

# Parish Voice



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

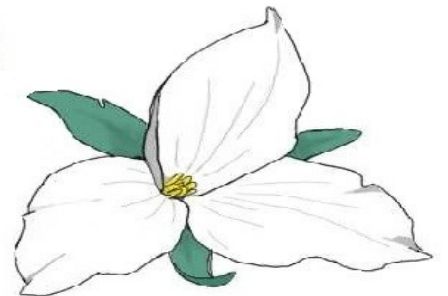


*Our Savior's Skogdalen Parish*

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Westby, WI 54667

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Pastor John Dumke



**OUR SAVIOR'S AND SKOGDALEN  
306 S. MAIN ST.  
WESTBY, WI 54667**

**What's Inside.....**

**Pastor's Perspective  
Council Highlights  
WELCA Minutes  
Youth Ministries**

**Non-Profit Organ.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Westby, WI 54667  
Permit #21**

A year ago Georgi and I were loading the cars and trailer to venture into God's Country for a new chapter in our lives. It has been a delightful year for us as we have gained new friends, tasted new foods, shared times of joy and moments of sadness and through it all have been blessed to be part of Jesus' ministry at Skogdalen and Our Savior's!



Thank you for your partnership in ministry and willingness to see and do ministry in new ways that strive to make a difference in people's lives. We are learning together what Jesus' ministry looks like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Westby. In reality it is not so different from our parents and grandparents who came before us. The important aspects of Jesus' ministry are being relevant in people's lives today by keeping the focus on the Gospel. If we solely attempt to connect to people in ways that made sense to us in the 50's or even the 90's we are falling short of the great commission that Jesus gave us in Matthew 28: ***God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life,***

This is a balancing act as we strive to be a community of faith for people who grew up with the red and green hymn book to feel respected and connected while also providing ministries to those who respond to current forms of music and are open to "being the church" in new ways.

The only way I know how to find this balance and direction for ministry is to turn to the Holy Spirit to guide us. To be open to a Vision of what Jesus' has in store for us by listening to the spirit move within and around us. Throughout scripture there are countless stories of people being intentional about being led by a vision for ministry. It is just what happens when we remain connected with Jesus, or as Paul writes in *2 Corinthians 5:17* ***"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation..."***

I'm excited that both our councils have taken the bold step to enter into a Listening and Visioning Ministry this year. Guided by Pastor Libby we will enter into a three part ministry process that involves the entire congregation in listening, visioning and responding to the direction of the Holy Spirit. I am so proud to be part of the people of faith who are willing to engage in this adventure by being open to building upon our rich heritage of faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

In God's Surprising Grace,

Pastor John

## December OSLC Council Highlights

Accepted the secretary and treasurer reports



### Personnel Committee Report

- Accepted the recommendation to pay regular and substitute organist \$50 for regular Sunday or holiday, \$30 for Lenten Service and \$20 for choir practice.
- Accepted the recommendation to reimburse Pastor John for medical insurance costs of \$677.54 for November and \$1583.33 for December.
- Accepted the recommendation regarding Pastor John's housing allowance for tax purposes.

### Executive Committee

- Set the Annual Meeting date of Sunday January 19, 2014 following worship.
- Approved the proposed 2014 ministry budget. On Sunday January 5 and 12 at 9:15am there will be an opportunity to review the budget prior to the annual meeting. Council members will present the line item budget and answer and questions or concerns.
- In addition to the line item ministry budget there will also be a narrative ministry budget that describes the budget in five areas: Worship, Christian Education, Outreach, Pastoral Care and Fellowship.
- Accepted the recommendation to have C&C Landscape do sidewalks in addition to parking lot 7 days a week.

### Other

- Thank you out to Karen Hankee, Peter Leum and Dennis & Linda Huebner for all the extra insulating jobs they have done around the church.
- Thank you to Dorothy for generously hosting the Christmas Party/Church Council at her house again this year.



## OS WELCA



On December 12, 2013 President Joan Anderson opened the WELCA meeting reading the Purpose Statement in the church basement at 1pm. Delaine Jefson played the opening Hymn #10 'Silent Night' as the ladies sang along. Pastor John gave the devotions with a twist for us ladies and we had to put our thinking caps on as we were quizzed about whether the Christmas Scripture has facts or fiction in our memories. What an eye opener we had!!

The Secretaries Report was given by Lynette Johnson and it was accepted as read. Hildur Devine then gave the Treasurers Report and it was accepted as read. The business that was discussed concerned the ladies helping the MOOS with the project of making lefse for the upcoming February lutefisk and lefse meal. So a couple of dates have been set for making lefse in January with many hands needed. January 11<sup>th</sup> and January 18<sup>th</sup> will be busy days starting at 8am with 90 dozen lefse to be made. Hope to see you then! Potluck will on the menu for those days. January 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date for the Creamery Dinner and help is needed before, during, and after.

The meeting was turned over to the Rachel Circle and Lynette Johnson entertained the ladies with a touching Christmas story about 'Meet the In-Laws' from the Guidepost magazine. Many ladies shared their personal meeting of the in-laws afterwards. While the collection was taken Delaine played some other Christmas music that was very memorable. We then closed the meeting by singing the Table Grace and said the Lord's Prayer.

Many thanks for the lovely meal that was made by Vicki Peterson and Kay Mueller. The month of January 2014 has the Sarah Circle doing the program and the Serving Hostesses are Penny Havlik and Susan Anderson.

Last month, Arleen Buros presented a lovely program regarding all of her years of decorating and making her cakes. It was enjoyed by all!

## Couples Retreat February 14th-16th Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Enrich your relationship with your spouse, and enjoy some time away together at Sugar Creek! You will share in some wonderful meals, fun activities, and opportunities to strengthen your relationship.



Pick up a brochure at church or contact pastor John



## Mission Jamaica 2014 June 26- July 6 2014 There is still time to join in the adventure!

Registration and \$100 deposit reserves your spot and are due January 15th.

## Signs and wonders

Highway billboards:

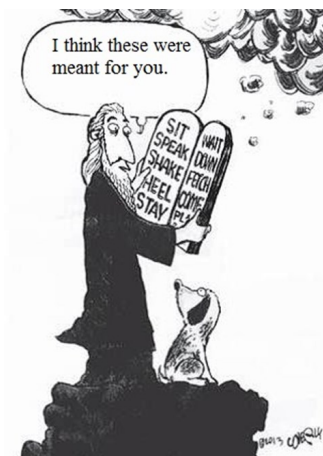
"Please do not drink when you drive. You are not ready to see Me yet."

—God

"What part of 'You should not...' don't you understand?"

—God

Highway sign outside a small town in Louisiana:  
"Drive carefully – We have two cemeteries, no hospital."



## OS USHERS FOR JANUARY

**Head Usher:** Howard Langhus

**Balcony:** Peter Leum

Ryan Dunnum, Kenneth Schuttemeier,  
Keith Olson & Kenny Schuttemeier

**ALTAR CARE:** Karen Hankee & Sandy Iverson

**COMMUNION CARE:** Dorothy Stoffregen & Marilyn Leum



### Memorials

Leo & Darlene Ostrem      Undesignated

## LAST MONTH'S OFFERINGS:

	<u>Offerings,</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Income</u>	
Dec. 1	\$2728.00 (* \$490.00)	\$ 420.00	125
Dec 8	\$3623.00 (* \$1550.00)	\$ —	124
Dec 15	\$4631.00 (* \$315.00)	\$ 2523.00	337
Dec 22	\$4045.00 (* \$2175.00)	\$ 37.00	66
Dec 24	\$2489.79		466
Dec 25	\$90.00		50
Dec 29	\$2941.87 (* \$315.00)	\$1644.00	87

\*Auto Giving included in Total



### GIVEN BY:

LaVonne Kingslien  
Steve & Kay Holte Family

Ron & Coryl Evenstad Family

Corey & Barb Christenson Family  
Corey & Barb Christenson Family

Roger & Pat Jaeger  
Eric & Jean Nottestad Family  
Curtis & Peggy Dunnum Family

The Leum Family  
Janice Constalie Family  
Mark & Sandy Anderson Family

Shirley Aarness & Family

Marie Berg

### GIVEN BY:

Eileen Knitt  
Cindy Langhus  
Jay & Karen Hankee  
Keith Olson Family  
Eunice Sorenson (2)

### IN MEMORY OF:

Rodney Kingslien  
Milton & Lenore Carlson and  
Stanley Holte  
Earl & Helen Evenstad and  
Chester & Marjorie Hendrickson  
Neil & Betty Davis  
Minnie Henning and Evelyn  
Christenson  
Jeff Jaeger  
Walker & Lois Isaacson  
Allan Stakston, Clinton Dunnum  
and Jim Urbanek  
Elmer & Lenora Leum  
Bruce Constalie  
Arlin & Arleen Henthorn and  
James & Myrtle Anderson  
Leon Aarness, Corey Aarness,  
and Leif & Lilah Swiggum  
Wallace Berg (Skogdalen)

### IN HONOR OF:

Children Around the World  
Family  
Verna Hankee  
Grandma Shirley  
The Christmas Season

A special thank you to everyone that helped provide these beautiful flowers for our Christmas season to brighten our sanctuary, remember loved ones and honor others.





## 2013 Christmas Poinsettias

### GIVEN BY:

Pastor John & Georgi (2)  
 Craig & Lori Johnson & Family  
 Mackenzie & Judy Swick  
 Mackenzie & Judy Swick  
 Catherine Schlicht  
 Matt Berger  
 Matt Berger  
 Ron & Sandy Iverson  
 Larry, Dorothy, Dylan & Devi  
 Stoffregen Family  
 Larry, Dorothy, Dylan & Devi  
 Stoffregen Family  
 Brian & Jayne Anderson Family  
 Nancy Lovstad & Family  
 Nancy Lovstad & Family  
  
 The Leum Family  
 The Leum Family  
  
 The Leum Family  
 The Dunnum Family  
  
 Annette Easterday & Rand Constalie  
  
 Pat Onshus & Girls  
 Maren Melby & Family  
 Dee Goss  
 Dee Goss  
 Monte & Shirley Hagen  
 Dennis & Linda Huebner Family  
  
 Doug & Karen Traastad Family

### IN MEMORY OF:

Loved Ones Past  
 Grandparents  
 Robert Finkboner  
 Randy Swick  
 Charlie & Ragna Johnson  
 Gabe & Kelly Gabrielson  
 Alton & Rhodia Berger  
 Parents  
 Jim & Barb Stoffregen  
  
 Henry & Betty Linrud  
  
 John O. Ostrem  
 Ralph Lovstad  
 Helmer & Verna Bekkedahl  
 (Skogdalen)  
 Lloyd & Inez Leum  
 Sharon Pederson and LouAnn  
 Bakkum  
 Otis & Lillian Leum  
 Ronald Dunnum, Dylan Dunnum  
 and Jim Hansen  
 Eileen Constalie and Bruce  
 Constalie  
 Thor Onshus  
 Howard Melby  
 Dick Goss and Ann Monk  
 Loretta Beatty  
 Richard Christianson  
 Arno & Mildred Huebner,  
 Henry & Vera Friedlein and  
 Vivian Bueford  
 Orville & Mag Traastad and  
 Glen & Betty Ehle

The Sunday School's Good Gifts campaign was a huge success! Many thanks to everyone for their generous contributions. Here is a summary of our campaign...



We collected money three ways:

Good Gifts were purchased by the congregation in early December.

This amount was **\$745**.

Sunday School offering money collected so far this year was contributed. This total was **\$390.91**.

The Sunday School kids brought home "Barn Banks", filled them up with spare change, and returned them to purchase Good Gifts. A total of **\$278.09** was raised.

Our grand total was **\$1414.00!** That is a lot of animals and supplies going to help others around the world who are less fortunate than us this Christmas.

So what Good Gifts did we purchase? Some of the money was used to buy gifts that were specified by the giver, while some of the money was undesignated. The kids voted on which animals to purchase with any undesignated money. We were able to buy...

2 goats	2 honey bee hives
3 pigs	30 baby chicks
1 sheep	\$100 to Philippines relief efforts
1 cow	1 fish farm
2 mosquito nets	7000 water purification tablets
1 fruit tree seedling	Health care for 5 children
2 sets of farm tools	3 sets of school supplies

Thanks again to everyone – our Sunday School kids and our congregation – for your generosity! Also, a big thank you goes out to our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders for leading the Good Gifts campaign: Emilie Brose, Riley Dunnum, Chase Haakenson, Riley Hagen, Devin Hansen, Jonah Jepsen, Ellen Johnson, Cody Meyer, and Austin Mowery. Great job!

# 6 WINTER FUN DAYS

at Sugar Creek Bible Camp!  
January 26 and February 23, 2014

**Time: 1– 5 P.M.**

Come to camp for a Sunday afternoon of snow tubing, broom ball, snow shoeing, wagon rides, and more! We have the tubes and broom ball equipment. You can bring cross country skis and/or ice skates.

Enjoy a wonderful family outing or bring your church group for the day. We will serve warm drinks, a mid-afternoon lunch about 2:30 p.m. of hot dogs, chili, cocoa, etc. and we'll have a toasty fire ready for you.

**Car pool from OSLC at noon**

**Cost for the day: \$5.00 per person** *(includes lunch)*

*Sign up at church*



## Faith Stepping Stones

**January 19th Grade 5 and 6 with parents 9:15 am**

### Parents, Kids and Money Matters

This values-based workshop is designed for parents and their kids. During the workshop, parents and kids will learn how to make intentional choices about sharing, saving and spending money and talk about money and values in their family. A game format sparks discussion about money influences and choices.

Faith Stepping Stones is an intentional ministry Our Savior's provides for quality faith conversations between parents and children. Faith Stepping stones are designed to uphold the covenant promise that the parents made at their son/daughters baptism that they would guide them in Christian discipleship.

These short courses are designed with the expectation of parent participation. Pastor John will be team teaching each class on selected Sunday mornings at 9:15

# 7 2014 Estimated Giving Stewardship Program Summary

(As of December 7, 2013)

Total Estimated Giving Cards Completed with Commitment: 70

Total Amount Committed:	\$122,180
Last Twelve Months Giving:	<u>\$ 93,768</u>
Increase:	\$ 28,412 (30.3%)

No Response and/or No Commitment: 111

Last Twelve Month's Giving: \$ 41,533



## Anticipated Operating Income for 2014

Estimated Giving Card Commitments	\$122,180
No Response/No Commitment (Last 12 Month's Giving)	\$ 41,553
Average Loose Offering Past 12 Months	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
Estimated Income from Offerings	\$167,733

### Other Church Income

Westby Day Care & Learning Center (\$1500/month)	\$ 18,000
Skogdalen (\$1700/month)	<u>\$ 20,400</u>
Grand Total of Anticipated Income for 2014	\$206,133

(Not Including Special Offerings/Memorials/Interest/Misc.)

## OSLC Budget Review With Coffee and Donuts!!!

On Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup>, members from the OSLC Council will hold budget review meetings for all interested parishioners. This will be held at 9:15 in the church lounge both days. This is something new that the council is offering so that you can be better informed prior to our annual meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. We will answer any questions you may have regarding the budget. We encourage you to come out and find out how our ministry funds are used.

## OSLC Annual Meeting and Potluck

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> immediately following our service. After the meeting we will have a potluck lunch. We hope that all will attend.

Please get your reports for the annual meeting to the church office.