

# Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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*Next newsletter items and  
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25.*

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## **Cultivate a Climate of Generosity through Thankful Living**

We regularly sing about living lives of thankfulness. From the doxology to post-communion canticles we lift our voices in praise and (at least metaphorically) shout our thanksgivings to the heavens. Gratitude is on our lips in some way during virtually every worship service, and then we are sent into the world to love God and neighbor, to care for the poor, and to seek justice. And then what? Well, basically life happens and the loudest voices vie for our time, resources, and attention.

Can the church compete with the clamorous claims of contemporary culture? Are we equipping disciples to live each moment with an awareness of God's abundance and to respond generously? How are we transmitting Jesus' great love command and our call to live out these words to the best of our ability by grace and through the gift of the Holy Spirit? In what ways are we encouraging families with children to foster gratitude and thankfulness that will counter the individualistic messages of consumer culture?

We can no longer depend on the days of Sunday school faith inculcation. Never again dare we assume that folks are absorbing basic tenets of discipleship as part of the prevailing cultural norm. We are in new territory that demands creativity and boldness in tandem with persistence and mindfulness. As people of faith who gather as the body of Christ, we have abundant resources to help us live and model a grateful, generous life of discipleship, including the greatest story ever told. At our best we offer communities where people can experience belonging, spiritual growth, opportunities to make a real difference in the name of Christ: in

short, a real reason for being and drawing breath. It's time we stopped hiding our light under the proverbial bushel, being painfully modest about our faith, and making excuses about why we have increasing trouble making a case for support of the church's mission.

Scientific proof now exists that human beings are hard-wired to be generous. It's part of our very core of being. Researchers in psychology, neuroscience, and sociology are finding compelling evidence that children—infants even—are predisposed towards altruism and kindness. Our Creator God has lovingly equipped us to be faithful stewards, to care for one another and for creation, but this happens in real life, not in some once a year, slightly desperate and uncomfortable effort that's tied ball-and-chain to a budget. People want to make a difference, and we are willing to be generous when given the right opportunities and reasons for doing so.

What if between now and the end of the year, we focused on a simple "thanksgiving" practice both individually, as a congregation?

Imagine how worship might be shaped if everyone came holding one thing for which they are thankful and shared that one thing. Imagine how all of our ministries might be shaped by writing one handwritten thank you note every day for a certain period of time. Contemplate the possible results of a 40-day initiative to sow seeds of gratitude at home and in the beloved community. Dream big. Be bold. Tell everyone what God has done. Chances are you'll be pleasantly surprised.

# July and August birthdays and anniversaries

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

## July Birthdays

- 1 Joan Schweer (O)
- 3 Carl Larson (W)
- 4 Evelyn Larson (W)
- 6 Gregg Gibson (O)
- 7 Blake Vargo (O)
- 8 Sharon Hubbard (O)
- 9 Joshua Cantrell (O)  
Amy Hageman (W)
- 11 Julie Munson (O)
- 11 Richard Gibbs (O)
- 12 Jim Nelson (O)  
Claryce Bohnenblust (W)  
Brett Dawes (W)
- 13 Jana Arellano (W)
- 17 Nicole Holt (O)  
A.J. Berry (W)  
Kristi Hageman (W)
- 19 Monica Kasselmann (O)  
April Brenner (O)
- 21 Lilyan Oman (W)  
June Campbell (W)
- 22 Kristi Fronce (O)

- 23 Steve Strauss (W)
- 24 Nancy Whitesell (O)
- 27 Maxine Anderson (O)  
Alan Bohnenblust (W)  
Kyle Bohnenblust (W)
- 29 Kathleen Sundgren (W)
- 31 Amy Burklund (O)  
Jennifer Miller (W)

## August Birthdays

- 1 Lori Rogge (W)  
Jane Gibbs (O)
- 2 Caleb Cantrell (O)
- 4 Darlene Larson (O)
- 6 Kim Gibbs (O)
- 7 Mickey Burklund (O)
- 11 Kathy Ricketts (O)  
Don Nelson (W)  
Symone Sandquist
- 12 Erin Stanfield (W)
- 14 Lee Cantrell (O)  
Diana Nelson (O)  
Janice Johnson (W)
- 18 Justin Campbell (W)
- 25 Mike Nelson (W)
- 26 Pat Erickson (W)  
Ryan Gibbs (O)

- Jeana Burton (O)
- 28 Arlo Peterson (W)  
Devon Sundgren (W)
- 30 Willard Johnson (W)  
Scott Kulp (W)  
Brett Kulp (W)
- 31 Bill Monser (O)

## July Anniversaries:

- 6 Roger and Kathleen Sundgren (W)
- 10 Justin and Amber Befort (O)
- 15 Victor and Cindy Olson (W)
- 17 Kraig and Monica Kasselmann (O)
- 21 Brett and Stacy Dawes (W)
- 22 Jessie and Kermit Sundgren (W)
- 30 Karl and Linda Kasselmann (O)

## August Anniversaries

- 1 Tim and Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 5 Scott and Jennifer Kulp (W)  
Lynn and Marla Webster (O)
- 9 Richard and Shirley Strauss (W)
- 12 Josh and Tricia Cantrell (O)
- 13 Trenton and Lynn Hargrave (W)
- 14 Jerry and Pat Erickson (W)

## Members in service for July and August

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during July and August.

### Walsburg

**Ushers and Greeters:** July: Raymond & Milly Nelson; Roger & Kathy Sundgren; Sandy McCool. August: Brad and Dena Haller; Arlo and Wava Peterson; Ralph & Mary Larson

**Communion Ushers:** July: Sandy McCool and Vern Bulk. August: Lynne Berry and Norman Johnson

**\*Lay Assistants:** 7/6 Sandy McCool; 7/13 Linda Toomire; 7/20 Mary Larson; 7/27 Sandy Glessner; 8/3 Jamie Hageman; 8/10 Mary Kay Henry; 8/17 Don Nelson; 8/24 Alicia Scofield; 8/31 Janet Neilson

**Altar Committee:** July: Dena Haller; August: Mary Kay Henry

### Olsburg

**Ushers:** Jim Nelson, Floyd Munson, Gregg Gibson, Tom Nelson

**Communion Assistants:** 7/20 Coleen Esping; 8/3 Kraig Kasselmann; 8/17 Woody Kasselmann

**\*Acolytes:** 7/6 Landry Zoeller; 7/13 Jace Ricketts; 7/20 Brooklynn Zoeller; 7/27 Kylea Ricketts; 8/3 Sykler Zoeller; 8/10 Emma Kasselmann; 8/17 Kylea Ricketts; 8/24 Landry Zoeller; 8/31 Brooklynn Zoeller

## Life together

**\*Lay Assistants:** 7/6 Kathy Monser; 7/13 Kraig Kasselmann; 7/20 Kristi Fronce; 7/27 Laura Clifton; 8/3 Patti Nelson; 8/10 Susan Adams; 8/17 Tom Nelson; 8/24 Becky Avery; 8/31 Bill Monser

**Altar Committee:** July: Joyce Cantrell, Coleen Esping; August: Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

**\*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 Junction City Little Theater has rescheduled the production of the popular rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*. They are looking for musicians and backstage assistants to help with sound, lights, and set. Interested persons should contact [jcltsuperstar@gmail.com](mailto:jcltsuperstar@gmail.com).

Rehearsals will run from July through September. **Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. September 12, 13, 19, and 20 and matinee performances at 2 p.m. September 14 and 21** at the C. L. Hoover Opera House, 135 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Junction City, KS.

If the congregations are interested in attending this show, please let Pastor or a member of your Outreach committee know. The JCLT offers a 10-ticket Flex Package for \$150 (a discount of \$2 on each ticket) as well as a Family Flex Package of 20 tickets for \$240 (a discount of \$5 on each ticket).