

# Life Together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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*Next newsletter items and articles will be due June 26*

*Life Together is published monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish.*

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## Reflections by Pastor Kaylie

Grace and peace to you all,  
Beloved friends in Christ!

As we welcome summer break and the thrills of summer, may we take a moment to give God thanks for all of creation. Here, the psalmist’s praise for creation in Psalm 29-

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

<sup>11</sup>May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

As we begin to welcome the warm summer days, may we hear the joys of the psalmist who finds God’s glory throughout creation. Trust that God will give you strength and bless you with peace in this season and all the seasons to come!

Let us pray: Creator God, we give thanks for your creation and for making us part of your divine goodness. Hear our gratitude for warmer days and increased sunlight. Help us find your beauty all around us and enjoy all you have created. May our hearts draw closer to you this summer. Keep our spirits burning for your Word. Keep those who travel this summer safe, and bless us all with your everlasting peace. Amen!

Happy summer!  
Pastor Kaylie



## ***Grace is a gift***

May 17, 2024

As I write this it is early May. The leaves on the trees are still that new green that comes with spring. The lilacs are blooming with their intoxicating scent. The birds greet the dawn

in the morning after a cold silent winter. The days are longer and there is sunlight. Baseball season is in full swing (pun intended). Garden stores are full of flowers and people. It's finally safe to put in the garden. Spring.

But before spring there is winter. I don't mean the picturesque dusting of snow on Christmas Eve. I mean the grimy snow you see on the streets for months that won't melt and go away. I mean subzero temperatures and wind chills that rival the surface of Mars. Long nights. Short days. Wearing so many layers that we look like the Michelin Man. Snow accumulations that make driving impossible. Cabin fever. I grew up in Cleveland and live in Chicago, both cities on the Great Lakes where there is cloud cover for weeks and doctors prescribe vitamin D supplements because we haven't seen the sun.

In a perverse way I treasured these winters because when spring finally arrived, I felt like I earned it. Like I deserved it. In some ways I'd feel a little guilty and uneasy when spring followed a mild winter. Why should there be sunlight and flowers when I hadn't had to endure? Where was the justice in that? It was almost like cheating.

But spring does follow no matter what the winter was like. There is no earning it or deserving it. Spring comes every year no matter what. And it comes to the "deserving" and the "undeserving" alike. There is nothing we can

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do to make it happen and there is nothing we can do to prevent it from happening.

God's grace is like that. It's not contingent on our effort. It's not a transaction—we do something, God responds. God doesn't sort between "deserving" and "undeserving." [Grace](#) doesn't come for some and not for others. Grace is God's expression of love for all people. Grace is a gift, and God is the giver.

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Spring comes every year no matter what. And it comes to the "deserving" and the "undeserving" alike.

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But this isn't the lesson the world teaches. Nothing is free. No love can be so complete that it doesn't demand something of us first. No love can be so sustained and sustaining that it doesn't require our constant effort and vigilance. In this world there is the constant demand to perform, to measure up, to achieve, to get ahead. Think about it—our watches and rings have become fitness tracking devices. Even the success or failure of our sleep is tracked. There is no respite. Enough!

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" ([Matthew 11:28-29](#)). Too good to be true? I believe this is the only *good* that is *true*. It is God's love most clear on the cross. Love that is sealed as eternal in the empty tomb.

The [Song of Solomon](#) is a poem between two lovers, but it's also a love song from God to God's beloved. "My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away, for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land'" ([2:10-12](#)).

It's spring.

# June birthdays and anniversaries

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

## June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselmann (O)  
Finley Balaun (O)
- 2 Barbara Burklund (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 Owen Dick (W)
- 14 Laurine Catt (O)  
Tucker Gibbs (O)
- 15 Coleen Esping (O)
- 15 Trenton Meader (W)
- 18 William Johnson (W)  
Macy Berry (W)
- 19 Erin Gutsch (O)  
Ruthie Stone (W)
- 20 Brooklynn Zoeller (O)  
Lorraine Oman (W)
- 21 Destinee Cantrell (O)  
Dena Haller (W)  
Shelby Calloway (O)  
Tammie Berry (W)
- 22 Nick Cooper (O)  
Adam Larson (W)
- 23 Josie Willimon (W)
- 24 Tyson Strauss (W)

- Braden Hoehner (W)  
27 Adelaide Hagenmaier (W)  
28 Linda Toomire (W)  
Robert Poulter (O)  
30 Jay Werner (O)

## June Anniversaries:

- 1 Woody and Luellen Kasselmann (O)  
Tom and Donica Nelson (O)
- 7 Daniel and Julie Higgins (O)
- 10 Kirby and Shelly Burklund (O)  
Roger and Ruthie Stone (W)  
Gary and Diana Hargrave (W)
- 11 William & Roseanne Johnson (W)
- 23 Jeremy and Anita Hinkle (W)

## Members in service

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

### Walsburg

**\*Ushers and Greeters:** Vern Bulk; Amber Befort; Bill & Jan Neilson

**\*Communion Ushers:** Rita Nelson; Lynne Berry

**\*Lay Readers:** 6/2 Gracie Scofield; 6/9 Amber Befort; 6/16 Jan Neilson; 6/23 Lynn Hargrave; 6/30 Don Nelson

**\*Acolytes:** 6/2 Brody Willimon; 6/9 Ryker Befort; 6/16 William Sullivan; 6/23 Macy Berry; 6/30 Trinity Meader

**Altar Committee:** Calley Berry

### Olsburg

**Usher and Receive offering:** Nick Cooper; Gregg Gibson; Skyler Zoeller

**Communion Assistants:** 6/2 Jacob Nelson; 6/16 Tom Nelson; 6/30 Kirby Burklund

**\*Acolytes:** 6/2 Brooklyn Rice; 6/9 Jeremiah Brenner; 6/16 Ida Kasselmann; 6/23 Kaden Gutsch; 6/30 Colt Kasselmann

**\*Lay Readers:** 6/2 Tom Nelson; 6/9 Ashley Rice; 6/16 Becky Avery; 6/23 Nick Cooper; 6/30 Joyce Cantrell

**June Altar Committee:** Kristi Fronce, Deb Lowry

**\*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 News**

LCW is offering a \$100 scholarship to any of our youth going to Camp Tomashinga this summer. Contact Luellen Kasselmann or Kathy Monser for more information.

Olsburg Lutheran Church has a Venmo account. If you would like to make your donations electronically, scan the QR code below.

Olsburg Lutheran  
Church  
@OlsburgLutheran



**venmo**

## **Help Laurine Catt celebrate her Birthday!**



Laurine Catt will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday, June 14. All relatives and friends, including her beloved former students, are invited to mark the milestone by sending cards to Laurine at the Leonardville Nursing Home, P.O. Box 148, Leonardville, KS 66449-0148.

*Life together*

Laurine was born June 14, 1934, the daughter of Ernest and Edith Johnson, on the family farm east of Cleburne. She was a 1952 graduate of Cleburne High School and a 1972 graduate of Kansas State University.

Laurine was baptized, confirmed, and married in the Olsburg Lutheran Church. Laurine married Jack Catt on her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1953 and they celebrated 50 years together before his death in 2003. She was an elementary school teacher in Olsburg for 18 years, retiring in 1994. Laurine is proud to call Olsburg and the Blue Valley area her home nearly all of her life.

Join Olsburg Lutheran Church for a chicken BBQ on the church lawn, Saturday, June 22. This event is a fundraising event to help our Westmoreland friends who suffered damages in the tornado. We will serve the famous "Avery" BBQ chicken, drinks, all the sides and dessert! A freewill offering will be accepted. Please invite friends and family and community members to come enjoy good food, and fellowship on June 22. Serving will be from 5-7 p.m.