



THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

May 2010

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PENTECOST 2010

The Stewardship & Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their wonderful response to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" campaign during Lent. \$1,093.15 was collected and sent to our local Presbytery to be used for disaster and humanitarian relief here in the U.S. and also worldwide. We're so proud of our church children for bringing almost \$300.00 to help fill the fish bowl to overflowing. Thanks again to everyone.



The next in our four-per-year series of special offerings is Pentecost. The theme for this year is "I will sing praises to my God all my life long" from Psalm 146:2. Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Christian church because on that day Jesus' apostles were first filled with God's Holy Spirit.

Our local Church keeps 40% of the offerings and 60% goes to the Presbytery. In 2008 we gave our 40% to Kyle Rogers to help with his trip to Kenya. In 2009 we donated \$167.60 to the Salvation Army to help with their great efforts.

Let's help support this worthwhile project. Dedication of funds will be Sunday, May 23rd. Use the special envelope enclosed with this newsletter or find them in the chair pockets. Thank you!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RECOGNITION

The following members of our church will be graduating from high school this spring:

Brittney Bjorkman Jamie Erickson Lena Faella
Tyler Koeneke Adrian Rice Kiernan Steiner
Nathan Wilczynski Rachel Winther

Please join us on Sunday, May 16 for fellowship at 9:30 AM and a special worship at 10:00 AM in their honor.

Congratulations 2010 Graduates!



March 2010 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance March 1st	\$ 8,228.05
Receipts	9,231.98
Expenses	(13,763.85)
Transferred to MM Acct	(5,000.00)
Balance March 31st	(\$1,303.82)



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

Thank you!

Highlights from Session:

- New policy will be drafted for destination weddings.
- From the Bill Carlson Memorial designated for youth mission - \$500 were expended to assist the Brummond girls as they participate in the Waunakee Presbyterian Church youth mission trip to Mexico.
- Discussion was held on fellowship time, greeting and preparedness for worship - this discussion will be revisited over the next months.
- Kyle Rogers will be going to Haiti in July to assist in recovery from the earthquake.
- Worship will remain at 10:00 for the summer.
- Session approved Pastor Larry's request to pursue Police Chaplaincy work through La Crosse County. The responsibility would include 6 education sessions a year and a 24 hour period on call once a month.
- Major discussion was held in response to the Presbytery's questions on change. Generally speaking we are a younger and more diverse congregation than most, working hard to be relevant to the culture of today. We know it is difficult for congregations to work together when local pastors don't find the time to work with each other. How to change that or if we want to change that is part of the problem of working together. We decided to place in the Lamplighter a few "this is what we believe" reminders so that as a congregation we are more informed about what makes us Presbyterian. We agree that priorities are what keep some people coming to church and what keeps some people away but people still have the right to choose what they will and will not do with their time, all we can do is offer relevant worship, fellowship and service opportunities. Hopefully our family nature as a congregation will encourage us all to choose spending time with this body gathered on a regular basis. And the final question is THE question we need to deal with; "What is the nature of God's mission and how will we fulfill that mission here in West Salem?" The session didn't have an answer at this time but will be working on this for our future. If you would like to see the entire Presbytery document including the questions contact the church office.

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:

I have a sterling silver coffee set at home that my mom and dad received as a wedding gift 55 years ago. It is easily the most expensive serving ware in our home. How well I remember that during my growing up years I was often assigned the unenviable task of removing the tarnish that covers the silver with a black film. Even as an adult I have to admit I still don't care for polishing the silver. But, once the tarnish is removed, the coffee set gleams brighter than any container in the house. However, left alone in the cupboard it is not long until the shiny silver set is hidden behind another layer of tarnish. The sad commentary of this valuable silver coffee set is that it sits on the shelf and gets very little use.

When I pulled the silver set out to use on Easter Sunday seeing how badly tarnished it was - it hit me – God is not looking for sterling silver tea sets. He's looking for rough-and-tumble clay pots—the kind that can be used everyday. He's looking for the kind of pots that don't need to be tucked away in a china closet, but can be sent out into a crash-bang world, carrying within them the life of Christ. The church was never meant to be a china cabinet, where precious pieces could be safely stowed out of harm's way. The church was meant to be a working kitchen, where well-worn pots are filled again and again to dispense their life-giving contents to a thirsty world.

We do a great job of being clay pots here – but there is always room for improvement. Are there other ways we can be more visible in this community? Who do we need to offer the use of our facility to? What community organizations could use our time and energy to be even more successful? Are there people who need what it is we have to offer? These are questions each of us needs to ask as members of this congregation. What will you do to be a Clay pot Christian enhancing this congregation?

As you brainstorm about that remember this simple truth: Clay pot Christians were meant to be filled and busy. Tarnished silver coffee sets sitting idle are neither useful nor beautiful to God.

“We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Stephanie



Hats off to:

- Bob and Sharon Shaw, Lyle Miles, Beth Hinck, Tomi Carlson & Shirley Beaty for the mailing of the April issue of *The Lamplighter*
- our April nursery volunteers: Grace Griffin, Jacob Cvikota, Lindsey Buehler & Lydia Sells
- our February liturgists: Jane Foner, Diana Swim, Todd Kleiner, Holly Kleiner & Vickie Bain



MAY VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Brian Gullickson

LITURGISTS

- 2—Lisa Betsinger
- 9—Tracey Rogers
- 16—Vicki Arndt
- 23—Tracey Rogers
- 30—Sue Strauss

NURSERY CARE

- 2—Kate Ebert
- 9—Sean Horton
- 16—Kate Ebert
- 23—Matthew Schnitzler
- 30—Chase Aleckson

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

COMMUNION BREAD BAKER: Helen Harold

FELLOWSHIP (Serve & Clean-up): Christian Education



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Brian Gullickson, Marty Severson, Jane Wines
- 3 - Kylie Gullickson, TJ Holven
- 5 - DeLaures Carlson, Hunter Meyer
- 6 - Lyle Miles, Elinor Johnston, Jennifer Van Der Nest
- 7 - Kevin Moorhead
- 8 - Michael Ebert, Lester Hanson, Melissa Sprain, Hannah Olson
- 9 - Neil Bain, Kate Ebert, June Lusk, Grady LaJeunesse
- 10 - Randall Auna, Brendan Holt, Camille Lusk, Rita Thompson, Ron Ziebell
- 11 - Kenny Hauser, Linda Lusk
- 12 - Greg Shaw
- 16 - Michael Arndt, Desirae Shaw
- 17 - Tanner Dunn, Carol Griswold
- 18 - Brian Holt, Joy Martin, Joyce Schwarz
- 19 - Mary Tschida, Madison Gade



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

. . the family of Doris Anderson on her death April 14. A funeral service was held at Jandt Funeral Home on April 18.



Congratulations on the baptisms of :

Emma Jo Olson

Daughter of: Justin & Heather Olson

on April 4

and

Lola Jayne Turgeon

Daughter of: Mike & Abby Turgeon

on April 25

- 20 - Rob Galbraith
- 21 - Claude Lindeman
- 22 - Jolie Meyers
- 23 - Lindy Meyers, Kathy Anderson
- 24 - Pam (Barnes) Van Riper
- 26 - Jacob Burdick, Mike Lusk, Abigail Knaack
- 27 - Mary Fiers
- 28 - Jack Finn, Alanna Wuensch
- 29 - Nick Miller, Stephanie Steiner
- 30 - Verna Raymer, Kyle Schuster

Just for Kids answer: garden; oak; dawn; stars; camel; river; Eden; Adam; thunder; insects; owl; night.





MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

Church Women United May Friendship Day is May 7, beginning at 9:30 A.M. with a \$5.00 brunch at First Congregational Church, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse. The theme is "Living the Vision" and the Valiant Women award will be given. Please call 783-4883 for reservations.



Many thanks to those who made the Salad Luncheon a great success!

The Salad Luncheon committee – Avis Evenson, Joyce Garves, Beth Hinck, Carolyn Lindeman, Diana Meeuwesen, Alice Sprain and Mary Tschida – would like to thank all the women and men who made the Salad Luncheon a wonderful success. It took 33 people to handle publicity, decorate and set tables, serve food and coffee, handle carry-outs, wash dishes, clean the kitchen, and take care of the details. A special thanks to Ed Lusk and Al Weborg for setting up the tables and chairs and to Ed for taking it all down again.

It took 87 people to make salads and 22 people to make desserts, also included were donated pickles, olives, fruit and relishes. The homemade rolls were baked by Helen Harold. As you can see it takes the whole church to put on this event!! The linens for the tables were donated by Aramark Co. and made the tables look elegant.

We served 266 people and grossed \$2254.00. Expenses are expected to be about \$120 and donations are still coming in. Thanks again for helping the Presbyterian Women continue local and worldwide mission work. All the effort you went through to help is greatly appreciated.



RUMMAGE SALE: Rummage Sale date changed from May 14 & 15 to June 11 & 12. For a number of reasons, the date of the rummage sale has been changed to June 11th & 12th. Please start gathering your rummage and we will be accepting clean, usable rummage starting on June 7th.

Summer Worship hours will remain the same June-August.

**Please join us for
9:30AM Fellowship
10:00 AM Worship**



The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Friday, June 18th from 12:30-5:30 PM
Call Connie Blunck for an appointment at 786-0684.



Do you have plastic flower pots taking up space in your garage, basement or storage shed? If you want to get rid of them, put them in a plastic bag and bring them to church. Put the bag outside of the kitchen in the corner. *Thanks!*

On March 28th we welcomed the following families into our congregation:

Alan & Kathy Schedin
David & Jessica Noel and Dylan, Luke & Evan
Kyle & Kari Schuster and Autumn & Ava
Kevin Aleckson and Chase, Logan & Alayna
Mike & Abby Turgeon and Drew & Lola
Morris Harris & Amy Ehlo and Austin & A'Marie

When you see them around take the opportunity to get to know these new members!

SPEAKING OF YOUTH

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For the past couple of years it has been my privilege to serve as the high school youth group leader. I have decided to step down as youth leader for next year but wanted to share with you some great memories. We have had some adventures, done some good things in the community, and have shared some incredible discussions about God.

We started out with a big group of kids heading down to Iowa for a youth convention. There was incredible music and some powerful messages we heard. We all came back hoping to get our group started and share more of that! So we started meeting regularly.

Some memories from our faith discussions include these powerful phrases: “Life is like a 16 lane highway – you can change lanes along the way but they all get you to where you need to go.” What a powerful thought for those of us who have wondered about predestination! Here’s another question that stuck in my head after a deep discussion about other faiths of the world. “What if God sent down a whole bunch of Jesuses that looked different to fit the different cultures of the world?” Hmmmm, intriguing idea, isn’t it?

Not only did we have some interesting talks, we also had a lot of fun. We started some service projects including the annual school supply drive and the fall yard clean up for our members who needed help. We also helped with the big church clean up last year! And, of course, we can’t forget the social activities – bowling, movies, lock-ins, a water park trip, mini golf, go-carts, white elephant gift exchanges and surprise birthday parties!

Thank you for the great trip! Let us all pray for guidance in finding a great youth leader for our high schoolers for next fall.

Blessings, Kathy Brummond

At this time we would like to offer our sincere

Thank You

to *Kathy Brummond*

**for the time and attention you have
given the High School Youth Group since you took
on the role of Youth Group leader.
You gave the kids great opportunities
for service, faith-learning and fun!
Your time was greatly appreciated!**

Summer Music



It is with many thanks and much gratitude that we say to the choir “Have a great summer.” But that means that we need to tap into the talents of all the members and friends of our church family and ask them to share those gifts with us this summer. There are many of us without a note of musical talent that greatly appreciate listening to the joyful noise that others so capably make! No matter whether you are young or old, please consider contributing to the beauty of our worship services by sharing your musical gifts with us. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or talk to a member of the Worship & Music Committee.

We need your input!!!! Please respond!!!!

Do we need another service on a different day of the week? Is it something that we need all year or just in the summer? What would be the optimum day – Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday evening? What type of service would you expect? Do we need to have music? There are many things to consider when thinking about adding a service beyond the minister and music such as pianist, liturgist, greeter, usher, cooling/heating, lights, bulletins! It is amazing how something can sound so simple and yet have so many layers to develop. Any decision that is made will not please everyone since we have so many different facets to our lives. Please prayerfully consider your answer and share your thoughts with the family. You may electronically answer by emailing the church at preschurchws@centurytel.net, sending your response to the church office, or placing your response in the offering plate. This is an important question and we want to get as much input as possible as soon as possible. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Day of the week—

Time of day—

Type of service i.e. formal, casual—

Should we consider all year or summer only?

What are your expectations?

Is this a need of many or the want of a few? Please consider this question when answering.

Would you attend an optional service?