

Life Together

March 2020

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Reflections by Pastor Keith

Cluttered. Busy. Exhausting. Complicated. Confusing. Anxious. Muddled. Messy. Unclear. Do these words describe your life? Does your life need some spring cleaning?

Good news! Lent is here! Lent is the time to do spring cleaning - of your life, of who you are, of how you spend your days. It is a time for renewal. It is a time for re-focusing on what is most basic and foundational in your life. It is a time for re-discovering what is at the center of your life. For those of us who follow Jesus, what is at the center of our lives is Jesus!

Can we agree that this Lent we will spend more time with Jesus? We will listen more carefully to what he says. We will make it a priority to come to Holy Communion every time it is offered (after all, this is where Jesus gives Himself to us most fully and completely). We will spend more time talking with him in prayer. We will try more earnestly to do what he tells us to do.

Of course, that means we will probably have to do less of something else. If we are honest, many of us spend more time watching TV than we do hanging out with Jesus. Many

of us are more faithful in listening to the news of the day than we are in listening to Jesus. Many of us are more engaged in sports than we are engaged in worship. Many of us spend more money on snacks and drinks and entertainment than we spend on supporting the church and helping those in need. Take a look at your life. There is probably something that you can do less of so that you can do more with Jesus.

The truth is - Jesus has given you everything! Forgiveness. Hope. Community. Love. Purpose. Freedom from the curse of sin and death. Life with God. What blessings would you add to this list?

There is a reason Jesus is the center of your life. He is your Savior, your Friend, your Lord, the One who connects you with God! Don't let him be pushed to the periphery. Keep him at the center of your life.

When Jesus is at the center, the rest of your life has a way of falling into place. Life becomes more manageable. More satisfying. More fulfilling. More peaceful. More filled with joy. More what you want it to be.

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There is a reason why you have chosen to follow Jesus!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

Words of Wisdom

Jesus said, "Strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

It's a gift to be simple,
It's a gift to be free,
It's a gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we see ourselves in a way that's right,
We will live in a valley of love and delight!
Shaker Hymn

Jesus said, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you?" Luke 6:46

"So we turn our focus to Christ, who lights our way. That way, whatever happens we will be faced in the right direction." John Sorenson, Pastor, ELCA

Why Do You Give?

I give because I am ashamed not to give.

Would you give less if no one knew or cared how much you gave? If so, you are probably giving more to satisfy your own pride than to please God. Remember that even if no one else knows or cares how much you give, God does.

I give to pay for the things I receive.

It is true that much of what you give to the church is needed to pay for the things the church offers you - a place to worship, a program of Christian education, pastoral care. But if your giving stops here it is hardly Christian. Any honest person will pay for what she or he receives.

I give to provide things for others.

This is better. Your gift helps to bring the gospel to the lost and minister to those in need around the world. God works through you to bring help to others.

I give because I am a steward.

This is an awesome reason for giving. You give because everything you have belongs to God. God has given good gifts to you to use in his service for the benefit of others.

I want to give because God first gave to me. Most of all, I am grateful to God who loved me enough to send his Son to save me. Because I love God I want to dedicate myself and all that I have to him.

Midweek Lenten Services

You are invited for worship and fellowship each Wednesday evening during the season of Lent. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a simple soup supper followed by the worship service at 7:00 p.m. We will use the Holden Evening Prayer service each Wednesday. Pastor Keith's mid-week messages will help us reflect on the words of Jesus through these key questions: "What is truth?" (John 18:38). "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). "What is greatness?" (Luke 22:24-28). "Why are you afraid?" (John 6:20). "When did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison?" (Matthew 25:37-39).

Lenten Worship Schedule

March 4 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00 Worship service at Walsburg

March 11 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00 Worship service at Olsburg

March 18 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00 Worship service at Walsburg

March 25 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00 Worship service at Olsburg

April 1 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00 Worship service at Walsburg

March birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

Birthdays

- 1 Katie Burklund (O)
Raymond Nelson (W)
Jared Henry (W)
Roberta Hartford (W)
- 2 Donna Nelson (W)
Brianna Olson (W)
- 5 Justin Ricketts (O)
- 6 Garrett Nelson (O)
Jenny Plummer (O)
- 9 Taellor Howland (O)
Preston Miller (O)
- 10 Donald Campbell (W)
Rowdy Berry (W)
- 11 Tami Howland (O)
Christy Nelson (O)
- 12 Bev Stowell (O)
Mike Hagenmaier (W)
- 14 Janet Neilson (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)
Ashley Rice (O)
Carol Wiens (W)
- 22 Joshua Hinkle (W)
- 23 Jonathan Nelson (O)
Brooklyn Rice (O)
- 24 Jacob Hinkle (W)
- 26 Gracie Scofield (W)
- 27 Kent Burklund (O)
- 28 Kylie Gibbs (O)
- 29 Timothy Zoeller (O)
Amanda Esping (O)
Stacy Deetjen-Dawes (W)
- 31 Rich Cooper (O)

March Anniversaries

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

Joys and Sorrows

- ✠ We rejoice with Jaedyn Fief, Jaylee Fief, Jaiella Fief, and Ava Crain who were baptized at Walsburg on February 13.
- ✠ We rejoice with Aaron Crain and Tanner Fief who were united in marriage at Walsburg on February 13.

Members in service

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

Olsburg Ushers: Karl Kasselmann; David Gibson; Jon Nelson; Lee Cantrell

Olsburg Communion Assistants: Today: Kirby Burklund; 3/15 Jacob Nelson; 3/29 John Lowry

***Olsburg Acolytes:** Today: Jarin Brenner; 3/8 Addison Lee; 3/15 Brooklyn Rice; 3/22 Landry Zoeller; 3/29 Brooklynn Zoeller

***Olsburg Lay Assistants:** Today: Kraig Kasselmann; 3/8 Jan Cooper; 3/15 Patty Nelson; 3/22 Kathy Monser; 3/29 Tom Nelson

Altar Committee: Coleen Esping

Walsburg Ushers and Greeters: Lee & Roberta Hartford; Lynne Berry; Lori Rogge

***Walsburg Communion Ushers:** Vern Bulk and Valerie Hoehner

***Walsburg Lay Assistants:** Today: Carol Wiens; 3/8 Amber Befort; 3/15 Sara Diamond; 3/22 Rita Nelson; 3/29 Lynn Hargrave

***Walsburg Acolytes:** Today: Harper Befort; 3/8 Dawson Dick; 3/15 Mason Scofield

Altar Committee: Diana Hargrave

Receive The Newsletter

We want you to get the newsletter - either by email or by postal mail. If you want to receive the newsletter by email, send your email address to Shelly at sburklun@ksu.edu. If we already have your email address, but you want to receive the email by postal mail, please inform Shelly.

Reminder:

Walsburg Lutheran Church volunteers to host Holy Communion at the Leonardville Nursing Home at 2:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Please contact Pastor Keith if you can help with this ministry!

Remaining 2020 Dates:

- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
will be starting soon and
WE NEED adult and youth volunteers
to make this VBS time a success!

Please, volunteer to help this year whether you've helped in the past or not. Should you be able to help us out just one or two days that's okay too! Give Luellen a call and let her know what day(s) you'd be available.

For questions, or to volunteer, please contact Luellen Kasselmann at woodyk@twinvalley.net or 785.565.1240.



Make plans now for your children to attend
May 26th – May 29th
9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Olsburg Lutheran Church

We will get on the Rocky Railway so our children can enjoy a faith-filled adventure where they will discover that trusting Jesus will pull them through life's ups and downs!

ALL CHILDREN 3 years old (and potty trained) through those who are in 6th grade are invited, and encouraged, to attend.

OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH Highlights from the January 8, 2020 Meeting

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7pm.

Pastor Keith noted that the Synod would like an estimate of our anticipated giving for year 2020. In 2019, the congregation gave \$6500 to the ELCA. The Council agreed to advise the Synod we anticipate our giving will be the same as 2019, with the hope of giving more.

The Council discussed plans for the annual meeting and noted we should could continue to discuss our on-going efforts to keep up the maintenance of both of the cemeteries. The Council noted the history of the Mariadahl cemetery is something we want to learn more about and keep alive. We went over its history beginning with when it was purchased in 1960 from H.A. and Minnie Rosenberg for \$300. The timeline has some gaps so we will do some additional research and seek input from others who know the history.

Thank you to everyone who helped put up the beautiful Christmas lights on the church. The community has enjoyed the display.

The Council discussed the many repairs that were made in 2019 and those we will continue to monitor in 2020, including the church sewer system. We will discuss other necessary maintenance and repairs in our February meeting.

The Annual Meeting was set for Sunday, February 2nd.

Walsburg Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

The Walsburg Council met on February 5, 2020. Below are some highlights from the meeting.

- Installation of council will be held on February 16.
- Lenten services begin February 26, 2020.
- Pastor Keith reported nine children are preparing to receive 1st Communion. We will be providing a gift for each of the six children from Walsburg as well as the previous class.
- Pastor Keith informed the Council the PMA candidate has withdrawn from the process.
- Cathedral Craft plans to begin our project after Easter, April 12th, and the entire project will be completed at one time.
- The wedding and baptism policy for non-members was updated.
- Lenten offerings will be given to the Riley Food Pantry and World Hunger.
- A blue-ray DVD player was purchased for the church.
- The Council is seeking volunteers to help update the calling tree and prayer chain.
- Fellowship and Outreach received \$60 and 97 items at the "Souper Bowl" soup lunch February 2nd, which will be donated to the local Riley Food Pantry.
- The parsonage will need to have the foundation and various repairs addressed in the near future.
- The fundraising committee still has Tim Sigle Photography prints of the Walsburg Lutheran Church available for sale.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Walsburg Sunday School

In March, the Sunday School children will be hearing the following Bible stories:

- March 1 – Jesus Raises Lazarus
- March 8 – Jesus The Good Shepherd
- March 15 – Abide in Love
- March 22 – Mary Anoints Jesus
- March 29 – Holy Week

Additional activities of the children include creating singing at the worship service on March 15, learning new songs during Opening Time, and enjoying Bible story videos and activities that increase their love for Jesus.

Noah, The Musical

Noah The Musical, was shown in Walsburg's Memorial Hall on Sunday, February 16, with 17 members and friends in attendance. Noah, The Musical, was produced at a Sight and Sound theater and is an accurate re-telling of the story of Noah and the Ark from the Bible. Noah the Musical brought the story of Noah to life like never before. All in attendance enjoyed the musical. Thanks to Don and Rita Nelson for sharing this DVD!

WALSBURG VBS June 22-26 9 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Children from 3 years of age through 6th Grade

Children and staff will get on the Rocky Railway so we will enjoy a week of faith-filled adventure and discover that trusting Jesus will pull us through life's ups and downs.

Needed: adult and youth volunteers to make this VBS time a wonderful experience for all.

Invite family, friends & neighbors! All are welcome!

For questions, or to volunteer, please contact Sheri Storer at 785.770.6506 or sheriastorer@gmail.com.



Rocky Railway 2020 Easy VBS

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.