

REACH FOR THE SKY!

THIS TOWN AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE TWO OF US! But
 God's love is big enough for all of us!

Join us in Westby for an exciting VBS where we'll discover "your story" and that Jesus is our very best friend. We'll never be left behind!

Kids age 3 – 103 are invited along with their families. Kids younger than age 3 are welcome with a parent or family member to supervise. Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Please send them in play clothes.

Our adventure starts at 4:00 with music and games. A meal will be served at 5:00 ~ the entire family is invited. We will create a craft to serve others and share the message of God's love for everyone.

Please RSVP to Jane Gaskell | 634-3283 | Bring a friend!!



THE CROSS & THE FLAME



Viroqua
 United Methodist
 Church

P.O. Box 127, Viroqua, WI 54665

August, 2019

To Those Who Love Jesus,

During August, we will be meditating on the Gospel of Luke. These stories allow us a closer and more human look at Jesus. Without a doubt, this is my favorite Gospel.

Luke tells us about the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, making continuous reference to the messianic prophecies. His narrative leads us to know these prophecies and how they are fulfilled in the person of Jesus. The Gospel and the Book of Acts of the Apostles are two works that complement each other in such a way that the reader can understand that the work of the same Spirit that moves Jesus to begin his ministry and complete his mission on earth, is the same Spirit that reveals itself in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost. This is the same Spirit that enables men and women to carry the Word of life and liberation to the ends of the earth and to the end of time.



The Gospel of Luke shows Jesus being concerned about those who are vulnerable. He offers them a message of liberation, justice, forgiveness and mercy. Jesus also suffers when there is human suffering, understands poverty, and experiences rejection and persecution. This makes it easier for us to follow Him.

One of my favorite parts of Luke is to whom it's addressed: Theophilus. Bible scholars think that he could have been an official in Antioch who had already been initiated in the faith and now he needed to be taught more deeply. On the other hand, Theophilus means "loved by God" or "friend of God," so there are those who think that these writings are addressed to the People of God in general; that is, to those who have chosen to follow Him, those who have accepted the promises of Salvation and eternal life, and those who come with faith to the Word.

I particularly prefer the second version; understanding that we are part of a community that we can count among our most dear friends in the Lord Jesus Christ; and, that our relationship is intimate, loving and reliable. So, my dear brothers, and sisters, each one of us can approach Jesus as a friend, always ready to listen to us, to comfort us and to liberate us.

If you are in trouble, if you feel sad, if injustices have been committed against you, you can look for him. You can trust in the Lord, because Jesus has come to us. We can realize the Grace of the Lord.

BLESSINGS TO YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, AND FAMILY.

Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores



Community Conversations Dinner

- ✓ Share your thoughts about substance use in Vernon County
- ✓ Learn about services and prevention efforts in our area

August 22, 2019

The Vernon County Health Department and the Vernon County Prevention Team invite you to a **FREE** community event.

Talk with your local prevention team, mental health service providers, public health staff, local law enforcement and more!

We want to hear your thoughts and concerns about substance use in our county.



First come, first served!

No reservations needed. For questions regarding this event please feel free to call Amy at the Vernon County Health Department at 608-637-5251.

*Community Dialogue Sessions are supported in part by the Prevention Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant; State Health Assessment Community Dialogue Mini-Grant #01 0709175, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.

Viroqua Community
 Arena
 858 Nelson Pkwy, Viroqua,
 WI

Free Dinner
 5 pm to 8 pm

Kids' Activities

Browse Fun Educational
 Booths

Catering by Kickapoo
 Corners

Menu

Hot Pulled Pork Sandwiches*
 Coleslaw, Beans, Dessert,
 Milk, Water, Coffee

Hot Dogs for Kids!

*Gluten free option available

Viroqua United Methodist Church's Mission Statement
 The Viroqua United Methodist Church exists for the purpose of carrying out Christ's Great Commission by enabling all who come to personally know the joy of God's love and forgiveness and to lovingly share this joy in the fellowship of the church and in reaching people throughout the world.

The Cross & The Flame is published monthly for our congregation and friends. We welcome you with open hearts, open minds and open doors.

VIROQUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PASTOR

REV. ERIKA MARTINEZ-FLORES

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OFFICE HOURS

NOTE CHANGE 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. Monday – Thursday
(Church door opens at 9:00 a.m.)
Office Closed on Fridays

August Service Assistants

Ushers

August 4 - Layne & Janette Hanson
August 11 - Avis Marino & Jerry Schroeder
August 18 - Chuck & Mary Mulvaney Kemp
August 25 - Youth

Greeters

August 4 - Annabel McGarry
August 11 - David Peterson
August 18 - Betty Ross
August 25 - Youth

Liturgist

Cavan Fang



Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

John Wesley

VIROQUA UMC TRUSTEES MEETING - July 9, 2019

Present: Aaron Hanson, David Peterson, Barb Casper, Pete Gilman, Dale Gudgeon, Jolene Gudgeon, Gregory Cheever, Sandy Skarda, Pastor Erika

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Erika.

Bills (Parsonage Bills are divided with Liberty Pole 62%/38%)

- Parsonage cleaning—Meredith Griffin \$142.50
- Proline Services \$285.00
- Mow parsonage lawn—Mitchell Hanson \$20.00
- Parsonage painting—Rebecca Knight \$281.25
- Garage parsonage repair – D.C. Products \$430.33

Other Business

- The church door locks have been changed. To have a key, a person needs to sign up in the office.
- Trustees suggest guidelines be drawn up with Westby UMC. Gregory will reach out to the Westby Treasurer.
- David spoke about the time spent at the parsonage.
- Gregory will see about a replacement dehumidifier from Menards.
- David suggested setting up guidelines for pets at the parsonage.

AUGUST ONLINE STUDY PLAN

The Better Reading Plan



Do you feel overwhelmed, dissatisfied, and stuck in a rut? Feeling a little blue? Not sure which way to turn? Wishing your day-to-day life could improve? God's Word is your guide to brighter, sunnier days and can point you in the right direction. During this 28-day reading plan, you will discover ways you can go from living just a good life to living the type of better life that God desires you to have.

Every day we face challenges; some are small, others can be overwhelming. Sometimes we feel dissatisfied or like we're stuck in a rut. God's Word can improve your day-to-day life. It will help guide you to brighter days. This interactive study plan will

help you to discover ways to get out of the rut, not be overwhelmed by our daily challenges, and live the better life that God has in store for all of us.

Starting August 3rd, join us on this 28-day journey to improving your life through reading God's Word, and looking at His Word from a different angle. The online study is available through the Bible App, which is accessible on your computer and your mobile device! To join this study, use this link: <https://bible.com/p/16439217/545cd9057c42c1c5dce0a929e3f86594>

If you haven't tried using the Bible App, give it a try today! In addition to devotional/reading plans, it also provides a verse of the day, and you can read the Bible in a variety of versions. It's available in your app store on your mobile device, accessible online at www.bible.com, and 100% FREE! Don't pass up this valuable resource that enables you to connect to God's Word wherever you are!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING - July 16, 2019

Devotions/Prayer – Kathy opened the meeting with a devotion from “*Fixing My Eyes on Jesus*” by Anne Graham Lotz.

Introductions – This was Pastor Erika’s first meeting with us, so we each introduced ourselves and told a bit about our background.

Westby Welcome Breakfast – Westby church is having a breakfast before church on July 21 to welcome Pastor Erika.

Night Market – Kathy will host Pastor Erika at the Night Market on Wednesday, July 17. Others are invited to join us there.

Keys – The keys have been distributed for the most part. All went well.

Newsletter – Kathy drafted a letter to send to those who may not have received the July newsletter. She asked for input about the content and permission to send it out. Permission granted.

Phones – There are 2 phone lines coming into the church. 637-3551 rings in the office, and 638-7627 goes directly to the Pastor’s office. Westby will be forwarding calls to the 638-7627 number.

Office Schedule – It has been suggested that we think about changing the office hours to 9-12 am, Monday – Thursday. This will be decided by the SPRC committee.

Committee Reports

UMW – Reading for the UMW reading program is to be done by September 1. Others are encouraged to read the UMW books – they are good for all. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Missions – The garden produce table will begin soon. Our church will be starting a mission relationship with a church in Latvia.

SPRC – Personnel issues were discussed. Installation of Internet in the parsonage was discussed.

Trustees – See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Education – The Youth will be making cookies on Wednesday, July 17 and distributing them to shut-ins on Thursday, July 18. They will duplicate the project to distribute church-wide in August. A swimming day is planned for July 31.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Remember that if you’re reading for the UMW Reading Program, the list is due to the District by September 1. Everyone is encouraged to read even if you’re not reading for the Program. We have some very interesting new books, and they can be read by anyone.

The donations for the No-Work-No-Take Salad Luncheon are slow in coming in. The May 30 date in the last newsletter was a mistake. We would like donations by our September qw meeting so we know where we are in planning for the rest of the year.

We also plan to attend the District Annual Meeting at Platteville on September 21. Hope you can go.

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Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September newsletter is August 22. Please provide your submissions as early as possible. Thank you.

August Birthdays

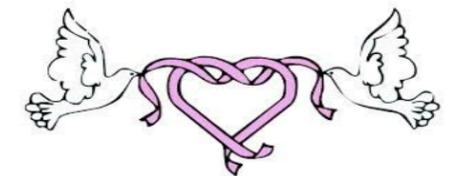
God’s Blessings on You!

Holly Fanta	August 2
Monica Fortney	August 3
Greyson Bjerkos	August 4
Daniel Stalsberg	August 4
Willard Carlow	August 6
Gloria Freilinger	August 6
Angie Hanson	August 7
Janice Primmer	August 8
Rick Schneiderman	August 8
Trevor Dach	August 9
Camilla Sands	August 14
Charles Turben	August 18
Amanda Clements	August 19
Christian Dach	August 23
Minie Hirschfield	August 25
Brent Welch	August 27
Tom Lohr	August 27



Happy Anniversary

Greg & Mary Cheever	August 9th
Josh & Heidi Garret	August 29th



Death

James Strait
July 7, 2019



August Calendar

Saturday, August 3	9:00 am	Flood Gates Study Group
Sunday, August 4	10:30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday, August 11	6:00 pm	Study Group @ Kathy Hanson's
Tuesday, August 13	3:00 pm	Youth bake cookies
	6:00 pm	Trustees meeting
Wednesday, August 14	1:00 pm	Youth deliver cookies
Tuesday, August 20	6:00 pm	Finance Committee
	7:00 pm	Administrative Council
Sunday, August 25	12:00 pm	Pastor Erika Welcome Luncheon



FILL OUT THOSE PEW PADS !!

Ever wonder why you bother to fill out those Pew Pads?

Well, we do record the information you give us. Every Monday morning, Barb Casper records it on our membership software.

It's important for us to know how many people attend services. If you don't sign, we are left trying to remember who was here.

It's important for us to know about visitors so that we can follow up with them; let them know we were glad they came, and invite them back

The information you record also helps us know how to contact you and keep the information up to date. We want information about friends as well as members.

It's up to all of us. Please make an effort to sign the Pew Pads and pass them to everyone in your row. If there is someone new in your row, please encourage them to put down an address.

Thank you!



"Lord, my God, I called to you for help and you healed me." Psalm 30:2

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CHURCH OFFICE?

An update for those of you who may not know

The church office is now open 12 hours per week.. Kris Potochick, our previous church secretary, re-tired, and Kathy Hanson and Barb Casper are fulfilling the duties. Office hours are 9 -12 am on Monday through Thursday. Barb is in on Mondays and serves as back-up when needed. Kathy is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Pastor Erika plans to be in the Viroqua office on Mondays and Tuesdays. Wednesday is her visiting day and she plans to be in Westby on Thursdays.

FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Do you have extra garden produce? Or are you looking to buy fresh produce for your home cooking? Those with extra produce in their gardens are encouraged to bring it to church to set out on the produce table in the narthex, where shoppers can find what they need and leave a monetary donation in the basket. Money raised goes to support our agricultural missionary, Temba, in Zambia.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING—July 16, 2019

Present: Gregg Roberts, Pastor Erika, Jolene Gudgeon, Aaron Hanson, Cavan Fang, Kathy Hanson, Gregory Cheever

Financial Secretary Report

- The Youth accounts have been combined and new checks obtained
- A memorial gift was received in memory of Olive & Ivan Hornby, Dona Baker, and Henry & Susan Brinkley from the family of Jodean Olson

New Business

- Westby has requested Viroqua to pay pastor wage each month to be reimbursed by Westby. The purpose is so that Westby will not have to carry Workman's comp. Gregory will obtain more feedback from them about the savings.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to move \$7500 from the Financial Secretary Trustee Account to the Treasurer account.
- Gregory has created new Voucher forms. He explained the procedure we should be using in getting them filled out properly. They will be available on the wall around the desk in the office.

Next meeting: August 20, 2019 @ 6:00 pm