

# **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**

**WELCOME PASTOR JOHN AND GEORGI!!!**

For the past 18 months our congregations have waited and prayed and worked hard to get ready for the arrival of a new Pastor. On January 1st our wait is officially over as that was the first official day for Pastor John Dumke who, along with his wife Georgi, comes to us from St. Andrew Lutheran Church in West Chicago, IL.

Pastor John will spend his first few weeks getting to know the many congregational members, both young and young at heart, from OSLC and Skogdalen, as well as try to learn all the area back roads that Vernon County has to offer. Please feel free to stop by the church office over the first few months and introduce yourself and welcome Pastor John. I know that he is very excited to meet all of our members and is looking forward to working with our parishes.

Pastor John says that he is not a Bears fan or a fan of lutefisk, but he does have a fondness for Vikings. I guess we have our work cut out for us to make him a fan of the Green and Gold, but personally, I think we need to give him a pass on the lutefisk.

On behalf of the OSLC Council, welcome Pastor John and Georgi!

Wally Breuer  
OSLC Council President



**INSTALLATION SERVICES FOR PASTOR JOHN DUMKE**

Let's fill our churches on Sunday, January 13, 2013, to welcome Pastor John and celebrate his installation!!!

The Skogdalen installation service will be held at 9:15 a.m. with potluck dinner to follow in the fellowship hall.

The Our Savior's installation service will be held at 3:00 p.m. with a welcome reception in the basement following the service. There will not be a 10:30 a.m. service or Sunday School at Our Savior's on that date.

Please feel free to invite others to these services to welcome Pastor John and his wife to the Westby community.

**CHURCH RECORDS**



**FUNERAL: Virgil Gilbeck  
December 22, 2012 - Skogdalen**



**OS USHERS FOR JANUARY**

**Head Usher:** Howard Langhus  
**Balcony:** Peter Leum



Ryan Dunnum, Kenneth Schutteimeier,  
Keith Olson & Kenny Schutteimeier

**ALTAR CARE:** Karen Hankee & Sandy Iverson

**COMMUNION CARE:** Dorothy Stoffregen &  
Marilyn Leum



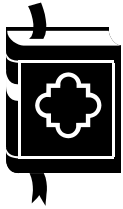
**MEMORIALS**



**Hjordis Evenson**

**Sunday School  
Kitchen Fund  
Undesignated**





**JANUARY LECTIONARY TEXTS:**

Jan 6:	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12	Psalm 72 1-7, 10-14 Matthew 2: 1-12
Jan 13:	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Acts 8: 14-17	Psalm 29 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
Jan 20:	Isaiah 62: 1-5 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	Psalm 36: 5-10 John 2: 1-11
Jan 27:	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a	Psalm 19 Luke 4: 14-21

**LAST MONTH'S OFFERINGS:**



	<u>Offerings, Memorials</u>	<u>Other Income</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Dec. 2	\$1,787.50 (*\$200)	\$ 1,652.00	153
Dec. 9	\$4,168.00 (*\$1,290)	\$ 2,246.00 (*\$50)	124
Dec. 16	\$3,452.00 (*\$200)	\$ 352.00	313
Dec. 23	\$5,062.00 (*\$1,735)	\$1,213.00	127
Dec. 24	\$2,047.00	\$ 50.00	354
Dec. 25	\$ 308.00		---
Dec. 31			

\*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.

**NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS**

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

**SKOGDALEN COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 9, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Annette McHenry.

Present: Annette, Matt, Lisa, Terry, Richard, Marilyn, Yvonne, Bob, Rhonda and Archie.

No minutes were available. Lisa gave the treasurers report. Terry made a motion to accept and Bob seconded it.

Signage was discussed. Archie has the signs which include the Pastor's sign and handicap sign. Archie and Bob will look into this.

The Bethel Butikk donation was presented to Pastor Gary by Archie Rundhaugen and Jayne Anderson.

Annette discussed the Personnel Manual. Personnel issues were discussed. Bob made a motion to accept and Matt seconded to accept Personnel changes as printed and presented.

Archie will make a list of closing up the church when activities are taking place. A note will be posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

Lisa gave a financial presentation to the church council.

We will have a Farewell Potluck Dinner for Pastor Steve on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon.

The Lord's Prayer was said.

Motion to adjourn by Matt and seconded by Lisa.

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

The council of OSLC met for its regular monthly meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. This was our annual Christmas party and potluck, which was held at the Larry and Dorothy Stoffregen house. After some great food and good conversation, we had our regular meeting in which a number of items were reported:

Treasurer's report included in Council Packet and reviewed. Motion to approve by Gordy. Second by Lynn. Approved

- Fund Night Funds were put into General Fund
- People still making Debt Reduction Monies through pledges as well as free giving.
- \$870 presented to Bethel Buttik from OSLC and Skogdalen

Old Business

Final approval of 2013 budget

- 2013 Budget provided to Council Members for review. After a few minor adjustments from the previous meeting, the 2013 budget was approved.
- Current Loan Status Update
  - Motion made to pay off the loan on December 31, 2012 by Dennis. Second by Kay. Approved

- Motion to approve 8 hours of work at a rate of \$30 per hour provided to Pastor Steve to acclimate Pastor John by Dorothy. Second by Marilyn. Approved.
- Personnel Comm update, Sunday off for Pastor Steve, December 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Met to listen to Skogdalen concerns about some handbook language. Changes made to the language in Handbook include: Holiday Benefits, Vacation Entitlement, Pay for unused vacation time.
- Daycare update
  - Contract signed for 2013. Property Committee was given a list of items that need attention before the move.
- Personnel Policy Manual modifications and motion to approve
  - See notes above
- Update on new council members for 2013
  - Several 'no' responses to inquiries to serve on the Council.
  - List of 30 names given to outgoing members to make more calls.
- Need an audit committee for 2012 finances
  - Stewardship Committee has been asked to come up with three names willing to serve on the Audit Committee for this year and 2013.
- Payment of Shelly's bonus
  - Payment will be made upon confirmation of job completed by Pastor Steve. Motion to approve by Gordy. Second by Marilyn. Approved.
- Special Collection for Sugar Creek
  - Motion made to take up a special offering for Sugar Creek following Dec 30 service. Motion to approve by Dave M. Second by Shirley. Approved
- Decorating Committee
  - One congregation member very interested in creating a Decorating Committee. Kay will represent the Council. Seeking one additional member to make up a committee of 3.
- The council presented token of gratitude to Pastor Steve for his leadership from the Church Council.

Stewardship report

- Committee asked to provide short report to congregation about how the Synod has used the monies we have allocated.
- Pastor Steve will provide Pastor John with expectation report of current confirmation students.

- Synod has been supportive of our efforts to Call Pastor John.

Worship and Evangelism report

- Live nativity update/discussion-all council members need to help clean up afterwards
  - Arrangements have been made to get animals to church.
  - Nativity will be set up at 8AM on Christmas Eve morning.
  - Holy Family – Justin Ray, Wendy Olson and Baby Reed

Property Management report

Discussed the possibility of getting rid of some of the older wood tables. A list will be made identify tables and brought back to the Council.

- Volunteers needed to make some minor fixes to rooms/spaces that will be occupied by the DayCare.

Youth and Education report

- Pastor John will meet with confirmation students on January 9.

New Business

- Seas Branch Smithies 4-H presented a check of \$200 for use of OSLC for meetings.
- Church will be providing Pastor John with a new laptop which has been budgeted.
- Invite list for Pastor John's installation service.
  - List should include individuals we would like to invite outside our congregation.
- Annual meeting to take place on Sunday, January 20 after service. Traditional Potluck Dinner to follow.
- Soup-A-Thon fundraiser discussed
- Idea brought to Council to hold a fundraiser to support youth opportunities. Recommended that we allow Pastor John to be a part of this discussion.

**A GREENER APPROACH TO GIVING**

Churches, because of their heavy weekly check volumes, were among the earliest organizations to embrace electronic giving as a way to automate contributions. Today, electronic giving in all its forms provides convenience for frequent check writers and donation consistency for churches.

A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment. An enormous amount of natural resources are consumed in the production, transportation, processing and disposal of paper checks. That's why paying bills electronically always ranks high on any list of actions an individual can take to improve the environment. The trend toward electronic payments has already produced more than a 50% decline in check use since the year 2000.

As you consider the payment method you use to make your regular offering, we hope that you will think about the unique connection between financial stewardship and environmental stewardship.

Our Savior's wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. An authorization form is available in this newsletter or from the church office.



The **Simply Giving**® Program  
endorsed by



## Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving

Our church offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church.

## How to get started

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form in this newsletter and return it to the church office. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

## AUTHORIZATION FORM

|                                                                              |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Church name:                                                                 |          |
| Your name:                                                                   |          |
| Address:                                                                     |          |
| City, State, Zip:                                                            |          |
| Email address:                                                               |          |
| I would like to make the following contribution(s):                          |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund                              | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund                                       | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                         | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                         | \$ _____ |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                 | \$ _____ |
| Date of first contribution: ___/___/___                                      |          |
| Frequency of contribution (check one):                                       |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays                                    |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup>                      |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>                     |          |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        | <i>Complete this section if using your checking or savings account</i> |
| Please debit my (check one):                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checking account—attach voided check <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account—attach voided deposit slip                                                                                |                                                                        |
| Routing #:                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Account #:                                                             |
| <i>Valid routing # must start with 0, 1, 2 or 3</i>                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                        |
| I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. |                                                                        |
| Authorized signature: _____ Date: / /                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                        |

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## OS WELCA

On the afternoon of December 13, 2012 the WELCA ladies met at 1 p.m. in the church basement. President Joan Anderson started by reading the Purpose Statement and pianist Betty Homstad played the opening Hymn# 34 "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve".

The devotions were read by Mae Jacobson about the "Commandments for Life". The Secretaries Report was given by Lynette Johnson and they were approved as read. A thank-you card was received by the Rachel Circle in thanks for Hjordis Evenson's funeral donation. The Treasurers Report was given by Hildur Devine and they were accepted as read.

New Business was short as there will be another meeting before the annual Creamery meeting on January 24, 2013. Help is needed on Wednesday, Jan. 23 for making the meatballs. The meeting was then turned over to the Rebecca Circle and a delightful Christmas program with readings and music was given. Tammy Jacobson and Arlene Buros did a skit titled "God Is Love. The ladies were encouraged to sing along with the music after each reading. Betty Homstad played "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us" then a reading was done with the following song titled "Thy Will I Love". The final reading was followed by a closing Hymn titled "Love Divine, All Love Excelling". Doris Volden read a closing prayer before the offering was taken. We then said the Lord's Prayer and sang the Table Grace.

The month of January will have the Sarah Circle doing the program and the Serving Hostesses are Joan Anderson and Arleen Buros. Many thanks for the lunch provided by Evanelle Jacobson, Mary Constalie, and Joy Moser.

### OUR SAVIOR'S BAKE SALE

The monthly bake sale in December raised \$93.00 which will be used for purchasing banners for the church. The next bake sale will be on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to help or contribute, please contact Barb Christenson at 608-632-0993 or bring goodies on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.

## Skogdalen WELCA December 2, 2012

Opened meeting by Shirley reading Mission Statement. Devotions were prior to meeting since we met after church service. Secretary's Report was read by Shirley and Treasurer's Report was read by Terry.

### Business:

Nov. & Dec. Bethel Newsletter was sent around along with the Note from Sugar Creek on Auction items that we donated. Discussed our annual Christmas giving to various organizations and shut ins. The mice issue was discussed. Servers for today were Rhonda and Marie Berg. Rhonda switched with Nancy Graw. No December Birthdays. Next meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup> with a White Elephant Exchange and game.

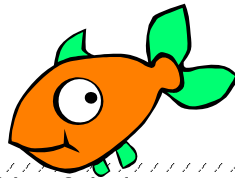


### GREETINGS FROM OS SUNDAY SCHOOL

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Program. Just a reminder, there will be **no** Sunday School on January 13<sup>th</sup> due to the Installation Sunday for the new pastor.

God Bless!  
Janessa, Kelly & Eileen

**Dear MOOS (Men of Our Savior's):**



It is LUTEFISK time again!! Our 24th annual lutefisk dinner will be on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. We will be serving only one meal again this year from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., or until all are served. With around 700 served last year, we need all of the men (and some women) to help with this project to make it a success.

**Lefse making** for the lutefisk dinner will be on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM until Noon on both days. If you know how or want to learn how to make lefse, please join us in the church basement. Also, if you have a lefse griddle and rolling pin, please bring it along to help. This is always a fun time of fellowship and storytelling!

The rest of the schedule is as follows:

|                               |                                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Fri, February 1st - 9:00 a.m. | Peel potatoes at the church                  |
| Sat, February 2nd - 6:00 a.m. | Make meatballs (Westby Elem. School kitchen) |

8:00 a.m. Set up at church

We are asking all of the men to bring 4 dozen Norwegian pastries; we also ask that you help in the same area as last year. If you are not able to help, a donation of \$20 is suggested. If you would like to help but have not done so in the past, just show up on Saturday and we will put you to work. A sign-up sheet will be going around. We have two work shifts on the 2nd. The first shift will be from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM, and the second shift will be from 1:00 PM until everything has been cleaned up and put back (6:00 or so). We would appreciate if you would sign up for one or both shifts. We are also expecting all confirmation students, grades 7 and 8 and their dads, to sign up for a work shift or two.

|                    |                       |        |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Ticket prices are: | Adults, Lutefisk      | - \$14 |
|                    | Adults, Meatball only | - \$11 |
|                    | Age 6-12              | \$ 7   |
|                    | Under 6               | Free   |

We will not mail out tickets this year, but if you would like to sell presale tickets, they will be available in the church office or in the back of the church before and after church services.

If everyone helps out, even a little, our dinner will be a BIG success. Thank you in advance for all you do for the church.

The MOOS Club  
Wally Breuer, MOOS President



## 24th Annual Lutefisk Supper

*Sponsored by the  
Men of Our Savior's  
(MOOS)*

*February 2, 2013*



### *Menu*

*Lutefisk, meatballs, potatoes and gravy, rutabagas, Carrots, coleslaw, cranberries, lefse, Norwegian Pastries, Coffee and Milk*

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

*306 S. Main St., Westby, WI 54667 (608) 634-4871*

### *AGAIN THIS YEAR*

*Serving from 11:00-4:00 (until all are served)*

*Adult Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner: \$14*

*Adult Meatball Dinner: \$11*

*Age 6-12: \$7.00*

*Under 6 eat free*

*Carry outs are available*

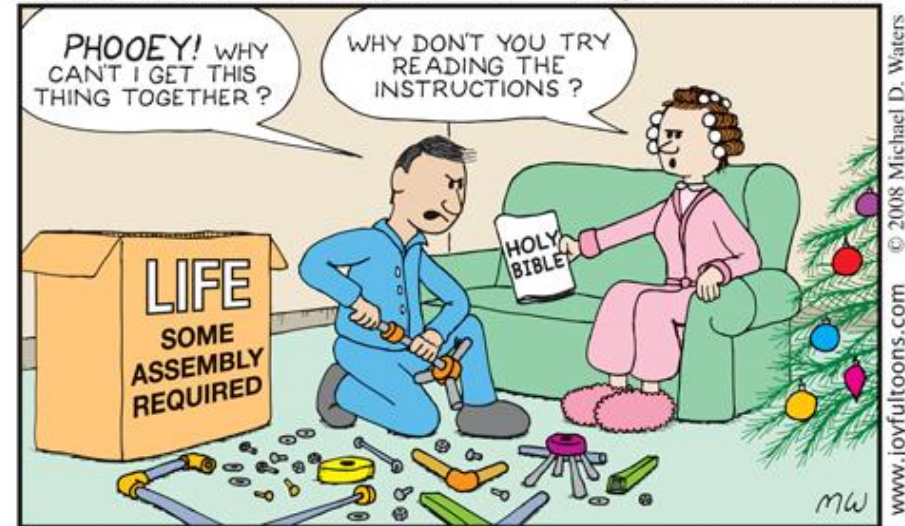


## PRAYER CHAIN & REQUESTS

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.



### SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. — PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV

www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters



# JANUARY 2013



| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                           | MONDAY                        | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                     | THURSDAY                            | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                  |                               | 1       | 2<br>1:00 Quilting<br>No confirmation<br>5:30 Personnel Com<br>7:00 Joint Council Exec<br>Committee Mtg at OS | 3                                   | 4      | 5<br><br>No WELCA - Skogdalen                                  |
| 6<br>9:15 OS SS, Sr Choir<br>9:15 Skog w/Comm.<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>10:30 OS with Comm.                                                                           | 7<br><br>7:00 Seas Branch 4-H | 8       | 9<br><br>3:30 Confirmation<br>6:30 Council Meeting -<br>OS                                                    | 10<br><br>1:30 OS WELCA             | 11     | 12<br><br>7:00 Make Lefse at OS<br>- MOOS - All are<br>welcome |
| 13<br>9:15 Installation<br>Sunday for Pastor John<br>at Skogdalen w/Potluck<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>3:00 Installation<br>Sunday for Pastor John<br>at OS w/Reception | 14                            | 15      | 16<br><br>1:00 Quilting<br>3:30 Confirmation                                                                  | 17                                  | 18     | 19<br><br>7:00 Make Lefse at OS<br>-MOOS - All are<br>welcome  |
| 20<br>9:15 OS SS, Sr Choir<br>9:15 Skog Worship<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>10:30 OS Worship<br>11:30 OS Annual<br>Meeting with potluck to<br>follow                     | 21                            | 22      | 23<br>9:00 Make Meatballs<br><br>3:30 Confirmation<br>6:30 Committees Meet                                    | 24<br><br>11:00 Creamery<br>Meeting | 25     | 26                                                             |
| 27<br>9:15 OS SS, Sr Choir<br>9:15 Skog Worship<br>10:15 Skog SS<br>10:30 Skogdalen<br>Annual Meeting<br>10:30 OS Worship                                        | 28                            | 29      | 30<br><br>3:30 Confirmation                                                                                   | 31                                  |        |                                                                |

