

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due June 24.

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Reflections by Pastor Keith

Each Sunday during this Easter season (starting on April 28) we have been reading from the New Testament book of Acts. The book of Acts tells the story of what happened in the weeks and months following the resurrection of Jesus and how the resurrection changed the followers of Jesus. They became the Body of Christ in the world, boldly carrying on the work of Jesus.

Now remember, these were just real, ordinary people who were pulled in different directions by the same real pressures which tug at us. They gathered in real congregations who struggled with many of the same challenges which face us. From these early Christians we can learn much about how God works through ordinary people to accomplish great things! And so during this Easter season we talked about how God wants to work through us.

We listened to the story of Peter and other disciples when they were questioned by the authorities for speaking about Jesus in Acts 5:27-32 and Peter's response, "We must obey God rather than any human authority." And we talked about the choices we

have to make, some at times rather difficult, and the importance of choosing Christ, despite the cost. When we choose Christ, God works through us to accomplish great things!

We listened to the story of Paul's conversion in Acts 9:1-20. While on the road to Damascus he was struck by a blinding light. When his sight was restored, he saw life differently. And so we talked about the challenges of seeing and how the Risen Jesus helps us to see differently - to see ourselves differently and other people differently and the world differently. And when we see differently, we live differently. The Risen Jesus gives us an exciting vision of who we are and what we can do. The Risen Jesus stretches our vision so that we can see new opportunities and new possibilities of how we can do the work of God.

We listened to the story of Dorcas in Acts 9:36-43 and how she was a person who did good works and acts of charity. We talked about how the Risen Jesus stretches our hearts to care for others and engage in acts of love and charity. We

were reminded that when we were baptized we were joined to Christ and became part of the Body of Christ. We are the hands and feet and ears and mouth and caring heart of Jesus in the world today, in this part of Kansas, at this moment in history. The Risen Jesus continues his saving work through us!

We listened to the story of Peter's vision in Acts 11:1-18 and how he learned that God wanted Gentiles in the church as well as Jewish people. We talked about how God's love extends to all people and how the Risen Jesus stretches us to reach out to all sorts of people, to accept them and welcome them, even those people we have a hard time liking and don't want to hang out with.

We listened to the story in Acts 16:9-15 of the vision which Paul had that led him and his companions to travel to Macedonia to bring the story of Jesus to the people there. We heard how the Lord opened Lydia's heart and she and her entire household were baptized. We talked about how God is a God of surprises and often works through unlikely people (like us!) and leads us to do ministry in new places and in new ways. We just never know when God will tap us on the shoulder and say, "I have a special job for you!"

We listened to the story of Paul and Silas in Acts 16:16-34. When the owners of a slave-girl who used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for "healing" her and, consequently, ruining their business, Paul and Silas brought the good news of Jesus to the jailer and his family. We talked about how the Risen Jesus can work through us even the midst of difficult circumstances.

Throughout this Easter season we have been asking, what does the Risen Jesus want to do through us? What new vision is the Risen Jesus giving to us, just as he gave a new vision to the early Christians? What new ways of doing ministry is the Risen Jesus calling us to do? How is the *Life together*

Risen Jesus stretching us?

I believe the Risen Lord is calling us to intensely wrestle with these questions at this time. I believe this is a decisive moment for the Olsburg and Walsburg congregations. We stand at a fork in the road, and like the early Christians, we can either go on with business as usual or adapt to a changing situation and new opportunities for ministry. This is an opportune time to discern what the Risen Lord is seeking to do through us.

Praise be to God that Pentecost follows Easter! Praise be to God that the Risen Lord not only calls us to follow him and continue his work in the world today, God sends the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us and energize us to do this work. This is the gift which we celebrate in the Festival of Pentecost (which this year falls on June 9).

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, and have hope. We need the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is the motor which gets us going and empowers us to do what the Risen Jesus wants us to do.

What an exciting time this is for us! Just like it was for the early Christians. With the Risen Lord leading the way and the Holy Spirit energizing us, we will accomplish much! Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

Receive The Newsletter

We want you to get the newsletter - either by email or by postal mail. If 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.

June birthdays and anniversaries, and joys

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

June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)
Finley Balaun (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)
- 12 Owen Dick (W)
- 14 Laurine Catt (O)
Tuckeer Gibbs (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)
Shelby Calloway (O)
- 22 Nick Cooper (O)

- Adam Larson (W)
- 23 Josie Willimon (W)
- 24 Tyson Strauss (W)
- 24 Braden Hoehner (W)
- 27 Adelaide Hagenmaier (W)
- 28 Linda Toomire (W)
Jacob Hagenmaier (W)
Robert Poulter (O)
- 30 Jay Werner (O)

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

- ✠ We rejoice with Amanda and Justin Campbell on the birth of their son, Knox William Campbell who was born on May 18. Knox has an older brother, Cade. The Campbells are part of the Walsburg congregation.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

***Ushers and Greeters:** Jerry Baer; Bill, Janet & Cindy Neilson; Richard & Shirley Strauss

***Communion Ushers:** Bill Neilson & Donise Peterson

***Lay Assistants:** 6/2 Jane Larson; 6/9 Dennis Peterson; 6/16 Rita Nelson; 6/23 Linda Toomire; 6/30 Janet Neilson

***Acolytes:** 6/9 Harper Befort

Olsburg

***Lay Readers:** 6/2 Luellen Kasselmann; 6/9 Patty Nelson; 6/16 Tom Nelson; 6/23 April Brenner; 6/30 Ashley Rice

***Acolytes:** 6/2 Grady Kasselmann; 6/9 Skyler Zoeller; 6/16 Kylea Ricketts; 6/23 Landry Zoeller; 6/30 Addison Lee

***Ushers:** Kent Nelson; Lee Cantrell; Floyd Munson; Dan Holt

Assist Pastor during Communion: 6/2 Gregg Gibson; 6/16 Kirby Burklund; 6/30 Coleen Esping

June Altar Committee: Becky Avery, 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.**

The Festival of Pentecost

We will celebrate the Festival of Pentecost on Sunday, June 9. 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 the ministry of the church and a vibrant Christian faith. We gather on Pentecost to thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and to pray that God would continue to pour out the Spirit of Christ upon the church.

Come to the Festival! Come and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit!

Words of Wisdom

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." Psalm 51:10-12

"I believe that by my own understanding or strength, I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith." Martin Luther in the Small Catechism

Thank You To Sunday School Children & Families

"Brunch for a Purpose" was great on Sunday, May 19! Thank you to the Sunday School children and their families

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for donating the food and helping out in many ways! Thanks to everyone who supported this event. Our stained glass window funds increased by \$2,319.26!

A Note Of Appreciation

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with Sunday School during this past year! I appreciate it! Sheri Storer

Walsburg VBS "ROAR" Life is Wild! God is Good!

June 24 – 28 is just around the corner and plans are well underway for another fun-filled, Spirit-filled week of Vacation Bible School. With 50 young children and a wonderful staff, it promises to be a great week for all! See the July newsletter for a summary of the week.

Everyone is welcome to the closing program on Friday, June 28, at 1:00 p.m. to hear the children tell the story of the week at VBS! An ice cream sundae party will cap off the week!

Upcoming Craft Show (See flyer included in this newsletter)

Walsburg Women of ELCA and Hope Circle are participating in the "FORGET-ME-NOT DAYS" - Alzheimer's Awareness Craft Show at the Clay Center Covenant Church, 1330 15th Street, Clay Center, on Saturday, June 15, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Donated items should be brought to the church by Sunday, June 9. Donated bake sale items should be delivered to the Walsburg kitchen by Friday, June 14, at 5:00 p.m.

We also need individuals to work in the craft fair booth on the day of the event. Contact Marlene Jenkins, Linda Toomire, or Sheri Storer if you are able to help or if you have questions.

All proceeds from the Walsburg booth benefit the Walsburg Stained Glass Window Project.