

Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Reflections by Pastor Keith

Many people are interested in the Bible, but hesitate to pick it up and begin reading because the Bible seems to be such a daunting book. It is very old to begin with. And it is not laid out in chronological order. Actually, the Bible is not just one book, but 66 books. Such variety makes it even harder to read and understand.

Having said that, I also want to say the Bible is a fascinating and exciting book to read! And to be sure, it is extremely important to us! The Bible is how we get to know God. What we believe as Christians comes from the Bible. We try to base the way we live on what the Bible teaches. We value the Bible, even though we may not know it as well as we would like.

Starting September 22 we are going to do something which will help all of us become better acquainted with the overarching story which the Bible tells. On that Sunday we will start at the beginning of the Bible with the book of Genesis. Then week after week we will follow the story through the Old Testament and then through the New Testament and end up in the Book of Revelation. We will use the Narrative Lectionary as our guide. (A lectionary is a series of readings. The Narrative Lectionary is a series of readings designed to tell the narrative or

story of the Bible.) We will trace the Biblical story from beginning to end because we believe that knowing the Biblical story is crucial to mature Christian faith.

As much as possible, we want this year to be about telling the grand story of the Bible. Every Sunday, the Bible readings and the sermon will tell the story. I am especially excited that the Sunday school lessons will follow this same lectionary. This means that when we are focusing on the story of creation in worship, the children will be learning about the story of creation in Sunday school. Worship will reinforce the Sunday school lesson and the Sunday school lesson will reinforce what we hear in worship. Imagine the conversations we can have with the children as we together explore the Bible!

Whether you are a seasoned student of the Bible or whether you are just beginning to learn the Biblical story, the journey we will be taking through the Bible will help all of us learn and grow.

The Bible has been a source of spiritual strength, inspiration, and guidance for countless people over the centuries. They have looked to it because of what it has to say about God, about human beings, and about our daily lives. Join us each Sunday as we seek to enter

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into the world of the Bible and discover how this amazing story speaks to us today.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

**Highlights of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly
by Bishop Roger Gustafson of our Central States Synod**

The Churchwide Assembly that concluded on August 10 was historic in the life of our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

One decision by the nearly 1,000-member assembly was to declare the ELCA a sanctuary denomination, and it is important to understand what this does and does not mean. First, a quick summary of assembly action and links to more information.

Fourteen voting members, elected by our synod assembly, plus our bishop-elect, the Rev. Susan Candea, were on hand from the Central States Synod as the assembly met in Milwaukee.

The assembly:

* Received the results of the ELCA's first major fund-raising campaign. The 2013 Churchwide Assembly approved the \$198 million campaign to help sustain and grow the ministries of the church. This assembly heard that in fact \$250 million has been raised in cash, multi-year commitments, and planned gift commitments.

* Re-elected Presiding Bishop Eaton on the first ballot with over 81 percent of the vote.

* Adopted the social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action."

* Approved "A Declaration of Inter-religious Commitment," which underscores the ELCA's long-standing commitment to inter-religious relations.

* Approved memorials on a variety of topics including gun violence, engagement in the Holy Land, and income inequality.

* Presented a Declaration to People of African Descent to representatives of the African Descent Lutheran Association. The declaration is an expression of confession of this church's bondage to the sins of slavery, racism, discrimination, white supremacy and quietism. "This apology is a recommitment to the process of right and equitable relations within this church, and the flourishing of Christ's church universal," Bishop Eaton said after the declaration was read.

* Received the proposal for the triennium budget.

* Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as secretary of the ELCA.

* Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the deaths of the Emanuel 9, the nine people who were killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, S.C.

* Adopted a resolution condemning white supremacy.

Expanded information on the above highlights, and much more, can be found at <https://www.elca.org/cwa-2019/>.

What does it mean to be a Sanctuary Denomination?

On Aug. 7, voting members overwhelmingly approved the declaration of the ELCA as a sanctuary denomination. That declaration was quickly interpreted in a variety of ways, including on social media and by persons who were simply uninformed about the measure. It is important to note what this declaration means, and what it does not mean.

* The ELCA is not ordering (indeed, cannot order) its congregations to take a particular action, regarding sanctuary or any

September birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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

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)
- 15 LeRoy Bohnenblust (W)
Monica Hargrave Schultz (W)
Sarah Diamond (W)
- 17 Cole Schultz (W)
- 18 Noah Plummer (O)
- 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)
- 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)
- 16 Bart and Norma Coutermarsh (W)
- 19 Carl and Jane Larson (W)
- 20 OJ and Monica Schultz (W)
- 26 Ernest and Marjorie Grater (W)
- 27 David and Rosie Ahlerich (W)
- 30 Kent and Mary Nelson (O)

buried in the Walsburg cemetery on August 17.

† We rejoice with Courtney Bell and David Gibson who were united in marriage at Olsburg Lutheran Church on August 17, 2019.

† We sorrow with the family and friends of Alice Farmer who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on August 11, 2019. Alice was the daughter of John and Anna (Rosell) Ekstrom. She was baptized at Walsburg Lutheran Church and is related to a number of Walsburg people. She was

Members in service

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

Walsburg

***Lay Readers:** 9/1 Rita Nelson; 9/8 Lori Rogge; 9/15 Sandy McCool; 9/22 Mary Kay Henry; 9/29 Linda Toomire

***Greeters and Ushers:** Rob & Alicia Scofield; Carol Wiens; Nathan Wiens; Amanda Campbell

***Communion Ushers:** Marlene Jenkins; Lee Hartford

***Acolytes:** 9/1 Harper Befort; 9/8 Mason Scofield; 9/15; 9/22 Izabel Nelson; 9/29 Dawson Dick

Altar Committee: Calley Berry

**** Walsburg volunteers at the Food Pantry 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.**

Olsburg

***Ushers:** Dan Holt; Kraig Kasselmann; Jacob Nelson; Curtis Gutsch

***Communion Assistants:** 9/1 Kirby Burklund; 9/15 Gregg Gibson; 9/29 April Brenner

***Lay Assistants:** 9/1 Kristi Fronce; 9/8 Luellen Kasselmann; 9/15 Patty Nelson; 9/22 Tom Nelson; 9/29 Gregg Gibson

***Altar Committee:** Donica Nelson; Becky Avery

***Acolytes:** 9/1 Addison Gutsch; 9/8 Grady Kasselmann; 9/15 Brooklynn Zoeller; 9/22 Emma Kasselmann; 9/29 Kaden Gutsch

other issue.

*The ELCA does not advise or condone breaking the law.

*The ELCA is renewing its commitment to advocate for reform of our nation's immigration system and for the humane treatment of immigrants and refugees.

*The ELCA is renewing its commitment to action to fulfill Scripture's call to welcome the stranger, including immigrants and refugees. What that looks like will be determined by individual congregations taking the initiative and acting in their own contexts.

*The ELCA is renewing its commitment to the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) program.

Resources to assist congregations in accomplishing these outcomes will be forthcoming from our national office and will be provided to you as soon as they become available.

There was much to celebrate in this assembly. There was inspiring worship, faithful preaching, exciting testimony, an incredibly successful financial campaign, and so much more. I encourage you to click the links above and find out more about this gathering, with the theme, "We Are Church."

Words of Wisdom

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

"If I were the devil, one of my first aims would be to stop folks from digging into the Bible." James I. Packer

"Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they cannot understand. The Scripture which troubles me most is the Scripture I do understand." Mark Twain

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Olsburg Lutheran Church Council Highlights from July

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, July 16, 2019. These are some of the highlights from that meeting:

- Carpet One will be laying new carpet in the church on July 29th. A down payment of \$2500 was made prior to installation. Workers will sand the wood floors prior beginning on July 23rd.
- Vacation Bible School was well attended by the community. We should feel very proud of this ministry. Luellen Kasselmann provided a VBS report.
- The group discussed plans for the July 21st anniversary service celebrating Pastor Keith's ordination.
- There will be discussion at the next meeting regarding the cemetery driveway. The council will make plans for laying gravel in the near future.
- The council is considering ideas for landscaping on the south side of the church by the new sidewalk. Various ideas were discussed. It was decided we would visit with some local landscapers to develop plans.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

News from the Riley Food Pantry

During the last four weeks, we have served 37 families with 116 people in those families. We don't know whether it is the weather or not but what we do like to assume is that life is going well for our clients. Current food needs are flavored oatmeal, cold cereal, tuna, tuna helper, canned lunch meat, sugar and white flour.

We aren't doing school supplies this year, but if you have school supplies or cash that you want to donate, please give it to a teacher you know or directly to the school. Thanks to everyone who supports this mission. The first Saturday in November, we will celebrate 24 years of helping people in northern Riley County with food needs.

Save the date...

CAMP TOMAH SHINGA QUILT AUCTION

Saturday, September 14th, 2019

**Camp Tomah Shinga
Junction City, KS
11am- Quilts on Display
12pm- Lunch is Served
1pm- Auction begins**

All are welcome to come for an afternoon of fun,
fellowship, and supporting outdoor ministries!
All proceeds go directly to Camp Tomah Shinga!

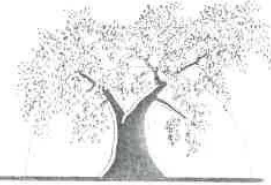
Additional info and RSVP at tomahshinga.com



...PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES TO EXPERIENCE
CHRIST'S LOVE, GROW IN FAITH AND SERVE GOD!

The Crisis Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 1526
Manhattan, KS 66505-1526
Business: 785/539-7935



24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 785/539-2785 in Manhattan 785/762-8835 in Junction City or 1-800-727-2785

August 12, 2019

Greetings:

Enclosed is information regarding the upcoming Crisis Center Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Workshop / Volunteer training

We strongly recommend those interested in the issue of violence against women to attend this training.

We would appreciate if you could take a moment to announce our training schedule to your members.

The training / workshop will be held in Manhattan on:

Saturday, September 14, 2019 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and
Saturday, September 21, 2019 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For details, training location and to reserve your spot please call (785) 539-7935 or contact us via email: ccivc@att.net.


It is required to attend both training days in order to volunteer.

The registration fee of \$15.00 will cover training materials and supplies.

Please mail your payment to: Crisis Center, Inc., P.O. Box 1526, Manhattan, Kansas 66505.

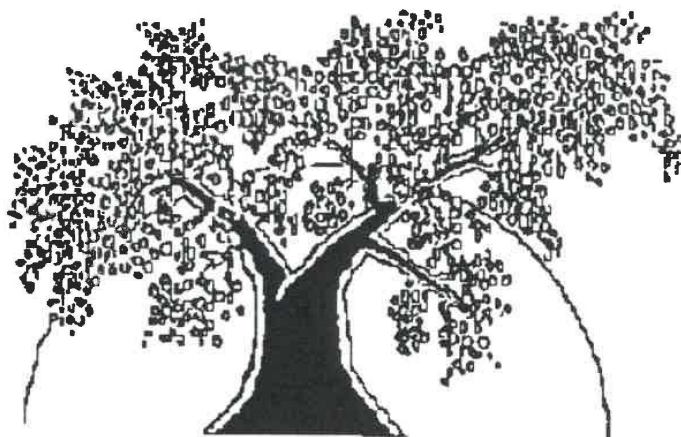
Early registration is encouraged since space is limited.

Sincerely,



Gaby Neal
Volunteer Coordinator

CRISIS CENTER, INC.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / SEXUAL ASSAULT
WORKSHOP AND
VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Fall 2019



DATES: September 14 & 21, 2019
TIME: Day 1: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Day 2: 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
LOCATION: 437 Houston Street,
Manhattan, Kansas
FEE: \$15.00

SPACE IS LIMITED!
CALL (785) 539-7935
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.

Serving Clay, Geary, Marshall, Pottawatomie, and Riley Counties and Fort Riley

 Find us on
Facebook

A Journey through the Bible!

Coming soon - a journey through the Bible! Beginning September 22, we will seek to get better acquainted with the overarching story which the Bible tells. We will start at the beginning of the Bible with the Book of Genesis. Then week after week we will follow the story through the Old Testament and then through the New Testament. Connect with God each Sunday as we trace the Biblical story from beginning to end.

Walsburg Sunday School Ice Cream Social a Success

Thanks to everyone that donated food and silent /live auction items for our Ice Cream Social and auction the evening of Aug. 18. All your hard work and efforts helped make it a huge success!

Olsburg Sunday School Ice Cream Social a Success

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Sunday School ice cream social a success! We want to thank those who donated something, those who worked at it and also to those of you who came out and enjoyed the meal and ice cream and the fellowship. Thanks again!

Sept 23.

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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Next newsletter items and articles will be due