



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
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Pastor Larry Olson &
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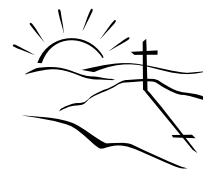
March 2010

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Please join us for our Lenten journey!

We are inviting you to travel with us as we follow the path that led to Jesus' supreme sacrifice and resurrection. Wednesday evenings we will gather to share a simple meal of soup and bread starting at 5 PM. This will be followed by a service at 6:30 where we will be led through "Bread for the Journey". Maundy Thursday, April 1, we will share in the Lord's Supper as the disciples did so many years ago. Then on Good Friday we are going to try something new and have an evening gathering to honor the cross. Both of these services will also be at 6:30 PM. Then Easter morning, April 4, you will have your choice of services or you may want to attend both, as they will be different. There will be an early morning "Sunrise" service at 7:30 AM as well as a Festival service at our traditional time of 10 AM. Be sure to check out the April newsletter for more specifics regarding Easter morning activities. We want to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and all the wonderful opportunities we are afforded through His love.



Bread needed!



It has been so delicious having different breads brought to share at the soup suppers. All donations are gratefully accepted, it doesn't have to be homemade. Please feel free to bring your favorite.

The Shack

Have you read "The Shack"? or would you like to read it and discuss it with the rest of the Church? Well....as a Church we are going to take this journey together. Curious how we're going to do this?.....Stay tuned for more information



Congratulations go out to the 2010 Confirmation Class!

On January 17th the following students were added as confirmed members to the church:

Rachel Auna, Jordan Beirne, Mary Kate Brummond, Alexander Carlson,
Katelyn Carlson, Michael Ebert, Mason Gress, Kylie Gullickson,
Paige Hesselberg, Jenny Kelley, Kyle Koeneke, Curtis Matthews, Jacob Servais,
Aric Tourville, Dylan Van Riper and Quentin Wilczynski

Welcome to all of our new members!

January 2010 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance January 1st	\$ 958.91
Receipts	27,792.49
Expenses	(16,289.82)
Balance January 31st	\$12,461.58



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

Thank you!

Highlights from Session:

- Great conversation was had by all with Linda Kuhn and David King during the Triennial visit
- Approved Good Friday worship at 6:30 PM on April 2
- Attention Committee Members: Nametags are now available in the entryway to the Fellowship Hall
- Light bulbs changed in the sanctuary thanks to Building and Grounds



Hats off to:

- Bob and Sharon Shaw, Georgia Motes, Lyle Miles, Beth Hinck, Linda Levendoski, Tomi Carlson & Shirley Beaty for the mailing of the February issue of *The Lamplighter*
- our February nursery volunteers: Lydia Sells, Sean Horton and Kathryn Ebert
- our February liturgists: Marcia Kazmark, Nancy Olson, Bob Harold and Nick Miller



Elders

Class of 2010

Sue Strauss
Ray Ebert
Charlie Evans
Sharon Cullmann
Rachel Auna (Youth Elder)
Ethan Sells (Youth Elder)

Class of 2011

Jane Foner
Sherry Bonsall
Brian Lusk
Kevin Zoerb

Class of 2012

Mike Siekert
Ann Terry
Marcia Kazmark
Lisa Betsinger

Deacons

Class of 2010 Georgia Motes, Bev Onsrud, Ellie Zebell, Camille Lusk, Vickie Holt

Class of 2011 Helen Harold, Barb Reynolds, Amy Silbaugh, Joyce Garves, Howard Garves

A Note from Pastor Stephanie:

As I write this article I am suffering from a major addiction to the Winter Olympics! I have discovered that I get totally caught up in the personal stories of the athlete's and even find myself cheering and yelling out loud in my living room for them! People like Lindsey Vonn the American Alpine Skier from Minnesota with the injured shin who won the Gold in her first event – downhill. I have always loved watching Apolo Ohno race on the short track – he was raised by a single Father and has matured so much over the years. I am, of course, glued to the television when figure skating happens, and this year I even found myself rooting for Canadian Alexandre Bilodeau who won the first Canadian gold medal on Home soil in the men's moguls ski race. He said he won it for his older brother, Frederic, who has cerebral palsy and can't ski.

As I've thought about my obsession with the Winter Olympics I think I love watching people "under pressure." Sometimes it's very apparent that this person or that person matures from day to day, sometimes not. Put in conditions of extreme pressures, to lead, to chase, or to get up from a bad fall, these athletes respond in many different ways. At times we are disappointed with their behavior, and at other times we want to cry because we are so proud of them, win or lose. In any case, it's a life lesson for us on what we want our character to be, or not to be.

We are now in the season of Lent, and we get the opportunity to observe another person "under pressure." Lent is a time when we follow Jesus, and the extreme pressure, the twists and turns, the competition, and the final judging at the end of the journey. He must perform flawlessly. He must be perfect. There can be no failure. He was born to enter into this struggle. His whole life mission was for this flawless performance to win the prize.

So we watch from a distance. At times we think "How does he do that?" "What makes him struggle on?" "Why doesn't he just give up?" When we take time to look, we are amazed at what he does, because it seems impossible. Perfection is so far away from us. Why did he do it? Well, my friends, he did it because he loved us more than his own life.

A Stanza from the hymn, "Alas, and did my Savior Bleed" sums it up well –

Was it for sins that I had done?

He groaned upon the tree.

Amazing pity, grace unknown,

And love beyond degree.

God's Peace to you all this Lenten Season,

Pastor Stephanie

FUNDRAISER FOR RELAY FOR LIFE



Sunday March 21st, immediately following worship, the church's Relay for Life team, "PRES'ing for a Cure", will offer a meatball & lefse dinner. The dinner will consist of meatballs in gravy over mashed potatoes, corn, lefse, beverage and dessert. The suggested donation is \$7.00 with all proceeds going toward the American Cancer Society's efforts in the battle against cancer. Thanks to all for your generous support!

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: March 7-14—Kevin Zoerb

March 17-28—John Schmaltz

LITURGISTS

7—Charlie Evans
14—Lill Twining
21—Kathy Brummond
28—Kent Buehler

NURSERY CARE

7—Matthew Schnitzler
14—Chase Aleckson
21—Colin Hass
28—Brennan Gress
* with a Parent/Guardian/Adult,
over 25, accompanying them

COMMUNION BREAD BAKER: Helen Harold

FELLOWSHIP (Serve & Clean-up): Finance and Stewardship & Mission

ADULT STUDY

Adult study will continue through March 21st with discussion on Joshua. Class begins at 8:45 a.m. in the room between offices. Please join us, everyone welcome!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|--|---|
| 2- Laura Indahl | 22- Heidi Ebert, Erik Rank |
| 3- Tom Beirne, Nelda Manter, Alice Sprain, Teran Parmenter | 24- Marie Haugen, Julie Schmidt, Shelby Parmenter |
| 4- Shirley Beaty | 25- Mike Huston, Jack Twining, Catherine Siekert |
| 6- Sean Horton, Aila Meeuwsen, Angela Molling,
Josie LaJeunesse, Dawn DeGroot | 26- Sandy Carlson, Marty Olson |
| 7- Earl Carlson, Matthew Griffin, Jim Rogala, Sarah Liu | 27- Ron Cook, Nancy Koeneke, David Wolf, James Gade |
| Phyllis Olson, David Silbaugh, Becca Bohnsack, Jenny Kelley | 29- Jane Foner |
| 9- Connor Brown, Kevin Thompson | 30- Kyle Rogers |
| 11- Paula Harvatine, Kyle Moorhead | 31- Alyssa Moorhead, Bud Raymer, Jr, Benjamin Faas |
| 12- Rae Davis | |
| 13- Barb Finn, Carol Rank | |
| 15- Carolyn Lindeman, Nikki Auna, Jane Faella | |
| 16- Harry Griswold | |
| 17- Tracey Rogers, Virgil Thompson | |
| 18- Bob Elliott, Rachel Tabor, Marilee Zalewski | |
| 20- Jim Leicht, Greg Meeuwsen | |
| 21- Katerina Houser, Paige Hesselberg | |

One of the signs of
passing youth
is the birth of
a sense of fellowship
with other human beings
as we take our
place among them.
- Virginia Woolf

Just for Kids answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”



PW February 11, 2010 meeting

Eleven Presbyterian Women met on Thursday, February 11, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at the church, for a potluck breakfast meeting. Lynda Bahr and Diana Engel were hostesses.

Diana, as vice-moderator, offered prayer and PW Purpose. The Birthday Offering was collected.

Secretary's report was read and approved. Correspondence was read.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. Balance on hand is \$1,173.79.

There was no old business.

The new business was a discussion on contributing to Haiti via Red Cross or Salvation Army. It was felt that at the present time, a lot of donations are being sent and not sure if and how they are being disbursed. It was decided that the need would be there for quite some time and we would consider this issue again at a later date.

Announcements:

- Bible study - Joshua - February 17, 1:00 p.m. at church
- World Day of Prayer, March 5th at Christ Episcopal, our church has the program
- Salad Luncheon – April 7th
- Spring Gathering at Muscoda – April 10
- Synod Gathering at Storm Lake, IA – June 16-19

The meeting was adjourned and four fleece blankets were tied to give to hospice patients.

Respectively submitted, Joyce Garves

PW Bible Study continues on March 3, 10, 17 and 24. We will finish Joshua and conclude with Mount Up With Wings As Eagles. It is not too late to join us at 1 PM in the room between the offices.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Our church is leading the program for the Friday, March 4, Day of Prayer at Christ Episcopal Church in La Crosse. The celebration will begin at 9:30 AM with a \$5.00 brunch. Please give your reservation to Helen at 786-0856 by March 1. Written by the country of Cameroon, the theme is "Let everything that has breath praise God." Two visitors, one a native of Cameroon and another who has worked there will give an account of their lives. A slide presentation will show the history and beauty of Cameroon.

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

Spring will be here soon which means we are getting ready for the Presbyterian Women's Salad Luncheon to be held in the church Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, April 7 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. In order to make this large undertaking a success we need volunteers to supply homemade salads and desserts; to set up and decorate tables; to work shifts in the kitchen and dining room; to sell tickets; and to clean up at the end. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or will be on the table in the entryway. We appreciate whatever time you can spare. Monetary donations are welcome and will be used to purchase paper products, fruit, butter, beverages, decorations, etc. Profits from the luncheon are used to support local and worldwide mission work and to supply the church kitchen. Please call Avis Evenson, 786-2393 or Joyce Garves, 269-7787 with any questions or suggestions.



Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for the love, support and prayers from this congregation. My doctors are amazed at how well the surgery went as well as the speed in which I am healing. One nurse said that I must have "angels looking out" for me. I told her it is really that so many people have been praying for me. God is good. His joy is our strength!

Love, Joan (Harold) Spitz and family

Bob and I felt very blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. Both of us felt surrounded by your loving concern which helped us weather the uncertainty and give us hope. Our love to you all.

Helen and Bob Harold

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Want to make a difference? Interested in youth and their education? Have time and over 55? Please check out the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) information on the kiosk regarding this volunteer opportunity.

FAMILY EASTER CONCERT

Enter the Easter Week, by hearing songs and music, at the West Salem Heider Auditorium with Michael Schroeder on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010 beginning at 7:00 PM

This family event is the 1st performance on Michael's tour for release of his new CD "Worship"

Tickets are \$10.00 (>14 are \$5.00). Tickets are general admission.

Tickets are being sold before the concert at Westview in West Salem or Living Word in Onalaska or can be bought at the Heider Center night of the concert (doors open at 6:00PM) or see Dorothy Schmaltz.

Hope to see everyone there to start the Easter week in "Worship"



FREE RETREAT FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR WORK

When: Monday, March 29 (7:00 p.m.) to Wednesday, March 31 (4:00 p.m.)



Where: Franciscan Spirituality Center, 920 Market St, La Crosse

If you have lost your job or fear losing it, join us for a retreat at no cost to you. At the beginning of Holy Week, when we remember the suffering of Jesus and His rising to New Life, we invite you to a retreat filled with hope. No longer live in fear; come join us and turn the darkness of uncertainty into the light of new beginnings. The retreat leader is Fr. Charlie Smiech who has experience leading retreats for the unemployed in the Chicago area. Limited bedrooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis at no cost for the retreat. Call 608-791-5295 or email fscenter@fspa.org with questions or to register.

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Thank you to all that participated in the Mardi Gras pancake breakfast. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to add \$163.43 to the Community Dinner funds. The caring of this congregation is beyond measure.

SHARING RESOURCES, SAVING LIVES...

...our theme for the 2010 "One Great Hour of Sharing" - as never before, the need is great, especially in the aftermath of the disastrous earthquake in Haiti.

We've traditionally supported the OGH campaign very well and hope this year will be no different. Use the special OGH envelope included with this newsletter and return it in the offering plates by Palm Sunday. Thank you so much!

-Stewardship & Mission Committee

Worship & Music Committee Needs Your Help!



We are in need of a couple of new things and we are looking for some financial help. If you were able to be at the Christmas Eve service, you know that our candleholder situation was very sad. We have found some plastic candleholders that would truly protect hands, big & small, as well as the carpet and chairs from dripping hot wax. They are reusable so it would be a good memorial or remembrance gift to give to your church. We would be able to get 300 of them for just under \$200. The other items are also for Christmas use. After Christmas this year, we were able to find some 7.5 foot pre-lit three section trees at a very good price. The trees were originally \$400, but the final price paid was \$40.50 for each. If you would like to help cover the cost of either of these expenditures you may do so by putting your donation marked for this purpose in the offering plate. Thanks for all you do for our family of faith.

NEW HYMNALS

We would like to thank all who have helped in the process of purchasing our new hymnals. After just a few short weeks we have 106 hymnals purchased by the congregation. We will continue to collect for this fund in hopes of having 200 or so hymnals purchased. The cost of each new hymnal is \$10. Remember that you may donate one, or several, in memory/honor of a loved one or in celebration of an important event in your life (i.e. anniversary, birthday, etc.). In addition, you could also purchase one for your home or one to bring with you to church every Sunday.

Below you will find a form to fill out which asks for your name, the number of hymnals you would like to donate/purchase for our church, the person or event you wish for the hymnal to honor/commemorate (if you would like it noted), and if you would like to purchase one for your home/personal use. Checks should be payable to the Presbyterian Church of West Salem. We ask that these forms be given to the church office or