

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due Sept. 23.

Pastor Letter...

What if? (Some "stewardship thoughts")

What if we were able to totally re-think how we shape our communal life around the topic of money – not so much for the financial health of the church, but (so that) we might knock down barriers that have been getting in the way of people's desire to be part of Christian community.

We know that significant numbers of people in our communities (culture) have never learned about giving money away, and these same folks have never learned to manage money in a healthy way. In addition, for many younger people, it seems the economy has dealt them a bad hand. Some have massive student loan debt, under-water mortgages, daycare struggles and inconsistent job security. It seems like there is this "big bag of fear" that is near impossible to set down – "How will we make it to the end of the month?" "Which bills do we NOT pay right now?" and the worst, "I am alone in this struggle and ashamed."

So, **What if** church could become a place where we can learn together how not to be afraid? What if we could come together (out of isolation and into community) to figure this out? Because, if the church is about Good News, then this Good News must also extend to our life with

money! (it sounds a little weird – but it is true...)

The story we ground ourselves in week after week, rests in the promise that we are never alone, and that God is trustworthy. The Spirit is always calling us out of the lie of isolation and into community. The biblical message tells us that we are given enough for this day, and that God believes in us enough to make us stewards. Jesus tells us that a life given away is what gives it all meaning. This IS Good News!

So here is the really big question – **What if** church were to be the place where people of all ages can hear this really Good News, and also learn things about money (in our day and age)? **What if** church is the place where people are invited to make a realistic personal budget? **What if** church is the place where all are encouraged to align the way they used money with their deepest values? AND, **what if** church is the place where each of us discovered that this money (your money) has the power to change the world when you give it away?

None of this will be easy to accomplish... So what! What if?

Gordy

I didn't plan this for July...

I know some of you have been counting. YES, I took three trips to Colorado in the month of July. The first at the beginning of the month was to distribute the ashes (on the top of a peak at almost 13,000) of an old friend from my youth ministry days. Mark Frickey grew up in Kansas and had been serving a multi-church parish for the past decade in Upstate New York. Eight pastors and a couple other folks made the trek out to the mountains near Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp to honor Mark's wishes. I saw people I hadn't seen in over twenty years.

The second trip was a planned vacation with Sonja, Monique, Symone and dog Molly. We spent a couple days with friends in Denver and Sonja and I were able to see Bruce, the pastor who married us; and who I worked with for ten years; and who encouraged me always to consider ordained ministry; and who preached at my ordination last summer; and, and, and... He was in the middle of aggressive cancer treatment and looked forward to our visit.

Then we headed up into the mountains for our time of relaxation and camping. Our daughters spent a couple days with us before we dropped them off at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp for their week of backpacking. Sonja and I went on a couple of day hikes, had a couple of unscheduled reunions with church worker friends from the past who found out we were in the area (actually, our kids were at the same camp week and we didn't know it), I had three days I finished a book in a day (only one was ministry related), and we relaxed... and, I spent time

with friends I hadn't seen in over a decade.

We got home from vacation late Saturday evening, July 27, and as I was preparing for worship the next day, I was checking my e-mail and saw a note from Pastor Bruce's family that he had passed away. I opened up my calendar, saw that Tuesday and Wednesday (July 30 & 31) were actually open and decided I needed to head back out to Denver for the memorial services. And once again, it had been a decade since I had seen most of the folks who gathered for this.

In the midst of all this travel (two of these trips were unplanned) – I was reminded of how important it is to reconnect with friends from the past. This reconnection helps remind us who we are, and more importantly – whose we are. It could be that many of my connections are "church" related, but I was thankful for all the "faith journey," "God talk" and "hopes for the future" conversations...

Take some time in the month of August, to reconnect with someone from your past, and risk having some "faith journey," "God talk" and "hopes for the future" conversations...

Thanks for listening – Gordy

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Editor/Parish Coordinator

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

Pastor

Gordon Sandquist
Home 785-293-5603
Gordy cell: 785-747-7831
gsandquist001@luthersem.edu

Parish Information

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

August Birthdays

- 1 Lori Rogge (W)
- 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 Gibbs (O)
- 28 Arlo Peterson (W)
Devon Sundgren (W)
- 30 Willard Johnson (W)
- 31 Bill Monser (O)

September Birthdays

- 4 Shirley Strauss (W)
- 5 Jeff Howland (O)
- 7 Codie Webster (O)
- 8 Ramona Johnston (O)
- 9 Amber Befort (O)
- 10 Shelly Burklund (O)
Richard Strauss (W)
- 12 Gevon Holt (O)
- 15 LeRoy Bohnenblust (W)
Monica Hargrave Schultz (W)
- 17 Cole Schultz (W)
- 19 Brian Clifton (O)
- 20 Joshua Hagenmaier (W)
Morgan Vargo (O)
- 22 Steven Johnson (O)
Jared Fronce (O)
- 25 Mylene Davis (O)
Chris Deetjen (W)
- 26 Ernest Grater (W)
- 28 Ray Miller (W)
Donald Cobler (O)
- 30 Kraig Kasselmann (O)

- 13 Trenton and Lynn Hargrave (W)
- 14 Jerry and Pat Erickson (W)

September Anniversaries

- 1 Dallas and Mylene Davis (O)
- 4 Alan and Kristin Bohnenblust (W)
- 5 David and Jeannette Pultz (W)
- 12 Gregg and Alice Marie Gibson (O)
Rick and Irene Johnson (O)
- 16 Bart and Norma Coutermarsh (W)
- 19 Carl and Jane Larson (W)
- 20 OJ and Monica Schultz (W)
- 26 Ernest and Marjorie Grater (W)
- 28 Mitch and Susan Adams (O)
- 30 Kent and Mary Nelson (O)

August Anniversaries

- 1 Tim and Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 5 Lynn and Marla Webster (O)
- 9 Richard and Shirley Strauss (W)
- 12 Josh and Tricia Cantrell (O)

Members in service this month

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

Walsburg

August Greeters and Ushers: Brad and Dena Haller; Arlo and Wava Peterson; Jamie and Kristi Hageman

September Greeters and Ushers: Bart and Norma Coutermarsh; Dale Larson; Garrett and Brianna Olson

August Communion Ushers: Lynne Berry; Norman Johnson

September Communion Ushers: Aneta Hagenmaier; Roger Sundgren

***August Lay Readers:** 8/4 Mary Kay Henry; 8/11 Don Nelson; 8/18 Alicia Scofield; 8/25 Janet Neilson

***September Lay Readers:** 9/1 Dennis Peterson; 9/8 Milly Nelson; 9/15 Jane Larson; 9/22 Rita Nelson; 9/29 Linda Toomire

August Altar Committee: Donise Peterson

September Altar Committee: Diana Hargrave

Olsburg

August Ushers: Marvin Johnson; Nick Cooper; Kyle Clifton; Brian Clifton

September Ushers: Dan Holt, Jeff Howland, Bill Monser, Mitch Adams

August Communion Assistants: 8/4 Becky Avery; 8/18 Woody Kasselmann

September Communion Assistants: 9/1 Kirby Burklund
9/15 Laura Clifton

***August Lay Assistants:** 8/4 Patty Nelson; 8/11 Susan Adams; 8/18 Becky Avery; 8/25 Bill Monser

***September Lay Assistants:** 9/1 Coleen Esping; 9/8 Jan Cooper; 9/15 Joyce Cantrell; 9/22 Kathy Monser; 9/29 Kristi Fronce

August Altar Committee: Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

September Altar Committee: Shelly Burklund, April Brenner

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish
12351 Union Road

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Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated food items and/or served at Robert and Fern Berggren's estate sale. We appreciate it!

The Family of Robert and Fern Berggren

Walsburg Ice Cream Social

Walsburg Lutheran Church will hold their Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, Sept 8 from 5- 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to work and provide homemade ice cream, pies and sloppy joes.

Olsburg Sunday School

Olsburg Sunday School will start September 15th after worship.

All young people – preschool through grade 6 are invited each week for an interactive hour of learning (and experiencing) the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

Mark your calendars and invite a friend to come along
See you all there.

Olsburg Ice Cream Social

September 15th

Immediately after Sunday School (about 11:00 AM)

All are welcome (invite someone from the community and bring a friend)

There will be a sign-up in the narthex for those who can bring food.

Thanks