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OSLC/Skogdalen  
Parish Paper  
April 2016



OUR SAVIOR'S  
Community Through Christ

Our Savior's/Skogdalen  
Parish Paper

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Pastoral Perspectives

I hope that you enjoyed our Lenten theme, *Making Sense of the Cross*, as much as I did. I found it very meaningful to get back to the basics of our faith, to revisit the power of the cross and then reflect upon what that means for me today. Our Easter Season Theme of *Following Jesus, One Step at a Time* will explore what it means to live in response to the Cross in practical and meaningful ways.



Both of our congregations have been blessed with the task of being stewards of ministries that are over 100 years old while at the same time being faithful followers of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

For Our Saviors, a primary focus of the past year has been on the beautiful building that we are entrusted with. We have done a fantastic job of committing the funds and energy in dealing with the deferred maintenance (HVAC, Electrical, roof, exterior, windows) and updating the bathrooms and other areas. With the completion of this project we are now in a great position to build upon Jesus' ministry. My hope is that we can turn more of our attention to ministries that connect people to each other and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

For Skogdalen, a focus has been upon what to do with the legacy gift that Harvey Lunde entrusted us with. Harvey's generous gift of \$93,000 has the possibility of being a blessing to us at this time and in the future or being a burden. A blessing when we remember that it is a resource to be used for the sake of Jesus' ministry and a burden if we think it is our money. We will be voting this month to establish a Mission Endowment Fund that will ensure that a portion of this legacy gift will be used to continue Jesus' ministry through Skogdalen for years to come. Harvey did not indicate where to use the funds rather he trusted that the council would wisely choose how to share this gift. I fully support the council's decision to use some of the funds to establish the Mission Endowment Fund and to address some of our current building and cemetery needs and to set aside a portion as a reserve fund. My hope is that we can move beyond talking about the funds and doing something meaningfully with them this summer. We need to see Harvey's legacy as a gift to enhance Jesus' ministry, not as money to replace our regular and faithful giving.

It is truly a privilege to serve alongside you in ministry in our Parish!

In God's Surprising Grace!

Pastor John

## WORSHIP THEME

### FOLLOWING JESUS ONE STEP AT A TIME

In Jesus' resurrection we are called from all the dead places in our lives to new life. We move into the Easter season asking how we can live as resurrected people. As we take up the cry of Long Live Life, we center our lives around the Easter story.



### LIVE BELIEF!

**APRIL 3**

**JOHN 20:19-31**

Thomas has witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, but he does not witness Jesus' resurrection. And when Thomas hears about Jesus' resurrection, he does not believe it. When Thomas finally does see Jesus, he proclaims for the first time what no one else proclaims in John: "My Lord and my God." God calls us to live belief, proclaiming "My Lord and my God" even when we don't see Jesus.

### LIVE AGAIN!

**APRIL 10**

**JOHN 21:1-19**

The last time we read that Peter was near a charcoal fire, he was asked three questions, and he denied Jesus three times. Now he is near a charcoal fire with Jesus. He is again asked three questions, and Jesus restores the relationship. It is only through the grace of God that Peter's discipleship will have a future. This is true for all of us. We are all deeply flawed. We have, and will, deny Jesus. It's only by God's grace that we move as disciples. It's only by God's grace that we can live again.

**LIVE IN  
GRACE,  
WALK IN  
LOVE.  
-LOVE DOES**

### LIVE CONNECTED!

**APRIL 17**

**JOHN 10:22 - 30**

Jesus is the good shepherd. He calls his sheep (followers) by name and knows them intimately. Followers are called to listen to the shepherd's voice and follow where the shepherd leads. The image of shepherd and sheep speaks to a deep connectedness between Jesus and disciples. Jesus will reference this same kind of connection in chapter 15 when he talks about the vine and branches. "Abiding" is John's word for this intimate connection and it's a gift worth living into!

### LIVE LOVE!

**APRIL 24**

**JOHN 13:31-35**

In the other Gospels, the command to love another is to "love your neighbor as yourself." In John's Gospel, the command to love another is to "love one another as Jesus has loved you." In John's Gospel love is an outward sign, and love is the focus for Christian community. You can love because you are loved already.

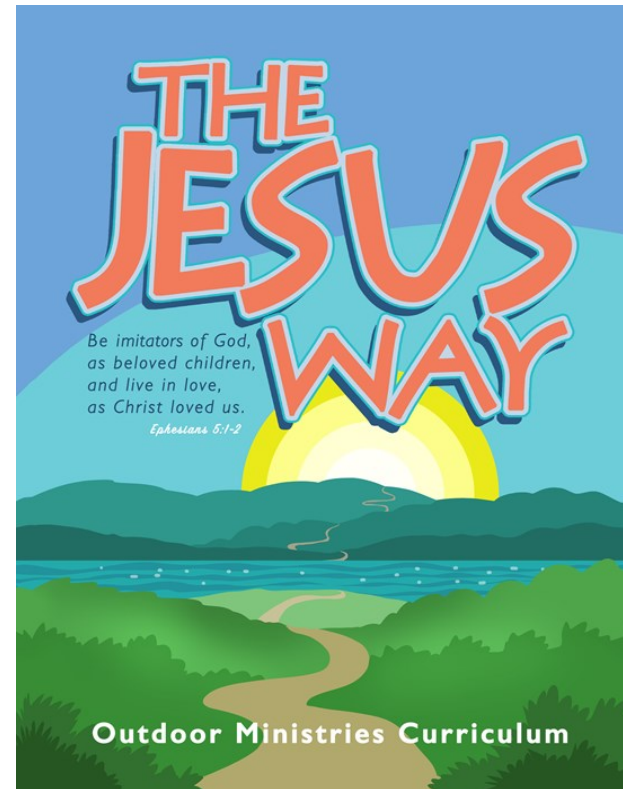
### Youth Camp June 26- July 1

While you can attend Sugar Creek any time during the summer this will be a special week as Pastor John will be on site the entire week. Thanks to the generosity of some individuals and the MOOS (Men of Our Savior's) each camper will receive a grant of \$200.00 to help cover the cost of camp, There are additional scholarship funds available. Register online at [sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://sugarcreekbiblecamp.org)

### Confirmation Camp June 12 – June 17

(Required for our confirmation kids going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

A fantastic week that is filled with all sorts of activities that build a sense of community while growing in your faith. This is so important that OSLC pays for half the cost of the week and all proceeds from the Wednesday Lenten Fish Fries goes to the youth that help serve the meal. There are also scholarship funds available.



### Bible Day Camp

Monday, August 1st to  
Thursday, August 4th

Co-Sponsored by WCP and  
OSLC, a fantastic week for 1st  
to 5th graders (Fall of 2016)

Look for more information and  
registration coming soon.



Spend a day at camp this summer!

Ever wonder what Sugar Creek is like? This summer spend the day at camp, it's a great way to see what bible camp is all about! Join Pastor John and others for an exciting day.

**Tuesday June 28** *Explorers*  
(For campers entering grades 1-5)

Come for an exciting one-day adventure at Sugar Creek. Explore camp with games, nature activities, crafts, swimming, a pony ride, Bible study, singing and more! Leave OSLC at 8 am return 4 pm

Cost: Suggested donation \$5, the actual cost of \$20 is covered by the funds raised at the lasagna dinner. Includes program, lunch, snacks and program.

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Register at the church office.

In April , we will have 2 Stepping Stones that are designed to bring parents and kids together to learn about being a follower of the risen Christ



*Sunday April 17*

*More Than Money Matters (Grades 5-6)*

Jesus talked about money and possession more than anything else but we often have a hard time talking about money or we think that the church is only interested in our money. This interactive, values-based workshop takes a unique stewardship approach to talking to children about money management – share, save and spend. Parents receive a resource guide to help continue the conversation at home with their children. The kids receive a Money Smart piggy bank.

*Sunday April 24*      *What's a Lutheran? (Grade 4)*

Pastor John will spend time with parents and children in exploring what life as a Christian from a Lutheran point of view is all about! Each family will receive a gift to help them carry on the conversation

***Legacy, Family, Church, Charity***  
***Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm Borgen's***

Join Arne Fremstad and Pastor John as we explore the Joy of being intentional about our resources after our earthly journey is ended. This free (with food of course) informational presentation is designed to introduce people to the exciting possibilities of making a statement of faith that will continue into the future.



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## OSLC Building Update

The building renovation ministry is winding down as the major maintenance projects: heating and air, electrical, fellowship hall, roof, fire alarm and exterior are nearing completion and the new bathrooms are in use. Outstanding project include: sanctuary water damage, front steps, landscaping, parking lot, exterior lights and other minor projects. A rededication service will be schedule in the coming months. Thank you for your patience and support through out this project.

### Skogdalen Church Special Congregational Meeting



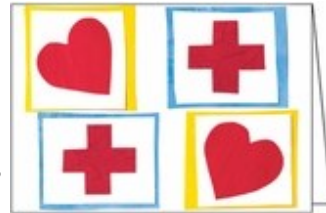
The Skogdalen Church Council has called a special congregational meeting on Sunday April 17 at 10 AM for the sole purpose to vote on the establishment of “The Skogdalen Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund” and the election of the five (5) endowment committee members. In accordance to article C10.02 of our constitution no other business shall be transacted at this meeting.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday April 3 Paul Larsen, the chair of the Westby Coon Prairie endowment fund, will lead an informational meeting following worship. The sole purpose of this presentation is upon the establishment of an endowment fund not how the Harvey Lunde Trust is to be allocated. If you have any questions about this or any other concerns, please talk with our council president, John Opsahl.

### 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.



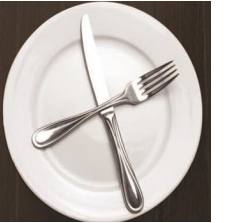
### COME FOR SUPPER “CFS”

Every Tuesday at OSLC

Social Hour 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Meal Served 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

There is a  
place for  
you at  
our table...



### NO CHARGE “EVER” EVERYONE WELCOME

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.



# SYTTENDE MAI WEEKEND

Get ready for a great weekend in Westby May 13-15



**Food Tent** (proceeds to the WAY – Westby Area Youth)  
This year’s food tent will be serving traditional Norwegian foods including Norwegian “Ice Cream Cone” (Mashed Potatoes and Meatballs), Rømmegrøt, Lefsa and other delights. We are looking for a variety of Norwegian goodies to sell, so get your lefsa grills and rosette makers out and support the youth going on the mission trip this summer! We are also looking for people to work at the tent – sign up will begin in late April.

## Worship 9:30 am

A joint worship with Westby Coon Prairie at historical Country Coon Prairie Church with Pastor John preaching.

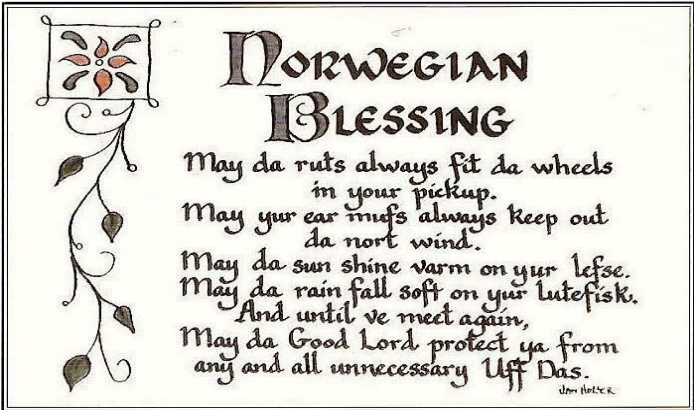
## Meatball Dinner

(proceeds to the WELCA ministry of OSLC)

Once again the ladies will be serving the finest Meatball dinner around on Sunday morning!

## Parade Float

We will be “Spreading The Good News” at the parade this year, we need people of all ages to ride (we promise to power wash and sanitize the float) and walk!



## Blessings of the Tractors Sunday April 10

OSLC will host our third annual blessings of the tractors and prayers for planting during our regular worship on Sunday April 10th. There will be special parking in the front of the church for tractors of all ages and sizes. This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to participate in worship.

## Spring Work Day OSLC Saturday, May 7th

Time to spruce things up around our wonderful building. We will be working both inside and outside. There will be a signup sheet for specific tasks available



## Spring Work Day at Skogdalen Saturday, April 16th at 9:00 a.m.

We will be having a clean up day at Skogdalen. There are a lot of things that need attention at Skogdalen which include projects inside and out. Hope to see everyone there.



**April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
7<sup>th</sup> Graders - Meeting in Small groups for service and exploring the Catechism  
8<sup>th</sup> Graders – Developing your faith statements

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
7<sup>th</sup> Graders - Meeting in Small groups for service and exploring the Catechism  
8<sup>th</sup> Graders – The WAY – Westby Area Youth

**April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
7 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders – Wrapping up the year with a final and a party. We will be starting at our regular time and ending at 8:00pm as we will be attending the privilege workshop in Viroqua. Don't worry we will feed you! (Twice)

7th Graders  
Reminder to register for Camp online at [sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://sugarcreekbiblecamp.org)

**Confirmation Banquet Wednesday April 27th**  
8th graders and families will be guest at the annual confirmation banquet hosted by the councils of Skogdalen and OSLC. Students will be sharing their faith stories through stories, songs and presentations.

**Confirmation Sunday May 1**  
On Sunday, May 1st, Riley Hagen, Austin Mowery, Cody Meyer, Davonte Spears, Noah Inman, Dakota Bakkestuen, Kenny Letterly and Charlie Siverhus will be professing their Affirmation of Faith during worship at Skogdalen and OSLC. Please uplift them as they continue their journey of faith.



## WAY Dates to Remember:

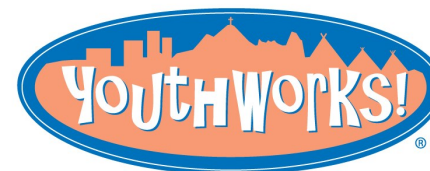
The WAY Wednesdays continue at 5:30 at Westby Coon Prairie.

April 6. Spiritual Gifts

April 13 Questions about Islam

April 20 Privilege workshop

April 27 Raking Yards



**South Dakota Mission Trip  
Mandatory Meeting  
Sunday April 10 noon at OSLC**

For all those registered for South Dakota, this is a MANDATORY MEETING!!! We will feed you and begin preparing for the trip of a life time!!!!

**Sugar Creek River Boating June 26 - July 1**

Register online at [sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://sugarcreekbiblecamp.org) -

Scholarships available

