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



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306 S. Main St.  
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Permit #21

Pastoral Perspectives

I've really enjoyed "crafting" and participating in our worship series this summer: LIVING GOD'S STORY



One thing that makes a great story even better is the potential to find ourselves in it. It becomes our story. That's certainly true of God's story! This summer we'll break open some of the best known and least known stories found in the pages of the Bible. In them, we'll discover the truth about God and the truth about ourselves. And because stories shape our lives and fire our imaginations, each week we'll be challenged to not only hear the story, but live it!

In July we will meet:

Queen Esther who uses her influence to save the people of Israel.  
***How can we be loyal to God and not bow to false royalty?***

The Sisters Mary and Martha who have very different personality types: one sitting and listening to Jesus while the other serves Jesus.  
***How do we strike a balance between worship and service?***

The 5,000 people who Jesus feed.  
***How does this miracle take place today in our lives and how we might we participate in the miracle?***

Remember that the stories of scripture are not just written on the pages of the Bible but are really written the pages of your life. It's the never ending Story of God's love for YOU!

**Golf on Sunday**  
[www.Nativepakistan.com](http://www.Nativepakistan.com)

Golf is the perfect thing to do on Sunday because you spend longer praying than you would do in church.

Sunday Morning Golf with Pastor John at  
Snow Flake Golf Course

Join Pastor John for a round of golf each Sunday morning at 7:00 am (except July 19)

Cost: \$9.00 No need to register just show up!



## EXPLORER CAMP

A day at Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Thursday July 9

For campers entering grades 1-5

(younger if accompanied by a parent)

Join Pastor John and others on Thursday July 9 at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Come for an exciting one-day adventure at Sugar Creek. Explore camp with games, nature activities, crafts, swimming, a pony ride, Bible study, singing and more! The day runs from 9am-3pm. Bring some spending money if you would like to shop in our camp store.



Cost \$10.00 per camper, with lunch and snacks included. Actual cost is \$20 but the MOOS (Men of Our Savior's) are covering half the cost. Adults are free.

Sign up by July 7<sup>th</sup> - phone 634-4871 - e-mail [oursav@mwt.net](mailto:oursav@mwt.net) - church office



## All Parish Worship and Picnic Sunday July 12 At Skogdalen 10 AM

Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets for our annual outdoor worship in the valley. Staff from Sugar Creek Bible Camp will be leading the worship!

A good old fashion congregational picnic will follow worship – bring something to share! There will also be games for people of all ages. This is a great opportunity for you to invite friends and families to join you in enjoying meaningful worship and eating fantastic food!



## Confirmation Camp was Great!!!!

We rode horses and canoed on the Mississippi. We sweat in the sauna, We made new friends and became better friends to each other. Our counselor was really cool. We got to camp overnight on the bluff. We got to dunk Pastor John in the pool ( we were talking about blessing each other) and we even sang camp song!



The food was okay, the campfires were fun, we laughed a lot and even got some sleep each night!

We talked a lot about Grace and what it means to be Jesus' followers.

Thank you for sending us to Sugar Creek.

The week was AWESOME - and we can't wait till we go on the confirmation retreat this fall!!!!

Dakota, Davanta, Kenny, Noah, Riley,

## Join the Celebration!



Pastor Gary and Mary Daines will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, July 10, 2015 from 3-6 p.m. at the lower shelter in Davidson Park ("rock" park) in Westby.

Pastor Gary, Mary, and their children Greg and Brenda, would like to invite the members of OSLC and Skogdalen to stop on by for some cake and ice cream.

Gary and Mary have asked that no gifts be given. All they ask is for your presence.





The 2015 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly  
Highlights from Gwen Siverhus and Sharon Opsahl

The 2015 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly gathered around the theme of “Walk the Word”. The voting members were challenged to think and pray about God’s call to provide for others in need, to work for justice and peace for everyone, and to follow Christ as a public church that is involved in missions around the world. Bishop Arends did report that “beyond our Synod in the area of World Hunger, disaster relief and the ELCA Malaria Campaign, La Crosse Area Synod congregations’ support has exceeded expectations”. We all also had the opportunity to attend a “Training for One-on-One Conversation” on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday we attended the “Best Sunday School Ever” which was a number of workshops designed to help us as members of the church to “Walk the Word”. “Gracious Conversations About Difficult Issues” with Rev. Scott Anderson. This workshop was a chance to learn new skills in civil dialogue and then practice. “Back To Basics With A Food Truck” with Rev. Margaret Kelly who talked about her successful ministry with a refrigerated food truck parked on a street in St. Paul.

“Now What” with Bishop Jim Arends. He discussed how do we “Walk the Walk” in our parish? One idea is to do an outreach project like a community meal. “The Church and Immigration” with Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman. He gave insights into ways our church is working to engage the issues of refugee children migrating to America. Immigration Reform must: 1) Keep families together 2) Help them to come out of their shadow. 3) Their human rights should be secured. 4) Give them a place to be safe.

The Synod Assembly highlights from Lynette Johnson

What an eye opener I experienced after accepting (with some trepidation) the invite to be a delegate for our church. The opening with Pastor Libby and Bishop Arends got everyone in the right frame of mind on the tasks that had to be accomplished. . I so enjoyed the music that was performed and how we all got to participate. The Keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Bouman, made his talk so on the personal level for us to relate to.

But this was not only about special speakers it was action participation when we got to take the shoe laces from the center of the table to weave together a pattern of strength that holds us together when we are apart. We got to be blessed by doing the action of the cross in how we think (cross on the forehead), how we see (cross on the eyes), how we serve (cross on the hands), how we shoulder responsibility (cross on the shoulders), and how we walk the part ( cross on the tops of our feet).



## WAY – Westby Area Youth

21 youth and 6 adults will be traveling to the ELCA National Youth Gathering Detroit July 15-19. Thank you for your support in providing this once in a life time opportunity to join with 30,000 other youth in growing in the faith in Jesus Christ.

They will be leading worship later this summer to share their stories of Faith.



This is one of two trips arranged by WAY. In June, 20 youth and 5 adults enjoyed the wonders of God’s creation backpacking in Colorado at Rainbow Trails Bible camp.

WAY – is the shared ministry of OSLC/Skogdalen/WCP and Vang churches. It is a joint ministry that is designed to provide meaningful opportunities for high school youth to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and others. Our year calendar will be completed by August with numerous ways for youth and adults to engage in this exciting and vital ministry. Please support and uplift this important ministry in your prayers and participation.



On Sunday June 28, the followers of Jesus at Our Savior’s voted 43 yes 8 no to proceed with the building renovation program by acquiring a mortgage of \$700,000 from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. This is a 20 year amortized mortgage at 3.875% for the first five years. The interest rate will be adjusted at five year intervals. The monthly mortgage payments will be \$4200 which will be paid by the capital campaign building fund. \$245,000 has been pledged over the next three years. At the end of three years we will enter into another capital campaign to cover the mortgage costs.

Fowler and Hammer are our general contractors and will begin working on the final plans and drawings this summer. The hoped for is for renovations to begin early fall and project completion

by Easter of next. It’s important to remember that this is a complex project as it involves an almost 100 year old building.

Sub-committees will be forming in July to work on the specific aspects of the project. Please participate in the process of renovating our beautiful building by signing up for one of the sub groups, sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday mornings or in the church office. For more information, please contact Eric Nottestad at 632-3452 or [ernot@hotmail.com](mailto:ernot@hotmail.com)

From the ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton from the June addition of the Lutheran

We are in the middle of a seismic shift in the church. In her book *The Great Emergence* ([Baker Books](#), 2012), author and lecturer Phyllis Tickle points out that every 500 years or so the church goes through a major upheaval. I think that’s where we are now. And while it is interesting to read of church upheavals in the past, living through one can be pretty uncomfortable. What is emerging? What is falling away? When will we know that the new thing has come into being? What is going to happen to us?

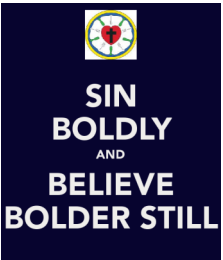


But hey, take heart, I don’t think anyone woke up on June 7, 1518, and said, “How’s the Reformation going today?”

We want clear, measurable, tangible signs that our world will be ordered to our specifications. That certainty will never be achieved this side of heaven. That is not the certainty we really need and it is not the certainty God has given us in our new life in Christ.

We are not called to be the church of the past nor the church of some distant future, but to be the church right now. For whatever reason, we are the ones God is using at this time, in this messiness. We are not going to get it right all of the time. We are broken and sinful creatures, but we are also redeemed creatures. In baptism we have already died the only death that really matters. Can we start to live like we believe that?

Martin Luther is often quoted as saying “sin boldly.” He actually said, “Be a sinner and sin boldly, *but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly.*” It’s an honest acknowledgement that we have fallen, but is an even more joyful acknowledgement that we have been raised up. It’s a prescription against paralysis. It is not up to us to fix the church or the world—that has already been done in Christ. And since the victory has been won we are free in this in-between time to live into the new life God has brought about in this world.



So here we are dear church. Living in the absolute certainty that we and all of creation have been redeemed, we don’t have to fret about getting it right. We don’t have to chart a perfectly accurate course. We don’t have to conserve our assets, physical or financial. We don’t have to worry about saving our lives.

What a powerful freedom the certainty of God has given us in this uncertain time. Let’s not waste this gift.

OSLC COUNCIL JUNE HIGHLIGHTS June 8, 2015  
(Complete minutes are available at the church office)

The Membership Rolls Update letter will be sent out in order to update our membership rolls to assure accurate information on members and friends of OSLC.

An Inactive Rolls Update letter will be sent out at a later date. This letter is to be sent out to make sure our membership records are kept current and will indicate member’s current status with the church.

Capital Campaign Update  
Eric Nottestad will be working out mortgage details with Mission Investment fund to be voted upon at the special congregational meeting on June 28. The council voted to call a congregational meeting on June 28 following worship to secure a \$700,000 mortgage allowing us to proceed with the building renovation.

Capital Campaign Fund – received \$8,700 this month. Current fund balance is \$40,283 and total pledged \$248,130.

Ministry Planning (Annual Calendar)  
Council ministry teams broke up into groups to plan every month’s activities for the next calendar year.



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

Discussed the new shed for the mower, the bell is fixed and cleaning checklist will be given to David to use. Pastor John spoke to Darlene and she will assist Archie with the cemetery.

We will be sending out a letter to update membership records.

New Business: There will be a joint Sunday Service at Skogdalen on July 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor John led us in a little “exercise” recalling those who were most influential in our faith life when we were young. Some of our discussion focused on: our purpose - such as worship, fellowship and outreach, ways the church is different from years ago; and ways it is the same -- our desire for connectedness.