

Life together

August 2017

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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From the Desk of Pastor Keith

God gives you permission! You are allowed to do the work of God. You are allowed to take the initiative, to try things, to make mistakes, to move forward. You are allowed to enjoy being a disciple of Jesus doing the work of God!

You also get to stand alongside all the rest of those who follow Jesus - we're called the church - and work with other gifted people to do together what none of us could accomplish alone. In the church, you are supported and loved and encouraged. You are forgiven. And you learn to forgive.

When it comes to doing the work of God you don't have to wait. You don't have to wait till you get older, wiser, better informed about the Bible, and so on. You don't have to wait till someone tells you to do something. God has already gifted you for ministry so that you can do your part of God's great work!

You can accept God's invitation to move forward. This is true for you as an individual. This is true for you as congregations. Yes, God gives you and me (and all of us together!) permission to be in ministry!

So as we move into the latter half of the summer, let us keep moving forward. Good things are happening in both Olsburg and Walsburg congregations! God is

giving us a bright future. There are lots of opportunities for growth. There are ample opportunities for us to serve our neighbors. The door for ministry is wide open!

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Pastor Keith Wiens

Offering Our Best

From the age of 12 until her retirement, Olga worked at the factory, surrounded by the pounding of great machines. Gradually she lost much of her hearing. The passing years diminished her eyesight and stiffened her joints. Olga now is homebound, but she faithfully listens to the broadcast services of her congregation each Sunday morning and regularly sends her offering.

On a beautiful summer day, Olga carefully prepared for Pastor Sue's regular communion visit. She covered a tray table with a fine table cloth, intricately embroidered in the days when she could see to thread a needle.

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After administering the bread and wine, Pastor Sue went to the kitchen to wash the communion ware. She found a napkin of elegant damask for drying the small chalice and paten. Asked why she put out fine linen when a paper towel would do, Olga answered simply: "God gave his only begotten Son for me. God has been with me all these years. How can I hold anything back? I have little money, I can't see or hear or walk well anymore, but at least I can put out my good linen."

Olga offered her best with joy and thanksgiving, in honor of our Savior. Can we not do the same?

The Reformation and A World Wide Church

We're not just in Germany anymore, nor Scandinavia. Yes, the Reformation began in Germany and quickly spread to the Scandinavian countries. Today the Lutheran family - 75 million Christians in more than 100 countries - incorporates many languages, cultures, and histories; yet all share a faith identity rooted in the Reformation witness to the Gospel message of justification by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Nestled in the Flint Hills of Kansas, the Olsburg and Walsburg Lutheran Churches are part of a world wide church. Let's meet some of our family members.

Nelavala Gnana Prasuna's Story: (A woman in India) "I am a third-generation Christian woman born into a home that was rooted in Lutheran Christian faith. My experience as a Dalit Christian Lutheran woman is essential for how I do theology. My great grandparents were "no people." But a drastic shift from "no people" to Christian community took place with the conversion of my grandparents. My grandmother was not able to bear a child even after ten years of her marriage. She heard the gospel and believed in Christ, and on one fine day she was surprised to find that she had conceived. She delivered her firstborn son and name him Devashayam, which means "God's help." She then received baptism, and her entire family also received baptism. Most of my childhood was spent in rural villages where the caste system was predominant. As there were no churches in villages, our home would be turned into a church, as my parents conducted Sunday worship services. As children we were nurtured in

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Christian faith. Our parents taught us to have regular personal devotions. My early childhood experiences of faith, of confrontation with the caste system, and of improved socioeconomic status have been significant for me in my self-understanding and in articulating theology."

The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb's Story: (A Lutheran pastor in Palestine) "I was born in Bethlehem on June 26, 1962, into a family that took root in this city a very long time ago. The Raheb family has lived in and around Bethlehem for many centuries. My identity was stamped by the fact that I was born in this particular place. I feel I have something like a special relationship with David and to Christ - a relationship developed not only by way of the Bible, not only through faith, but also by way of the land. I share my city and my land with David and with Jesus."

Kristin J. Wendland's Story: (Telling of her experience in Ethiopia) "There were people as far as we could see. On a hot weekend in March 2011, nearly ten thousand people had gathered to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Central Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church - Mekane Yesus (EECMY). The two day celebration included sermons, a large choir, a solo singer from Addis Ababa, greetings from international companions, and a healer, whose ministry was marked by healings and people in the crowd speaking in tongues. This was the Lutheran church as I had not experienced it before. I am from Wisconsin and I was a guest of EECMY. I teach at the Nekemte Christian Education College, a seminary three hundred kilometers from Addis Ababa. I teach my students the basics of biblical Greek and pastoral care, and they teach me about their way of being church. The roots of the EECMY go back to Swedish missionary activity in the first half of the 20th century. Since its formation in 1959 the EECMY has experienced tremendous growth. According to the EECMY website, at the end of 2014 the baptized membership of the EECMY was 7.4 million. With only 8,360 pastors and evangelists in the church, much of this growth is due to individuals witnessing to Christ in their daily lives. Lively and Spirit-filled worship, a commitment to serving physical as well as spiritual needs, and a living memory of persecution are part of what characterize the EECMY as it continues to live and grow in Jesus' name."

August birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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

August Birthdays

- 1 Lori Rogge (W)
Trea Jameson Schultz (W)
- 2 Caleb Cantrell (O)
- 4 Harper Befort (O)
- 6 Kim Gibbs (O)
- 7 Mickey Burklund (O)
- 11 Kathy Ricketts (O)
Don Nelson (W)
- 12 Erin Stanfield (W)
- 13 Jeremy Dick (W)
- 14 Lee Cantrell (O)
Diana Nelson (O)
Janice Johnson (W)
- 15 Justin Befort (O)
- 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)
Scott Kulp (W)
Brett Kulp (W)
- 31 Bill Monser (O)

August Anniversaries

- 1 Tim and Sandy Zoeller (O)
Jeremy Dick and Sarah Diamond (W)
- 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)

Sorrows

- † We sorrow with the family and friends of Gevon Holt who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on June 19, 2017. Gevon was a long time member of Olsburg Lutheran Church.

Joys

- † We rejoice with Kenneth Neilson & Mary Ellis who were married July 22 in Chicago. Kenneth is a member of Walsburg.

Members in service for August

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

Walsburg

Ushers and Greeters: Brad and Dena Haller; Ralph & Mary Larson; David Ahlerich; Amber Befort.

Communion Ushers: Alicia Scofield; Gary Hargrave

***Lay Assistants:** 8/6 Don Nelson; 8/13 Rita Nelson; 8/20 Sheri Storer; 8/27 Mary Kay Henry

Altar Committee: Janet Neilson

Olsburg

Ushers: Marvin Johnson; Nick Cooper; Kraig Kasselmann; Brian Clifton

Communion Assistants: 8/6 Kirby Burklund; 8/20 Becky Avery

***Acolytes:** 8/6 Kylea Ricketts; 8/13 Skyler Zoeller; 8/20 Grady Kasselmann; 8/27 Brooklynn Zoeller

***Lay Assistants:** 8/6 Laura Clifton; 8/13 Luellen Kasselmann; 8/20 Patti Nelson; 8/27 Tom Nelson

Altar Committee: 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.**

Next newsletter items and articles will be due Aug 21.

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Ice Cream Social

Walsburg Annual Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendar to attend the annual Walsburg Lutheran Church ice cream social on Sunday, August 20. Sloppy Joes, ham sandwiches, chips,

homemade ice cream and pie will be served from 5-7 p.m. Freewill offering will be taken. The public is invited to enjoy an evening of food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be posted on Sunday, July 30.

Walsburg Lutheran Church took a Tour of Reuter Organ Company

On July 14, a Walsburg group enjoyed a tour of the Reuter Organ Company, Lawrence. The Reuter Company is celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2017. A good time was had by all!



Walsburg Women of the ELCA offers Christmas in July

Walsburg Women of ELCA will be selling the "God's Creation" 2018 calendars this year. The calendars will be arriving soon. Watch for information in the bulletin regarding availability. The cost will be \$7 per calendar.

Walsburg Sunday School is Just Around the Corner!

On Sunday, August 20, Sunday School is beginning at 10:00 a.m.! A "Blessing of the Backpacks" will part of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We hope your child/children will be able to participate each Sunday learning about God's love for them. Invite your child's friends and others you know to be a part of Walsburg's Sunday School program.

Olsburg Sunday School resumes August 20

All children ages 3 and up are invited to participate in Sunday School which will begin August 20. Olsburg Lutheran Church Sunday School begins to 10:00 a.m. We are excited to share bible stories, music and God's love with each child!

Olsburg LCW collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits

During the month of August the LCW will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

Items to be included in each kit are:

- **FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- **ONE** pencil sharpener
- **ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- **FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- **FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- **ONE** 2 1/2" eraser

Items may be left in the box in the narthex. Monetary donations will also be accepted.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School such a success again this year! We thank you for donating items for the Spuds and Splits fundraiser we had earlier in the year, by donating items needed for us to use during the week, or by giving of your time to teach and help out in all sorts of ways during the busy days the children spent with us in our church! We had a fun and exciting week and we appreciate everyone for what they did to help us out, especially the parents for sending us YOUR CHILDREN.

At this year's Vacation Bible School, enjoying our theme, ***A Mighty Fortress***, the children learned that God is their refuge and strength. The children learned that their friends may fail them, they may not ace their test or make the team, but God promises to be their rock and their salvation. Over and over during the week, the children were reminded that, ***In Jesus, the victory is won!!!*** We want to say ***THANK YOU*** to everyone who sent their children to our recent Vacation Bible School! We especially want to thank the youth and adult helpers who were there to help guide the children while they learned more about Jesus Christ, and how, through Him, the victory is won! We couldn't have accomplished what we did without all of you and for that we are very appreciative. We had 36 children, 5 youth helpers, and 13 adults during our successful week of VBS.

**Mark your calendars now and plan on attending
Vacation Bible School - May 29 - June 1, 2018**



2017 Walsburg Vacation Bible School

Thirty children actively participated in Walsburg's "Maker Fun Factory," along with 12 volunteers who enjoyed being with the children and modeling God's love, using their gifts and talents for all in attendance.

Special thanks to everyone who volunteered in any way and donated food, supplies and cash donations. It was greatly appreciated.

Below are the photos that illustrate the good times by all that participated in this God-filled week of Vacation Bible School at Walsburg.



