

# Parish Voice



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

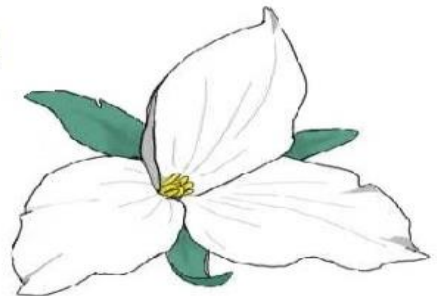


## Our Savior's Skogdalen Parish

306 S. Main St.  
Westby, WI 54667

608.634.4871  
oursav@mwt.net  
oursav-skogdalen.org

Pastor John Dumke



As we enter into this Christmas season I give thanks to the faithful people of Our Savior's and Skogdalen for



Your warmth and welcome

Your willingness to embrace new ways of being the Body of Christ

Your commitment in supporting Jesus's ministry by increasing your estimate of giving by over 30% at OSLC

Your faithfulness in worship throughout the year at Skogdalen

And so many more!

I'm excited to celebrate this season with you in our

Worship - I can't wait to see, smell and hear the live Nativity

Sharing – Participating in the Good Gifts program and other ways to serve those around us

Giving – Supporting Jesus's ministry in our parish by Christmas offerings

Have a most blessed and meaningful Christmas season by focusing upon the "Christ" in Christmas rather than the "Mass" of the commercials of the season. A couple of suggestions how to do that:

- Pick up one of the two advent devotional at church
- Use a advent calendar/wreath to keep the focus on the reason for the season
- Instead of gifts that will wear out give a gift in honor someone. Pick one up a gift cards for these ministries at church
  - Good Gifts
  - Bethel Butikk
  - Sugar Creek
  - Lutheran Campus Ministries
  - Christmas offering to church
- Attend the Homeless weekend December 6-8
- Sign up and register for a mission trip

In God's Surprising Grace,

Pastor John



## Experiencing Homelessness Weekend

**December 6th - 8th  
Racine, Wisconsin**

This event is sponsored by the Social Work Program at Carthage College (Pastor John's daughter Marya is coordinating the project) and is designed to provide youth and adults the opportunity to explore the realities of being homeless in our state. We will be working with The Hospitality Center of Racine by assisting in preparing meals, interacting with the people who participate in the ministry, and learning about homelessness and poverty. We will be staying at an Episcopal Church, eating at the Hospitality Center, visiting Carthage College, worshipping at an African American Church and more. Cost is \$35 which includes transportation, meals and programs. This is for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and above. Registration forms can be picked up at the church office.



## **Mission Jamaica 2014**

**June 26- July 6 2014**

Join Pastor John and others in participating in a life-changing week in Jamaica this summer. It's not a week at the beach but a week working alongside people at the Sunbeam Boys Home in the poorest area of that beautiful country. This is for adults and youth over the age of 16. See Pastor John for more information and/or pick up a brochure and registration form at the church office. Registration and \$100 deposit reserves your spot and are due January 15th.



## **Couples Retreat February 14th-16th**

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

The theme is Serious Fun: Laugh your way as you fall in Love again.

Enrich your relationship with your spouse, and enjoy some time away together at Sugar Creek! You will share in some wonderful meals, fun activities, and opportunities to strengthen your relationship. Through our time together, we will gain a better appreciation and understanding of our life partners. 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.

### **Greetings From The Sunday School**

The students have been working very hard on the Christmas Program. Please mark your calendars to help us celebrate “Christmas Around The World” on Sunday, December 15th during the 10:30 church service. There will be a dinner following the church service and everyone is invited to attend. We are looking for donations of beef and pork roasts for the dinner. If you are willing to donate, please contact Janessa @ 632-4804 or Lori @ 634-2142. We are looking forward to the Christmas Program and hope to see you there!

God Bless,

Lori, Janessa & Eileen



**Our Savior's**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping each year. What if a part of this spending was redirected to fight hunger and poverty? That ornament for a teacher could be changed into health and dental care for a child in an orphanage, or that sweater for your spouse could instead be a microloan for a woman in Mexico. You could actually give a gift that changes lives for generations.

**Our Savior's Sunday School** would like to provide you with an opportunity to help others around the world. **We will be holding an ELCA Good Gifts Fair after church on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.** This will be a simple event, with tables set up in the back of the church and light refreshments.

You will have an opportunity to browse through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog where you will see more than 50 different giving options that support life-changing projects around the world. Because the need is so great, a donation of any amount is meaningful. For example, just \$10 can buy one of the following...

- Blankets for a family of four
- Ten chickens that provide nutritious eggs & a source of income
- A Bible and hymnal for one person
- A mosquito net to protect families from malaria
- A fruit tree seedling

These gifts can be purchased in honor of a special person in your life – just in time for Christmas. We will have cards available that you may give to let them know that money you would have spent at a store went to someone in need instead.

**So please rethink your Christmas shopping this year, and substitute at least one gift with a gift from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Thanks for your support!**

For more information or to see the gifts available, visit [community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts](http://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts).

## Confirmation

This month we will learn about the Christmas story in new and exciting ways. On Wednesday, December 4th and 11th, we will be viewing and discussing the wonderful movie “The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe.” The formative book was written by C.S. Lewis, one of the most influential theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it deals with the 2<sup>nd</sup> article of the Apostles Creed. On Wednesday the 18th, we will be traveling to La Crosse to experience Bethlehem at English Lutheran. The entire church is transformed into biblical Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth.

### High School

A time for food, fun and meaningful conversation. A great way to begin your weekend!

**Breakfast Club**                    7:00 a.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays at church  
December 6th and 20th



### High School Retreats

January 17-19 2014  
7:00 p.m. Friday – 1 p.m. Sunday

You asked for it, you got it! A retreat designed just for high school aged youth! This high energy retreat will be filled with great music, faith-building time, and lots of surprises!

January retreat may include extreme snow fun and the November retreat is filled with fun, fall activities! Retreats start at 7:00 PM Friday and end at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Cost: \$75 (includes 5 meals) Registration forms can be picked up at the church office



## ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church** 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.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

**Debit Card Giving** lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a debit card.

**Online Giving** lets you go to [www.oursav-skogdalen.org](http://www.oursav-skogdalen.org) at any time and set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Just click on the "Giving" tab.

If you prefer to use a paper form, authorization forms are available at the back of the church or from the church office.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

### LASAGNA DINNER

Everyone had an enjoyable time at the Lasagna Dinner this year. We sold over 80 tickets for the dinner. We had 33 baskets and made \$780 on the baskets.

There were 27 pies/desserts donated and they were auctioned off for a total of \$1590. We had donations of \$194.00 from the congregation as well as donations of food items and baskets. Westby Creamery also donated 5 lbs of cheese. There were 7 youth that assisted with serving.

Music was enjoyed & provided by David & Vanessa Mills, Kevin & Alison Connelly, Kristy Homstad (Wilber & Betty's daughter-in-law), & Jena Casper's family,

The grand total for the dinner was: \$3325.00. The money this year is going towards youth programming and mission trips.

### POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will be sold again this year to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. They can be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one, and after Christmas you may take them home, leave them at church or donate to others. The cost is \$12.00. To order, please contact Dorothy at 452-2123 or Jayne at 634-4851 by December 11th.



### CARD CARING MINISTRY

We continue to look for people who need a little note sent their way to let them know someone is thinking about and praying for them! Fill out the bottom of the green bulletin inserts at church or please let Rhonda in the church office know.

### SALVATION ARMY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Salvation Army bell ringers are once again needed to help raise funds for Vernon County. This past year we raised \$16,820.00. Money was donated to Emergency Food and Shelter, medical needs, school supplies, transportation, Christmas Projects, food pantries, heat and electrical needs and disaster Assistance which benefited all ages.



We ring at these locations:

- Walmart (outside)
- Agri-Center (outside)
- Village Market (inside)
- Viroqua Food Coop (inside)

Ringin g can be 1 to 2 hours or longer if you wish. We will ring Nov. 23rd and 24th, then start again November 29th through December 24th.

For more information:

Please contact Linda Gilardi, 637-2216, [gilardi2@frontiernet.net](mailto:gilardi2@frontiernet.net) or mail donations for Vernon County to Linda Gilardi, 205 Lincoln Ave., Viroqua, WI. 54665

To schedule times at the Food Coop call Karen Dahl at 637-7710.



# OS USHERS FOR DECEMBER

**Head Usher:** Howard Langhus

**Balcony:** Peter Leum

Bryan Call, Scott Meyer &  
Harry Sutton



**ALTAR CARE:** Barbara Nelson/Deb Tewalt

**COMMUNION CARE:** Janet Dunnun & Bonnie Egge

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## Memorials



**Jim Hansen**  
**Verna Berg**

**Undesignated**  
**Undesignated**

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## LAST MONTH'S OFFERINGS:

	<u>Offerings,</u> <u>Memorials</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Nov. 3	\$3249.90 (* \$1440.00)	\$ 3284.00	160
Nov. 10	\$2226.00 (* \$300.00)	\$ 1545.89	178
Nov. 17	\$4187.26 (* \$2050.00)	\$ 3295.68	179
Nov. 24	\$1841.00 (* \$250.00)	\$ 1702.00	118

\*Auto Giving included in Total





On November 14, 2013, the ladies of the WELCA met in the church basement with President Joan Anderson reading the Purpose Statement. Pastor John gave the devotions. The Secretary's report was given by Lynette Johnson and accepted as read. The treasurer's report was given by Hildur Devine and was accepted as read.

Topics discussed included the number of quilts shipped and help needed for Thanksgiving Day. We need to provide 5 dozen lefse and 15 pies. Circles will have disbursements of money in December. Karen Hankee suggested that the church kitchen fund be a priority.

The month of December Serving Hostesses are Vicki Peterson and Kay Mueller. The Rachel Circle will have the program.



**Skogdalen WELCA**

The Skogdalen WELCA met on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The mission statement was read by Shirley. Shirley read devotions. The secretary's report was read. The treasurer's report was read by Terry.

Shirley handed out the Bazaar work list. We discussed having a Chinese Raffle and a door prize. We discussed what we should have in the Chinese Raffle and all agreed. The December meeting will be on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have a white elephant exchange.

OS's asked if we could help serve a dinner on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Shirley, Gwen, Marie and Rhonda will help serve this dinner. Thank you for serving Ladies!

Bethel Newsletter was sent around to review. We discussed the Bethel Home Auxiliary meetings and serving. We will continue to serve the Sunday after our Bazaar and the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in August we will do the program. Thank you to Shirley & Cathy for serving today. The Lord's Prayer was said and the Table Prayer was sung.



## OSLC November Council Highlights

*Full council minutes are in the church office*

Treasurer and Secretary reports were accepted.

### Ministry Reports

#### Personnel Committee

Continuing to look for choir director

Approved hiring Rhonda full time starting January 1

Insurance discussion for Pastor John – they have decided to take Georgie's insurance from her work which will save OSLC money

#### Joint Executive Committee Update with Skogdalen

Approved the 2014 parish mission amount of which Skogdalen will increase their share to \$1700 a month.

#### Joint Executive Committee Update with Westby Coon Prairie

Discussion was mainly on how both churches are doing. WCP needs our prayers during their transition

#### Stewardship

Reviewed the Consecration Sunday ministry

Caring Card Party is planned for next Saturday

#### Property Management

Monte will follow up on getting the sidewalk in back of church ground down.

Still waiting for the final report from the building engineers

#### Received the Youth and Education Report

Sunday School leaders are doing such a tremendous job.

More adults needed going to Homeless Mission Trip.

8-9 people planning on going to Jamaica trip.

Breakfast Club at church will be every other Friday instead of every Friday.

Sugar Creek will be doing a Couples Retreat Feb. 14-16.

The preliminary budget meeting will be November 20 with the committee chairmen

**OUR SAVIOR'S AND SKOGDALEN  
306 S. MAIN ST.  
WESTBY, WI 54667**

**What's Inside.....**

**Pastor's Perspective  
Council Highlights  
WELCA Minutes  
Youth Ministries**