

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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From the Desk of Pastor Keith

Friends of Jesus give thanks! November began with All Saints' Sunday. This is a day to remember and give thanks.

While each of us remembered personal loved ones and acquaintances who have died and are now with their Lord in heaven, collectively we remembered Gevon Holt at Olsburg and Ralph Larson, Larry Robinson, and Claryce Bohnenblust at Walsburg. These were people who knew the love of Christ.

All Saints' Sunday reminds us that we don't stand alone. We are indebted to those who have gone before us. God has blessed us abundantly. We have inherited from these people our faith, our traditions, our facilities, our church. We thank God for them!

All Saints' Sunday teaches us that it is now our turn to pass on this great heritage to others, including future generations. All Saints' Sunday is not just a time to look back with gratitude. It is a time to build on the strong foundation we have received.

So, let's continue the work! In the play, *Green Pastures*, Moses accepts his mission from God, saying, "I ain't much, Lord, but I'se all I got." God chose stuttering Moses to speak to Pharaoh. God chose little David to fight mighty

Goliath. God chose Gideon and three hundred soldiers to fight an army of thousands. God chose a young, unmarried teenager, to be the mother of Christ. God doesn't need our strength. God only needs our hearts. And when we give our hearts to God, it is amazing what God can do through us.

Here we are nearing the end of the year 2017. We have a great heritage. We have a strong foundation. We have great people in our congregations. We have a most exciting message to share. Good things are happening among us. So, let's boldly follow the saints who have gone before us and do our part.

Friends of Jesus give thanks. Near the end of November we celebrate the Day of Thanksgiving. It is often a feast day with family and friends. We remember our blessings, chief of which is what Jesus has done for us through his death and resurrection. We remember and we give thanks to God.

Let's keep in mind, though, that thanksgiving is not just a matter of words. It is not just saying "thank you," it is living it. It is caring for others. It is helping others. It is sharing what we have with others. Jesus said when we care for and help

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“the least of these,” we are doing it unto him. That is the best way to give thanks. And that is what friends of Jesus do!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

The Story of the First Thanksgiving

The Christian Pilgrims who set foot on the Massachusetts shore in December of 1620 were unprepared and poorly suited to be settlers. They brought musical instruments but not a horse or cow, not even a plow or a fishing line. Their numbers included a printer and two tailors, but no one with farming or hunting skills. Of the 102 who landed, only 54 - almost half of them children - were left alive by April of 1621.

The settlers expected to meet Native Americans. There were many tales of the inhabitants of this new world in England and Europe, often with exaggerated stories of terrifying “heathen savages.” Yet, for two months the natives kept their distance.

Then, in February, a young Native American by the name of Squanto greeted them in perfect English. He and his friend Samoset showed the Pilgrims how to plant corn and hunt. Soon the settlers were experiencing the blessings of the new land and were able to sit down to a Thanksgiving harvest feast.

But who was this Squanto? He had been kidnapped on Cape Cod years earlier and brought to England where he learned to speak English. There he had been paraded around as a curiosity. When the novelty of his presence wore thin, he was sold as a slave and ushered off to Spain. There he was bought by a monk, who freed Squanto in an act of Christian charity. Squanto converted to Christianity, returned to England a free man, and bought passage back to his home in Massachusetts. Upon his return he was shocked to find that his entire tribe had been wiped out years earlier

Life together by a plague. His life had

been spared by what he had considered his misfortune!

Squanto proved to be a great blessing to the Pilgrims. He was an eager translator between the Pilgrims and local natives, even persuading Massasoit, the Wampanoag chief, to sign a peace treaty with the newcomers. It is safe to say that there would have been no Thanksgiving feast in 1621 were it not for Squanto.

In Squanto’s strange and blessed life God was there, wondrously reigning!

Thanksgiving Table Topics

* Go through the alphabet listing things you are thankful for that begin with each letter. Do the same for people. How about places?

* Go around the dinner table and name something you are thankful for, but with a twist: name something that begins with the last letter of the previous item. (A summer morning. Grandpa’s chuckle. Enthusiasm. Mashed potatoes. etc.)

* Think about the blessings that come from giving. What was something you gave away this past year that became a blessing for you?

Thank You!

Many thanks to all who expressed appreciation during October’s Pastor Appreciation Month. Your words, your cards, your gifts brought smiles to our faces and thanksgiving in our hearts. All of you are wonderful! We thank God for you! Pastor Keith and Carol.

Rejoicing with these children who will be receiving First Communion at Walsburg Lutheran Church

✠ We rejoice with Harper Befort, Dawson Dick, Izabel Nelson, Gracie Scofield, and Mason Scofield who receive their First Communion at Walsburg on Sunday, November 19.

November 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)
OJ Schultz (W)
- 2 Alan Hubbard (O)
Casey Nelson (O)
Loren Oman (W)
- 3 Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 4 Mark Fronce (O)
- 10 David Ahlerich (W)
- 11 Mason Cooper Rice (O)
- 17 Matthew Sundgren (W)
Tristan Kulp (W)
Kristin Hageman (W)
Shane Allen (W)
- 18 Luellen Kasselmann (O)
- 19 Jessica Koch (O)
Mary Kay Henry (W)
- 21 Jane Larson (W)
- 24 Kyle Clifton (O)
- 25 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)
- 15 Brad and Ashley Rice (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 November.

Walsburg

***November Lay Readers:** 11/5 Carol Wiens; 11/12 Linda Toomire; 11/19 Don Nelson; 11/26 Rita Nelson

November Greeters and Ushers: Alicia Scofield; Norman, Janice & Charity Johnson; Sarah Diamond & Jeremy Dick

November Communion Ushers: Trenton Hargrave & Sandy McCool

Altar Committee:

November: Kathy Sundgren

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

***November Communion Assistants:** 11/5 Kraig Kasselmann; 11/19 Kirby Burklund

***November Lay Assistants:** 11/5 Laura Clifton; 11/12 Luellen Kasselmann; 11/19 Patty Nelson; 11/26 Tom Nelson

***November Acolytes:** 11/5 Grady Kasselmann; 11/12 Brooklyn Zoeller; 11/19 Emma Kasselmann; 11/26 Kaden Gutsch

November Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, Kristi Fronce

Olsburg Sunday School and Outreach and Fellowship Team-up to collect food for the Food Pantry

The Olsburg Sunday School and Outreach and Fellowship Committee invite you to share food with the local food pantry.

Many American and Kansas families struggle to put enough and the right kinds of food on their tables because a lack of financial resources to purchase it. This lack of consistent access to enough food because of a lack of resources is frequently described as “food insecurity.” In Kansas, one out of every six households (16.5 percent) was food insecure at some time during 2013. That means that more than 183,000 households, representing approximately 450,000 Kansans, did not have reliable access to enough food. One in five Kansas households which included children were food insecure in 2013; nearly half of Kansas households headed by single women with children faced food insecurity. (Source: KHI: Food Insecurity in Kansas)

Your donation during November and December can make a BIG difference! There will be a box in the narthex for you to drop off your donation. Food will be delivered to the local food pantry in late December. Thank you!

Olsburg Office News

Please turn in all information for the Yearbook to Shelly no later than December 8, 2017. Not sure what you need to turn in? Please see the list below:

From Council Chair: List of 2018 council members and Property Committee. List of Church Officers. Monthly (include date) list of who is assisting Pastor during communion

From Head Usher: Usher and Receive offering monthly list

Lay Reader list
Acolyte list (from altar guild)
LCW meeting dates, committees, officers
Any other information you would like added to the yearbook.
Thank you for helping me meet this strict deadline!
Shelly

Olsburg Sunday School Christmas Program

The Olsburg Sunday School Christmas program will be during the regular church service on December 17th. A brunch will follow service.

Christmas Decorating at Olsburg Lutheran Church

The Altar Guild will trim the Christmas tree and decorate the church for the holidays sometime in December. Further information will be announced in the church bulletin.

Walsburg WELCA is selling Calendars

Walsburg Women of ELCA will be selling **2018 God's Creation Wall Calendars** for \$7.00 each. These calendars are great for personal use and also a great Christmas gift.

Walsburg Church Christmas Decorating

Walsburg will be decorating the church for the holidays on Dec. 3, 2017 immediately following church service. Sloppy Joes, drinks and table service will be provided. Everyone else is being asked to furnish a side dish of either a salad, chips, cheese, relish or dessert.

Walsburg Office News

Please turn in all information for the Yearbook to Rita Nelson no later than December 8, 2017. Thank you!

Walsburg Looking for Volunteer Lay Readers for 2018

If you are interested in being a lay reader at Walsburg for 2018, contact Diana at 293-2238. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Walsburg Sunday School News



Children's Christmas Program

The Walsburg Children's Christmas Sunday School program will be on Sunday, December 17, during the 11 a.m. worship service. Mark your calendars and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come hear the children "Tell the Story" of Christmas.

ELCA Good Gifts Thank You

Walsburg has received a "thank you" note from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the recent gift of \$571.43 in support of the ELCA Good Gifts program. The letter stated: "With generosity and imagination, you have made a gift that will change a life. Through the programs supported by your "Good Gifts," you are reaching out with a tangible symbol of Christ's Love". These monies were collected during Sunday School and Vacation Bible School offerings. Thanks to those who participated!

Christmas Light Tour planned

Mark your calendar: Walsburg Outreach & Fellowship is sponsoring a **Christmas Light Tour** on Wednesday evening, December 13 in Manhattan. More details will follow.

Olsburg Sunday School studies Martin Luther

This Fall the children in the Olsburg Sunday School have learned about Martin Luther and the 500th Anniversary of his Reformation. The first Sunday the children were introduced to him by singing “A Mighty Fortress is our God” and learning the meaning of the words in the first verse with the help of Pastor Keith. The children learned the first two verses and did a very good job of singing them as we sang them each Sunday.

One Sunday the children learned that Martin Luther translated the Bible from Latin into German by using a quill pen and ink. The children learned how difficult this would be to do when they wrote his name only on a piece of paper using feathers and ink (paint). They drew a picture below his name, again using a feather and ink.

V|D
—|—
M|A

This is the motto of the Reformation which is *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* meaning the Word of the Lord Endures Forever. The motto is based on the Bible verse, 1 Peter 1:24–25, “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower fails, but the word of the Lord abides forever.” The children made a craft showing the motto which they were able to take home to hang in their room.

One Sunday the children learned about Martin Luther and how he smuggled Bibles and the children played a relay game where they wore clothing too large for them so they could hide a bible in their clothes and smuggle it to the next group. They only smuggled one bible at a time, and again learned how difficult it was for Martin Luther to do one of the many things he was known for accomplishing during his life.

On the last Sunday we studied Martin Luther, the children made a Luther Rose using felt. We talked about the different colors and designs of the Rose and why each were used. The children were all excited and very proud of the Luther Rose they had made and were able to take home with them as a reminder of Martin Luther and of all of his accomplishments.

Olsburg Lutheran Church

61st Annual

SWEDISH SUPPER

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Serving 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Adults - \$15.00

Children 6 - 12 - \$7.00

For Tickets Contact: Luellen Kasselmann

Telephone - 785 / 565 - 1240

Or

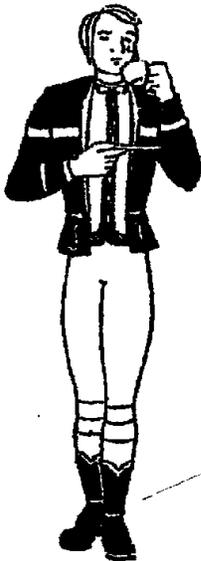
304 E. Hwy 16 - Olsburg, KS 66520

Or

woodyk@twinvalley.net

Tickets also available at:

The Farmhouse (formerly Loberg's) - Olsburg
Union State Bank - Olsburg & Randolph



Tack så mycket



Var så god

