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OSLC/Skogdalen
Parish Paper
February 2016



OUR SAVIOR'S
Community Through Christ

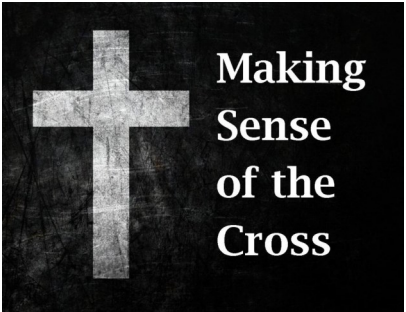
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Pastoral Perspectives Lenten Theme

Confession time. I have 13 crosses in my offices and over 15 at home. Over the years I have been given a number of crosses and I have added to the collection myself becoming a virtual cross hoarder in the process! I'm going to challenge the 3rd and 4th graders to count the number of crosses in our churches, whatever they come up with I will believe as I'd have a hard time counting that high.



Crosses are everywhere. Where have you seen crosses? Jewelry, cemeteries, roadsides, tattoos, logos, flags, clothing? In many ways it is an omnipresent symbol - yet, what does it mean?

My hunch is that most people have a really hard time finding the right words to talk about what the cross means. And when we do find the words they really can vary: suffering, liberty, love, freedom, safety, promise, hope, second-chance, solidarity, god-forsaken, never alone, unjust, unique, salvation, unstoppable love, forgiveness, sacrifice.

What does the cross mean to you? During this Lenten season we will be exploring that question. And the question is as important as any answers we find, because there is no one right answer.

The cross is both something we seek to understand, and also something we experience. I believe all of us are capable of understanding the cross, and I believe that the cross is a symbol that can give deep meaning to our faith and life. My hope is that after this Lenten season, you will come to a greater understanding of what the cross means to you and to church.

Each week we will dig deeper into what the cross means. In addition to our time in worship on Sundays and Wednesdays our confirmation ministry has made a cross for each household in our congregations. These will be handed out on Ash Wednesday and the following Sunday. Each week in Lent you will receive another symbol to add to your cross to assist us in keeping the focus on the Cross.

In The Cross of Christ,

Pastor John

**"All are from the dust,
and to dust all return."**

Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV

Ash Wednesday Feb.10
OSLC 10am 7pm

Ash Thursday Feb. 11
Skogdalen 6:30 pm



Midweek Lenten Worship

Join us in worship this Lenten season as we focus on
Making Sense of the Cross. Our mid-week worship will "dig -deeper" into the
theme of the week. There will also be resources for youth and families.

Time for GOD and COD



Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 OSLC Begins February 10

Come and enjoy the great Lenten tradition of Wednesday Night Fish at OSLC.
Proceeds send kids to camp! Did you know that a recent study discovered that one
of the most important indicators of youth staying connected to the church is if they
attended a Bible Camp! A week at camp is truly transformative!

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.

**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.



Building update

You can really see the progress of the building renovation ministry as most of the “behind the scenes” work is done such as electric, plumbing and heating. The roof will be worked on in January, yes they can still do the work in the winter!

When you walk through our wonderful building you will notice new light switches so you need not walk through a dark fellowship hall to turn on the lights! Also a system wide fire alarm with proper exit lights, new ceiling in the fellowship hall, new windows and doors, and soon new bathrooms. If everything falls into place they may be ready for the Lutefisk Dinner!

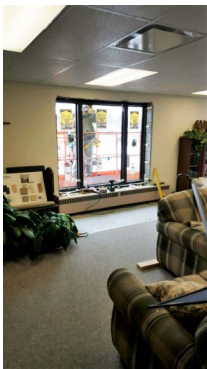
The interior work should be completed in March and we will need to wait till spring to replace the front steps and finish the landscaping. Thank you so much for your patience, prayers and monetary contribution. A dedication worship and celebration will be schedule later this year.



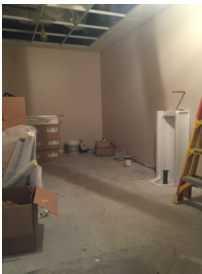
Fellowship Area



Sanctuary



Lounge



Men's Bathroom



Bathroom area hallway

Upcoming Events Special Events and Lenten Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 6 Lutefisk Dinner

Sunday, February 7 Pizza Fundraiser

Wednesday, February 10 Ash Wednesday at OSLC Worship 10am and 7pm
Fish Fry Supper 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 11 Ash Thursday Skogdalen 6:30 pm
(we will worship every other Thursday in Lent)

Weekend February 12-14 Couples Retreat at Sugar Creek

Wednesday February 17 OSLC Worship 10am and 7pm
Fish Fry Supper 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 24 OSLC Worship 10am and 7pm
Fish Fry Supper 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 25 Thursday Skogdalen 6:30 pm
(we will worship every other Thursday in Lent)

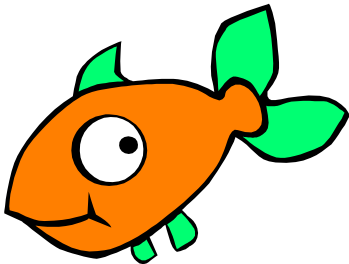
Lutefisk Dinner Preparation Schedule

Fri, February 5th - 9:00 a.m. Peel potatoes at the church

Sat, February 6th - 6:00 a.m. Make meatballs
(Westby Elem. School kitchen)

8:00 a.m. Set up at church

There are two shift on Saturday. 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM, and from 1:00 PM until everything has been cleaned up and put back (6:00 PM or so). Sign up for one or both shifts or just show up on Saturday and we will put you to work.





The OSLC Choir

The OSLC Choir will be practicing the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:15am. In February we will be working on a new liturgy that we will be using in Lent. All voices welcome and needed. We sing for the joy of singing not for a performance, so if you have never

sung in a choir this is a great opportunity to join others in song! And you don't even have to wear robes!

Marriage Retreat February 12-14



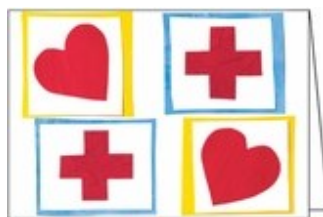
Join Pastor John and Georgi this Valentines weekend at Sugar Creek Bible Camp for a fantastic couples get away!

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.



OSLC Council News

The OSLC congregational council is asking for your prayers as we gather on Sunday February 28 for our annual retreat. This intentional time away is designed to provide the opportunity to build a working team that discerns best how to lead our community of faith forward in the coming year. The role of the council is to guide and equip the people of all ages to engage in Jesus' at Our Saviors. We will be working off the work that was done at our annual meeting. The participants at the meeting were asked to share their thoughts and ideas around three questions:

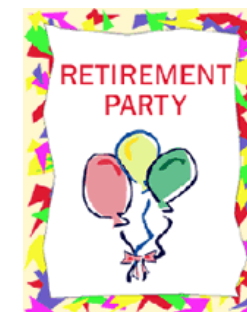
1. What they are excited about OSLC? What they feel good about?
2. What concerns or worries do they have about OSLC?
3. What if money was no object what would they like to see at OSLC in 5 years?

This year's council members are:

Joan Anderson , Jordan Christenson, Katelyn Dunnum, Coryl Evenstad, Dan Grass, Ken Hammond, Kay Holte, LouAnn Jelinek, Joel Jepson, Lori Johnson, Rob Klinkner, Marilyn Leum, Ernie Peterson and Courtney Wubbenhorst

Thank You Jan

Jan Letterly has retired after 30 plus year of serving as the Skogdalen organist. Her faithful dedication will be greatly missed. A retirement celebration was held after worship on Sunday January 31.



Welcome Mark

Mark Jelinek has been hired as OSLC building custodian and he brings a life time of experience in building maintenance. Mark recently moved from the Green Bay area to retire in his wife's LouAnn Dunnum Jelinek home town.

WAY Dates to Remember:

Wednesday WAY

5:45 pm Dinner and
Reflection
(Hosted at WCP this quarter)

Friday WAY

7:30AM High School Choir Room

WAY sponsored Euchre:

7:00 PM every Sunday Night EXCEPT February 7th

February 6th

Our Saviors Lutefisk Fundraiser (Students going on mission trip may serve in one of two shifts and earn \$ towards their trip. Contact Michele or Pastor John for more info.)

February 7th

Superbowl Pizza Day
(We will make the pizzas at Our Saviors early morning)

February 14th

2:30PM WAY celebrates Valentine's Day and
Worship at Norseland

February 17th

Junior/Senior Lunch at WCP 12:33-1:03 pm
(All are welcome for a free lunch rsvp to Brady W.)

February 28th

Skiing (Tentatively) at Mount La Crosse 1PM-6PM
\$24 includes lesson, rentals, dinner and lift ticket.
Please contact Michele if interested at
wintermoet@gmail.com or by text at 608-632-2360
no later than February 12th. Ski trip depends on
interest!!!! We will also need chaperones and drivers---
please let Michele know if you are able to attend.



Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Start making plans for this summer by signing up for a week at Sugar Creek bible camp! Check out the many options for kids and adults of all ages by going to sugarcreekbiblecamp.org or picking up a brochure at church. Pastor John will be at camps 2 weeks this year. Confirmation Camp June 12- 17 and the week of June 26 – July 1 when there are special camps for all ages, 2nd graders thru high school. For high school kids there are 2 options - River boat-ers and YES (Youth Empowered to Serve). For middle and grade schoolers there are numerous options. Scholarships are available.

For more information see Pastor John.



Greetings from the Sunday School!

We are getting back in the swing of things again after the holi-days and winter break. Most of the construction in the basement is now complete, and we are happy to have access to that area again. Kids can now be dropped off and picked up from Sunday School in the basement. Just a reminder that Sunday School runs from 9:15 – 10:15 each Sunday.

In January, we reviewed the liturgical church calendar and talked about the season of Lent. We would love to see lots of families at Lenten services on Wednesday nights! Please make a special effort to attend on Ash Wednesday (February 10th) – the kids seemed excited about the idea of Pastor putting ashes on their forehead!

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events on the horizon. Fifth graders are starting to prepare for their First Communion on March 20th, which is Palm Sunday. They will have Stepping Stones on February 28th, so 5th grade parents please plan to attend Sunday School with your child that day.

Lastly, we do still have some Christmas program DVDs left. If you would like one, the cost is \$5.

Thanks for partnering with us in your child's Faith Education!



Youth News – On-line Safety

The WAY (Westby Area Youth) is the joint ministry of OSLC and Westby Coon Prairie and is lead by Michelle Engh—Director of Faith Formation at WCP and Pastor John from OSLC/Skogdalen.

Our youth are busy with many things these days---and one way to connect is through social media. As adults, we are warned about the threat of identity theft and precautions to take while shopping on line. Our youth are also at risk: of cyberbullying and of predators.



Recently, a group of students and I “googled” ourselves. They were very surprised about the information that was out on line already about them.....from images to addresses. Comments were made along the lines of “that’s creepy!!!”

I also realize that parents may not be familiar with some of the apps and sites out there, so thought I would include that in this issue of the Witness/Parish Paper. Have you ever “googled” your youth? I recommend doing this with your youth---so that you have the opportunity to talk with them about what is posted online about them and their safety. Here are some ideas for discussing safety on line:

- Make sure your child understands that once they post something online, it doesn't go away. And they can lose control over it. It can be shared and even altered by others. Even deleting something doesn't necessarily remove it from the Internet.
- Help your child to think before posting. Kids can be very impulsive about snapping photos and uploading them to share with friends, or posting personal information. But once it's online, anything can take on a life of its own – and be impossible to take back. Rule of thumb: only post what they'd be comfortable with anyone (especially parents) seeing.
- Talk to your child about what a real friend is. It's not uncommon for kids to see the number of friends they have in their social networks as a symbol of their importance or popularity. But they need to understand that in the online space, you can never be 100 per cent sure of who you're talking to. Encourage them not to accept friends they've never met in person.

- Help them understand it's important to be true to their values – to be a 'good person' online – and avoid saying things online they wouldn't say to someone's face. Gossiping about others, or using mocking, sarcastic language online may increase a child's chance of being bullied themselves.
- Talk with your child about self-respect, particularly as it relates to sharing intimate photos of themselves with a girlfriend or boyfriend.

There are a lot of new sites out there beyond **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Snap-chat**. Some like **Tinder** are a match-making (hook-up) mobile app that identifies other **Tinder** users in a specific radius for a user to view and potentially contact. The age requirement is 13. **MeetMe** is a social network where users can find others nearby to chat....again the age requirement is 13. **Omegle** is a free chat website that randomly pairs users in one-to-one chat sessions where they can chat anonymously both by text or video-chat. There is no age requirement. **TheDirty.com** is a website where users can post photos and rumors about celebrities and people they see on the street as well as classmates. There is no age requirement.

I am not saying these sites are necessarily bad sites---but encouraging 13 year olds to hookup is a concern for child safety. Discuss with your youth the sites and apps they use and any concerns you may have with their use.

Peace!
Michele

Get your Euchre On....

Sundays 7pm at Westby Coon Prairie

A WAY sponsored event for all ages!

A great way to spend a winter Sunday!

