



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
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Pastor Larry Olson &
Pastor Stephanie Steiner

February 2012

LENTEN SEASON IS DRAWING NEAR!

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Ash Wednesday Service February 22nd, 6:30 PM—Community Dinner 5:00

Lenten Soup Suppers and Services

Soup suppers will be served from 5:30 to 6:15 PM with worship services at 6:30 PM. Please plan to join in this special time to spend with your church family.

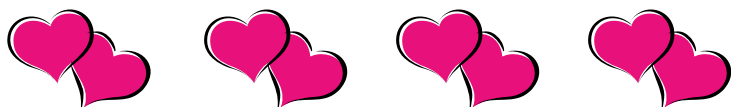
Schedule for Soup Suppers:



- February 29—Worship & Music Committee
- March 7—Finance Committee
- March 14—Building & Grounds
- March 21—Membership & Evangelism/Stewardship & Mission
- March 28—Christian Education (w/Community Dinner at 5:00)

Conference on the Present

As we continue our Pathways Journey of Faith, we are exploring our past, present, and future. On Sunday, February 26 we will hold the “Conference on the Present” with the congregation to explore and understand the current path our church is traversing. We’ll gain more understanding of our current challenges, opportunities and priorities as we reflect on factors and forces operating today that will/are impacting the future direction of the Presbyterian Church of West Salem. Many have already realized there’s excitement and growth along this journey as we listen to God’s voice and prepare to transform the future!



PER CAPITA 2012: Per Capita is a financial responsibility for every adult member of a Presbyterian congregation. For 2012 the per capita will be \$27.63. When submitting, please write in “per capita” on the memo part of your check or on the outside of your envelope. *Thank you!*

Youth Group Meetings

Come all High School Youth
February 1st & 15th
at 7:15 PM
for Youth Group
meetings at church



December 2011 Financial Summary



Operating Budget

Balance December 1st	\$8,504.24
Receipts	13,942.74
Fellowship Hall Rentals	75.00
Expenses	(12,624.53)
Balance December 31st	\$ 9,897.45

**To reach
someone in
the kitchen
via telephone,
please dial
786-0675.**

Thank you!

Highlights from Session:

- Pathways team engaged the session once again this time on the subject of congregation as a family. Conference on the Present will be happening on Sunday, February 26th.
- Session approved these actions:
 - Hilltoppers will now be collecting our garbage.
 - The closing day of Sunday school be May 20th.
 - Participate in Celebrate West Salem Expo.
 - New Member Sunday, April 1st during worship.
 - Lenten Soup Supper serving from 5:30-6:15; Ash Wednesday Service—6:30; Lenten Services—6:30; Maundy Thursday Service—6:30; **Easter Sunrise 7:00 AM; Easter Festival Worship 9:00 AM**
- Session noted we will be hosting Presbytery on Saturday, February 18th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come and see the larger church at work.

Hats off to:

- Tomi Carlson and Shirley Beaty the January issue of *The Lamplighter*
- our January nursery volunteers: Janna Seeger, Erick Sells, Alexis Shaw, Kate Ebert and Alex Galbraith
- our January liturgists: Becky Auna, Holly Kleiner, Kathy Schedin, Nancy Olson and Marie Haugen
- our January acolytes: Josie LaJeunesse, Mariah Terry, Grant Bohnsack, Dylan Noel, Lauren Garves, Autumn Schuster, Carissa Hass, Laura Burdick, Brendan Holt & San Horton



Elders

Class of 2012

Mike Siekert
Ann Terry
Marcia Kazmark
Nick Miller
Kate Ebert (Youth Elder)
Chase Aleckson (Youth Elder)

Class of 2013

Charles Engel
Todd Kleiner
Greg Meeuwssen
Tracey Rogers

Class of 2014

Jane Foner
Sherry Bonsall
Becca Bohnsack
David Daoust

Deacons

Class of 2012 Loris Griffin, Diana Swim, Ted Yankee, Mary Tschida, Valerie Olson,
Kris Seeger, Tiffani La Jeunesse

Class of 2013 Rita Loging, Nancy Olson, Sally Holte

A NOTE FROM PASTOR STEPHANIE:

“A LOVE that will NOT let go!”

During the month of February we seemingly focus on a word that should be at the center of our lives every day of every month – LOVE! That small four letter word packs inside of it so much meaning it’s hard to comprehend. Webster’s first two definitions for love are: **1.** a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person. **2.** a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend. Time and again as we read through the bible we read about God’s love for humanity – a love that will never let us go...a love that you and I are called to model in our lives – unconditional love. A dear friend sent me the following story that I think is a great example of this Love that will not let go.

Some years ago on a hot summer day in south Florida a little boy decided, to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His mother--in the house, was looking out the window--saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal; and, on his arms, were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug into his flesh in her effort to hang on to the son she loved. The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Mom wouldn't let go."

Indeed, you and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too - No, probably not from an alligator, or anything quite so dramatic. But, we do carry scars with us, scars from a painful past or from difficult situations we struggle with on a daily basis. Some of our scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret, BUT let me say this, my friends, some of those scars are because God loves us so much he has refused to let go of us through whatever challenges our journey brings! Thanks be to God for his unconditional love – may we strive to love like that!



Pastor Stephanie

Just for Kids answer:

house; light; friend; wave; man; “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Todd Kleiner

LITURGISTS

5—David Daoust
 12—Tracey Rogers
 19—Marica Kazmark
 26—Helen Harold

NURSERY CARE

5—
 12—Brianna Holt
 19—Laura Kelley
 26—

* with a Parent/Guardian/Adult,
 over 25, accompanying them

ACOLYTES

5—Alayna Aleckson & Alanna Wuensch
 12—Grant Bohnsack & Noah Reynolds
 19—Laura Burdick & Mariah Terry
 26—Lauren Garves & Autumn Schuster

COMMUNION BREAD BAKER: Marie Haugen

FELLOWSHIP (Serve & Clean-up): Worship & Music Committee

GREETERS

5—David Daoust & Sherry Bonsall
 12—Tracey Rogers & Ray Ebert family
 19—Marcia Kazmark & Pat Brummond family
 26—Helen Harold & Bob Harold



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Bette Bachman-Granberg
- 2-Ted Yankee
- 3-Corrine Eggen, Mason Gress, Anthony Gullickson, Sarah Sweet
- 5-David Motes, Jacob Cvikota, Kathy Schedin
- 6-John Holt
- 8-Jim Cullmann, Kelly Lusk, Genevieve Merkel
- 9-John Schmaltz, Diane Adams, Jenna Bonsall
- 10-Valerie Olson, Erick Sells, Amy Silbaugh
- 12-Ray Ebert, Jeanette Kroll, Kennedy Zeman
- 14-Tim Baker, Christine Matthews
- 15-Brody Rogala, Anne Zalewski, Andy Raymer, Brandon Knaack
- 16-Faith Holt, JT Rogala, Faith Zoerb
- 17-Tom Sprain
- 18-Andy Severson
- 19-Pam Eggen, Dave Miller, Shelly Servais
- 20-Laura Burdick, Teresa Schnitzler, Janna Seeger, Kris Schwier
- 21-LaVerne Torgerson
- 23-Kathy Brummond, Bob Shaw, Aric Tourville
- 25-Mary Winther, Tiffani Lajeunesse
- 26-JoDeen Kobishop
- 27-Lawrence Everson, Nicole Griffin, Kyle Willinger, Jenni Hauser,
 Ben Olson, Jaymie Holte
- 28-Porter Blum
- 29-Nathan Wilczynski

**Congratulations on the following
 baptism:**
 Joseph Michael Newstead Silbaugh
 on January 29
 Proud family:
 David Jr., Amy, David III & William Silbaugh



Congratulations to:
 Shawn & Eve Zellmer
 on the birth of
 Ellanore Margaret
 on December 28th!



The next Red Cross
 Blood Drive
 will be Friday, February 3rd
 from 12:30-5:30 PM
 Call Connie Blunck for
 an appointment at 786-0684.



PW MORNING MEETING

Join us for brunch at 9 AM at church on February 2nd for our first meeting of the year. Please bring a dish to pass. The program will be "The Moringa Tree", a video showing how the tree provides so much nutrition for people where the tree grows, namely, places in Africa. Our PW supports this project. The Birthday offering will be collected, also. Diana Engel and Susan Evans are hostesses. Please come and join with others for fellowship and learn what PW has in store for you this year.

BIRTHDAY OFFERING

Recipients for the Birthday Offering this year are:

Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc. Peachtree City, Georgia. The organization will rescue, rehabilitate and provide safe refuge for young American girls who are victims of sex trafficking and exploitation by means of a campus ensuring the safety of the girls. A garage will be converted into classrooms, staff offices, counseling space and a commercial kitchen for culinary training. A small chapel will be constructed for worship and Bible study.

New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children; Tuleea, Romania. This organization will help make the purchase of land and the construction of a gymnasium for 400 orphaned children.

Solar Under the Sun; Irving, Texas. This organization trains people in the installation of solar-powered energy systems. Half of the Birthday Offering grant will be used to install solar panel equipment at Ferncliff Camp in Arkansas where church mission teams can be trained. The other half will match funds for solar panels for projects in Haiti.

This offering was begun in 1922 when women were challenged to give one penny for each year of their life. The grant amounts for the three will depend on funds contributed during 2011. The goal is \$900,000.

There are envelopes in the chair pockets as well as in your February Lamplighter.

BIBLE STUDY

PW Bible study will begin Wednesday, February 29th at 1:00 PM in the room between the offices. (We should name that room, shouldn't we??) We will continue with the study of the Beatitudes with the leader on video, who stops for questions. It was well received last fall so join us even if you missed the previous lessons. This spring we will have four sessions which will complete the study. The following lessons will be March 7th, 14th and 21st.



Photo Play

We will offer Photo Play every 3rd Thursday in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church of West Salem from 6 – 10 pm. There is a \$5 fee that will be going back to the church to cover utility usage. There will be no daycare facilities available, so would appreciate no small children. No pre registration is needed... just come and have fun sharing your photos and stories. If you have any questions, please contact Shayna Arndt at 608-498-0611 or e-mail sbarndt@charter.net or Vicki Arndt at 608-790-1210 or e-mail arndtv@charter.net



2011-2012 CONFIRMATION NEWS

- February 1st & 15th—Class for 7th & 8th graders
- February 8th —Wednesday night Worship service
- Community Dinner is Wednesday, February 22nd from 5:00-6:00. 6th graders and mentors assist with this meal. 7th & 8th graders and mentors in the craft room.

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**625 West Franklin Street
PO Box 861**

West Salem Wisconsin 54669

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Change Service Requested

Looking Ahead:



- *February 2—PW Breakfast*
- *February 3—Red Cross Blood Drive*
- *February 18—Presbytery Meeting (here)*
- *February 22—Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM*
- *February 26—Conference on the Present*

The Lamplighter is published monthly by the Presbyterian Church of West Salem to inform church members and friends about the events, programs, and mission of the congregation. Information for **The Lamplighter** is to be submitted to the church office by the 15th day of each month.

Please inform the church office of any change in your address.