

*Our calling is to reach all people  
with the life-changing power of  
God's Love and Grace available to  
all through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

The Westby United Methodist Church  
welcomes **everyone** with open arms and open  
hearts as indicated in Romans 15:7 (NIV):  
*Accept one another, then, just as Christ  
accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*



Westby United  
Methodist Church  
June 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

### Final Article from Pastor Erika

Dear brothers and sisters,

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

*Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about  
anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God.*

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your  
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4.4-7*

First of all, I want to thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve you as a pastor. It has been a privilege to know you and be part of these beautiful congregations. I have seen their fidelity, their dedication, and their love for our heavenly Father and for his Church and they have been an example and inspiration for my life.

It was five years where we walked together through difficult times where we had to learn to support the Church even when we ourselves did not feel strong enough to do so; but that the work you did was key for our congregations to feel God's love and his company during one of the worst times we have experienced in modern history.

As you know, the image of Jesus walking beside us is my favorite; and it is because walking alongside Jesus is walking alongside his church and, when I see you, your faith, your generosity, and your hard work, I also see the face of Jesus reflected in yourselves and I can experience your love through you.

I have nothing left but to thank each one of you for your love, your patience, your friendship and for everything you taught me.

Dear friends, you will always be in my heart and a big part of me will stay with you. I take with me the love you gave me, and you can be sure that you will always be loved by me.

Thank you for everything you have done for me and, I have no doubt, you will do the same for your new pastor and his family.

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See you soon and may the love of God endure in your hearts.

Vayan con Dios!

Your forever friend and pastor  
Erika Martinez-Flores

### Pastor Erika's Schedule:

Thursday at Westby UMC – 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (11:30 AM - 1:00 PM)

Sunday morning before worship – 8:30 AM – 8:50 AM

*\*Pastor Erica will be at Annual Conference June 6-10\**

*\*\* Pastor Erika will be on vacation June 24-30 \*\**

### Contact Information:

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### June Birthdays

June 7 – Donna Perkins & Ann Shaw

June 11 – Jane Gaskell

June 18 – Verna Drake

June 20 – Kay Zogg



### June Anniverseries

June 11 – Roger & Kay Zogg

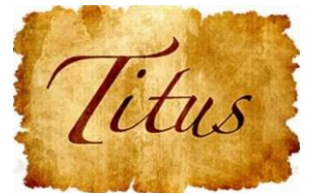


### Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please join us on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and help us flex our “prayer muscles” by coming to our monthly Prayer Group for a time of fellowship with our Lord through prayer. Prayer is a powerful resource, so it’s important that we pray together to combine our prayer strengths. There is a prayer request box in the narthex for prayer requests.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

We will continue studying the Epistle of Titus during our morning Bible study group. Please join us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> as we learn to be the church that our Father expects us to be, and that Jesus has called us to be. We invite you to join our study and together we grow in knowledge of his Word to strengthen our faith and our commitment.



### Growing in Faith Study Group

With the concern about growing our church and finding ways to reach out to the community, this study group will be doing a study, “Untapped: Discover the God-Size Potential of Your Small Church”. This study is from the Small Church Ministry website, and we’ll be discussing session 3 this month. We will meet at 6:00 PM on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join the discussion and hopefully we’ll be inspired to increase our impact and grow in unity through these studies.

## Sunday School News

The last day of Sunday school for the school year ended on a high note. As part of our focus on loving God and loving others, the kids served their parents a Mystery Lunch. There were three courses served, but parents didn't know exactly what the menu items were. The kids chose creative names for the food and drink, as well as the silverware and napkin. Parents were quite creative when they didn't have silverware for their salad or ice cream. It was a day of laughter and fun! Thank you to our Sunday school families for sharing your kids this year.



We hope to plan a get together this summer – stay tuned for details. We will do our best to find a time that works for our busy families. VBS plans are also yet to come.

Looking ahead, we are hosting Burgers in the Park on July 18th at Davidson Park. This is a great time for our church family to get together and serve the community.

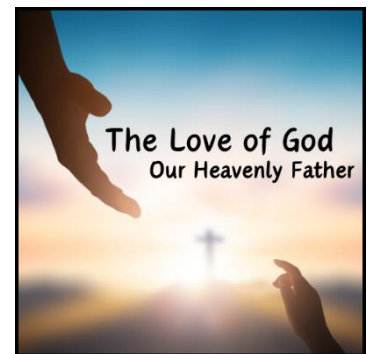
HAPPY SUMMER!

## June Online Studies – The Love of God, Our Heavenly Father

Father's Day is in June, so we thought that this would be a good time to learn more about the love God, our heavenly Father has for us. These studies will reveal how God is a good and perfect Father and help us connect to the power of God's love for us so we can be transformed. Please join us in this month's online studies as we discover more about our heavenly Father's love.

Please use these links to join the online studies:

- "The Father Loves You" – begins June 1
  - <https://bible.com/p/66728472/2b0232d80362e92de8390077ba233a59>
- "The Empowering Love Of The Father" – begins June 17
  - <https://bible.com/p/66728493/76da492dc94c2f96a66b94fea641806a>



*These online studies and more can be accessed through the Bible App or [bible.com](https://www.bible.com) website, which are free resources. In addition to wonderful devotional and reading plans, they provide a verse of the day, and you will be able to read the Bible in a wide variety of versions. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mobile device, or accessible online at [www.bible.com](https://www.bible.com). Please note that Bible.com online will no longer support Plans with Friends. You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to continue to use this feature.*



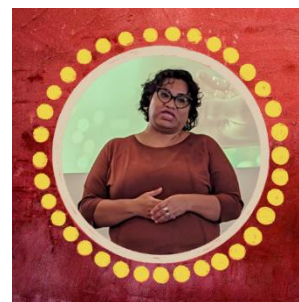
## Mission of the Month – Vacation Bible School

Summer is upon us and our thoughts turn to Vacation Bible School. The theme and date haven't been chosen yet, but in order to plan, we need to have the resources available. There are games to plan, lessons to prepare and food and materials to purchase. As always, we want the children to learn and grow while having fun. Some of us might reflect back on our own experiences with VBS and know how important it can be. Please make checks payable to the church with VBS in the memo.

## Special Gathering to Honor Pastor Erika – June 5<sup>th</sup>

It has been a blessing to have Pastor Erika as our pastor these past five years. We invite you to come and join us for a special time with Pastor Erika as we bid her “Adios” and best wishes for the next chapter of her life.

A meal of tacos, fruit salad, dessert and beverages will be served. The party starts at 5:30 PM. If you would like to help with the meal, there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



## Church Vision Discussion – June 9<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> during fellowship time, we would like to start a discussion about developing a vision for our church. Developing a vision with purpose is part of the process for congregational development. Please be praying about what the vision of Westby UMC should be.

## Joint Congregational Development Meeting – June 10<sup>th</sup>

This month, Cavan Fang, from Viroqua UMC and Pastor Erika will be attending another session for the Institute of Congregational Development. On Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, there will be another joint meeting so Pastor Erika and Cavan can share what they learned at this month's session. This joint meeting will be held at Viroqua UMC in the fellowship hall. Please come and hear about more ideas regarding what we can do to go out and reach others in our communities and possibly grow our church.

## Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting ☩ May 8, 2024

**Present:** Pastor Erika, Ardith Hoff, Verna Drake, Jean Shore and Linda Weilnau

**Opening:** Pastor Erika opened with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the April board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the May newsletter, so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Verna Drake provided the financial reports for April. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Verna Drake reported that we didn't pay any Apportionments for April because we are ahead in our Apportionment payments. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

### Old Business:

- ☩ Switch Pastor's Office & Library – Next Steps? – The next task for this project is to go through the books that are in the old pastor's office. The new pastor's office (old library) is ready to be used.
- ☩ Dishwasher – Update – It was reported that the dishwasher will be installed on May 10 if Mr. Fronk is able to obtain the proper connections.
- ☩ West Entrance Modification – Update – We haven't had any news from Paul Bjerkos regarding the costs. Verna Drake will contact Paul in June for an update.

**New Business:**

- ✝ MidWest Asphalt – Resealing Parking Lots – There is a concern about the weeds growing in the cracks of the parking lots. We will look into possibly obtaining a handheld torch to burn the weeds off as needed during the summer. Doing this should allow us to wait another year before needing to have the parking lots resealed because the weeds growing in the cracks make the cracks bigger.
- ✝ Congregational Development (Set a meeting date to discuss with our congregation) – There will be a joint meeting with Viroqua on May 21, which will be held at Westby. This will be to discuss the May sessions. It was decided to have a meeting for just the Westby members on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> during fellowship so we can start developing ideas for visions, missions and making connections to the community. Pastor Erika will provide some guidelines to help with the discussion.
- ✝ Phone in Kitchen – This phone line has been changed to ring 3 times before it is forwarded to the Viroqua UMC office. Previously, it would only ring once before it was forwarded, which didn't allow time for anyone at our church to answer the phone.
- ✝ Special Gathering with Pastor Erika – We originally wanted to have this on Sunday, June 23 at 8:00 AM, but later decided to change the date due to several people not being available on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have the special gathering with Pastor Erika on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM, possibly a taco meal.
- ✝ VBS Planning – Pastor Erika has started to think about a theme for VBS, Super Heroes, which would use Bible characters for the heroes (David, Esther, Sampson and Paul) and possibly include putting on the armor of God from Ephesians. We still want to do a joint VBS with Viroqua in August. We'll need to start working with them in June to do more specific planning.

**Business from Board Committees:**

- ✝ **Trustees** – The urinal in the men's bathroom is fixed. The drywall by the urinal needs to be fixed yet.
- ✝ **SPRC** – Our new pastor will be starting on July 1 and his first message will be given on July 14. Verna Drake will hand out an information document about Pastor Paul on Sunday, May 12.
- ✝ **Worship** – Pastor Erika said that communion will be served on June 23 during worship. We need to have a substitute speaker on June 9 because Pastor Erika will be at Annual Conference that day.
- ✝ **Education** – Sunday school is finished for the school year. Pastor Erika mentioned that there may be a possible confirmation class in the fall.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith has written 5 more articles for the website.
- ✝ **Missions** – The mission of the month for June will be VBS.

**Pastor's Report:** In addition to needing a substitute speaker on June 9, we also need to have guest speakers on June 30 and July 7. Pastor Erika will be on vacation June 24-June 30 to prepare to move to her new location.

- Pastor Erika is preparing information papers about both churches to give to Pastor Paul. We should give him our goals list and an updated directory.
- There was a parsonage tour, and these items need attention:
  - The carpet in the bedrooms needs to be pulled and switched to hardwood floors.
  - The back entrance steps need to be fixed.
  - The hot water doesn't work in the basement sink.
  - The porch needs to be painted or possibly stained.
  - The garage door opener doesn't work. They are waiting for a new clicker.
- Suggested to give the new pastor prepared meals or groceries or fruit basket so the family has something to eat when they move in. We should coordinate this with Viroqua UMC.
- There isn't a microwave in the parsonage.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilmann

## June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship	3 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	4 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	5 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 5:30 PM -Special Gathering with Pastor Erika	6 9:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	7 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	8
9 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship & Church Vision Discussion	10 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	12 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting	13 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	14 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	15
16 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship <i>Happy Father’s Day!</i>	17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	19 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing in Faith Study Group	20 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	21 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	22
23 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship	24	25 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	26	27 9:00 AM - Morning Bible Study Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	28 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	29
30 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship						

**\*\* Remember to join us at 3:20 PM each day for being unified in prayer to pray for our church ...**

*“God, Give us the courage to dream big dreams. Please open our minds and hearts so we can have new breakthroughs to Your new possibilities. Amen.”*

God is able to do much more than we ask or think, through His power working in us.  
~ Ephesians 3:20 (NLV)