

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

From the Desk of Pastor Keith...

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due May 24.

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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Easter is not over! I love Easter and I am so grateful the celebration of Easter lasts 50 days! The Easter season begins on Easter Day and culminates on the Day of Pentecost - seven weeks plus the day of Pentecost.

Easter is the richest and most joyous season of the year. Of all the seasons of the Christian year, Easter was the first to be observed by the early church. The season is one of rejoicing. Christ is risen! Christians celebrate Christ's victory over death and what this means for our lives right now.

Do you know why the Paschal Candle burns brightly throughout the fifty days of Easter? The candle tells us that Christ, the true Light, broke the powers of darkness and came forth from the grave. It is a sign to us that as Christ rose from the tomb so shall we!

Do you know why eggs are associated with Easter - as in Easter egg hunts and decorated eggs? Eggs are an ancient symbol of new life. Just as a baby chick bursts out of the shell, so Jesus burst out of the grave to give us new life.

Do you know why there is a tradition among Christians of

wearing new clothes on Easter? New clothes is a reminder that we "put on Christ," and his righteousness covers all our sins.

What can you do this Easter season to celebrate your new life in Christ? What would remind you of Christ's resurrection? How can you express your joy and gratitude for what Christ has done? And perhaps even more important, with whom can you share the good news of Easter?

On another note, I have been hearing more and more about the crisis in South Sudan. Millions of people have been impacted by ravages of civil war and famine. The situation has led to food insecurity of more than 7 million people. Our church, the ELCA, along with others, has been working hard to provide immediate famine relief.

In addition, our church has helped establish a new church in South Sudan - the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan. We are helping to train mission leaders, conduct outreach programs, as well as provide health care through a primary health clinic.

I am wondering if the people of Olsburg and Walsburg can join in this effort. Wouldn't this be a great way we can proclaim the good news of Easter - Christ is risen and he comes to give people new life!

I close with these words from Colossians 2:6-7. "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Pastor Keith Wiens

Music and the Reformation

Martin Luther loved music! He considered music one of God's greatest gifts to us and believed we should sing to give thanks to God.

Luther was trained in the church music of his time. As a choir boy at the cathedral school in Magdeburg, Luther sang the liturgy of the hours on a daily basis. (The liturgy of the hours consisted of several worship services spread throughout the day, to mark the passage of time with prayer and praise.) Luther was also well trained in musical theory which was a basic component of the liberal arts education he received at the University of Erfurt.

Vocal music was the center of musicianship at the time. Both within and outside the church, the focus was on sung music rather than on instrumental performance. Musical instruments were used to support singing. While Luther was quite proficient playing the lute, he believed singing was important in worship.

Luther understood that music was able to reach the broad masses of people. And so he incorporated music into worship in a way that met people where they were but opened them up to new things. The word liturgy means "the work of the people." Luther used music in worship to make

Reformation worship something that came from the people. Church music was no longer something the choir did or the worship leader. The people sang! And people could buy a hymnal of their own. It's amazing how many hymnals were sold during the early years of the Reformation.

The first Lutheran hymnal, published in 1524, had only eight hymns in it, four written by Luther. These same hymns were sung every week, over and over. People learned the hymns, even the long ones, by singing them again and again. And by learning the hymns they internalized the basic teachings and stories of the faith.

Luther wrote hymns to teach the people. His hymns were like little sermons. The hymn "Dear Christians, One And All, Rejoice" (ELW 594) conveys a clear sense of teaching people about salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. His hymn "From Heaven Above" (ELW 268) tells the story of Christmas and teaches the wonder of the Incarnation. Some of Luther's hymns, like "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (ELW 503-505) and "Out Of The Depths I Cry To You" (ELW 600), are paraphrases of Psalms. Others are paraphrases of the liturgy.

When we look back through history, we see that the Lutheran church embraced music from the beginning. Many great musicians and composers were Lutherans, like J.S. Bach, Georg Handel, and Felix Mendelssohn. The tradition continues today with such musicians and composers as John Ylvisaker ("Borning Cry," ELW 732) and Marty Haugen ("Holden Evening Prayer Service").

For Lutherans, the Word of God and music work together to strengthen our faith and unite us together.

May birthdays and anniversaries

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

May Birthdays

- 2 Cindy Olson (W)
- 3 Zachary Holt (O)
Nathan Wiens (W)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)
Crystal Strauss (W)
- 10 Dan Holt (O)
Rich Vargo (O)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
- 20 Kermit Sundgren (W)
Dusty Holt (O)
- 21 Alice Marie Gibson (O)
Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 25 Mason Scofield (W)
- 26 Raymond Anderson (O)
Shari Holt (O)
Kathy Monser (O)
- 27 Lynn Burklund (O)
- 28 Wes Holt (O)
- 28 Woody Kasselmann (O)
- 29 Donald Holt (O)
- 30 James Nelson (W)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)
- 31 Calley Berry (W)

May Anniversaries:

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (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)
AJ and Calley Berry (W)
- 15 Donald and Rita Nelson (W)
- 15 Rob and Alicia Scofield (W)
- 16 Alan and Sharon Hubbard (O)
- 26 Jason and Jamie Hageman (W)
- 29 Shane and Loree Allen (W)
- 31 Rich and Jan Cooper (O)

Members in service

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

Walsburg

May Ushers and Greeters: Mary Kay Henry; Bill, Janet and Cindy Neilson

May Communion Ushers: Bill Johnson; Marlene Jenkins

***May Lay Readers:** 5/7 Sheri Storer; 5/14 Mary Kay Henry; 5/21 Jane Larson; 5/28 Janet Neilson

Olsburg

May Ushers: Bill Monser, Kirby Burklund, Blake Vargo, Woody Kasselmann

May Communion Assistants: 5/7 Kirby Burklund; 5/21 Mary Nelson

***May Lay Readers:** 5/7 Laura Clifton; 5/14 Luellen Kasselmann; 5/21 Patty Nelson; 5/28 Tom Nelson

May Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, 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.**



The Brightest Week of the Summer!

At Mighty Fortress children will learn that God is our sure defense who strengthens us and is our refuge in trouble. We will show kids we can joyfully celebrate Jesus, our champion, who has won the battle over our enemies. By faith, God gives us that victory in Jesus.

LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!

May 30th – June 2nd

9am -11am at Olsburg Lutheran Church

Children 3 years old (and potty trained) - 5th grade

**Register by May 1st to receive a
FREE Mighty Fortress t-shirt.**

Register on-line at: <https://www.vbsmate.com/olsburglutheran>

OR e-mail the registration information to

woodyk@twinvalley.net

OR call Luellen Kasselmann at 565-1240 with registration information

PECK
9131 W. 131st Pl
OVERLAND PARK, KS
66213



Please join us to celebrate

The 25th Anniversary of Ordination
for the Rev. Dr. Michael D. Peck

Sunday, May 28th
2:00-4:00PM

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Gathering Place
7851 West 119th Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66213

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8:00 - Traditional Liturgy / 9:15 - Contemporary Liturgy / 10:45 - Contemporary Praise

If you can't make it to the celebration, cards will be accepted at the church address or the home address that is hand written.

Other Happenings

High School Graduations

Blue Valley High School will hold Baccalaureate on Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Blue Valley High School Graduation will be held Saturday, May 20 at 1 p.m. at the High School.

Riley County High School will hold Baccalaureate on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Riley County High School Graduation will be held Saturday, May 20 at 3:00 p.m. at the High School.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Again this year Olsburg Lutheran Church is asking for volunteers to mow the church lawn and the lot to the east. A sign up sheet is posted in the narthex. We hope you take this opportunity to sign up. Thank You!

Olsburg LCW News

The WELCA group is offering \$100 to any Olsburg Lutheran youth member wanting to attend ELCA camp this summer. For more information, please contact Kathy or Luellen.

May 6— The LCW is having a plant sale on the church lawn from 8:00 am - 11:30 a.m. The plants are from 5-H Greenhouse in Wamego. This is a great opportunity to get your Mother's Day flowers!

Memorial Day Service

The Olsburg Community will gather on Monday, May 29, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Mariadahl Cemetery. Following the short service at the cemetery, all are invited to a potluck lunch at the Olsburg American Legion.

Walsburg Sunday School News

The last day for Children's Sunday School will be May 21. Sunday School will resume in the Fall.

Walsburg Sunday School to host Mom's Night Out on May 6

"Let's Treat Mom!" is an upcoming event organized by the Sunday School to treat Sunday School moms to a night out with their spouse. Sarah Diamond is helping organize an event for the parents. The parents will drop off their children at the church for supervised activities including crafts, food, and a movie. The event is from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you can help in any way to help provide a "night out" for young families. Questions - contact Sheri Storer. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Diamond at sarahddiamond@gmail.com; 785-341-4869.

Join the Walsburg Quilters on May 16

The Walsburg quilters have 75 quilts finished and others in various stages of completion. An additional LWR quilting day has been set for Tuesday, May 16 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a sack lunch and join us for a busy and fun day.

Plant Sale

May 6

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

at Olsburg Lutheran Church

Nice selection of flowers, vegetables, and hanging baskets

Just in time for Mother's
Day and Memorial Day!

Proceeds benefit
charitable projects



