



The Myth of Scarcity The Reality of Abundance

It's easy, when times are tough, to think inward: to concentrate on ourselves. We often worry that we don't have enough of what we really need to be "comfortable" or "free." That is a myth ... the myth of scarcity. Look around. We are wealthy people, living lives of abundance.



The reality of abundance is the idea that God has given us so much, and we can give so much more to God's people if we are willing to more fully use what we have been given. The abundance of God's Love, the abundance of relationships, the abundance of our life! So the reality of abundance is about taking care of others, and the myth of scarcity is about taking care of us.

Take a look at the things we spend money on TODAY that we didn't consider necessities 10 years ago.



One of the most significant changes in our world in the last 10 years has been the rise of smartphones. They are more costly to own and operate than your flip phone of yore. Data plans potentially run \$30-50 more (or higher) per line, per month, and that's excluding device costs. For a big family, or even a smaller one, that's no small investment. Yet many of us now feel lost without them. This is just one example of many "things" that we feel we can't live without.

Internet service, fast food, Cable TV. Toys (boats, campers, 4-wheelers, collectables, etc. for adults – I-pads, legos, video games, etc. for kids. These are not bad in and of themselves but when we center our life around them we tend to think of things rather than people and find it easy to see what we lack rather than the abundance of our life.

As you consider your commitment, think beyond your own neighborhood, your own city and state, your own country ... think globally, and keep in mind these two things: if you have money in your pocket right now, you are richer than 75 percent of the people on the planet. If you have money in the bank, you are wealthier than 94 percent of the people on the planet. At the same time, think locally. In this nation of great prosperity one in six people don't have enough to eat — not to mention those without medical care or enough to make rent.

We are a blessed people and congregation. Let's use our blessings and see those blessings grow here and for others! If what we are doing is of God, then God has given us more than adequate capacity to do it.

In God's Surprising Grace!

Pastor John

Adapted from a Mission talk by Paul Batz at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.,



Easter Lilies! Would you like to brighten the sanctuary on Easter morning? Easter Lilies will be for sale in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special to decorate either OSLC or Skogdalen on Easter Sunday. Orders will be taken at both churches or you can contact Jayne Anderson (634-4851) or Dorothy Stoffregen (452-2123) to place your order. Cost is \$10.00



Faith Stepping Stones - March 22 - OSLC
Our stepping stone ministry brings parents and children together to grow their relationship with Jesus and support them in nurturing faith life in the home. Pastor John leads the session on March 22nd. The 5th graders will receive holy communion on March 29th,

Date Night - March 27th—A free service provided by the confirmation youth and adults. Drop your kids off for an evening away anytime between 5 & 11. There is no cost for this at all! Contact the church office at 634-4881 or oursav@mwt.net to sign up. Tell your friends about it as it is for the entire community.

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



Seder Meal

Our mid-week worship during holy week will include experiencing a Seder meal. A Seder meal involves the retelling of the Passover story of the Israelites and offers us an insight to the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his death on the cross.

Passover is the oldest and most important of Jewish religious festivals, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people. The term Passover refers to the tenth and final plague God brought upon the Egyptians to persuade Pharaoh to let the people go, the death of all the firstborn of Egypt. In obedience to God's instructions, those who believed placed the blood of a lamb on the door posts of their homes,

so that God would "pass over" those homes. The festival actually celebrates the entire sequence of events that led to the Israelites' freedom from slavery.

While thoroughly based in those historical events, the celebration encompasses much more as it becomes a vehicle to celebrate the very nature of God and His gracious work in the world. It is in this larger dimension that Jesus adopted the Passover service as a sacramental remembrance of God's new work of deliverance in the Christ, and allows Christians to celebrate this ancient festival.

It is not a full supper but rather a representation of the meal, in other words eat before or after the service!

OSLC Wednesday April 1, 10:00 and 7:00 pm

Skogdalen Thursday April 2 6:00 pm

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

**March Parish
Voice**

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

608.634.4871
oursav@mwt.net
Pastor John Dumke 630.675.8910

Palm Sunday March 29 Skogdalen 9:00 am OSLC 10:30am

"Maundy" Wednesday April 1

OSLC 10:00 and 7:00 pm Sedar Meal and worship

Fish Fry 5:30 pm

Maundy Thursday April 2

Skogdalen 6:00 pm

Good Friday April 3

Community Worship at WCP 1:15 pm

Easter Sunday April 5

OSLC 6:30am 10:30am

Breakfast Brunch 7:30am - 10:00

Skogdalen 9:00am



Holy Week