

# We All Are One in Mission

We all are one in mission is one of my new favorite songs of faith, it is a great hymn that is very enjoyable to sing and contains compelling words that get to the heart of congregational life.



***We all are one in mission;***

We have one mission and that is to be the body of Christ in this time and place. To be a community that worships, nurtures and serves, a community that strives to act as the hands and feet of Jesus, a community that touches the lives of others with the love of Jesus, a community that is comprised of people in all stages of life.

***We all are one in call; our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.***

We have been given the awesome responsibility and privilege to be stewards of Jesus’ mission and ministry. We all are all “Called’ to participate in his mission in a variety of ways. We truly have been blessed with a wide diversity of people that gather to carry out Jesus’ mission and ministry.

***A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.***

Jesus spells out his expectations for us very plainly in the last words that he spoke before he ascended into heaven:

*“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”*

Notice that Jesus doesn’t tell us how to carry out our duties rather he does something much more loving and life giving: he promises never to leave us! I believe that the reason he didn’t get specific is that there is not one way to be involved in his ministry. In order to do that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we need to be very intentional about how to fulfill our commission that makes sense and works today.

We enter into this New Year with a sense of excitement and trepidation.

**Excitement** as we continue to participate in Jesus mission in our parish by building upon the richness of the past with the possibilities of expanded ministries such as: Adult faith nurture, young adult ministry, Mid-week gatherings, youth ministry, and any other ministries that people create.

**Trepidation**

**at OSLC** as we confront the many building issues that are before us. This is the opportunity to choose if we are going to be good stewards of the resources we have been given or if we are going to wait for others to step forward in faith to address the realities of the condition of the building.

**at Skogdalen** as we grapple with the reality that our congregation is aging—both in membership and in the building. I believe we need to talk openly and honestly about what this means for us today and in the coming years.

All this can be scary stuff and has the potential to sidetrack us and even divide us. Yet I am convinced that when we keep the mission and ministry of Jesus at the center of our conversations and decisions we will flourish as the Body of Christ at Skogdalen and OSLC.

**In God’s Surprising Grace!**

**Pastor John**



## Friday February 27 5pm - 11pm

A **FREE** service provided by the confirmation youth and adults. Drop your children off to enjoy an evening away anytime between 5 and 11.— go to a movie, out for dinner, etc. or just stay at home and enjoy the peace and quiet but no cleaning or chores! Take some time for yourself– you deserve it! **There is no cost for this at all!!!!** Kids will be feed, entertained, and cared for under adult supervision! Just contact the church office by Wednesday 25th—634.4871 or oursav@mwt.net. Tell your friends about it as it is for the entire community. Did we mention it is **FREE!!!!!!**

The Way Wednesday - 9-12 graders meet at OSLC every Wednesday evening 5:30-7:00 (actually come anytime!)

OSLC/Skogdalen Parish  
Office hours 9 - 4 M-F  
634.4871      oursav@mwt.net

Confirmation Lock-in Feb 27  
After taking care of the little ones  
it’s time to Party! Free if you help  
with the child care - \$5 if you don’t  
Sign up by Weds 25!

2015 Lenten Theme



He comes to Challenge

Jesus calls his disciples to leave everything, take up their crosses, and follow him. During this season of reflection and repentance, Jesus is calling you to leave the noise, distractions, and clutter of your life behind and follow him to the cross. It’s a challenge to leave everything and take up your cross. Will you follow Jesus?

He comes to Confront

Jesus did not come not to condemn the world. He came to save. He confronts us with the call to turn from ways that lead to death and follow him to life. He confronts the religious status quo by overturning the tables of the money changers. Then he does something even more dangerous by claiming to be God’s only Son, sent to save the world. What does Jesus’ confrontation mean in a world of many gods, many claims and few absolutes?

He comes to Die

We have seen Christ challenge with his words ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’ We have seen him confront the authorities by overturning the tables of the money changers and claiming to be God’s only Son. Now the true nature of Jesus’ mission is revealed. He has come to die to save the world from sin. Nothing anyone says or does will keep him from his mission

Our Savior’s Skogdalen Parish  
306 S. Main St.  
Westby, WI 54667

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Presorted Standard  
Westby, WI 54667  
Permit #21

February Parish Voice

Sunday 8  
1 and 2 grade Stepping Stones

Sunday 15  
Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday 18  
Ash Wednesday

Sunday 22  
1st Sunday in Lent  
Skogdalen - Soup Cook-off  
Building a Strong Foundation Kick-off

Worship 9am Skogdalen 10:30 OSLC  
Try something new this month— worship at new location

Sunday	8	Jesus and Demons	(piano lead worship at OSLC)
Sunday	15	Jesus Transcends Everything!	(organ—piano lead worship with choir at OSLC)
Sunday	22	He comes to Challenge—1st Sunday in Lent	(guitar lead worship at OSLC)
		Midweek - Wednesdays at OSLC	10:00 am (followed by lunch) 7:00 pm (fish fry 5:45-6:45)
		Thursday at Skogdalen	6:00pm

