

Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

*Reflections (continued)
What About Those
Hymns?
Stay Connected*

page 3

*Birthdays,
Anniversaries, Joys
and Sorrows
Members in service*

page 4

*A Reminder
Walsburg's 2021 VBS
"Rocky Railway"
Walsburg Junior
Quilters
ELCA Good Gifts
Donations*

page 5

*Walsburg Sunday
School Begins and
Blessing of the
Backpacks
Walsburg's Annual Ice
Cream Social
Walsburg Walkers
Olsburg Lutheran
Church Council
Highlights*

page 6

*Walsburg Lutheran
Church Council
Highlights*

page 7

*Are you willing to
support the
Alzheimer's Associati
on in its vision of "A
World Without
Alzheimer's and All
Other Dementias" in
2021?
Olsburg News
Walsburg News*

Reflections by Pastor Keith

Last spring we planted some tomato plants. We fertilized the ground. We watered the plants. The plants developed a strong root system. They grew and grew and grew. And now they are starting to produce tomatoes - big, red, juicy tomatoes.

That's what plants do - they produce fruit. Some plants produce tomatoes, or grapes, or cucumbers. Others produce beautiful flowers or colorful leaves. Trees produce shade and shelter for wildlife. Plants are productive. They make a vital contribution to life on this planet. That's the way God designed them.

And that is the way God designed us as well. God made us to bear fruit, to be productive and make a vital contribution to life on this planet.

That's what the Bible teaches. Jesus said that our life with God is like a seed planted in the ground and the seed grows and produces a rich harvest. God designed us to grow and produce a rich harvest.

The Bible teaches that we bear fruit when we do good work. That's what God wants, God wants us to bear fruit, and when we do, God is pleased.

So let's take a closer look at the fruit God wants us to bear. In

Matthew 22 we are taught that we should love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In Matthew 25 we are taught to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger and clothe the naked, visit the sick and care for those in prison.

In Matthew 28 we are taught to go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to obey everything Christ has taught us.

In Galatians 5 we are taught that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

We could go on and on. The Bible has much to say about the fruit we are to bear.

A good way to summarize what the Bible teaches about bearing fruit in the world is the promise we make when we are confirmed. "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God

Continued on page 2

in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The question I want you to ask yourself is this “am I living this way? Am I bearing fruit in the world? Am I proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed? Am I serving others? Am I striving for justice and peace in the earth?”

If you are like me, you would have to say that there is room for improvement. We can and should do better. God expects us to bear not just a little fruit, but much fruit.

That’s why we need to have roots that sink deep into Christ. Roots that gather the life giving water of Christ. Roots that feed on the life-giving nutrients of God’s Word and the Sacraments. Roots that are connected to and supported through fellowship with other Christians. We need strong roots in order to bear fruit in the world.

And that is why we need to be growing in Christ. We grow when we hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Word of God. We grow when we gain knowledge and understanding of God’s Word and become more confident in our faith. We grow when we put into practice what we have learned. We don’t engage in spiritual growth activities just for the fun of it, we grow in order to bear fruit in the world.

A valuable way we bear fruit in the world is through the work that we do, whether that work is paid or unpaid, whether it is full time or part time, whether we do it at home or away from home. When we offer that work to God, when we seek to serve God and our neighbors through our work, when do the very best we can and do it out of love, we are bearing rich fruit in the world.

I think of the promise that God gives us in 1 Corinthians 15: “Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” Your labor will not be in vain. God will take what you do and use it for good.

We can learn a lot from plants. We learn that we need a strong root system. We learn that we need to grow and to keep on growing. And we learn that we are to bear fruit in the world. That is what we are doing as people who follow Jesus.

Life together

We are sinking our roots deep into Christ. We are growing stronger and stronger. And we are seeking to bear fruit in the world.

Rooted in Christ, we are growing to bear fruit in the world!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

What About Those Hymns?

A letter to the pastor: “Was it the organist’s idea or yours that our peaceful service was shattered by the new hymn last Sunday? The music was sacrilegious, something one would expect to hear in a den of iniquity, not a church!” (Writing in 1874 about I Love to Tell the Story)

“Pastor, I am no music scholar but I feel I know appropriate church music when I hear it. Last Sunday’s new hymn, if you can call it that, sounded like a sentimental love ballad one might expect to hear crooned in a saloon. If you persist in exposing us to rubbish like this in God’s house, don’t be surprised if many of the faithful look for a new place to worship. The hymns we grew up with are all we need.” (Letter dated 1865 concerning Just As I Am.)

“When I go to church, it is to worship God, not to be distracted with learning a new hymn. Last Sunday’s was particularly unnerving. While the text was good, the tune was unsingable and the harmonies discordant.” (From a letter to a pastor in reference to What A Friend We Have In Jesus in 1890.)

Stay Connected

If you use email, we would greatly like to add you to our church’s email list. In this way you would receive the weekly bulletin, “Pastor Keith’s Reflections,” the monthly newsletter, and other congregational announcements.

If you are not currently on this list and would like to be added, give you email address to our parish coordinator, Shelly Burklund. Her email address is sburklun@ksu.edu.

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 Devon Sundgren (W)
- 30 Willard Johnson (W)
Scott Kulp (W)
Brett Kulp (W)
Addison Plummer (O)
- 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)
- 17 David and Courtney Gibson (O)

Joys

+ We rejoice Bill and Roseanne Johnson who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in July.

Members in service for August

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

Olsburg Lay Readers: 8/1 David Gibson; 8/8 Coleen Esping; 8/15 Becky Avery; 8/22 Tom Nelson; 8/29 Kylea Ricketts

Olsburg Acolytes: 8/1 Jace Ricketts; 8/8 Jarin Brenner; 8/15 Jordyn Gutsch; 8/22 Grady Kasselmann; 8/29 Brooklyn Rice

Olsburg Ushers: Marvin Johnson; Nick Cooper; Karl Kasselmann; David Gibson

Assist Pastor during Communion: 8/1 David Gibson; 8/15 Jacob Nelson; 8/29 Coleen Esping

Altar Guild: Becky Avery; Donica Nelson

Walsburg Ushers and Greeters: Brad & Dena Haller; Carl & Jane Larson; Dale Larson

Walsburg Communion Ushers: Jeremy Hinkle; Don Campbell

Walsburg Lay Assistants: 8/1 Jennifer Byarlay; 8/8 Linda Toomire; 8/15 Lori Rogge; 8/22 Gracie Scofield; 8/29 Mary Kay Henry

Walsburg Acolytes: 8/1 Mason Scofield; 8/8 Teske Nelson; 8/15 Gracie Scofield; 8/22 Brody Willimon; 8/29 William Sullivan

***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 19.

Life Together is published bi-monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish. Deadline for calendar and other items is the last Monday of each month.

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A Reminder

If you are not able to make it to our worship gatherings on Sunday morning, you may mail your offering to your respective congregation.

Olsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Alice Gibson, 113 S. 1st St, Olsburg, KS 66520

Walsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Lynne Berry, 14180 Crooked Creek Rd., Leonardville, KS 66449.

We are very grateful for your support which enables us to do the work of Christ in many ways!

Walsburg's 2021 VBS - "Rocky Railway"

The Week of July 21-25 found 49 children and 15 volunteers discovering the power of Jesus as attendees learned that Jesus' power pulls us through life. Children participated in Bible Stories, crafts, snacks, outdoor time, and opening and closing time songs and prayer time. A huge thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents!



Walsburg Junior Quilters

Walsburg Quilters have invited the Sunday School children to a quilting event on Saturday, August 7, at 9:00 a.m. The children will learn about Walsburg's Lutheran World Relief quilting ministry and complete a quilt block project. Supplies and snacks will be provided. For more information, contact Mary Kay Henry, Linda Toomire, or Sheri Storer.

ELCA Good Gifts Donation

The Sunday School and VBS children recently gave \$634.44 to ELCA's Good Gifts program, a program of the ELCA that helps grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Monies were given by children during Sunday School and VBS offerings.

Sunday School Begins & Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, August 22, Walsburg children will be returning to Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Children are asked to bring their own Bible. At the 11:00 a.m. worship service on August 22, children are asked to bring their school backpack for a "Blessing of the Backpacks!"

Walsburg's Annual Ice Cream Social

It has returned! Our church's annual ice cream social is scheduled for Sunday, August 29, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The menu will include homemade ice cream, homemade pies, and sloppy joes. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex in August. Please sign up to bring food items and volunteer to help serve. A freewill offering will support the Sunday School children. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy this evening of fellowship and food!

Walsburg Walkers

Mark Your Calendars! On Saturday, October 23, the Walsburg Walkers will join others in Manhattan and surrounding communities to support the Alzheimer's Association's vision of "A World Without Alzheimer's and All Other Dementias!" To join the Walsburg Walkers Team, go to alzwalkmanhattan.org to register as a walker. For more information, ask Linda Toomire or Sheri Storer.

OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Minutes Highlights

Below are highlights from the Olsburg Lutheran Church council meetings over the past few months.

- ✠ Carillons: The carillons have been installed and are working beautifully thanks to the generous memorial gift from the Floyd and Bernice Carlson family. Many thanks to all who helped with this project. The carillons have been missed, not only by church members, but also by the Olsburg community.
- ✠ On-Line Worship: Our on-line worship is going very well and we are seeing a lot of views on our Facebook page. Church

members are encouraged to respond to anyone who makes a comment on our Facebook page so they know we are grateful for their interest.

- ✠ Technology Grant: Olsburg Lutheran Church has received a \$500 matching grant from Central States Synod to be used for the purpose of enhancing our outreach and on-line ministry. Equipment (Euromesh) has been ordered to replace the router. Possibly one or two more might be needed for the office and the sanctuary. A windshield for the microphone was also ordered. Other needs continue to be assessed.
- ✠ Church Services: Outdoor services resumed June 6, 2021 and have been well attended.
- ✠ Landscaping: With a fairly new sidewalk, the Council decided it would be a good time to look at landscaping improvements in the planter beds. After receiving a quote from Prairie Stone Landscaping, the Council decided to solicit memorial funds for this project. Memorial funds have been identified and a decision was made to have the work completed this fall.
- ✠ Building Repairs: There are a few cracks in the plaster on the inside church walls. We have received a bid and plan to move forward with those wall repairs soon. Council has also been looking at the church windows to see if they need to be replaced or repaired. Some additional sewer work will also be done this fall to make necessary improvements.
- ✠ Income and Expenses: The Council was happy to see that our income increased in 2020. Our finances continue to be a concern, since expenses also increased which offset the additional funds we received. The Council is grateful for the increased support.

Walsburg Lutheran Church Council Highlights

The Walsburg Council met in May, June and July 2021, with the following highlights:

- ✚ Bids are being reviewed for a new sound system in the church.
- ✚ New windows and storm door have been installed in the kitchen.
- ✚ Pastor Keith is visiting nursing home residents and will be conducting worship service for residents as scheduled.
- ✚ Volunteers are needed to help develop and enhance our Online Ministry.
- ✚ Outdoor services were held in June, but resumed in the sanctuary in July.
- ✚ The Memorial Committee is compiling a report of all memorials received since 1999 so that memorial recognition boards in Memorial Hall can be updated.
- ✚ VBS was held in June with 50 youth registered, 22 of which are regular attendees at our Sunday School. Thanks to all who helped with this special event.
- ✚ The Sunday School will be holding its annual ice cream social on August 29 and help requested from the congregation.
- ✚ Church space concerns continue to be discussed and the Council welcomes any ideas from members.
- ✚ Fellowship/Outreach will be coordinating a potluck dinner following worship service on September 19.
- ✚ Volunteers are needed to join the 150th Anniversary Planning Committee. Signup is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Are you willing to support the Alzheimer's Association in its vision of "A World Without Alzheimer's and All Other Dementias" in 2021?

I, like many other people in the Manhattan and surrounding communities, have suffered a loss of a loved one to Alzheimer's or some form of dementia. My Mother had early onset Alzheimer's and suffered the devastating effects of this dreaded disease. More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, with 55,000 in Kansas, and 725 in Riley County. One in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. It kills more than breast cancer plus prostate cancer combined. Between 2000 and 2019, deaths from heart disease have decreased by 7.3%, while deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased 145%. In 2021, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$355 billion. By 2050, these costs could rise to more than \$1.1 trillion. Alzheimer's affects us at home and at work. Six in 10 caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's or another dementia were employed in the past year while providing care.

In 2018, to support the vision of the Alzheimer's Association, a small group of Manhattan and Riley County residents formed a planning team for Manhattan's 1st Walk to End Alzheimer's in Manhattan's City Park. With overwhelming support in the first year, nearly 700 walkers participated, raising \$64,000; the 2019 Walk raised over \$84,000; the 2020 virtual Walk raised \$50,000. In 2021, we have a goal of raising \$90,000. Monies raised from the Manhattan Walk go to support (virtual and in-person) education, awareness, caregiver support for families and care facilities in our community. Some funds support research for finding a cause/cure for this dreaded, devastating disease. These support avenues are available virtually and in-person, including a 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900). All programs and services are provided FREE of charge.

Alzheimer's is a progressive and fatal disease, which is devastating our families, our finances, and our future. As the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research, the Alzheimer's Association addresses this global crisis by providing education and support to the millions who face dementia every day, while advancing critical research

toward methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

Will your church join in this fight in 2021? Your organization can be involved in several ways:

- Form a church team or individual teams at alzwalkmanhattan.org
- Sponsor the Manhattan Walk at a Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Local Presenting, or Chapter Presenting in 2021 (see attached brochure)
- Volunteer on the Manhattan Walk Planning Team or volunteer the Day of the Walk on October 23, 2021 - Manhattan City Park

Alzheimer's isn't stopping. Neither are we! Families facing Alzheimer's and all other dementia need us now more than ever - and with your support, we can continue to be there for them. I hope you will join me in this fight - "A World Without Alzheimer's and All Other Dementias!" Together, we can make Manhattan and surrounding communities, A Dementia Friendly Community!

Martha (Marty) Berggren
Volunteer, Alzheimer's Association
Co-Chair 2021 Manhattan Walk to End Alzheimer's
816.565.0701

Olsburg News

The Council is taking donations for the purchase of technology equipment to be used for our on-line ministry. Olsburg Lutheran Church recently received a grant from Central States Synod in the amount of \$500 to be used for the purpose of on-line outreach. This matching grant requires congregations to upgrade or enhance their outreach and technology efforts. We have recently formed a technology team who will be making decisions regarding equipment purchases. Please consider giving to this worthy cause so we can continue our growth both within and outside our community. A donation jar is located by the offering can. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to all who have helped with mowing the church yard this summer. We still have the need for volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone who would like to volunteer to mow. Please consider signing up so this doesn't fall on the same people throughout the rest of the summer. Thank you!

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Women are back to tying quilts! Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9:00 - 11:00 am in the church basement.

The congregation is invited to help the LCW gather supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Donations can be left in the box at church. Items needed for each kit are:

- Four 70-80 sheet notebooks (280- 300 sheets total) of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately
- 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; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

Walsburg News

The Walsburg Council is needing volunteers to sign up for a newly formed 150th Anniversary Planning Committee. Please consider helping with this important event that will take place in the summer of 2023. Signup is posted on the bulletin board.

Mark Your Calendars! **Walsburg Ice Cream Social**, Sunday, August 29, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet available on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Riley Food Pantry Update. We are experiencing an increase in the number of families served, now averaging between 6 and 10. If you can help stock the shelves, the following items are needed: Tuna Helper, Canned Chicken, Crunchy Peanut Butter, Grape/Strawberry Jelly or Jam, Canned Peaches, Mixed Fruit Cups, Vegetable Soup. Household products: Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels. Thank you for helping with this important community outreach! Rhonda Baer