Watch the weekly bulletins for our Holy Week schedule for Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3) times and locations.

**“Souper” Bowl Kick Off Party at Walsburg**

On Jan 25 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.

**Installation of 2015 Council Members**

Olsburg Council members will be installed February 1 during worship. All Council members are encouraged to attend.

Walsburg Council members will be installed February 8 during worship. All Council members are encouraged to attend.

# 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)
- 8 Julie Strauss (W)
- 9 Jerry Bohnenblust (W)  
Emily Nelson (W)
- 16 Ethan Bohlenblust (W)
- 18 Russell Berry (W)  
Lacy Brown (W)  
Chase Gibbs (O)  
Mitch Adams (O)

- 25 Bailee Howland (O)  
Jan Nelson (W)
- 27 Brandon Nelson (O)
- 28 Alan Nelson (W)
- 30 Bee Erickson (O)

## February

- 1 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: January:** Rich Vargo, Blake Vargo, Gregg Gibson, Woody Kasselmann

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

### Communion Assistants: 1/4

Ashley Rice; 1/18 Gregg Gibson; 2/1 Kraig Kasselmann; 2/15 Kirby Burklund; 2/18 Diane Nelson

**\*Lay Assistants:** 1/4 Laura Clifton; 1/11 Patty Nelson; 1/18 Tom Nelson; 1/25 Becky Avery; 2/1 Bill Monser; 2/8 Coleen Esping; 2/15 Jan Cooper; 2/18 Joyce Cantrell; 2/22 Kathy Monser

Acolytes: 1/4 Brooklynn Zoeller; 1/11 Emma Kasselmann; 1/18 Skyler Zoeller; 1/25 Grady Kasselmann; 2/1 Jace Ricketts; 2/8 Kaden Gutsch; 2/15 Landry Zoeller; 2/18 Kylea Ricketts; 2/22 Brooklynn Zoeller

**Altar Committee January:** Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping; **Feb.:** Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

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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:

Rita Nelson and Kathy Sundgren;  
**February:** Aneta Hagenmaier, Bill Johnson

**\*Lay Assistants:** 1/4 Don Nelson; 1/11 Alicia Scofield; 1/18 Janet Neilson; 1/25 Dennis Peterson; 2/1 Jane Larson; 2/8 Rita Nelson; Milly Nelson; 2/15 Harold Storer; 2/22 Diana Hargrave

#### Altar Committee: January:

Roseanne Johnson; **February:** Janice Johnson

**\*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.**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
I recall this image from my home congregation: A banner depicting Mary and Jesus in the manger and the backlit silhouette of the cross cast over this scene. It was jarring. The cross on Christmas? I didn't like it.

Christmas can carry so much emotional freight. We must be merry and filled with good cheer. We are driven to get everything perfect by the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve. We are filled with wistful longing. But what are we longing for?

We long for peace, love and a place to belong. We want to know that someone cares. We want the assurance that all of this means something. And, we try to bring that all about in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The hope of Christmas was fulfilled on Good Friday. The cross is part of Christmas. "Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you" (What Child Is This?). The cross is *the* Christmas gift, where all of our Christmas glorias are realized in Jesus' glorification on the cross.

We don't have to get everything completely right. We can't. That's God's work and it has been done. So, good Christian friends, rejoice!

Peace,



*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.