

Lifetogether

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

*Reflections from
Pastor Keith (con't)
Words of Wisdom
For All The Saints
From Who Their
Labors Rest
Now Thank We All
Our God*

page 3

*November birthdays
and anniversaries,
joys and sorrows
Members in service*

page 4

*Thank Yu from
Pastor Keith and
Carol
Olsburg Council
Highlights*

pages 5

*Office News
Walsburg Council
Highlights*

page 6

*Walsburg Sunday
School Christms
Program
Walsburg Sunday
School News
Walsburg Quilters
News*

page 7

*Manhattan's Walk to
End Alzheimer's
WELCA selling God's
Creation Calendars
Olsburg Swedish
Supper
Thank you*

page 8

Community

Reflections from Pastor Keith

In 1620, a group of 35 Pilgrims left Holland to sail to America. They met their ship, the Mayflower, in England. Some 80 English joined them for the trip. Not all on board were Christians, but the Pilgrims provided leadership for the whole group.

Shortly after the Pilgrims landed, a Native American named Squanto greeted them in perfect English. Earlier he had been kidnapped on Cape Cod and brought to England as a curiosity. There he learned to speak English. He was sold as a slave to someone in Spain and later bought by a monk who set him free. In Spain he learned Spanish and became a Christian.

In 1619 Squanto crossed the Atlantic to his home in Cape Cod only to find that his tribe had been wiped out by a plague. It was he who taught the pilgrims to fish, hunt, trap and plant. He also served as a go-between with other Native Americans, persuading Chief Masosoit of the Wampanoag tribe to sign a peace treat with the Pilgrims.

Some people called him a saint, saying, "he was sent by God for our good." Without Squanto there would have been little to be thankful for in 1621 when the Pilgrims celebrated the first thanksgiving in America.

God provides! Often, God provides in surprising and unexpected ways. Who would have thought there would be an English speaking Native American waiting to help the Pilgrims when they landed on American soil!

The year 2020 has been a tough year for many in our country. Perhaps it has been tough for you. As you reflect back on this year, has there been a "Squanto" in your life? Has there been someone who has befriended you, helped you, supported you, guided you? Perhaps it was someone well known to you. Perhaps it was a stranger. Has there been someone who "was sent by God for your good?" Thank God for your "Squanto." Thank God for those people who have helped you this year.

Carol and I thank God for each of you! You have been a "Squanto" to us. God has truly blessed us through you. We thank God for you!

When the Pilgrims came to America, life was tough. They didn't have much. Yet, they gave thanks. They knew that as followers of Jesus *we give thanks, not because of what we have. We give thanks because of who has us!*

(continued on the next page)

When we sit down to eat we may see a table heaped high with food, or we may see only a few parcels of bread and water. We may see a large and lovely home, or we may see only a modest dwelling. We may see a loving family and friends, or we may see no one. Regardless of what we see, we give thanks, for as followers of Jesus our thanksgiving is based not on what we have, but on who has us.

The great evidence for our thanksgiving is the cross. The cross upon which Jesus died stands forever as the sign of God's unwavering commitment to you and me. God takes care of the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, yet the cross reveals just how valuable we are to God. Jesus was willing to die on the cross for you and me. The cross assures us that we can count on God through thick and thin, in plenty or in poverty, when we have a lot or when we have nothing. The cross is our guarantee that, no matter what, God has us!

Therefore, we give thanks! As the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

Have a blessed Thanksgiving! Not just during these November days, but always!

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you,
Pastor Keith

Words of Wisdom

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.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- Psalm 100:3-4

"O Lord, all that we have,
in body or soul,

without or within,
natural or supernatural,
are your gifts
and reveal you
as a loving and good God.
Whether we receive more or less
all are your gifts,
and without you we would have nothing."
- Thomas a Kempis

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- Psalm 106:1

"For All The Saints Who From Their Labors Rest"

We give thanks for the following members who have died since All Saints Sunday in 2019. We thank God for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth. They have now gone before us in faith and now rest from their labors.

Forrest Johnson (11-06-19) - Walsburg
LeRoy Bohnenblust (11-26-19) -
Walsburg
Gerald Erickson (12-06-19) - Walsburg
Raymond Nelson (03-27-20) - Walsburg
Arlo Peterson (06-02-20) - Walsburg
Nancy Holt Whitesell (06-19-20) -
Olsburg
Ramona Johnston (07-09-20) - Olsburg

Now Thank We All Our God

One of the most well known and beloved Thanksgiving hymns is "Now Thank We All Our God." Do you know that this hymn was written during a time of terrible tragedy?

This hymn arose during the Thirty Years' War. This war was fought in Central Europe between 1618 and 1648. Estimates of the total number of military and civilian deaths which resulted range from 4.5 to 8 million, the vast majority from disease or

(continued on page 4)

November birthdays, anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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)
- 3 Joyce Cantrell (O)
- 4 Mark Fronce (O)
- 7 Abigail Hagenmaier (W)
- 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 Mary Kay Henry (W)
Trinity Meader (W)
- 21 Jane Larson (W)
- 24 Kyle Clifton (O)
- 25 Karl Kasselmann (O)
- 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)
- 11 Dennis and Donise Peterson (W)
- 15 Brad and Ashley Rice (O)
- 29 Dale and Eva Larson (W)
- 30 Russell and Terry Peterson (W)

Joys and Sorrows

+ We rejoice with Trinity Meader, Trenton Meader, and Tucker Meader who were baptized at Walsburg on October 25. They are the children of Tyson and Becca Meader.

+ We sorrow with Olsburg members, John and Deb Lowry, on the death of John's mother, Janet Lowry.

+ We sorrow with Olsburg members, Shelly and Kirby Burklund, on the death of Shelly's mother, Dahlia Gaudette.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

***Ushers and Greeters:** Norman, Janice Johnson; Sarah Diamond & Jeremy Dick

Communion Ushers: Vern Bulk & Valerie Hoehner

*Acolytes:

***Lay Assistants:** 11/1 Carol Wiens; 11/8 Sara Diamond; 11/15 Jerry Baer; 11/22 Lynn Hargrave; 11/29 Alicia Scofield

Altar Committee: Lynne Berry

***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.**

Ushers: Kyle Clifton; Tom Nelson; Woody Kasselmann; David Gibson

Communion Assistants: 11/1 John Lowry; 11/15 Jacob Nelson; 11/29 Gregg Gibson

*Acolytes:

***Lay Assistants:** 11/1 Becky Avery; 11/8 Joyce Cantrell; 11/15 Kathy Monser; 11/22 Tom Nelson; 11/29 April Brenner

November Altar Committee: Becky Avery; Donica Nelson

starvation. In some areas of Germany, it has been suggested up to 60% of the population died.

At the age of 31, Martin Rinkart was called to be the pastor in the German town of Eilenberg. He arrived there just when the dreadful bloodshed was starting. Throughout the war years several waves of deadly pestilence and famine swept through the city, leaving death and destruction in their wake. The plague of 1637 was particularly severe. At its height Pastor Rinkart was the only remaining minister in town and was called upon to conduct as many as 40 funeral services a day. It was during this time that he wrote the words of this hymn.

Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way

with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

Thank You from Pastor Keith and Carol

We want to thank the people of Olsburg and Walsburg for all the words of appreciation, cards, and gifts we received during October's Pastor Appreciation Month! We are filled with gratitude and consider it a great privilege to serve in these two congregations. Pastor Keith and Carol

OLC Council Highlights

The following are highlights of the Olsburg Lutheran Church Council meetings from May through September.

- ✚ There were no Council meetings in March or April due to the coronavirus crisis. Council meetings resumed May 13, 2020. At this time, the Council expressed sincere appreciation to Pastor Keith for the reflections he shared daily during the time of crisis.
- ✚ The Council and Pastor Keith prepared guidelines for resuming services. The guidelines were submitted to the Synod and approved prior to our first service.
- ✚ Discussions have been held on a on-going basis with regard to our needs and responsibilities in providing a safe worship space for our congregation. Much thoughtful preparation has taken place.
- ✚ In May, a decision was made by the Council to hold outdoor services for as long as possible, and as weather permitted.
- ✚ Unfortunately, there was no Vacation Bible School this year due to Covid-19.
- ✚ Memorial Day services were also canceled this year due to Covid-19.
- ✚ Historical records were updated by Luellen Kasselmann and Alice Gibson. They prepared these records in anticipation of the Olsburg 140th celebration that was planned. The celebration was canceled but the report was completed by Luellen and Alice.
- ✚ New carillons were purchased this year through memorial funds. Members of the congregation are installing the carillons in order to save some costs.
- ✚ This year's educational scholarship recipients were Kylea Ricketts and Brooklyn Zoeller.
- ✚ The Council continues to look for ways to connect with members who are unable to attend church. For members in nursing homes or assisted living, the Outreach & Fellowship Committee prepared and distributed care baskets as reminders they are still an important part of our church family.
- ✚ Our services been live-streamed and recorded each Sunday. They are posted on Facebook for those who have access.
- ✚ The Council continues to focus a good deal of time on building upkeep and repairs.

Gutters are currently being replaced by Midland Exteriors.

- ✚ New gravel was put down in the Olsburg Cemetery driveway. Terry Johnson provided his service for the work. The rock has greatly enhanced accessibility and the appearance of the cemetery.
- ✚ Members of the congregation are enjoying our journey as Pastor Keith leads us through the Bible - from Genesis through Luke.
- ✚ Jointly with Walsburg, we have purchased a new electronic keyboard. A decision to purchase this was made after school resumed and we no longer had access to the school's keyboard for outside services. Ramona Johnston recently passed away. The Council was contacted by a family member informing us that Ramona donated old pictures of the church which can be shared and enjoyed for generations to come.
- ✚ Sunday School resumed the Sunday after Labor Day with classes being outside for as long as possible.
- ✚ The treasurer's report shows a deficit of close to \$15,000 as of September. The Council will continue to share these figures in the newsletter and the Sunday bulletin.
- ✚ After considering many alternatives and possibilities, the congregation voted to cancel the Swedish Supper this year. There's been great support for our decision. We look forward to resuming the Swedish Supper in 2021.
- ✚ The Council appreciates everyone who helped make the outdoor services so successful, whether it was helping with the set-up, providing supplies, or helping with the service. We were blessed with some beautiful weather for many weeks and attendance was very good during this time.

Olsburg Office News

Please turn in all information for the Yearbook to Shelly no later than December 5, 2020. Not sure what you need to turn in? Please see the list below: From Council Chair: List of 2021 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 committees, officers

Any other information you would like added to the yearbook.

Thank you for helping me meet this strict deadline!

Shelly

Walsburg Office News

Please turn in all information for the Yearbook to Rita Nelson no later than December 2, 2020. Thank you!

Walsburg Council October meeting Highlights

The Walsburg Council met on October 7, 2020. Below are some highlights from the meeting.

- ✚ With window restoration now complete, disposal of the window screens will be discussed at the upcoming congregational meeting. Plaques will be ordered and installed in November.
- ✚ Pastor Keith will be recognized with a \$100 gift from the congregation for Pastor Appreciation Month.
- ✚ Due to upcoming cooler weather, church services will be held inside beginning October 18.
- ✚ Three heavy duty aluminum picnic tables will be ordered and paid for with donated designated funds.
- ✚ Our Constitution is again being revised per minor mandates from the Synod and will be presented to the congregation for approval.
- ✚ Our website should be launched in next few weeks and members will be notified

of the site.

- ✦ The Nomination Committee presented a ballot for election of 2 council members: AJ Berry, Don Campbell, Ruth Stone and Roger Sundgren.
- ✦ Council is recommending to the congregation the removal of shingles on the roof at the parsonage followed by installation of a metal roof.
- ✦ A new 12' artificial Christmas tree with LED lights is being donated to the church.
- ✦ Upcoming dates:
- ✦ Church cleanup October 24 at 9am
- ✦ Annual meeting written reports due January 10
- ✦ Finance reports due January 17
- ✦ Annual Meeting February 14

Walsburg Sunday School Christmas Program

Despite the COVID-related challenges, the show must go on! The Walsburg Lutheran Church Sunday School will present a special Christmas Program, "Christmas-Then and Now" on Sunday, December 13 during the 11:00 worship service. The program will feature the children's bell choir, a pre-recorded presentation, and other surprises as we navigate "Christmas - Then and Now." The program will be shared on the Walsburg Lutheran Church Facebook page for those who do not feel comfortable attending in person. It may look different this year, but we look forward to spreading Christmas cheer just the same!

Walsburg Sunday School News

The children have returned to Memorial Hall for Sunday mornings wearing masks and socially distancing as best as can be done! It is great to see bright, smiling faces! Lessons for November are (1)

Elijah Meets God; (2) Divided Kingdom; (3) Amos Preaches Against Injustice; (4) Jeremiah and a Future with Hope); (5) Daniel and the Fiery Furnace. Sunday School for November will include hearing Bible stories, singing, celebrating what we are thankful for, and preparing for our Christmas program to receive the Baby Jesus at Christmas!

News from Walsburg Quilters!

Walsburg Lutheran Quilters are serving those in need by sewing 60"x80" quilts and assembling infant kits and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief! On October 6, these ladies loaded 37 large boxes (weighing 554 lbs.) filled with 40 infant kits, 52 personal kits, and 112 handmade tied quilts. The items were delivered to a Topeka church October 9 where the items will be moved to the next collection center. Donated items will be distributed to disaster area victims throughout the world! A big "Thank You" to all of those who support this ministry by donating fabric/sheets/items for kits, money, time and talents! A wonderful outreach ministry that involves serving, fun, and fellowship!





Thank you from the Burklund family

We sincerely appreciate everyone's prayers, cards, spoken condolences, and other kind gestures during the time of my mom's passing. Thank you! Shelly and Kirby Burklund and family.

Manhattan's Walk to End Alzheimer's

Thank you to everyone who supported Manhattan's Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, October 17. Your efforts in supporting Walsburg Walkers by walking and/or donating funds (over \$1,600) help support the Alzheimer Association's goals of increasing awareness of the disease, providing funds for education and caregiver support, and supporting funding for research to find a cause/cure for dementia/Alzheimer's. Working together, we are supporting the cause of a "World Without Alzheimer's".

Olsburg Lutheran Church has cancelled the 2020 Swedish Supper

Olsburg Lutheran Church is very disappointed to have to announce that this year, 2020, we will not be hosting our annual Swedish Supper. After much time spent in prayer and discussion, followed by a vote of our congregation, the decision was made that this is the best way to protect our church family and community members.

Jan Cooper and Luellen Kasselmann
Swedish Supper Co-Chairmen

Next newsletter items and articles will be due Nov. 25.

Life Together is published bi-monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish. Deadline for calendar and other items is the last Monday of each month.

Editor/Parish Coordinator

Shelly Burklund
Cell 785-532-9853
Home 785-468-3370
sburklun@ksu.edu

Interim Pastor

Keith Wiens
Home 785-776-5348
Cell: 785-341-1600
keithw4870@gmail.com

Parish Information

Olsburg 468-3500
olc@olsburglutheran.org
Walsburg 293-5367

Community



During these days of “social distancing” and the need to avoid large in-person gatherings or even personal visits with loved ones and friends, even us introverts, have discovered how much we miss being with other people. At the same time, we continually hear that “we are in this together” and so those measures that keep us physically distant from one another to avoid spreading the virus are the very ways we can care for one another. All of this points out the importance of community and the need to expand our understanding of community.

Community is one of the core values identified by the synod council and staff as we discerned together what God is calling us to in these days. But how do we define community? I think many would define community as those individuals I choose to interact with, who are connected to my life in some significant way either by geography or similar interests and needs. In church, we often speak about the “community of faith” as those individuals who show up in the same place that we do (in the building on Sunday morning) and believe the same way we do.

But in the gospels, Jesus reimagined community to expand beyond lines that divided people to a circle that encompassed all as God’s beloved children, all as neighbors, all welcome at the table. He challenged our view of community as a “comfortable” gathering of those like us by continually talking about the last being first and inviting those who were on the margins; children and women, tax collectors and lepers, into the center. In other words, he turned our understandings of community upside down, breaking open a way of seeing the connection we have not only with all people, but with all of creation.

This pandemic has also challenged our understanding community, revealing both the reality that we truly are all connected (the virus easily passes from person to person, across national borders and even oceans) as well as the reality of deep divisions among us in terms of racial injustice. We have discovered that whether we gather in the same place or not, we are still connected to one another. Community goes beyond in-person gatherings to embrace those who may never set foot inside our buildings. We have discovered that whether we are personally experiencing the same things, or even have the same perspective, we are in this together and what affects one member of this expanded community, affects us all.

We have rediscovered the rich imagery of community as the body of Christ, with its many members, with its diversity (which is a very good thing!) AND each member is valued and needed (even those voices that speak very different perspectives.) We were created to live in community. This is God’s gift to us. How can the way we live in community, care for community, understand community in ways that truly make room for everyone to experience this good gift of God? That is the question we are called to explore this month.

Bishop Susan Candea

Life together