



THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

December 2016

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It's here!...The Holiday dinner, entertainment, silent auction, and craft and bake sale. This should be a really fun evening with a dinner consisting of meatballs and gravy, cheesy potatoes, corn, coleslaw, rolls, dessert, and beverage. We will be entertained by Greg Meeuwsen's, Driftless River Band, playing wonderful bluegrass music. There will be many terrific silent auction items available for bidding such as an expertly prepared homemade dinner, caramel turtles, possibly babysitting, many Holiday gift items, and on & on! We plan to have some crafts and baked goods for purchase also. Dinner will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 and the silent auction will end at 6:15. The cost of the dinner and entertainment is only \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 3-11, and free for 2 years and younger. This fundraiser promises to be lots of fun! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to share in this fun evening. We will be selling tickets the three Sundays before the date. There will also be tickets available that night, but the earlier we know you are coming, the better. We don't want to run out of food, Heaven



forbid! You can also get more information by contacting Valerie at 786-1834 or Sherry at 786-1280. Hope to see you there!!!!

Sunday School Christmas Pageant—*The Story of Michael Mouse*

Sunday School students will perform this year's Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 18th during Worship at 10:15am. Please join us for this sweet story of Michael Mouse's visit to the nativity.

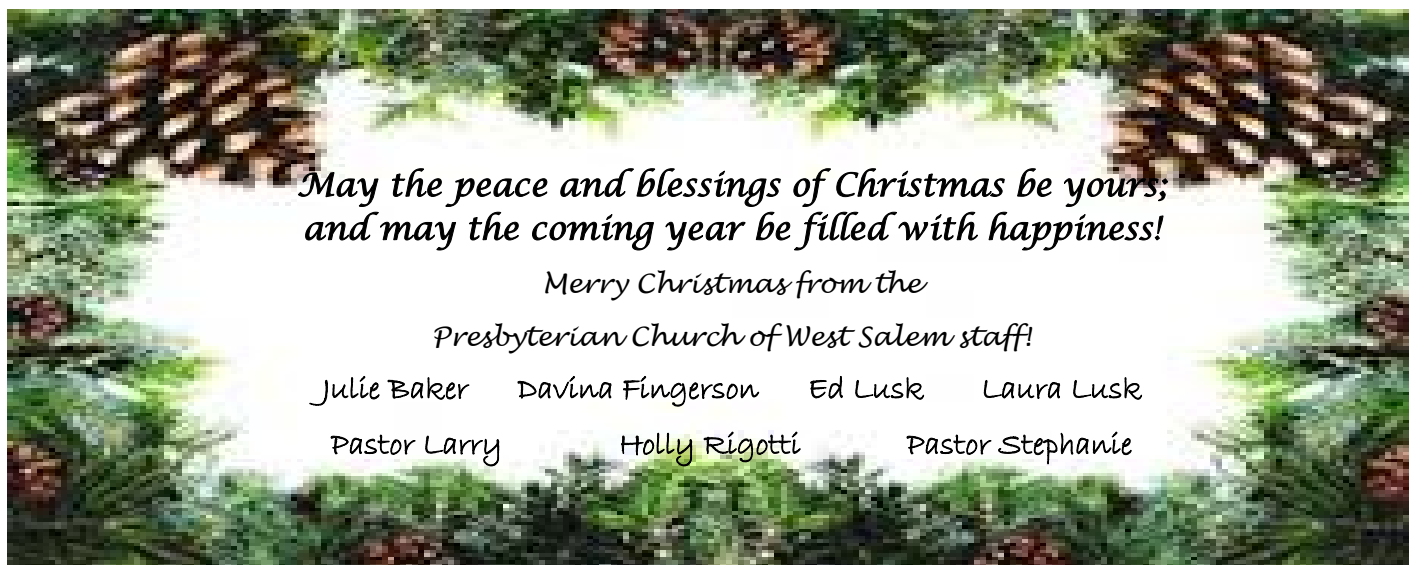
*May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours;
 and may the coming year be filled with happiness!*

Merry Christmas from the

Presbyterian Church of West Salem staff!

Julie Baker Davina Fingerson Ed Lusk Laura Lusk

Pastor Larry Holly Rigotti Pastor Stephanie



October 2016 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance October 1st	\$13,030.74
Receipts	20,451.84
Expenses	(19,009.87)
Ending Balance—October 31st	\$14,472.71



PER CAPITA 2016

For 2016 the per capita is \$29.12. When submitting, please write in “per capita” on the memo part of your check or on the outside of your envelope. These need to be paid by December 25th to be credited for 2016. *Thank you!*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION:

- Approved proposed budget for 2017.
- Approved Pastor Larry participating in the Company of New Pastors program, through the General Assembly.
- Recommended an article about per capita for Lamplighter. (Please look for it in the January Lamplighter.)
- Encouraged all members to consider and volunteer to be on a committee.

Hats off to:

- our November nursery helpers: Alyssa Byrnes, Tanner Jones, Sam Horton & Josie LaJeunesse
- our November acolytes: Jolie Meyers, Keahna Littlejohn, Gavin Loging, Lucy Raymer, Jaycob Brown & Gideon Wolbrink
- our November liturgists: Nick Miller, Anne Galbraith, Martha Burdick & Becky Auna
- our November sound room: Tiffani Aleckson & Kristjan Sells



LITURGISTS

The list for 2017 is being completed now. If you want an opportunity to participate in the service, how about being a liturgist? We are always looking for new people. If you have been on the list and wish to be taken off the list, please let us know by December 10th. You may call the office or Jane at 783-4046 or email janefoner@yahoo.com. Thanks!



GARDEN UPDATE

Have you looked at the garden this fall or winter? Our vegetable and flower space is looking great and good news is that we have new leadership for the coming year. Janice and Jerry Seeger have graciously stepped forward to be in charge for 2017.

The Kathy McKee Memorial Garden is a wonderful asset to our church. The size of the plot will remain about the same but hopes are to organize the flowers in the front area with some digging and dividing this spring. One idea for next year is to separate the tasks of the flower tending and vegetable growing so if your talent is in the area of flowers please consider helping with that part of the work.

The produce provided to our church is a benefit to the community dinners and well as church members who have picked up extra cucumbers or beans after church on occasion. There will always be a need for individuals to weed, water and pick throughout the gardening season. Please remember this is a community effort and know that everyone is welcome to do what they can to make it productive and beautiful.

So stay tuned, coming next spring, garden planning meeting probably in April.

A Note from Pastor Stephanie:

I recently came across the following story and it is an amazing story for us as we make our Christmas preparations. It is entitled, "The Luck of Roaring Camp"

Roaring Camp was a mining town at the turn of the century, and it was a wild, forsaken place. Roaring Camp was thronged with brawling, surly, mean--spirited men who worked hard all day and fought and caroused hard all night. There were all these men and one woman, Cherokee Sal. Unfortunately, Cherokee Sal died giving birth to a little baby girl.

Suddenly these scarred, hard-fisted men have this squalling, wriggling, diaper-filling little baby on their hands, and they don't quite know what to do. They wrap her up in rags and put her in a box. But that doesn't look right, so they send a man 80 miles west, and he comes back with a hand-carved rosewood cradle. They put the little baby in it wrapped up in her rags, but that doesn't look right, either. So they send another man to Sacramento, and he comes back with a lace and silk blanket. They bundle their baby in that and put her in the rosewood cradle.

Then one of the men said, "Look at how dirty that floor is." So they do something they've never done before. They break out the buckets and the water and the soap and the brushes, and they get down on their hands and knees and they scrub. After they wash the floor, they look up and another man said, "Oh that wall is horrible." So they scrub the wall and then see the grimy windows so they polish those up, too. Then one of the men declared, "Now everything is looking so great we may as well hang curtains."

They take their little baby in her rosewood cradle and her silk and lace blanket to the entrance of the mine-shaft when they go down to work. But the mineshaft looks grim, dreary, and sordid next to the beautiful baby, so they put an arbor up and they plant a garden and they put out a little bench to make it beautiful. When they are down in the bowels of the mountain, they find beautiful shiny stones and bring them up for the baby. But handing them down they look at all the soot on their hands - and suddenly the general store starts to do a booming business in soap and cologne and shampoo and razor blades.

What these men learned through this experience was that the baby changes everything!

Indeed, the baby changes everything and that's the true spirit of Christmas. Has the baby, The Christ child changed everything in your life?! Praise God, there is still time for that to happen!

Christmas Blessings to you all from Kiernan and I,

Pastor Stephanie

“Blue Christmas? Longest Night?”

Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. “Longest Night” service, named for the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice, aims to offer support, hope and a space for healing of the spirit for all those in attendance. The longer nights can often add to a sense of sadness that make the joyful celebrations and holiday parties painful to endure.

Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. In order to attend to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas, on December 11th during morning worship, we are seeking to create a sacred space for people living through dark times, holding out healing and hope for all.

December 1 PW Meeting

Thursday, December 1 is the date for the PW finger food buffet hosted by Diana Swim and Carol Griffin. Beginning at 6 p.m. we will eat, have a short business meeting, installation of officers led by Vickie Holt and then the program, "Gift of the Heart". The skit will be performed by Becky Auna and Caroline Sells with Diana Engel as narrator. Please bring a dish to pass. Punch and coffee will be provided. Bring a friend, also. This is a time to prepare ourselves for another joyous season.



HUNGER OFFERING

Presbyterian Hunger Program is committed to the belief that life should be lived simply so that all can simply live. PHP encourages families, individuals, and church groups to evaluate their own needs and develop new ways of being more caring and sharing of the world's resources in obedience to the gospel. We will collect the Hunger offering at the PW meeting.

Fall Festival a Success! We Set a Record!

We had a very successful Fall Festival, having surpassed our record income from 2012 by a mere \$.50. Our total income this year is \$2585.95 (cookies/donations - \$950, raffle - \$579.50, crafts/squash - \$648.70, breakfast - \$407.75). We have a lot of people to thank: Sue for again taking charge of the raffle, Helen for again making the cinnamon rolls, Charles and Diana for again picking up the squash that David Miller grew and gave us, those who baked cookies and made the craft items, those who donated the food for breakfast and made monetary donations, those who worked before and during the morning, and of course, all who came to enjoy the breakfast and take home cookies, craft items, and squash. Finally, a special thanks to those who made purchases after the Fall Festival ended. So thank you, thank you! We couldn't have a successful Fall Festival without each and every one of you!!

Winners of the raffle items were: Laurie Chamber—Cash; Pillowcases—Shari D'Aquisto; Rug—Jodeen Kobishop; Carved Duck—Sells family; Fleece Throw—Jane Foner; Picture—Delores Zanter; Le Coulee Cheese Castle Certificate—Sandy Pollick; Bean Pot—Vickie Holt; Figurine—Loris Griffin

All Congregation Packer Party

We hope you can join us on Sunday, December 18th immediately following worship for an all church Packer Party! Parties will take place at both the Bohnsack's and the Arndt's! We ask that you please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the church entryway so that we can have an estimate of the number of people attending. (In case we need to have a third location) We also ask that you bring a dish to pass. We hope you can join either party to cheer on the Green Bay Packers with your church family! Party location addresses are as follows:

Bohnsack's (Barre Mills), W2949 County Road I, La Crosse
- or -

Arndt's (Adjacent to Vermeer Sales and Service), W3106
County Road B, West Salem

DECEMBER

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

7th—5:00 Community Meal & Class in Bangor

14th—5:00 Meal & Class in West Salem

21st—5:00 Meal & Class in West Salem

28th—Community Dinner

December Special Services

Blue Christmas—

During Worship December 11th

Youth Christmas Pageant—

During Worship December 18th

Christmas Eve Worship Services:

5:00 PM—West Salem

6:30 PM—Bangor





Holiday Dinner, Silent Auction & Crafts

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Presbyterian Church of West Salem

625 West Franklin St, West Salem, WI

Dinner – 5:00 to 6:30 pm, Live Music by
Driftless River Band

Silent Auction – Ending at 6:15 pm

Craft & Bake Sale– Throughout the Evening



The whole community is invited to this fun holiday event!
Come join us for dinner, a silent auction and a craft & bake sale.
Great bluegrass music by Driftless River Band throughout the evening.
Great Christmas gifts available!

Dinner

- \$8.00 for Adults
- \$4.00 for Age 3-11
- Free for 2 Years & Under

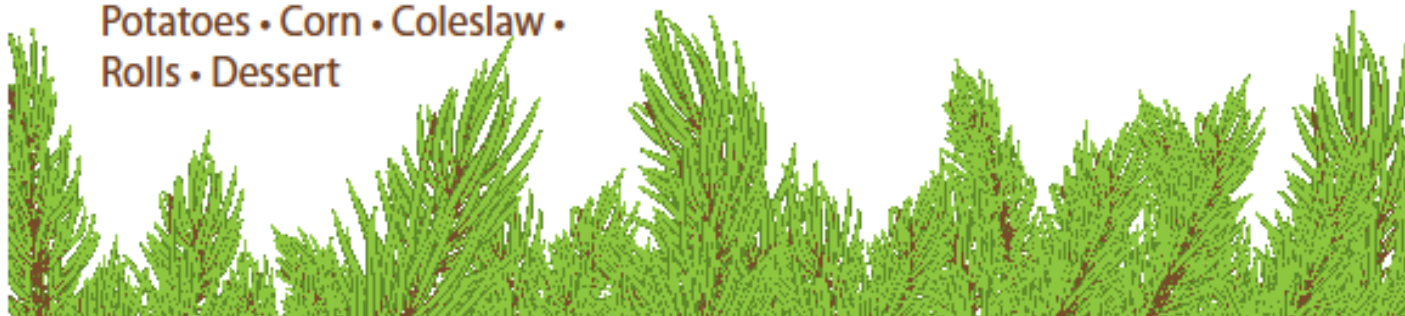
Menu

Meatballs & Gravy • Cheesy
Potatoes • Corn • Coleslaw •
Rolls • Dessert

Pre Sale Tickets & More Information

Presbyterian Church of West Salem –
786-0910

Sherry – 786-1280 or Valerie – 786-1834



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Howard Garves

FELLOWSHIP (Serve/Clean-up): Building & Grounds Committee

LITURGIST & GREETER

- 4—Jenni Loging
- 11—Kevin Arndt
- 18—Charlie Evans

NURSERY CARE

- 4—Genevieve Sprain
- 11—Anna Bohnsack
- 18—Connor Brown

GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

- 4—Barb Hopkins
- 11—Shayna Arndt
- 18—Susan Evans

ACOLYTES

- 4—Ethan Crusan & Dane Bohnsack
- 11—Willis Jones & Julia Byrnes
- 18—Jaycob Brown & Keahna Littlejohn

SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

- 4—Erick Sells
- 11—Tiffani Aleckson
- 18—Erick Sells
- 24—Erick Sells



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

...Lois Elliott on the death of her brother, Richard Schomburg, November 25th.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Again this year we are participating in the Winter Wonderland at the Village Park. Stop down to the park and see the wonderful tree display!

FROZEN APPLE PIES FOR SALE - \$8.00

EACH! They make great gifts for those hard to buy for friends and family. Get them before they are gone! See Diana Engel for pies.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Shellee Dunn
- 2—Tomi Carlson, Barb Reynolds
- 3—Jarrod Bonsall, Ruby Davis
- 5—Vickie Holt
- 6—David Daoust, Jr.
- 8—Josiah Wolbrink
- 10—Kennedy Wolf
- 11—Kristine Buehler
- 12—Harley Meyer
- 14—Deacon Meyers, Ryan Pfaff

- 15—Grace Griffin
- 17—Kevin Lee
- 18—Charlene Haverly
- 19—Dana Hass
- 23—Lindsay Eggen
- 27—Shayna Arndt, Alexander Carlson, Melissa Wolf,
Henry Nickerson, William Heeter
- 28—Rachel Auna, Ellanore Zellmer

Reports from Committees for the Annual Report are due in the office by Sunday, December 18th. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29, 2017.



Presbyterian Church of West Salem

**625 West Franklin Street
PO Box 861
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Quick Look Ahead:



- *PW Finger Food Buffet—Thursday, December 1st at 6:00 PM*
- *Dinner/Entertainment/Silent Auction/Crafts & Baked goods—December 3rd*
- *Blue Christmas—Sunday, December 11th (during Worship)*
- *Sunday School Christmas Pageant—Sunday, December 18th*
- *Christmas Eve Worship Services—5:00 PM in West Salem & 6:30 PM in Bangor*
- *Christmas Day—No Worship*

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.