

# Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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## **From the Desk of Your Pastoral Leaders**

**“And Jesus said, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said, ‘My teacher, let me see again.’ Mark 10:51**

As the days of August soon give way to September and our rhythm of life again changes as kids head back to school and summer comes to a close, I want to invite you to consider what the author of the Gospel of Mark might propose in this transition time. Flip your bibles open to Mark 10:46-52. Go ahead. You have time. It is a short story...

It is the story of the Healing of Blind Bartimaeus. I sat with this story and these questions this morning: What is God up to in this text? What is my vocational call? What is our vocational call as the church?

The first question is about our orientation to God. We as Lutheran Christians always start with God and then move to how God is working in our lives. It is a good practice to help us avoid making God do what we want God to do. In this case, we look at how God works through the life of Jesus just outside the gate in Jericho. Jesus is leaving yet takes time to be with one who not only is outside the temple but outside the city. Jesus abandons all of the rules about cleanliness and the assumptions about who can understand his teachings. He agrees to stop and have a conversation with one on the fringe of society. He shows mercy to one who the rest of society has abandoned. Instead of knowing what the man needs and giving it, he asks

a question: “What do you want me to do for you?” Well, there is a question. The human expression of God presenting an open request that was fulfilled.

So, how might my call as a Lutheran Christian intersect with this story? What is the call in this story for me personally? How do I “dance with God?” Simply put, I am Bartimaeus standing at the gate, waiting for a glimpse of the miracle worker. I have exhausted all other options and out of desperation call out to the one who offers options. I am relentless as I cry out with desperate hope. I refuse to live as a victim. To the depths of my being I know that a different way is possible. I know this because of what I have heard. I have listened to others and know that this Jesus is capable of more. I choose more. I choose to live in the full revelation of the Kingdom of God. I am willing to risk public ridicule to simply be near the one who brings wholeness and life to so many like myself – beggars who live on the fringe. My calling is to dare a relationship with the teacher. My calling is to act publically. My calling is to dare to expect more and to follow the one who gives it. My calling is to leave behind all that which creates bondage – the labels, the expectations, the rules and the low self esteem. My calling is to live my life to the fullest, accepting the healing that is offered, giving glory to God when it is uncomfortable and letting my life serve as a witness and a vehicle for the love of Christ in the world.

I wonder what would have happened if Bartimaeus had called out and Jesus asked the same question, "What do you want me to do for you?" only this time, Bartimaeus is suddenly shy and aware of their social status and simply says, "O, I just wanted to introduce myself and let you know how nice it was to meet you. That's all. Have a good journey." Opportunity lost. Kingdom of God not revealed. Beggar not healed. Witness not shown. Blindness continues. Maybe the asking and the receiving of this story is bigger than first expected.

So, what is our call as the church (that is church with a little "c" which means the whole church – both Walsburg and Olsburg), the 205 churches of the Central States Synod and the 10,000 plus ELCA Lutheran Churches in the United States and the countless Lutheran Churches in the world...plus our brothers and sisters in Christ of other denominations...plus all the people of the world whom God claims as precious creations. Again the original question is, "What is our call, in this story, as the church?" What is God revealing for us and how might we respond?

For me, I think God calls the church to be in relationship with God and all of God's people – no matter how fringe each population might appear. I think God calls the church to cry out in humility for healing and sight. I think that God calls us to receive gifts with grace and generosity to be used for the good of the whole church, not just the ones who seem acceptable. I think God calls the church to follow him, even when it seems humiliating. I think God calls the church to trust that God is bigger than any social issue divisiveness, any label, movement of division, war or economic downturn. In the end, I wonder if God calls the church to expect more than what currently exists – to hope unabashedly for the Kingdom of God to come near – to hope that when the savior shows up all agendas fall away and scandalous grace turns entire kingdoms upside down. I think God calls the church to hope.

It has been an exciting morning with this text. I hope each and every morning that you are able to spend dwelling in the living Word is

rich and lively. With just three questions, the Spirit stirred my heart in ways that I never expected this morning. I already see things differently than before.

May the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,  
Sonja

## **WORSHIP NEWS**

### **Walsburg's Back to School Sunday and Sunday School Teacher Installation Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

All Sunday School Teachers, children in school and Sunday School and their parents will be offered a blessing at the beginning of a new year of learning and growing in faith.

### **Rite of Confirmation at Olsburg Lutheran**

**Sunday, October 25, 9:00 AM**

Please gather with Madison and Makayla Vargo, Shane Adams and (in spirit) Douglas Apley as they confirm their faith and share their faith statements.

## **Adult Education**

### **What Does This Mean?**

**Round Table Discussion on the Newly Adopted Resolutions Regarding the Ordination of Gay, Lesbian and Trans-Gendered Persons**



How do we live into God's grace as the church in the midst of changes?

Join the conversation, hosted by Pastor Gordy Sandquist

**Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**7:00 PM Olsburg**

**8:15 PM Walsburg**

## Olsburg Council Highlights

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, July 15, 2009.

Members present: Laura Clifton, Jim Nelson, Pastor Gordy Sandquist, Joyce Cantrell, Jan Cooper, Kristi Fronce, and Mike Apley.

We opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Reports:**

**Secretary's report:** Joyce moved to approve the report. Laura seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** The council members discussed the 4 different reports provided by Laura. Mike thought that statistical process control might be a neat addition for the months over the years. Laura offered for Mike to do it. Mike decided it wasn't that good of an idea. Joyce moved and Mike seconded that the report be accepted. Motion carried.

**Pastor's report:** Sonja is in the process of being accepted for candidacy as a diaconal pastor. To explain the 3 rostered designations in the Lutheran Church, the associate in ministry is word and service in the congregation. Diaconal ministry is word and service in the world. Ordained ministry is word and sacrament. Sonja will be pursuing a masters degree in this program. The congregation will have some paperwork to do and there will be a \$50 congregational fee.

This last week the 4 soon to be 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands traveled to Kansas City and stayed at Hollis. The students traveled into Kansas City to purchase. Douglas Apley is interested in serving as a youth representative on the Synod Council after he is confirmed. The students used a talking pyramid to address some of the church and social issues they addressed.

About 3 months ago Pastor Gordy passed out the information on the Church vote on the human sexuality statement. All 4 resolutions were memorialized to pass on to the Church convention (they were endorsed to pass on). Pastor read the 4 resolutions to the council. There are 275 congregations in the Kansas-Missouri Synod. Approximately 2/3 voted to memorialize these resolutions. The Council read different passages from Deuteronomy to study and discuss the concept of Old Testament laws in today's society.

The partnership for missional church, which was voted on by the Olsburg Council to be participated in, has been tabled by Walsburg for

the time being. The Synod has indicated that the Walsburg portion of the fees may not be an issue.

Propane Central will be doing safety checks on our tanks this coming week.

### **Committee reports:**

**Property:** Kirby was unable to attend. It was noted, he crawled up in the attic on Sunday and spotted several wet spots in the attic that have not been showing up down below yet. Kirby has previously seen where hail has knocked holes in the roof. We'll ask Kirby where to start with people who repair or replace slate roofs.

### **Old Business**

Wood floors are still on the agenda.

PA system: Glenn's music will come up to look when they get through the students getting ready for school.

**Parsonage fund committee:** Mike, Julie Munson, Diane Nelson, and Pastor Gordy. They will meet after Church to discuss the funds and immediate status.

**Annual performance review:** Gordy will be starting his clinical pastoral education and will be needing to develop a group of 6-8 people over the CPE period. There will be evaluation during this period. Then, Gordy will start his formal internship, during which there will be additional formal evaluation. His anniversary with the congregation was July 1. So, getting a group together to communicate with Gordy and Sonja would be appropriate at this time or in the near future. Mike moved that we have a formal review at the next council meeting, Joyce seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Constitution update:** Still pending

**Contemporary worship:** Tabled for the time being to be picked up again at the appropriate time.

**National youth gathering:** Everything on track to leave next Tuesday.

**Church Directory:** Gordy is working on this. This should be able to be completed by Christmas.

### **New Business**

We need to work as a congregation to evaluate needs within this community.

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

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### **Parish Information**

Olsburg 468-3500  
Walsburg 293-5367

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# September birthdays and anniversaries

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

## Birthdays

- 3 Kristin Bohnenblust (W)
- 4 Shirley Strauss (W)
- 5 Jeff Howland (O)
- 7 Codie Webster (O)
- 8 Ramona Johnston (O)
- 9 Kari Holt (O)
- Amber Befort (O)
- 10 Shelly Burklund (O)
- Richard Strauss (W)
- 11 Jeanette Alstatt (W)
- 12 Gevon Holt (O)
- 15 LeRoy Bohnenblust (W)
- Monica Schultz (W)
- 18 Christen Miller (O)
- 19 Brian Clifton (O)
- 20 Joshua Hagenmaier (W)



- Morgan Vargo (O)
- 21 Rachael Peterson (W)
- 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)

- 12 Gregg and Alice Marie Gibson (O)
- Rick and Irene Johnson (O)
- 14 Rick and Jane Gibbs (O)
- 15 Dale and Connie Larson (O)
- 16 Bart and Norma Coutermarsh (W)
- 19 Carl and Jane Larson (W)
- 20 O.J. and Monica Schultz (W)
- 26 Ernest and Marjorie Grater (W)
- Alan and Kim Nelson (W)
- 28 Mitch and Susan Adams (O)
- 30 Kent and Mary Nelson (O)



## Anniversaries

- 1 Dallas and Mylene Davis (O)
- 4 Alan and Kristin Bohnenblust (W)
- 5 David and Jeannette Pultz (W)
- 10 Scott and Jeana Hardesty (O)

## Members in service this month

**T**hank you to these members for their service to the parish during September.

\*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.

### Walsburg

**Ushers:** Carl Larson, Gene Henry, Albert Lee, Jacob Hagenmaier

**Communion Ushers:** Christopher Deetjen, Cindy Kulp, Albert Lee, Don Nelson, Kim Nelson

**Greeters:** Albert and Diane Lee, Carl and Jane Larson, Gene and Mary Kay Henry

\***Acolytes:** 9/6 Emma Glessner, Alyssa Kulp; 9/13 Cajsja Larson; 9/20 Emily Lee; 9/27 Caaie Miller

\***Lay Assistants:** 9/6 Rita Nelson; 9/13 Cindy Kulp; 9/20 Larry Bestwick; 9/27 Kris Burnett

**Flowers for Church:** Volunteers (Please contact Altar Committee)

**Altar Committee:** Diana Hargrave, Melissa Deetjen

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### Olsburg

**Ushers:** Jeff Howland, Bill Monser, Mitch Adams

**Communion Assistants:** 9/6 Jim Nelson; 9/20 Willis Poppe

\***Acolytes:** 9/6 Shelby Adams, 9/13 Jacob Nelson, 9/20 Shane Adams, 9/27 Kyle Apley

\***Lay Assistants:** 9/6 Jackie Frintrup; 9/13 Jonathan Nelson; 9/20 Joyce Cantrell; 9/27 Katherine Apley

**Altar Committee:** Shelly Burklund, Kathy Monser

**Kitchen Committee July/August:** Luellen Kasselmann

**Funeral Meals Committee serving on a rotating basis:**

Committee 1—Maxine Anderson, Jackie Frintrup

Committee 2—Mary Rosell, Ramona Johnston

Committee 3— Mary Lou Gibbs, R.J. Bokelman

Committee 4—Darlene Larson, Laurine Catt

### Olsburg Council Highlights (continued)

One possibility is a food pantry. Laura brought up Prairieland Foods and the food packages.

**Cemetery:** Joyce has started a letter. It would cost us about \$50 to do a one page bulk mailing. We could also put it in the church newsletter. Joyce also proposed to sit down with people in the community to identify people with family buried in the cemetery.

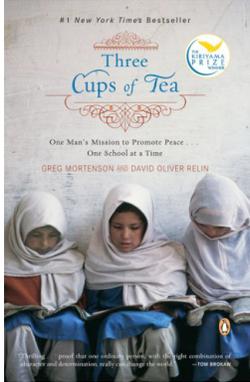
Jim brought up that the next bill will zero out the cemetery fund with summer mowing. Jan moved and Mike seconded moving \$900 from the general fund to the Olsburg Cemetery fund to finance the remainder of 2009 maintenance.

The trees in Mariadahl cemetery that were sprayed are dead and need to be cut down and removed. Jan said that they would just go ahead and take them out. Gordy brought up that it is time to discuss the raising of plot fees to finance maintenance of the Olsburg Cemetery. A figure of \$300 - \$500 was discussed. Church members are currently free and non-members are \$100.

New light switches were installed by Jim.

The front door needs sealed before they sustain permanent damage. Lee Cantrell and Joe Erickson did it last time. Jim will ask Lee.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



**A Great Read:  
 “Three Cups of Tea:  
 One Man’s Mission  
 to Promote Peace...  
 One School at a  
 Time” by Greg  
 Mortenson and  
 David Oliver Relin**

Back cover:

*In 1993 a mountaineer named Greg Mortenson drifted into an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karakoram Mountains after a failed attempt to climb K2. Moved by the inhabitant’s kindness, he promised to return and build a school. ‘Three Cups of Tea’ is the story of that promise and its extraordinary outcome. Over the next decade Mortenson built not just one but fifty-five schools – especially for girls – in the forbidding terrain that gave birth to the Taliban. His story is at once a reverting adventure and a testament to the power of the humanitarian spirit.*

*Here (in Pakistan and Afghanistan), we drink three cups of tea to do business; the first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, and the third, you join our family, and for our family we are prepared to do anything – even die.’*

-Haji Ali, Korphe Village Chief, Karakoram Mountains, Pakistan

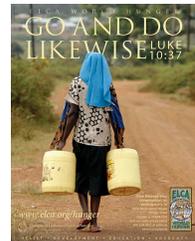
After spending time in and near the Rocky Mountains for 12 years, I naturally gravitated to this mountaineering adventure only to find out that the humanitarian story of peace, kindness, service, respect and justice was even bigger. While the primary point of this story isn’t to profess faith, it offers a witness of faith in action for which many of us can only dream. It expresses a powerful sense of purpose for one man along with the challenges and complexities that served as stumbling blocks along the way. Despite the challenges of international service (including language barriers, unspoken

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codes of business, power hierarchies and imbedded rules of faith life), this one person made profound differences in the lives of countless children, numerous villages, several regions and the governments of three very different countries. It is reminiscent of the challenges that Esther faced as she quietly worked to help save her people from a government generated death warrant. Greg Mortenson, like Esther, doesn’t use his faith as a tool or false identity, but rather lives out of the values he acquired as the son of missionary teachers in Africa, born of Lutheran stock in Minnesota. He intuitively acts as a disciple and respects the faith paradigms of the people he encounters in Pakistan, earning him the ability to gather resources together and genuinely help people, not for his own gain, but for the good of humankind. Enjoy this read – it is nothing short of inspiring.

**October is Hunger Awareness Month!**

What will you do to learn, pray and then act on the needs of a very hungry world?



**Wish List**

Overhead Projector and Screen (can be used)

**Olsburg Congregational Meeting**

*Sunday, October 18 at 10:00 a.m.*

If you sense a calling to serve on church council, please contact a person on the nominating team (those who will be going off of council).

## Children's Ministry

Walsburg Lutheran Church Rally Day  
Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM

Gather for the start of Sunday School in Memorial Hall!

Please note that Children's Church has come to a close for the year but will be back again next summer in place of Sunday School. Thanks to all the leaders that led our youngest worshippers this summer. You are a blessing!

## Communion Classes

Watch for more information next month!

## Middle School Ministry

### **Here We Stand Confirmation**

Confirmation Kick-Off Night for Youth and Parents

Wednesday, September 9

7:00 – 8:15 PM

Olsburg Lutheran Fellowship Hall

All youth (of any age, but 7<sup>th</sup> grade traditionally) can begin this two year journey of spiritual formation that culminates with the Rite of Confirmation. The two year process concentrates on Biblical Knowledge and Lutheran Theology, best known through Luther's Small Catechism. While there is a focus on information and learning, there is also an investment in making room for the transformation that is possible in the midst of a Christian Community that is open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

All are welcome. Contact Sonja Sandquist or Jeremie Vore with your questions.

## High School Ministry

### **National Youth Gathering Worship Service**

The youth and adults who attended the National Youth Gathering will be leading worship and sharing some their stories on the following dates:  
August 30: Olsburg and Walsburg  
September 13: St. Marks in Waterville

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## BE THE CHANGE!

### **Luther League and Adult Service Project Day K-State Lutheran Campus House Re-Hab**

AND

### **Manhattan Emergency Shelter Home Cooked Meal Program**

Saturday, September 19

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Luther House (at the corner of Dennison and Anderson in Manhattan)

**Bring a lunch** and get ready for a busy day of work!

The campus house has a long list of project that need attention: painting, finish work, tiling, plumbing, replacement of light fixtures, and more painting (most people can be taught how to paint well). Consider gathering a group and adopting a room at the house as your personal work project! The complete list is available from Sonja Sandquist, who will be on-site throughout the day empowering workers. Sign-up now by calling or e-mailing Sonja! All youth who are in middle school or younger need to be accompanied by an adult. Help the space for ministry to college kids, led by our Lutheran Campus Pastor, Kevin Clark, be both welcoming, functional and transformational!

Not into construction and re-hab work? No problem. In addition to the work on the house, another group, can be using the Lutheran Campus House kitchen to prepare a home cooked meal for about 40 of the residents at the Manhattan Emergency Shelter, which will be delivered and served that evening. (We only need to deliver it to the site, serving is not necessary). Menu planners and shoppers and donations will be needed in advance to make this one work! Get involved and BE THE CHANGE! Be the hands and feet of Christ in the world!

### **Walsburg & Olsburg Men-Only Service Project**

October 16-17, 2009

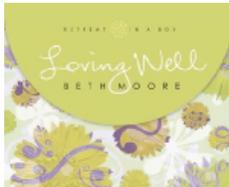
Olsburg Lutheran Kitchen

Leaders: Men with Pastor Gordy

Mission (if you choose to accept it): Host a Friday night dinner, coffee breaks and Saturday Luncheon for the women of the community attending the "Loving Well" Retreat. This is also the women's kick-off event for small group bible study that will continue throughout the year. This is your turn to treat the ladies who will be focused on their spiritual relationships with God and others.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Community Wide Women's Retreat: "Loving Well" (by, Beth Moore)



This retreat is all about how we love different types of people – the ones who are easy to love and some who are not so easy to love. The big question is this: "Where is God at in all of it." All (youth and adult) women are invited to an adventure of exploring relationships, laughing, praying, worshiping and playing together – just us girls.

Date and Time:

Friday, October 16, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Saturday, October 17, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Olsburg Lutheran Church

What to Bring: bible, pen and prayer journal (optional)

What to Where: Comfy Clothes

Cost: \$15 (includes prayer journal, canvas bag, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and coffee)

Informal Plans: Following the retreat, participants may choose to go out for dinner in Manhattan followed by a concert by Christopher Williams, sponsored by Lutheran Campus Ministry (concert tickets = \$10 = \$15 each). This would be a great "Girls Night Out" Ending to the "Loving Well" Retreat.

### Retreat Leaders Needed:

Retreat Coordinator: Sonja Sandquist

Decorations Coordinator:

Worship Coordinator:

Prayer Coordinator:

Registration and Administration Coordinator:

Promotion Coordinator:

Game Coordinator (all ideas provided):

Small Group Coordinator:

Food and Refreshment Coordinators: A Group of Men under the fearless leadership of Pastor Gordy

If you feel called to invest your time, talent and energy into this amazing retreat, please contact Sonja or Gordy Sandquist

## Women's Bible Study Groups

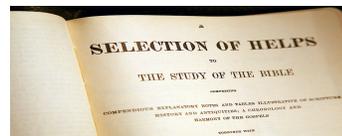
Women's Bible Study Groups will be formed based on day and time and location preferences so don't miss out on a chance to bond with your Soul Sisters at the "Loving Well" Retreat!

Consider meeting with a small group of women, 11 times (one – two times each month) between October and April using the Beth Moore series, "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place." Within each group of 8-10 women, a leader will be chosen to facilitate using the videos provided. From the back cover: *Lead women to discover the joy of dwelling in God's presence. Perhaps no Old Testament event so dramatically illustrates God's persistent desire to relate to his children as the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness. Through the tabernacle God initiated a deeper relationship with God's chosen people by bringing reconciliation and revealing God's glory. And certainly, no Old Testament event so richly prefigures the coming of the true tabernacle, Jesus Christ.*

*Beth Moore invites women to enter the sanctuary and let God reveal marvelous mysteries to them. This in-depth, biblical study explores the fascinating account of the building of the tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, its pivotal role in God's work, the grand fulfillment of God's purpose through Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for their walk with God today. Women will be challenged to prepare their hearts, like the holy of holies, to become a home for God's love and glory – a dwelling place for the Most High God.*

All large group session material will be provided (compliments of Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln, Nebraska), each member will need a Participant Book that includes five days of study material for each session (typically there will be 1-2 sessions each month). Participant Books are \$15 and can be ordered from Sonja. Remember, we want to start meeting in October so don't delay, sign up now!

One group will be meeting on Monday nights, twice a month, working with schedules as needed.



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Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish  
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Leonardville, KS 66449-9617

Address service requested

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## SAVE THE DATE

### **LifeKeys Discovery Retreat**

Friday, **November 13, 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

Saturday, **November 14, 9:00 – 4:30 PM**

Cost: \$20 (includes book and workbook)

Location TBD (either Walsburg or Olsburg)

Bring a sack lunch on Saturday.

Refreshments will be provided by group participants.

Sign-up Deadline: **October 25, 2009**

Contact Sonja or Gordy Sandquist, certified LifeKeys Trainers!

*LifeKeys is an organized approach for people to discover who they are, why God made them and what they do best – orchestrating all the ways God has gifted them.*

The seminar will help each person explore their Life Gifts, their Spiritual Gifts, their

Personality Type, Values, and Passions and then put them all together to form a flush out a personal life mission statement. All of the self discovery work is meant to culminate in empowering all participants to discern and then act as God's hands and feet in the world as a response to the wonderful ways that God creates, loves and redeems all of creation.

