

Our Savior's/Skogdalen Parish 306 S. Main St. Westby, WI 54667
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Pastor John Dumke 608.675.8910 jfdumke@gmail.net



OSLC/Skogdalen
ParishVoice
Spring 2014



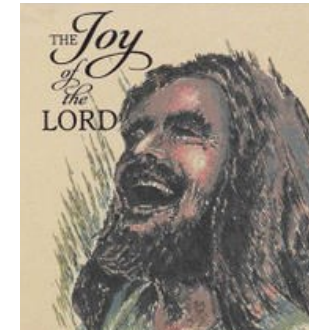
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Pastoral Perspectives

How to share the Joy of Jesus with others has been a challenge throughout the ages. The early church grappled with the tension between Jewish and Non-Jewish followers of the Risen One. While in Ireland I saw countless ancient church buildings that deteriorated over time as a result of one Christian tradition driving out another. Georgi and I stood in the pulpit that her great(x8) Uncle preached in before he left for America to help establish the Presbyterian church in the western Hemisphere. He spent his first year in prison as he was detained for being a Presbyterian Pastor! No wonder it is hard to get the word out about Jesus when there are so many issues within the faith community!

Sharing the Joy of Jesus begins within our faith communities as we strive to be a place where people gather to worship, serve and share in community. Where people of all ages feel welcomed and accepted, where judgment or gossip have no room to fester, where God is worshiped and experienced in a variety of ways, where people are heard and cared for, where we go from to serve Jesus by our service in society.



One of the keys to all of this is how we communicate with each other. This summer we will be addressing the means by which we share information about Jesus' ministry at OSCL and Skogdalen and this is how you can help.

- **Provide updated contact information** including address, phone cell phone and e-mail. You will be able to update the information on Sunday mornings and/or returning a form that will be mailed later this summer.
- **Provide information for the newsletter.** If you have something you would like included in the newsletter please provide the information to Rhonda by the 3rd Tuesday of the month. *The next newsletter deadline is June 16th!*
- **Take pictures of events!** It would be fantastic if a number of people from each of our congregations would serve as "church photographers."
- **Update Web-site and Facebook.** We are looking for a couple of people to update our website and Facebook on a regular basis!

Contact Rhonda or myself for more information.

In God's Surprising Grace!!!

Our Savior's Building Issues

The Building Task Force, would like to clarify some questions and concerns that have been raised in regards to the capital campaign and building project. **We want to be clear that the congregation will vote to approve the building project before any work is done. This vote will take place in June.**

The purpose of the Building Task Force was to identify building maintenance and improvement issues, and then determine a cost estimate for the project. Exact details of the project have not been decided upon at this time, as that was not the purpose of the Building Task Force. The photos that were in the back of the sanctuary were simply examples of similar projects to give a visual representation, not exact plans or photos of the proposed projects at Our Savior's. Work groups will be formed to address the fine details of each specific project that are yet to be worked out.

Another concern that has been raised is that a remodel would take away the building's look and feel of Norwegian heritage. We can assure you that this has been a consideration throughout this process. In fact, we believe that an updated and remodeled building could really showcase our Norwegian heritage beautifully!

Please see the following pictures and information to learn more about some areas in need of improvement. Not all of these projects will be able to be completed based on the amount of money that we currently have pledged. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Building Task Force or a member of church council.

Members of the Building Task Force

Eric Nottestad, Steve Holte, Jordan Christenson, Dave Maxwell, Eric Lovstad
Lori Johnson, Pastor John.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Eric Nottestad at ernot@hotmail.com

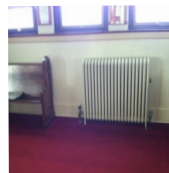


SANCTUARY

Ceiling and walls in the corners of the sanctuary have water damage due to roof leakage.

Some water damage to portions of the stain-glass window frames.

Radiators are part of the original steam heating system that is in need of replacement. 2



But how much attention do we pay to the preparation and execution of our corporate worship? Is it the “hub of our week, the space of our regrouping”? Do we expect to have a transformative experience? The Third Commandment (Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy) and Martin Luther's explanation (We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect his word and the preaching of it, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it) remind us that worship is central in the life of faith.

**Worship is not just another item on the list of
programs
and activities in a congregation.
It is the heart.**



Sometimes worship can become a sort of lived-in room — everything has become so familiar that we don't notice the frayed furniture. What if we entered worship as if it were our first experience of it? What if we saw the congregation and the liturgy through the eyes of a guest? Is the building clean? Where is the real front door? Does anyone greet us? Is the bulletin easy to navigate? Where are the nursery and the restrooms? Are instructions for communion clear?

And what about the worship service itself? We join with brothers and sisters throughout the world and across the centuries. This has nothing to do with styles of music — there is a breadth of hymnody in Evangelical Lutheran Worship and related resources. Gospel, Bach, contemporary and world music are all powerful ways of hearing God's word and singing praise. It's good to be fluent in the musical vernacular of our communities and to try those of others.

Most of all we should come to worship expecting to be changed. We are touching, tasting, feeling, hearing and seeing the one who knows us and loves us completely. Our lives are restored. We are set free. Fed for the journey we are set loose to go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

*Condensed from the May issue of The Lutheran Magazine.
 Copies of the entire magazine are available on the table in the
 back of the church or in the church office.*

Worship is the heart of all we do!
**Given competition, is it ‘hub of our week, the space of our
 regrouping’?**

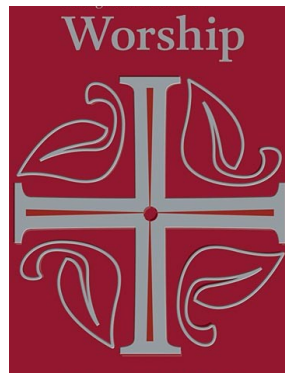
There is a Seattle-based caffeinated beverage company that goes to great lengths to provide excellent customer service. Its campaign is to make itself everyone’s “Third Place.” “First Place” is home, “Second Place” is work and “Third Place” is the local coffeehouse. There is meticulous training for employees, relentless market research and creative adaptability employed by the company to retain customers.

Employees practice the “hand-off plane” where they are taught to make eye contact when handing over the vente mocha latte to the customer. This is so the customer will have a transformative experience while sipping a cup of joe. And it works. In a letter to thank the staff a woman wrote: *“You are the hub of our week, the space of our regrouping,” and she went on to describe a multigenerational, multicultural, multi socioeconomic community where she and her family found comfort and a sense of belonging.*

This is our competition.

We are church. At the heart of what we do is worship, and at the heart of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. Everything else we do is formed, nourished, sustained and transformed by our life as a faith community gathered around word and sacrament, abiding in the love of God. Without this intentional, regular communion with God and each other it’s not possible for us to speak an authentic word of hope to a broken world — the world God so loves.

When we gather for worship we hear God’s word of promise; we confess our helplessness; receive forgiveness; we pray; and we welcome new brothers and sisters through baptism, promising to support them in their walk in faith. We are fed with the bread of life and receive our Lord poured out for us. And then we are sent back into the world. Worship is essential for the church’s life and service.



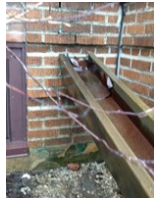
EXTERIOR

Roof is in need of repair, especially the flat portions of the roof. This needs to be addressed to stop water damage to the sanctuary.



Doors are in need of refurbishing and sealing to ensure that they will last and be energy efficient.

Railings need replacing for safety and aesthetics, and the steps repaired.



Gutters, drainage pipes, grading, and landscaping require work to ensure that water flows away from the building to prevent damage to the foundation.



Two air-conditioners are part of an air-condition/heating system that is in need of replacement.

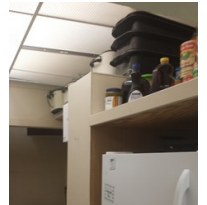
Slope of sidewalk towards the door by the church office slopes towards the building, causing water leaks into the basement.

KITCHEN

Ceiling tiles are in disrepair or missing.

Cramped, storage areas that are not easily accessible.

Single pane windows that are extremely energy inefficient (can feel air movement near them).



MECHANICAL ROOM



Outdated electrical system, some of it is original from 1921.

Boilers are in need of replacement. Most of the steam system pipes are original to the building.

BATHROOMS

The main men’s bathroom is not handicap-accessible.

A second, smaller men’s bathroom is extremely dated and in disrepair.

Though the women’s bathroom is somewhat handicap-accessible, there are several corners to navigate while entering and it is difficult for a wheelchair to access.



FELLOWSHIP HALL

Floor tile is worn, outdated. Ceiling tiles are sagging due to water damage



Back wall of the stage area is deteriorating, with crumbling plaster.



STAIRWAYS

Damage to the plaster on the walls and ceiling.

Water leakage and damage to the floor next to the furnace at the bottom of the steps.

Lounge and Office Wing

Single pane windows are not only inefficient from an energy standpoint, they do not open or close easily.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE As of May 1 there have been 82 responses to the capital campaign pledge drive either with a pledge or just an acknowledgement. So far the pledges total \$248,130 and \$37,000 has been collected so far; pledges range from \$10 to \$30,000 over a 3-year period.

We are currently working with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA to secure the funding to proceed with our building program. The amount of the funding is based upon our successful Building on a Strong Foundation. It is after we



**2015
SYNOD ASSEMBLY
YOU ARE INVITED**

Friday evening and Sunday
morning open to
ALL MEMBERS of the synod!

Come “Walk the Word” with us!

FRIDAY, JUNE 12
Riverside Park, downtown La Crosse
6 pm - Come early, bring a picnic — Follow the “Walk the Word” trail to encounter our assembly theme.
7 pm - “Lost and Found” concert; have your blanket or chairs set up near the bandshell for this FREE, open-to-the-public concert (free-will offering taken to cover event expenses) Request list of parking sites—608.788.5000.
Rain Venue—La Crosse Central High School, 1801 Losey Blvd, auditorium

SUNDAY, JUNE 14
Lunda Center, Western Technical College
319 7th St N, - parking available in ramp along La Crosse St, entrance off 8th St.

8:15 am — Opening message,
ELCA Rep., Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman

9 & 10 am — The Best Sunday School Ever!
(each workshop session offered twice)

Festival Sending Worship — done by 1 pm



“SUNDAY SCHOOL” WORKSHOPS will focus on How Congregations Do Advocacy —
“Walking the Word” in your unique setting

Presentations include doing food truck ministry, environmental advocacy, the politics of water, how to have civil conversations, how the church does political advocacy, how to have conversations w/ community leaders, immigration reform, how to take these issues back to your congregation and more!



If you are caring for someone with **Alzheimer's or other dementia**, or just want to know how you can help family and friends with dementia, come to the Vernon County *Alzheimer's Support Group*.

Discussion with Jackie Thingvold, Speech and Language Pathologist
4 p.m. Monday, June 1, 2015
Kirkeeng Room, Bethel Home

If you are in need of Adult Day Care for your loved one while you attend this session, contact Lynn Clark Swiggum for pre-registration to Care Cove.

2015 Meetings will be held the first Monday of the month except September which will be the 2nd Monday

Bethel Village
20th Anniversary
Strawberry Social
Thurs., June 25, 2015

Bethel Village 904 Wall St. Cashton
Serving from 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Hot beef sandwiches, hotdogs, chips, strawberry shortcake,
ice cream, coffee and punch - free will offering



Pie and Plant Auction -
Donations of pies and plants appreciated -Proceeds for Bethel Village

Blood Pressure checks by Parish Nurses

Bring food pantry items for Cashton Cupboard and Closet!



OSLC Council Highlights May 11, 2015

Pastor's Report

Reflected on Pastor John & Georgi's recent trip to Ireland. Observations made by visiting with youth – they have same problems we have concerning young people not being involved with a church.

Capital Campaign Update

Lori – a letter with pictures will be in the newsletter addressing the concerns that have been raised in regards to the capital campaign building project.

Jayne – as of this date there have been 82 responses to the capital campaign pledge drive either with a pledge or just an acknowledgement. So far the pledges total \$248,130 which is 71% of our goal; \$37,000 has been collected so far; pledges range from \$10 to \$30,000 over a 3-year period.

Activity Plans

As discussed at April's council meeting each Ministry Team needs to fill out an Activity Report Sheet each month providing information on activities, responsibilities and goals/programs.

Communication

Discussion continued on how we can better communicate with church members. The newsletter needs to be improved with more information. We need to get the information to Rhonda before the 3rd Tuesday of the month deadline. Each committee needs to submit an article to put in each month. A new format will be used for July. We need to find someone who will submit pictures to the local paper. Also Facebook could be used for more communication.

Pastor John will send out two letters this week for council to look at. One is for receiving updated addresses, emails and phone numbers from church members. The second is to contact members who have no record of worshipping or giving the past 18 months.

Discussion was held on considering having a new directory made to provide us with updated information and pictures of our church members.

Church Council Meeting Recap

Skogdalen Council met on Thursday, April 9, 2015

Pastor John discussed the Confirmation Banquet. It went well. Confirmation Sunday will be on Sunday, May 3rd. We have three girls getting confirmed, Kiana Euler, Connie Siverhus & Caroline Siverhus.

Pastor John handed out information on Endowments. The MIF Endowment fund invests conservatively. It will have to be decided how much money we will put into the Endowment Fund. Council will be voting on a recommendation to bring before the entire congregation at a later date.

The cemetery needs to be discussed. We need to get the cemetery all figured out so we know what is available for purchase. A group will be going over and talking to Archie to figure things out.

We will have a clean-up day on Saturday, April 18th to clean the church before the salad luncheon.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Parish Baptisms



Wesley Allan Budworth	January 11, 2015
Lennyn Grace Connelly	March 1, 2015
Easton Thomas Raasch	March 15, 2015
Lindsey Raasch	March 15, 2015
Juliette Rosella Walkowicz	May 10, 2015
Remington Colt Jerome Bjornstad	May 17, 2015

Parish Funerals

Beverly Ann Kolbo	January 18, 2015
Joyce Rundhaugen	March 26, 2015
Skyler James Jarrett	April 9, 2015
Arnold Meyer	April 28, 2015
Eunice C. Sorenson	May 6, 2015
Larry J. Olson	May 7, 2015



July 12-16
8:00 a.m. until Noon,
Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church

Cost for Day Camp is \$15.00 per person or \$40.00 per family.

Confidential scholarships are available upon request. Please contact Pastor Julie Wollman at Westby Coon Prairie for more information. Registration forms are available at each of the participating congregations and also online at wcplutheran.org Registration deadline is June 25!

A joint ministry of Westby Area Lutheran Churches:
Westby Coon Prairie, Vang, Our Savior's and Skogdalen.

CONFIRMATION CAMP



Confirmation students going to Sugar Creek Bible Camp need to get their registration forms and fee to Sugar Creek Bible Camp as soon as possible. Confirmation camp is scheduled for June 14 - 19th.

Confirmation Ministry will be starting back up in the fall.



The WAY



The WAY (Westby Area Youth) is looking for yards to rake and windows to wash. If you know of anyone that needs help with yard work or washing windows, please call the church office at 634-4871 and let us know.