

Life together

April 2022

Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due April 24

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.

Reflections by Pastor Keith...

On Friday Jesus died. He died pretty much alone. The crowds which had watched him and listened to him and followed him were no longer there. Even most of his closest followers had fled the scene. But something happened early Sunday morning. Something remarkable.

It was still dark when Mary Magdalene fumbled around for her sandals and wrapped a tunic over her shoulders and headed for the tomb. The sun had not yet broken the darkness when Mary reached the tomb, the place where Jesus had been buried. When she got there she gasped, for she saw that the tomb was not as she had left it. Something was wrong, terribly wrong. The stone which had sealed the tomb had been moved. The grave was open! Frightened, confused, bewildered, she turned and ran as fast as she could. She went straight to the house where Simon Peter was staying. She banged on the door, loudly, frantically, her heart pounding within. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!"

Peter found John and woke him up. They raced to the tomb. It was still dark when they got there. The younger disciple reached the tomb first. He stopped, looked in. It was just as Mary had said. The body was not there, only the linen wrappings. Peter, panting and

holding his side, stopped, looked at John, then entered the tomb. He stared at the linen wrappings and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, now rolled up neatly right where the head of Jesus had lain. What had happened? Where was the body? Who would do such a thing? Simon's muscles tightened as he stared at the empty grave clothes.

The other disciple followed him into the tomb. He looked around. We are told he believed. But what did he believe? For in the very next sentence we are told that these early visitors to the tomb did not understand the scripture, that Jesus must rise from the dead. They looked. They saw. But they did not understand. Shocked and confused, they left the grave and returned home.

What a strange Easter story. Mary is perplexed by the missing body. Peter does not know what to make of an empty tomb. The other disciple believes. But none of them understand.

It is not unlike what many experience in 2022. They know it is Easter, a holiday. Perhaps they know the story of Jesus. They react, though, with doubt and disbelief. Many today are perplexed by the Easter story and don't know what to make of it.

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But something happened. Something remarkable. A community was born. A world wide community. Today there are billions of men and women and boys and girls who follow Jesus. Billions who confess faith in him. Billions who live and die for him. In every continent. Young and old. Of all races. And it started that first Easter morning.

Later that morning Mary returned to the tomb, shedding tears and filled with grief. She wept as she stared at the stone which had been shoved aside. She wept as she stared at the linen wrappings which had covered the body of Jesus. She wept as she stared at the place where Jesus had lain. She wept. Her whole body shook as tears gushed from her eyes. She wept tears of grief. But they were also tears of confusion, tears of consternation, tears of trepidation.

Two angels appeared. "Woman, why are you weeping?" "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him," replied Mary.

She turned around and saw the gardener, or at least she thought it was the gardener. "Woman, why are you weeping?" "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him?"

Then it happened. "Mary." The darkness was broken. "Mary." No longer was she left alone to grieve. "Mary." A voice was calling. "Mary." It was Jesus, the Risen Lord. "Mary." The Risen Lord was calling her to faith. "Mary." The Risen Lord was calling her into a community of believers. "Mary." This is the miracle of Easter!

Perhaps you are not sure what to make of it all. Perhaps you are wondering what Easter means for you. Perhaps the future looks uncertain. Perhaps you are grieving the death of a loved one. Perhaps you are worried about your health. Perhaps you are having trouble at work. Perhaps your stress level is getting out of hand. Perhaps you are worried about your family or about your church. Perhaps you are distraught about what is happening in society. Perhaps you are just drifting through life. Or perhaps life is treating you well and you are feeling great. So what about Easter? Just what does this empty tomb have to do with you and your life in 2022?

Just as Mary was called to faith when Jesus called her by name, so it is with us as well. The community of believers is called to life by the word

of Jesus. It happened with Mary. It has happened with me. It happens with you. This is the Word we hear in Baptism. This is the Word we hear when our name is spoken and the water splashes over us. This is the Word which has been spoken to you. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine," says the Lord, the Risen Christ. Take this Word to heart and let it change your life.

Listen! Your name is being called. The Risen Lord is calling you. Jesus who died on the cross and buried in the tomb has stepped out of that tomb and is calling you, calling you by name, calling you into the community of believers, calling to give you new life, calling to give you life with God!

Do not fear! This is the work of God! You move into an uncertain future not alone, but with the Risen Jesus!

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

The peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Keith

Holy Week and Easter

Follow Jesus as he enters Jerusalem and takes on our brokenness and prepares to die for you. What a Lord! What grace! This service prepares us for the week ahead, a week that is truly Holy!

Maundy Thursday - April 14

On this night Jesus gave his followers the command to love one another and prepared a special meal called Holy Communion. We gather at 7:00 pm at Olsburg to remember the events of that night and to break bread with our Lord and with one another.

Good Friday - April 15

On this Friday we call Good we gather at 7:00 pm at Walsburg to tell the story which is at the heart and center of our faith. Because of Good Friday, there is healing for our brokenness. Do not hurry by the cross on your way to Easter joy, for we know the Risen Lord only through the Crucified Christ.

April birthdays, anniversaries, joys and sorrows

Birthdays

- 6 Lee Hartford (W)
- 7 Roger Bohnenblust (W)
Travis Hageman (W)
Jarin Brenner (O)
- 8 Irene Johnson (O)
Roger Sundgren (W)
- 9 Aneta Hagenmaier (W)
Hunter Gibson (O)
Hayden Gibson (O)
- 11 Kelsey Nelson (W)
Christopher Hubbard (O)
Courtney Gibson (O)
- 13 Brian Johnson (O)
- 15 Ida Kasselman (O)
- 19 Russell Peterson (W)
- 20 Trenton Hargrave (W)
- 28 Kevin Burklund (O)

- Kirby Burklund (O)
- Jacob Nelson (O)
- Rob Scofield (W)
- 29 McAllister Deves (O)
- 30 Ann Ingham (W)

April Anniversaries

- 11 Kevin and Barbara Burklund (O)
- 18 Ray and Jennifer Miller (W)
- 21 Steve and Peggy Johnson (O)

Joys and sorrows

+ We rejoice with Ruby Lin Stevens who was baptized into the Christian faith on March 6, 2022, at Walsburg. Ruby's parents are Curtis and Heather Stevens and her grandmother is Sheri Storer.

+ We rejoice with Gracie Scofield who was confirmed in the Christian faith on March 13, 2022, at Walsburg. Gracie, a freshman at Riley County High School, is the daughter of Rob and Alicia Scofield.

+ We rejoice with Kaden Gutsch who was confirmed in the Christian faith on March 27, 2022, at Olsburg. Kaden, a freshman at Riley County High School, is the son of Curtis and Erin Gutsch.

+ We rejoice with Grady Kasselman who was confirmed in the Christian faith on March 27, 2022, at Olsburg. Grady, a freshman at Rock Creek High School, is the son of Kraig and Monica Kasselman.

Members in service

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

Walsburg

Walsburg Ushers and Greeters: Don & June Campbell; Vern Bulk; Ruthie Stone

***Walsburg Communion Ushers:** Don Campbell & Jeremy Hinkle

***Walsburg Lay Readers:** 4/3 Alicia Scofield; 4/10 Izabel Nelson; 4/17 Carol Wiens; 4/24 Amber Befort

***Walsburg Acolytes:** 4/3 William Sullivan; 4/10 Macy Berry; 4/17 Izabel Nelson; 4/24 Harper Befort

April Altar Committee: Janice Johnson & Janet Neilson

***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

Olsburg Ushers: Kraig Kasselman; Tom Nelson; Dan Holt; Blake Vargo

Olsburg Communion Assistants: 4/3 Karl Kasselman; 4/17 Kristi Fronce

***Olsburg Acolytes:** 4/3 Landry Zoeller; 4/10 Grady Kasselman, Jarin Brenner, Emma Kasselman; 4/17 Skyler Zoeller, Landry Zoeller, Jace Ricketts 4/24 Tori Brenner

***Olsburg Lay Readers:** 4/3 Gregg Gibson; 4/10 Tom Nelson; 4/14 David Gibson; 4/15 Jan Cooper; 4/17 Kristi Fronce; 4/24 Tori Brenner

April Altar Committee: Deb Lowry; Kristi Fronce

Editor/Parish Coordinator

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Festival of Easter - April 17

The Easter season begins with the news that Jesus has risen from the dead! Come, share the joy and exhilaration of Easter! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! We have hope! The Easter SonRise service begins at 6:30 am at Walsburg. The Festival Service of Worship at Olsburg begins at 9:00 am. The Festival Service of Worship at Walsburg begins at 11:00 am.

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, or if you know someone who would like to be on the list, give the email address to our parish coordinator, Shelly Burklund. Her email address is sburklun@ksu.edu.

Walsburg Sunday School News



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 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.

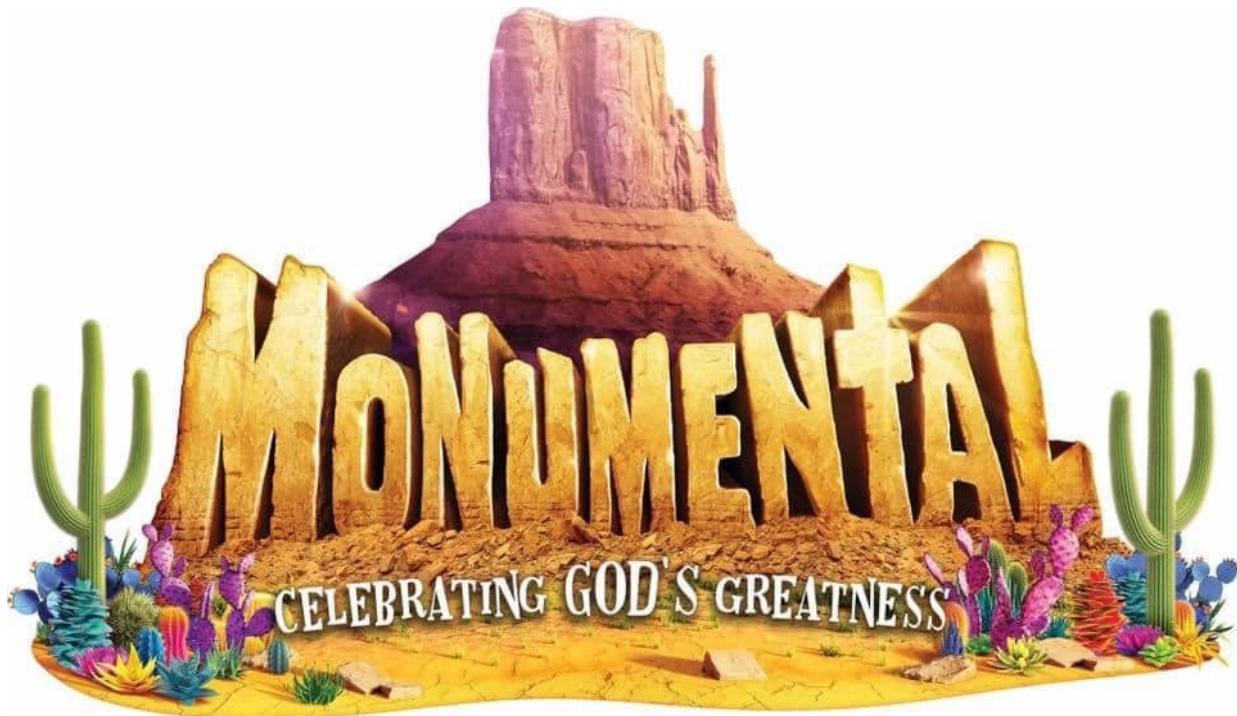
2022 -- Walsburg VBS - Mark Your Calendars

Walsburg's VBS is scheduled for June 20 - 24, 2022. Registration begins on May 2, 2022. Please contact Sheri Storer 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.



Olsburg Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School

VBS is for children Pre-K through 6th grade will be held at the Olsburg Lutheran Church June 13th-17th from 9am to 11am. Please contact Linda Kasselman if your child will be joining us along with the size of t-shirt for your child. T-shirts will be ordered on April 29th. 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.





Annual Auction

- Saturday, April 23, 2022
- 8:00 AM 8:00 PM

Salina County Club

Another year, another time to host a CTS Auction #ForTheKids!

The Annual Auction will be held VIRTUALLY this year so friends of camp near and far can be a part of this fundraiser. We will be hosting a smaller, semi-formal gathering at the Salina Country Club in Salina, KS and encourage you to gather together there or join us live on Facebook that evening. Doors open at 6:30p; the fun begins at 7:00p!

\$50 per couple. \$35 for individual. Price includes a meal, a drink ticket and live music.

RSVP: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/220656490766161>

LCW Plant Sale

April 30 8:00 - 11:30 am This year in addition to a nice selection of bedding plants from 5H Greenhouse we will have containers and soil available to Build Your Own Planter. This would be a great family project or an opportunity for kids to make a special Mother's Day gift!

Plant Sale

April 30

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
at Olsburg Lutheran Church

There will be a nice selection of bedding plants and hanging baskets



Build Your Own Planter

We will have containers and soil available
PLUS an expert gardener to assist you!

**Make it a family project or let the kids
create a special gift for Mother's Day!**



Thanks to Thrivent for supporting this project