

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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\$240,000 for
Response to Japan
Disaster

Next newsletter items and
articles will be due April 25.

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From Your Pastoral Leaders

Faithful Living: Stewardship as Mission

Stewardship is an act of mission that moves the church from creed to practice.

The missional church recognizes that everything belongs to God, including the mission itself. God has a mission in this world and the church as a whole is used by God to accomplish this mission. Church members do not think in terms of what they are doing for God but rather are caught up in a profound and often surprising recognition of what God is doing for them, and to them, and through them.

A missional approach to stewardship might entail making three moves.

- A change in emphasis – from a narrow focus on *faithful giving* to a broader focus on *faithful living*.
- A change in tone – from the demanding voice of *obligation* to the appealing voice of *privilege*.
- A change in motivation – from giving out of sense of *duty* to giving out of sheer *delight*.

A short-term approach views stewardship as a *means* for funding the church's mission – a long-term approach to stewardship does not view it as a

means to an end, but as the end itself. Stewardship *is* our mission: it is a way of life marked by participation in *God's* mission.

Every Sunday (not just every September) the mission church proclaims the good news that we belong to God and explores what it means to belong to God, to be stewards not owners.

Implication for a mission-driven approach to stewardship:

- 1) the missional church is not simply or even primarily concerned with the money people donate to the congregation, but with how people acquire, manage, regard, and spend their money every day of their lives;
- 2) the missional church places all these aspects within a gospel framework, so that people can recognize how God is at work in these areas of their lives and rejoice in the privilege of being a participant in God's mission;
- 3) the missional church expects God's Spirit to produce the fruit of generosity within people and, so, promises people that they can know the joy of giving that is motivated by sheer delight, giving that is an expression of worship and of heartfelt love for God.

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Might these be glimpses of God's abundance as we live them out? Welcome to lent, and to the journey of discipleship...

Gordy

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. Council President Jan Cooper called the meeting to order. Pastor Gordon Sandquist began the meeting with a scripture reading.

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

Reports

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

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

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Gordy expressed thanks to all those who attended the annual meeting. He also expressed thanks to the Council, as well as the Altar Guild, for all they do to keep things running smoothly.

Pastor has conducted 18 visits to members at home, in hospitals or nursing homes.

He reported that we need to check the sound system to make certain everything is working properly.

Confirmation – Casey Nelson is added as a confirmation student from Olsburg.

The Greater Church – Pastor Gordy will be in Kansas City for a convention March 11-12 as a representative of Synod Council.

Sonja will be on vacation March 16-23.

We need to begin a review of the constitution and look for necessary changes/updates. Our goal is to have this review completed by the 2012 annual meeting so we can have it approved during that time.

Installation of council members is planned for February 27th.

Old Business

Crossroads – This program will begin on March 19th in Salina. There will be ten meetings - some

may be on-line. Two of the meetings will in Salina. There should be 4-5 members from each congregation in attendance. The goal is to find the strength in each church and conduct work outside the church itself. Joyce moved and Jim seconded that we participate in the Crossroads program. The motion carried. Gordy and Sonja will look for people from the church willing to participate in the meetings. The funds used to pay for the membership will come from Westar Community Partners. These funds were donated to the church by Westar Energy in Jan Cooper's name. Jan designated the funds to be used for this worthy outreach and fellowship program.

Swedish Supper Profits – It was clarified that the proceeds from the supper should go to Pastor Gordy, as voted on during the annual meeting in January.

Cemetery Funds – Discussion was held concerning the cost and upkeep of the cemetery. We discussed fundraising options.

New Business

It was mentioned that both a stove and refrigerator are needed for the church basement. Council members will watch for sales.

Diane Nelson was in attendance at the meeting as a special guest. She requested approval to use the church on May 14, if necessary. She and Jim will be renewing their wedding vows that day. Their plan is to use the park, but in case of rain, they would like to use the church. It was suggested they reserve the date on the narthex calendar.

Diane also presented some information on a food pantry she would like to start in the Olsburg community. She is looking for space to be used for distribution. She presented information on how the program works. The council asked Diane to get some additional information and we will discuss at the next meeting.

Lent Offering – There is a balance of \$649 in offerings from the last two years. This is currently being kept in a discretionary fund to be administered by the pastor. Coleen moved to continue adding the 2011 offerings from Lent to this fund to be used to help those in need. Kristi seconded. The motion carried.

Constitution Committee – Coleen and Laura both volunteered to be on the committee.

Church Clean-up – The council will plan for a clean-up in April and discuss further at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

April birthdays and anniversaries

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

Birthdays

- 7 Roger Bohnenblust (W)
Travis Hageman (W)
Jackie Frintrup (O)
Jarin Brenner (O)
- 8 Irene Johnson (O)
Roger Sundgren (W)
9 Aneta Hagenmaier (W)
- 10 Jennifer Halsted (W)
- 11 Kelsey Lawrenz (W)
Christopher Hubbard (O)
- 13 Brian Johnson (O)

- 15 June Johnson (W)
- 17 Tristin Kraemer (W)
- 20 Trenton Hargrave (W)
- 22 Fern Johnson (W)
Alan Peterson (W)
- 25 Haley Arellano (W)
- 26 Doug Kraemer (W)
- 28 Kevin Burklund (O)
Kirby Burklund (O)
Jacob Nelson (O)
Susan Adams (O)
Emma Bohnenblust (W)
Rob Scofield (W)

May 1-7

- 2 Cindy Olson (W)
Jessa Kulp (W)

- 3 Zachary Holt (O)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)
Crystal Strauss (W)

Anniversaries:

- 2 Vern and Kim Bulk (W)
- 11 Kevin and Barbara Burklund (O)
- 18 Ray and Jennifer Miller (W)
- 21 Steve and Peggy Johnson (O)
Gary and Carla Hageman (W)
- 30 Jamie and Kristi Hageman (W)

Members in service this month

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

Walsburg

Greeters and Ushers: Richard and Shirley Strauss, Gary, Carla and Amy Hageman

Communion Ushers: Roger Sundgren; Christopher Deetjen

***Lay Assistants:** 4/3 Jan Neilson; 4/10 Lindsay Bulk; 4/17 Dennis Peterson; 4/24 Milly Nelson

Olsburg

Ushers: Brian Clifton, Tom Nelson, Mitch Adams, Blake Vargo

Communion Assistants: 4/3 Woody Kasselmann; 4/17 Laura Clifton; 4/21 Joyce Cantrell; 4/24 Coleen Esping

***Acolytes:** 4/3 Nathanael Martin; 4/10 Morgan Vargo; 4/17 Shelby Adams, Bailee Howland, Nick Cooper; 4/21 Kyle Clifton; 4/24 Madison Vargo, Shane Adams, Codie Webster

***Lay Assistants:** 4/3 April Brenner; 4/10 Bill Monser; 4/17 Brian Clifton; 4/21 Laura Clifton; 4/24 Coleen Esping

Altar Committee: Coleen Esping, Joyce Cantrell

***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.**

Worship News

The Lenten Season

“Glimpses of Abundance”

Featuring a theme of renewal each week

March 23: Prayer, Devotion and Bible Study (Walsburg)

March 30: Stewardship and Resource Development (Olsburg)

April 6: Leadership Development (Walsburg)

April 13: Outreach and Evangelism (Olsburg)

6:00 PM Community Meal

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

7:00 PM Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

All offerings taken during Wednesday Night Lenten Services will be designated for special projects and organizations. Olsburg has designated funds to be used for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund Walsburg has designated funds to be sent to Camp Tomah Shinga

Palm Sunday

April 17

This day’s liturgy begins with a procession of palms, commemorating Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. All who are able are invited and encouraged to meet outside on the sidewalk for the opening acclamation after which all will process into the church waving palms during the Opening Hymn. (weather permitting)

During our Palm Sunday Service, we will read the Passion Story according to the Gospel of Matthew. While we are only offering a reading, we would like specific voices for the following parts:

Narrator, High Priest, Jesus, Maid, Judas, Another Maid, Peter and Pilate.

Please contact Sonja if you are available and interested to share your voice. We will need voices for each congregation’s service.

10:00 AM - Olsburg Palm Sunday Feaster Join the Olsburg Outreach and Fellowship committee on Palm Sunday, April 17, immediately following worship for a tasty brunch. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex for food donations.

Holy Week

Holy Week Prayer

Take some time during this holy week to stop by either (or both) churches and engage with the prayer experiences offered. At Olsburg please go to the fellowship area where directions will be provided. Please feel free to light candles during your time there and extinguish them before your depart. At Walsburg, go to the sanctuary entrance for directions and a guide.

Olsburg: The Prayer Path (available Holy Week Monday – Good Friday)

Walsburg: Stations of the Cross (available Holy week Monday – Saturday)

Maundy Thursday

Walsburg and Olsburg Community

Seder Meal

April 21

6:00 PM

Location: Walsburg Lutheran Church

Families are encouraged to attend. Look for reservation sign-up lists and donation lists in the narthex of each church. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. Each table will help provide for all the necessary elements for this Jewish Meal as we remember the night of Jesus’ Last Supper and the institution of communion. In addition to the symbolic foods, we will invite a few participants to stew and dessert for the evening meal.

Contact Sonja if you are able to help with set-up and clean-up.

Good Friday

Walsburg and Olsburg Good Friday Worship and Youth Drama

April 22

7:00 PM

Location: Olsburg Lutheran Church

All are invited to the most solemn night in our church life as we together re-experience the death of Jesus the Christ. Our youth will offer an interpretation of this event through a drama with music called, "The Ragman," by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Holy Saturday Easter Extravaganza for Kids!

April 23

12:30 – 1:30 PM

In front of Union State Bank or Olsburg Lutheran Church (in case of weather)

Prior to the Easter Festivities in the Olsburg Community, all kids are invited to the church fellowship area for crafts and games in celebration of the risen Savior!

Sponsored by the Jr. High and Sr. High Youth.

Easter Sunday

April 24

6:30 AM - Walsburg Outdoor Sunrise Service

Breakfast will follow in Memorial Hall
Sponsored by Outreach and Fellowship Team

9:00 AM – Olsburg Lutheran Easter Service

11:00 AM – Walsburg Lutheran Easter Service

April 25 – Official Pastoral Day of Rest

Youth Ministry

Confirmation

Confirmation is going great. We have a consistent 9-15 kids showing up to learn the stories of the bible. Last month they participated in their own Seder Meal (complete with grape pop) to learn the story

of the Last Supper. This month they will meet for a ½ hour each Wednesday to focus on one part of God's Story and then serve as a leader during our Lenten Services. Our Schedule and Calendar is as follows (class and worship are required, the meal is optional)

6:00 PM Dinner

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

7:00 PM Worship

March 16: Class at Olsburg – The Crucifixion

March 23: Class at Walsburg – The Resurrection

March 30: Class at Olsburg – The Road to Emmaus

April 6: Class at Walsburg – The Pentecost Story

April 13: Class at Olsburg – Saul

Confirmation Camp at Tomah Shinga June 26-July1

Pastor Gordy and Pastor Jeremie Vore will be taking a bunch of kids to camp for the week. The pastors each take turns leading the bible study portion of the day and then participate in other activities during the week with the kids.

The kids will have a lot of other fun activities to keep them busy throughout the week including arts and crafts, hiking, the high and low ropes course, water fights, camp fires, pool time and worship. They will spend their cabin time in updated, air conditioned cabins with a trained counselor who will keep them safe all week.

Early Bird Deadline for Registration (savings of \$25): April 1st

Scholarships are Available: Contact the Pastors

Thanks to all who donated funds at the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper for camp scholarships!

**Luther League Mission Trip /
Confirmation Final Mission
Denver, Colorado and Sky Ranch Camp
in Ft. Collins, Colorado
July 17-24, 2011**

All middle school youth who will be confirmed in the Fall will be engaging in a final mission project through which they will be exploring their gifts and putting their learning and skills to work through intentional immersion and service opportunities throughout the Denver area.

This trip includes a little camping, a night at a youth hostel, roughing it on church floors, cooking our own meals, leading worship, bible study and some Rocky Mountain Fun. We will conclude our trip with some time high in the Rocky Mountains at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp where we can hike, raft, and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

All Sr. High Youth are invited into this experience as well. A couple adults will be needed to drive and chaperone the event if our group is large.

COST (tentatively): \$175 (includes, meals, lodging, transportation, program, rafting and camping fees)

Scholarships are available. Please contact the pastors if the cost of the trip is an issue.

**Luther League Mission Trip /
Confirmation Final Mission
CAR WASH**

Saturday, May 7th

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Auto Zone on Ft. Riley Blvd. in Manhattan

All mission trip participants and a parent are encouraged to participate to help us raise gas money for the trip!

**Luther League Good Friday Drama
“The Ragman”**

Friday, April 22

7:00 PM

Location: Olsburg Lutheran Church

Practice: Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 PM

Location: Olsburg Lutheran Church

No memorization is required for this story set to music.

**Luther League National Youth
Gathering Parent Meeting**

Sunday, March 27

4:00 PM

Olsburg Lutheran Church

Bring the kids to listen

Content of the Meeting:

**National Youth Gathering Spring
Training for Adult Leaders**

Saturday, April 16th

Salina, Kansas

At least one other adult (preferably female) is needed to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans with Pastor Gordy, July of 2012.

This Spring Training Event is for adults who are putting the event together with a full understanding of what youth ministry is and how the national youth gathering can be effective as ministry and not just something fun to do.

This is a great crash course on youth ministry with training developed by the professors of Luther Seminar and Princeton Theological Seminary.

Youth Sunday: May 29

Mark your calendars now!!!

Adult Education

Olsburg Monday Night Study

March 28, April 4 and April 18 (tentative)
"Making Sense of the Christian Faith" by David Lose

We will review the first chapter and have a conversation with latest efforts from the team that brings us the "Book of Faith" initiative.

Walsburg Monday Night Bible Study

S.A.L.T. (Stewards Attending Life Together)
Mondays, April 11 and 25 (tentative)
Continuing with the study on Revelation

Olsburg Sunday Morning Adult Education

10:00 – 11:00 AM

"The Lutheran Course"

After we complete this review of the Lutheran faith, we will dive back into the Book of Faith Series from Exodus.
All are welcome!

Thanks

Thanks goes to the people who trimmed up the trees at Walsburg.

Thanks goes to the people who donated funds for the new furnace system at Walsburg as well as Kirby Burklund for installing it. Many, many thanks.

Thanks goes to the people who donated a new water heater in the parsonage and the good guys who installed it!

Thanks goes to the volunteers attending the Cross Roads Retreat and then committing time to discerning future actions and ministries!

ELCA Commits \$240,000 For Response to Japan Disaster 11-032-JB

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) today committed \$240,000 in response to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Japan March 11.



"It is with our strong, expansive network of global companions that we as the ELCA are responding to Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami," said the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop. "Our church's long-established relationships -- both Lutheran and ecumenical -- are enabling us to engage effectively with communities as they recover from this massive disaster."

"I urge all of our members and congregations to give generously and to pray for the people of Japan and for our companion church there, as they face both dangers relating to the damaged nuclear facilities and the massive humanitarian crisis resulting from the earthquake and tsunami," he added.

Specifically, the ELCA is sending \$40,000 to The Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, to support a disaster response expert from India who will assist the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and two other Lutheran churches. The ELCA is sending \$100,000 to the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, the ELCA's companion church, for its disaster response efforts. The ELCA commitment includes another \$100,000 for Church World Service, New York, to support an ecumenical disaster response in Japan through the Japan Platform, a consortium of 32 Japanese nonprofit organizations, and the National Council of Churches Japan.

Through March 18, ELCA members have given approximately \$250,000 to support the ELCA response in Japan. Hanson said he is pleased with the gifts provided by ELCA members, and said 100 percent of the funds will be given for the local response through the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and ecumenical partners.

"Given the historical relationship with the ELCA, the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church is suggesting to other organizations that assistance from U.S. Lutherans be channeled through the ELCA," the presiding bishop said in a March 18 message to the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

Japan's National Police Agency reported March 18 that nearly 7,000 people have been

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confirmed dead and more than 10,000 people are missing as a result of the earthquake and tsunami. Church World Service reports more than 460,000 people are being sheltered at evacuation sites.

The ELCA churchwide organization requested that all eight of its missionaries living and serving in the Tokyo area seek alternative housing for the immediate future further west of the city because of the threat from earthquake-damaged nuclear reactors, said Megan Bradfield, program director, ELCA International Disaster Response. She said at least six have already left. The ELCA has 22 missionaries serving in Japan.

In his message to the bishops, Hanson said the ELCA "is blessed with a deep and enduring relationship with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church" that goes back more than 100 years. The ELCA South Carolina Synod is a companion synod with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Japan church is already providing food and shelter to people in need, and it is working with other Christian churches plus partner organizations in areas where there are Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church congregations, Hanson said.

Hanson said the disaster expert from India who will help in Japan has had recent experience with the disastrous 2004 tsunami that struck several countries in the Indian Ocean.

The ELCA is a member of Church World Service, an ecumenical development and disaster response organization, which has a longstanding presence in Asia. Church World Service is working with and through its historical companion, the Japan Platform, to provide a coordinated response to meet basic needs of people currently living at evacuation sites, including distribution of blankets received from within the region, Hanson said. The ELCA's gift to Church World Service will help provide an "immediate response to 5,000 families and a broader coordinated effort among the Christian family," he said.

"Thank you for your prayers, and for encouraging the congregations of your synod to join with others throughout The Lutheran World Federation in prayer for the people of Japan and for our companion church there as this crisis continues to unfold," Hanson added.

Financial gifts for the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami can be contributed at <http://www.ELCA.org/japanearthquake> on the ELCA website. Credit card gifts may be contributed by calling 1-800-638-3522. Gifts designated for the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami can also be sent to: ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300.

Information about response efforts and the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church can be found at <http://www.ELCA.org/disaster> and at <http://www.ELCA.org/japan> on the ELCA website.