

Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

inside...

page 2

Adult Education
Confirmation Ministry

page 3

Members in Service
Birthdays and
Anniversaries

page 4

Service to the
Community
Leadership

page 5

Worship News

page 6

Singing with the
Lutherans

page 7

Singing with the
Lutherans
(continued)

Next newsletter items and
articles will be due February 28.

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...

What does it mean to “be the church?”

One of my courses this past January focused on congregational care. One of the challenges in our culture today is that of moving from an understanding of what the pastor must do (with respect to care ministry) to what the congregation and community can do to be a stronger – authentic community.

If we accept that religious communities do not exist as an end in themselves but are created in response to a call. And that a simple statement of this call (or mission) might be understood to be the feet and hands of Jesus in the community and the world, what is our action in the context of “care” that is both action and discipleship which helps (the congregation) focus on both each other and “the other?”

One of the things I have discovered over the course of 25 years of ministry is that people are hungry for authentic community and relationship. In addition to proclaiming Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, authentic community and relationship is what makes who we are “the church.” One of the tasks of authentic community (both inside and outside the walls of the church) is to intentionally listen to each other and hear each other. For years, Sonja and I have done what we call “high and lows” as a part of opening or closing prayer mostly

with confirmation age people. I think what I learned this past January, is that all age people, from many different groups, need opportunity to practice listening and hearing each other – so that, we might better be the feet and hands of Jesus in the community and world.

In the year ahead, I wonder what it would look like to develop a “congregational care” ministry team in each congregation. The charge of this (dynamic) team would be to attend to the spiritual health and welfare of the congregation, as an extension of what is already happening – both in the church and among the greater community.

I leave you with a statement my professor made the last day of class – “A beloved community is one who truly reflects the presence of God. This is shown in the community by loving your neighbor as one loves themselves... It is about BEING, so that we can be in the presence of God.” I think we so often get caught up in the function of being church, that we forget that we are called (or maybe we have never been given the real chance) to be in the presence of God through simply serving our neighbor.

Think and pray about what a “congregational care” ministry team might look like in the community in which you live.

Blessings and Hope
Gordy

Adult Education

Olsburg Sunday Morning Adult Education *The Lutheran Course*

Sundays in the Sanctuary
10:00 – 11:00 AM

Each session features a DVD presentation with top notch theologians followed by a small group discussion.

We will be using the material as a spring board for conversations about faith in the present day. We are a church that continues to form and reform each and every day so our task as a community is to gather together and consider the framework out of which we experience faith. Each DVD presenter offers information along with personal stories and a constant question as to why this might be important to consider in our own faith journeys. This is not only information; it is formation and reformation in the community context. And just like Confirmation Class, there will be some fun and snacks.

February 20:

Five things You Should Know about the Lutheran Reformation

DVD Presenter: Ken Sundet Jones (Grand View College, Des Moines)

February 27:

Anatomy of a Baptism

DVD Presenter: Winston Persaud (Wartburg in Dubuque)

March 6:

How to Receive Communion

DVD Presenter: Foster McCurley (Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia)

March 13:

The Three Most Rebellious Things Jesus Did

DVD Presenter: Barbara Rossing (Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago)

April 3:

How to Read the Bible

DVD Presenter: Rolf Jacobson (Luther Seminary, St. Paul)

April 10:

How to Share Your Faith with Someone

DVD Presenter: Kelly Fryer (Luther Seminary, St. Paul)

Life together

Olsburg Monday Night Study

Mondays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

February 28

Everything is Spiritual

In the Hebrew Scriptures there is no word for “spiritual,” and Jesus never used the phrase “spiritual life.” For Jesus and his tradition, all of life is spiritual. So what does that mean?

All are invited for a journey through the Scriptures with Rob Bell as we take a look at a foundation for spirituality and how that connects to a life of faith that is grounded in the cross experience, best lived out in community.

Walsburg Monday Night Bible Study

S.A.L.T. (Stewards Attending Life Together)

Mondays, 7:00 PM

February 21

All are welcome to gather together for the on-going study on Revelation.

Bring your Bibles!

Confirmation Ministry

**Class on Wednesday, February 23rd at Olsburg
6:30 – 8:00 PM**

All the Confirmation Youth will gather together to re-live the Last Supper that Jesus shared with the disciples. This is a traditional Seder Meal that most Jewish Families celebrate that recounts the story of the Passover during which God, with the help of Moses, freed the people from slavery under Pharaoh.

Save the Date!

Confirmation Camp at Tomah Shinga

Week 4: June 26-July 1

All Confirmation Youth are invited / strongly encouraged to attend Confirmation Camp at Tomah Shinga each summer during their Confirmation years. Kids stay in air conditioned cabins and then participate all the fun activities at camp including: high and low ropes course, hiking, bible study with their pastor, arts and crafts, swimming in the pool, (water fights – those aren't usually planned), and more. Contact Pastor Sonja if you have questions or you plan to attend a different week.

The registration form is enclosed. The early bird deadline is April 1st!

All Confirmation Registrations need to be turned in to Pastor Sonja by March 31st

February birthdays and anniversaries

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

Birthdays

- 1 Helen Wieters (W)
- 2 Julie Higgins (O)
- 4 Dick Flohr (W)
Nicholas Allen (W)
Lynn Webster (O)
- 5 Dale Larson (W)
Daniel Higgins (O)
- 6 Lynne Berry (W)
- 7 Roseanne Johnson (W)
- 9 Becky Holt (O)
- 10 Phillip Monser (O)
- 12 Shane Adams (O)
- 13 Alicia Scofield (W)

- 14 Vincent Smith (O)
- 15 Wes Esping (O)
- 16 Jessie Sundgren (W)
- 17 R.J. Bokelman (O)
- 23 Loretta Hoerman (W)
Lukas Kulp (W)
- 24 Brad Haller (W)
- 28 Ebba Nelson (O)
Makayla Vargo (O)
Madison Vargo (O)

Anniversaries

- 14 Dean and Donna Nelson (W)
- 15 Robert and Cindy Kulp (W)

March 1-8

- 1 Katie Burkland (O)
Raymond Nelson (W)
Jared Henry (W)
- 2 Donna Nelson (W)
Brianna Olson (W)
- 4 Marian Smith (O)
Jeanette Pultz (W)
Jennifer Kulp (W)
- 6 Garrett Nelson (O)

Luther League

**Luther League Bible Study,
Pizza and Game Night
Meet at Olsburg Lutheran
5:30 – 7:30 PM**

Consider options for summer ministry! Get information on the Sr. High Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2012. All 8th grade youth are invited to attend! Check out the enclosed flyer on the gathering!!!!

**Save the Date for the 2012
National Youth Gathering
“Citizens with the Saints”
Based on Ephesians 2:14-19
July 18-22, 2012
New Orleans, LA**

**All current 8th graders and
older are invited to attend!**
Adult Leadership is needed to begin working on fundraising and travel plans. Training will be available!

**Dr. Larry Erickson Incoming
Lutheran Scholarship**

The Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity forwarded information regarding a \$1,500 scholarship to two Lutheran gentlemen entering Kansas State University this Fall. Please see the enclosed information if you might consider applying!

Members in service this month

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

Walsburg

Ushers and Greeters: Roger & Kathy Sundgren, Don & Rita Nelson

***Lay Assistants:** 2/20 Brianna Olson; 2/27 Don Nelson;

Olsburg

Ushers: Alan Hubbard, Marvin Johnson, Nick Cooper, Kevin Burkland

Communion Assistants: 2/6 Coleen Esping; 2/20 Kristi Fronce

***Acolytes:** 2/6 Madison Vargo; 2/13 Shane Adams; 2/20 Codie Webster
2/27 Jonathan Nelson

***Lay Assistants:** 2/6 Monique Sandquist; 2/13 Nick Cooper; 2/20 Patty Nelson; 2/27 Shane Adams

Altar Committee: Kristi Fronce, Kathy Monser

Kitchen Committee: January and February—Mary Rosell

***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.**

Community

**Shrove Tuesday “All You Can Eat” Pancake Supper
Olsburg Lutheran Church**

Sponsored by the Confirmation Kids
Tuesday, March 8th
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Free will offering

Service to the Community

Riley Community Food Pantry Serves Record Numbers

By, Brenda Kientz

It is the end of another year and what a year it has been. With the poor economy and the loss of jobs, our clientele has increased to the point that we are serving 15-21 families a week. That equates to 45-72 people and filling a basket every 6-8 minutes for 2 hours each Saturday.

A record number of Thanksgiving baskets were filled and distributed – 32 in all. At Christmas, 31 baskets were prepared....

As the year progressed, Flint Hills Breadbasket in Manhattan discontinued helping except for bread and sweets that they receive from stores in Manhattan, We are now totally supported by 10 churches in northern Riley County and many individuals and organizations. We serve all of Riley County except for cities of Manhattan and Ogden, Upon finding this out, many have stepped up to help.

We have been blessed with a whole processed steer and soon a whole processed pig and three or four donated deer this year. Otherwise, we purchase meat, milk, eggs and meal-making items except for what is collected by the 10 churches each first Sunday of the month.

We have received the good news that a new building will be constructed in Riley that will house the Riley Library and our food pantry. If all goes well, we hope to be in the new building by the end of 2011.

Thanks to the support of the 10 churches – Alert Covenant, Crossroads Baptist, Keats United Methodist, Leonardville United Methodist, Randolph United Methodist, Riley United Methodist, Fairview Presbyterian, Riley Presbyterian, Sedalia Community and Walsburg Lutheran – we will be around for another year.

The mission is much needed now and the board of directors that is represented by each church firmly believes this is with the blessing of God as our support continues to grow and come in each month.

We serve clients each Saturday, except for holidays, from 9-11 A.M. at the Riley Presbyterian Church. God bless you all for your support and help throughout the year.

Leadership

Standing at the Crossroads: Understanding your church's future lies within the mission of God in your local community

The following is an excerpt that explains a process by which Walsburg Lutheran and Olsburg Lutheran (pending council discussion and approval in February) will participate in an effort to move forward with a strong mission focused on God's work in this time and place:

This six month study process for leadership in local churches explores the biblical roots of Christian mission and how mission has shaped vital churches throughout history and still does today. This understanding of mission is not something for a select corps of Christians who are called to serve in a distant land. It is the conviction that Christ has sent your church to its community to play a unique role within God's activity in that place. This is the essence of what is described in the missional church movement.

This process includes a variety of components:

- ✦ *Two large group gatherings for teams from local churches to learn together and share. It is led by experienced consultants from Church Innovations.*
- ✦ *A six part examination and reflection on the Bible for local church governing boards to explore the connection of mission to a church's vitality and future.*
- ✦ *An introduction to congregational spiritual practices that enhance members' openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit (Dwelling in the Word and Spiritual Discernment)*
- ✦ *Guided exploration and reflection process examining the congregation and its context which provides the grist for discerning the congregation's future.*
- ✦ *Guided process to discern next steps.*

This process will help you understand that the future of your church is found at the intersection of its life and the life of its local community. You will discover that it is the mission of God in the local community that holds them together and this is not only true today but has been the case at the high points of your church's life and throughout its history.

Worship

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 9th

7:00 PM Olsburg Lutheran

8:15 PM Walsburg Lutheran

We begin our 40 Day Lenten Journey by bringing our penitent hearts to worship. Our participation is different on this day. We will gather in silence. There is lots of movement as we remember our baptism, receive ashes on our foreheads and come forward for communion. We take time to prepare for this journey to the cross that culminates with the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Lenten Worship

By Faith

What is faith? The text from Hebrews 11:1 defines it in this way: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This series focuses on the book of Hebrews, especially the eleventh chapter. The first four weeks provide a journey through the faith of the Old Testament figures, especially Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites. The fifth week brings us to Jesus, the "perfecter of our faith," and his path to the cross.

Featuring the music and liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer

Weekly Rhythm:

6:00 Meal

6:30 Confirmation Class

7:00 Worship

Schedule:

March 16 at Olsburg Lutheran: *The Faith of Noah*

March 23 at Walsburg Lutheran: *The Faith of Abraham*

March 30 at Olsburg Lutheran: *The Faith of Moses*

April 6 at Walsburg Lutheran: *The Faith of the Israelites*

April 13 at Olsburg Lutheran: *Jesus, The Perfecter of Our Faith*

A Prayer from Martin Luther:

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether, O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.

Singing With the Lutherans

By Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of 'Michael Row the Boat Ashore,' they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their under-wear. But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of Children of the Heavenly Father in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: These Lutherans are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
9. Some Lutherans believe that an ELCS bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage.

(For those of you who are not Lutherans, ELCS is Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod and LCMS is Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. When and where I grew up in Minnesota, intermarriage between the two was about as popular as Lutherans and Catholics marrying.)

10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.

12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.

13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add too much color.

14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:

*It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;

*You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can;

*Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee;

*The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;

*When you watch a 'Star Wars' movie and they say, 'May the Force be with you,' you respond, 'and also with you'.

Life *together*

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