

Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Reflections by Pastor Keith

When I was in high school I had a summer job working for a moving van company. That summer I earned \$100 a week moving furniture. Now keep in mind that my goal at that time was to become a Lutheran pastor and that meant four years of college and four years of seminary. So I was really focused on saving as much money as I could for my education. Every dollar mattered!

Somewhere along the way I had heard talk in church about tithing. Tithing is the practice of giving 10% to God. I decided that summer to tithe. So every week I gave \$10 to the church. It didn't make much sense, since I was trying to save as much money as possible for college. I suppose I could have reasoned that becoming a pastor is a good cause and so I will give the \$10 a week to my education. I don't remember having such thoughts. I knew that God wanted me to tithe and so that's what I did.

I experienced something that summer. I experienced the joy of giving. I also experienced a deep satisfaction of knowing that I was doing what God wanted me to do. And it all worked out OK. I went to college and then to seminary and graduated with no debt!

Carol and I have made giving a part of what we do. It is an

important part of our relationship with God. There have been times when we didn't have much money and just barely scraped by, but we still gave. There have been other times when we have had more, and then we try to give more. At the present time we support both Olsburg and Walsburg churches with our monthly offerings. We also send regular contributions to the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, as well as to some local charities.

Our experience is this: there is joy in giving and there is a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing that God is using us to do good in the world.

I hope you are giving and experiencing this same joy and satisfaction in your giving. If not, give it a try.

I have found that the following excerpts from the book *Giving to God* express what I have experienced in giving. The book is by Mark Alan Powell who teaches the Bible at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

Many people seem to think that the reason we have an offering during the Sunday morning service is because the church needs to pay its bills and also wants to do good

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things with the money that is collected. Your church does need to pay its bills, and it probably does do good things with the money you put in the offering plate . . . but that is not why we have an offering during the Sunday morning service.

The offering is an act of worship, an instance in which we are invited to give up something that we value - our money - as a sacrifice to God. In many ways it is the high point of the liturgy. We come to church to worship God and at no other point in the service are we provided with so pure an opportunity for worship as this.

We are invited to put money in the offering plate on Sunday morning not because the church needs our money, but because we want and need to give it. We have a spiritual need to worship God, and through our offerings we are able to express our love and devotion for God in a way that is simple and sincere. The motivation of the giver is what counts most, not the size of the gift or degree of benefit to the recipient (see Mark 12:42-44).

The essence of faith is worship and the essence of worship is sacrifice - giving of ourselves in devotion to God. There is more to the matter, but this is the first, and possibly the most important thing to learn about biblical stewardship: we give to God as an act of worship.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

Words of Wisdom

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” Psalm 100:1-3

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” Sir Winston Churchill

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“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

“We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.” From the hymn “We Give Thee But Thine Own”, ELW 686

Journey through the Bible

This school year we are following the Narrative Lectionary as we seek to get better acquainted with the overarching story of the Bible. We will be tracing the Biblical story from beginning to end. Each Sunday we will hear a key reading from the Bible. Both the sermon and the children’s Sunday school lesson will focus on this reading.

The Narrative Lectionary is a set of readings for Christian worship which moves through the overarching story of the Bible in a nine month period. In the fall of the year, the narrative lectionary moves rapidly through the Old Testament story - beginning in Genesis and culminating with the promise of the Messiah during December. In the winter, the narrative lectionary moves through one of the Gospels. This year, we will follow the Gospel of John as we trace the story of Jesus from birth, through his ministry and death on the cross, culminating with the story of the resurrection at Easter. In the spring of the year, the narrative lectionary engages the story of the early church, as told in Acts and other New Testament writings.

The Bible is a library of writings from a long period of time containing many different genres or types of literature. However, running through it all is an epic story about how the Creator of the universe guided one tribe of people from its beginning, through

October birthdays and anniversaries

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

October Birthdays

- 2 Price Oman (W)
- 4 Norma Coutermarsh (W)
Tori Brenner (O)
- 5 Lindsay Shorter (W)
- 7 Donica Nelson (O)
Matthew Hagenmaier (W)
- 9 Dennis Peterson (W)
Jamie Bohnenblust (W)
- 10 Charity Johnson (W)
David Ahlerich (W)
- 11 Mary Lou Gibbs (O)
- 12 Jamie Hageman (W)
Jason Hageman (W)
Lotta Larson (W)
- 13 Eldon Sundgren (W)
Creed Kasselmann (O)
- 14 Patty Nelson (O)
Lynn Hargrave (W)
- 16 Joseph Hubbard (O)
Marjorie Grater (W)
Norman Johnson (W)
- 18 Jan Cooper (O)
- 20 Callie Webster (O)
- 21 Cajsa Larson (W)
- 23 Deb Lowry (O)

- 24 Jean Peterson (W)
- 25 Pam Holt (O)
- 26 Jerry Erickson (W)
Larry Bohnenblust (W)
Sheri Storer (W)
- 27 Diana Hargrave (W)
- 28 Debbie Hagenmaier (W)

October Anniversaries:

- 1 Jeff and Tami Howland (O)
- 6 Mark and Kristi Fronce (O)
- 15 Morgan and Lindsay Shorter (W)
- 10 Larry and Sandy Glessner (W)
- 19 Lee and Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 28 Jacob and April Brenner (O)

Members in service

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

Walsburg

- * **Ushers and Greeters:** Lynne Berry; A.J. & Calley Berry; Amber Befort
- * **Communion Ushers:** Donise Peterson; Bill Neilson
- * **Lay Assistants:** 10/6 Sheri Storer; 10/13 Dennis Peterson; 10/20 Alicia Scofield; 10/27 Jane Larson
- * **Acolytes:** 10/6 Harper Befort; 10/13 Mason Scofield; 10/20 ; 10/27 Dawson Dick
- Altar Committee:** Alicia Scofield

***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

- * **Lay Readers:** 10/6 Becky Avery; 10/13 April Brenner; 10/20 Ashley Rice; 10/27 Coleen Esping
- * **Acolytes:** 10/6 Landry Zoeller; 10/13 Ida Kasselmann; 10/20 Jace Ricketts; 10/27 Jarin Brenner, Grady Kasselmann, Jace Ricketts
- * **Ushers:** Kirby Burklund; Jon Nelson; Casey Nelson; Lee Cantrell
- * **Assist Pastor during Communion:** 10/6 Kristi Fronce; 10/20 Coleen Esping; 10/27 Kraig Kasselmann
- * **Altar Committee:** Coleen Esping, Joyce Cantrell

slavery, war, exile, and return and then expanded that nation to include people from every time and place through the surprising work of a Messiah, all to spread God's kingdom throughout the world.

Several threads will emerge as move through the overarching story of the Bible. First, the Bible is a the story of belonging. God created a creation that belongs to God, where everything within the creation belongs to everything else. Sin is the reality that our relationships with God, each other, and the creation are broken. God, though, continues to re-knit the broken relationships.

A second thread is that of creation and re-creation. God's act of creation was a past event and is also ongoing. God graciously intervenes to re-create us and the world in which we live. The Bible ends with the promise that one day all creation will be fully and completely re-created.

A third thread concerns God's choice to work through deeply flawed and broken people (such as Abraham and Sarah, David, the disciples, Paul) and broken institutions (nations, the church) to bring mercy and love to creation.

A fourth theme is the role the Old Testament plays in Christian faith. The Old and New Testaments are intimately connected in many ways and both contribute to our understanding of God and our life of faith.

Join us each week we as we *Journey Through the Bible!*

A Story from *Giving To God* by Mark Allen Powell

When I was a child and my family went to church on Sunday morning, my mother used to tell us, "We are going to worship God." I'm not sure if it even occurred to me that I has supposed to get anything out of it. Certainly, that wasn't the reason we went. I didn't know

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very much about church or about what it all meant, but even at a very young age I knew that it wasn't about me. These people didn't come from all over town Sunday after Sunday just to get together and meet my needs. No. They came to worship God.

"Six days a week God blesses us," my mother would say, "and on Sundays we give thanks." That has always stuck with me, although I know that there is more to it than that. But I still think my mother was right: the main reason for going to church is not to get our needs met; the main reason, the most important reason, for going to church is to worship God.

Camp Tomah Shinga Noisy Offering

This year, both Olsburg and Walsburg will once again be participating in Camp Tomah Shinga's "quarter challenge" during the month of October. These dollars (quarters) help make camp more affordable for many young people in the region. A week of camp changes lives. Regardless of why they might show up for a week of camp, at some point in their life, they will look back to their week at camp and realize what a difference in made in their lives. Your change, quarters, dollars and larger gifts really do make a difference in the Kingdom of God. So, go find some change and fill up those cans each week in this year's "noisy offering" for Camp Tomah Shinga!

OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Minutes for August 20, 2019

The following are highlights from the Tuesday, August 20, 2019 church council meeting.

- ✚ Pastor Keith thanked everyone for the ordination anniversary celebration. He also expressed thanks for the gifts.
- ✚ He noted that we will be following a narrative lectionary for the next nine months. We will start with Genesis and end with Revelations. This was

developed by teachers in the Lutheran seminary. Sunday School lessons will be coordinated with these lessons.

- ✚ Pastor will take some vacation days from September 3-17. Kevin Clark from Lutheran Campus Ministry will lead the service on the 15th. Karl and Gregg will visit with David to decide who will leave service on September 8th.
- ✚ Pastor shared a letter from the incoming bishop, Susan Candea. She plans to attend service on November 3rd. We discussed the possibility of a potluck that day with Walsburg.
- ✚ Discussion was held on whether or not we want to the wood floor exposed in the aisle or if we want to lay carpet back down the middle. We will wait and discuss this in the next meeting. The trim still hasn't been put back down, but will be done in the near future.
- ✚ Cemetery Upkeep – It was noted that rock will be placed in the driveway of the cemetery in the near future.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Thank you Walsburg Lutheran Church

The Alzheimer's Association would like to thank Walsburg Lutheran Church members for their generous support of the Manhattan Walk to End Alzheimer's in Manhattan's City Park on September 14. The walk was very successful with over 700 individuals walking, raising nearly \$84,000.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Their mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. The Alzheimer's Association vision is a world without Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation's sixth-leading cause of death. Of the top 10 leading causes of death, Alzheimer's is the only disease that cannot be prevented, slowed, or cured. Alzheimer's disease is relentless. We are all fighting for the first survivor!

Again, thank you for your support!

Sheri Storer, Volunteer
Alzheimer's Association



Walsburg Sunday School News!

Twenty children, ages three through 7th Grade, are enrolled in Walsburg Sunday School. The Sunday School curriculum mirrors the Gospel lessons for each Sunday:

October 6 – Joseph

October 13 – Burning Bush & Plagues

October 20 – The Ten Commandments

October 27 – God Calls Samuel

We would love to have you stop by on a Sunday School morning and see what the children are learning!

Walsburg WELCA selling 2020 calendars

2020 God's Creation calendars will be available in the Narthex starting in October. The calendars are \$7.00 each and are a fundraiser of the Walsburg Women of ELCA. The calendars are great Christmas gifts!

Walsburg Annual Hayride/Wiener Roast

The Walsburg Annual Hayride/Wiener Roast will be Sunday, October 27, starting at 4:00 p.m. Hot dogs/s'mores/drinks/tableware provided. Each family is asked to bring a side dish to share. Everyone is invited!

Walsburg plans a Pastor Appreciation Potluck

A Pastor Appreciation potluck will be held following worship service in Memorial Hall on October 6. Please plan to attend with your families. Table service and drinks will be provided by Fellowship/Outreach.

Walsburg Congregational Elections

A congregational meeting will be held on Oct. 13 immediately following worship to vote for council members as well as the first reading of proposed changes to our constitution. Please plan to attend.

Walsburg will hold a Congregational meeting on October 20 following worship. Agenda items include the joint budget and hiring a full time pastor.

Olsburg Congregational Elections

A congregational meeting will be held on October 20 following worship. We will hold elections and also discuss the carpeting. We will also be discussing the joint budget and hiring a full time pastor. Please make plans to attend!

Bishop Elect Susan Candeia visit

Bishop elect, Susan Candeia will visit our churches on Sunday, November 3. There is a joint potluck dinner planned after worship at Walsburg. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy a wonderful meal, and fellowship. Drinks and table service will be furnished. The Outreach and Fellowship Committees look forward to seeing you November 3!

Walsburg Church Council Highlights

The Walsburg Council met on October 2, 2019. Below are some highlights from the meeting.

- ✦ - Bishop Susan Candeia will be joining us on November 3, 2019 with a joint potluck following services.
- ✦ - The council is finalizing the election ballot for the October 13, 2019 meeting following worship.
- ✦ - The council is receiving bids for the parsonage to update the roof, exterior paint, and wood surrounding the windows. The stove was replaced in the parsonage this month.
- ✦ - A letter and cost per window flyer will be going out to all members for the opportunity to purchase a window in the church for the window restoration project.
- ✦ - There will be an informational meeting October 20, 2019 to discuss the church budget and calling of a full-time pastor.
- ✦ - Fairview church has invited us to celebrate their 145th anniversary on October 27th, 2019.
- ✦ - The fundraising committee needs members to sign up for the football cleanup in October and November. Signup sheet is on the bulletin.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Next newsletter items and articles will be due Oct.
28.

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