

Life together

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due June 24.

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Reflections by Pastor Keith

Several years ago we sanded our deck. Without thinking, I left a potted plant on the deck, and as a result sawdust settled on the leaves and before long, the leaves were wilting and falling off the plant. When we realized what we had done, we moved the plant, cleaned off the remaining leaves and watered the plant. The plant began to thrive.

Plants are tough. They keep on growing. That's what they do. It is their nature to grow.

And that is the way God has designed us as well. God made us to grow. Physically. Mentally. Emotionally. Socially. Vocationally. Spiritually. While growth in each of these ways is important and necessary, let's talk about spiritual growth.

So why is it, when it comes to spiritual growth, we grow a little and then think, "Oh, that should do it? I don't need to grow anymore." Plants don't do that. What would you do with a tomato plant which stopped growing as soon as it was 10 or 12 inches tall? We expect a tomato plant to keep on growing so that it will produce dozens and dozens of big, red, juicy tomatoes.

Now, we may not deliberately plan to stop growing, but that is what often happens. We go a few years

to Sunday School, maybe go through confirmation class, and then we stop. And we try to make it through life with the faith of a ten year old or a twelve year old. It doesn't work very well. God designed us to keep on growing as long as we live on this earth.

Jesus often talked about growing. Jesus told a parable about a mustard seed and how the small mustard seed grows into a large shrub and becomes a tree. (Matthew 13:31-32) Jesus said, that's the way it is in our life with God. Our faith, our love, our hope, our service, the fruits of the Spirit in our lives - God's plan is that we keep growing and growing.

In Colossians, Paul said, "*I want you to have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself.*" How do get you this understanding and knowledge? Through the Word of God.

In the letter to Thessalonians, we read, "*May the Lord so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God.*" How are your hearts strengthened? Through the Word of God.

Throughout the New Testament, there is the expectation that God's people just keep on growing.

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The letter to the Ephesians says, “*We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine . . . But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*” (Ephesians 4:14-15)

Did you notice it doesn’t say, “it would be nice if we grew a little,” or “we should grow?” No, the language is very strong: “We **MUST** grow.” How do we do that? Through the Word of God.

Plants grow when they receive water and fertilizer and sunshine. We grow spiritually when we receive the Word of God. Of course we receive the Word of God when we gather for worship, but one hour a week is hardly enough. It is barely a starvation diet. We need more. An old prayer of the church asks God to help us hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Holy Scriptures. That’s what we need. We need to hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Word of God.

When it comes to the Bible, though, many feel inadequate, intimidated, scared. Yet, what would we say to a little boy who doesn’t want to go to first grade because he can’t read? Or what would we say to a girl who doesn’t want to go to her algebra class because she doesn’t know any algebra? We would say, the whole purpose is learning what you don’t know. The purpose is to gain knowledge and understanding and confidence and the ability to put the knowledge and understanding into practice. It’s called growth - and that’s what God wants for you!

We have a great God, a God who loves you very much, a God who has made you into the very special person you are, a God who has rescued you from sin and death, a God who wants to be part of your life and help you live a great life. God has designed you to grow and to keep on growing. You never reach the limit. There is always more to discover, always more to understand, always more to master. You never arrive, you are always becoming - always becoming the new person God is seeking to form and shape in you.

Let’s keep growing so that we can become all that God has made us to be!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith

Kids Write to God

During the month of June both congregations are hosting Vacation Bible Schools. This is a great time for our children’s ministry. Let’s check in and see what kids are saying to God.

* Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother, but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce

* Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. Nan

* Dear God, Did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident? Norma

* Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me and my brother. Larry

* Dear God, Please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year. Peter

Stay Connected

If you use email, we would greatly like to add you to our church’s email list. In this way you would receive the weekly bulletin, “Pastor Keith’s Reflections,” the monthly newsletter, and other congregational announcements.

If you are not currently on this list and would like to be added, give your email address to our parish coordinator, Shelly Burkhardt. Her email address is sburkhardt@ksu.edu.

June birthdays and anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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

June Birthdays

- 1 Emma Kasselman (O)
Finley Balaun (O)
- 2 Barbara Burkland (O)
Jordan Hagenmaier (W)
- 4 Nicki Beadle (O)
- 6 Marvin Johnson (O)
- 7 Gary Hargrave (W)
- 8 Kiffnie Holt (O)
- 9 David Gibson (O)
- 12 Owen Dick (W)
- 14 Laurine Catt (O)
Tucker Gibbs (O)
- 15 Coleen Esping (O)
- 17 Deanna Barnes (O)
- 18 William Johnson (W)
Macy Berry (W)
- 19 Erin Gutsch (O)
Ruthie Stone (W)
- 20 Brooklynn Zoeller (O)
- 20 Lorraine Oman (W)
- 21 Destinee Cantrell (O)
Dena Haller (W)
Shelby Calloway (O)
- 22 Nick Cooper (O)
Adam Larson (W)
- 23 Josie Willimon (W)
- 24 Tyson Strauss (W)
- 24 Braden Hoehner (W)
- 27 Adelaide Hagenmaier (W)

- 28 Linda Toomire (W)
Jacob Hagenmaier (W)
Robert Poulter (O)
- 30 Jay Werner (O)

June Anniversaries:

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

Joys and sorrows

- † We rejoice with Trenton and Lynn Hargrave of Walsburg on the birth of their daughter, Kinsey, and their son, Trevor, on May 5, 2021. Grandparents of the twins include Gary and Diana Hargrave of Walsburg and great-grandmother, Laurine Catt, of Olsburg.
- † We rejoice with Jack Everett Breiner who was baptized at Walsburg on May 23. Jack's parents are Ryan and Sharon Breiner.

He has an older sister, Quinn, and an older brother, Will.

- † Several couples celebrated special anniversaries during the month of May. Bill and Kathy Monser celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Don and Rita Nelson also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Both Jim and Diana Nelson and Alan and Sharon Hubbard celebrated their 35th wedding anniversaries. We pray continued blessings on these couples.
- † We sorrow with the family and friends of Dorothy Carmichael who joined the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven on May 10, 2021. Dorothy served as one of our church organists while her husband, Ken, served as pastor of Olsburg and Walsburg churches when the two churches formed the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran parish.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

- ***Ushers and Greeters:** Aneta Hagenmaier; Amber Befort; Bill, Janet, & Cindy Neilson
- ***Communion Ushers:** Rita Nelson; Denise Peterson
- ***Lay Readers:** 6/6 Denise Peterson; 6/13 Janet Neilson; 6/20 Jane Larson; 6/27 Don Nelson
- ***Acolytes:** 6/6 Mason Scofield; 6/13 Teske Nelson; 6/20 Gracie Scofield; 6/27 Brody Willmon
- Altar Committee:** Calley Berry

Olsburg

- ***Lay Readers:** 6/6 Karl Kasselman; 6/13 Kathy Ricketts; 6/120 Joyce Cantrell; 6/27 Bill Monser
- ***Acolytes:** 6/6 Brooklynn Rice; 6/13 Tori Brenner; 6/20 Creed Kasselman; 6/27 Witten Ricketts
- ***Ushers:** Kent Nelson; Lee Cantrell; Floyd Munson; Curtis Gutsch
- Assist Pastor during Communion:** 6/6 Kristi Fronce; 6/20 Kirby Burkland

- June Altar Committee:** Becky Avery, Donica Nelson

*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.

ELCA church camp this summer. For more information, please contact Kathy or Luellen.

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.

2021 Walsburg VBS - Rocky Railway

With 50 children registered and 16 volunteers, we are ready to kick off 2021 VBS - Rocky Railway - the week of June 21. The hours are from 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. with children actively involved in singing, hearing Bible stories, participating in outdoor activities, and joining Christian friends in learning how to trust Jesus. At Rocky Railway, kids will explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop.

It's our prayer that Rocky Railway VBS will allow everyone involved to discover why and how we can truly trust Jesus' power to do big things in our lives.

Thanks to all for your prayers and your support in many ways as we share the love of Jesus with children and each other.

You're Invited

It was on June 11, 1961 that Bill and Roseanne Johnson were married here at Walsburg Lutheran Church. We are extending a special invitation to everyone to celebrate with us on our "60th Wedding Anniversary". An open house will be held on Sunday, June 13, 2021, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Frontage 109, West Barton Rd., Leonardville, KS. No gifts, please.

Olsburg LCW offering money to Olsburg members to attend Camp Tomah Shinga

The WELCA group is offering \$100 to any youth from our church that would like to attend

For questions or concerns regarding cost, email tomahshinga@gmail.com.

*register according to grade completed	Explorers 1st - 3rd	Pathfinders 4th - 6th	Trailblazers 7th - 8th	Pioneers 9th - 12th	Explorers 1st - 3rd	Pathfinders 4th - 6th	Trailblazers 7th - 8th	Pioneers 9th - 12th
June 6-8 Week 1 Session 1		4th - 6th \$265		9th - 12th \$265	June 9-11 Week 1 Session 2	1st - 3rd \$265	7th - 8th \$265	
June 13-15 Week 2 Session 1	1st - 3rd \$265		7th - 8th \$265		June 16-18 Week 2 Session 2	4th - 6th \$265		
June 20-22 Week 3 Session 1	1st - 3rd \$265	4th - 6th \$265			June 23-25 Week 3 Session 2	4th - 6th \$265	7th - 8th \$265	
June 27-29 Week 4 Session 1		4th - 6th \$265	7th - 8th \$265		June 30-July 2 Week 4 Session 2	1st - 3rd \$265	Family Camp (\$300 per fam)	
July 4-6					July 7-9 Week 5 Session 2	4th - 6th \$265	Family Camp (\$300 per fam)	7th - 8th \$265
July 11-13 Week 6 Session 1				7th - 8th \$265	July 14-16 Week 6 Session 2	4th - 6th \$265		9th - 12th \$265

Weeks highlighted in red indicate that the week is full.