

# Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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## From the Desk of Pastor Keith

The month of June began with the Festival of Pentecost. Pentecost ranks right up there with Christmas and Easter. It is one of the three chief festivals of the Christian Church.

On Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. And what an awesome gift this is! Martin Luther reminds us of the work of the Holy Spirit in his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed when he says, *"I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith."*

The gift of the Holy Spirit is essential! The Holy Spirit is the power, the energy, the fire of God! We need God's power each and every day - so that we may trust God, love God and others, serve our neighbors, both near and far, and have hope. We need the energy which the Holy Spirit supplies. We need the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is the motor which gets us going and keeps us doing what Jesus wants.

This is an exciting time to be the church, especially in Olsburg and Walsburg. The Holy Spirit is moving among us, showing us the way, firing us up, equipping us for the challenges at hand. Good things are happening. And even more good things are in store for us. Look around. See what the Spirit is doing. Believe it. Give thanks. And let's keep doing what Jesus wants us to do!

Take these words to heart: "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline" 2 Timothy 1:7

Pastor Keith Wiens

## **Pentecost and our Global Ministry**

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit inspired the followers of Jesus to boldly proclaim the gospel near and far. The global ministry of the church began that day!

Our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has deep, long-standing relationships with more than 80 Lutheran churches around the world. We work together with them to spread the good news of Jesus Christ near and far.

All around the world, the Lutheran Church is growing. Some churches, like the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan, are just beginning, while others, like the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia, are expanding to reach even more communities and people than they do now.

A prayer for the Global Ministry of the Church: “Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen.”

## **Creation and the Reformation**

It is said that when Martin Luther was asked what he would do if he knew the world would end the next day, he said, “I would plant a tree today.”

Luther valued greatly the world around him and saw it all as gifts from God. He said, “The sun and the moon must shine for us day and night; the sky must give us rain, clouds, shade and dew; the earth must give us all kinds of growing things and animals; the water must give us fish and

countless necessities; the air must supply birds as well as our breath; fire must warm us and give us countless benefits. And who can enumerate everything? It cannot be otherwise or better expressed than in these short words: ‘Great are the works of the Lord!’”

The Catechism affirms the goodness of creation in Luther’s explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed. “I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property - with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.”

Our church, the ELCA, adopted a Social Statement on “Caring For Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice.” The Statement begins, “Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation, the Love of God hanging on a cross, the Breath of God daily renewing the face of the earth. We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society. Even as we join the political, economic, and scientific discussion, we know care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter.”

For 500 years, Lutherans have recognized that the call to follow Jesus Christ includes caring for and preserving this earth. As we face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this call to care for the earth is more important than ever.

# June birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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

## June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)
- 2 Barbara Burklund (O)  
Jordan Hagenmaier (W)
- 4 Nicki Beadle (O)
- 6 Marvin Johnson (O)
- 7 Gary Hargrave (W)
- 8 Kiffnie Holt (O)
- 9 David Gibson (O)
- 14 Laurine Catt (O)
- 15 Coleen Esping (O)
- 17 Deanna Barnes (O)
- 18 William Johnson (W)  
Macy Berry (W)
- 19 Erin Gutsch (O)  
Ruthie Stone (W)
- 20 Brooklynn Zoeller (O)
- 20 Lorraine Oman (W)
- 21 Destinee Cantrell (O)  
Dena Haller (W)
- 22 Nick Cooper (O)  
Adam Larson (W)
- 23 Josie Willimon (W)
- 24 Tyson Strauss (W)
- 28 Linda Toomire (W)

Jacob Hagenmaier (W)

## June Anniversaries:

- 1 Woody and Luellen Kasselmann (O)  
Tom and Donica Nelson (O)
- 7 Daniel and Julie Higgins (O)
- 9 Raymond and Milly Nelson (W)
- 10 Kirby and Shelly Burklund (O)  
Roger and Ruthie Stone (W)  
Gary and Diana Hargrave (W)
- 11 William & Roseanne Johnson (W)

## Joys and Sorrows

- ✠ We rejoice with Sandy and Marty McCool on the birth of their grandson, Finn Edward Zerr, on May 26, 2017. Finn's parents are Samantha and Jeff Zerr.
- ✠ We rejoice with Sarah Diamond who graduated from Kansas State University this spring with the degree of Doctor of Education. Sarah is a member of Walsburg.

✠ We sorrow with the family and friends of Claryce Bohnenblust who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on May 20, 2017. Claryce was a life-long member of Walsburg.

✠ We sorrow with Kathy and Bill Monser on the death of Kathy's mother, Clynita Sheldon, who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on June 4, 2017. Clynita in Zephyrhills, Florida.

## Members in service

**T**hank you to these members for their service to the parish during June.

### Walsburg

**Ushers and Greeters:** Jerry Baer; Bill & Roseanne Johnson; Ruthie Stone

**Walsburg Communion Ushers:** Bill Neilson; Kathy Sundgren

**Walsburg Lay Assistants:** 6/4 Alicia Scofield; 6/11 Dennis Peterson; 6/18 Sandy McCool; 6/25 Amber Befort

### Olsburg

**\*Acolytes:** 6/4 Landry Zoeller, Ida Kasselmann, Kylea Ricketts; 6/11 Brooklynn Zoeller; 6/18 Emma Kasselmann; 6/25 Kaden Gutsch

**Ushers:** Kent Nelson; Bryon Nelson; Floyd Munson; Dan Holt

**Assist Pastor during Communion:** 6/4 Ashley Rice; 6/18 Karl Kasselmann

**\*Lay Readers:** 6/4 April Brenner; 6/11 Becky Avery; 6/18 Bill Monser; 6/25 Coleen Esping

**June Altar Committee:** Mary Nelson, Donica Nelson

**\*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.**

### ***Walsburg Sunday School News***

Sunday, May 21, was the last Sunday for the children's Sunday School until August! To conclude this Sunday School year, the children sang, "Zacchaeus", "Rainbows and Butterflies", and "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus". What a joy to hear the young children sing.

Thank you to all the individuals who were involved in Sunday School through attendance, support in bringing children to church, those who taught Sunday School, helped provide music prayed for this ministry, and helped out in any other way. We appreciate you!

### ***Walsburg Outdoor Family Movie Night***

Bring your family, blankets, and lawn chairs to enjoy an outdoor movie night at the church on Sunday, June 11, at 8:00 p.m. Popcorn and lemonade will be available.

### ***Walsburg VBS***

Maker Fun Factory, the VBS where kids learn they were created by God and built for a purpose is the theme of Walsburg's Vacation Bible School, scheduled for June 26-30. This amazing adventure will help kids and adults begin or deepen their faith by discovering our loving God made each of us and grounds kids in the solid foundation of Jesus' love, a love that gives our lives incredible purpose.

It is our prayer that our Maker Fun Factory VBS will allow God's love and purpose for each person to come to life like never before, touching lives, changing hearts, and drawing kids and adults closer to the God who created them.

Date: June 26-30

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon (A snack and a lunch will be served).

Parents, family and friends of VBS attendees, and members are invited to attend the children's VBS Closing Program on Friday, June 30, at 12:15 p.m. All are invited to participate in an ice cream sundae party will follow the closing program.

To register for VBS, go to <http://vbspro.events/p/walsburg> or call 785.770.6506. Registration forms are also available in the Walsburg Narthex.

***Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to attend!!***



***Life together***