

# **THE PARISH VOICE**

**Our Savior's**

**Skogdalen**

**306 South Main  
Westby, WI**

**4315 Oakdale Ave.  
Westby, WI**

e-mail address: [oursav@mwt.net](mailto:oursav@mwt.net)

Web site address: [oursav-skogdalen.org](http://oursav-skogdalen.org)

**JOHN DUMKE, PASTOR**

**RHONDA BERG, SECRETARY**

## Pastoral Perspectives

It's been a delight to begin to make my way around "God's Country" and getting to know the people of the area. Every time I've gotten lost people have been most helpful in pointing out the right direction! I introduce myself as the new guy in town at OSLC and Skogdalen and on a number of occasions people have said something like this "I used to go to that church" or "is that the vanilla or chocolate one" or "I just don't go to church anymore." Much to their surprise I ask them to help me understand what keeps them from attending or even considering checking out church. Here are some of the reply's "I work 2 jobs and have to work Sunday mornings", "It's boring and I don't understand the worship", "I went once and people gave me strange looks" "I've got really young kids and I can't get anything out of worship when I try to keep them quiet, plus I get dirty looks when their loud".

I then ask them what we could do to make church more inviting. Some of the reply's "make the worship more relevant with practical/inspirational preaching and different music," "have something for my kid's during worship," "worship at different times."

I really enjoy these interactions as it gives me insight to the people within our community who are not connected with a faith community. Plus, I just like talking with people or as my dear wife Georgi good naturally calls it "pestering people."

One of my guiding questions is *"how do we help people connect with Jesus' Love and Forgiveness in ways that make sense to them."* I wish I had the answer to that important and foundational question of faith. You will hear me ask that question a lot; in fact you might even get tired of hearing it! But I will keep asking it!

Really the answer to that question begins with you. Think about the things, events, experiences that are helpful for you in connecting to Jesus. It could be worship, Sunday school, groups, prayer, service, etc. Reflect upon how it makes you feel and how it impacts your life. My hunch is that there will be both similarities and differences in how each of us answers that question. And that's the way it should be! We're all different people with a variety of experiences, needs and expectation.

For over a hundred years OSLC and Skogdalen have been congregations that have helped people connect with Jesus in ways that made since to

them. I am blessed to serve as your Pastor as together we continue to be congregations where a wide variety of people can connect with Jesus. I look forward to seeing what the Holy Spirit is up to as we together explore the age old question "how do we connect to Jesus in ways that make sense to us and to others!"

In God's Surprising Grace

Pastor John

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## OS USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

**Head Usher:** Howard Langhus

**Balcony:** Peter Leum

Youth



**ALTAR CARE:**

Donna Leum

**COMMUNION CARE:**

Karen and Doug Traastad

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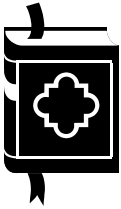
## MEMORIALS



**Leo & Darlene Ostrem**

**Youth Education**

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**FEBRUARY LECTIONARY TEXTS:**

|         |                           |                        |
|---------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Feb 3:  | Jeremiah 1: 4-10          | Psalm 71: 1-6          |
|         | 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13    | Luke 4: 21-30          |
| Feb 10: | Exodus 34: 29-35          | Psalm 99               |
|         | 2 Corinthians 3: 12- 4:2  | Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a) |
| Feb 13: | Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17        | Psalm 51: 1-17         |
|         | 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10 | Matthew 6: 1-6 16-21   |
| Feb 17: | Deuteronomy 26: 1-11      | Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16    |
|         | Romans 10: 8b-13          | Luke 4: 1-13           |
| Feb 24: | Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18   | Psalm 27               |
|         | Philippians 3: 17-4: 1    | Luke 13: 31-35         |

**LAST MONTH'S OFFERINGS:**



|        | <u>Offerings,</u>    |    | <u>Other</u>  |                   |
|--------|----------------------|----|---------------|-------------------|
|        | <u>Memorials</u>     |    | <u>Income</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
| Jan 6  | \$3,227.00 (*\$1400) | \$ | 1,595.00      | 162               |
| Jan 13 | \$1,896.00 (*\$260)  | \$ | 999.00        | 171               |
| Jan 20 | \$4,383.00 (*\$1930) | \$ | 124.00        | 157               |
| Jan 27 | \$1,147.00 (*250)    | \$ | 45.00         | 117               |

\*Auto Giving included in Total

**If there is anyone in need of pastoral care or visits, please contact the church office at 634-4871.**

**PAPERLESS NEWSLETTERS**

As a reminder, if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically rather than by paper copy, please call the church office or send an e-mail to oursav@mwt.net , letting us know your wishes, and providing your e-mail address.

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**WEB SITE UPDATE:**

Our new website address is as follows:

[www.oursav-skogdalen.org](http://www.oursav-skogdalen.org)

The website now has the church calendar on it to view.  
Make sure you check it out!

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**SKOGDALEN WELCA**

The Skogdalen WELCA will meet on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We will be having a white elephant exchange and game that day. Hope to see everyone there!

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**WANTED: SINGERS**

Skogdalen is looking for singers to join the choir. The choir plans to sing once a month and tentatively practicing on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 6:30. We will meet on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and we will sing on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## **OUR SAVIOR'S COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The council held their regular meeting on January 9. Highlights include:

Devotions and opening prayer focusing on Servant Leadership by Pastor John.

Pastor is meeting with the confirmands on Jan. 23 and will be meeting with the high school kids later this month. He would like to meet church members possibly in small groups in home settings.

Approval of the treasurer's report, Jayne provided a summary of Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss activities. We are entering into the new year debt free!

Accepted the recommendations of the Personnel Committee for vacation/sick time for Marlo/Rhonda.

Audit committee recommends getting a CPA Firm to look over books, give input and suggest improvements in our procedures. Approval to accept an offer from a CPA to do this free of charge.

Received the stewardship report which recommended an annual pledge campaign (not debt reduction) to be held annually.

Worship and Evangelism reported that Pastor John's installation service will be this Sunday January 13 at 3:00. OSLC Syttende Mai Church service time will be at 8:00 a.m. and we will approach Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran to see if they would like to do a joint service.

Property and Management report included discussion of looking into updating our electrical system, refurbishing the kitchen, and repairing and maintaining the organ.

Approval of the church to provide \$150.00 per 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader who wishes to attend confirmation camp.

A big thank you was given to the members of the council who will be leaving. Pastor John presented each member a decorated cross from El Salvador. The members are: Howard Langhus, Dennis Huebner, Dave Gluch, Dave Maxwell, Eric Nottestad, Harry Sutton, Shirley Hagen and Gordy Johnson.

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## **IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR LUTEFISK/MEATBALLS AND LEFSE**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual MOOS Lutefisk Dinner is this Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> with serving from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the day!

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## **CRAFT AND BAKE SALE**

Craft & Bake Sale on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the back of Church from 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. during the Lutefisk Dinner

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## **OUR SAVIOR'S BAKE SALE**

In December & January, we raised \$180.00 from the bake sales. This should cover at least two banners. In February & March, we will put the proceeds towards building up camp scholarships.

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## **OUR SAVIOR'S SOUP TASTING**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have a soup tasting event to raise funds for the youth. Come and taste a variety of soups & breads, and vote on your favorite soup. We will be serving 4:00-8:00. The cost is \$5.00, plus \$1.50 for pie & ice cream.

If anyone is interested in contributing a soup, a specialty bread or a pie, please contact Barb or Corey Christenson 608-632-0993 or 608-634-2067.

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**OSLC WELCA**

President Joan Anderson called the meeting for the new year to order on January 10, 2013 at 1pm by reading the Purpose Statement. The opening Hymn was #136 "Rock of Ages" played by pianist Betty Homstad.

Hildur Devine gave the opening devotions from Mark 6:31 and Genesis 2:2. In the book of Mark Jesus is talking to his disciples about following him and getting some rest. So we need to get rest in the winter time just like earth rests before the start of the planting season. We have taken down our Christmas trees and all the decorations are gone and it is a depressing time because there are no bright colors to lift our spirits. But this is the time that we are to rest like it says in the book of Genesis when God rested on the seventh day.

The Secretaries Report was given by Lynette Johnson and it was accepted as read. Hildur Devine gave the Treasurers Report and it was accepted. She then read the Thank You card from Pastor Steve acknowledging the memorable times with the WELCA ladies. The business at hand consists of making lefse on January 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for the February lutefisk meal. The Creamery meeting is on January 24, 2013 and help is needed both days of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Sarah Circle had the program for the day but Pastor John Dumke was invited to get acquainted with the ladies so we were entertained by some of his recollections of times in the Minnesota area growing up. There were several times that laughter rang out in the basement. He gave some history about himself and his family and acquiring a taste for lutefisk. The ladies of the Sarah Circle did not feel displaced as they had many treasured gifts and stories to share with everyone.

The collection was taken while Betty Homstad played and then the Lord's Prayer was said before singing the table Grace. Much thanks to Joan Anderson and Arleen Buros for the lunch provided. The month of February has the Officers doing the program and the Serving Hostesses are Tami Jacobson, Mae Jacobson, and Delaine Jefson.

**2012 Our Savior's Giving Statements Available**

If you are interested in receiving your 2012 giving statement, please contact the church office.

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**GREETINGS FROM OS SUNDAY SCHOOL**

So far we have been having a wonderful year and we look forward to that continuing. We also are looking forward to getting to know Pastor John and encourage families to attend church and meet him.

Just a reminder, the youth will be singing, reading, greeting and ushering the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February

God Bless!  
Janessa, Kelly & Eileen

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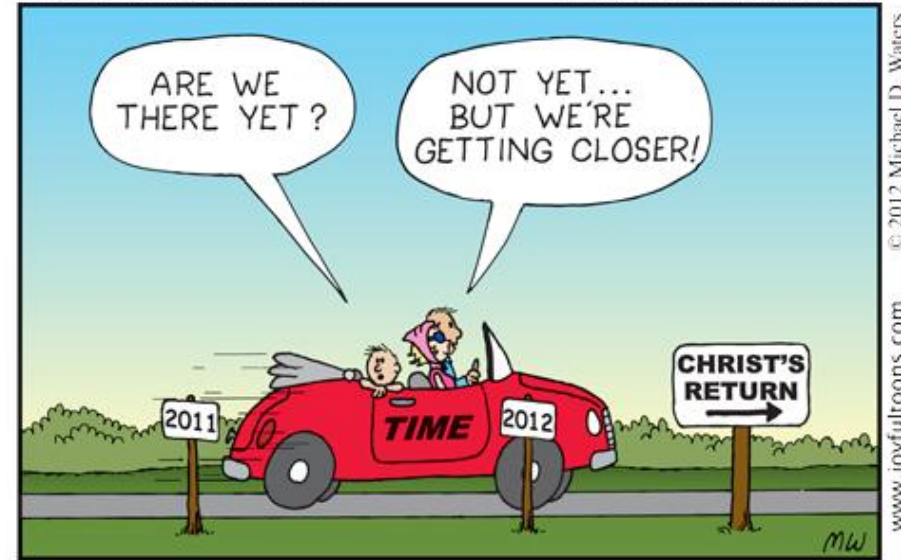
## PRAYER CHAIN & REQUESTS

We are looking for people to make up a prayer chain—anyone interested in spending a few minutes a day saying prayers for those who request help or want a prayer said for them or others, no matter what the situation. If you are interested in participating in the prayer chain, please send your contact information, whether cell phone number, home phone number, or e-mail, to Marilyn Leum 634-4839 (feel free to leave a voicemail) or contact Rhonda at the church office at 634-4871 or oursav@mwt.net. The prayer chain will work like a calling tree. Once a request is received, members of the prayer chain will be notified to include it in their prayers. When we have a list of volunteers to make up the chain, we will be letting members of our congregations know whom to call to activate the prayer chain. In a similar vein, we are also beginning prayer request for prayers during worship. This will be for anyone who wants Pastor to say a special prayer with the congregation during the Sunday service. Special cards will be available by each door. All you have to do is fill out what you want Pastor to say word-for-word. During the “greeting of your neighbors” portion of the service, the cards will be brought up to Pastor for inclusion in the service. Please join us in making sure prayers are given for whomever or whatever someone wants. We could all do with a little more prayer on our sides.



## TIME TRAVELERS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.  
— JAMES 5:8 NIV

www.joyfultoons.com © 2012 Michael D. Waters

# February 2013



| SUNDAY                                                                                    | MONDAY                            | TUESDAY                                      | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                            | THURSDAY                                                                                                                          | FRIDAY                       | SATURDAY                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           |                                   |                                              |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                   | 1<br>9:00 Peel Potatoes - OS | 2<br>10:00 Skogdalen WELCA with white elephant exchange<br>11:00 to 4:00 – OS Lutfisk Dinner |
| 3<br>9:15 OS SS, Sr Choir<br>9:15 Skog w/Comm<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>10:30 OS w/Comm         | 4<br>7:00 Seas Branch 4-H Meeting | 5                                            | 6<br>7:00 Men's Breakfast<br>1:00 Quilting<br>3:30 Confirmation<br>5:30 Personnel Com. Meeting                                                       | 7<br>6:30 Skogdalen Choir                                                                                                         | 8                            | 9                                                                                            |
| 10<br>9:15 OS SS, Sr Choir<br>9:15 Skog w/Comm<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>10:30 OS w/Comm        | 11                                | 12                                           | 13<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b><br>7:00 Men's Breakfast<br>10:00 OS Lent<br>3:30 Confirmation<br>5:30 Soup & Sand Meal<br>6:30 OS Council<br>7:00 OS Lent | 14<br>1:00 OS WELCA<br><br>7:00 Skogdalen Lent | 15                           | 16                                                                                           |
| 17<br>9:15 OS SS, Sr Choir<br>9:15 Skog Worship<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>10:30 OS with Baptism | 18                                | 19<br>12:00 Deadline for Newsletter/Calendar | 20<br>7:00 Men's Breakfast<br>10:00 OS Lent<br>1:00 OS Quilting<br>2:00 Old Times -Dev<br>3:30 Confirmation<br>5:30 Soup & Sand Meal<br>7:00 OS Lent | 21<br>6:30 Skodgalen Choir<br>7:00 Skogdalen Lent                                                                                 | 22                           | 23                                                                                           |
| 24<br>9:15 OS SS, Sr Choir<br>9:15 Skog Worship<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>10:30 OS Worship      | 25                                | 26                                           | 27<br>7:00 Men's Breakfast<br>10:00 OS Lent<br>3:30 Confirmation<br>5:30 Soup & Sand Meal<br>6:30 Committees Meet<br>7:00 OS Lent                    | 28<br>7:00 Skogdalen Lent                                                                                                         |                              |                                                                                              |

## **Lenten Series: The Crossroads of Passion**

This Lenten worship series will direct our attentions to the points of meeting between the Savior's passion and our own struggles. Each week we will look at events in the life of Christ. As we learn from his engagement with this world and people just like us, we will lift up how his responses speak to our own lives. These are the "Crossroads of Passion"—where our hopes and dreams, struggles and failures, joys and tragedies intersect with God's story in Jesus of Nazareth.

These then will be "bible studies" that apply the truth of Christ to our own situations. The universality of our human experience is embraced, blessed and transformed by the coming of God to us in human form—Jesus. This means that in his passion, in his encounters with others we can see ourselves and the invitation to deep life and joy.

ASH WEDNESDAY February 13

February 17 Where Temptation Meets Salvation

February 24 Where Sin Meets Eternal Life

March 3 Where Brokenness Meets Reconciliation

March 10 Where Shadows Meet Light

March 17 Where Despair Meets Joy

Lent is often seen as a time of giving something up such as: sweets, TV, certain foods, etc. This year we are going to challenge you to take something up. Take up a new habit, a new way of doing things, a new way of spending your time.

Some of the ways to take something up this Lent

### **WORSHIP**

Sunday Worship 10:30am - make it priority to attend!

### **MIDWEEK**

**OSLC Wednesdays 10am and 7pm**

There will be a light lunch after the morning service and a meal prior to the evening worship beginning at 5:30.

**Skogdalen Thursday 7pm**

### **DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

A devotional has been created that follows the Lenten theme of the week. Pick up a copy at church and strive to spend some God time each day during Lent!