

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

Reflections by Pastor Keith

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It is May and plants are growing! The Flint Hills are greening up. Trees are leafing out. Irises are blooming. It is a wonderful time of the year!

Not only is nature displaying its beauty all around us, nature is also seeking to teach us about God and our lives.

Jesus frequently used images from nature to illustrate what life with God is like - he talked about the lilies of the field, the seed that grows by itself, the four types of soil, the growth of the mustard seed, the tree and its fruit, the laws of sowing and reaping, the vine and the branches.

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, "See the lilies of the field, how they grow." The word "see," means more than simply look at or admire. The Greek word means "learn," "study," or "research" and to do so with intensity. What is it that we are to intensely study? Jesus says, "see how they grow." He wants us to look at plants and learn about life and growth and even about God.

So let's start with the roots. A good root system is essential for a healthy plant. Without good roots, a plant will die. Roots absorb water and nutrients from

the ground. When it rains the roots of plants absorb the water and send life-giving water to the plant.

Jesus said, "I am the living water." We need the living water of Jesus! That's why the Bible says, "As you therefore have receive Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him." (Colossians 2:6-7)

It is Jesus who provides life giving water for us. It is Jesus who can make us truly alive - alive to God, alive to ourselves, alive to other people. It is Jesus who can give us life that is truly worth living. We need to sink our roots deep into Christ where they can absorb the life-giving water that he provides.

Roots are also essential because they anchor plants to the ground. That's important in the face of strong Kansas winds. Without a strong root system, plants can be uprooted and blown away.

In Ephesians 4, the Bible, says "We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine."

Everyday we are inundated with information. We are exposed to many different teachings and

philosophies about life. It is easy to get turned around, to get mixed up, to be blown away. And that's exactly what will happen if we don't have a strong root system.

Now a strong root system doesn't just automatically appear. We are not born with it. And we don't get it watching TV or searching the internet. It comes from Jesus. Only Jesus can give us the foundation, the stability, the strength, the endurance to withstand the violent winds which can uproot our lives.

"I am the vine, you are the branches," said Jesus. When we are connected to Christ, we are connected to the tree of life and our lives are anchored and grounded in that which cannot be blown away. When we are connected to Christ, we can thrive and prosper and lead healthy and productive lives.

Sink your roots deep into Christ. For it is here, in God's Word, that our roots find the rich soil which is filled with life-giving nutrients. It is here, at God's Table, that our roots are watered and fed. It is here, among other Christians, that our roots find strength and stability. Our lives need to be rooted in Christ. We need to be connected to and supported by Christ and the Body of Christ.

Plants teach us the value of roots. God's Word teaches us the value of being rooted in Christ!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

The Festival of Pentecost

We will celebrate the Festival of Pentecost on Sunday, May 23. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church's ministry. The color of the day is red, symbolizing the fire

of the Holy Spirit. Worshipers are invited to wear red for this festive occasion.

The church's worship revolves around three major festivals: Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. While Pentecost doesn't receive as much "hype" as Christmas and Easter, it is equally important and equally necessary. The gift of the Holy Spirit is essential for a vibrant Christian faith and the ministry of the church (the followers of Jesus). On Pentecost we worship God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and pray that God will continue to pour out the Spirit of Christ upon us and the church throughout the world.

Words of Wisdom

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth. . . The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." John 14:16, 26

O God, living Truth,
make me one with you in perfect love.
Without you
all that I read or hear or see wears me out..
In you
is all I will or can desire.
Let all teachers be silent before you;
let the whole creation be quiet,
so that you alone, O Lord,
may speak to me.
The more I am united with you,
the more I can understand,
for from you, O Lord,
I receive light and understanding.
Thomas a' Kempis
from *Imitation of Christ*

"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." Colossians 2:6-7

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)
- 11 Tyler Lane Hargrave (W)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 14 Jackson Hoehner (W)
- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
Rhett Nelson (W)
- 17 John Lowry (O)
- 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)

- 30 James Nelson (W)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)
Calley Berry (W)

May Anniversaries:

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (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)

A Reminder

If you are not able to make it to our worship gatherings on Sunday morning, you may mail your offering to your respective congregation.

Olsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Alice Gibson, 113 S. 1st St,
Olsburg, KS 66520

Walsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Lynne Berry, 14180 Crooked
Creek Rd., Leonardville, KS
66449.

Our work goes on in many ways.
Your financial support is needed
and valued.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

Ushers and Greeters: Bill & Roseanne Johnson; Andy & Valerie Hoehner

***Communion Ushers:** Lee Hartford & Ruth Stone

***Walsburg Lay Reader:** 5/2 Amber Befort; 5/9 Rita Nelson; 5/16 Linda Toomire; 5/23 Lori Rogge; 5/30 Mary Kay Henry

***Acolytes:** 5/2 Brody Willimon; 5/9 William Sullivan; 5/16 Macy Berry; 5/23 Izabel Nelson; 5/30 Harper Befort

Olsburg

Ushers: Kirby Burklund; Bill Monser; Byron Nelson; Woody Kasselmann

Communion Assistants: 5/2 David Gibson; 5/16 Jacob Nelson; 5/23 Coleen Esping; 5/30 Sandy Zoeller

***Acolytes:** 5/2 Addison Lee; 5/9 Tori Brenner; 5/16 Jordyn Gutsch; 5/23 Skyler Zoeller, Addison Lee, Landry Zoeller; 5/30 Grady Kasselmann

***Lay Reader:** 5/2 Kathy Monser; 5/9 David Gibson; 5/16 Jacob Nelson; 5/23 Jan Cooper; 5/30 Ashley Rice

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.**

Celebrate with Don and Rita Nelson

Don and Rita Nelson will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on May 15. Their children, Derek and Jana, and their families will be hosting an open house at Walsburg on May 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend, and no gifts, please.

Walsburg's Website

Check out Walsburg's website (walsburglutheranchurch.org) and see children's activities under the 'Children's Ministry' section!

Walsburg Sunday School News

The Sunday School children and staff are thrilled to return to in-person Sunday School activities. May's Bible Stories are as follows:

May 2 - Council at Jerusalem - Acts 15

May 9 - Justification - Gal. 1 & 2

May 16 - Faith - Gal. 3

May 23 - Pentecost - Acts 2 & Gal. 4

Walsburg VBS - Rocky Railway

Planning is underway for an in-person, fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School to be held June 21 - 25 from 9:00 am to 11:30 pm. Children 3 years old (potty trained) - 6th grade are invited to participate in this year's "Rocky Railway". Registration is underway at the following: <https://vbspro.events/p/walsburg2021>.

This year's VBS is a wonderful way to help children explore God's Word in new ways and learn that they can trust Jesus through all of the twists and turns of life.

There are many ways that you can be involved including teaching, teaching helpers, crafts, snacks, music, leading opening/closing worship, setup, last day cleanup, outdoor activities, etc. Donations of supplies and/or cash are always welcome. A list of needed supplies/food items will be posted in the Narthex by mid-May.

Life together

Invite children of your family, friends, and neighbors! Everyone is welcome!

Please pray for all those planning and attending this year's VBS that they may remain safe from harm and that they may know that they can always trust Jesus through all of the twists and turns of VBS and of life!

High School Graduations

Blue Valley High School Graduation will be held Saturday, May 15 at 1 p.m. at the High School.

Riley County High School Graduation will be held Saturday, May 15 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!

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.