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OSL/Skogdalen
 Parish Paper
 June 2016



OUR SAVIOR'S
 Community Through Christ

Our Savior's/Skogdalen Parish Paper

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Pastors Perspective

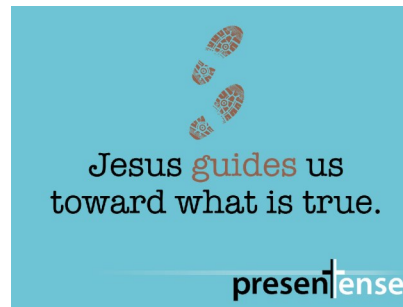
The cold weather couldn't diminish Syttende Mai in Westby this year. While the wind did keep some people away from enjoying the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of the weekend it couldn't extinguish the excitement and pride of being Norwegian! There is something special about celebrating our heritage. I say "ours" since I have a Norwegian shirt and willingly eat Lutefisk!



One of my highlights was having my granddaughter Ebba and her mom spend the weekend. Ebba is about ¼ Norwegian so I just had to buy her a Norwegian flag shirt to match her grandpas! I look forward to encouraging Ebba and our other grandkids to embrace their heritage as it is so important to appreciate our ancestors. It connects us with those who have gone before us and reminds us of the privilege of building upon what they have left us. By embracing our history and heritage, we can more confidently live in the present and look towards the future. This is also true of our identity as Christians.

We need to embrace the story of God's salvation in scripture and throughout history in order to flourish in our present life and live in hope for the future. This is a balancing act as it is at times easier to live in the past or just focus on the future rather than grapple with the realities of the here and now.

This summer's worship theme will help us with this balancing act by embracing Jesus' teachings and ministry in scripture and connecting it with our daily life



PRESENT TENSE ... JESUS!

When something's in present tense, it means it's happening right now. God in Christ is among us and at work in the world right now, in the present through the Holy Spirit. And when Jesus enters our equation, it creates a tension between what was and what could be. This is the daily reality for a Christ – follower: Jesus is present and active in the here and

now! This summer we will explore the many ways that Jesus engages in our current lived reality and how his presence creates a tension that can produce transformation.

Summer Worship Opportunities

Summer is a good time to try something different including worshipping at a different time and place. Between OSLC, Skogdalen, WCP and Vang there are 4 worship service to choose from each weekend. Feel free to attend any of the services - use your offering envelopes at any of the churches and it will get back to your home church.

Summer worship in Westby

Saturday 7pm Country Coon Prairie

Sunday

8:15 am Vang

9:00 am Skogdalen

9:30 am Westby Coon Prairie

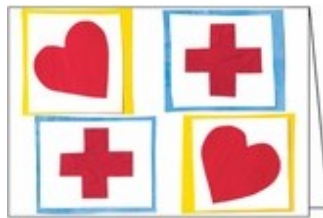
10:30 am Our Saviors



Pastor John's schedule is filled with all kinds of activities: On May 31st –June 3rd, he will be at a worship conference at Luther Seminary. On Friday, June 10th – 12th, he will be in Decorah at the Synod Assembly. June 12th-June 17th, he will be at Sugar Creek for Confirmation Camp. On June 20th-24th, he will be on vacation. On Sunday, June 26th-July 1st, he will be at Sugar Creek with a different group of youth for camp.

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. Please feel free to share names and addresses with the church office or on the back of the green welcome sheet on Sunday morning.



Our Saviors Cemetery



After many years of faithful service, Roger Berger has stepped down from the leadership role of the cemetery. We are looking for a number of people to step up and serve on the cemetery committee. The committee oversees the operation of the cemetery—hiring of the grounds keeper, setting of policies and guidelines, ensuring of the proper grave opening and closings, and providing financial oversight. If you are interested in learning more about this important ministry please contact Ernie Peterson 608.386.6145

Thank you Roger for all the years in service and ministry!

Skogdalen Council Highlights

Treasurer's report

Council approved to put \$2,500 of Harvey's memorial money in the general fund. This is the amount of his normal giving. Approved to take \$1990 out of Maintenance Fund to pay for the insurance

Cemetery was discussed.

Joel and John have talked with Archie and they will be picking up the lawn mower and storing it in the shed and doing the maintenance. Joel has checkbook. Archie will help figure out cemetery map.

Mission Endowment Fund:

The congregational meeting on Sunday is only to discuss and vote on the Mission Endowment Fund set up and election of committee members. No other business is to be discussed and will be considered "out of order".

Recommended members for the committee are Alisa Johnson, Gary Gilbeck, Loren Brueggeman, Gwen Siverhus & Marie Berg,

World Hunger

Pastor showed us the white cow sent from the Synod Assembly meeting. A visual for World Hunger to raise \$500 by June 1st. Heidi will bring a milk can for the money to be collected.



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.

A huge thank you to all who participated in the Spring Work days at Skogdalen and Our Saviors!

We have been blessed with marvelous buildings and it is an honor and privilege to continue to care for them to the Glory of God!



Did you know - more than 800 million people in the world are hungry? That is more than double the population of the United States. It is time to act - and so, the ELCA has decided that the focus of 2016 is to address world hunger. Our synod share of this goal will be \$150,000.



As a fun way to work toward our goal of \$150,000, the Synod Hunger task force is organizing it's a campaign to "stomp out hunger." We are challenging congregations to help us build our own "herd of cows" to represent our fight against hunger. We will be distributing cut-out cows to all congregations and challenging them to work together to "buy a cow" for world hunger.

We have three ways to meet our challenge:

Fill the Milk Cans! At both Skogdalen and Our Savior's there is a milk can for you to deposit funds to buy a cow at each congregation. You can also send in funds to help fill the can.

A Moooveable heifer! This can be either a cut out heifer or one that will actually help fertilize your lawn. Here is how it works - If you want a cow (either the wooden one or the living one) in someone's yard just call the church office. If you find a cow in your yard you can have it relocated to another yard or shipped back to church.

Heifer— \$30- to relocate to another yard
\$20 - to return to church
Or call the church and we will pick it up free of charge.

The cow can be in the yard for up for 8 hours or less depending how much fertilizer you need. Please let us know when and where you want the heifer delivered and make sure that the people are home long enough to enjoy it as well as have a good sense of humor!

Wooden cut out—\$15 - to relocate to another yard
\$10 - to return to church
Or call the church and we will pick it up free of charge.

The "cow" can be in the yard up to 48 hours. Please let us know when and where you want the heifer delivered and make sure that the people are home long enough to enjoy it as well as have a good sense of humor!

"Bovine Insurance" can be purchased on Sunday mornings to prevent bovine from descending upon your yard.

Westby Area Youth!
Our intentional youth ministry of
WCP/Vang, OSLC/Skogdalen

Our theme for the Mission Trip to Pine Ridge is **First Love**. God loves us with a love that takes root and gives life. A love that fills us and flows from us into the world. We are able to love because God first loved us. WOW!!



When we ask our youth about why they want to go on a mission trip, we often hear a variation of “I want to help people in need.” We love our student’s desire to serve and care for others, both here in our community, and away from Westby.

The goal of any of our mission work is not to ‘*do service to others*’ rather it is to “*serve with people*” Traditionally, ‘serve’ models use a ‘to’ or ‘for’ approach. We do service “to” people “in need” or we provide resources “for” them. This kind of service can lead to dependence and shaming for the recipient and arrogance for the giver. The goal is to encourage our youth to enter their week or hour or day of service *with* people. This allows us to *share* our lives and faith and *receive* others story instead of trying to fix what is perceived as broken.

Our trip to Pine Ridge allows adults and youth to truly share of themselves. Seeing people and places through God’s eyes is a vision that allows us to see not only the deficits, but also beauty, strength and hope.

As our youth prepare for their trip to Pine Ridge, we will be considering the following:

We recognize that Jesus is already in Pine Ridge. Our job as adult leaders is to help our students discover God’s handprint and presence on the Reservation and in its people.

We don’t come with the answer, but enter with a desire to learn. We do this best by asking questions. We want to make things right -its human nature! But first hear the story of the person. It may be that what you want to fix really isn’t broken--it is just different from your experience.

Jesus desires transformation, not change. We change our minds, our clothes, and our mobile phone carriers. God transforms our minds, heart and lives. If our youth learn and share their lives with the Lakota’s; transformation will happen!

OSLC May Council Highlights

Endowment Fund

Larry Westfield (former Pastor at Middle and Lower Coon Valley) the Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation gave a talk on Mission Endowment Funds. Endowments are established to help people with estate planning and Legacy giving. Endowment funds help families talk and plan for how to best honor a loved one after they go home to Jesus. Ken Hammond will take the lead in continuing the conversation of the establishment of a Mission Endowment Fund.



Construction update

Contractors are working on the new front steps, this is a very labor intensive aspect of the program as poured concrete commercial steps and railings are all custom made. The two remaining major projects are the parking lot and fixing the back wall behind the stage area in the fellowship hall.

Dedication Worship and Celebration will be Sunday September 11. Bishop Ahrens will be with us for this important event in the history of Our Saviors

Property

Over 20 people enjoyed the Spring clean-up day last Saturday. Thank you Mark for organizing this ministry.

Cemetery

Rob Klinkner will take the lead in arranging for the care of the cemetery for this summer. There is a need for additional people to serve on the cemetery committee.

Youth & Education

Over 20 youth are registered for Bible Camp this summer. In addition, WCP, Vang, OSLC and Skogdalen will be hosting a bible day camp August 1-4.

Joel and Lori will be bringing a proposal to the council later this summer concerning equipment and resources for this falls grade school and confirmation ministry.

Lori and Janessa will be stepping down from leading the Sunday School next year. They will mentor two new leaders and still teach.

Church directory – Ken Hammond is heading up a committee to help in getting an updated photo directory for OSLC. Also working with Rhonda on updating member’s records.

OSLC Building Update

We are entering the final stages of our building renovation ministry. The front steps are being completely replaced with commercial poured concrete stairs and railings that will provide easy and safe entrance to the building. The doors are being restored. The down spouts are being directly connected to the city storm sewer which will help alleviate future water issues.

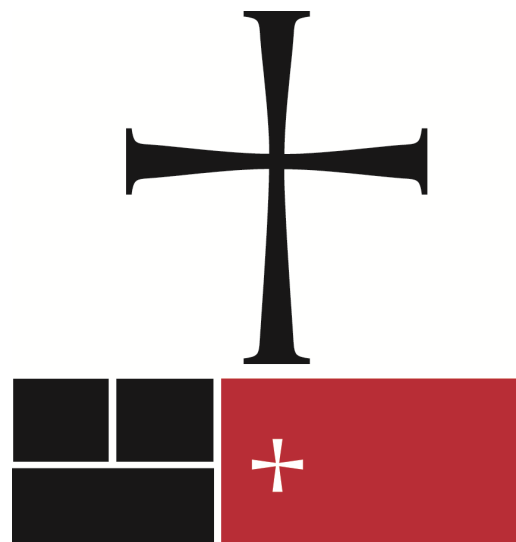
The major remaining indoor project is the restoration of the basement eastern wall behind the stage. This area is structurally sound but received water damage throughout the years. The current lath and plaster will be replaced and the stage will be removed. The stage area will be converted to a multi-purpose area by building a moveable wall which will allow that space to be used as a classroom/meeting area.

After Fowler and Hammer complete their work we will be doing the landscaping including erecting a fence around the HVAC equipment on the south side of the building. The hoped for is that we will do this with volunteers later in the summer.

The building committee will be meeting in early June to discuss how to address some of the “hoped for projects” that we will be doing ourselves such as:

- Updating the 2 older bathrooms in the office/education building
- Landscaping
- Parking lot improvements
- Constructing the moveable wall in the fellowship hall area
- Outdoor signage

Our rededication celebration is scheduled for Sunday September 11.




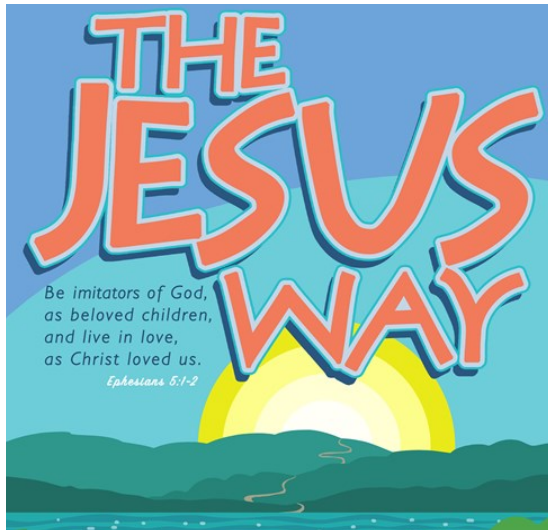
On our return, please ask our youth about the story of the Lakota People and Pine Ridge Reservation!! And please remember us in your prayers as we prepare to travel to South Dakota, our work on Pine Ridge, and that we hear the story of the Lakota’s and see God in that story---and that they see God in us and our story!

Our travelers include: Dakota Bakkestuen, Melody Berg, Luke Bjorklund, Maddi Buros, Luke Charles, Katelyn Dunnum, Laura Dunnum, Riley Hagen, Noah Inman, Kenneth Letterly, Austin Mowery, Lily Riebeling, Davontae Spears, Brady Wemette, Alayna Winterfield, Katie Wollman and Caya Wollman

Adult Facilitators: Michele Engh, Duane Berg, Pastor Julie, Pastor John, Tammy, Heath and Alexis Gilkes

Dates to Remember:

	June 8th	WAY end of school year Mini-Lock 5:30pm-11:30pm
	June 12th	WAY at Norseland- 3:00 pm-5:00pm
	June 15th	Pine Ridge Trip Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm
June 28th	Hiking at Kickapoo Reserve <i>Call Michele at 634-3412 to RSVP by June 17th so that transportation is available</i>	11:00:am-4:00pm
June 30th	Hamburgers in the Park <i>fundraiser for Backpack program</i>	4:00-8:00pm
July 9th	Masquerade Ball at Rod and Gun (Ski Hill) <i>fundraiser for Cancer</i>	
July 10th	WAY at Norseland	3:00pm-5:00pm
July 15th	Leave for Pine Ridge	
July 22nd	Return from Pine Ridge	



Sugar Creek VBS Day Camp will be coming to Westby August 1-4, 2016!

Sugar Creek counselors will be bringing their energy, enthusiasm, and faith filled fun to Westby again this summer! All children entering Grades 1 through 5 in the fall of 2016 are welcome to join us for Day Camp! Bring your friends!

- Where?** Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Westby
- When?** Monday through Thursday, August 1-4, 2016. 9:00-3:00 with early drop off beginning at 8:00!
- Cost?** Day camp is \$5 per child and no more than \$12 per family.
- Deadline?** Registration forms are due to the church office or Sarah Jepsen by July 3.

Registration forms are available in the back of the Church, church office. For more information or willing to help contact Sarah Jepsen - jsjepsen@mwt.net 634-3377

Day Camp is hosted by OSLC, Skogdalen, WCP, Vang, Bethel, Bethany, and Zion Lutheran Churches.

Spend a day at camp this summer!
Entering Grades 1-5

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

Leave OSLC at 8 am return at 4 pm

Come for an exciting one-day adventure at Sugar Creek. Explore camp with games, nature activities, crafts, swimming, a pony ride, Bible stuff, singing and more!

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.

Drivers: We need folks to drive to Sugar Creek - stay for the day adults are free and you can bring your younger kids along with you!

Register at the church office by Sunday June 26.

More information contact Rhonda oursav@mwt.net or 634-4871

There is still time to register for weekly camps: Remember that there is still room at week long camps at Sugar Creek and that each person receives a \$200 scholarship.

Check out sugarcreekbiblecamp.org