

Pastor John Dumke 630.675.8910 [jfdumke@gmail.com](mailto:jfdumke@gmail.com)  
 Our Savior's/Skogdalen Parish 306 S. Main St. Westby, WI 54667  
 608.634.4871 [www.oursav-skogdalen.org](http://www.oursav-skogdalen.org) / [oursav@mwf.net](mailto:oursav@mwf.net)

All Parish Worship Sunday August 9th at OSLC 10 AM  
 Join together as sisters and brothers in Christ  
 from Our Saviors and Skogdalen. Followed  
 by root beer floats and ice-cream!



*Our Savior's/Skogdalen  
 Parish Paper August 2015*

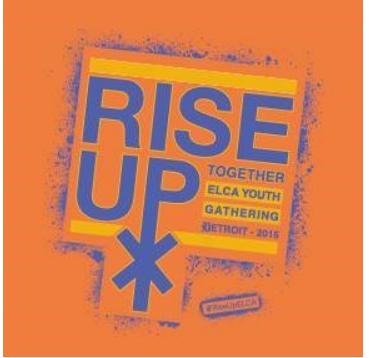
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**Pastoral perspectives**

This month, I'm turning over my perspective to Kiana Euler to share her perspective on our trip the ELCA youth gathering in Detroit.

**ELCA National Youth Gathering**  
 Kiana Euler



On Tuesday, July 14th, the Westby Coon Prairie church parking lot was busier than it usually is at 10pm. That's the youth of Westby Area Youth, or the WAY, along with adult leaders, and the La Crosse Area Synod Bishop, Jim Arends, boarded a bus headed to the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit. They arrived at their hotel in suburban Detroit at 9am, spent a little time unpacking then headed for downtown Detroit. The two and half mile walk was well worth it as the Detroit Institute of Arts was amazing!

After eating a late lunch, they walked to the first of four mass gatherings. The gatherings at Ford Field were incredible. The atmosphere was amazing, overwhelming your senses as you saw 30,000 Lutherans gathered into one place, singing, clapping at the same time, and even doing the same dance. The unity was profound, and it was an excellent way to kick off the gathering.

The following day was Proclaim Story Day for the WAY. This day was a day to spend with the rest of the La Crosse Area Synod and proclaim the good news that Jesus has given us. It included live music, inspirational speakers, worship and activities encouraging the youth to recognize that everyone has a story, and that Jesus is GOOD NEWS! At the conclusion of worship, the WAY went to the Heidelberg Project in poverty stricken East



Detroit. An artist by the name of Tyree Guyton began using discarded, everyday objects to rebuild the neighborhood, creating one big colorful masterpiece. Upon arriving, the youth quickly noticed that there seemed to be clocks everywhere throughout the area. A local resident shared the clocks' symbolism. "We have time for this, and time for that. But in the end, it's all God's time, so we shouldn't waste it."

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Day 2 in Detroit was wrapped up once again at Ford Field, where the WAY was lucky enough to get to sit at the floor level of the stadium, where they enjoyed listening to inspirational speakers, live music, and getting to build new relationships and connections.

.On the 17th, the WAY had the opportunity to visit the Motown museum. They toured the museum, saw several original parts of the Motown building, and even sang “My Girl” in Studio A! After departing the museum, the group took part in Proclaim Community Day. Throughout the conference, the COBO Center was set up with activities, games, and attractions. On Proclaim Community Day, the youth were given the opportunity to spend the day having fun with their fellow Lutherans. Some of the activities included a mechanical bull, a high ropes course, dodgeball, mini golf, and inflatables. There were also meditation rooms set up, and prayer rooms for the youth to relax and wind down in.

At Ford Field on Friday, a few of the original Motown artists performed songs and had Ford Field rocking. The group included former members of The Capitols, The Miracles, and The Temptations. The energy was incredible, as the artists sang popular hits such as “My Girl,” “Want You Back,” and “ABC 123.” The night kept moving with amazing speakers, including a Milwaukee pastor who spoke of the racist murder of Darius Simmons, a 13 year old boy in his congregation. Reverend Steve Jerbi stated that he’d rather have Darius Simmons back in his church and be the pastor he was, than be a good pastor without Darius sitting in the pews.

He went on, moving the crowd at Ford Field to their feet, encouraging clapping and cheering, and ultimately ended up with the crowd shouting “JESUS” at the pump of his arm.



Saturday the 18th was Proclaim Justice Day. The WAY spent the day doing service projects. They worked in a neighborhood where many of the houses were abandoned due to crime. They pulled weeds from yards, boarded up broken windows, cleaned up trash and brush, and left their mark, painting inspirational Christian messages on the boards in the windows. After they finished up their work in the extreme heat they were told that this neighborhood was once neglected, making it the perfect place for molesters, drug dealers, and arsonists to strike. Out of fear, citizens abandoned their homes in search of safer places to raise families. Many of the now vacant houses were robbed, and some burned down. By boarding the houses up and clearing brush, the young Lutherans helped restore the community.



The Christian rock band, Skillet rocked Ford Field to close out the evenings gathering.

## OUR SAVIOR’S FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF 6/30/15

First of all, thank you for your time, talents and treasures in 2015. All of your efforts continue to make us rich as a church family. The year-to-date financials for the first six months of 2015 compared to 2014 are listed below. As you will notice, our general offering in 2015 is fairly consistent with 2014. In our 2015 budget, we had planned for approximately a 9% increase in general offering based on pledges and past giving. Current numbers indicate we are about \$6000 short of this budgeted amount; however, consistent with last year. The summer months are typically the “leanest” in attendance and in offering as many people are enjoying the wonders of God’s creation and family. Consider using on-line giving to help you and the church keep consistent in offering.

The major areas of increased expense have been with regard to staff salaries/benefits and building/maintenance expenses. The building/maintenance expenses did include a new furnace, engineering firm building analysis expense and building project expense to secure Fowler/Hammer as our general contractor. Other expenses have been managed quite well this year. In order to stay current on our operating expenses, we have utilized \$5500 from our line of credit at WCCU.

Thank you for your continued support.

## OUR SAVIOR'S FINANCIAL SUMMARY - As of 6/30/15 (Excluding Capital Campaign Activity)

	January-June 2015	January-June 2014	Difference+
<b>Total Income</b>	\$101,760.11	\$95,869.97	+ \$5,890.14
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$120,563.67	\$109,513.11	- \$11,050.56
<b>Major Expense increases</b>			
Staff Salary/Benefits	\$76,285.23	\$71,948.74	\$4,336.49
Bldg/Maintenance	\$11,238.40	\$1,775.92	\$9,462.48

The LWR School Kits need the following:



- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper
- 1 – 30 cm. ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side
- 1 – Pencil Sharpener
- 1 – Blunt Tip Scissors
- 5 - #2 Unsharpened Pencils with Erasers
- 5 – Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens (no gel ink)
- 1 – Box of 16 or 24 Crayons
- 1 – 2 ½” Eraser
- 1 – Sturdy Drawstring Backpack-Style Bag (Bags will be provided by Skogdalen Quilters and OS Council)

### OTHER SUPPORT TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In addition to School Kits, we can support the efforts of LWR by providing items for the kits below. More detailed information available at church and there will also be collection containers in the back of the sanctuary for these kits, or drop off at the church office. This would be a great way for families, small groups, 4-H, boy and girl scouts, teams, classes, etc to do something great together!!!! Check out [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) for more information on LWR School Kits.



Baby Care Kits

Personal Care Kits

Fabric Kits

Sunday was the closing worship at Ford Field. The worship resembled a typical Lutheran service, but it was much more powerful and had a terrific atmosphere, with great music, meaningful messages and communion. Throughout the gathering, the unity made each and every experience more powerful.



The WAY boarded their bus and arrived safely in Westby around 11pm Sunday evening.

The ELCA youth gathering provided many life changing experiences as relationships were strengthened within the WAY, new friendships were made with people from across the country, eyes were open to the realities of life outside of Westby and most of all strengthening their relationships with Jesus.

### Detroit Youth Gathering Presentation

The youth will lead us in worship and talk about their life changing experience at the ELCA national youth gathering.

OSLC - Sunday August 23rd 10:30

Skogdalen - Sunday August 30th 9:00



### Walk for Water

During worship in July the disciples at Skogdalen and OSLC raised over 600 dollars to help our youth reach the goal of raising the funds needed to change the lives of people around the world.

Thanks Be To God!!!

## Building on a Strong Foundation update

The next step in the process is for the building group and council to work with our design and build firm of Fowler and Hammer in setting the scope and sequence of the project. This involves creating the specifications for each portion of the project to prepare the necessary documents to secure bids.

It's important to remember that the vast majority of the project deals with deferred maintenance and will not be very noticeable as it is mainly behind the scenes work. The most noticeable change will be with the fellowship area bathrooms. This may cause concern as to where the money is being spent. The cost of each aspect of the project will be communicated as we receive it. The real costs of the electrical and HVAC will become clearer as we proceed.

Renovation to any older building is very challenging especially when we lack the original drawings/plans and are dealing with 100 year old materials and systems. We have been blessed with a remarkable building that is in dire need of attention to ensure that Jesus' ministry can flourish in the coming years.

## Major areas of renovation

### Office & Education Wing (constructed in 1962)

- **Windows and Doors:** Replace exterior windows; replace lower level entry doors
- **HVAC:** Replace boiler, replacement and maintenance work on
- **Electrical:** Replace all light switches and receptacles;
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### Sanctuary Improvements (constructed in 1921)

- **HVAC:** Provide new forced air HVAC system
- **Electrical:** Replace light switches, receptacles, and wire
- **Repair** water damage, modify pews for wheelchairs, refinish front doors

### Fellowship Hall & Kitchen (constructed in 1921)

- **HVAC:** Replace and maintenance work on furnaces.
- **Electrical:** Replace light switches and receptacles.
- **Windows:** Replace exterior windows in the kitchen.
- **Bathroom:** Provide demo and new construction for men's and women's restrooms.
- **Electrical:** Provide new electrical service and distribution equipment, update outdated panel boards & feeders, and provide fire alarm system.



## Lutheran World Relief and Vernon County Stuff the Bus Programs Need YOUR Help

School supplies are needed for children across the nation and in our own county. As a parish, both Our Savior's and Skogdalen, would like to support the efforts of Lutheran World Relief and Vernon County Health Department to provide school supplies to children. Collection boxes will be available in the back of the church at Our Savior's or you can drop your items off at the church office.

Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development. Check out [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) for more information on LWR School Kits.

*"Growing the future one backpack at a time."*

The stuff the bus program is in need of crayons, washable markers, children's scissors, rulers, facial tissue, backpacks, erasers (both pencil-top and large pink ones), glue, loose-leaf notebook paper and folders. Please have these items to the church by Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are also needed on August 13-14 to fill the backpacks at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. If interested, contact Nancy Walters at 637-5251.

If you or someone you know is in need of school supplies, families can request school supplies by calling the WIC office at 637-5260 or mailing a note with the parent's name, phone number, child's name, school, grade, gender and color preference to Vernon County Health Department, 318 Fairlane Dr., PO Box 209, Viroqua, WI 54665 or requesting online at [www.vernoncounty.org/PH](http://www.vernoncounty.org/PH) or emailing a request to [Vernon-countystuffthebus@gmail.com](mailto:Vernon-countystuffthebus@gmail.com).

The deadline for requests is Aug. 12.





(also known as Christian Education)

Greetings from the Sunday School!

We hope that you are having a great summer. Sunday School will resume on September 13, which is the Sunday after Labor Day. Three-year-olds to 6th graders are encouraged to attend, and remember that we are happy to see new faces, so bring a friend! A letter will be sent to families in August with more details about our upcoming year.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Lori Johnson ([cljohnson@mwt.net](mailto:cljohnson@mwt.net)), Janessa Anderson ([anderson.janessa@gmail.com](mailto:anderson.janessa@gmail.com)), or the church office. See you in the Fall!

Calling all 7-8th graders and parents

Confirmation orientation will be Wednesday August 26 at 7pm. We will even feed you! Make your own Sundaes! Look for a special mailing later this month! This is also a great time to invite friends who are not connected with any church. Friends are always welcomed!

WAY—Westby Area Youth (joint high school ministry with WCP)

Plans are underway for a number of weekly and monthly opportunities for our high school kids. Watch for more details later this month!

Adult

Why should the kids have all the fun?!?!)

In September we will offer opportunities for adults to nurture their faith on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. Topics will vary from week to week and will be lead by a variety of people.



Informational gathering will be Sunday September 20 at 9:15. Of course there will be coffee and other treats!

### Exterior Improvements

- **Front steps:** resurface steps, replace handrails, and provide new center handrail.
- **Masonry** restoration/tuck pointing
- **Windows** repair damage
- **Roof** repair and restore
- **Provide positive site drainage** by re-grading site, extending downspouts, installing sidewalk trenches, replacing sidewalks, landscaping as needed. And installing five Frost stoops

### Next steps

The committee will be meeting with Fowler/Hammer in early August and once the scope and sequence is completed and bids are received, the building committee and council will work with Fowler/Hammer in setting a construction schedule. One of the major goals of the project is to keep the entire congregation informed. There will be regular updates on Sunday mornings and if needed additional informational meetings.

### Help Wanted

We are in need of a group of people to take leadership in designing our new bathrooms- this involves choosing fixtures, layout of the rooms, color schemes, etc. People to assist with the building committee – this involves meeting with the current building team and Fowler/Hammer to review the scope and sequence.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

The capital campaign to support our building project is well underway. There have been 79 giving units submitting pledges cards totaling \$248,130 to be paid over the next three years. The funds collected and expenses as of 6/30/15 are listed below. There are 12 giving units that are utilizing the Simply Giving program with automatic weekly/monthly payments totaling \$1210 per month. We have also received memorial funds and anonymous donations specifically for the building project. When making your contributions to the capital campaign/building project, be sure to clearly mark “Capital Campaign” or “Building Project” on your check or envelope so your funds are allocated appropriately.

### OUR SAVOR’S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUMMARY - 6/30/15

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$43,418.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$10,237.98</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$33,180.02</b>

Also known as joyful opportunities for sharing of your time, talents and treasures!



These are collaborative ministries of Westby Area Lutheran Churches and the South Conference of the LaCrosse Area Synod!



**COMMUNITY MEALS:** We are in the very early stages of investigating the possibility of offering weekly meals here at Our Savior’s. We hope to visit other communities where such meals are offered to learn what this would entail. If things go smoothly meals may start in October. Love to cook??? Love to watch folks enjoy eating??? This would not be a “free will offering” kind of meal, just a “come, sit down and hope you enjoy the food” kind of meal. Again, only in the preliminary stages but if you’re interested please let us know!!

**Birthday Cakes for Kids** - many of our grade school kids don't have the privilege of enjoying a birthday cake due to a variety of reasons. The ministry plan is to provide all the makings of a birthday cake to every grade school kid in the Westby area grade school. All the churches in the Westby school will be invited to collect birthday cake kits. The birthday kits will include a cake mix, topping, apple sauce (instead of oil/eggs), aluminum cake pan, directions and a birthday banner all in a solid colored gift bag. There would also be gluten free kits. A sample of the kit is in the back of our churches along with an instruction sheet. Each birthday bags cost approximately five dollars. You can also bring an individual item or make a monetary contribution.



**MONTHLY BILLS:** The thing about monthly bills is that they never go away. Someone has to pay the light bill, the garbage pickup bill, and the salaries of our very competent staff. I have heard the complaint many times that the Stewardship Committee is always asking for money. There’s no getting around it—money is needed to keep Our Savior’s running! Part of the Stewardship Committees duties are to make sure bills get paid in a timely manner. Our congregational family needs funds each month. Imagine coming to church and there were no lights on, no sound system, no bulletins and no one to lead us in worship. Can you hear the complaints then?? Count your blessings and then contribute as you are able. We thank you for your financial help!



at the



ELCA Congregations of the South Conference are working together to provide a “Prayer at the Fair” booth at the Vernon County Fair September 16-20. A variety of ways to pray will be offered. If you would be willing to pray confidentially, aloud or in silence with fair-goers who stop by the booth.

For further information and sign up please contact:

Lynette Johnson, Our Savior’s and Skogdalen Lutheran Parish: [jenta@mwt.net](mailto:jenta@mwt.net). Volunteers will be asked to sign-up for a two hour time slot. Written prayers will be available for use.