

Life Together

March/April 2014

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

*From the Desk,
continued
Worship Schedule
Is it Worth Talking
About?*

page 3

*Birthdays and
Anniversaries
Members in Service
Council meeting
schedules*

page 4

*Is it Worth Talking
About? (Continued)
ELCA Hunger
A Note from the
Parish Office*

*Next newsletter items and
articles will be due April 21*

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Editor/Parish Coordinator

*Shelly Burklund
Cell 785-532-9853
Home 785-468-3370
sburklun@ksu.edu*

Pastor

*Gordon Sandquist
Home 785-293-5603
Gordy cell: 785-747-7831
gsandquist001@
luthersem.edu*

Parish Information

*Olsburg 468-3500
olc@olsburglutheran.org
Walsburg 293-5367*

From the Desk of Your Pastor...

Ash Wednesday

"We commit this body to the ground;
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust
to dust."

Words about ashes and dirt are
spoken not only on the first day of
Lent, but at any time of year that the
Christian assembly gathers, --
outdoors, -- to bury their faithful
dead. The good earth holds an
earthen body, and together they
await the renewal of creation at the
coming of Jesus...

In the Christian church year, we are
entering the season of Lent. Some
call it penitential, some call it
somber, some call it a time of
sacrifice. It can be all these things
at different points, AND – in the
early church, Lent was seen as a
time to prepare for baptism. For
those who were in preparation –
these days could mean simplifying
one's life, ridding it of luxuries or
taking on a practice of
reconciliation. For us today –
whatever we do or don't do in Lent,
our purpose is to ready ourselves
for renewal in the waters of
promise.

The cross of ashes is really a soil-
infused version of the seal made
with oil in the rite of baptism. Justin
Ambrose (in the early church)
preached to his flock, "if we could
have baptized you in dirt without

killing you, we would have!"

I remember one young child at the
altar, who looked over at the others
receiving the cross on their
forehead, and he asked his mother
in a voice loud enough for me to
hear – "why did that cross turn
black?" This is akin to the question
that some children ask when they
begin to realize the outcome of
Jesus journey to Jerusalem. They
might ask something like – "Why did
Jesus get dead?"

WHY? Is a good question. Why is
Ash Wednesday one of the most
loved Christian liturgies? Could it be
that we are drawn to its honest
speech about death. Perhaps it's
because it is such a welcome
reprieve from our "death-denying"
culture. Somewhere deep inside us,
I think we know what the psalmist
was saying when they wrote,
"Teach us, O Lord, to number our
days." In a sense, I think we need
awareness of death, in order to
seek joy and gladness in our living.

The twentieth century Roman
Catholic priest, Romano Guardini,
writes – "Everything turns to ashes,
everything whatever. This house I
live in, these clothes I am wearing,
my household stuff, my money, my
fields, meadows, woods, the dog
that follows me, the clock in the hall,
this hand I am writing with, these

eyes that read what I write, all the rest of my body, people I have loved, people I have hated, or been afraid of, whatever was great in my eyes upon earth, whatever small and contemptible, all without exception will fall back into dust.

And when Christ returns, like the joyous sun of springtime and like new growth in the field, all that was humbled to dust shall be raised to life.”

To experience this ancient and beloved practice, come to Olsburg Lutheran Church on March 5, at 7 PM – OR – Walsburg Lutheran Church on March 5, at 8:15 PM.

Blessed and faith-filled Lenten Journeys
Gordy

Midweek Worship

March 12th – Walsburg

March 19th – Olsburg

March 26th – Walsburg

April 2nd – Olsburg

April 9th -- Walsburg

Gather for soup and sandwich fellowship at 6:00 P.M. each evening followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary with a short message and teach on “Gospelled Lives.”

Maundy Thursday

April 17th, **7:30 P.M.** (Please Note this Different Time)

Olsburg Lutheran Church

This is the night of betrayal as the disciples participated in the Passover Meal. A service of healing, reconciliation and communion will be part of the evening service.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Good Friday

April 18th, **7:30 P.M.** (Please Note this Different Time)

Walsburg Lutheran Church

We will observe our traditional service of light and shadows this Good Friday as part of Holy Week. A symbolic stripping of the altar, into the darkness and emptiness of death is a part of this service.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Easter Sunday

April 20th

Walsburg **SonRise @ 6:30** (sunrise will 6:42 ish) community breakfast will follow!

Olsburg celebration of Easter and Holy Communion @ 9:00 A.M.

Walsburg celebration of Easter and Holy Communion @ 11:00 A.M.

Invite your friends and family to the pinnacle of the church year as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Is This Worth Talking About?

One of the biggest challenges we have in our culture is how we talk about “this”. Pastors I have worked with have said that “this” is a foundational sign of our maturity as Christians and disciples of Jesus Christ. People have said that they would stop if I talked too much about “this.” So why is it that “this” causes so much angst, frustration and anxiety in our church and life as people of faith?

Let me take a moment to state four ways for us to think about “this” in the year ahead. These are ways to think and live for both us as individuals, and for us as a congregation.

ONE: To know and understand that God cares about our entire life, this includes our financial spending, goals and worries. God cares about our financial well-being. God cares about our financial worries as much as we do. God cares how we spend our money on daily needs and how we give of this money to show our love to God and others. It’s easy to forget that God loves and cares about our entire lives, including how we are doing with our finances.

TWO: Stewardship is a way of life, not just a way for the church to ask for money. I understand and am a part of a congregation that survives on weekly gifts and offerings and has a yearly budget, but somehow, when we talk about stewardship – I get the impression people tune out and think this is what we care about most... That meeting the budget at the end of the year and getting everyone to give the goal... AND, as a pastor, I do care about these things, -- I care more about people being good stewards. God cares more about our entire lives than our church budgets! Don’t you think?

March and April birthdays and anniversaries

Birthdays

March

- 1 Katie Burklund (O)
Raymond Nelson (W)
Jared Henry (W)
- 2 Donna Nelson (W)
Brianna Olson (W)
- 4 Marian Smith (O)
Jeanette Pultz (W)
Jennifer Kulp (W)
- 6 Garrett Nelson (O)
- 9 Taellor Howland (O)
- 10 Donald Campbell (W)
- 11 Tami Howland (O)
Christy Nelson (O)
- 12 Bev Stowell (O)
Mike Hagenmaier (W)

- 14 Janet Neilson (W)
Gary Hageman (W)
- 16 Marla Webster (O)
- 17 Floyd Munson (O)
- 18 Bart Coutermarsh (W)
Cindy Neilson (W)
- 20 Peggy Johnson (O)
- 21 Richard Gibbs Jr. (O)
- 21 Ashley Cooper (O)
- 23 Jonathan Nelson (O)
- 27 Kent Burklund (O)
- 28 Kylie Gibbs (O)
- 29 Timothy Zoeller (O)
Amanda Esping (O)
Stacy Deetjen-Dawes (W)
- 31 Rich Cooper (O)

April

- 7 Roger Bohnenblust (W)
Travis Hageman (W)
Jarin Brenner (O)
- 8 Irene Johnson (O)
Roger Sundgren (W)
- 9 Aneta Hagenmaier (W)
- 11 Kelsey Lawrenz (W)
Christopher Hubbard (O)
- 13 Brian Johnson (O)
- 15 Ida Kasselmann (O)
- 19 Russell Peterson (W)
- 17 Tristin Kraemer (W)
- 20 Trenton Hargrave (W)
- 26 Doug Kraemer (W)
- 28 Kevin Burklund (O)
Kirby Burklund (O)
Jacob Nelson (O)
Susan Adams (O)
Emma Bohnenblust (W)
Rob Scofield (W)

Members in service

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

Walsburg

March Ushers and Greeters: Lee and Roberta Hartford; Gary and Diana Hargrave

April Ushers and Greeters: Harold and Sheri Storer; Richard and Shirley Strauss; Mary Kay Henry

March Communion Ushers: Vern Bulk; Sandy McCool

April Communion Ushers: Norman Johnson; Lynne Berry

***March Lay Assistants:** 3/2 Jerry Baer; 3/9 Diana Hargrave; 3/16 Sandy McCool; 3/23 Linda Toomire; 3/30 Mary Larson

***April Lay Assistants:** 4/6 Sandy Glessner; 4/13 Jamie Hageman ; 4/20 Mary Kay Henry; 4/27 Don Nelson

March Altar Committee: Lynne Berry

April Altar Committee: Diana Hargrave

***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

March Ushers: Jacob Nelson, Shane Adams, Jim Nelson, Lee Cantrell

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

March Communion Assistants: 3/2 Laura Clifton; 3/5 Ashley Cooper; 3/16 Coleen Esping

April Communion Assistants: 4/6 Kraig Kasselmann; 4/17 Woody Kasselmann; 4/20 Diane Nelson

***March Lay Assistants:** 3/2 Kathy Monser; 3/5 Susan Adams; 3/9 Tom Nelson; 3/16 Becky Avery; 3/23 Bill Monser; 3/30 Coleen Esping

***March Acolytes:** 3/2 Landry Zoeller; 3/5 Jace Ricketts; 3/9 Skyler Zoeller; 3/16 Emma Kasselmann; 3/23 Brooklynn Zoeller; 3/30 Landry Zoeller

***April Lay Assistants:** 4/6 Jan Cooper; 4/13 Joyce Cantrell; 4/17 Kathy Monser; 4/20 Kraig Kasselmann; 4/27 Kristi Fronce

***April Acolytes:** 4/6 Jace Ricketts; 4/13 Emma Kasselmann, Skyler Zoeller, Landry Zoeller; 4/20 Kylea Ricketts, Jace Ricketts, Brooklynn Zoeller; 4/27 Emma Kasselmann

March Altar Committee: Shelly Burklund; April Brenner

April Altar Committee: Coleen Esping; Joyce Cantrell

March Anniversaries

- 9 William and Janet Neilson (W)
- 22 Dan and Shari Holt (O)
- 23 Don and June Campbell (W)

April Anniversaries

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

Council Meeting Schedules

With Lent, we will be moving our meeting nights a bit. Please mark your calendars with these changes for the next couple months!

Walsburg -- March Meeting, March 12th, 7:45pm (immediately following mid-week)

Olsburg -- March Meeting, March 19th, 7:45pm (immediately following mid-week)

Walsburg -- April Meeting, April 9th, 7:45pm (immediately following mid-week)

Olsburg -- April Meeting, April 16th, 7:00pm (this is Holy Week and we may revise)

THREE: Stewardship is NOT just about money but it does include money. God cares about what we do with our money, but also what we do with our time and talents! God cares about what we do at our jobs, how we give of our time to serve others, and how we take care of our families and ourselves by eating well, spending quality time together, and resting.

FOUR: It can be helpful and “re-framing” to live everyday with the question – **How does what I do with my time, talent, and treasure affect my relationship with God?** Stewardship is first and foremost about a relationship – our relationship with God. How does our stewardship or management of God’s stuff affect our relationship with God? Does it? Have you ever stopped to think about the question? – When we start to think about our relationship with our stuff, as our relationship with God, we start to care for things differently – we start to become good stewards of all that God has given us: time, talent, treasure...

How are you being called to live, give, and go – more faithfully in the year ahead???

ELCA World Hunger

More than 800 million people — that’s 1 in 8 people in our world today — are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our [congregations](#), in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Hunger facts

- 868 million people – that’s 1 in 8 – are chronically hungry and cannot lead active daily lives.
 - 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 per day.
 - In the United States, more than 50 million people do not know where their next meal will come from.
- 46.2 million Americans are living in poverty.

These are some statistics from the ELCA website which can help to keep us involved in God’s Kingdom on a global level. Even more important, is the way we participate in the community in which we live to help lift up the needs in our own front yard as we commit to be an agent of change with our neighbors, both next door and around the world.

A Note from the Parish Office

This is the first newsletter you are receiving electronically or hard copy you picked up in the church narthex. We no longer have a bulk mail permit. If you would like the newsletter to come to you by email, please send Shelly your email address. (sburklun@ksu.edu)