

*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
May 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Sanctification

by Pastor Paul Lee

It is thus that we wait for entire sanctification, for a full salvation from all our sins, from pride, self-will, anger, unbelief, or, as the Apostle expresses it, 'Go on to perfection.' But what is perfection? The word has various senses: here it means perfect love. It is love excluding sin; love filling the heart, taking up the whole capacity of the soul. It is love 'rejoicing evermore, praying without ceasing, in everything giving thanks'.

The Scripture Way of Salvation – John Wesley

When we say about salvation, we normally just think of the relationship between sin and forgiveness of sin, or the permission that is given by Jesus's sacrifice on the cross to be in Heaven after death. This could be the part of Justification. In early Methodists' understanding, justification was not everything of the salvation. There were another pillar of salvation, it was Sanctification. Justification is a very important matter of Salvation. However, in early Methodists' understanding, Salvation consists of justification and sanctification.

In his sermon The Scripture Way of Salvation, Wesley said, "So that the salvation which is here spoken of might be extended to the entire work of God, from the first dawning of grace in the soul till it is consummated in glory." So, in Wesley's understanding, Salvation is not just an event of a moment time, but it is the faith journey of entire life. And he understood the two main parts of Salvation were Justification and Sanctification. In his sermon, The Scripture Way of Salvation, "But we are at present concerned only with that salvation which the Apostle is directly speaking of. And this consists of two general parts, justification and sanctification."

Sanctification occurs just right after justification – in details, new birth occurs between justification and sanctification, we will look over about the new birth later. Wesley, in his sermon Justification by Faith, said, "This is sanctification; which is indeed in some degree the immediate fruit of justification, but nevertheless is a distinct gift of God, and of a totally different nature." And in sermon The Scripture Way of Salvation, he said, "And at the same time that we are justified, yea, in that very moment, sanctification begins." Both Justification and Sanctification are works of God's grace in our lives, but they are clearly distinct, and Sanctification is followed Justification. Then, what is Sanctification? What is the purpose of Sanctification? In his sermon The Scripture Way of Salvation, he said, "It is thus that we wait for entire sanctification, for a full salvation from all our sins, from pride, self-will,

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anger, unbelief, or, as the Apostle expresses it, 'Go on to perfection.'" After people were justified, they should live the life of sanctification for the full salvation. Sanctification purposes to be the perfect Christian, which means to be Christians who perfectly love God and love neighbor.

Then, how can we be sanctified? Wesley mentioned in his sermon The Scripture Way of Salvation, "Faith is the condition, and the only condition of sanctification, exactly as it is of justification. It is the condition: none is sanctified but he that believes; without faith no man is sanctified. And it is the only condition: this alone is sufficient for sanctification." We are not sanctified by our work. As we are justified by faith, we are sanctified by faith. Spiritual work, such as reading the Bible, praying, and attending worship service, can help people feel the love and grace of God, but those are not the conditions of sanctification. Faith is the only thing that we need for sanctification.

John Wesley understood sanctification as a process that transforms people into Christians of perfect love. Sanctification always purposed to love God and love neighbor. Wesley's and early Methodists' understanding of sanctification is still with us, Methodists, in this present day, to help people pursue holiness in their lives.

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Westby UMC Office Hours:

- Thursdays (9:00-12:00)
- Anytime by appointment

** Pastor Paul will be attending ICD classes May 12-14*

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May Birthdays

May 13 – Pastor Paul



May Anniversaries

May 28 – Tim & Jane Gaskell

May 30 – Mike & Julie Fargen



Sunday School News

The Sunday school year is quickly coming to an end! The last day for Sunday school classes will be May 4th.

Thank you to the kids for sharing their music, Psalm 23 verses and skit in April. They did a fantastic job and there were many great comments.

Planning ahead:

- Pastor Paul would like to have the kids join in a fun activity in June. The date hasn't been chosen yet, but we will talk about options in Sunday school.
- VBS is in August and it will be Westby's turn to host. Planning will begin soon – ideas and suggestions are welcome.

THANK YOU for sharing your very wonderful kids. They are a tremendous blessing to me and to the church family.
Jane



Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please continue to exercise your prayer muscles by joining us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, May 1st for our monthly prayer group time. Prayer is a gift from God and a powerful tool that He gave to us. He wants us to use it, individually and as a group. Thank you for your continued prayers for our church ministries, church members and our community.

Mission of the Month – Sleep in Heavenly Peace

“Sleep in Heavenly Peace” is our mission of the month for May. You might remember that we chose that organization as our mission of the month once before. They are a national organization with a chapter in Vernon County. Their mission, is to provide beds for children in need. Their moto is, “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town.” They provide beds that are either hand assembled, from pre-cut parts, or they deliver twin-size beds that have been donated. If you have a bed to donate, it can be dropped off at the Emanuel Lutheran Church in Viroqua. If you wish to make a monetary donation, you can make checks payable to the Westby UMC, or they can be made out to SHP, and sent directly to SHP % Wayne Sherry at 1108 Schroeder Ave, Viroqua, WI 54665. They also accept gifts of new twin-sized sheet sets, comforters, and bed-in-a-bag, pillows, and wood for the construction of beds for Build Days. You can also make donations on line at <https://shpbs.org/chapter/wi-vernon-co/>. If you have questions about the organization, the phone number to call is 1-844-423-2337 x5524.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**



Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

Please join us on Thursday, May 22nd at 9:00 AM for our monthly Bible Study group. We will continue with our study of the books of Luke and Acts and continue to learn how to use the inductive Bible study method. The inductive Bible study is a method to read the Bible, find God's message from the Bible, and apply it to our lives. It is a method of reading the Bible first from the Bible, not from our life situations. To prepare for this month's study, please continue to read the book of Luke and Acts.



May Online Study – Declutter Now!

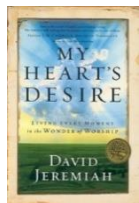
Look around you. Could your space use a little spring cleaning? Over time, we accumulate so much stuff that we can find joy and freedom in decluttering our surroundings! Likewise, your life as a whole can become cluttered, packed with so many “things” that it can wear you down and burn you out. When that happens, it's time to do a little “spring cleaning” in your life as a whole!

We invite you to join us this May as we journey through eight different life areas to uncover the hidden time, money, peace, energy, space, and freedom that you never knew you had! With the help of scriptures and devotionals, we will learn to simplify, organize, and clean out clutter with a “whole life” approach. Through this study, you will grow to experience tremendous joy living a decluttered life for yourself, your family, and for Christ!

Our May study begins on Thursday, May 1st and will take us throughout the month. Use the link below to join us on our decluttering journey!

- Declutter Now! – Begins May 1st: <https://bible.com/p/73747614/b2b4e5f2cdbfeba7342b4cdf114ff95b>

This online study and more can be accessed through the Bible App on your mobile device or the 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.



Growing in Faith Study Group

This month, we'll have the opportunity to start our discussions about the book, *My Heart's Desire*, by David Jeremiah. We'll meet on Wednesday, May 7th at 6:00 PM to discuss chapter 7 and on Wednesday, May 21st, we'll discuss chapter 8. Please join our discussions to find out how we can incorporate worship more into our everyday lives.

Spring Teatime with Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul wants to continue to learn more about us, so this spring, he will be contacting church members to invite us to get together in small groups to have some conversations. The meeting times are to be determined, so stay tuned for more information.



Baby Bottle Drive for Door of Hope

The Door of Hope is inviting area churches to participate in a Baby Bottle Drive fundraiser from Mother's Day, May 11th to Father's Day, June 15th. During this time, we're being asked to save our pocket change and put it in baby bottles. We'll have some baby bottles on the table in the narthex for you to fill.

Confirmation Sunday – May 25th

Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, May 25th for the confirmation of Hailee Janzen. We welcome Hailee as she confirms her intention to live a faith-filled life.



Memorial Day Dinner – May 26th @ Faith UMC

The Women of Faith will be sponsoring their annual Memorial Day Dinner on Monday, May 26 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The menu includes chicken & noodles, beef & noodles, salads, dinner roll, beans, desserts and a beverage. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children ages 7-12, free for children 6 and under.

Lent Food Drive Update

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated food products to our Lent Food Drive! It was a huge success! We collected 412 cans/boxes/jars/bags of food, which is more than what was collected during last year's food drive. The food was divided up, and half was delivered to the Cashton Cupboard and the other half to Bethel Butikk. Thank you very much for your generosity!



Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting ☩ - April 16, 2025

Present: Pastor Paul, Jean Shore, Verna Drake, Tim Gaskell, Jane Gaskell, Ardith Hoff, Julie Fargen and Linda Weilnau

Opening: Tim Gaskell opened with prayer.

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

Treasurer's Report: Verna Drake provided the financial reports for March. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. A concern was mentioned because Viroqua UMC is always months behind in providing the pastoral charges that we owe and that we're not notified ahead of time when parsonage repairs are needed. Verna Drake is going to ask Viroqua UMC to notify us about parsonage repairs before the repairs are done. Jean Shore and Ardith Hoff motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- ✚ West Entrance Modification – Janzen's installed the new ramp. We will need to have the parking lot repainted because we need to move the location of the handicap parking areas. The next item for this project is to have railings installed.
- ✚ Insurance Update – We received a notice that our policy with Church Mutual was cancelled on March 20, 2025. The new insurance company is Travellers. The cost is \$842 per month and our deductible was raised. Verna Drake is going to contact Travellers because we feel the pricing is too high for the size of our building.
- ✚ Food Drive – Deliver food – It was decided to sort and divide the food donations after the board meeting. Half of the donations will go to Bethel Butikk and the other half to the Cashton Cupboard.
- ✚ To Schedule: Cemetery Clean-Up & Yard/Flower Bed Maintenance – We need 2-3 people to help rake up at the cemetery and help pick up sticks. We will do this on April 22 at 5:30 PM (rain date is April 24). Verna Drake is working with Sam Spade to schedule a time to reinstall the edging around the rock areas. Verna also purchased Round-Up to spray the weeds in the stones.
- ✚ Bethel Butikk Recognition Dinner – April 21 – We still need a few people to make bars and help work. We will move the tables on Thursday, April 17.
- ✚ Safe Sanctuary Policy – Tim Gaskell provided a draft of a proposed policy. We are to review the policy and vote on it at the May board meeting.
- ✚ Burgers in the Park Update – We will be doing a bake sale during Burgers in the Park and setup a prayer picket fence for people to add prayer requests to.

New Business:

- ✚ Door of Hope – Baby Bottle Drive – The Door of Hope is having a Baby Bottle Drive, asking people to put change in a container between Mother's Day and Father's Day. It was decided to have our church participate in this fundraiser. We'll add an article about this in the May newsletter.
- ✚ Syttende Mai Breakfast – Sons of Norway – The Sons of Norway group called to ask if they can use our church again this year for their breakfast which will be on Saturday, May 17. Verna Drake gave them the Building Use form to fill out. They want to come on Friday, May 16 to set up. It was agreed to allow them to use the fellowship hall for this event.
- ✚ Outreach Project Suggestion – Linda Weilnau saw a posting on the internet about the Lasagna Love project. Pans of lasagna are made and delivered to people in need. It was suggested to possibly do this for our Sunday school families and find out if there may be other families that may benefit from this. It was decided to discuss this more in the fall and have it as a fall project.

- ✚ May Day Flowers for Norseland? – We need to ask Norseland if the flowers are well received. Jane Gaskell will call Norseland to find out how many residents they currently have. If we do this project, we'll plant the flowers after church on Sunday, April 27. Jane still has cups leftover from last year. Verna Drake said she will purchase flowers (marigolds) and dirt.
- ✚ May Agenda – Volunteer – Tim and Jane will not be able to attend the May board meeting, so we need a volunteer to create the agenda and email it out. Linda Weilnau volunteered to do this.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✚ **Trustees** – No report.
- ✚ **SPRC** – No report.
- ✚ **Worship** – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter
 - Maundy Thursday – This will be a joint service with Viroqua UMC and will be held at Westby UMC at 6 PM. Communion will be served during this service.
 - Good Friday – Viroqua UMC will have a service at 1:00 PM.
 - Easter – Our Easter service will be at 9 AM and communion will be served.
- ✚ **Education** – There won't be class on Easter Sunday. The last day of Sunday school will be May 4th. We plan on doing some summer activities with the youth.
- ✚ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith Hoff reported that she has written more articles for the website. Ardith will help to give messages during the summer when Pastor Paul is on vacation.
- ✚ **Missions** – The mission of the month for May will be Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This group makes beds for children in need.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul purchased 2 new wireless mics for our church and some items to connect his guitar to our sound system.

- In June or July, Pastor Paul would like to have a visioning meeting for our church.
- He will be attending ICD classes on May 12-14. Confirmation Sunday is May 18.
- Pastor Paul wants to start having small group meetings in May.
- Annual Conference is in June, so coverage is needed for both churches on June 8 for giving the message. Tim Gaskell volunteered to give the messages on June 8.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment,
such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry
or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self,
the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great
worth in God's sight. ~ 1 Peter 3:3-4

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	2 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	3
4 9:00 AM – Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	5 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	6 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	7 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing in Faith Study Group	8 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	9 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship	12 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	13 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	14 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 5:45 PM – Church Board Meeting	15 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	16 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	17
18 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM –Fellowship	19 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	20 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	21 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing in Faith Study Group	22 9:00 AM – Bible Study Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	23 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	24
25 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	28 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	29 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	30 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	31

**** Remember to join us at 3:20 PM each day for being unified in prayer to pray for our church and how we can reach and serve others, while serving God ...**

“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)