

# Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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

A familiar phrase in spiritual direction (a.k.a. contemplative prayer) is "Be here now." The phrase is meant to call one back to noticing and living in the present moment. It is a time and space where reality is experienced in real time. The truth of the matter is that we often live in the past or in the future rather than in the present moment. In many cases, these past and future dwellings are fear or worry based. Sometimes we just aren't over something that happened in the past – injury, hurtful words, broken relationships – you name it. We can be captivated by almost anything and continue to fuss with it and re-live it even if we can't do anything to change the scenario or circumstances. The future experience is best described as worry about what could happen. We constantly read the clues and wonder if we guessed correctly. Then we prepare for the very worst scenario.

It is safe to say that the Holy Spirit operates in real time. At any moment, we can step back from the countless details of life, work and school and make ourselves aware of God's presence and calling. Sometimes this is easy and sometimes this is hard. Regardless of the felt experience, it is a re-orientation in our relationship with God. It is an acknowledgement of the promise that was freely given to us through Christ and the commitment to live that promise in the world as God calls and commands.

Why all this talk about the inward journey and relationship with God. Dear friends in Christ, we are heading into rough waters. Each person, like

the disciple Peter is going to be asked to get out of the boat and have faith in the promise and the command that is given through the Holy Spirit. This is the hard work of discernment in a community that is in conflict, and a schism is lurking. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Walsburg Lutheran Church will be gathering all voting members to consider their affiliation with the ELCA. This is the first of a two vote process as outlined in the Walsburg Constitution. Families and friends have already split over the on-going argument over the ordination of gay and lesbian pastors who are now able to be in committed relationships (a situation that will most likely never be an issue at Walsburg, and is actually quite rare across the nation). With that being said, we want to remind you that each church is still able to define themselves and discern appropriate matches for their congregation during the clergy call process. Each church still has a choice.

The vote will be simple. Either way there will be consequences in this lose-lose battle. In fact it is pretty hard not to get kidnapped by the future possibilities, the greatest being that the church loses the ability to be viable either way, including the ramifications for the Olsburg Lutheran Community. Conflict is not what God intended for the church. Financial, leadership and relationship issues abound. For our family, it means that we may have to move again and try to get our kids settled in a new school with new friends and a new community.

Continued on page 4, column 1

# Olsburg Council Minutes

**T**he Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, July 21, 2010. Council President Jan Cooper called the meeting to order. Joyce Cantrell led the group in prayer.

Members present: Jan Cooper, Joyce Cantrell, Laura Clifton, Kristi Fronce, Kirby Burklund, Woody Kasselmann, Coleen Esping, and Pastor Gordon Sandquist.

## Reports

Secretary's Report: Coleen moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Laura seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kirby moved to approve the report. Joyce seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

## Committee Reports:

Property Committee: Kirby will get in touch with Danker Roofing again to get a timeframe of when they plan to do the repairs to the church roof.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gordy presented his report. He made 12 in-home visits this last month. He reported that the youth church camps went very well. Next year the camp may be in Nebraska. Pastor Gordy gave a brief update on the Synod Assembly. He also notified us of some presentations being given at Walsburg. There was a presentation regarding the LCMC on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Mike Peck will be at Walsburg on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the ELCA. He reported that most likely Walsburg will be moving toward a vote regarding their affiliation with the ELCA in the future. Pastor will keep us apprised of any developments. Our church is invited to attend any or all of these presentations.

## Old Business

Memorial Plaques: The Council would like to update the memorial plaques with the names of those who have donated memorial gifts. Jan will check how far back the records go to determine a list of names.

Pictures of Past Confirmation Classes: The confirmation photo board needs to be updated to include the most recent classes. We are missing several years. The Altar Guild will be asked to get the pictures from families who had confirmands during those years.

Synod Assembly: It has been suggested that we get a written report outlining highlights from those who attended the assembly. This should be presented to the congregation and added to the newsletter. Joyce will contact the representatives.

Parents as Teachers: Although this program is no longer active, some of the participants would still like to use the basement to gather. The Council was fine with the use of the basement for this activity.

## New Business

Propane Purchase: Propane prices were reviewed. Joyce moved to purchase propane from Propane Central. Kristi seconded. The motion carried. It was recommended that we see if there are any discounts for churches with regard to propane prices.

Old Lawn Mower: It was agreed that we should sell the mower. We need to get an idea of a fair price and discuss at the next meeting. It was noted that Donnie has been very pleased with the new mower.

Old PA System: The speakers for the old PA system are in good condition. It was suggested we list the system on Craigslist.

Olsburg/Walsburg Joint Ministry: The Council needs to begin developing a plan in the event we lose our joint ministry with Walsburg in the future. Discussion will continue through the next few meetings.

Coleen moved to adjourn. Laura seconded. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

# October birthdays and anniversaries

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

## Birthdays

- 2 Gene Henry (W)  
Price Oman (W)
- 4 Norma Coutermarsh (W)
- 5 Wava Peterson (W)  
Lindsay Bulk (W)
- 6 Alan Kulp (W)
- 7 Donica Nelson (O)  
Matthew Hagenmaier (W)
- 9 Terry Peterson (W)  
Dennis Peterson (W)  
Jamie Bohnenblust (W)
- 10 Charity Johnson (W)
- 11 Mary Lou Gibbs (O)  
Theresia Hagenmaier (W)
- 12 Jamie Hageman (W)  
Jason Hageman (W)

- Lotta Larson (W)
- 13 Eldon Sundgren (W)
- 14 Patty Nelson (O)
- 16 Joseph Hubbard (O)  
Marjorie Grater (W)  
Norman Johnson (W)
- 18 Jan Cooper (O)  
Kim Bulk (W)
- 20 Callie Webster (O)
- 21 Cajsa Larson (W)
- 22 Eric Nielson (W)
- 24 Jean Peterson (W)
- 25 Pam Holt (O)
- 26 Jerry Erickson (W)  
Larry Bohnenblust (W)
- 27 Diana Hargrave (W)
- 28 Debbie Hagenmaier (W)
- 31 Robert Johnston (O)  
Larry Bestwick (W)

## November 1-8

- 1 Christopher Deetjen (W)
- 2 Alan Hubbard (O)  
Casey Nelson (O)  
Loren Oman (W)
- 3 Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 4 Mark Fronce (O)
- 6 Chet Rosell (O)
- 7 Pearl Peterson (W)

## Anniversaries:

- 1 Jeff and Tami Howland (O)
- 6 Mark and Kristi Fronce (O)
- 10 Larry and Sandy Glessner (W)
- 11 Vincent and Marian Smith (O)
- 17 Wes and Coleen Esping (O)
- 19 Lee and Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 24 Ryan and Kim Gibbs (O)
- 28 Jacob and April Brenner (O)

## Members in service this month

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

### Walsburg

**Ushers:** Loren Oman, Norman Johnson, Travis Hageman, Brad Haller

**Greeters:** Norman & Janice Johnson; Brad & Dena Haller; Travis & Kristin Hageman

**Communion Ushers:** Dennis Peterson, Roger Sundgren, Doug Kraemer, Gene Henry

**\*Lay Assistants:** 10/3 Jay Peterson; 10/10 Jerry Bohnenblust; 10/17 Rita Nelson; 10/24 Rob or Cindy Kulp; 10/31 Carla Hageman

**Flowers for Church:** Volunteers (please contact Altar committee)

**Altar Committee:** Janet Neilson, Kim Bulk

### Olsburg

**Ushers:** Kirby Burklund, Jacob Nelson, Nick Cooper, Lee Cantrell

**Communion Assistants:** 10/3 Woody Kasselmann; 10/17 Coleen Esping; 10/31 Kristi Fronce

**\*Acolytes:** 10/3 Shelby Adams; 10/10 Bailee Howland; 10/17 Blake Vargo; 10/24 Callie Webster, Codie Webster, Symone Sandquist, Monique Sandquist

**\*Lay Assistants:** 10/3 Patty Nelson; 10/10 Shane Adams; 10/17 Shelby Adams; 10/24 Shelby Peter; 10/31 Susan Adams

**Altar Committee:** Coleen Esping, Joyce Cantrell

**\*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.**

## CONFIRMATION PICTURES NEEDED AT OLSBURG!

The confirmation photo board in the church basement is missing several of the most recent confirmation classes. If anyone has pictures for those missing years, please give a photo to either a council member or an altar guild member. We'll have the pictures enlarged to be added to the board. We want to make sure we have all the years included. These classes are an important part of our church! Thanks for your help!

So, where is the hope? Hope is in the promise that God promises to be present to us, with us and through us, despite our brokenness and hardened hearts. God comes to us time and time again helping us to remember who we are as the church (see Bishop Mansholt's outline) and whose we are as baptized children of God. God has written that promise in our hearts and empowers us to stand for justice, to be a church of love and hope, and to forgive – even when it is hard. The past year hasn't been real pretty and the future wears the mark of a fearful schism. Our best bet is to "Be here now" and soak in the promises that God offers each and every moment. Be well, and be brave enough to step out of the boat knowing that you will be held by the one who has brought life out of death and continues to do so each and every day.

Blessings and hope,  
Sonja and Gordy

### **This Church**

**This church** confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; our Creator, Redeemer, and Advocate.

**This church** confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

**This church** believes in the Word of God, and receives God's Word in Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate; in proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel; and in the canonical Scriptures, the inspired and written Word of God, which provides the authoritative source and norm for proclamation, faith and life.

**This church** accepts the historic creeds (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian) as true declarations of the faith, and the Lutheran Confessions as faithful witnesses and interpretations of the faith.

**This church** is gathered around God's Word and Sacraments, and its worship flows into

witness and service that proclaims God's love to this broken world.

**This church**, awash in God's baptismal grace, creates a safe place for all of God's children.

**This church**, knowing its unity in Christ and uniquely gifted for ecumenism by its confessions, works in God's kingdom as a bridge-church for diverse traditions that share this faith.

**This church** maintains a deep and abiding commitment to ministry with children and youth.

**This church** engages in global mission with deep respect for the rich gifts of our brothers and sisters in other lands and so understands this mission engagement as primarily focused in accompaniment.

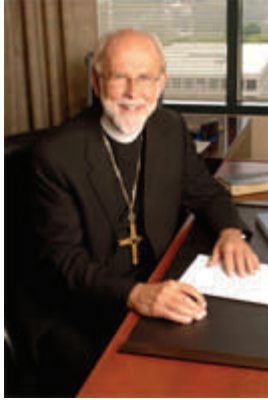
**This church** believes that the risen Christ is encountered daily in God's world, and so we commit ourselves to be a public church, working for justice and peace for all.

**This church** continues a rich heritage of theological reflection and discernment and is dedicated to strong theological education in preparing leaders.

**This church** believes in the vocation of the baptized to ministry in daily life, translating Sunday's faith into Monday's world.

**This church** is committed to interdependence in its three expressions (local, synodical and national) and as the vision for networks of mission agencies in the United States and throughout the world, including Lutheran Services in America, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Disaster Response, and the Lutheran World Federation.

**This church is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
(By, Bishop Gerald Mansholt)**



ELCA NEWS SERVICE

October 5, 2010

### **ELCA Presiding Bishop Tells ELCA Leaders it's Time to Move Forward**

10-261-JB

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- In a report to leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, said it is time for the church to move forward and get over being "timid" about mission and ministry.

"In the name of Jesus Christ our days of timidity are over," Hanson told the ELCA Conference of Bishops, ELCA synod vice presidents and ELCA seminary presidents Oct. 2. "I just think we have to say it. And we have to say it with the confidence that's implied in that declaration..."

Hanson said he has been thinking about a Bible verse featured at the Sept. 18 installation of the Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane as bishop of the ELCA Delaware-Maryland Synod. That verse, 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV), says: "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

"I've been pondering that a lot. Have we become a timid church?" Hanson asked the ELCA leaders. A sign of a timid church is one that describes itself by what it has lost and what it lacks, he said. Such a church is one that tries to hold onto the past and preserve what was, Hanson said.

A church that defines itself by controversies and partisan divisions "will become a weary and timid church," Hanson said. A timid church has lost confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit to work through the gospel, he said. The presiding bishop also said he is "deeply concerned" that leaders preach with a sense of confidence.

There is plenty of evidence that the church should be confident in the power of the Holy Spirit through the gospel, he said.

"We have this treasure in the gospel of Jesus Christ," he told the ELCA leaders. "Why are we timid about that good news? Don't you think the world deserves to hear it?"

Hanson said while the gospel frees believers, Lutherans also recognize that they are "free to be bound" to their neighbors in service. "Lutheran Christians know what it means to roll up our sleeves to get to work together for the sake of the neighbor," he said.

The presiding bishop reminded the leaders of the ELCA's "rich texture" of global companions, its six full communion partners, and that the church welcomes and expects dialogue with people who bring "diverse and passionately held positions" on a variety of topics.

Hanson said he continues to have confidence in the two priorities for the churchwide organization: accompanying congregations as growing centers of evangelical mission, and building capacity for evangelical witness in the world to alleviate poverty, and work for justice and peace.

He reflected on his experiences at recent gatherings. One was a retreat with 300 high school students and young adults in the ELCA North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and another was the "Follow Me" conference here for ELCA communicators, and campus and youth ministry staff. "In those gatherings, I saw evidence of the stirring up of leaders in this church that gives me a sense of confidence and courage," he said.

Hanson also cited the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany. While many predicted the assembly would show division in the federation, Hanson said he believes the assembly will be remembered for its contribution to healing divisions in the Body of Christ. That occurred when the Lutherans asked God and Mennonites, on behalf of all Anabaptists, for forgiveness for condemnations and persecution of Anabaptists by Lutherans.

Hanson said he gives thanks for the service of the Rev. Gerald B. Kieschnick, former president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), and welcomes the Rev. Matthew Harrison, Kieschnick's successor.

Leaders of the ELCA and LCMS will meet as the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation in December, Hanson said. "It is my prayer that now as Lutheran Christians in the world, we not yield to the temptation to make this an occasion to use confessional theology and doctrine as grounds for dividing us," he said. The ELCA presiding bishop said he hopes the two churches can find a deeper unity in their understanding of the faith "that becomes the basis of a shared but differentiated proclamation in the world and in our shared service."

Hanson concluded his report by asking leaders not to lose confidence "in the gifts of the Spirit and what it means to live out the faith."

"I think we are in a time of 'turning and being turned' as this church. The next 11 months ... could be the most significant in the 22-year history of the ELCA. They could be, and I'm confident they will be," Hanson said.

# Life together

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## Address Service Requested

### Confirmation

Schedule for Class:

October 13 at Olsburg

October 27 at Walsburg

There will be a pick-up at school following practice with a light dinner at church before class.

### Confirmation Retreat at Camp Tomah Shinga

Our group will be going to the wilderness to study the stories of Moses. We will be meeting the youth from Reformation Lutheran Church of Wichita who will join us for the one night stay.

### Rite of Confirmation

Sunday, October 31

Olsburg will celebrate with the families of the following confirmands: Kyle Clifton, Jonathan Nelson, and Codie Webster. A reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall.

Walsburg will celebrate with the families of the following confirmands: John Burnett and Emma Glessner. A reception will happen prior to the service in Memorial Hall. Please arrive early (10:00 AM) for cake and coffee.

### Luther League

#### Day at the Nelson Farm and Corn Maze

Saturday, October 23

4:00 PM – Bring \$5 for fun and dinner around the camp fire!

*Life together*

### Luther League Calendars for Sale!

\$6 each with all proceeds benefitting youth ministry!

Pick up calendars following worship on Sundays!

Thanks to Dorothy Johnson and her family, we have original artwork created by Dorothy hanging in the fellowship hall in the church basement. Dorothy has shared with us her paintings of the Olsburg Lutheran Church, the Mariadahl Lutheran Church, and the Mariadahl Children's Home. For those of you who are unfamiliar with some of the local history, the Mariadahl Children's Home was established by the Kansas Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church in 1879. Located in the Blue River Valley and in the Mariadahl Settlements, its name continued to honor Maria Johnson for whom the community was named and who was the first of the Swedish pioneers to die in this new settlement. The children's home extended her care to 620 children from 1880 to 1959. It was closely associated with the Mariadahl

Lutheran Church, the first Lutheran Church organized by Swedish people west of the Missouri River. In 1959 the home and the Mariadahl Church were closed to make way for the development of the Tuttle Creek Dam.

(Sources: <http://www.getruralkansas.org/Olsburg> and A Centennial History of Olsburg Kansas, 1980)

The steeple from the Mariadahl church and a stone marker highlighting the history of the Orphan Home are located at the entrances to the Mariadahl Cemetery which was relocated to Olsburg in 1959 also as a result of the building of the Tuttle Creek Dam.