

Parish Voice



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

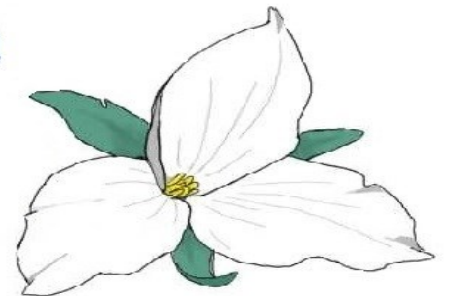


Our Savior's Skogdalen Parish

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Pastor John Dumke



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

What's Inside.....

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

After enjoying a cup of coffee at Luther Seminary with Joe Iverson the other week, I walked around the campus and reminisced about my days at Sem over 25 years ago. Upon thinking about the many courses that I took I realized that I didn't take any classes in some very practical areas of ministry: stewardship, business organization, finance, and building maintenance to name a few. The reality is that I do spend some time involved in these areas of ministry. And that's okay as long as I'm not consumed by them. A wise pastor once told me: Remember there is ministry in administration.

It is especially important for me to spend time with stewardship as this is a vital part of growing as a Christ-follower. As Martin Luther said: "there are three conversions: the head, the heart and the purse" I have taken this to mean there are three primary ways in which we connect and respond to God.

Head – when we “think” about God in our daily life including daily prayer/devotions, worship, bible, and the awareness of God in our life.

Heart- when we “feel” God in our life, in times of sorrow and in times of joy, a sense of being loved and forgiven and responding in kind through our thoughts and actions with others.

Purse – when we “realize” that all that we have is a gift from God, the ability to work and earn a living, the beauty of creation. When we acceptance the reality that we really don't “own” anything. Whenever we profess the Apostle's creed we affirm this in the words. “I believe in God the Father Creator/Maker of heaven and earth.” In a real sense you could insert the word owner in place of creator/ maker.

When we view stewardship as only giving money to a church we limit the richness of its meaning. Stewardship is our response to God in how we use our time on this earth, the relationships we build and the use of our financial resources. Stewardship is really about priorities in life. If you want to know what is really important in a person's life all you need to do is look at where their time and money goes.

I invite you to join me this month in exploring the importance of stewardship in our life together.

In God's Surprising Grace,

Pastor John



OSLC September Council Highlights

Full council minutes are in the church office

Treasures and Secretaries reports were accepted.

Youth and Family-

The Faith Stepping Stones program has been excellent with almost 100% attendance by parents.

Our Sunday School kids are giving their offerings to three ministries this year: ELCA Good Gifts (buying animals for people in developing countries), Jamaica mission (raising funds to allow the orphanage kids to spend a day outside the orphanage), Lutheran Campus Ministries in LaCrosse (our synod sponsored college ministry).

Plans are underway for the Jamaica mission trip this summer.

Youth will participate in a “Homeless Weekend” December 6-8 in Racine, WI sponsored by Carthage College School of Social Work.

Stewardship – Pastor Libby will be leading us in an exciting and uplifting Stewardship ministry this fall that will conclude with Consecration Sunday on November 17.

Property – We have not yet received the engineers report concerning building needs.

Voted to repair the concrete in front of the back door. Voted to spend up to \$4372 as per bid to repair organ.

Congregational Care -Pastor is about half way through visiting our shut-ins (28) before our Lay Ministers will begin monthly visits.

125 Anniversary – “Community through Christ” is the theme for the 125th Anniversary Celebration.

Upcoming events.

November 3 – Catered banquet

April 27, 2014 – Pig Roast.

We will be involved in a visioning process (long range planning) this winter to celebrate the past and look towards the future. There will be a Heritage Wall located in the basement celebrating the history of our church.



OS WELCA

On October 10, 2013, President Joan Anderson called the WELCA meeting to order at 1pm by reading the Purpose Statement. Pianist Delaine Jefson then led us in singing Hymn #162 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". Hildur Devine did the devotions talking about traditions. The Secretaries Report was given by Lynette Johnson and it was accepted as read. Hildur Devine gave the Treasurers Report and it was accepted as read.

Business discussed involved the upcoming 125th celebration and the meal preparation. Two prices have been quoted for the local businesses as to which caterer would work the best. Because of the higher price, Borgen's was not chosen and Jim and Darla Hansen running Kwik Stop was passed by Betty Homstad with the 1st and Delaine Jefson 2nd. The menu will include Ham and Beef Tips, Peas and Carrots, and Coleslaw. It was suggested that the Westby Coop Creamery be approached about donating the coleslaw. The meal would be served cafeteria style. Desserts would be provided by Arlene Buros and Peter Leum doing cakes for an estimated 200 people. On another note, the 82 quilts will be spread out for all to see in the upcoming Sunday church service and help is needed for that. The Bethel Home needs cookies amounting to seven dozen and one angel food cake for October 13th.

The meeting was then turned over to the Sarah Circle and Hildur Devine gave a very descriptive history about the past people involved with starting the Our Saviors Church. There were many familiar names and also some pictures were passed around showing what the church started out as. If anyone wants to look at how big the original church was you can take a look at the feed mill on East State St. that is called Mikes Feed Supply. This history will be mentioned to many people during the November 3rd, 2013 celebration of 125 years.

While the collection was taken pianist Delaine Jefson played a song titled "A Tree In the Meadow". We then sang the Table Grace and said the Lord's Prayer. Much thanks for a lovely lunch provided by Shirley Hagen. The month of November has the Officers doing the program and the Serving Hostesses are Brenda Maxwell, Donna Leum, and Jeanne Fredrick.



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 \$30 which includes transportation, meals and programs. This is for 8th graders and above.

For more information contact the church office and/or pick up a brochure.



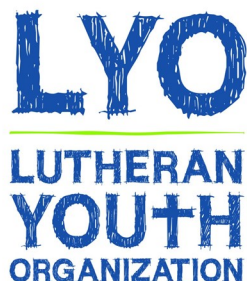
**Mission Jamaica 2014
June 26- July 6 2014**

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 15.

The actual cost of the trip is dependent upon your participation in the fundraisers. Pick up a brochure or contact Pastor John for more information.

High School Synod Event February 7th -9th

A weekend of great music and entertainment, good food and time to hang out with other high school kids from around the area. Registration and more information will be available later this month.



Helping Hands Ministry

The high school group is looking for people who need a helping hand this fall. We are ready to help in most any project around your house – raking, preparing for winter, cleaning eves, etc. Contact Becca Maxwell at 790.0028

Couples Retreat February 14th-16th



Sugar Creek Bible Camp

The theme is Serious Fun: Laugh your way into invigorating your relationship.

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.

OS USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Head Usher: Howard Langhus
Balcony: Peter Leum

Gordon Johnson, Bruce Stefferud,
Orville Clark & Jay Hankee



ALTAR CARE:

Sandy Brudos

COMMUNION CARE:

Cindy Langhus & Debbie Tewalt

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## Memorials

**Alton Berger**  
**Leo & Darlene Ostrem**

**Undesignated**  
**Youth**

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LAST MONTH'S OFFERINGS:

	<u>Offerings, Memorials</u>	<u>Other Income</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Oct. 6	\$ 2973.01 (* \$200.00)	\$ 75.00	132
Oct. 13	\$ 2785.00 (* \$300.00)	\$ 1941.47	166
Oct. 20	\$ 3352.68 (* \$1980.00)	\$ 807.09	128
Oct 27	\$4070.64 (* \$440.00)	\$ 758.00	291

*Auto Giving included in Total



Our Savior's 125 Anniversary Celebrations

Community through Christ!
125 years and counting!

There are a number of special celebrations scheduled to celebrate Jesus' Ministry at OSLC this year.

Sunday, November 3rd
10:30 Festival Worship
Noon Banquet

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### 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.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> card-making workshop is set for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-Noon. Anna Wendorf will lead us in making 3 new cards with your cost of \$3. Come join in the great fellowship! Any questions, please call Joy Moser at 632-1206.



### 6th Annual Lasagna Dinner

Saturday, November 16, 2013

Social Hour: 5:00 p.m. with appetizers & an opportunity to look at and bid on silent auction items.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m. which includes soup, salad,

lasagna, garlic toast & dessert.

Live pie auction to follow dinner about 7:30 or 8:00 & silent auction will end at that time. Tickets will be \$10.00 in advance & \$12.00 at the door.

We need donations of lasagna, garlic toast, bars and pies. Also, if anyone wants to do a basket for the silent auction, that would be great. If you are a high school student and do a basket for the silent auction,, mark your basket and the proceeds will go into your account. Please contact Barb Christenson at 608-634-2067 or the church office.

## Faith Stepping Stones

Faith Stepping Stones is an intentional ministry Our Savior's provides for quality faith conversations between parents and children. Faith Stepping stones are designed to uphold the covenant promise that the parents made at their son/daughters baptism that they would guide them in Christian Discipleship. These short courses are designed with the expectation of parent participation. Pastor John will be team teaching each class on selected Sunday mornings at 9:15

**November 17th 3 and 4 year olds with parents**

**Raising a Healthy Preschooler.** We focus on the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of preschoolers and their parents.



### Greetings From The Sunday School

So far we are off to a wonderful start this year! We have almost 90 kids enrolled in the Sunday school program, which is amazing. A huge thank you to all of the parents for participating in the stepping stones program with their children. It has been a great way for the families to learn about God together. We look forward to many more fun and exciting activities with the students. Remember that youth Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of the month. As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or are interested in helping with the program.

God Bless,

Lori, Janessa & Eileen



## Confirmation

This past month has been busy for our youth. On Wednesday, October 23rd, they did road side clean up on Hwy 14/61 then attended a Drug and Alcohol awareness program in Coon Valley. On Friday, October 25th, they went to Ghoulies in the Coulees and then spent the night at OSLC. A special thank you to Devi Stoffregen and Kelly Servais for spending the entire night.

### Wednesday

|             |                                                                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 6  | Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?                          |
| November 13 | Why do we say we believe in "the holy catholic church" if we're not Catholic? |
| November 20 | Do cremated people go to heaven?                                              |
| November 27 | No Class – thanksgiving eve worship                                           |



### High School

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

|                       |                      |                   |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Breakfast Club</b> | 7am Fridays          | 1st & 3rd Fridays |
| This month            |                      |                   |
| November              | 3rd & 17th at Church | \$2               |

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Blue Jean Drive for FCCLA

"Don't get rid of you blue jeans! Holy or brand new, we will put them to use! You can bring your blue jeans to church anytime between Sunday, October 20th and Sunday, November 10th. There will be a drop-off box in the back of the church sanctuary. The nicer jeans we will be donating to the Bethel Butikk and the ripped up ones we will be cutting apart to make new creations such as quilts. We will be donating the new creations to charities and fundraisers in our area. Thank you for your help in advance! We know your unwanted jeans will be put to great use!"



Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their

relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Wally Breuer — Church Council President