

Our Savior's/Skogdalen Parish 306 S. Main St. Westby, WI 54667
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OSLC/Skogdalen
Parish Voice
September 2014



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

Non-Profit Organization
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Westby, WI 54667
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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

I look forward to September as there is the sense of activity and excitement among God's people at OSLC and Skogdalen

- There are more people in the pews!
- Nearly 100 kids will be learning about Jesus in Sunday school!
- Confirmation begins! Really!
- Ministry teams (my term for committees) are more active!

New This Fall

Westby area Lutheran churches – in this newsletter you will notice an invitation to worship at any of the four congregations (Westby Coon Prairie, Vang, Skogdalen, and Our Savior's). For far too long there has been a sense of competition, estrangement and uncertainty between the Lutheran churches of Westby. For Jesus' ministry to flourish in the 21st century we must move beyond petty issues and differences. While the four congregations have distinct identities our true identity is in Christ. When our collective focus is upon Jesus' ministry and not so wrapped in other aspects of church we are capable of being more fully involved in the extraordinary mission that Jesus has entrusted us with.

WAY (Westby area youth – the tentative name for our high school ministry)

Building Task Force – after years of talking about the building issues we are taking action!

Worship – New forms of worship will enhance our community of faith. I know it will be exciting for some and challenging for others, yet I know that when we keep the focus on the mission and ministry of Jesus we will flourish together.



But to tell you the truth what I'm really looking forward to is the world's most beautiful baby's first birthday party on Sunday September 14th

Building Task Force

At the special congregational meeting on Sunday July 13 a motion was made and unanimously passed to form a building task force to prepare a report to the congregational meeting regarding the many building needs that have been identified this past year. One of their main tasks is to receive input from the entire congregation as to the building needs and then to prioritize them in creating their report. Please keep these servant leaders in your prayers and participate in this process to enhance our wonderful building to continue and expand upon Jesus' ministry at OSLC.

Westby Area Lutheran Churches Invitation

Please feel free to worship with any of our congregation at any time. All offering designations will be honored and any offering envelopes for one congregation received at another will be forwarded to them.

Sunday Morning

Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church
 8:00 a.m. – Traditional
 9:30 a.m. – Band Lead Contemporary



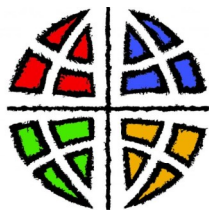
Skogdalen Lutheran Church 9:00 a.m.

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church 10:30 a.m.
 1st Sunday – Traditional
 2nd Sunday – Contemporary with piano
 3rd Sunday – Traditional
 4th Sunday - Contemporary with guitar

Vang Lutheran Church 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening – Begins October 1, 2014

Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church
 6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Night “Animate” – Conversation, Learning, and Prayer
 All are Welcome!

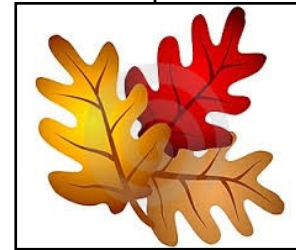


Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Pastor Daniel Wollman

Pastor John Dumke

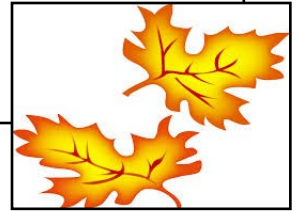
Pastor Julie Wollman



Skogdalen Fall Meatball Dinner
 Sunday, October 5th
 11:00 - 1:00

Meatballs, Mashed potatoes & Gravy
 Carrots, cole slaw,
 Applesauce, lefse & pie

Hope to see everyone there!



OSLC BAPTISMS

Ginger Lynn Klinkner (daughter of Gail & Robert Klinker)	June 15, 2014
Mason Marshal Myhre (son of Patricia & Tony Myhre)	June 22, 2014
Nevaeh Rae Speidel (daughter of Keasha Lander & Traye Speidel)	July 13, 2014

OSLC FUNERALS

Norman Rose	June 21, 2014
LeRoy Anderson	July 11, 2014
Betty Homstad	August 16, 2014

SKOGDALEN FUNERALS

Leland Jacobson	August 14, 2014
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MEMORIALS

Verna Berg	Undesignated
Margaret Knutson	Sunday School
LeRoy Anderson	Undesignated
Betty Clark	Undesignated
Betty Homstad	Undesignated
Leo & Darlene Ostrem	Undesignated

OS WELCA August Highlights
Complete minutes are available in the church office



Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

A quilt would be provided for the Sugar Creek Auction on September 6th

Pies are needed for the funeral of Betty Homstad on August 16th.

We will help serve dinner for the ordination of Joe Iverson on August 23

Our program was presented by Kathleen Sullivan, the Outreach Coordinator for the Unit on Aging Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels)



SKOGDALEN WELCA August Highlights
Complete minutes are available in the church office

The Bethel Home Newsletter and South Conference Newsletters were sent around.

Shirley read a "Thank You" from Kiana for the money for confirmation camp.

Our Bazaar is on Saturday, October 25th and items are needed for the auction.

Lisa purchased a gift for Joe Iverson ordinations.

Yvonne brought up the need to complete the cabinet before October 1st.

Thank you to the Ladies for the two quilts for the Jason Mikkelson Benefit at the Eagles in Viroqua.

The WELCA Meeting for September will be on Saturday, August 20th at 10:00.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY
Westby Area Youth (tentative name)



The high school ministry of the Lutheran churches of Westby (WCP, OSLC, Skogdalen and Vang).

Wednesday evenings beginning September 17 We don't have a name but we do have a time, place, and leaders.

Time – Wednesday (Just show up anytime between 5 and 7)

5:30pm - **FOOD** for just 2 bucks you get something good to eat and drink

6:00ish to 7ish **Life as we know it** - time for conversation and more - just show up and see what it's like

Place – OSLC "the chocolate church" Upstairs across from Pastor John's office

Leaders

Tim Larson (the really tall guy), Elsa Dumke (daughter number 3), Pastor John (dad of #3)

National Youth Gathering Meeting for parents and youth
Wednesday October 1 7pm at OSLC

Summer stuff

National Youth Gathering July 15-19, 2015 in Detroit
Backpacking in Colorado June 20 – June 27 (tentatively)

Potential other stuff

Paintball, Winter fun day, servant event, etc....It's really up to YOU!



Confirmation starts on Wednesday, September 17th 3:30—5:00



Sunday School At OS's

Ages 3 to 6th grade

Begins Sunday September 7 9:15 – 10:15

We are looking forward to another busy, fun-filled year together, and are so glad that you are able to join us.

Each Sunday, all children will start out in the main area of the church basement for announcements and music, and then will proceed to their classrooms. We will also finish up in the basement, so that is where you may plan to pick your child up.

We are always welcoming new students and families. New students may register for Sunday School at any time during the year, and just need to show up on Sunday morning and we will get them all set. Similarly, guest children are always welcome (and encouraged) at Sunday School!

New this year, Our Savior's Sunday School has a Facebook page. **Our Facebook page is "Our Saviors Sunday School"**. We will primarily use it as a tool to get information to parents, in addition to the usual notes that are sent home with the kids. So "like" us to stay in the loop! We also now have an email address: oswestbysunsch@yahoo.com. Feel free to email us with any questions or concerns.

Also as a reminder, church is at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday after Sunday school. We would love to see more families and children attending church on Sundays! It can be a special and rewarding time together, and an hour well spent in the midst of our busy lives. Many families find that although it is one more thing on the calendar, it does not make them feel busier, but rather the opposite. It is an hour to be still together and learn about God's love. So please consider attending regularly.



**SKOGDALEN CHURCH
COUNCIL**
August Highlights

Treasurer's Report –

Balance at the end of July was \$6,281.50. She noted that our share to OS is back to \$1,700 instead of the \$1,000 we had been paying for the last 3 months.

Discussion concerning shutting off the heat in the sanctuary after Christmas to save heating costs and having church in the hall until it gets warmer.

Property concerns

Loren and Ryan volunteered to take care of the little trees growing in the rain gutter and trimming the evergreens in front of the church.

Annette will check with Nancy about putting new coverings on the two windows on the front side of the church.

Ann & Glenn will power wash and repair the deck then Bob will do the sealing.

Membership rolls

Discussion was held concerning sending a letter to those people on our membership rolls who are inactive: no record of worship attendance, offerings, or participated in church life in any way since January 2013.

Personnel Committee,

Yvonne noted Pastor John has requested vacation days in January and April of next year. We will need to schedule our annual meeting in January so he can be in attendance.

Annette, Lisa, Jan, Yvonne, Shirley, Emy, Ryan, & Richard will participate in a ministry review of Pastor John this fall.



Brianna and I wish to thank the Our Savior's and Skogdalen congregations for all the gifts of service, food, cards, money, and prayers. It was so great to have so many people who care for us present to share in the ordination. I would not be who I am without all of you. We wish to extend an invitation to whomever would like to come to visit us in Chassell MI!

God's Blessings, Pastor Joe Iverson

OSLC Financials



Our Savior’s annual ministry budget to operate the church (electric, gas, insurance, maintenance, etc.), pay salaries and benefits for the staff, and support our many ministries is \$231,879. The council has kept the budget in check over the past few years and continues to keep the expenses at the bare minimum. Over the past twelve months we have experienced some higher maintenance expenses such as increased heating expenses and furnace repair. As of the end of July we were running a short fall of \$12,000.

We are still healthy; however, we continually fall short of income to support the full budget. We are asking you, our congregation, to review your finances and please continue to support Jesus’ Ministry at OSLC. We are in need of your support!

Our Savior’s is very stable - 125 years and going strong! These short falls happen when an organization runs a tight budget. The congregation's resources are carefully managed by the council and staff.

Your church needs your financial support. We have a lean budget and we need consistent offering to support our ministry budget. September is a good time to review and “catch up” in your giving. Prayerfully consider your offerings in the coming months realizing that all that we have is a gift from God and that we give so we can participate in Jesus’ ministry!

Whatever you give will be put to good use in support of the mission and ministry of OSLC. Together we glorify God in many different ways.

January 1-July 31, 2014 Financials

INCOME	Offerings	\$85,010.48
	Day Care	\$10,500.00
	Skogdalen	\$ 8,100.00
	Designated Funds	\$ 6,760.00
	Other	\$ 1,565.28
	Total Income	\$111,935.76
EXPENSES	Total expenses	\$124,443.56
OVER/UNDER	Deficit	- \$12,507.80

Worship life at OSLC and Skogdalen
Reflections of Pastor John



WORSHIP LIFE

Worship is central to our faith life and has always been evolving. Let me explain.

I was born and raised in a Lutheran parsonage, attended a Lutheran college and seminary, served in four Lutheran congregations and directed one Lutheran Bible Camp. Yet in all that time I have only attended one “traditional” Lutheran worship service. That was on Easter Sunday March 26 1978 in Germany. That’s the only time I attended worship in the language of Luther! Worship in any other language than German is not “traditional” Lutheran. Yes, even Norwegian! One of the hallmarks of Lutheranism is to worship in the common language of the people. This includes music, liturgies, hymns, songs, instruments .

I’ve come to the realization that what is traditional Lutheran worship to one person maybe different from another. I believe that traditional music tends to be based upon what a person grows up with. For me that means the old red book, for others the black book, for others the green book, for still others a Norwegian hymnal.

Less than a century ago the people of Our Savior’s and Skogdalen made the bold and I’m sure controversial decision to forgo what they were comfortable with and no longer worship in Norwegian. Ya betcha that some people left the church and thought the world was falling apart around them. The choice was made to broaden their worship so more people could worship God in ways that made sense to them, especially the youth. This dilemma continued to face them as new songs, hymnals and ways to worship confronted them.

Today we are faced with the same opportunity that our foremothers and forefathers: how to worship God in meaningful ways yet also meaningful for others, especially the young. It’s not a question of right or wrong, better or worse, or even good or bad. It is the question of how to be relevant in the 21st century. It is the question of participating in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in Westby that touches the lives of all people.

This past year the disciples of Jesus at Our Savior’s took the time in Lent to listen to where the Holy Spirit is leading us and spent a Sunday afternoon prioritizing those ministries. By far the number one ministry area was worship, specifically moving towards a more “contemporary worship”.

After prayer discussion and reflection the church council has accepted the recommendation to expand our worship life to include two services that are more “contemporary” in nature while also maintaining two worships that are more traditional and based upon the LBW (green hymnal).

Beginning this month the 1st and 3rd Sundays worship will be more “traditional” in nature, based upon the richness of our Lutheran hymnals. Vanessa Mills will lead these worships on the organ and piano and the choir will sing on a regular basis. The 2nd and 4th Sundays will be more “contemporary” in nature based upon the richness of newer songs, words and music. The 2nd Sunday will be led by Tara Lyons on piano and the 4th Sunday will be guitar lead. The 5th Sunday will “rotate” between services.

Like traditional, the term contemporary means different things to different people. For some it’s a band with everything projected on a screen for others it is written words in the bulletin. I like to use the term “authentic worship”. For me that means each congregation is unique and worship reflects that uniqueness. All our worships will be Lutheran; meaning liturgy, bible readings, sermon, songs/hymns, confession, and communion. My hope is that these changes will strengthen our worship life and connect more people to the Love and Forgiveness of Jesus Christ.



OSLC Church Council Highlights
August
 (complete minutes available in the church office)

Treasurer

- It was noted that an anonymous donation of \$5,000 was made to help cover the upcoming expenses for the furnace and boiler.
- A letter along with a statement of giving for the first 7 months and an Estimate of Giving card will be sent to all members of the congregation. The letter states as of the end of July we are running a short fall of \$12,000 due to higher maintenance expenses such as heating expenses and furnace repair.

Worship

- In response to the congregational visioning process that identified offering an additional style of worship this fall the motion was unanimously passed “That beginning this month the 1st and 3rd Sundays worship will be more “traditional” in nature, based upon the richness of our Lutheran hymnals. Vanessa Mills will lead these worships on the organ and piano and the choir will sing on a regular basis. The 2nd and 4th Sundays will be more “contemporary” in nature based upon the richness of newer songs, words and music. The 2nd Sunday will be led by Tara Lyons on piano and the 4th Sunday will be guitar lead. The 5th Sunday will “rotate” between services. “

Stewardship

- Consecration Sunday will be held November 16.
- New member Sunday will be on September 21.

Property

- Four bids will be coming in soon for the boiler and furnace. Their committee can approve up to \$20,000 on this project.

Building Task Force

- A list of names were given to appoint a ministry Task Force of six to seven people plus Pastor John. The Task Force will prepare recommendations concerning the building needs of OSLC to be presented at the annual meeting in January 2015.

Social Security Strategize To Maximize



When it comes to navigating the Social Security landscape, the choices can be overwhelming. And even just one mistake can be costly for the rest of your life. Join us for a presentation to explore how to sort through the red tape and options to help ensure the choices you make are right for you.

Event Details:

Thursday, September 25, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Borgen’s Café

Refreshments will be served during the event.

Offered by Thrivent Financial representatives Arne Fremstad, and John Mickelson
 To reserve your place, contact Arne Fremstad @608-637-7569 or 608-778-2909
 by Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014