

# Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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## **From the Desk of Pastor Keith**

The leaves are beginning to turn, the air is cooler, and the calendar confirms that we are beginning the season of autumn. What a great time of the year this is, with harvest and pumpkin patches and football games. In the church, we reflect more deeply on the mission God has given to us, we observe the Reformation, we remember loved ones who have died in the past year, and we give thanks. Yes, we thank God for all the blessings God has showered upon us, and especially for the grace and mercy we have received from God through Jesus Christ!

God is at work among us! Good things are happening in both congregations. For the first time in several years, Walsburg is offering Sunday school for children. A confirmation class has begun at Olsburg. New members will be welcomed at Walsburg this fall. Plans are being made for needed facility repairs at Olsburg. Quilts are being made at Walsburg and school kits assembled at Olsburg. The Holy Spirit is at work enabling us to be people in mission! Let us give thanks to God!

God wants to work through us! It is time to look out into our neighborhoods. What is God calling us to do? It is time to look at our world. What is God calling

us to do? Let us allow the Holy Spirit to work through us even more, offering hope and support and compassion and mercy to people near and far.

I hope you will have a wonderful autumn season. Take care. Keep in touch. And may the Lord bless you!

Pastor Keith Wiens

## **Worship in October and November**

While we are still in the long “green” season of Pentecost, all around us we are beginning to see gold, orange and scarlet. The year is maturing, and the gold reminds us of harvest, and the orange, of bounty, and the scarlet, of change. The changing of the season brings with it a consciousness of a harvest of deeds and of lives. It is a time to reconsider, to reassess, and to refocus the intent and purpose of our lives.

### **We Celebrate the Reformation**

On October 31 of 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle church in Wittenberg, Germany, announcing his willingness to debate other scholars on the topic of indulgences. It is this act that lit the spark that became known as the Reformation. On this day we acknowledge the great truth that we are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This day urges us to pray for the ongoing renewal of the church in our day.

### **We Celebrate with the Saints**

Each year on the first Sunday in November we observe the Festival of All Saints. On this day we remember and give thanks to God for the faith and witness of those who have gone before us. We remember loved ones who have personally touched our lives and are now enjoying eternal rest with their Savior. We also give thanks for saints whom we have not had the privilege of knowing, but whose witness and service was a light in the world.

### **We Give Thanks to God**

While North Americans celebrate one day of thanksgiving each year, Christians gather frequently to celebrate a thanksgiving meal at the table of Christ. In Holy Communion, the church receives the body and blood of Christ. His abundant grace is the reason for our thanksgiving. As Christ has blessed us with the riches of his life, so we are called to give ourselves freely to all in need.

### **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) raised help make camp more affordable for many young people in the region, and a week of camp changes lives. For some, it’s a week of “confirmation camp” where the group lives in committee with others and each participant is affirmed in the truth that God loves them, God matters, and (they) matter to God. For others, it is a week of fun and games, worship and bible study, and an experience of how following Jesus makes a difference in the world.

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 discern if in fact they are participating in the world as a fully devoted follow of Jesus Christ. Also – those counselors who care for and lead discussions during the week of camp, a high percentage of them go on in life to be leaders in the church in some way.

Your change, quarters, dollar 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 years “noisy offering” Camp Tomah Shinga “Quarter” challenge.

Thanks in advance for your support!

# October and November 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 Wava Peterson (W)  
Lindsay Bulk (W)
- 7 Donica Nelson (O)  
Matthew Hagenmaier (W)
- 9 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)  
Lynn Hargrave (W)
- 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)
- 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)
- 10 Larry and Sandy Glessner (W)
- 19 Lee and Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 28 Jacob and April Brenner (O)

## November Birthdays

- 1 Christopher Deetjen (W)  
OJ Schultz (W)
- 2 Alan Hubbard (O)  
Casey Nelson (O)  
Loren Oman (W)
- 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 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 Dean Nelson (W)

## November Anniversaries:

- 1 Lee and Roberta Hartford (W)
- 9 Roger & Oneita Bohnenblust (W)
- 22 Floyd and Julie Munson (O)
- 29 Dale and Eva Larson (W)
- 30 Russell and Terry Peterson (W)

## Members in service

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

### Walsburg

**October Lay Readers:** 10/4 Jerry Baer; 10/11 Mary Kay Henry; 10/18 Sandy Glessner; 10/26 Linda Toomire

**\*November Lay Readers:** 11/1 Lynne Berry; 11/8 Mary Larson; 11/15 Don Nelson; 11/22 Alicia Scofield; 11/29 Janet Neilson

**October Greeters and Ushers:** Lynne Berry; Calley Berry; Kermit and Jessie Sundgren

**November Greeters and Ushers:** Sandy and Emma Glessner, Alicia Scofield, Norman, Janice & Charity Johnson

**October Communion Ushers:** Kathy Sundgren; Rita Nelson

**November Communion Ushers:** Vern Bulk & Sandy McCool

### Altar Committee:

**October:** Alicia Scofield

**November:** Kim Bulk

**\*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

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

**November Ushers:** Casey Nelson, Woody Kasselmann, Jonathan Nelson, Blake Vargo

**October Communion Assistants:** 10/4 Ashley Rice; 10/18 Coleen Esping; 10/25 Gregg Gibson

**November Communion Assistants:** 11/1 Kraig Kasselmann; 11/15 Kirby Burklund; 11/22 Diane Nelson

**\*October Lay Assistants:** 10/4 Joyce Cantrell; 10/11 Kathy Monser; 10/18 Kraig Kasselmann; 10/25 Kristi Fronce

**\*November Lay Assistants:** 11/1 Laura Clifton; 11/8 Patti Nelson; 11/15 Tom Nelson; 11/22 Becky Avery; 11/29 Bill Monser

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

**November Altar Committee:** Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

**October Acolytes:** 10/4 Skyler Zoeller; 10/11 Grady Kasselmann; 10/18 Jace Ricketts; 10/25 Kaden Gutsch

**November Acolytes:** 11/1 Landry Zoeller; 11/8 Kylea Ricketts; 11/15 Brooklynn Zoeller; 11/22 Emma Kasselmann; 11/29 Skyler Zoeller

## **Walsburg Lutheran Church Float**

Since its founding in 1873, 142 years ago, Walsburg Lutheran Church, northeast of Leonardville, has been a “place for many to gather” to praise and proclaim the Word and to be in God’s ministry. As the psalmist says in Psalms 99:9: “Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill, for holy is the Lord our God.”

The artwork displayed on this float was designed and painted by Maury Berggren of Manhattan, who attended Leonardville grade school and graduated from Leonardville High School.

Today we remember those who have faithfully prayed, served, and sacrificed for the progress of God’s Kingdom here. On this float today, we honor long time members, Bart and Norma Berggren Coutermarsh, who have actively been involved in many ministries at Walsburg throughout the years.

We invite you to join us in ministry: Every Sunday, Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. with worship services following at 11 a.m. Outreach ministries of Walsburg include the Women of the ELCA, Walsburg Quilters who donate many handmade quilts and personal health kits to Lutheran World Relief, participation in the Riley Food Pantry, support of Leonardville Nursing home with leading worship service and providing programs, Vacation Bible School, and other monthly service projects.

So today we reminisce about the past, celebrate the present, and take time to invest a moment to look toward the future, knowing that our Heavenly Father has led our mission and ministry in the past and will continue to uphold Walsburg Lutheran Church and its ministries in the future. Come visit us!



## Olsburg Lutheran Church Float

Olsburg Lutheran Church had a float in the Olsburg Fall Festival on September 10<sup>th</sup> for the first time in several years. Marvin Johnson offered his trailer and Woody Kasselmann pulled it with his truck. As you can see in the picture, there was a banner on each side of the trailer which said Olsburg Lutheran Church, gave the times of worship and Sunday school and also said "Everyone Welcome". April, Tori and Jeremiah Brenner, Emma and Ida Kasselmann, Kylea and Jace Ricketts, Trey Harminson, and Luellen Kasselmann rode on the float throwing blue sport water bottles (which had the same information on them as the banner did) and candy to the many people who were along the parade route. In the evening following the parade we heard a lot of positive comments about the church's float and we look forward to doing it again next year. Thanks to those who rode on the float!



## Parish Happenings

### Walsburg Clean Up Day

Fall Clean-up day will be **Saturday, October 10** – 9am – Noon. At the Parsonage. Thanks in advance for your participation.

### Annual Congregational Election Meetings

Walsburg Lutheran will hold their annual congregation meeting for election of leadership on **October 11**, immediately following worship. If you have been asked to serve in a leadership position, please prayerfully consider the opportunity placed before you.

### Sympathy to these families from Olsburg/Walsburg Lutheran Churches

- ✠ sympathy to the family and friends of Marian Smith who died on September 16
- ✠ sympathy to the family and friends of Ernest Grater who died on September 30.

### Olsburg Lutheran Church to host the Olsburg Booster 4-H Club, Sunday, October 11

The members and families of Olsburg Boosters 4-H will join Olsburg Lutheran Church for worship Sunday, October 11 at 9:00 a.m. The congregation will be treated to a brunch immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall, hosted by the members and families of the 4-H club. We are looking forward to worshipping and sharing in fellowship and food with the Olsburg Boosters. Everyone is welcome to attend Olsburg Lutheran Church on October 11.

### Reformation Sunday

Olsburg and Walsburg will celebrate Reformation Sunday on Sunday, October 25 during worship. This special celebration service will include Holy Communion. The congregations are asked to wear RED to church on October 25th.

### Swedish Supper

Olsburg Lutheran Church will hold the 59th Annual Swedish Supper on Saturday, December 5, 2015. The event will be held at McCormick Elementary School. Serving from 4:30—7:00 p.m. For tickets, or more information, contact Luellen Kasselmann at 785-565-1240 or [woodyk@twinvalley.net](mailto:woodyk@twinvalley.net).

## Church Records Preserved at Olsburg

In February, Olsburg Lutheran received a letter from the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg regarding preservation of old church records. Over the past few years they have been working on a project to help preserve the history and records of Swedish-founded churches across Kansas. This project helps preserve our Swedish-American heritage for future generations and makes sure that there are back-up copies should anything happen to original items.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sven Hennig, representing ArkivDigital based in Lyrestad, Sweden and Lenora from the Old Mill Museum, Lindsborg, were here making copies of our oldest records. They wanted records earlier than 1940. At times, they had two cameras set up to make the copies. We found transfer slips from the 1800's that were carried by individuals from Sweden to our church. Sven and Lenora were very happy to see these papers as well as old record books. Sven arrived in the U.S. in early July and said he would not return to Sweden until late September or October.

We hosted a "Come and Go" coffee time for anyone interested in the project and a few members and non-members attended. One of the first things he wanted when he got to our church was a cup of coffee!!

## Fall Festival at Camp Tomah Shinga

Saturday October 17 10:00 a.m.-5:00

Come on out to camp for a great day of fun at Tomah Shinga! There will be hay rides, an inflatable bouncy house, campfires with hotdogs and smores, low ropes, face painting, pumpkin painting contest, hiking and for \$5 you can take a shot at dunking Executive Director Ben Fulton at the "Dunk the Director" dunk tank. There will be baked goods for sale as well as free chili during the chili cook-off. Everyone gets to vote for their favorite chili!

### Chili Cook-off

We are inviting congregations to enter their best chili for the first ever Camp Tomah Shinga Chili Cook-off! Everyone has their favorite recipe so enter it and take a shot at the title! There will be a traveling trophy and we will post your winning recipe on our Facebook page and highlight it our newsletter for everyone to see! Chili entries will be judged by a popular vote as well as a panel of judges. That means you can win the "Peoples Choice" award or "Judges Winner" and if your chili is that good you could win both! Winners from "Peoples Choice" and "Judges Winner" will also get commemorative t-shirts so you can brag about your big win. Special recognition will be given for the best/most creative team name, name of the chili you enter and best display so have fun because there are lots of ways to win! Judging starts at noon. Please prepare at least 5 quarts of chili.

Camp will provide crackers but you are encouraged to bring a side like cornbread or specialty crackers that go well with your chili. The four areas the judges will be scoring are color, aroma, consistency and taste. We will have electricity available for your crockpot full of chili!

For more information, visit <http://tomahshinga.com/fall-festival/>

## *OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH*

Olsburg Lutheran Church honored Pastor Keith on Sunday, October 4 by serving coffee and donuts immediately following worship on October 4. The members of Olsburg and Walsburg are so blessed to have Pastor Keith with us! Thank you, Pastor, for all you do!

### **Office News**

Church records are being worked on. The first steps have been to go through and try to enter confirmation and baptism dates into church windows. This is still an on-going step. Once this information has been entered, I will be looking at the contact information we have on file. You may be asked to confirm or update your contact information in the future. Many of our members who were children are now married with children of their own, so they are being moved into their own file. You may be asked to give marriage dates, children birth dates, etc. What has been done is a small step in updating the church records. Thank you in advance for your help!

In addition to updating files, preparing the weekly folders, preparing a newsletter, it will soon be time to prepare the yearbooks and annual reports. I am requesting that Olsburg information to be included in the yearbook (Ushers and Receive Offering, Assist Pastor during Communion, Lay Readers, Acolytes, LCW information, church council members and offices they hold, elected congregational committees lists and Sunday School roster) be submitted to me no later than **Wednesday, December 2, 2015**.

Walsburg members will be notified in the bulletin when their information is due. Thank you for your assistance!

### **Lutheran Disaster Response**

The Carolinas have endured catastrophic rainfall that has shattered records and left unprecedented scenes of flooding in its wake. The flooding has led to the death of nine people, tens of thousands are without power, major highways and interstates have been closed, and homes have been completely destroyed.

Lutheran Disaster Response will work to bring God's hope, healing and renewal to those who have been affected by the floodwaters. In the days, weeks and months ahead we will continue to work with our partners on the ground, helping to restore communities.

Your gifts will help address the unmet needs of those impacted by the flooding, and together we stand ready to provide assistance for long-term recovery efforts.

Prayers and support are needed now to help assist those impacted by flooding to rebuild their homes and lives. **Gifts designated for "U.S. Flooding" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted by the floodwaters.** A bulletin insert has been included in this week's bulletin. There will be extra copies placed on the table in the narthex. Thank you.