

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

Olsburg Council mtg. minutes

page 3

*November and December birthdays and anniversaries
Members in service*

page 4

Youth Ministry

page 5

Outreach and Fellowship Opportunities

page 6

Thank you, Prayers and Special requests

page 7-8

Worship and Spiritual Formation

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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From the Desk of Your Pastoral Leaders

Rhythms or Seasons?

This past week as I looked out the window, or walked the roads around the parsonage with Sonja and Molly (our adopted dog), or closed the window because the air was too chilled, I have had to accept that we are well on our way to cooler weather. I suppose you could use the old adage, "change is in the air." There is a rhythm to things – our days, our months, our years that sometimes seems more welcome than at other times.

For someone going through much change and crisis, this rhythm might be a pattern which is longed for. For someone feeling like they are stuck in a rut, this rhythm might be something to try and steer clear of for fear of getting deeper into that rut. I sometimes wonder how those Israelites in the wilderness looked at the rhythm which they faced each week, month and year. The book of Exodus is pretty clear about the gifts God gives in the midst of the rhythm. God is good, even in the midst of that sometimes constant rhythm of change.

There has been change for our family in these past few months (again). The girls started school again – this year with one in high school and one in middle school we have that crazy sports schedule that some of you have participated in yourselves. It was the middle of September, when Sonja started in interim position as pastor up in Waterville and Greenleaf. What started as only an interim of 3-9

months, now has the possibility of growing into something different.

Sonja most likely will be given the opportunity to do her internship in these sister congregations (St Mark, Waterville and Trinity, Greenleaf) to the North of us. The councils of Olsburg and Walsburg are working out the logistics of how this will work and one thing is clear, Sonja and I will no longer be working together in the same way.

Three years ago, when we came to be pastoral leaders with you, Sonja and I shared the position of pastor in these churches of Olsburg and Walsburg. Seminary work and study has always been a part of what I have done each day, and I will be finished with course work this coming May. Graduation and Ordination are in the air.

Without all the details of how and what, -- at this point, I intend to continue serving as your pastor through at least May of 2013. None of this plan was dreamed up or planned out by Sonja and I. It was almost four years ago when the synod office first asked if we might be interested in serving a two point parish rural Kansas. Lots has happened since then and I look forward to what rhythm God has in store for us down the road.

Thanks for weathering the change so gracefully.

Blessings and Hope
Gordy

**OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Minutes for September 21, 2011**

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. Pastor Gordon Sandquist called the meeting to order

Members present: Jim Nelson, Joyce Cantrell, Laura Clifton, Kristi Fronce, Coleen Esping, Woody Kasselmann and Pastor Gordon Sandquist.

Reports

Secretary's Report: Coleen moved to approve the report. Joyce seconded. The secretary's report was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- ✠ Laura received prices from two different propane companies. The price quoted from Propane Central was \$1.749/gallon. This includes a church discount. It was decided we will pre-pay for 2500 gallons.
- ✠ The council then discussed the shortfall in our finances. Laura will put together some figures so we can discuss further at our next meeting.
- ✠ Coleen moved to approve the treasurer's report. Kristi seconded. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report:

- ✠ Pastor Gordy expressed thanks to Bill and Kathy Monser for mowing the church yard again this summer.
- ✠ A thank you also went out to Luellen Kasselmann and the Sunday School for an excellent Ice Cream Social.
- ✠ The Crossroads group continues to move forward. The current focus is discussion on what God is calling us to do.
- ✠ 4-H Sunday will be October 9th. There will be a breakfast served by the Olsburg Boosters 4-H club before service.
- ✠ Discussion was held on Sonya's new interim position with the Waterville church. The call with Olsburg/Walsburg will now be $\frac{3}{4}$ for Gordy and $\frac{1}{4}$ for Sonya. Discussion followed regarding confirmation and adult education.

- ✠ There will be an Area 4 gather on October 15th.

Committee Reports

Altar Guild – The committee met to discuss preparations for upcoming events and seasons. Coleen will email a report to the council.

Old Business

- ✠ Crossroads – The council discussed what the next steps will be in this process. Gordy stated there will be conversation on the question - "Where are we seeing God?". There will be Bible study on this topic.

New Business

- ✠ Christmas Eve Services – We discussed having two services on Christmas Eve again this year. Christmas Day will be on a Sunday, so we will decide at the October meeting how we want to handle services on that day. There will be no Thanksgiving service.
- ✠ Confirmation – Gordy and Sonja will get Bible's for the confirmands.
- ✠ Elections – Joyce will be going off the Board. Laura is eligible for re-election. The committee will meet to complete a ballot.
- ✠ Water Heater – Coleen made a motion to purchase a 20 gallon water heater. After discussion, she withdrew her motion. After discussing the costs of on-demand water heaters, Joyce moved to purchase the regular 20 gallon water heater from Blue Valley Electric. Gordy seconded. The motion carried.
- ✠ Garage Sale Items – There was discussion on whether or not we would have things to sell when Olsburg has their citywide sales. Woody volunteered to get rid of some of the old tables if no one wanted them. It was decided there wasn't enough items for a garage sale.

The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

November and December birthdays and anniversaries

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

November Birthdays

- 1 Christopher Deetjen (W)
- 2 Alan Hubbard (O)
Casey Nelson (O)
- 3 Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 4 Mark Fronce (O)
- 17 Matthew Sundgren (W)
Tristan Kulp (W)
Kristin Hageman (W)
Shane Allen (W)
- 18 Luellen Kasselmann (O)
- 19 Jessica Munson (O)
Mary Kay Henry (W)
- 21 Lawrence Andersen (O)
Jane Larson (W)
- 24 Kyle Clifton (O)
- 25 Pat Gibbs (O)
Karl Kasselmann (O)
Forrest Johnson (W)
- 27 Mary Nelson (O)
- 29 Bill Neilson (W)
- 30 Elaine Olson (O)

- Lee Stowell (O)
Dean Nelson (W)

December Birthdays

- 2 Loren Oman (W)
- 3 Willa Erickson (O)
Blake Fronce (O)
- 6 Carol Deetjen (W)
- 10 Carla Hageman (W)
- 11 Beverly Sundgren (W)
Rita Nelson (W)
Alyssa Kulp (W)
- 15 Loree Allen (W)
- 17 Vern Bulk (W)
LaRae Kraemer (W)
- 18 Kylie Grater (W)
- 20 Brian Monser (O)
Garrett Olson (W)
- 22 Tom Nelson (O)
Brandon Rogge (W)
- 26 Heather Nelson (O)
Mildred Nelson (W)
- 28 Rick Johnson (O)
Kent Nelson (O)
- 29 Jerome Flohr (W)

November Anniversaries:

- 2 Loren and Lorraine Oman (W)
- 9 Roger & Oneita Bohnenblust (W)
- 13 Allan and Paulette Kulp (W)
- 19 Raymond & Maxine Anderson (O)
- 22 Floyd and Julie Munson (O)
- 29 Dale and Eva Larson (W)
- 30 Russell and Terry Peterson (W)

December Anniversaries:

- 3 James and Janice Nelson (W)
- 9 Kenneth and Shawn Neilson (W)
- 11 Dennis and Donise Peterson (W)
- 24 Chris and Carol Deetjen (W)
- 25 Rich and Darnell Vargo (O)
- 30 Steve and Julie Strauss (W)

January 1-8 Birthdays

- 3 Darnell Vargo (O)
- 5 Gavin Hargrave (W)
- 6 Gary Holt (O)
- 7 Kenneth Neilson (W)
- 8 Julie Strauss (W)

Members in service this month

Thank you to these members for their service to the parish during November and December.

Walsburg

November Greeter and Ushers: Vern, Kim and Lindsay Bulk, Dale Larson, Alicia Socfield

December Greeters and Ushers: Kermit and Jessie Sundgren, Linda Toomire, Jenny and Cassie Miller, Jerome Flohr

November Communion Ushers: Jamie Hageman, Gary Hargrave

December Communion Ushers: Dennis Peterson, Lynne Berry

***Lay Assistants:** 11/6 Linda Toomire; 11/13 Jan Neilson; 11/20 Dennis Peterson; 11/27 Milly Nelson; 12/4 Rita Nelson; 12/11 Jamie Hageman; 12/18 Jane Larson; 12/25 Mary Kay Henry

***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

November Ushers: Alan Hubbard, Woody Kasselmann, Jonathan Nelson, Blake Vargo

December Ushers: Jim Nelson, Shane Adams, Brian Clifton, Tom Nelson

November Communion Assistants: 11/7 Laura Clifton; 11/20 Joyce Cantrell

December Communion Assistants: 12/4 Jim Nelson; 12/18 Jan Cooper; 12/24 Kristi Fronce

***November Acolytes:** 11/6 Kylee Ricketts, Brooklynn Zoeller, McKenzie Goff; 11/13 Makayla Vargo; 11/20 Madison Vargo; 11/27 Shane Adams

December Acolytes: 12/4 Codie Webster; 12/11 Jonathan Nelson; 12/18 Kyle Clifton; 12/24 7 pm Nathanael Martin, McKenzie Goff, Brooklynn Zoeller; 11 pm Kylee Ricketts, Callie Webster, Morgan Vargo; 12/25 Symone Sandquist

***Lay Assistants:** 11/6 Kathy Ricketts; 11/13 Kristi Fronce; 11/20 Kyle Clifton; 11/27 Laura Clifton; 12/4 Lee Cantrell; 12/11 Luellen Kasselmann; 12/18 Monique Sandquist; 12/24 Patty Nelson; 12/25 Shane Adams

November Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

December Altar Committee: April Brenner, Shelly Burklund

Kitchen Committee November/December: Susan Adams

YOUTH MINISTRY

How the community invests in the faith lives of children and youth:

For starters we give families a way to help their kids develop the language of faith. For some, they will come to an organized Sunday School. For other families, they will work with curriculum at home. Either way, our goal is to help create a language of faith that will go with kids for the rest of their lives.

Secondly, we want to create an incubator where intense growing can happen. That incubator is our church / worshipping community. Whether we have a ton of kids or just a few, the promise made to children and their parents is the same. We gathered around those kids and promised to help parents raise their children in faith. So how do we do that? We support those parents, help them in worship. We offer kind words and lots of patience while our youngest worshippers learn the rituals in worship. Love, paired with hopeful expectations is how Christians have grown in faith through the centuries. In this case, some things don't need changing.

Finally we pray for all children and their parents as they grow in ability and talents and look for ways that God can use them in the world to give glory to God. Some of the best prophets in our midst are small humans. Remember, we don't have to wait for children to be in worship to show them a glimpse of the Savior.

National Youth Gathering Fund Raisers Calendar Sales

Calendars are available for sale for \$6 in the narthex area.

Alma Bakery Sales

Alma Bakery Sales continue. Please see a participating youth if you want to place an order. All sales need to be in to Sonja by October 27th. Delivery will be on November 6 at church.

Swedish Supper Bake Sale

Get ready to bring your baked goods to the Olsburg Swedish Supper on December 3rd. While I know most of you will be working the supper, please be on the lookout for someone to run the bake sale! If you are a grandma or grandpa (and don't want to or can't be on your feet all evening) and want to help sell bake sale items during the supper, contact Pastor Gordy.

National Youth Gathering Update

You can still sign up, but registration is not guaranteed. Contact the pastor for more information.

Confirmation

The Rite of Confirmation: October 30th

The community is invited to celebrate The Rite of Confirmation with Shelby Peter and Monique Sandquist at Olsburg Lutheran Church. After two years of preparation, the girls will share their statement of faith and favorite bible verse and then reaffirm their baptism and commit to being a follower of Christ in the future with the church. Please join them during worship and following worship for a cake reception.

Confirmation Camp at Camp Tomah Shinga

Symone Sandquist, Katie McClean and Casey Nelson, Sadie Polson (from Onaga), Shelby Vermitten and Brandi Dolbrolvony (Waterville) joined with the kids from Wichita for a great 24 hour retreat covering the entire Apostle's Creed. Four pastors joined forces and led the kids through an interactive retreat closing with experiential worship at the outdoor chapel.

Confirmation Retreat Highlights Include:

Tailgate Party at Little Caesars
An interesting smell...
Campfire Worship and S'mores
Casey Nelson's infectious laughter
Games that featured incredibly embarrassing moments
Awesome teaching from four awesome pastors
Play Dough Prayer Response during worship
Cardboard Testimonies (naming how God is working in life)
Sunshine in the leaf covered woods
Yelling Luther's Explanations to the Creed
Candle Power Prayers
New Friends

Up-coming Confirmation Events

Classes:

October 26: Commandments 1 and 2

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord you God.

Questions: If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions? Is it okay to be angry with God?

November 16: Commandments 3 and 4

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Questions: Can I be a Christian without going to church? Can someone lose their salvation?

November 30: Commandments 5 and 6

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery

Questions: Is it a sin to think about sex? What does God think about war?

Olsburg Sunday School

Sundays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

All children are invited to the church basement for an hour of singing, bible learning and prayer.

Olsburg Christmas Communion Worship

Sunday, December

The kids are getting ready to lead us in worship, the proclamation of the story and song. All are welcome! If you have questions or want to be involved, contact Kathy Ricketts.

Walsburg's Spark Sunday School

All children, preschool age – 5th grade are invited to engage in bible learning. Each family will be empowered to help develop the language of faith in their children at home. Resources are provided. Then the community will gather together once a quarter for a celebration of the really big stories that define us – like Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. All are welcome to participate. For information about resources, please contact the pastor or a person on the learning team: Alicia Schofield or Kathy Sundgren

Olsburg Lutheran Church 55th Annual SWEDISH SUPPER

Join the community in hosting a festive, traditional meal, celebrating the heritage of the people that settled in this area so many years ago. There is a job for everyone. If you can't stand and want to be a greeter or work the bake sale, contact Luellen or Coleen and they will find a job for you. Better yet, find a partner and share a job. If nothing else, pray that there is no ice or snow on this night...Get those jell-o molds ready!

Sat., Dec 3, 2011

4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Adults \$13.00

Children 6 – 12 \$6.00

For tickets contact Woody Kasselmann

785 – 468 – 3682 or woodyk@twinvalley.net

Olsburg 2012 Yearbook Deadline

All information for the Olsburg yearbook needs to be turned into Shelly no later than **December 1, 2011**.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A WALSBURG FAMILY (ALL PEOPLE) CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: DECEMBER 11, NOON

This is a great Sunday to invite your friends, neighbors and relatives to worship.

The afternoon gathering will include food, caroling, an impromptu Christmas program, crafts and more! We may even see Santa Lucia.

OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP

Olsburg Christmas Decorating Outside

On Sunday, November 20th right after church, bring your warm outside clothes and help set up the nativity scene and get the place ready for the Advent and Christmas Season! Altar Guild will provide cookies, coffee and cocoa.

Olsburg Christmas Decorating Inside...and Caroling?

We will decorate the inside of the church on Saturday, December 10th. Please get in on the fun and food and fellowship. Help put up the tree and make the place sparkle! Make sure you bring warm clothes in case caroling happens. Weather always determines this event so be flexible! The Outreach and Fellowship committee will host a pizza party following the decorating!

Consider purchasing a poinsettia for worship on Christmas Eve. More information will follow!

Walsburg Christmas Decorating Party

Sunday, December 4th after worship (around noon) Gather for a lite meal and then join in the decorating fun both inside and outside. Lots of help is needed to put up the tree and hand the garland on the railings. More information will be available later!

Consider purchasing a poinsettia for worship on Christmas Eve. More information will follow!

AND

Walsburg Goody Bags for Students and Soldiers

Walsburg Outreach Committee will be sponsoring Christmas boxes for our college students and military. Please sign the list that will be posted on the bulletin board. The boxes will be assembled on Sunday, Dec 4 after church. Everyone is asked to contribute snack items and/or money to help with this project. Your assistance is very much appreciated!

Lutheran Church Women –Update

Walsburg Women's Christmas Cookie Plate Day

Monday, December 5th

Bring in plates and pans of cookies to be distributed shut-in, nursing home folks, and friends who can use a sweet treat to celebrate the season.

Walsburg LCW will be hosting a program at the Leonardville Nursing Home on November 8th at 1:30 PM.

All are welcome to extend hospitality and friendship to those who are home bound.



Thank You!

Thank you for all your cards of appreciation. We are always appreciative of your kind words. We send a special thanks to the WELCA at Walsburg for your gift. We look forward to using it at our Family Reunion this Fall. We also want to thank the entire Walsburg Church Family for the gift certificate to the Olive Garden. We will enjoy a feast with our family this fall! We are grateful to be serving with you.

Thanks to the LCW for the generous donation of a new, red step stool and fly swatters in the kitchen! It makes getting into those top cupboards a little easier.

Thanks for all the contributions to Camp Tomah Shinga! Your noisy offerings are appreciated.

Thanks to all the people who worked on the Lutheran World Relief Projects. The ladies from Walsburg made 34 quilts, 19 health kits and contributed 13 pounds of soap and 15 pounds of material for dresses. The ladies from Olsburg contributed the balance making for a huge delivery. We delivered more than 200 pounds of soap, material, health kits and quilts and 31 school kids, complete with awesome home sewn back packs. Well done, good and faithful servants!

From Monique Sandquist and Shelby Peter:
Thanks to all who donated items for school kits and paper towels. We delivered more than 75 rolls of paper towels to the Manhattan Animal Shelter and they were thrilled.

Thanks for all the ways that the Rite of Confirmation was made special for Monique and Shelby!

Prayers and Celebrations

We give a prayer of thanks for the 50 years of marriage for Bill and Rosanne Johnson. We give thanks for the beauty and poise of Cajsa Larson who was crowned Homecoming Queen at Riley County High School.

A Special Request

Dear Walsburg Family,
November 14th of this year will be the 30th anniversary of my dad's death, Dennis Grater. First of all, I just want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our church family. My sisters and I are so grateful to have had the church growing up. We know that everyone embraced us with extra compassion over the years, and we are so thankful for all of you. This year, I am working on a surprise project to give to Carrie and Kylie for Christmas. I want to make a journal of written memories of him. I want to take this anniversary and make it into something of gratitude for the man he was. However, in talking with my sisters, we just don't have that many memories or our memories are just of him as our dad. I am asking for your help with this project.

I would love it if you could write some short of long stories of him that you remember that I could include in a journal. They do not even have to involve us, but can be of him as a kid, high school student or adult. If you have any pictures that you would share, I would love to see those as well. I could scan them into our computer and return them when I have finished. If you could have your stories to me by Thanksgiving, that would give me time to compile them. They can be typed, hand written and as long or short as you would like them to be. Also, we know dad was human, we would like to hear ANY story as long as you are willing to share.

Thank you for all your help! Callie

E-mail Address: cgrater-combs@goddardusd.com

Mailing address:

Callie Grater-Combs
1508 N. Clarence
Wichita, KS 67203

Reformation Sunday – October 30

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ – the good news – that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

As a sign of the Holy Spirit working among us, we encourage all people to **wear red** to church on Reformation Sunday!

WORSHIP

**Walsburg Worship and Music Team Meeting
November 1, 7:00 PM**

**Walsburg New Member Reception
Sunday, November 13**

The following people have expressed interest in membership and we will celebrate them in worship:

**Rhonda Baer
Sandy McCool**

There is still time to invite friends and neighbors. Please contact Pastor Gordy for more information. How might we celebrate and welcome these old and new friends among us? If you have hospitality ideas, please contact Pastor Gordy.

**Olsburg New Member Reception
Sunday, November 13**

The following people have expressed interest in membership and we will celebrate them in worship:

Becky Avery

There is still time to invite friends and neighbors. Please contact Pastor Gordy for more information. How might we celebrate and welcome these old and new friends among us? If you have hospitality ideas, please contact Pastor Gordy.

All Saints Day – November 6

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape... the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and who baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promise of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

The community will gather to honor the saints who have preceded us in death and who have helped witness the faith in order to strengthen our journeys of faith.

Life together

Worship Schedule for Christmas Olsburg Christmas Eve Services at 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM

NO SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25!

Walsburg Julotta (Christmas Morning) Service at 6:00 AM

*The Walsburg Council will meet in November and decide if there will be a Sunday, Christmas Morning 11 AM worship service on December 25th. Stay tuned for details.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Praying Our Goodbyes

Author and spiritual director, Joyce Rupp, has written a book that continues to meet people in the messiness of their lives, offering words of hope and a path of prayer. She has compiled an especially helpful book for anyone that experiences loss or transition in life. Some might call this the "autumn season" of life.

Prayer of One Seeking Shelter in the Storms of Life

Image: a candle burning

Reflection:

*I know from experience:
standing deep within a linden tree,
in a pouring summer rain shower,
one will not get wet.*

*I know from experience:
Sitting very close under scrub oak
In a mountain downpour,
One will not get wet.*

*I know from experience:
When we draw very near to God's heart,
When we stand deep within God's shelter,
We will not be overcome
With the drenching pain of life.*

Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27

Meditation: Imagine yourself in the story with Jesus in both the storm and the clearing of the storm. Repeat Psalm 2:12 in this quiet time: "Happy are all who take refuge in him."

Closing Prayer (portion): So I beg of you, Comforting One who goes with me in the storm, look after me, I take shelter in you. Guard me like the pupil of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, for I belong to you. I seek shelter, for you are my hope. You have always been my strength. I will rest in you, God, and trust that you will be with me no matter how great or how long or how intense the storm is. You are the source of my hope; with you for my strong support; my safety, I will make it through all this. Your arms

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish
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are around me. They shelter me just as the flame of this candle before me is sheltered from the wind and keeps burning brightly. I entrust my life to you. Amen.

Halloween

(From: "All Through the Day, All Through the Year" by, David Batchelder)

November 1: All Saints Day, sometimes bears the name All Hallows Day. Thus the night before November 1 received the name All Hallows Eve – which later was shortened to Halloween. Many aspects of Halloween have roots among the peoples of northern Europe, who gathered at the start of their winter season (which began on November 1) to light bonfires and welcome souls of the dead, who returned home on this night for warmth and hospitality.

From this primitive observance rose the practice of costuming – either to welcome the expected visitors or else to hid from them. Trick-or-treating customs today reflect these origins and invite families and neighbors to share in playful hospitality.

...Many Christian families tie their celebrations to the church festival, All Saint's Day – a time to honor and give thanks for the faithful followers of Jesus who have died.

This festival would be a good time for families to name fears and submit them to Christ, before whom all darkness is as light.

A Prayer: God of all power and love, with whom we have nothing to fear, thank you for Christ's victory over the forces of evil. With joy and playfulness we ridicule evil, remembering how you freed us to live in trust. Keep our neighborhoods safe this night. Give us all a spirit of mutual concern and watchfulness. Give cheer to children and parents alike as we delight in sweet celebration, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next newsletter items and articles will be due November 28.