

# Life Together

## From the Pastor Leader...Abundance vs. Leftovers

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*Next newsletter items and articles will be due May 21.*

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What does it mean to give out of abundance? First, let me say that this is not about paying the bills at church. Giving out of abundance is all about being what God created us to be.

When we think about giving out of abundance, first and foremost, we all need to think about what God has given us in God's abundance. Out of God's abundance, God created the world for us to be caretakers of, -- and what he created was good!

Out of God's abundance and love for us, God gave us his Son, Jesus, so we could be again, be one with God. It was not the leftovers that God gave us, but the abundance.

It makes all the difference in the world (and in our faith journey) when our response back to God is out of our abundance and not the leftovers. We give because God has first given to us.

We like to put things on a comparative scale, so if we could put this response and commitment on a scale of 1 to 10, who would come close to the 10?

Abraham might come close -- he was willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac, back to God. Maybe Jesus's disciples would come close, since they left job, home, and family to be a part of Jesus' ministry and didn't really expect anything in return. Possibly Paul, who devoted his life to tell the story of Christ's resurrection and was instrumental in the conversion of many people to Christianity. There are many more examples in the Bible of people being committed to God, that frankly make our commitments look like a paltry ONE on the rating scale.

AND, thank goodness God doesn't measure us on a scale of 1 to 10. Out of God's abundance and because of Christ, we all rate a number 10.

The real question -- are we making our commitments with our abundance or are we making our commitments with the leftovers?

Each of us have already made commitments out of our abundance, but we may not think of them as such. When we agreed to make house payments, car payments, cable TV, cell phone, electric bill, propane, life insurance, etc., we made commitments. These are commitments we made, and promised to pay, whenever those bills come due. These are commitments taken off the top of our paychecks and earnings, or the abundance of our earnings -- and not what was leftover at the end of the month.

Most of our expenses are made for ourselves and the people we love. This is good. And, when we look at the our love for God and who we are called to give back to God in response to that love, let's face it -- leftovers is sometimes all God really receives.

How can we better make a commitment of our faith back to God? We have good news and there is no need to hoard it. Go and make disciples of all nations, is Christ's command. Isn't this really what we are about as the church?

We are a church that strives to share a living daring confidence in God's grace. I look forward to our commitments of all that we have -- time, talent and money being gifts of abundance, in response to God's awesome grace, so that all God's children might know the hope and promise of new live through Jesus Christ.

Abundance or left overs? God has chosen abundance!

## OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Minutes for March 23, 2012

The Olsburg Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, March 23, 2012. Jan Cooper called the meeting to order. Members present: Jan Cooper, Laura Clifton, Kristi Fronce, Coleen Esping, Kirby Burklund, Woody Kasselmann, Jim Nelson, and Pastor Gordon Sandquist.

### Reports

Secretary's Report: No report presented.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented. Kristi moved to approve the report. Kirby seconded. The report was approved.

### Pastor's Report:

- ✠ Gordy noted there has been low attendance at the Olsburg Cottage Meetings. Gordy will be calling people and inviting them to the meetings if attendance doesn't improve.
- ✠ Gordy has been assigned to the Central State Synod. We need to move as a council to affirm him as an ordained pastor and then a congregational vote will follow in May regarding the ordination. Laura made a motion that we take a vote to the congregation for a change of call to ordained pastor. Kristi seconded. The vote carried.
- ✠ Gordy noted that this year there will be one service in each congregation during Holy Week. There will be no Seder Meal. Maundy Thursday will be at Olsburg. Good Friday services will be held at Walsburg. He said there may be a pancake fundraiser for the youth on Palm Sunday.

### Committee Reports

No reports.

### Old Business

Swedish Supper funds – the proceeds totaled approximately \$2300. The congregation voted that dispersing of funds over \$1,000 has to be taken to the congregation for a vote. Coleen moved to give \$750 to Pastor Gordy as an education scholarship. Jim seconded. The motion carried. It was agreed we would discuss where the remaining funds should be appropriated at the next meeting.

After Prom – Kirby moved to donate \$50 to both the Blue Valley and Rock Creek After Proms. Jim seconded. The motion carried.

Graduation – A reception will be held for high school graduates Blake Vargo, Jacob Nelson, and Bailee Howland. The council will make cupcakes and punch for the reception. Olsburg Lutheran Church Scholarship – Kristi will ask Shelly to put a notice in the bulletin that the council is taking scholarship applications. The applications will be due by the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Boundary Workshop – Gordy notified us that he will be attending this workshop.

It was noted that there will be a quilt auction at Camp Tomah Shinga on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Laura then moved to adjourn the meeting. Kirby seconded. The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

### **May Anniversaries:**

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (W)
- 4 Dustin and Jessica Holle (W)
- 5 Arlo and Wava Peterson (W)
- 7 Bill and Kathy Monser (O)
- 10 Jim and Diana Nelson (O)
- 14 Russell and Lynne Berry (W)
- 15 Donald and Rita Nelson (W)
- 15 Rob and Alicia Scofield (W)
- 16 Alan and Sharon Hubbard (O)
- 26 Jon and Emily Cook (W)  
Jason and Jamie Hageman (W)
- 28 Gordon and Sonja Sandquist (B)
- 29 Shane and Loree Allen (W)
- 30 Gene and Mary Kay Henry (W)
- 31 Rich and Jan Cooper (O)

### **June Anniversaries:**

- 1 Don and Ardie Holt (O)  
Woody and Luellen Kasselmann (O)  
Tom and Donica Nelson (O)
- 6 Lee and Beverly Stowell (O)
- 7 Daniel and Julie Higgins (O)
- 9 Raymond and Milly Nelson (W)
- 10 Kirby and Shelly Burklund (O)  
Roger and Ruthie Stone (W)  
Gary and Diana Hargrave (W)
- 11 William & Roseanne Johnson (W)
- 13 Brandon and Lori Rogge (W)
- 17 LeRoy & Claryce Bohnenblust (W)

# May and June birthdays and anniversaries

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

## May Birthdays

- 2 Jessa Kulp (W)
- 2 Cindy Olson (W)
- 3 Zachary Holt (O)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)  
Crystal Strauss (W)
- 9 Sonja Sandquist (O/W)
- 10 Dan Holt (O)  
Rich Vargo (O)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 14 Clayton Neilson (W)
- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
- 20 Kermit Sundgren (W)  
Dusty Holt (O)
- 21 Alice Marie Gibson (O)  
Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 24 Emily Cook (W)
- 26 Raymond Anderson (O)  
Shari Holt (O)  
Kathy Monser (O)
- 27 Lynn Burkland (O)

- 28 Wes Holt (O)
- 28 Woody Kasselmann (O)
- 29 Donald Holt (O)
- 30 James Nelson (W)
- 30 Lila Bestwick (W)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)

## June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)
- 2 Barbara Burkland (O)  
Jordan Hagenmaier (W)
- 3 Amy Pultz (W)
- 4 Nicki Beadle (O)
- 6 Marvin Johnson (O)
- 7 Gary Hargrave (W)
- 8 Kiffnie Holt (O)
- 9 David Gibson (O)  
Travis Bohnenblust (W)  
Trevor Bohnenblust (W)
- 12 Dorothy Johnson (O)
- 14 Laurine Catt (O)
- 15 Coleen Esping (O)
- 17 Deanna Barnes (O)
- 18 William Johnson (W)
- 19 Erin Gutsch (O)

- 19 Ruthie Stone (W)
- 20 Brooklynn Zoeller (O)
- 20 Lorraine Oman (W)
- 21 Destinee Cantrell (O)  
Dena Haller (W)
- 22 Nick Cooper (O)  
Monique Sandquist (O/W)  
Adam Larson (W)
- 23 Josie Stone (W)
- 24 Tyson Strauss (W)  
Haley Neilson (W)
- 28 Linda Toomire (W)  
Jacob Hagenmaier (W)

## July 1-8

- 1 Joan Schweer (O)
- 2 Carl Larson (W)
- 6 Gregg Gibson (O)
- 7 Blake Vargo (O)
- 8 Sharon Hubbard (O)

## Members in service

**T**hank you to these members for their service to the parish during May and June.

### Walsburg

**May Ushers and Greeters:** Bill, Janet and Cindy Neilson; Jerry and Pat Erickson

**June Ushers and Greeters:** Jamie and Kristi Hageman; Bill and Roseanne Johnson

**May Communion Ushers:** Roger Sundgren and Don Nelson

**June Communion Ushers:** Jamie Hageman, Gary Hargrave

**\*May Lay Readers:** 5/6 Janet Neilson; 5/13 Dennis Peterson 5/20 Milly Nelson; 5/27 Jenny or Cassie Miller

**\*June Lay Readers:** 6/3 Rita Nelson; 6/10 Jane Larson; 6/17 Jamie Hageman; 6/24 Mary Kay Henry

### Olsburg

**May Ushers:** Bill Monser, Nick Cooper, Kirby Burkland, Woody Kasselmann

**\*May Communion Assistants:** 5/6 Jim Nelson; 5/20 Jan Cooper

**June Ushers:** Shane Adams, Bryon Nelson, Blake Vargo, Dan Holt

**\*June Communion Assistants:** 6/3 Woody Kasselmann; 6/17 Laura Clifton

**\*May Acolytes:** 5/6 Kyle Clifton; 5/13 Callie Webster; 5/20 Codie Webster; 5/27 Kylea Ricketts, Brooklynn Zoeller, MaKenzie Goff

**\*June Acolytes:** 6/3 Jacob Nelson; 6/10 Monique Sandquist; 6/17 Nathanael Martin; 6/24 Symone Sandquist

**\*May Lay Readers:** 5/6 Kathy Ricketts; 5/13 Kristi Fronce; 5/20 Laura Clifton; 5/27 Lee Cantrell

**\*June Lay Readers:** 6/3 Patty Nelson; 6/10 Shane Adams; 6/17 Susan Adams; 6/24 Bill Monser

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

**June Altar Committee:** April Brenner, Shelly Burkland

**\*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.**

## Youth Happenings

### National Youth Gathering

The Olsburg Congregation has nine youth going to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering this summer. July 18-22 are the dates and we have much work to do before we go. Please see the publicity on page 7 for the upcoming **dinner and “work” auction** coming Saturday, May 5. Invite your friends from both sides of the “river,” and bid high for the student of your choice to spend some time doing chores in your yard, home, farm, ranch, etc... The actual cost of the trip this year is about \$900 per student. Each participant is paying part of their way and we still have much to raise.

Our next Scheduled fund raiser will be the Randolph Car Show, June 30. We will once again be serving food at the car show and will be asking both congregations to participate in food donations. Watch for the lists as we get closer to the event. Thanks for your continued support.

**Speaking of gifts** – If anyone would like to make an outright donation to the youth group to help fund the National Youth Gathering your gift would be a blessing, and an investment in the future of the church. The Gathering bring youth and adult leaders together around a theme (Citizens with the Saints) that is integrated into all activities throughout the day, including Bible study, service, worship, focused study areas, experiential learning, leadership development, special events, dances and tours. A lot gets packed into each day, AND – lives are changed as participants grow in faith and discover God’s call in their lives.

### Confirmation

The date will be October 28 (Reformation day) when we celebrate with Casey Nelson, Callie Webster and Symone Sandquist during worship for their Affirmation of Baptism. Prior to October, we have class May 9 & 16, and someplace we will try to fit in a “final mission project” to Kansas City.

### Baccalaureates Planned

**Blue Valley High School** will hold their Baccalaureate Service on **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** @ 7:00 PM in the old gym. If you have a connection with any of these Seniors, come a be a part of this service, which lifts up God’s ever presence with them as they step into their future.

**Riley County High School** will hold their Baccalaureate Service on **Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** @ 7:30 PM in their gym. If you have a connection with any of these Seniors, come a be a part of this service, which lifts up God’s ever presence with them as they step into their future.

## Worship News

### Olsburg and Walsburg Special Congregational Meeting Date

**Olsburg – Special Congregational Meeting, June 3** – Immediately following worship

**Walsburg – Special Congregational Meeting, June 10** – Immediately following worship

### Reason for Special congregational meetings in each congregation?

Each congregational council has voted unanimously to hold a special congregational meeting to vote on a change of call for Gordon L. Sandquist to ordained status.

Gordy has been attending Luther Seminary through his entire tenure with us, and will be graduating with a Master of Divinity on May 20, 2012. He has been approved for ordination by the Central States Synod of the ELCA and seminary faculty and assigned to the Central States Synod.

Because he already has a call to both the Walsburg and Olsburg Congregations, this vote will not be to retain or reject his continued ministry and mission with the two congregations, but to affirm what the Seminary and Candidacy Committee has approved. He must have a call in this capacity from both congregations in order to be ordained.

What will change with a passing vote, will be his roster status (from Associate in Ministry to Ordained), and how he relates to the bishop of the Central States Synod. Currently, because he is an Associate in Ministry, he is only allowed to carry forth full pastoral responsibilities in the Walsburg – Olsburg Parish, under the bishop's authorization.

This is an important vote for the parish and Walsburg Congregation, and we hope you will mark your calendars to participate in the special congregational meeting. As per constitutional requirements, you must satisfy the basic standards of participation to have the privilege to vote. We look forward to seeing you, after worship as we step into our future mission and ministry.

Thanks

### Work Day at Olsburg

Come to worship in your work clothes May 20. There will be outside clean-up (the windows wells, gardens, walk edging, etc) and inside projects. Watch for the list in the next couple weeks for a better idea of how your specific skills might be needed. 2-3 hours with 15 people serving will make a huge difference. Mark your calendars.

### Graduation in St. Paul MN.

Gordy will be graduating with his Masters in Divinity on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. We know that you can't make the trip up there so, come and celebrate on **Friday, May 25 from 5-9pm at the parsonage**. Come when you can, we'll have pulled pork and the fixins, and maybe some libation. Hope you can come and celebrate this milestone that both congregations have been a part of. Thanks

### Walsburg Adult Ed – Sunday Morning

This group continues to meet most Sunday Mornings at 10 AM before worship. They boldly take a look at the lessons (mostly the Gospel lesson) for that Sunday morning. There is good discussion and some rabbit trails (YES, the Holy Spirit can speak and work through rabbit trail discussions) and they always have a pot of coffee on. All are welcome. No preparation needed.



## **Camp Tomah Shinga Quilt Auction**

When: June 30, 2012

Where: Camp Tomah Shinga  
Junction City, KS



9 a.m. Quilts on display  
10 a.m. Auction begins  
11:30 a.m. BBQ lunch served

Tours will be available throughout the day, and the swimming pool will be open all day. For more information about the Camp Tomah Shinga Quilt Auction or summer programs, call **1-785-238-3654** or go to [www.tomahshinga.com](http://www.tomahshinga.com).

### **Olsburg Community Memorial Day Service and Potluck Dinner**

The Olsburg community will hold a service of remembrance for those who have passed away in the past year and those who have served and lost their lives in the military on May 28 at 11:00 a.m. at Maridahl cemetery. There will be a potluck dinner and short program at the Olsburg American Legion following the service. There will be a free will offering plate at the potluck to help with upkeep of the cemetery.

### **Olsburg Gatherings and Celebrations**

Olsburg Lutheran Church will hold a reception for graduating seniors, Sunday, May 6 immediately following worship. Graduating from Blue Valley High School this year are Jacob Nelson and Bailee Howland. Graduating from Riley County High School is Blake Vargo. Please make plans to join us in Fellowship Hall for this special time.

Everyone is invited to attend a Wedding Shower for David Gibson and Catherine Harder on Sunday, May 6 at 2 pm. They are registered at Menard's, Bed, Bath, & Beyond and Target. We hope to see you there.

There will be a Baby Shower for Ashley Cooper and baby Brooklyn, Wednesday, May 9 at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. Ashley is registered at Target and Babies R Us. We hope you will be able to attend.

The youth have asked the congregation of the Olsburg Lutheran Church to provide salads and desserts for their fundraiser dinner. Please sign the sheet in the narthex for what you can provide.

### **Walsburg Celebrations**

On Sunday, April 29 Walsburg Lutheran Church honored graduating seniors – Cajsja Larson, Cassie Miller, Garrett Olson and Rachel Rheaume with a potluck dinner.

***OLSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COMMUNITY DINNER &  
WORK AUCTION  
FUNDRAISER***

MAY 5, 2012    OLSBURG AMERICAN  
LEGION

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM    AUCTION 7:00PM  
ENTERTAINMENT (TBA)

Come join us for a sit-down dinner. After dinner, we will be auctioning off a few young men and women from the community. They are raising money to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 18 – 23, 2012. They need your help to raise money to attend. This is a great opportunity for the youth in our community and for you to get that “extra” spring help you might need.

**FREE WILL DONATION**

# Life *together*

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**Pentecost – May 27, 2012**

**WEAR RED TO WORSHIP!!!!**

*Pentecost is a day to be marked by fire, the color red, festivity and surprised, and a warm welcome extended to all.*

