

Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Reflections by Pastor Keith

I would like to share with you some excerpts from a book written by Craig Koester who teaches the Bible at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. The book is titled, Reading the Bible.

Car doors slam outside a small, white-frame church. A winter wind swirls the snow along the gravel driveway as several women hurry to the side door. Inside, the smell of coffee greets them. They hang their coats in the hall and walk to the folding chairs arranged around a table. They open their Bibles, say a short prayer, and begin reading the passage for the day. They find that the Bible inspires faith and provides guidance for daily living.

A thousand miles away a crowd gathers by the steps of the United States capitol building. A chilly breeze ruffles the red, white, and blue bunting on the platform as the president-elect's motorcade arrives. Visiting dignitaries take their places and the chief justice of the Supreme Court steps to the podium. The president-elect places one hand on a Bible, raises the other hand, and vows to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. With that the inauguration itself is complete. Here the Bible has served as a symbol of truth and authority.

Elsewhere, a student stands in line at a university bookstore. She rummages for her checkbook while balancing an armload of books for second semester classes: a biology textbook, a history of modern art, an introduction to psychology, and a paperback Bible for a course in world literature. As she makes out the check, she momentarily recalls the old family Bible on the living room shelf back home. It is a thick volume with Gothic lettering in a language her family can no longer understand; the names of her great-grandparents are inscribed inside the cover. She hands the check to the cashier, tucks the books into a canvas bag, and hurries off to class. For her, the Bible is a literary classic.

The Bible plays many roles in our society. The same book can be a source of inspiration and personal guidance, a source of truth and authority, a literary classic, and more. As you pick up the Bible you will have your own expectations about what it is.

What are your expectations? How do you view the Bible? Why is the Bible important to you? When you read the Bible, or hear someone reading from the Bible, what are you looking for? What do you hope will happen - with your faith, in your life, to whatever issues you are facing? Take a few minutes

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and reflect on your responses to these questions.

We have recently begun an effort in our Sunday morning worship services to get better acquainted with the great story the Bible tells. We started with the Book of Genesis and will go all the way through the Bible to the Book of Revelation. Each Sunday we listen to a key reading from the Bible. Our goal is to help all of us become better acquainted with the story of the Bible. I want to encourage you to spend time reading your Bible. If you want suggestions on what to read, let me know. I can offer some suggestions to you. I also want to encourage you to join us each Sunday (either in person or on Facebook) as we enter into the world of the Bible and discover how this amazing story speaks to us today.

Keep the faith. Love God. Love others. Be the people of God!

The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Keith

Words of Wisdom

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby.” 1 Peter 2:2

God’s Word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.
- ELW Hymn 509

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.”
Colossians 3:16

Jesus said, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the

truth, and the truth will make you free.”
John 8:31-32

Outdoor Worship

Since the beginning of June we have been worshipping outdoors. Both councils have said we should continue worshipping outdoors as long as the weather permits. On any given Sunday if the weather is not conducive to outdoor worship, we will move inside.

The services at both churches are held in places where those who desire to remain in their cars may do so. Worshipers are asked to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Everyone is urged to practice proper social distancing and to wear a mask while interacting with others.

Folks at home can worship online by accessing the Facebook page of their respective churches. Printed copies of the sermon are available upon request.

When Is the Best Time to Give?

Age 15-21

I can’t give much now. I know that through confirmation I became a young adult member, but my income is so small, what I could give would make no real difference at all. But you can count on me later!

Age 21-30

I can’t give much now. We’re just getting started and don’t make a lot. My wife and I are determined we will give much more later on. You can count on us then!

Age 30-45

I can’t give much now. I’ve got a growing family on my hands. When they get a bit older, things will ease up and we will give generously. You can count on me then!

Age 45-55

I can’t give much now. Children in college take every spare penny we have. I’m making more now, but with taxes and

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)

- 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:** A. J. & Calley Berry; Richard & Shirley Strauss; Gary & Diana Hargrave

***Communion Ushers:** Donise Peterson; Norman Johnson

***Lay Assistants:** 10/4 Alicia Scofield; 10/11 Mary Kay Henry; 10/18 Don Nelson; 10/25 Gracie Scofield

***Acolytes:**

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:** 10/4 April Brenner; 10/11 Bill Monser; 10/18 Coleen Esping; 10/25 Jan Cooper

***Acolytes:**

***Ushers:** Kirby Burklund; Jon Nelson; Jacob Nelson; Lee Cantrell

***Assist Pastor during Communion:** 10/4 David Gibson; 10/18 Kirby Burklund; 10/25 Gregg Gibson

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

expenses, we seem to end up with less. I will have to cut my pledge.

Age 55-65

I can't give much now. I know I should give more, but my working days are becoming limited. It is essential for me to plan for retirement before it's too late. I will simply give what I gave last year.

Age 65-Plus I can't give much now. I have to watch every penny since I live on a pension and social security. The younger ones will have to support the church now.

Olsburg Lutheran Church Council Highlights for Aug. 12, 2020

The following are highlights from the August 12, 2020 church council meeting.

- ✠ Electronic Keyboard: Gary Hargrave contacted Karl about the keyboard Rhonda is using, since it is the schools. We discussed purchasing a new one and splitting the cost between Olsburg and Walsburg. We will ask Rhonda to look into purchasing a wireless keyboard. The organs also need tuned. We will wait until Walsburg has done their installations to have the organs tuned at both churches. We will split \$650 plus mileage. Gregg moved to purchase a new keyboard through the joint account.
- ✠ Kathy Monser received a renewal notice for the church web site in the amount of \$334.80. Kathy has donated this cost and has volunteered to renew it for us. If there is any recommendations on changing the site or it's content, Kathy is open to ideas.
- ✠ The Council discussed the reading schedule for the lay readers. We will put something in the bulletin asking if anyone would like to be added to the list. There are some members who wish not to read so they will be taken off also.
- ✠ Kathy Monser has volunteered to make masks for those who are in need.
- ✠ Ramona Johnston donated pictures of the

church, including the first church. We will add a note on the back of the pictures that they were donated by Ramona Johnston.

- ✠ Sunday School will start the Sunday after Labor Day and will be held outdoors when possible. We discussed that the Sunday School need to know how much they are supported by us. We need to let them know we support them through finances in addition to our own expressions of appreciation. Karl will talk to Kathy Ricketts to see if any money is needed.
- The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Olsburg Congregational Elections

Annual elections at Olsburg Lutheran Church for church committees will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2020. The church council will have a vacancy for a three year term beginning in 2021. If anyone is interested in serving on church council, please contact a council member.

Walsburg Church Council Highlights

The Walsburg Council met on September 2, 2020. Below are some highlights from the meeting.

- ✠ Stained glass window restoration was completed in August.
- ✠ Offerings are ahead of this time last year, but we are behind in the budget.
- ✠ Pastor Keith is hoping to resume communion to nursing home residents sometime in the future; he will be blessing the speaker system and keyboard at the next church service.
- ✠ Sunday School will resume on September 13 outside with weather permitting, and consideration is being given to purchasing aluminum picnic tables.
- ✠ Council is obtaining bids for the parsonage roof and will be presented to the congregation for consideration at the October 11 meeting.
- ✠ Website Committee presented an

overview of the website currently under development with the hope to be launched in October.

- ✦ Nomination Committee is working on Council nominees for October election meeting and also presented a completed list of 2021 Committee members.

Walsburg Congregational Elections

Walsburg will have a congregational meeting October 11th after church to hold election of council members and an informational meeting on the church windows. Also we will have bids for the parsonage roof to discuss.

Walk to End Alzheimer's Oct. 17

COVID-19 has changed many events including Manhattan's 2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's. This year's walk is everywhere: from downtowns to small towns and every sidewalk in between. The world may look a little different right now, but one thing hasn't changed: our commitment to the fight against Alzheimer's and all dementia. We are invited to walk in small teams of friends and family while others in communities do the same. The Walk date is Saturday, October 17, and our church team, Walsburg Walkers, is meeting at the park gazebo next to the Leonardville Community Building at 1:00 p.m. and walk, approximately one mile, social distancing. Our Sunday School children will be walking on our church property at 10:00 a.m. on October 18. If you would like to participate in either one of these two events and/or donate to show your support, please share with Linda Toomire or Sheri Storer. For more information, visit alzwalkmanhattan.org.

Help Camp Tomah Shinga, and have a chance to win a gift card!

Win a \$200 Camp Tomah Shinga Gift Card:

Through the month of October, Camp Tomah Shinga will be hosting an online raffle. Every \$10 ticket purchased through our website will put an entry into a drawing for a \$200 gift card to use at camp. This card can be used for summer camp, a retreat, or swag from the camp store. For each raffle ticket purchase you will be given a tie dye mask that was created individually by our summer ministry team. Enter the raffle at www.camptomahshinga.com Winner will be drawn on November 1st.

Walsburg is supporting the Leonardville Blessing Bins

Walsburg is collecting for the Blessing bin located in Leonardville for the month of October. You may leave donations in the box at our church. Items to include are canned goods, boxed goods and personal hygiene items. For more information, contact Vern Bulk.

Walsburg taking donations for Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets for the Riley Food Pantry

Sign up for Thanksgiving holiday baskets will start in October. In addition to the usual foods, holiday needs include cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, yams, scalloped or Au Gratin potato mixes, chicken broth, chicken/turkey gravy, stuffing mix, rice mix, pie filling, cake mixes and frostings. Monetary donations are welcome, too. Thanks for your continued support of this community outreach! Rhonda Baer



Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

August 26, 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In the early days of the pandemic, I found myself struggling with concerns about the financial well-being of our congregations and our synod. My fear was that if people could not gather in person for worship, giving would decline in congregations which would affect the amount that congregations could share with the synod and the ELCA. Well . . . at the end of the second quarter (February 1 – July 31), we have received almost \$30,000 more in mission support from congregations than we did at this time last year. **Thank you!** My concerns were replaced by gratitude.

One of the core values of our life together recently identified by the synod council was **generosity**. We have certainly seen that value lived out in these days in some many ways. So once again, **thank you!** Your mission support enables us to support and provide resources to our congregations and other ministries of the synod as well as the work of the larger church. Check out the synod website, www.css-elca.org to view a slideshow all about the synod that highlights our ministries.



These are indeed uncertain times when we continue to feel the affects of a virus that shows no sign of disappearing. We need to have honest, direct conversations regarding our resources, including our finances. But we are called to trust in God's abundance and giving generously rather than succumbing to a mindset of scarcity and fear.

For those congregations served by rostered ministers, there are new **Compensation Guidelines**, approved by the synod council in June, to use in discussions regarding salaries for your pastors and deacons. These guidelines, along with an instructional video, will be posted on the synod website at www.css-elca.org/leaders.

ALL congregations of the synod are strongly encouraged to fill out a **Statement of Intent** which indicates how much you will share in mission support with the synod and the ELCA. These forms will be available on the synod website later in the fall. Instead of discussing your budget simply in terms of "How will we pay the bills?" I encourage you to ask, "How will we be a generous community who participates in God's mission in our community?"

Many call these days of uncertainty "liminal" (betwixt and between what was and what will be) moments that invite us even to more deeply and intentionally explore what God is calling us to, open to the new thing the Spirit is bringing to birth. It is important to seize this opportunity. Each month, in the synod e-newsletter and at www.css-elca.org/visioning, there will be short devotions for use by councils and other congregational groups inviting us into a time to listen and discern. I commend the use of these devotions to you as I continue to give thanks for you and your faithful ministry. It is an honor to be in ministry with you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop

God's work. Our hands.

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OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

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