

*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.*

Newsletter

Westby United Methodist Church

November 2018

GOD'S TIMING, PURPOSE

IN THIS ISSUE

To Everything There is a Season

by Pastor Pam Harkema

I really like the scripture from Ecclesiastes 3 that reminds us that life has a rhythm; creation has timing. God does everything with a purpose and reason. The Christian church also has a timing that we call the liturgical calendar which guides us through learning about Christ's life and ministry.

November is kind of a transition month in the liturgical calendar. Beginning with All Saints Sunday on November 4 and ending with Christ the King Sunday on November 25, November is the month we look back in remembrance of the saints, but also look forward as we await Christ's coming again, expressed in the season of Advent.

The Christian liturgical calendar begins with the first Sunday of Advent, then Christmas and Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Eastertide, and Pentecost. Within each season, specific days have particular significance to help us remember meanings and stories from the Bible and the life of Christ. Each season, and sometimes specific days, have different colors related to how the worship space is prepared, again, providing a visual cue that there is a unique emphasis for this time of the year or this day. While each church has their own traditions, the meaning of liturgical seasons is based in scripture and thousands of years of church history.

On All Saints Sunday, at each worship service, we recall the names of those who have left this earthly existence since November 1, 2017. God is our Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end. It's a humbling reminder. At the end of the month, we place our confidence in Christ our King,

Christ, the high priest who sacrificed for us all and who reigns forever. Symbolically, on the afternoon of this last day of the spiritual year, I burn the palms which were dried from the previous year's Lent and Easter celebrations. The old is gone and we are ready to begin our Christian New Year with Advent and the coming of our Savior.

The seasons of the Christian year are intentional and purposeful ways to teach our children, and to help us connect deeply to the lessons of our faith. Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty.

Pastor Pam

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November Birthdays

Nov. 3 – Selah Berg
 Verna Reed
 Nov. 6 – Cindy Brown
 Nov. 9 – Pam Harkema
 Nov. 11 – Eric Holey
 Nov. 14 – Alberta Clements
 Nov. 20 – Crystal Brown
 Nov. 27 – Kendal Oney-Siam



November Anniversaries:

Nov. 26 – Tom & Sharon Sharratt
 Nov. 27 – Larry & Dody Wruck

Pastor Pam's Schedule:

Monday – Thursday
 Driftless Regional Ministry office (8:30-4:30)

Friday – Sabbath

Saturday – Available by Appointment (9:00-12:00)

Sunday – Worship Services (8 am – 12 pm)

Driftless Regional Ministry Office:

E2286 Hwy. 82 in De Soto

Contact Information:

Cell Phone – 989-666-1277

Parsonage Phone – 608-648-2528

Pastor Pam is often away from the office for visitation or meetings. Please call the parsonage and leave a message or contact her via her cell phone. She can also receive text messages on her cell phone.

November Online Study – Contagious: The Generous Gospel



Come and join us for a 28-day study to find out what would happen if we, the Church, started to respond to God's generosity and began living it out. What would happen if we became extravagant in our generosity? Would people around take notice? Come and explore what living generously looks like as it pertains to various aspects of our lives and discover how God can use generosity to change lives.

Go to <https://bible.com/p/8253718/86f9ac1e030af53d49c28276870c9698> to sign up for this month's online study session. The session starts on Nov. 3 and goes through Nov. 30.

Bible Basics Study Group

Ready to explore the Bible more? What to participate in a Bible study with an open Bible, an open heart and an open mind? Meet with others for the Bible Basics study group at Halvorsen Apartments in the Community Room on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 20 and 27 at 1:00 PM. We will continue to discuss the people and events in and about the Genealogy of Jesus.

If you have any questions, please contact LaVonne Barlow at 6008-632-4707.



***There is a time for everything
 and a season for every activity under the heavens...***

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

Church Library Special

The DVD “Monumental: In Search of America’s National Treasure” with Kirk Cameron is now available in the church library. It is very appropriate for this time of the year with Thanksgiving coming. Kirk follows the trail of the Pilgrims and their search for religious freedom, from England to Holland, back to England and then to America, The Declaration of Independence and even an Act of the First Congress. Share it with your family and friends. Several of us watched it and agreed it was well put together with musical background and a riveting story.

You can sign up for it on a small clipboard in the Library and as it comes in you will be notified. It is 90 minutes long. If you have any questions, please call LaVonne Barlow at 608-632-4707.

Youth Sunday School

We’ve been enjoying the first month of Sunday school! There are some new faces and some faithful, familiar faces. Welcome to all!



We have some fun and meaningful things to look forward to this fall. Today we are encouraging Pastor Pam with cards to show our appreciation. Coming up we will have a packing party for Operation Christmas Child and share some of our worship songs during the church service. Looking way ahead, we will share a Christmas message with music in December. More details to come.

Game time is the most requested part of our Sunday mornings. The focus of the games always matches the message of our Bible point. Hide and seek is the all-time favorite and reminds us that God is always seeking us because He loves us.

So far, we’ve been learning about God’s very good idea to make people who love Him and love each other. Even though we mess up His plan, He sent His son, Jesus to save His very good plan – and to save us. We’ve also learned that Jesus’ words are powerful, and Jesus’ actions are powerful.

We are adjusting our plans each week for the varied ages of our kids. Worship songs and games are with the whole group. We have separate groups for younger and older kids for the lesson and Bible point when there are enough kids to do this. The kids have been very patient as we adjust to “who’s here today”!

Please contact me for any questions, suggestions or concerns and thank you for sharing your kids with us! Jane Gaskell 643-3283

The Operation Christmas Child packing party will be November 11th. The kids will help get our Christmas store ready for packing! You are welcome to donate any small items that could be included in the shoe box sized tote. We are also asking for donations for shipping. Shipping has increased for the first time to \$9 per box. We have a goal of 10 boxes this year.

Charge Conference Follow-up

There are a few remaining reports to be completed following the charge conference and a few remaining committee positions open at each church. If you would like to serve, please talk to the ad board chair or to Pastor about how you can be involved.



Prayers for November

Each day of the week use this simple prayer starter as part of your conversation with God. Copies of these prayers are distributed on the last Sunday of each month in the bulletin; extra copies are available to place in different locations to help us remember to pray.



Monday:

All around I see reasons to be thankful, Creator God. As the trees release their leaves, thank You for reminding me to also release the things I don't need anymore: guilt, pain, grief, anger, selfishness, all the things that weigh me down and keep me from opening myself to You.

Tuesday:

Holy Spirit come to me. Fill me with joy to overflowing. I am complete when I rely on You. Lead me from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust, from hate to love, from war to peace. Let that peace fill our world, beginning with each person relying on You.

Wednesday:

I live in such bounty, such rich and plentiful harvest. Not just from the land, but that harvest is everywhere. Not just from my country, but I am blessed to enjoy so many freedoms. You have placed me here and given me the opportunity to share your love with others who wait for the harvest that is found in relationship with the Savior.

Thursday:

Christ, You are the light in my darkness, the staff of support in my weakness, the rock of stability in the weariness of my life. Christ, Your words inspire me with holy wisdom.

Friday:

My Lord and God. Have I wronged one of your children? Have I failed to live as Christ showed us we should live? I have lost my temper or thought something that was not encouraging about another person. Align my mind, my heart, my words, my actions to praise you always and to uplift and encourage others.

Saturday:

Lord, please bless those unfortunate in our community who do not know you. Give me words to testify to your goodness and be the voice of the Son to them. Help me show Your kindness and raise up the spirit of someone else who is in pain.

Sunday:

On the seventh day, God completed His work that He had done, and He rested. God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. Blessed are You, Lord, our God, Sovereign of the universe.

Anytime throughout the day:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

You are my refuge and my strength.

I am one child of God, related to all other children.

Substitute Musicians

Every now and then a church has a need for another person to assist with music leadership during worship when the regular musicians are on vacation. If you have a musical talent such as keyboard or guitar, and a willingness to step in from time to time, please let Pastor Pam know. You may be asked to serve at a different church, if you are willing.



Remembering the Saints

Please tell Pastor Pam about any church members who passed in the last year so we can honor them in our service on All Saints Day. We will also have the opportunity to remember family and friends who have gone before us but who were not members of our church family.

Westby United Methodist Church - Board Meeting † October 10, 2018

Present: Jane Gaskell, Tim Gaskell, Jean Shore, Ardith Hoff and Linda Weilnau

Opening: Jane Gaskell opened with prayer.

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

Treasurer's Report: Verna Drake provided the financial reports for September and the Yearly Report (Jan.-Sept.). Via email, Verna reported that we need an average of \$4,300 per month in offering to meet our expenses. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed. Verna Drake provided a copy of the 2019 Draft Budget. After reviewing the budget, we did not see any areas which needed to be changed. Jean Shore and Jane Gaskell motioned to approve the proposed 2019 Budget. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- † SPRC Committee Members – Tim Gaskell and Verna Drake volunteered to be on this committee.

New Business:

- † Charge Conference Forms
 - Church Information Appointment – Linda Weilnau will complete this form and use the same information as was submitted last year for this form
 - Church Life & Ministry – Jane Gaskell will work on this form
 - Church Schedule – Linda Weilnau will do this form
 - Finance Committee – Verna Drake will do this form
 - Fund Balance – Verna Drake will do this form
 - Leaders Mailing List – Linda Weilnau will do this form
 - Membership Audit – SPRC and Pastor Pam will work on this form
 - Removal of Names – SPRC and Pastor Pam will work on this form
 - Signature Page – This page has been printed out and will be passed around Sunday during service
 - Trustees – Kelly Bjornstad will do this form

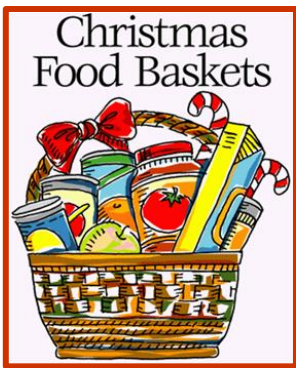
Business from Board Committees:

- † **Trustees** – The furnace has not been installed yet. Coulee Refrigeration was affected by the flooding and they are working on furnaces for flood victims first, so they are behind schedule.
- † **SPRC** – The new committee members need to arrange a time to meet with Pastor Pam.
- † **Worship** – Linda Weilnau will be doing the sermon on Oct. 14th.
- † **Education** – There have been 8 students each week so far, but not the same students each time. Sarah Berg is helping Jane. When they do the lesson time, Jane does the lesson with the older students and Sarah does the lesson with the younger ones. If anyone from 6th grade or higher wants to attend Sunday school, Tim Gaskell will be their teacher. There is currently no one to teach the adult Sunday school class.

- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith Hoff reported that the Westby Times will no longer be doing her “Steele Chase Message” articles on behalf of the church. The person who Ardith was working with has left the newspaper.
- ✝ **Missions** - The mission of the month for October will be Operation Christmas Child (OCC), November will be Baskets of Love and December will be Gifts for Norseland Residents

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Pam was not available due to attending class this week.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.
Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau



Mission of the Month – Baskets of Love

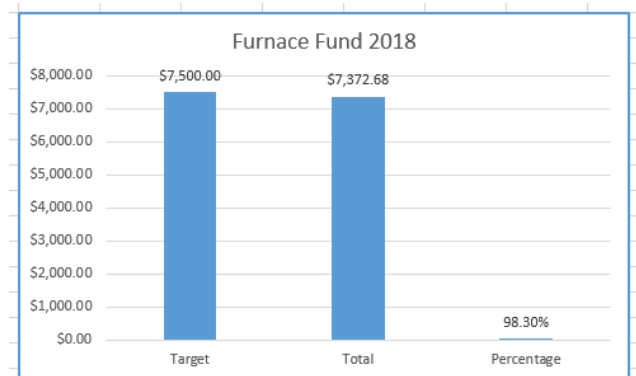
The mission for the month for November is the “Baskets of Love” mission that our members and friends have so generously supported in the past. Last year we provided a complete Christmas meal for 11 families in Vernon County. These are people who would not otherwise be able to afford a festive and nutritious holiday meal for themselves. We get the names and addresses of needy families from the people in charge of the Bethel Butikk food pantry who know where our help is most needed. By collecting donations during the month of November, we are able to shop in early December, to put the boxes of food together and deliver them the week before Christmas. With your support we hope to do the same, if not better, this year.

On behalf of the grateful recipients of “Baskets of Love”, we want to thank you in advance for your support of this project. To donate, please put a note on your donation envelope or checks made out to the church for “Baskets of Love” and put them into the collection plate any time during the month of November.

Furnace Fund Update

The new furnace will be installed sometime soon. The installation was delayed due to the flooding. Coulee Refrigeration has been busy installing heating for the flooding victims.

We have collected \$7,372.68 for the new furnace, so we only need \$127.32 to finish paying for it. Thank you to everyone who has made contributions towards the new furnace. It would not be possible without your generosity!



He has made everything beautiful in its time.

He has also set eternity in the human heart;

yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

~ Ecclesiastes 3:11

The Forever Club (by LaVonne Barlow)

Forever Club Bible Study- The Genealogy of Jesus

November Lesson 17

The Three Major Returns From Babylon to Jerusalem

ISAIAH 44:28 & 45:1

God is very active in the lives of His chosen family in these last few hundred years before the birth of His Son. God foretells everything that is going to happen and 170 years before it took place He had Isaiah prophesy (*Isaiah 44:28*) *Who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall perform all my pleasure, even saying unto Jerusalem "You shall be built," and to the Temple, "Your foundations shall be laid."* [*Cyrus was a Persian*]

DANIEL **The Overthrow of the Chaldeans by the Medes & Persians**

(5:1) Belshazzar, the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords...

(5:2) ...he gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels his father, Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the Temple which was in Jerusalem...

(5:5-9) In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace;

(5:10-16) Daniel was brought before the king and he read and explained the words

(5: 22-23) ... O Belshazzar, you have not humbled thine heart...but you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven...

(5:25) This is the writing...ME'NE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, U-PHAR-'SIN

(5:26) ME'NE God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it

(5:27) TE'KEL Thou have been weighed in the balances and found wanting

(5:28) PE'-RES Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians

(5:30) That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans was killed.

[Chapter 6 relates the story of Daniel in the lion's den]

(6:28) So Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian.

EZRA **The First Return of the Captives to Jerusalem**

(1:1) Now in the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia....made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing...

(1:2) ...The Lord God...has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah

(2:2) Zerubbabel, chief of the tribe of Judah, was the chosen leader

(2:64) ... around 45,000 Captives, along with their animals, servants, much gold and silver and gifts from the King and captives that chose to stay in Babylon.

(3:1-6) After they arrived in Jerusalem, they built an altar and sacrificed an offering to God for his protection and celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles and then they were ready to start work on the Temple.

(3:10,11) ...The priests in their apparel... and all the people shouted when they praised the Lord because the foundation was laid

(4:4) Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah and troubled them in building.

(4:6) And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

ESTHER

(1:1) Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is the Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over a hundred and seven and twenty provinces;)

The Second Return led by Ezra

EZRA

(6:1-15) And this house (Temple) was finished on the third day of Adar

(7:1-5) **Ezra's qualifications:** He was of the Seed Line of Aaron the first high priest

(7:6) He was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses

(7-10) For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

(7:11-26) A letter to Ezra from King Artaxerxes son of Ahasuerus, stepson of Esther and he authorized Ezra to lead a second return to Jerusalem. It had been ninety years since the first group under Zerubbabel had returned to build the Temple.

(8:15) Ezra gathered them all by the River and took a census which revealed there were no Levites, so word went out that Levites were needed to care and serve in the new Temple and almost 300 joined the group to care for things designated for the Temple. **(vs 31)**

(9:1,2) The priests, Levites and people from the first return had intermarried with the local pagan people and had contaminated their pure Seed Line. It had been 94 years.

(9:3-15) The Lamentation of Ezra

(10:3-7) A covenant was accepted to put away all pagan women and children born to the Priests, Levites and the people that had been in captivity and returned earlier.

The Third Return with Nehemiah 13 years after Ezra & 94 years after Zerubbabel

NEHEMIAH

(1:1-3) Nehemiah heard that those who had already gone back were in distress because the walls were broken down and the gates burned. He prays for guidance.

(1:4-11) He asks God to intercede with the king for him

(2:1-8) King Artaxerxes gives him permission to return to build the wall

(2:12-18) Nehemiah analyses what needs to be done and encourages the people and they said **vs18** "Let us rise up and build"

There was opposition led by Sanballat of ridicule **(4:1-6)** threat of attack **(4:7-9)** through discouragement **(4:10-23)** and extortion **(5:1-13)**

(5:14-19) Nehemiah's unselfish example. Despite continued opposition the work went on and the wall was finished in 52 days **(6:15)**

Nehemiah as governor brings both physical and political reconstruction and leads the people in moral reform just as Ezra led them in a spiritual revival.

(8:1-18) Ezra reading The Law of Moses to all the men and women. The priests teaching and helping them to understand. (Ezra and Nehemiah set up the Messoritic Text)

Ref. KJ Companion Study Bible Ap. 19 The Massorah Text

Please contact LaVonne Barlow (608-632-4707 or email: lavonnec321@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



Christmas Cookie Walk – Dec. 1, 2018

Calling all bakers and makers of cookies and other delicious treats! It's that time of year again to start thinking about Christmas cookies and other goodies to bake and make for our annual Christmas Cookie Walk fund raiser. This year will be the 4th year for this event! The proceeds from this event will go towards youth and outreach projects. The cost will be \$6 per pound for cookies and candy, but some items will be priced individually.

The Christmas Cookie Walk will be on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 9:00-12:00. We will be setting up and taking delivery of cookies in the evening on Nov. 29 and 30. We will need volunteers to help with the following:

- Hanging up flyers around the area
- Setting up the tables
- Day of the sale – keeping trays stocked, cashiers, clean-up crew

Sign-up sheets will be available at church for this event. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Giving Baskets

The Giving Baskets outreach project is finally under way. During the last part of October, the committee was able to fill some Welcome Bags, which will be distributed to new residents at City Hall, and some Chemo Bags, which will be distributed at Vernon Memorial Hospital to chemo patients. This project is a way that we can show others in the community that we are thinking about them as they move into a new neighborhood or struggle with health issues.



We were able to start this outreach project through a grant from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. The grant money was used to purchase the tote bags, fleece throws and garbage bags; and print out magnets, bookmarks and brochures. Through the generosity of others, we have received, and hope to continue to receive, donations for the other items we hope to put in the bags each month. The list of items needed each month will be placed on the mission of the month board in the entry way. We will have boxes in the narthex area for the donations. We need everyone's assistance to make this project work.



LaFarge Craft Show – Dec. 1st

Women of Faith will have tables at the Craft Show at LaFarge High School on December 1 starting at 9:00 AM. We will have crafts and baked goods, featuring hand decorated sugar cookies that we will create on Wednesday, November 28th at Faith starting at 10:00 AM. We can use extra help baking and decorating the cookies and appreciate any additional donations for the event! We also need help tending tables at the craft show. If you are available to help us, please let Jean or Bev know.

The proceeds will be used to help pay for our Christmas food baskets which are distributed locally to people in need.

Women of Faith Christmas Celebration

WOF will hold their annual Christmas celebration at Borgen's in Westby on Tuesday, December 4 at 1:00 p.m. All Driftless Ministries women (and men) are invited to attend. We order from the menu and everyone pays for their own meal. We do not exchange gifts but instead suggest that everyone donate \$10 toward the Christmas baskets we distribute before Christmas.

Please call Sheri Ballard at 608-632-9007 or Marla Lavold at 608-689-2590 to let us know you are coming. It is a fun fellowship time and we hope you will join us.



November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Pastor Pam's Sabbath Day	3
4 ✠9:30 AM – Youth Sunday School ✠10:15 AM – Fellowship ✠10:45 AM – Worship Service (Communion)	5	6	7	8	9 Pastor Pam's Sabbath Day	10
11 ✠9:30 AM – Youth Sunday School – Pack OCC boxes ✠10:15 AM – Fellowship ✠10:45 AM – Worship Service	12	13 1:00 PM – Bible Basics Study Group (Halvorsen Apartments)	14 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting ... All are welcome!	15	16 Pastor Pam's Sabbath Day	17
218 ✠9:30 AM – Youth Sunday School ✠10:15 AM – Fellowship ✠10:45 AM – Worship Service	19	20 1:00 PM – Bible Basics Study Group (Halvorsen Apartments)	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving!	23 Pastor Pam's Sabbath Day	24
25 ✠9:30 AM – Youth Sunday School ✠10:15 AM – Fellowship ✠10:45 AM – Worship Service	26	27 1:00 PM – Bible Basics Study Group (Halvorsen Apartments)	28	29	30 Pastor Pam's Sabbath Day	

