

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

From the Pastoral Leaders

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A look at Pentecost

*Next newsletter items
and articles will be due
May 24.*

“What time is it?” I have been uttering this phrase all Spring as I wrestle my cell phone out of my purse or pocket to check the time. It is never as easy as turning my wrist for a glance, especially when my phone is dead. The issue isn’t that I don’t own a watch. In fact, I own five beautiful watches that would suffice for any occasion. My Tigger Watch is a favorite and has accompanied me on many youth trips and retreats. The issue is that all of my batteries are dead... and it is just one of those small jobs that doesn’t capture my attention enough to warrant a trip into town...and those little watch batteries are expensive...the list goes on and on. There are many good and some not so good reasons why I haven’t taken care of this little chore. The good news is that there are countless other ways that we keep track of time.

“What time is it?” According to the liturgical calendar we are in the beautiful season of Easter for 50 days as we move toward the festival of Pentecost, a day that is remembered for the outpouring of the Spirit, the power that the disciples needed to carry the Gospel into the world as God commanded. Following the Festival of Pentecost is the Season of Pentecost that seems to last forever. It is a time growth which coincides with the growth season of all of the crops in the fields in North America. There are a few liturgical festivals along the way, but for the most part, the season of growth is long. So, in other words, we are just at the beginning of the journey. The outpouring of the Spirit will again be experienced and we will have time to pause and see how the Spirit might work through our lives as it sends us to the world.

“What time is it?” What is this time in our world? How will the history books write about this time in our world? Is it a time of dire straights, scarcity and starvation...economically, physically...environmentally...even spiritually? Or is this a time of abundance...even over

abundance...over indulgence...and entitlement?

What is this time in our churches? As school comes to a close and the pull of the academic calendar winds down, what defines our time together as the Church (big “C”)? What amazing ways can we gather together during the upcoming summer months to “be” the Church and “reflect” the Church that God had in mind using our hearts, souls, minds, hands and feet, all the resources that God has given for this very purpose?

Better yet, what is this time for you as an individual? What is God calling you to be and do this summer? How has God gifted you to love and serve as Christ loved and served? Is your calendar full of life sucking obligations or are you engaged in play and work that is spiritually life giving and Christ reflecting? Please don’t misunderstand the question. I am not asking what you want in your life of faith, I am asking what God wants of you. Only when we answer the call are we ever really clear in our walk with God. You see each person has been specially crafted as a person with both life gifts and spiritual gifts to be used in the world to share faith, hope, love and promise with the world. It doesn’t mean it is always easy nor is it always fun, but it is fulfilling and honest and authentic. Occasionally, there are miracles to see along the way, and that is grace over-flowing.

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” *Hebrews 13:1-2*

In closing, my prayer for this time in this place is that all might know the love of God, discern the heart and will of God, reflect Christ in the world and welcome all into God’s Church by the power of the Holy (and unpredictable) Spirit... and that there may be peace among God’s people. It’s about time.

Blessings on all your journeys.

–Sonja

Walsburg Council Highlights

The Walsburg council met April 7 2010 at the church. Meeting highlights appear below. Minutes will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex after they have been approved at the May meeting.

Life Together is published monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish. Deadline for calendar and other items is the last Monday of each month.

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Parish Information

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Members present: Dennis Peterson, Gary Hargrave, Roger Sundgren, Don Nelson, Carl Larson, Gordon Sandquist, Sonja Sandquist, Cindy Kulp, Christopher Deetjen, Doug Kraemer and Debbie Hagenmaier. Also present: Rita Nelson, treasurer

- † Approved March meeting minutes as corrected.
- † Received treasurer's report as presented. It was noted that offerings are down.
- † Under hearing of visitors, Beverly Sundgren reported the Walsburg women will serve lunch following graveside services for Elaine Berggren on Friday, April 9.

Reports:

Pastor – Confirmation class is planning a service event for their final mission project for the year. Two Walsburg youth will be confirmed. Registration for confirmation camp is also under way. Holy Week services went well, participation by the youth was appreciated, and attendance was good. Around 60 people attended the Easter sunrise service.

Fellowship and Outreach Committee –The committee is organizing the senior recognition dinner honoring Brianna Olson. A potluck dinner will follow worship on Sunday, April 18. The committee will provide drinks and table service. The Kansas Specialty Dog Service graduation will in August. Walsburg has provided the meal for this graduation in recent years. More information will be announced closer to the date. Walsburg quilters will make puppy blankets for KSDS dogs.

Church Property Committee – The mower has been serviced. A sign-up sheet for mowing will be posted in the narthex. Lights in the sanctuary have been cleaned and several bulbs replaced. As light bulbs burn out, they will be replaced with energy-efficient bulbs. Clean-up day was rained out and will need to be rescheduled. Appreciation was expressed to the Jay Peterson family for outdoor clean-up work they did before Easter. Pews in Memorial Hall need to be removed and put in the sanctuary before the WELCA Cluster Meeting on April 24.

Parsonage Committee – The acreage east of the parsonage will be burned by the grounds committee and will not be used for pasture this year. Council will accept bids to put up hay in the pasture. Bids should be turned in to any council member, in a sealed envelope, by the May council meeting.

Finance Committee – The committee recommended the following benevolence distribution: local missions, 50 percent; ELCA global ministries (e.g., Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, Heifer International), 30 percent; and Central States Synod, 20 percent. Council approved the committee's recommendation.

Approved taking \$500 out of the gift fund to help pay hotel and other related expenses incurred by the Gene Henry family during Gene's recovery following his recent accident. A special offering will also be collected at church.

Reviewed the preamble and the first two chapters of the Walsburg constitution. Chapters three and four will be reviewed in May.

Discussed moving forward with the congregational task force to study our affiliation options. Congregational members will be asked to serve on this task force. Pastors Gordy and Sonja requested that a process and timeline be developed. Cindy Kulp will take the lead and report at the next meeting.

The Sunday bulletin format was discussed briefly. Pastor Gordy will have more information at the May meeting.

Pastor Gordy has obtained a list of 120 members, based on giving this year and in 2009. Therefore, 12 members would be required in order to call a congregational meeting.

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at 8 p.m. at the church.

May birthdays and anniversaries

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

Birthdays

- 2 Jessa Kulp (W)
- 2 Cindy Olson (W)
- 3 Zachary Holt (O)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)
- Crystal Strauss (W)
- 9 Sonja Sandquist
- 10 Dan Holt (O)
- Rich Vargo (O)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 14 Clayton Neilson (W)

- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
- 17 Clifford Johnson (O)
- 20 Kermit Sundgren (W)
- Dusty Holt (O)
- 21 Alice Marie Gibson (O)
- Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 24 Emily Cook (W)
- 26 Raymond Anderson (O)
- Shari Holt (O)
- Kathy Monser (O)
- 27 Lynn Burklund (O)
- Ashtyn Kulp (W)
- 28 Wes Holt (O)
- 28 Woody Kasselmann (O)
- 29 Donald Holt (O)
- 30 James Nelson (W)

- 30 Lila Bestwick (W)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)

June 1-7

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)
- 2 Barbara Burklund (O)
- Jordon Hagenmaier (W)
- 3 Amy Pultz (W)
- 4 Nicki Beadle (O)
- 6 Marvin Johnson (W)
- 7 Gary Hargrave (W)

Anniversaries:

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (W)
- 4 Dustin and Jessica Holle (W)
- 5 Arlo and Wava Peterson (W)
- 7 Bill and Kathy Monser (O)
- 10 Jim and Diana Nelson (O)
- 14 Russell and Lynne Berry (W)
- 15 Willard and Fern Johnson (W)
- 15 Donald and Rita Nelson (W)
- 15 Rob and Alicia Scofield (W)
- 16 Alan and Sharon Hubbard (O)
- 26 Jon and Emily Cook (W)
- 28 Robert and Ramona Johnston (O)
- 29 Shane and Loree Allen (W)
- 30 Gene and Mary Kay Henry (W)
- 31 Rich and Jan Cooper (O)

Members in service this month

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

Walsburg

Ushers: Bill Neilson, Doug Kraemer, Brennan Bestwick, Jerry Erickson

Greeters: Bill and Janet Neilson, Jill Reynard, Jerry and Pat Erickson

Communion Ushers: Debbie Hagenmaier, Roger Sundgren, Dennis Peterson, Doug Kraemer

*Acolytes:

***Lay Assistants:** 5/2 Kim Nelson; 5/9 Jamie Hageman; 5/16 Alicia Scofield; 5/23 Carol Deetjen; 5/30 Jay Peterson

Flowers for Church: Volunteers

Altar Committee: Roseanne Johnson, Kim Bulk

Olsburg

Ushers: Kirby Burklund, Nick Cooper, Bill Monser

Communion Assistants: 5/2 Laura Clifton; 5/16 Jan Cooper

***Acolytes:** 5/2 Shelby Adams; 5/9 Bailee Howland; 5/16 Blake Vargo; 5/23 Callie Webster, Jacob Nelson, Jonathan Nelson; 5/30 Kyle Clifton

***Lay Assistants:** 5/2 Nick Cooper; 5/9 Patty Nelson; 5/16 Shane Adams; 5/23 Shelby Adams; 5/30 Shelby Peter

Altar Committee: Kathy Monserler, Kristi Fronce

***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.**

Pentecost Outside Youth Worship Sunday, May 23

Bring your lawn chair and wear comfy clothes and shoes for the lawn! Who knows how the Spirit will show up! (If it rains we will be inside.) Bring an appetizer or addition for the party punch to share for our Spiritual Happy Hour! (little sandwiches, fruit, cheese and crackers, sweets – any finger foods!)

Youth will practice on Sunday, May 16 at 10:00 AM at Olsburg followed by a massive effort to finish the outside altar area. Lots of adult help needed!

Life together

Olsburg Community Memorial Day Service and Potluck Dinner

The Olsburg community will hold a service of remembrance for those who have passed away in the past year and those who have served and lost their lives in the military on May 24 at 11:00 a.m. at Maridahl cemetery. There will be a potluck dinner and short program at the Olsburg American Legion following the service.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all high school, college and Vo-tech graduates!

The Inspired, Living, Holy Word of God

About 150 A.D., only a couple of decades after the last New Testament letter entered circulation, before the church gathered together to decide (or discern) what should be in the Canon (the Bible as we know it today), an astronomer named Ptolemy published a well received writing which explained the movement of the sun and moon, stars and planets, and how they moved around the earth. The earth was presented and understood to be the center of the universe. In 1543, just a few years before the death of Martin Luther, Nicolaus Copernicus, presented the theory that Earth was not the center of the universe. In fact (he said) the earth rotated on its axis and revolved around the sun. A little later, Galileo, who was a builder of telescopes, supported Copernicus and was able to “look” much further into the wonders of the solar system and the universe. For contradicting the teaching of the church, which was basically identical with the long-accepted view of Ptolemy and was supported by numerous appeals and passages to Scripture and sound reason, Galileo was condemned by the church.

The church’s position was easy to understand. There are many passages in the Bible that declare the centrality and immovability of the earth. Our personal *experience* of the universe supports the position of the early church. *We experience* our place in the universe as a stable platform – from which we observe an assortment of heavenly bodies moving across the dome of the sky. In order to accept the teaching of Copernicus and Galileo, a monumental shift in understanding of both Scripture and theology was required. I mention this, to remind us of the shifts that have been and will continue to take place in the church’s reading of the Bible. What was written in the Bible came to be recognized as not the last word, not literally true. In this case, the text is seen to have theological and literary value, but not scientific or historical. AND, this shift in understanding from 500 years ago, has not reduced the value of the text for people willing to listen, reflect, and come to new understandings.

This is just part of the journey of Biblical interpretation with the inspired word of God which is a living word. And, because it is God’s living word, it can withstand discoveries of how God really set the universe in motion. So, how do you deal with the Bible today?

Look at each of the following passages. In each case, write if you **Agree** or **Disagree** – and then think about why.

- ✠ Women should be silent in the churches. (1 Corinthians 14:34)
- ✠ Any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled disgraces her head. (1 Corinthians 11:5)
- ✠ You shall not let your animals breed with a different kind; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed; nor shall you put on a garment made of two different materials. (Leviticus 19:19)
- ✠ All who curse father or mother shall be put to death. (Leviticus 20:9)
- ✠ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God – not the result of works so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

(continued on the next page)

- ✚ You shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning (Leviticus 19:13)
- ✚ Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. (Matthew 5:42)
- ✚ You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard... You shall not... tattoo any marks upon you. (Leviticus 19:27-28)
- ✚ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:14)
- ✚ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet" and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:9-10)
- ✚ This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have love you. (John 15:12)
- ✚ You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together. You shall not wear clothes made of wool and linen woven together. (Deuteronomy 22:10-11)
- ✚ If a man is caught lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman as well as the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel. (Deuteronomy 22:22)
- ✚ Those born of an illicit union shall not be admitted to the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of their descendants shall be admitted to the assembly of the LORD. (Deuteronomy 23:2)
- ✚ And for those of you who are old enough – Look up Deut. 22:5, Deut. 22:28-29, Deut. 24:1-4, and Deut. 25:11-12

Thanks for taking this little journey with me today. I hope you can see, that it isn't always as clear as the black and white of the words on the page. Like Galileo shows from so many years ago, it is a mistake to sharpen our minds by narrowing them. It is a mistake to look to the Bible to close a discussion; the Bible (as the living word of God) seeks to open one... It can be dangerous to see the Bible as an oracle to be consulted for specific advice on specific problems; rather, we see it as a wellspring of wisdom about the ambiguity, inevitability, and insolubility of the human situation... Can we see how the Bible makes us comfortable with struggle but uneasy in success... Can we rest in the truth that the Bible is a signpost, not a hitching post. It is the inspired, living, holy word of God.

June Intensive

What is June Intensive? That is a power packed two weeks of learning during the beginning of June on the Luther Seminary Campus at St. Paul, Minnesota for both Sonja and Gordy. Both will be in class from 8 AM – 5 PM and then return home to write papers and read some more to finish the class and get credit towards a Masters of Divinity. Both will be taking the summer off from semester long classes and then gear up again in the fall with online learning. Why do we do this? The seminary requires at least 10 courses of a Masters Degree to be taken on campus. This allows students to take the courses on campus without moving to campus in St. Paul.

During June Sonja will be taking the following two classes:

The Mission of the Triune God: An examination of the mission of the Triune God from biblical, theological, historical, and cultural perspectives in an effort to discern significant components of contemporary mission in a global context.

Early and Medieval Church History: An examination of the major developments in Christian theology, structure, institutions, mission, and worship from the post-apostolic age (100 AD) through the late medieval period (1400 AD). Attention is given both to continuity and change, with emphasis on the relationship between the church and culture.

During June Gordy will be taking the following two classes:

Jesus, Savior and the Triune God: Study of the Christian confession that Jesus Christ is the savior of the world. Biblical, historical, creedal, confessional, and contemporary models provide the basis for understanding and interpreting the person and work of Jesus Christ and the consequent Trinitarian understanding of God.

Worship: With the aim of preparing competent, evangelical leaders of public worship, the course combines shared worship experience, as well as reflection on that experience, drawing on the broad range of Christian worship theologies and practices. Through consideration of biblical foundations, theological development, and historic and

contemporary practice, students achieve well-grounded understanding for guiding parish practice (it's about time).

Confirmation Ministry

The last class happened on May 5th at Olsburg with a meal at 6:00 and class at 6:30 PM. Thanks to all the kids and adults who support this ministry. It was a great year!

Confirmation Camp – Camp Tohma Shinga June 27 – July 2

Throughout the 2 ½ year program, students are encouraged to attend camp at least once before they are confirmed? Why? There are very few places that youth can experience Christian community for an entire week. During that week God can go to work on them in all sorts of ways – both through the activities and programs, but more importantly through their friends and counselors and pastors.

Confirmation Final Mission Trip

Monday, July 19- Thursday, July 22
Kansas City, Kansas

Please hold our soon to be confirmed youth in your prayers as they prepare for a final mission trip during which they will live in community, worship each day, discover their gifts and then put them to work during different service opportunities in the city and at camp, Hollis Renewal Center.

One more adult sponsor is needed to help with the trip. No driving necessary!

WORSHIP

Family Fun Sundays at Olsburg
Join the family fun during worship on the last Sunday of the month!

June 27 – VBS Sunday (ice cream social)

July 25 – Christmas in July (festive foods)

August 29 – Baptismal Birthday Party
(sounds like water fun to me!!!)

Adult Bible Study

The Olsburg Sunday Morning Bible Study has come to an end for the academic year. The numerous special events in May are hindering our schedule so we will resume after Rally Day in the Fall.

The Olsburg Monday Evening Women's Bible Study will resume in the Fall as well. The Walsburg S.A.L.T. Study will resume in Fall after completing the last May gathering, May 17.

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, March 23, 2010. Council President Jan Cooper called the meeting to order. Pastor Gordon Sandquist led the group in prayer.

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

Reports

Secretary's Report: Kristi will email the group the report from February. She was unable to print copies. She will send it to everyone and we can discuss/approve at the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Laura distributed the treasurer's report. Large expenses included on the report are: a payment to the Internal Revenue Service, an insurance premium payment, and money that was sent to the Haiti Relief Fund. Coleen moved to approve. Jim seconded. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report:

- ✚ Pastor Gordy thanked the council for sending the leftover calendars to the Leonardville Nursing Home. They appreciated the generosity and enjoy the nice calendars.
- ✚ Holy Week will be next week. Pastor Gordy thanked those who have been attending Lenten services.
- ✚ Pastor Gordy stated the Walsburg congregation is still discussing options due to changes within the ELCA.

Committee Reports:

Property Committee – Kirby notified the group that the roofing company will be coming to patch the holes in the church roof. It was also noted that Wayne Martin has worked on the front doors of the church and his generosity is greatly appreciated.

The vote for the new PA systems was approved by the congregation. Kirby mentioned that Glenn Axelton will come get the stand for the speaker. Discussion was held regarding the best set-up for the system.

Old Business

Mower for Cemetery: Donnie Cobler received a quote for a new mower from Bruna Implement. It is a Cub Cadet CC 2010 LTX 1042 with a 42 inch deck. It comes with a 19 HP engine. There is a 3 year warranty. The cost is \$1439. Woody moved to approve the purchase of the mower. After some discussion regarding how funding for the purchase might be split, he amended the motion. The amended motion was for the funds to be split three ways among the Olsburg Cemetery Fund, the Olsburg Lutheran Church general fund, and the Mariadah Cemetery Fund. Kirby seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Church Bulletin/Worship Folders – This discussion is put on hold until a later date.

Love Gifts – Funds are still needed for the Love Gifts. Laura will help assemble and distribute these.

New Business

Memorial Funds – Jan has been in contact with some members of the Memorial Committee with regard to using memorial funds for the purchase of the PA system. The committee requests a proposal so they can present it to those families who have provided the memorial funds.

Assistance to Chile – We discussed that we would send offerings to Chile, but no additional money would be collected. Haiti had a greater need for assistance because of their economic situation.

Sign for Memorial Flowers – It's been suggested that we put up a sign asking families to remove Memorial Day flowers within a certain timeframe. It's suggested that Donnie put up a sign that reads –please remove Memorial Day flowers after 30 days.

Kirby moved to adjourn the meeting. Joyce seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish
12410 Union Road
Leonardville, KS 66449

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Pentecost

Pentecost owes its origins to an ancient agricultural festival of Israel in which first fruits of the barley harvest were offered to God. Added to this background is the Jewish Festival of Booths, which recalls God's faithfulness as the Hebrews journeyed through the wilderness from Egypt to the promised land. Each year during this festival, the Jews make booths or temporary shelters in which to live for a week in order to remember their heritage.

The outpouring of God's spirit took place during a celebration of this feast, enlarging its meaning for Christians, Luke describes the event of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-21. One hundred and twenty disciples were gathered to pray and wait for the promised Spirit, as Jesus had instructed them. Suddenly, the sound of a mighty wind filled the room, and tongues of fire appeared over the heads of the disciples, and all of them began praising God in different languages!

Pentecost is a day to be marked by fire, the floor red, festivity, and surprises, and a warm welcome extended to all.

A Pentecost Prayer

*God of wind and fire,
Send your Spirit upon us.
Make our hearts burn with love
For all your children.
Rekindle our gratitude for this feast
And for every good gift,
So that we always have a spirit
Of generosity
Towards everyone we meet.
Fill our lives with joy and our faith
With courage.
Through Jesus, who with you
Sent us the promised Comforter.*

Excerpts from: All Through the Day, All Through the Year, by David Batchelder



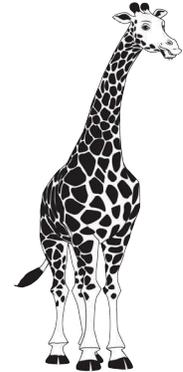
Vacation Bible School at Olsburg and Walsburg



Be amazed at God's
wildlife creations!



Hear the WORD!



Be a part of a supportive community!

Children ages 4 through 5th grade (school year 09-10)
are invited to be a part of God's Great Get-Together.

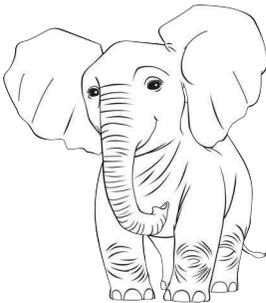
VBS at Olsburg

June 21-25 6:00 to 8:30 PM

Olsburg Elementary School

Volunteers of all ages are needed!

Please contact Erin Gutsch at 785-564-2744



VBS at Walsburg

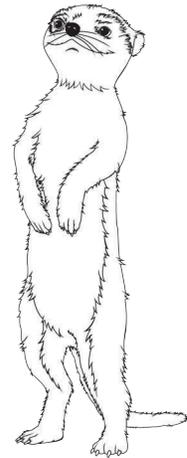
July 12-16 9:00 AM to noon

Walsburg Lutheran Church

Volunteers are needed.

Please contact Terry Peterson at 785-293-5727

Registration with a fee of \$5.00 will be required



GOD'S GREAT GET-TOGETHER