

# Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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## **Pastor Letter...**

Seminary seems like six months ago rather than six weeks ago. Yet, as Gordy and I finish the papers and begin vacation, we spent some time reviewing the great ministry happening in the churches during this summer...and these are just the things we remember:

- ✠ We celebrated wonderful high school graduates who have exciting plans for the future.
- ✠ We both finished (almost) two complete summer courses at Luther Seminary.
- ✠ We prayed for the community in the passing of Elston Flohr whose life was celebrated while we were away.
- ✠ We had the pleasure of presiding over the marriages of two wonderful couples from the community.
- ✠ The Olsburg Community hosted a great VBS at the school with all sorts of good Pandemonium.
- ✠ We joined the Waterville Confirmation Kids and had nine kids at Camp Tomah Shinga for a week.
- ✠ Our group going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer hosted a concession stand at the car show and a car wash to raise funds for the trip.
- ✠ People from both churches donated beautiful cakes and

cookies and food for the concessions stand.

- ✠ We had the privilege to journey with Ebba Nelson and her family during her final days and then celebrated her life with the community and family, complete with a walking procession to the cemetery down Highway 16.
- ✠ We had the privilege of being with Rayburn Hagenmaier during his final journey here on earth, celebrating his life with the community who gathered around tables for conversation and great food after a moving commendation with military honors.
- ✠ Nathaniel Martin joined the community of faith when Pastor Gordy officiated at his full immersion baptism at Broken Arrow Camp.
- ✠ The community gathered together for fellowship after the commendation of Elizabeth Southland in Olsburg.
- ✠ Our soon-to-be confirmed youth made cookies and delivered them to shut-ins with communion and then went on to Manhattan to spend four days at the cabin in the River Pond Camping Area while they served and learned about the Manhattan Bread Basket. The Manhattan Emergency Shelter, Mercy Hospital and the Manhattan Animal Shelter.

**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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✚ Our soon to be confirmed kids discovered their life gifts, spiritual gifts, personality type and values as they discern how God might use their gifts to work with God in the Kingdom – the calling of all Christians. Then they wrote faith statements that they will share with the community on Confirmation Sunday.

✚ The Standing at the Cross Roads group continues to gather for conversation about the future mission of our churches.

✚ Lately we have celebrated community showers for the young adults in our community with major life passages this month. We continue to shower blessings on Jared and LaNelle along with Trenton and Lynn as both couples are married. We shower blessings on Maeby Jae Holt Howland and her mom Taellor at the birth of that beautiful little girl.

✚ And one of the most subtle but heartwarming elements that we have noticed this summer is the way that the communities gather together for conversation after worship. For us, this is a sign of true Christian Community.

Summer is usually a slow time in the church because we do things differently when the kids aren't in school. Maybe this hot weather just slows us all down. As you can see, there has actually been a lot happening. In addition, summer is the time that we usually get ready for a new programmatic year which we look forward to...after our vacation.

Check out all the dates and time frames inside and consider a how it is that you want to journey as a disciple this year. What new discipline might you want to start or re-start that would make room for God to form and transform your life? And while you are at it, consider how it is that God might call you to invite another to join this community of faith. We will go through an intentional hospitality and invitation time during September with three New Member Orientation Gatherings in October and a new Member Reception in November. You just never know who has been waiting for an invitation.

John 20 is the guiding text for the Standing at the Cross Roads team, and it continues to work on us as we discern the future mission of the churches. We end with verses 21-22 which seem fitting for the time we are in: *'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'* *When he had said this, he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'*

Peace, hope and joy for the journey ahead,  
Pastor Sonja and Pastor Gordy  
(inspired and written on the eastern plains of Colorado)

# 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)  
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)
- 18 Justin Campbell (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)
- Brett Kulp (W)
- 31 Bill Monser (O)

## August 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)

## September Birthdays

- 3 Greg Burnett (W)
- 4 Shirley Strauss (W)
- 5 Jeff Howland (O)
- 7 Codie Webster (O)
- 8 Ramona Johnston (O)
- 9 Amber Befort (O)
- 10 Shelly Burkland (O)  
Richard Strauss (W)
- 11 Jeanette Alstatt (W)
- 12 Gevon Holt (O)
- 15 LeRoy Bohnenblust (W)
- 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)

## 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)
- 14 Rick and Jane Gibbs (O)
- 15 Dale and Connie Larson (O)
- 16 Bart and Norma Coutermarsh (W)
- 19 Carl and Jane Larson (W)
- 26 Ernest and Marjorie Grater (W)  
Alan and Kim Nelson (W)
- 28 Mitch and Susan Adams (O)
- 30 Kent and Mary Nelson (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; Theresia Hagenmaier

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

**August Communion Ushers:** Lynne Berry and Dennis Peterson

**September Communion Ushers:** Don Nelson and Gary Hargrave

**\*August Lay Reader:** 8/7 Kim Bulk; 8/14 Linda Toomire; 8/21 Jan Neilson; 8/28 Dennis Peterson

**\*September Lay Reader:** 9/4 Milly Nelson; 9/11 Rita Nelson; 9/18 Jamie Hageman; 9/25 Jane Larson

**\*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.**

### Olsburg

**August Ushers:** Marvin Johnson, Kyle Clifton, Nick Cooper, Brian Clifton

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

**August Communion Assistants:** 8/7 Joyce Cantrell; 8/21 Coleen Esping

**September Communion Assistants:** 9/4 Kristi Fronce; 9/18 Shari Holt

**\*August Acolytes:** 8/7 Morgan Vargo; 8/14 Kylee Ricketts; 8/21 Brooklyn Zoeller; 8/28 McKenzie Goff

**\*September Acolytes:** 9/4 Makayla Vargo; 9/11 Madison Vargo; 9/18 Shane Adams; 9/25 Codie Webster

**\*August Lay Assistants:** 8/7 Shane Adams; 8/14 Susan Adams; 8/21 Symone Sandquist; 8/28 Tom Nelson

**\*September Lay Assistants:** 9/4 April Brenner; 9/11 Bill Monser; 9/18 Brian Clifton; 9/25 Coleen Esping

**August Altar Committee:** Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

**September Altar Committee:** Shelly Burkland, April Brenner

## Confirmation

Every year we start Confirmation asking some basic questions about what it is that we are truly trying to accomplish in this process? For starters, we need to say a little bit about what Confirmation isn't: Confirmation Ministry is not a moral program that will keep kids from making bad choices. We do talk about how faith transfers into action, but there are not guarantees. We do talk about grace in the midst of mistakes.

Confirmation isn't graduation. There is an impression that once kids are done with Confirmation that they are done with learning in the church. This could not be farther from the truth. The Rite of Confirmation is actually a launching. After two years of learning and service and experiential processing, kids have a better understanding of God's story and make a statement about how they think God will continue to work through their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. The difference is that after Confirmation, one has to discern how God is calling without the formal process or program of Confirmation.

Finally, Confirmation isn't learning and discipleship engagement just for kids. Studies show that good Confirmation Ministries are important but that they pale in comparison to the influence that the community of adults, both at home and in the world, has on the faith formation of youth. In fact adults need to engage in constant learning because they are teaching kids all the time by their own patterns of behavior and choices at home, at work and at school. As a result, a strong ministry for kids involves a strong ministry of learning for adults. If we want our kids to have faith, then we need to have a community of adults who continue to grow in faith.

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With that being said, what is Confirmation all about? It is an attempt to empower youth with knowledge, experiences and relationships that will make space for God to grow faith in their lives so that they feel equipped to call themselves followers of Jesus. This year in Confirmation we will cover Luther's Small Catechism. We will meet twice a month on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:00 PM at Olsburg Lutheran Church, inviting area churches to join with us once again. Confirmation is appropriate for anyone in middle school who would like to commit to the two year process. Just give us a call.

**CONFIRMATION STARTS ON  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14!**

The Rite of Confirmation: October 30, 2011

The Rite of Confirmation is the ritual through which a young person says "Yes!" to being a follower of Jesus. Two young people will participate in this ritual at Olsburg Lutheran:  
Monique Sandquist and Shelby Peter.

### Confirmation Final Mission Trip

Three young people participated in the Mission Trip. This was a time of discerning their gifts and then considering how God might call them to serve in the world with those gifts. While the week involved, bible study, learning and serving, there was also time for swimming and fun. Check out a few glimpses of the week! All photos can be seen on Sonja's Facebook Page!







## Youth Ministry Training for Adult Leaders

Saturday, October 22 at Good Shepherd in Lawrence

Or

Sunday, October 23 at Immanuel in Salina

This is some of the best training available and it is FREE! Now all size churches can gain the skills in how to form and lead a youth ministry! Contact Sonja if you have questions!

## National Youth Gathering

Invitation: If you are going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade this Fall and would like to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July 18 – 22, contact Pastor Gordy. All are welcome. The group is already raising funds for this exciting (and expensive) trip during which we will join 27,000 youth and adults for learning, serving and worshipping together in one city. The deadline to sign up is October 1<sup>st</sup>. The registration cost is \$75 which is due by October 15. Join us in being "Citizens with the Saints!"



## National Youth Gathering Fundraising Update:

† The Car Show Concession stand was a huge success. We raised at least \$771 and have been asked to do the event again next July. The participants loved the baked goods provided by the community. Our group wants to thank everyone for the donations. You were a great help!

† The Car Wash in Manhattan was Awesome! In just three hours the team raised \$173. Not bad for a couple hours of work

† Hullabaloo Concession Stand Our next challenge comes under the direction of Darnell Vargo. Our group will be working the concession stand in Leonardville during the ball game at the ball field. Sign up soon to work a shift. Both kids and parents are needed! You guys are doing great!



## Luther League Fall Pizza Party at Olsburg

Sunday, September 25, 4:00PM  
Mark your calendars now!

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## **Adult Learning Ministry**

### **Walsburg Monday Night Bible Study**

All are welcome to join back in on the Monday Night Bible Study at Walsburg. Pastor Gordy leads the group in studying the Minor Prophets and then engaging in a different book of the bible as decided by the group. You can jump in any time so don't be shy! This group will try to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. Bible Study starts again on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Bring your bible!

### **Olsburg Monday Night Bible Study**

“See Through the Scriptures” from Crossways International

All are welcome to engage in a survey of the bible using images that match the major elements of the stories. We will be tackling a two year survey of the bible and pairing it with conversation about the current events of life as we know it. This group will try to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Bring your bibles and meet in the church basement!

### **Sunday Morning Adult Education Conversation**

Sunday, following worship (both Olsburg and Walsburg) on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

All are welcome to consider Adult Education options for Fall. Bring your ideas and your willingness to step out and lead a session. Curriculum will be provided.

### **Back to School Blessing**

Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>.

All children, parents, teachers, and workers that deal with school of any kind will be celebrated and prayed for as a new school year approaches.

Refreshments after worship!

## **Calling All New Members...And Maybe Some of You Who Have Been Around for Awhile!**

We have a great process lined up for people who are new or kinda new to Olsburg or Walsburg. And there is room for more. We encourage you to talk with your friends and families and invite them to consider participating in the faith community. This is what it will look like: September: Invite your friends and get the word out!

October / November: Three New Member Orientation Gatherings

Walsburg: Mondays – October 10 & 24 and November 7

Olsburg: Wednesdays – October 12 & 26 and November 9

November 13: New Member Reception during worship with refreshments during the fellowship hour following worship (Yes, there will be cake!).

### **Standing at the Cross Roads**

The next all day retreat is on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> in Lawrence. Let's try and get our complete team there to help discern the future! We are in the home stretch! Let's make it count.

### **ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering Wichita, Kansas**

Friday, September 30, 2011 - Saturday, October 01, 2011



God's work in mission always propels us to encounter the neighbor, particularly in the stranger. ELCA Glocal Mission Gatherings equip us for God's work in today's global and local realities and their "glocal" intersections.

What is mission? Who is the neighbor? Let's answer these questions together for our migrating and immigrating world. Come, join some of the most relevant

mission conversations around the realities of the world we live in today.

The ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering brings together congregational teams and leaders for worship, workshops and sharing around global and local mission.

**When?**

**Friday, September 30, 2011- Saturday, October 01, 2011**

**Friday, 2:00 p.m. – Saturday, 5:00 p.m.**

**Where?**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
925 N Waco Avenue  
Wichita Kansas, 67203**

**View Promotional Video**

You are invited to gather a congregational team and register for an upcoming event. The cost is only \$35 per person with a 1-1/2 day time commitment.

A significant part of the ELCA Glocal Mission Gatherings is the time for skill-building workshops. These in-depth workshops help team members build capacity for work and service within one specific area of mission. Skill-building workshops may include:

- Cross-Generational Engagement
- Growing a Missional Congregation
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- Mission 101
- Mission Interpretation: Growing Your Mission Interpretation Ministry
- Music and Mission
- Radical Hospitality
- Short-Term Mission
- Social Action
- Stewardship

Go to <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Engage-in-Global-Mission/Global-Events/Glocal-Mission-Gatherings/Workshop-Descriptions.aspx> to view descriptions of

the workshops.

Each team member attends only one skill-building workshop, so by gathering a team, you are able to get the most out of the event by sharing information from each of the skill-building workshops when you return home

**Confirmation Mission Projects**

As final projects, Shelby Peter and Monique Sandquist will be facilitating the following local and global mission projects and invite your participation:

**Local Mission Project: Paper Towel Collection**

Collection bins will be at the back of both churches and will continue through the end of September after which they will be delivered to the Manhattan Emergency Shelter and the Manhattan Animal Shelter.



Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish  
12351 Union Road

**Address Service Requested**

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Olsburg, KS 66520  
Permit No. 2

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### **Global Mission Project: Lutheran World Relief School Kits**

Please see the list below and collect items and place them in the bin at the back of the worship space. Collection will happen until October 1<sup>st</sup>. The confirmation youth help assemble the kits and then they will be delivered to Salina, our LWR pick up site.

HELP IS NEEDED IN MAKING THE CLOTH BACK PACKS FOR THE KITS. PLEASE CONTACT MONIQUE SANDQUIST IF YOU CAN MAKE SOME OF THE BAGS ACCORDING TO THE DESIGN FROM LWR. The pattern can be found at [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) if you want to see what is involved before you volunteer. Contact Monique or Shelby if you want them to run off a pattern for you!

#### **Place the following items in each School Kit:**

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; 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 blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

**Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.** All items should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in bag and close. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

#### **Notes of Thanks:**

The Youth of the 2012 National Youth Gathering had a great concession stand at the car show and raised \$761.00. Thank you to all who donated items for the effort! Your cakes and baked goods were so appreciated! A special thanks to Pastor Gordy and Kent Nelson who brought their gas grills and cooked up more than 200 hamburgers and hotdogs!

#### **Letters from Camp Tomah Shinga:**

Monique and I both had an awesome time at Camp Tomah Shinga. We met a lot of new people and were taught a lot about God. My favorite part was "TAWG" Time (Time Along With God). I knew my group very well and we had so many good times. I think most of us will go back next year!

Many thanks, Symone Sandquist