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OSLC/Skogdalen  
Parish Paper  
December 2015



OUR SAVIOR'S  
Community Through Christ

*Our Savior's/Skogdalen  
Parish Paper*

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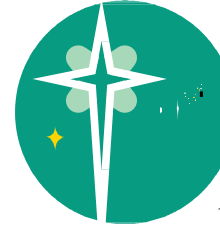
Our Savior's/Skogdalen Parish  
306 S. Main St.  
Westby, WI 54667

# ADVENT CONSPIRACY

I have really enjoyed our worship theme in November as Advent Conspiracy helped me prepare for Christmas. It reminded me too:

- **Worship Fully**- because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus!
- **Spend Less**- and free your resources for things that truly matter.
- **Give More**- of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, your heart!
- **Love All**- the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference.

Some of the most help statements were:



What if Christmas was no longer about stuff? What if this Christmas we could spend less, give more, worship fully, and love all? What if Christmas could, once again, change the world?

Our hearts are formed by what we worship and at Christmas our worship belongs to God. After all, it was God, not the shopping mall that gave us the greatest gift, Jesus Christ.

- We can spend less at Christmas because Christmas isn't about stuff, it's about Jesus. Let your celebration reflect the one you worship.
- When we spend less, not only are we able to give to others who are truly in need, but we are able to give more of ourselves the way Jesus gave to us. When we spend less, we can give more, and then really love all.
- What if we spent less so we could give more, worshipped fully and loved all people, all year long? Imagine what could happen!



Wishing you a most blessed and meaningful Christmas Season!

Pastor John

## December Worship Schedule



December 6

Communion

December 13

Sunday School Christmas  
Program will lead worship at OSLC

December 20

Leather and Lace Christmas Worship at OSLC

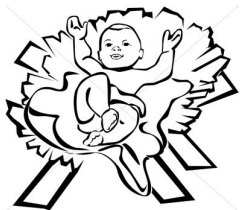
CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24 - OSLC

6:30pm Living Nativity

7:30pm Candle light worship

CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25 9:00am Skogdalen

December 27 Sunday School Christmas Program will lead worship at  
Skogdalen



Calling on all Baby Jesus'!!!!

We invite all past Baby Jesus' to gather at 7pm on  
Christmas Eve for a group picture!

## A Christmas Message from ELCA Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I recall this image from my home congregation:  
A banner depicting Mary and Jesus in the manger and the  
backlit silhouette of the cross cast over this scene. It was  
jarring.

The cross on Christmas? I didn't like it.

Christmas can carry so much emotional freight. We must be  
merry and filled with good cheer. We are driven to get  
everything perfect by the stroke of midnight on Christmas  
Eve. We are filled with wistful longing.

But what are we longing for?

We long for peace, love and a place to belong. We want to know that someone cares. We  
want the assurance that all of this means something. And, we try to bring that all about in  
the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

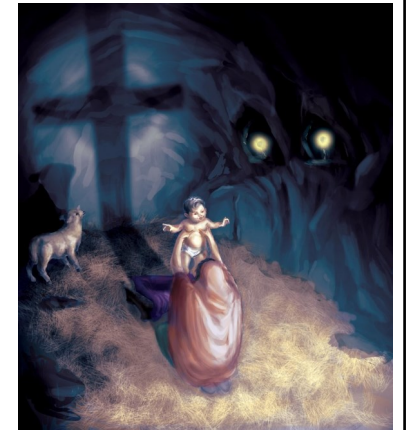
The hope of Christmas was fulfilled on Good Friday. The cross is part of Christmas.  
"Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you" (What Child Is  
This?). The cross is the Christmas gift, where all of our Christmas glorias are realized in  
Jesus' glorification on the cross.

We don't have to get everything completely right. We can't. That's God's work and it has  
been done. So, good Christian friends, rejoice!

Peace,

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop



## COME FOR SUPPER “CFS”

**Every Tuesday**  
**During our renovations, CFS will be held at**  
**Westby Coon Prairie**

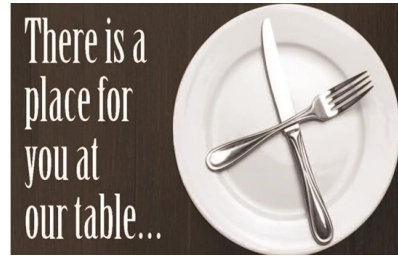
***Social Hour 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.***  
***Meal Served 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.***

**NO CHARGE “EVER”**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

“Come for Supper” is surpassing our expectations as we recently served 100 people! People of all ages and all walks of life have shared in community while enjoying a marvelous meal! A special thanks to the many people who have pitched in to make this a reality. If you feel God calling you to donate money or food, volunteer your time or simply connect with people in community, please contact Marilyn Leum (608) 634-4839

*“Come for Supper” is our response to Jesus asking Peter three times, “Do you love me?” (John 21. 15-17) And we say, as Peter did also, “Yes Lord, I love you.” Jesus then tells us to, “Feed my Sheep”. As disciples, we are called to love our neighbors, to uplift one another and help improve our community one meal at a time.*



**Birthday Cakes for Kids** - many of our grade school kids don't have the privilege of enjoying a birthday cake due to a variety of reasons. A sample of the kit is in the back of our churches along with an instruction sheet. Each birthday bag cost approximately five dollars. You can also bring an individual item or make a monetary contribution. The birthday kits will include a cake mix, topping, apple sauce (instead of oil/eggs), aluminum cake pan, directions and a birthday banner all in a solid colored gift bag.



## Need help with your Christmas shopping?

There is still time to make a difference this season!

Good news... the Sunday School will again be hosting a Good Gifts Fair ! Catalogs are available in the back of the sanctuary.



Instead of buying things that will wear out or be forgot in a few week you can give a gift that will change peoples lives in our country and around the world. You can “purchase” animals or supplies for others living in poverty around the world. Pick up a catalogue in the back of the church and browse the many options available. If you would like your donation to be a gift for someone on your Christmas list, cards are available to let them know that you purchased a Good Gift in their name.



The Sunday School will be presenting their annual Christmas program during church on December 13th. Our theme this year is "Gifts from God", and we will share many of the gifts that we are thankful for this Christmas season. Please plan to attend the program and support our Sunday School!

Parents and kids: Remember, there is no Sunday School on December 20th or 27th. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break! Sunday School will resume on January 3rd, and we will serve a Welcome Back breakfast for the kids during Sunday School that day. See you in the new year!

Once again, we will be having the live nativity at Our Savior's on Christmas Eve. The live nativity starts at 6:00 pm and people can come view it and take pictures. The service starts at 7:30. Any child who is interested in being an angel, shepherd or wise man should let Lori or Janessa know by December 13th. Anyone who is participating in the live nativity should be to the church by 5:45





## Westby Area Youth!

- **Wednesdays @ 5:45PM at Our Saviors -**
  - **Food provided**

The combined high school youth ministry of Our Savior's/Skogdalen and Westby Coon Prairie/Vang



### SUMMER EVENTS

**Sugar Creek House Boating**  
**Sunday June 26 – July 1**

*All current 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students are eligible to participate.*

Join us on a memory-making journey down the Mississippi River! You can explore the dunes, swim, slide, boat, laugh, and play in the beauty of God's amazing creation!



**PINE RIDGE MISSION TRIP 2016**  
**Friday, July 15 through Friday, July 22, 2016**  
*All current 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

On this trip, we will have the opportunity to continue our relationships with people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by ministering through children's programs and painting and weatherizing homes. This can and will be a life-changing experience. Meeting new friends and developing relationships with children & their families will last in your hearts forever! For more information or to register, please contact Pastor John!

### Youth Pine Ridge Meeting on December 6, 2015

We will be having our first Youth Pine Ridge Meeting on December 6, 2015 at Noon at Westby Coon Prairie church (Fellowship Hall). The meeting will last an hour. If you haven't signed up, but would like to attend, we still have openings available on a first come first serve basis. For more information talk with Pastor John .

### Exterior

The walkway on the north side of the church (entrance off the highway) has been replaced and created to slope away from the building. Frost stoops have been poured at all entrances to prevent the buckling of the concrete in the winter months.

Tuck-pointing and mason work is underway and will be completed this month.

The roof will be worked on later this month.

### Building Task Force:

Eric Nottestad (634-2447), Lori Johnson (634-2142), Dennis Havlik (634-3812), Steve Holte (634-4545), Dave Maxwell (632-0661), Jordan Christenson (634-2067), Dan Grass (634-4669)



### OSLC Financial Update:

It has been a great year at Our Savior's Lutheran Church as more and more exciting things keep happening. We appreciate your time, talents and treasures to support our various ministries. We are pretty much on target for spending compared to our budget for 2015, but our contributions are falling short of what was predicted for the year based on pledges and past giving history. Therefore, we have had to borrow \$15,000 from our line of credit at WCCU to stay current on our monthly operating expenses.

This is a gentle reminder to continue your financial support with regular giving either with your weekly offering, monthly pledge contributions, or automatic giving through our Simply Giving program (authorization forms available in back of church or the church office).



**OSLC Building Renovation Update**



**Sanctuary**

Progress on the new heating and air-conditioning includes the placement of the two units on the south side of the building. These forced air units will heat and cool the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We will wait until spring to landscape that area. New registers are being installed in the floor where the old radiators were located as well as new registers in other portions of the sanctuary.

Repairs to the roof and masonry work will be completed soon. Minor interior repairs to the interior of the sanctuary will be one of the last projects to be completed.

The sound system panel will be relocated to the back of the sanctuary.



**Fellowship Hall**



New ceiling tiles will be installed after the HVAC, electrical and other wiring is completed.

Work on new electrical and installation of new windows in the kitchen will begin later this month. At this time we will not replace any equipment.

Work will begin on constructing the new bathrooms later this month.

**Office/Education**

The new water boiler for the office/education has been installed.

New windows and doors will be installed later this month

A new corridor wall has been erected in the upstairs hallway of the office/ lounge area. This was needed to comply with fire and building codes.



**The OSLC Choir**



The OSLC Choir will be practicing every Sunday at 9:15 in the lounge through the 20th of December. We will be practicing for the Choir Festival held at WCP on Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and sing with the choir.

Choir Festival held at WCP on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.



**Marriage Retreat February 12-14**

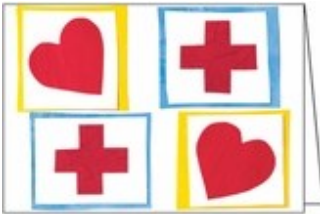


Join Pastor John and Georgi this Valentines weekend at Sugar Creek Bible Camp for a fantastic couples get away!

Enrich your relationship with your spouse, and enjoy some time away together at Sugar Creek! There will be ample opportunity to relax, hike, and spend quality time as a couple. On Saturday evening, we will have a special candlelight dinner! Whether you are looking for a relationship “tune-up” or simply some quality time away together, this retreat is for you and your partner! Lodging is in individual hotel type rooms or private cabins.

**Caring Card Ministry:**

This is a reminder that we are continuing our caring card ministry to send cards to those needing a little extra support during challenging times to brighten their days. We would like to especially remember our friends and family in the military and students off to college during this holiday season. Please feel free to share names and addresses with the church office or on the back of the green welcome sheet on Sunday morning.







Twelve of our Westby Area Youth and two adults recently went on an Urban Immersion Retreat in the Twin Cities. Urban Immersion is sponsored by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. During our retreat we learned about the very real issue of poverty, both here and worldwide. We also studied Christ's response to the poor through the Bible and how we are his hands on earth now. When asked what our youth wanted to share about our trip here are the responses:

- We worked with local people who we met and those living worldwide...in Bolivia.
- Wheelchairs are hard to package into shipping crates!! (and they are heavy).
- It costs Mano a Mano \$24,000 to ship medical supplies to Bolivia and while the shipment takes only a week to ten days to get to South America; getting through customs can take 6 months to a year.
- Being able to learn about poverty and homelessness with a college group from Stevens Point.
- RICE!! Our team measured and weighed rice into individual packages accurately and without any spillage. This is not easy to do as we witnessed from other volunteers.
- Getting to work alongside those living in poverty and experience it through the poverty simulation.
- Seeing a homeless person on the street near the retreat center and making her a lunch.
- Working in a thrift store is hard work!!
- We were shocked at the statistics of both world poverty and locally in Minnesota and Wisconsin.



We also had some fun:

- We went to the Zoo and ran through it during the 45 minute lunch hour.



- Griffin learned how to make a great cup of coffee from the college students.
- Euchre!!!!
- Finally, we stopped at the Mall of America before heading home where we saw Graham Elliot from the TV show Master Chef, rode the rides and did some shopping.

While we had a lot of fun; we also set some goals to address needs in our community. These goals include:

- Working to develop a back pack program with Bethel Butikk
- We will be going to Norseland to visit every month, and
- We are starting a Euchre Tournament on Sunday nights after hunting season.



Thank you to our parish families supporting us in this challenging and fun trip! As we celebrate Christmas, we are reminded that Jesus was homeless at birth, a refugee in Egypt and was hung on a cross with criminals. Help us to see Christ in all people. Merry Christmas!!

*Urban Immersion Trip Participants: Maddi, Haley, Nikki, Katelyn, Luke, Jack, Brady, Griffin, Kaitlyn, Morgan, Sharice, Shanay, Michele & Heath*



Lunch for juniors & seniors on Wednesdays,

from 12:33-1:03 at WCP. Come and join us for food & friendship!

**Poinsettias** will be sold again this year to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. They can be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one, and after Christmas you may take them home, leave them at church or donate to others.

The cost is \$12.00.

To order, contact Dorothy at 452-2123 or Jayne at 634-4851 by December 11th.

