

Life together

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Next newsletter items and articles will be due March 27.

Life Together is published monthly by the Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish. Deadline for calendar and other items is the last Monday of each month.

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Olsburg-Walsburg Lutheran Parish

Pastor Kaylie Notes

Grace and peace to you all,

Lent comes from an Old English word for “lengthen” and refers to the gradually lengthening days of late winter and early spring. Over the centuries, Lent has evolved into a 40-day period of deep reflection and repentance that leads us towards Easter Sunday.

The number 40 holds deep significance in our faith tradition. “In the ancient scriptural imagination, “40” was both a stylized way of saying, “for a long time,” and a way of resonating with other key “40’s” in Israel’s sacred memory: the flood’s 40 days and nights of rain, Moses’ 40 days and nights on Mount Sinai, Israel’s 40 years of wilderness wandering, and not least, Jesus’ 40 days of wilderness temptation.

The underlying idea here is that God, like a master poet, choreographer, or composer, works through signature forms in time and space — and in the Season of Lent, we’re invited to participate in one of those forms by stepping into our own 40-day pilgrimage of reflection, repentance, prayer, and preparation.”

As we begin our 40 day Lenten pilgrimage we are called into the wild. However, this season is not about getting *through* the

wilderness, but it is about embracing the call *into* the wild. The path into the wild is uncomfortable, it is vulnerable, and it requires us to put our whole trust and selves into God. We often avoid the uncomfortable in life. Because when we get into the desert, that dry and weary season of life, things seem pointless and lifeless. Oftentimes, when we get into the wild, deep into the desert, we are hopeless. Yet, for our faith ancestors, the desert was not always a place of hopelessness. In fact, God often used the wilderness and desert as a place of **encounter**.

The Hebrew language carries so much depth and poeticism. The Hebrew word for desert is MIDBAR, it is written out at M-D-B-R because there are no vowels in Hebrew. There is a lot of context for translating and reading Hebrew. M-D-B-R is also used to spell another word MEDABER (MEDABEAR), which is translated as “to speak.” Many of our wilderness bible stories go like this: someone (like Moses) is sent to the wild or the desert, and upon entering the wild, God comes to speak.

We enter the midbar, the desert, so God can medaber speak to us. As we are drawn to the wilderness this season, may we fix our heart and

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eyes on the wild as a place to encounter God. The desert is not always a place to avoid, a place of death, despair, and hopelessness. The desert is a place where God comes to speak to us. It is a place where we encounter God the most. The wild can be a holy place. Yes, there are times where the desert is dry and the wilderness is overwhelming. Those times where we feel inadequate, where we hold self-doubt, where we are struggling and things seem pointless. In the midst of the thickness of the wild, God is still there speaking to us. Just as God told Moses, I will be with you, God calls out to us I am with you.

Beloveds, no matter the direness of the desert, God is with us always to the end of the age. Hear the call of the wild, it is a place to journey into not through. Embrace the desert and let it be a place you encounter God. Into the wild we go, stop and listen for God's word. Change your hearts and transform your minds, fix your eyes upon God, trust in the everlasting love of God to be with you now and always.

Amen.



February 21– 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00 worship at Walsburg

February 28 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00 Worship service at Olsburg

March 6 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00

Worship service at Walsburg
March 13 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00
Worship service at Olsburg
March 20 - 6:00 Soup Supper & 7:00
Worship service at Walsburg



March 27, Maundy Thursday, worship at Olsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 7 pm

March 28, Good Friday, worship at Walsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 7 pm

March 31, Easter, Sunrise service at Walsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 6:45 am

March 31, Easter, Festival Worship at Olsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 9:00 am

March 31, Easter, Festival Worship at Walsburg Lutheran Church beginning at 11:00 am

March birthdays, anniversaries, joys and sorrows

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

March Birthdays

Birthdays

- 1 Katie Burklund (O)
Jared Henry (W)
Roberta Hartford (W)
- 2 Donna Nelson (W)
Brianna Kurkowski (W)
Jack Breiner (W)
- 4 Lelanie Hillocks (O)
Jennifer Kulp (W)
- 5 Justin Ricketts (O)
- 6 Garrett Nelson (O)
Jenny Plummer (O)
- 9 Taellor Howland (O)
Preston Miller (O)
- 10 Donald Campbell (W)
Rowdy Berry (W)
- 11 Tami Howland (O)
Christy Nelson (O)
- 12 Mike Hagenmaier (W)
- 13 Jennifer Clark (W)
- 14 Janet Neilson (W)
Gary Hageman (W)

- 16 Marla Webster (O)
- 17 Rachel Allen (W)
- 18 Cindy Neilson (W)
Andrew Kalmer (W)
- 20 Peggy Johnson (O)
- 21 Richard Gibbs Jr. (O)
Ashley Rice (O)
Carol Wiens (W)
- 22 Joshua Hinkle (W)
- 23 Jonathan Nelson (O)
Brooklyn Rice (O)
- 24 Jacob Hinkle (W)
Jeanie Racoma (W)
- 26 Gracie Scofield (W)
Brennan Bestwick (W)
- 27 Kent Burklund (O)
- 28 Kylie Gibbs (O)
- 29 Timothy Zoeller (O)
Amanda Esping (O)
Stacy Deetjen-Dawes (W)
- 31 Rich Cooper (O)

March Anniversaries

- 9 William and Janet Neilson (W)
- 22 Dan and Shari Holt (O)
- 23 Don and June Campbell (W)

Members in service

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

Walsburg

***Ushers & Greeters:** Lee & Roberta Hartford; Lynne Berry; Lori Rogge

Communion Ushers: Linda Toomire & Roger Sundgren

***Acolytes:** 3/3 Teske Nelson; 3/10 Brody Willimon; 3/17 Izabel Nelson; 3/24 Ryker Befort; 3/31 William Sullivan

***Lay Reader:** 3/3 Alicia Scofield; 3/10 Rita Nelson; 3/17 Teske Nelson; 3/24 Dennis Peterson; 3/31 Becky Nelson

Altar Committee: Diana Hargrave & Alicia Scofield

***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

Ushers: Karl Kasselman; Lee Cantrell; David Gibson

Communion Assistants: 3/3 Jim Nelson; 3/17 Tom Nelson; 3/24 Jacob Nelson (Palm Sunday); 3/31 Kirby Burklund (Easter)

***Acolytes:** 3/3 Creed Kasselman; 3/10 Grady Kasselman; 3/17 Addyson Gutsch; 3/24 Jarin Brenner, Ida Kasselman, Mason Rice (Palm Sunday); 3/31 Jordyn Gutsch, Brooklyn Rice, Jeremiah Brenner (Easter)

***Lay Reader:** 3/3 Ashley Rice; 3/10 Becky Avery; 3/17 Nick Cooper; 3/24 Joyce Cantrell (Palm Sunday); 3/28 Coleen Esping (Maundy Thursday); 3/31 Jan Cooper (Easter)

March Altar Committee: Kristi Fronce; Deb Lowry



Olsburg Spring Clean-up Date Set
 Olsburg Lutheran Church council members have set Saturday March 23 beginning at 9:00 a.m. as a Spring Cleaning Day. On Sunday, March 24, after worship, there will be equipment for outdoor clean-up. Inclement weather dates are April 6 at 9:00 a.m. and April 7 following worship. Please make plans to come help spruce up the grounds and building!

Olsburg LCW Cooleting items for Lutheran World Relief

Olsburg Lutheran Church Women Invite you to collect items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief during Lent. Items may be left in the box in the narthex. Thank you!

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:



*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by leaving an individual toothbrush in a business size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap


LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Save the date, April 27th.

Join us for our Annual Auction fundraiser. We will be having a semi-formal event at The Farm & The Odd Fellows, in Minneapolis, KS. while the auction will be held online April 22nd - 27th.

Entertainment, appetizers and drinks included. Doors open at 6:00p.

\$50 per couple. \$35 for individual.

We can't wait to see you there!
 CTS Team, #ForTheKids