

Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due August 24.

Thoughts from one of your pastors...

One of the courses I took this past summer was systematic II. It was a study of the Christian confession that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. We looked at biblical, historical, creedal, confessional, and contemporary models which helped to provide the basis for understanding and interpreting the person and work of Jesus Christ and the consequent Trinitarian understanding of God. This was a great class which at times pushed me to struggle with my own theology of Jesus Christ, and an over arching theology of Jesus that plays out in our culture.

An important distinction which became clear in the pre-work for this class, had to do with atonement, which is how God deals with the human problem of sin. I was hoping that once and for all, there would be clarity on how this theory was to be talked about, preached, taught and lived out... It didn't happen! In the 2,000 years since the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the church has not come to unity on this topic. Different denominations and sects have emphasized one theory over another but, not one theory has risen to the top as the correct and only theory of atonement.

Why is this important? Because, when I heard Kent Groethe (at the presentation on LCMC last Sunday, July 18, at Walsburg) state that they were about lifting up a

theology that the Lutheran pastors from 50 years ago taught, I wondered what he meant... In listening to him, I think maybe he meant two things: the first is about this understanding of atonement, and the second is about how we view and interpret the Bible. Both of these, have to do with what lens we are using to interpret atonement and the Bible. Both are impacted strongly by our North American culture and politics. Both can strongly be impacted by how we allow Jesus Christ to be the one who fulfilled the law through the gospel.

Let me give you an example – during my systematic course, one of my classmate asked what the professors “top 10” books are for a better understanding of Jesus Savior and the triune God. One of the books was “The Call to Discipleship” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I had read “Discipleship” many years ago, before I finally heard the call to ordained ministry, AND – it is part of my summer reading these past couple weeks. One of the clear statements that Bonhoeffer keeps making is that, “*only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.*” One of the scriptures he uses to help in understanding this statement is the parable of the Good Samaritan, where the lawyer asks “who is my neighbor?” In a sense, we are

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Editor/Parish Coordinator

Shelly Burklund
Cell 785-532-9853
Home 785-468-3370
sburklun@ksu.edu

Pastoral leaders

Gordon and Sonja Sandquist
Home 785-293-5603
Gordy cell: 785-747-7831
Sonja cell: 785-747-8084
gsandquist001@luthersem.edu
sonja80465@aol.com

Parish Information

Olsburg 468-3500
olc@olsburglutheran.org
Walsburg 293-5367

called to go along and try to be obedient by loving others. Of course, we will achieve some success, and we will fail miserably AND, in this respect – we can only learn what obedience is by obeying...

Obedying the commandment Jesus gave to “love your neighbor” is influenced by how we interpret scripture and what theology of atonement live under. And if we start with Jesus in our obedient believing, our witness and actions of being the feet and hands of Jesus in the world while walking humbly with our God will be much more powerful.

Where will the congregations of Olsburg Lutheran and Walsburg Lutheran end up in the year ahead? I don't know! My prayer is that we as a community can believe more fully in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ and, be more obedient in how we live that out. Discipleship is a journey that we travel throughout our lifetime, knowing that the Kingdom of God is both here and now, and in the yet to come.

Blessings and Hope in the journey Gordy

The Isburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, June 16, 2010. Council President Jan Cooper called the meeting to order. Joyce Cantrell led the group in prayer.

Members present: Jan Cooper, Jim Nelson, Joyce Cantrell, Laura Clifton, Kristi Fronce, Kirby Burklund, Woody Kasselmann, Shari Holt, and Coleen Esping.

Reports

Secretary's Report: Jim moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Laura seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kirby moved to approve the report. Jim seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Old Business

It was noted that Kevin Clark from Kansas State University Lutheran Campus Ministries led service on Sunday since Pastor Gordy was on vacation. At that time, Kevin sent a sheet around the congregation asking for 15 people to donate \$15 this year to Lutheran Campus Ministries. We discussed trying to get additional donations.

PA System: The funds for the PA system came from the Myron Larson and Terry Bokelman memorial funds. The council discussed adding name plates to the wooden plaques in the narthex for those who have given memorial contributions to the church in recent years. After the meeting, council members looked at the plaques we currently have hanging in the narthex and briefly discussed adding to an existing plaque or purchasing a new one. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

Confirmation Pictures: It was mentioned that we are missing confirmation pictures for several of our classes in recent year. The Education Committee will be contacted to see what can be done to add these pictures.

Church Front Doors: Lee will work on the front doors in the near future.

Cemetery Funds: We are still working on the list and attempting to identify families with family members buried in the cemetery.

Synod Representation: The council will ask Mary Rosell and Darlene Larson to prepare a report when they return from the gathering.

New Business

Church Camp: Woody mentioned that the youth enjoyed camp at Camp Tomah Shinga. His granddaughter is one who attended.

Parents as Teachers: This activity has been cancelled, but some of the mothers would like to continue to meet at the church. A council member will check with Dan Holt to make certain the church is not liable should an accident/injury occur.

The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

August birthdays and anniversaries

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

Birthdays

- 1 Lori Rogge (W)
Jane Gibbs (O)
- 2 Caleb Cantrell (O)
- 4 Darlene Larson (O)
- 6 Kim Gibbs (O)
- 7 Mickey Burkland (O)
- 11 Kathy Ricketts (O)
Don Nelson (W)
Symone Sandquist
- 12 Erin Stone (W)
- 14 Lee Cantrell (O)
Diana Nelson (O)

- Janice Johnson (W)
- 17 Georgia Carlson (W)
- 18 Justin Campbell (W)
Lance Haller (W)
- 24 Lance Holle (W)
- 25 Mike Nelson (W)
- 26 Pat Erickson (W)
Ryan Gibbs (O)
Jeanna Burton (O)
- 28 Arlo Peterson (W)
Devon Sundgren (W)
- 30 Willard Johnson (W)
Scott Kulp (W)
Gennifer Glen (W)
Brett Kulp (W)
- 31 Bill Monser (O)

- September 1-8
- 3 Greg Burnett (W)
 - 4 Shirley Strauss (W)
 - 5 Jeff Howland (O)
 - 7 Codie Webster (O)
 - 8 Ramona Johnston (O)

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)
- 14 Jerry and Pat Erickson (W)

Members in service this month

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

Walsburg

Ushers: Arlo Peterson, Larry Bestwick, Gary Hargrave, Jared Henry

Greeters: Gary and Diana Hargrave, Aneta Hagenmaier, Theresia Hagenmaier, Larry and Lila Bestwick

Communion Ushers: Doug Kraemer, Gene Henry, Travis Hageman, Gary Hargrave

***Lay Assistants:** 8/1 Debbie Hagenmaier; 8/8 Jennifer Kulp; 8/15 Gavin Hargrave; 8/22 Melissa Deetjen; 8/29 Doug Kraemer

Flowers for Church: Volunteers (please contact the Altar Committee)

Altar Committee: Roseanne Johnson, Melissa Deetjen

Olsburg

Ushers: Marvin Johnson, Lawrence Andersen, Nick Cooper

Communion Assistants: 8/1 Jim Nelson; 8/16 Kirby Burkland

***Acolytes:** 8/1 Callie Webster; 8/8 Jacob Nelson; 8/15 Jonathan Nelson; 8/22 Kyle Clifton; 8/29 Madison Vargo

***Lay Assistants:** 8/1 Joyce Cantrell; 8/8 Kathy Monser; 8/15 Kristi Fronce; 8/22 Kristi Fronce; 8/29 Laura Clifton

Altar Committee: Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

Kitchen Committee July/August: Luellen Kasselmann

Funeral Meals Committee serving on a rotating basis:

Committee 1—Darlene Larson, Luellen Kasselmann

Committee 2—Mary Rosell, Ramona Johnston

Committee 3— Mary Lou Gibbs, Jackie Frintrup

***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.**

Monday Bible Study @ Walsburg

— We will be continuing our study of the book of Exodus on Sept. 20, 7:00PM. (We could start on the first Monday which is Labor Day if folks are interested – let Gordy know)

After completing Exodus, we will take a journey into the book of Revelation. This is a study that a group of us wrote as an independent study, that our Professor wants us to “field test” with the possibility of it being revised and published. More on this study later...

Internship – Starting in September, I should be starting on a two year internship with Olsburg/Walsburg. I have completed 21 of my 30 required courses of study and a typical internship would be one year. But, because I share this call with Sonja, it is a part-time call. The positive side of doing a two year internship, is that I can continue to take a regular schedule of courses during the next two years and should be close to ordination by the end of internship.

As I begin internship, I will be working with a “supervising” pastor who will be David Strommen of Concordia Lutheran Church. We will meet monthly and talk on the phone weekly (mostly) about ministry challenges and how to move forward in mission. There will also be the need for a group from the congregation to do ongoing encouragement, support, evaluation (yes, you get to intentionally evaluate my sermons and leadership style) and discernment of my call.

It may seem a bit odd to be doing an internship after serving here for two years already in the capacity of pastor, and I look forward to this continuing “on the job” intentional experience. Many other church bodies do not require this of their Masters of Divinity students. I think the ELCA is right to continue this requirement even of their non traditional students like Sonja and I.

Thanks for your continuing support and encouragement in this educational (and ministry) experience.

Gordy

Life together

The Walsburg Church Council met on Wednesday, July 7, 2010, at 8 p.m. at the church. Meeting highlights appear below. Minutes will be posted on the narthex bulletin board after they have been approved at the August meeting.

Members present: Pastor Gordon Sandquist, Dennis Peterson, Rita Nelson, Doug Kraemer, Don Nelson, Roger Sundgren, Christopher Deetjen, Jamie Hageman, Travis Hageman, Cindy Kulp, Carl Larson, Gary Hargrave, Debbie Hagenmaier. Also present: Rita Nelson, treasurer

Pastor Gordy opened the meeting with a reading from Ephesians 4, followed by prayer.

June meeting minutes were approved.

The financial report was received as presented. We are still using funds from accounts other than the general fund to pay expenses.

A letter from the Central States Synod was shared. The synod budget has been lowered by \$255,000. Sixty-five of the synod's 204 congregations have not sent benevolence in 2010.

During the hearing of visitors, Beverly Sundgren reported almost \$5,000 was raised from the fund raiser for Kenny Nielson. This amount includes Thrivent matching funds.

Pastor's Report – The confirmation final service project will be held in Manhattan in July. Pastor Mike Peck has agreed to present on behalf of the ELCA at the informational meeting sponsored by the affiliation task force. The meeting will be on August 22, and his presentation likely will be in the evening.

Committee Reports

- ✠ **Music and Worship** – Committee met to select July and August hymns.
- ✠ **Education** – Walsburg is getting ready for Vacation Bible School. Around 20 kids are expected to participate. A sign-up sheet for refreshments was distributed to council members.
- ✠ **Church Property** – A coil is freezing up is causing excess moisture in the furnace. There is a sink hole where the line was put in for the basement drain. The brush pile south of the church needs to be cleaned up. The air conditioning will have to be turned down to control humidity levels.
- ✠ **Parsonage** – Authorized Gary Hargrave to build pasture fence so the patch of hay ground becomes part of the pasture. Costs to build the

fence will be reimbursed through future pasture rent. Pastor reported on problems with the septic line

- ✠ **Finance** – Rita will request joint parish account information for the committee to analyze. Walsburg will need to cash a CD to pay expenses for the coming months. Council agreed by consensus that gifts to Gene Henry and Kenny Neilson were intended to go toward local benevolence budgeted for this year. Other benevolence is on hold until the general fund becomes solvent.

Pastor Gordy led a review of chapter four of the Walsburg constitution. This chapter helps us understand how we are the church and how we move forward in mission and ministry, in the community and in the world.

Doug Kramer presented the affiliation task force report. He and Christopher Deetjen are now co-chairing the task force. An informational meeting with a speaker representing Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) is planned for July 18 at 7 p.m. Meeting with representatives from the ELCA and North American Lutheran Church (NALC) are also being planned.

Council discussed the voting member list. Pastor Gordy said the list he has compiled is based solely on contributions of record in 2009 and 2010.

Pastor Gordy shared information about a training event on Saturday, July 31 in Kansas City. The topic of the training: how to talk about difficult issues. Anyone who wants to go should let Pastor Gordy know.

July and August communion ushers were announced. Cynthia Schnaath from the Central States Synod office will provide pulpit supply on August 1. There will be no service on August 15 because of the community worship service at the Leonardville Hullabaloo. Communion will be August 22 instead.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 4, 2010, at 8 p.m.

Help Needed!

There is an accumulation of items in the basement kitchen area making it difficult to clean around, please check the basement to see if the items are yours and either take them home or store them in the proper place in the basement. Thank you.

Life together

Walsburg Worship: Leonardville Hullabaloo Community Worship

Sunday, August 15, 11:00 AM

Gather together with the entire community at the Leonardville United Methodist Church. Morning worship will feature a praise band with new and old hymns, Little Ringers, preaching by Pastor Gordy, communion and a great potluck following worship in the basement. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Drinks will be provided. There will not be worship at Walsburg on August 15

Olsburg Back to School Blessing

Sunday, August 15, 9:00 AM

All students and parents are invited to come forward for a special back to school blessing for the upcoming school year.

Olsburg Baptism Party

Sunday, August 29, 9:00 AM

All are invited to remember their baptism and then head downstairs for cake and coffee!

Luther League – Sr. High Ministry Parent Meeting

Olsburg Lutheran church

Sunday, August 29, 10:30 AM

We will gather together to plan the year and share the leadership! Help decide where the St. High Youth trip will be next summer...and if we will go to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2012.

Confirmation Parents Meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 7:00 PM

Students and parents are invited to get to know one another and plan any social or service events that will happen throughout the year.

Walsburg Affiliation Meeting

Sunday, August 22, 7:00 PM

Sanctuary

All are welcome for a conversation regarding the identity and work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with Michael Peck, former Walsburg Pastor who now serves at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland Park, Kansas. His task is to bring clarity and understanding about Walsburg's connection to the larger church body of over 10,000 ELCA churches in the United States. Please bring your questions for a night of learning and reconnecting with Michael. Fellowship time will follow the event in Memorial Hall. If you would be willing to host fellowship time, please contact Pastor Gordy or Pastor Sonja.

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish
12351 Union Road

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