

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
March 2026**

IN THIS ISSUE

Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, III

by Pastor Paul Lee

In this third discourse, Wesley expounds on Matthew 5:8-12, focusing on three Beatitudes: the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those persecuted for righteousness' sake.

The Pure in Heart: Wesley argues that purity of heart goes far beyond external moral behavior or ceremonial cleanliness. It refers to a heart entirely cleansed from all sinful desires, pride, self-will, and love of the world. The pure in heart are those who love God with their whole being and whose intentions in every action are directed solely toward God's glory. This inward purity, Wesley insists, is only possible through the sanctifying grace of God. The reward — "they shall see God" — means not merely a future vision in heaven, but an intimate, present communion with God experienced in the soul even now.

The Peacemakers: Wesley defines peacemakers broadly. They are first at peace with God through justification and sanctification, and consequently at peace within themselves. From this inner peace flows an active pursuit of peace with others — reconciling enemies, healing divisions, and spreading goodwill throughout their communities. Their love is not passive but energetically seeks the spiritual and temporal welfare of all people. Because they reflect God's own character as the God of peace, they are called "children of God."

The Persecuted: Wesley addresses the inevitability of persecution for true Christians. Those who live out genuine godliness — especially inward holiness — will face opposition from the world, because authentic Christianity exposes and condemns ungodly living by contrast. Wesley encourages believers to rejoice under persecution, viewing it as confirmation that they are on the right path and as a means of deeper conformity to Christ.

Throughout, Wesley emphasizes that these Beatitudes describe a progressive, interconnected journey of grace, where each blessing builds upon the last toward full salvation.

~ Pastor Paul

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Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Westby UMC Office Hours:

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

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March Birthdays

March 14 – Sharon Sharratt

Happy Birthday

Sunday School News

Last month, the students made 50 Valentines to give to the Norseland residents. Everyone had a good time snow tubing and ice skating at the Snow Days event on Feb. 8.



This month, our lessons will be about God's goodness and how Jesus helps us. In addition to our lessons, we'll be preparing a skit to present on Palm Sunday.



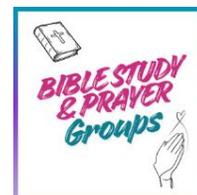
Mission of the Month – UMCOR

During the month of March, our mission is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This is our denomination's response arm to help mitigate disasters of all kinds both in the US and around the world. This year there is a special emphasis on helping with the ongoing humanitarian crises in the Middle East and Eastern Europe resulting from the wars in Palestine and Ukraine. UMCOR provides relief packages with items needed to sustain life for displaced persons. UMCOR also provides for other needs such as to replace the thousands of windows that have been shattered from the percussion from the explosions of bombs which exposes families to bitter cold or dust storms. Please make checks out to the Westby United Methodist Church, or you can go online at [UMCOR.com/donate](https://www.umcor.com/donate) to donate by credit card.

Thursday Morning Groups

Please join our Prayer group on Thursday, March 5th at 9:00 AM. Come and help us to use the power of prayer as we pray for others and our church. Prayer is more powerful when we pray together.

The Thursday morning Bible Study Group will meet on Thursday, March 26th at 9:00 AM. We will continue studying the book of Galatians.

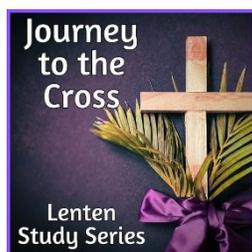


Lent Devotional Workbook



We will continue reading **the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts** together and use the Daily Devotional Workbook during the remainder of Lent. Through this workbook, each person will read Luke and Acts, reflect on God's Word, and take time to write down the grace that God gives through daily meditation.

After Sunday worship, during our fellowship time, we would like to create space for people to **freely share their reflections** from their daily devotions. This will be an informal and open time to listen to one another and reflect together on God's Word. We pray that this season of Lent will be a meaningful time for us to draw closer to God through Scripture, reflection, and sharing together.



March Online Studies – Lent

This month, we'll continue and finish the Lenten studies which we started reading in February. We'll be reading weeks 3-6 to finish this 6-week series. Hopefully, these studies will continue to help you to pause, reflect and draw closer to God during the remainder of Lent, in preparation for Easter. Here are the links to Lent studies for March:

- Lent Week 3: Living Out What Jesus Taught (begins on Mar. 4)
 - <https://bible.com/reading-plans/56870/together/78471476/invitation?token=ldafYmK7N2YwFc5LsH1Og&source=share>
- Lent Week 4: Jesus' Journey to the Cross (begins on Mar. 11)
 - <https://bible.com/reading-plans/61362/together/78471492/invitation?token=C7dl6dfpKUZ6m7Vze5-wYA&source=share>
- Lent Week 5: What Jesus Did for You (begins on Mar. 18)
 - https://bible.com/reading-plans/57206/together/78471508/invitation?token=FmGtWdnY_N5vB2EWh-jZtg&source=share
- Lent Week 6: A New Beginning (begins on Mar. 25)
 - https://bible.com/reading-plans/57551/together/78471519/invitation?token=ZPzaGdex73_N-gM1yPSIXA&source=share

These online studies and more can be accessed through the Bible App on your mobile device or the bible.com website, which are free resources.

Food Drive for Lent – March 1 to March 29

We will continue the “Food Drive for Lent” throughout the month of March. Our food donations will be supporting the Cashton Cupboard & Closet Food Pantry and Bethel Butikk this year.

Here is the food groups we'd like you to bring on Sunday mornings during March:

- Week 2 (Mar. 1) – Pasta/Grains: pasta, noodles, rice, macaroni & cheese
- Week 3 (Mar. 8) – Breakfast/Snacks: cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, granola/snack bars, fruit snacks, trail mix, jelly, pancake syrup
- Week 4 (Mar. 15) – Soup: canned soup, dried soup mixes, canned chili
- Week 5 (Mar. 22) – Fruits: canned fruits, dried fruits, fruit cups, fruit juice
- Week 6 (Mar. 29) – Vegetables: canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce



Let's continue to spread generosity and work to help others by having overflowing piles of food at the end of this food drive. Thank you for your kindness and contributions!



Daylight Savings Time Ends – March 8

It's time to “spring” ahead. Daylight Savings time ends on Sunday, March 8. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7.



Area Ecumenical Lent Services

This year, our church will participate in the Ecumenical Lent services with some of the Viroqua churches. Each church will have a soup supper that begins at 5:00 PM with a free will donation, which goes toward area food pantries. The Lenten service will follow the supper and begin at 6:00 PM.

Here is the schedule for the Lenten services in March:

- March 4 – Immanuel Lutheran Church (1004 W Broadway St., Viroqua)
- March 11 – Westby United Methodist Church
- March 18 – Viroqua United Methodist Church
- March 25 – Immanuel Lutheran Church (1004 W Broadway St., Viroqua) – Pastor Paul preaching.

Soup Supper for Ecumenical Lent Service – March 11

On Wednesday, March 11, our church will be hosting the Ecumenical Service and Soup Supper. For the soup supper, we'll need volunteers to help with the setup, providing food and help with the cleanup. Here is a list of the food that we will need:

- 4 kinds of soup in a crock pot (each kind serves about 15) – possibly one meatless kind
- 3 (9x13) pans of bars, cut into 24 pieces (4x6)
- Milk – 1 gallon of white milk (1% or 2%) and 1 gallon of chocolate milk
- Shredded cheese
- Bread/rolls to go with the soup
- 1 bag/box of crackers



There will be a sign-up sheet for this in the narthex.



Spring Ahead Brunch & Lunch – March 8 @ Retreat Methodist Church

The Retreat Methodist Church (E3426 County Rd. N) is having a Spring Ahead Brunch & Lunch on Sunday, March 8 from 10 am to 1 pm in their fellowship hall. They will be serving egg bakes, BBQs, ground ham sandwiches, donuts, assorted salads and desserts. The cost is a freewill donation. All proceeds will go towards future fellowship hall renovations.

Palm Sunday – March 29

We hope you can join us during worship on Palm Sunday, March 29. The Sunday School students will be presenting a skit about Palm Sunday that day.



Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting †

We did not have a board meeting in February. The next church board meeting will be on Sunday, March 15 during fellowship.

Looking Ahead – Holy Week (March 29-April 5)

Here is a list of services that will take place during Holy Week:

- Palm Sunday service - 9:00 AM
- Maundy Thursday service - 6:00 PM
- Good Friday service - 1:00 PM at Viroqua UMC
- Easter Sunday service – 9:00 AM

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ✠ 9:00 AM – Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	2 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	3 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	4 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 5:00 PM – Soup Supper 6:00 PM – Lent Service @ Immanuel Lutheran	5 9:00 AM – Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	6 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	7
8 ✠ 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	9 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	10 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 5:00 PM – Soup Supper 6:00 PM – Lent Service	12 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	13 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	14
15 ✠ 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship, Sunday School & Church Board Meeting	16 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 5:00 PM – Soup Supper 6:00 PM – Lent Service @ Viroqua UMC	19 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	20 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	21
22 ✠ 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	23 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	24 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	25 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 5:00 PM – Soup Supper 6:00 PM – Lent Service @ Immanuel Lutheran	26 9:00 AM – Bible Study Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	27 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	28
29 Palm Sunday ✠ 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	30 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	31 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class				

**** 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 courage to dream Your dreams for our church. Please open our minds and hearts and ears so we can hear Your voice to know what Your purpose is for our church. We pray in Christ's name, Amen.

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