

Life Together

May 2022

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

Reflections by Pastor Keith

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*Next newsletter items and articles
will be due May 27*

*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.*

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What is going to happen now? Sooner or later it is a question we all ask. We want to know what the future holds.

It is May and May means the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. It is the time of year lots of people ask, "what's going to happen now?" Graduates, especially, want to know what the future holds for them.

Mother's Day is in May. A mother gives birth to a child and asks, "what's going to happen now?" The child's first day at school prompts the mother to ask again, "what's going to happen now?" The child grows up and leaves home and the mother asks, "what's going to happen now?"

Even the church finds itself asking, "what's going to happen now?" Jesus rose from the dead, spent forty days with his followers teaching them, sharing Holy Communion with them, praying with them. Then he ascended into heaven and it was one surprise after another and it had the church worrying about the future.

Now, if you think all the followers of Jesus were excited about the changes that were happening - you are mistaken. The first followers of Jesus were about as open to change as we

are. Sometimes we are excited about changes, but other times we want things to stay the way they are.

The changes kept happening in the early church and the anxiety level among the first Christians was rising and the leaders said, "we've got to do something about this." And so they did what churches always do, they had a meeting. The story of this meeting is told in Acts, chapter 15.

The meeting was not about what color of carpet they should buy. No, they were trying to figure out who should be part of the church. Reports kept coming in about non-Jewish people getting baptized. People were upset that Paul and the other missionaries were telling new converts they didn't have to follow Jewish customs. They said, "sure, non-Jewish people can be saved, but they must adopt all the Jewish laws and customs." It was a serious issue.

Well, the leaders finally agreed that the church is for all people and the non-Jewish people didn't have to adopt Jewish laws and customs. Two huge changes! Gentiles could be part of the church and the new people didn't have to follow the old customs and rituals. The people asked, "How is this going

to work? What's going to happen now?"

What happened? More changes. Paul had a vision in which the Lord told him to go to Macedonia. So Paul and his companions went to Macedonia, to the city of Philippi, which was a Roman colony. The first thing that happened was that Paul talked to a group of women and one of them, Lydia, opened her heart to the message of God's grace, and she and her household were all baptized. The Gospel was now penetrating the Roman Empire! God was determined to reach all people everywhere! Even if that meant more changes!

We learn something from the early church. We see that God was always out in front of the church, leading the way! The church was not always eager to go there, and often resisted the changes, but God patiently led them and helped them adapt and change.

How did God help them? By keeping them focused on what was most important. As Peter stated, "we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus." The grace of God in Jesus Christ was most important. It still is today. This never changes!

All kinds of things can change, and do change - with school, with work, in the community, in our homes, in the church, in the world. What doesn't change is the radical love God has for you and for people everywhere! It was this love which led Jesus to the cross. It was this love which erupted from the grave on Easter morning. It was this love which was poured out on the followers of Jesus on Pentecost. This love is for you! It is firm and unwavering and won't ever change. This is the main thing and when you keep the main thing the main thing, you can handle all kinds of changes, because you know that God loves you and is committed to you!

The early church was grasped by the love of God and it was this love which
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empowered them to face all kinds of changes. That's the kind of God we have! The God we encounter in the Bible, the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ, is a God of grace, a life-giving God who loves you and everyone with the most radical love you have ever known. And even when you find yourself asking, "what's going to happen now?" you have a God who hangs in there with you, a God who never, ever gives up on you!

Keep the faith. Love God. Love others.
Be the people of God!

The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Keith

A Personal Word

Oh yes, another change that is happening soon is that the churches of Olsburg and Walsburg will be getting a new pastor! Since this is my last newsletter, let me take this opportunity to express a word of thanks to all of you. Carol and I have been delighted to spend the past seven and a half years with you. It has been a tremendous joy for both of us and it has been a great honor and privilege for me to serve as your interim pastor.

Together we have served the Lord. Together we have served people in our communities and throughout the world. Looking back, we can see that God has been at work among us. Looking forward, we know that God will continue to be at work in and through these two congregations. God has promised to do so and God has a way of keeping the promises God has made to us. Good things will happen as you and Pastor Kaylie follow Jesus and share the grace of God with one another and with the people in our communities.

We will keep you in our prayers and will be excited to watch as these two strong congregations become even stronger. May God be with you and bless you!

Pastor Keith and Carol

May birthdays and anniversaries

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

May Birthdays

- 2 Cindy Olson (W)
- 3 Zachary Holt (O)
Nathan Wiens (W)
- 5 Kinsey Hargrave (W)
Trevor Hargrave (W)
- 8 Bryon Nelson (O)
Crystal Strauss (W)
- 10 Dan Holt (O)
Rich Vargo (O)
- 11 Tyler Lane Hargrave (W)
- 12 Cassie Miller (W)
- 13 Kim Nelson (W)
- 14 Jackson Hoehner (W)
- 15 Donise Peterson (W)
Rhett Nelson (W)
- 17 John Lowry (O)
- 20 Kermit Sundgren (W)
Dusty Holt (O)
- 21 Alice Marie Gibson (O)
Sandy Zoeller (O)
- 25 Mason Scofield (W)
- 26 Shari Holt (O)
Kathy Monser (O)
- 27 Lynn Burklund (O)
- 28 Wes Holt (O)

- 28 Woody Kasselmann (O)
- 30 James Nelson (W)
- 31 Jordy Nelson (W)
Calley Berry (W)

May Anniversaries:

- 3 Doug and LaRae Kraemer (W)
- 7 Bill and Kathy Monser (O)
- 10 Jim and Diana Nelson (O)
- 14 Russell and Lynne Berry (W)
AJ and Calley Berry (W)
- 15 Donald and Rita Nelson (W)
- 15 Rob and Alicia Scofield (W)
- 16 Alan and Sharon Hubbard (O)
- 26 Jason and Jamie Hageman (W)
- 29 Shane and Loree Allen (W)
- 31 Rich and Jan Cooper (O)

Joys and Sorrows

+ We rejoice with Cassie and Chris Goodman on the birth of their daughter, Zoey Noelle. Zoey is the great granddaughter of Linda Toomire.

+ We rejoice with Knox Campbell who was baptized into the Christian faith on April 17, 2022, at Walsburg. Knox's parents are Amanda and Justin Campbell.

A Reminder

If you are not able to make it to our worship gatherings on Sunday morning, you may mail your offering to your respective congregation.

Olsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Alice Gibson, 113 S. 1st St,
Olsburg, KS 66520

Walsburg people may send their offerings to the financial secretary at:

Lynne Berry, 14180 Crooked
Creek Rd., Leonardville, KS
66449.

Our work goes on in many ways. Your financial support is needed and valued.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

Walsburg Ushers and Greeters: Bill & Roseanne Johnson; Andy & Valerie Hoehner

***Walsburg Communion Ushers:** Linda Toomire & Ruth Stone

***Walsburg Lay Readers:** 5/1 Becky Nelson; 5/8 Mason Scofield; 5/15 Linda Toomire; 5/22 Lori Rogge; 5/29 Mary Kay Henry

***Walsburg Acolytes:** 5/1 Mason Scofield; 5/8 Teske Nelson; 5/15 Ryker Befort; 5/22 Brody Willimon; 5/29 William Sullivan

Altar Committee: Carol Wiens

Olsburg

***Olsburg Ushers:** Kirby Burklund; Bill Monser; Byron Nelson; Woody Kasselmann

Olsburg Communion Assistants: 5/1: David Gibson; 5/15 Sandy Zoeller; 5/29 Kirby Burklund

***Olsburg Acolytes:** 5/1: Witten Ricketts; 5/8 Creed Kasselmann; 5/15 Addyson Gutsch; 5/22 Jordyn Gutsch; 5/29 Brooklyn Rice

***Olsburg Lay Readers:** 5/1 Jacob Nelson; 5/8 Becky Avery; 5/15 Patty Nelson; 5/22 Coleen Esping; 5/29 Ashley Rice

May Altar Committee: Kathy Monser, Becky Avery

***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.**

High School Graduations

Baccalaureate is scheduled at Blue Valley High School today, May 1st @7 pm.

Blue Valley High School Graduation will be held May 14th at 1:00 p.m in the old Gym.

Riley County High School-Baccalaureate will be held Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at the high school from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Riley County High School Graduation is set for 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Riley County High School North Gym.

Walsburg News

A **special congregational meeting** will be held at Walsburg Lutheran Church following worship service on **Sunday, May 22** to consider a proposal by council for security cameras. Please plan to attend.

The 150 Anniversary Committee will be compiling a new cookbook this summer. Please sign the list in the narthex if you are willing to help compile and review recipes for the book which we hope to have completed by the end of the summer and to the publisher in time for release this Christmas.

Highway 24 Garage Sales are coming to Leonardville on June 3-5, 2022! The Walsburg Sunday School will be joining this activity at Sikes Venue in Leonardville to raise funds for curriculum materials for the Fall of 2022. Anita Hinkle is in charge of the garage sale and may be contacted at any time by phone call or text at 785.822.6057.

So, start your Spring cleaning and unload your unwanted treasures and merchandise for this sale. We will take almost anything except televisions or car seats . . . Donate your collectibles, antiques, books, seasonal decor, gardening items, tools, wall decor, kitchen items, toys, clothing/shoes, bedding, furniture, etc. Anita is willing to store your items starting on May 15; just

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give her a call! Items not sold at the garage sale will be donated to a local charitable organization. Your support is greatly appreciated! Thank you.

2022 -- Walsburg VBS - Mark Your Calendars

Walsburg's VBS is scheduled for June 20 - 24, 2022. Registration begins on May 2, 2022. Please contact Alicia Scofield if you would like to volunteer to help. Invite children of your family, friends, and neighbors to attend the week of fun in celebrating God's greatness.

Sunday School Families,
We will hold our last Sunday School before summer break on Sunday, May 8th. Any parents that are able to help support Sunday School for the last few weeks would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you all!
Alicia

Olsburg News

Olsburg Lutheran Church is in need of two voting delegates from our church to go to Synod Assembly **June 9-11** in Olathe. Please let Karl Kasselmann know ASAP if you can attend. Information about the assembly can be found online at: <https://www.css-elca.org/assembly>

Olsburg Lutheran Church is collecting money for Ukraine Relief Donations. A special offering can is set up in the Narthex. This money will go to the Oksana Henriksen Family in Ukraine. Oksana will donate some to her family, the orphanage where Oksana and her siblings grew up, and a couple of Churches her family and friends are pastors for. Oksana has attended our church many times with Jacob Nelson. Thank you!

Olsburg VBS 2022—Mark Your Calendars

VBS is for children Pre-K through 6th grade will be held at the Olsburg Lutheran Church June 13th-17th from 9am to 11am. All are welcome, but those who sign up after April 29th will not be able to get a t-shirt. We look forward to your children joining us.

The WELCA group is offering \$100 to any youth from our church that would like to attend ELCA church camp this summer. For more information please contact Kathy or Luellen.

We will be honoring our High School Seniors, Emma Kasselmann and Jace Ricketts, May 8th during church and then we will have drinks and deserts following.

Volunteer Opportunity

Again this year Olsburg Lutheran Church is asking for volunteers to mow the church lawn and the lot to the east. A sign up sheet is posted in the narthex. We hope you take this opportunity to sign up. Thank You!

Joint Parish Happenings

Pastor Kaylie will be Ordained on May 7th at 2pm in Wichita at the Reformation Lutheran Church and anyone is welcome to attend.

May 15th will be Pastor Keith's last Sunday to lead worship. We will have church at 10:30 at the Randolph City Park or VFW Hall depending on the weather. Potluck at 12pm. We have both reserved from 10 am to 2 pm.

Pastor Kaylie will start June 1st. She will lead the service on June 5th. She will be installed on June 12th at 1pm at the Walsburg Church. Only one service that day for both churches. Refreshments afterwards.