

# PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This month OSLC will be receiving new members into our faith community. They come from all walks of life and levels of involvement in previous congregations. A common theme when they talk about why join Our Savior's is one of welcome and openness. A hallmark of OSLC is being known as the "community church." One that opens the building to a wide variety of groups and organizations and more importantly where people feel welcomed and accepted.

We have made the challenging decision to renovate our building for the sake of Jesus' ministry in response the richness of our past, the reality of the present and the hope for the future. Very soon the renovations will begin yet most of the work will not be very obvious: new heating and air-conditioning, electrical work, repairing the roof, etc. We will see new bathrooms and some exterior changes such as landscaping, replacing sidewalks and attending to stairs. But most of the funds will be expended on those areas that are necessary for the building to function but are more behind the scenes.

One way I have come to think of this is that the maintenance aspect of the building is like the foundational aspects of our faith life – God's Grace, the centrality of scripture, the Love and Forgiveness of Jesus, etc. These realities don't change. Those items that we can see are like the way in which we live out our faith as individuals and a congregation, such as: how we worship, types of ministries that we engage in, programs that we offer etc. These aspects do change to meet the needs of the present with an eye to the future. I find it helpful to see the connections and differences between the foundational features of faith and the present expressions of our faith. When we place the present expression before the foundational features we become fearful and think in terms of scarcity. When we keep them in proper perspective we become more welcoming and think in terms of abundance.

When I look around, it is exciting to see that we are choosing to renovate the building and to continue and expand the ministries of our faith communities: Come For Supper, the joint high school ministry "The WAY", worship, education, service, fellowship events and more. When we build upon and expand beyond the richness of our heritage, we continue to be the welcoming church that is grounded in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!


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In God's surprising Grace!


John



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OSLC/Skogdalen  
Parish Paper  
October 2015



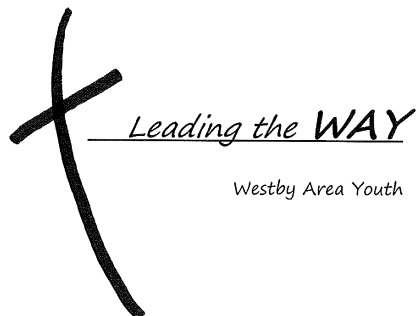
*Our Savior's/Skogdalen  
Parish Paper*

Our Savior's/Skogdalen Parish  
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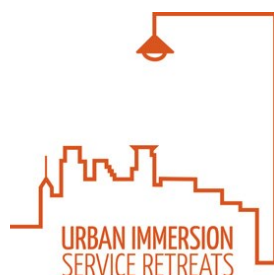
## Westby Area Youth!

- **Wednesdays @ 5:45PM at Our Saviors - Food provided**
- **Fridays @ 7:30 AM (high school)**
- **Sundays 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM at WCP**



All High School students are encouraged to attend any one of the events that fits in with their schedules!

### **Minneapolis 2015 Urban Immersion** **Friday November 12 – Sunday November 14** *For Grades 9 and above* *Cost: \$20*



We will travel to Minneapolis for an unforgettable weekend to experience first-hand the complexities of poverty, to meet and serve those affected and to take what they have experienced and learned and address the issues of poverty in their own communities.

### **Sugar Creek House Boating** **Sunday June 26 – July 1**

*All current 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students are eligible to participate.*

Join us on a memory-making journey down the Mississippi River! You can explore the dunes, swim, slide, boat, laugh, and play in the beauty of God's amazing creation!

Enjoy campfires and Bible study on the sandbars as well as intentional community-building activities. Each boat group consists of up to 10 campers and 2 counselors, one of whom is a lifeguard. This is a fantastic experience for high school youth!



## **OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WESTBY**



### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lasagna Dinner** **Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Social Hour at 5:00 PM- 6:00 PM**  
**with dinner to follow.**

Lasagna Dinner with appetizers, soup, salad, garlic toast, homemade ice cream and desserts!



**Silent Auction**  
**Live Music**  
**Live Pie Auction**



**Advance Tickets \$10.00**

**Tickets at the door \$12.00**

Tickets available from the church office at 634-4871  
Child care available

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the following:

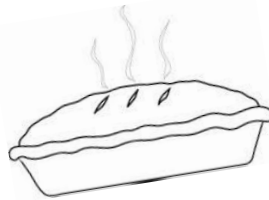
Mission: Sugar Creek Bible Camp,  
Ministry: Grade school camp scholarships for kids to participate at Sugar Creek and Special projects at Our Savior's

# SKOGDALEN WELCA BAZAAR

at  
Skogdalen Church Hall  
Oakdale Ave. & County P  
in Timber Coulee

on  
Saturday,  
October 24, 2015  
10 AM - 1 PM

Lunch will be served



Crafts

Quilts

Baked Goods



## PINE RIDGE MISSION TRIP 2016

Friday, July 15 through Friday, July 22, 2016

All current 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students are eligible to participate.

On this trip, we will have the opportunity to continue our relationships with people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by ministering through children's programs and painting and weatherizing homes. This can and will be a life-changing experience. Meeting new friends and developing relationships with children & their families will last in your hearts forever!



We have 24 youth spaces with 6 adult guides available.

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis until filled. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit will secure your place in this incredible trip!

For more information or to register, please contact Pastor John at Our Saviors!



Youth Group  
Fundraiser

### Fundraising

There will be a number of fundraisers this year to assist you in raising funds to participate in these events. The more you participate the more money you can earn towards your trip. Funds will be placed in your individual account through the WAY.

**Our Saviors Lasagna Dinner –October 24, 2015**

**Butter Braid Sales**

*Start sales on November 1<sup>st</sup> – Turn in orders the first week of December*

**Kwik Trip Cards**

*Ongoing throughout the year – Buy cards at 5% discount. Sell them for full price.*

**Aluminum Can Collection Bin**

**Our Saviors Lutefisk Meal (February 6, 2016)**

**Super Bowl Sunday Pizza Sale (February 7, 2016)**

**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 bag cost approximately five dollars. You can also bring an individual item or make a monetary contribution.



**SKOGDALEN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**  
(Complete minutes are available at the church office)

A thank you card was read from the Benrud Family Group and a check given for \$25.00. The group was very grateful to be able to tour the church and the cemetery when they had their family gathering.

Jeremy Hayes and John O. will be fixing the door on the shed before winter is here.

Membership update: We discussed when to send the letter and that it needs to have a return by date on it. We will wait until after the meatball dinner.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, we will meet after church and discussion the mission statement at Skogdalen. Pastor John will meet with Dave Oium regarding cleaning.

Discussion of the meatball dinner was had.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**“Does God want you rich?” - from Pastor Rick Warren**

After my 40-Day Spiritual Journey to a More Generous Life book became an unexpected bestseller, I was contacted by NBC to do a TV news story. When the TV reporter interviewed me, she asked, “So, you think God wants everyone rich?” I said, “No, I don’t believe that.” She was a little surprised by my answer and then asked, “Well, what do you believe?” I responded, “I believe that everyone needs to learn to become more generous with whatever God has given them.” She then asked, “Well, didn’t your book becoming a bestseller make you rich?” I replied, “No, it helped me become more generous!” The truth is--every one of us in America is rich when you compare us to the rest of the world. What each of us needs to learn is how to become more generous with whatever God entrusts to us.

**OUR SAVIOR’S COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**  
(Complete minutes are available at the church office)



New member Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th.

Meetings have been held with Fowler & Hammer (Eric Lehmann) an MBA Architects (Colin Klos) over the past few weeks – members of the committee are Pastor John, Jordan Christenson, Steve Holte, Dave Maxwell, Eric Nottestad, Lori Johnson, Ernie Peterson and Dennis Havlik.

Committees broke up into groups to plan Annual Calendar.

Worship themes discussed – “Little Free Library” – would be a good winter time project.

Caring Cards – Jayne will get the cards and Joan will take over sending out the cards – it will be noted in the newsletter.

Motion to have Georgi Belke-Dumke replace Shirley Hagen as Sunday School treasurer

Community Meals – “Come for Supper” – Pastor John will get the refrigerator from OSLC in LaCrosse. Westby Co-op Creamery has offered to donate cottage cheese and cheese curds every week. May also contact Kwik Trip.

Next council meeting is on Monday, October 12th.

**Lasagna Dinner Wish List**

The Lasagna Dinner will be here before we know it. We are looking for donations for the Lasagna Dinner. We need baskets, items for the silent auction, donations of pies, lasagna, desserts/bar and bags of salad fixings. If you have received a gift that you just cannot use or don’t have any use for, please consider donating it for the baskets. We will use those items and put baskets together. If you have any questions, please call Barb Christenson at 632-0993. The baskets need to be put together by October 15th so we can display them in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday, October 18th. Thank you for your donations. It is greatly appreciated.



## ***What is a Lutheran?***

*Excerpts from the latest addition of the Lutheran from ELCA Bishop Eaton*

For the past two years, I've organized my work around these four emphases: we are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together and we are church for the sake of the world.

I want to spend a little time thinking with you about what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century.

But what is "Lutheran"? We chuckle at author Garrison Keillor's loving caricature of Lutherans. He does describe many of us, but not all of us. I would never disavow the western and northern European heritage of thousands of our people. It's part of our story. But we also have thousands of sisters and brothers of African, Asian, Latino/Latina, Native American, and Arab and Middle Eastern descent, some of whom have been Lutheran for generations.

And the Lutheran church is experiencing its greatest growth in the "global south" (Africa, Central and Latin America, and most of Asia). There are more Lutherans in Indonesia than in the **ELCA**. There are more Lutherans in Ethiopia and Tanzania than in the U.S. There are Lutherans in El Salvador, Japan, India, Mexico, Palestine, Jordan, China and Ireland. Jell-O doesn't routinely show up at the potlucks of these Lutherans. Being Lutheran is not fundamentally about ethnicity.

If culture and cuisine don't define us, our theology must. Lutherans have a very particular way of understanding the Jesus story. It's the story of God redeeming us from sin, death and the devil, setting us free from our bondage to sin so that, liberated and alive, we may serve God by serving the neighbor. And it's not about our effort or goodness or hard work. It's about God's gracious will to be merciful.

Try this at home: ask family or friends what they must do to be in a right relationship with God. After picking their jaws up off the floor that they were asked such a question, my guess is that people will talk about keeping the commandments, being a better person, reading the Bible more. No. The love of God at work in the crucified Christ creates this right relationship. Our part is to receive this gift in faith.

This is a shattering reversal of the way things have always worked. We don't have a transactional relationship with God — if I do this then God will do that. It is a transformational relationship. We who were dead in sin have now been made alive. We are free to respond to that deep abiding love. What we eat, what hymns we sing, what jokes we tell, what counties we hail from, what color we are, what we wear — none of this binds us together or makes us Lutheran. It is God's grace. And that is good news in any language.



## **“COME FOR SUPPER”**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Every Tuesday  
Begins October 6, 2015**

***Social Hour 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Meal Served 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.***

**NO CHARGE “EVER”**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



“Come for Supper”, that will hopefully be the newest catch phrase you will hear often, in and around Our Savior's, Skogdalen and our communities.

Starting Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> and every Tuesday thereafter, Our Savior's will open its doors to the community, for a free meal. Yes, I did say F, R, E, E! This will be provided by the generosity and willingness of many helping hands, to provide, prepare and serve the meals. This is opened to anyone and everyone wanting good conversation and a hearty meal. Tuesday just may become the new “No Cook Tuesday” in your household.

Doors will open at 4pm for an hour of visiting and the meal will be served at 5pm until 6pm. If you feel God calling you to donate, volunteer your time or simply connect with people in community, please contact Marilyn Leum (608) 634-4839 or Jayne Anderson (608) 634-4851

“Come for Supper” is our response to Jesus asking Peter three times, “Do you love me?” (John 21. 15-17) And we say, as Peter did also, “Yes Lord, I love you.” Jesus then tells us to, “Feed my Sheep”. As disciples, we are called to love our neighbors, to uplift one another and help improve our community through addressing the needs and economic struggles all around us, one meal at a time.

## Sparkhouse Family Resource Fair



Our congregations are hosting a Resource fair in late October and early November. It is a fantastic opportunity to purchase quality material for children, teens and adults. These books and videos are designed for strengthening the relationship between faith life at church to faith life at home and beyond.

Think of the resource fair as early Christmas shopping and what better gift to give than one that connects us to the Christ in Christmas!

## Fall Worship Series

We continue our fall worship series on Discipleship that focuses on the different dynamics of being a follower of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

October 4 **Discipleship—Simply Complicated**

October 11 **Discipleship – Challenging**  
Mark 10:17-31

October 18 **Discipleship - IS Life**  
Mark 10:35-45

October 25 **Discipleship - Reforming**



Thank you to everyone that has helped with preparing for the Come For Supper Meal. A special “thank you” to Dan Grass for picking up and delivering the refrigerator. Everyone has been so great!



## Great Practices Series

*”Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” 1 John 3:18*

Join Pastor John and other Disciples of Jesus in our parish by exploring how to “Be the Church” in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by attending any of this year’s GPS events. These are usually held the 4th Saturday of each month at the Synod office in La Crosse. 9:30am—1:00pm

*Oct. 24 Keeping Our Children Safe*

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.” We must take care to create environments that are safe for children in every way, from any kind of harm. What policies and practices must be in place in order to provide safety?

What is legally necessary, but more importantly, what is morally imperative?

*Nov. 7 !BONUS! Gracious Conversations About Difficult Issues*

Led by Rev. Scott Anderson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Council of Churches This workshop we will draw upon the work of Parker Palmer and the WCC’s Season of Civility. Participants will learn about and practice the tools of civil dialogue.

## OSLC Building Renovation Update

The building task-force has been working with the construction team from Fowler&Hammer to select the sub-contractors for the project and to establish a basic time-line. It is important to remember that our building is a commercial project not a residential one.

We are in need of a group of people to work with the contractor on the bathroom area. Please talk with Jordan Christianson if you are interested 632.4958.



In preparation for the renovation, the council has directed the property committee to clean up some area around the building.

There are a number of items on the stage in the basement that are free for the taking. Anything remaining after Tuesday October 21 will be taken to Bethel Buttik. If you have any questions please contact Jordan Christianson 632.4958