



THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

January 2017

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2016 ANNUAL REPORT

We are again preparing to send the Annual Report via email to as many of you as possible. However, if you have not given us your email for the Lamplighter and we can send to you the Annual Report by email, please contact the church to provide that email. If you do not have email access, you can pick-up a hard copy available at church the week before the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 29th. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 786-0910 or email us at preschurchws@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEETING

Each year we gather together to review where we have been as a congregation and chart our course for the new year and the future. You are encouraged to attend our annual meeting on **Sunday, January 29, 2017** immediately following the 10:15 AM worship service. We hope to see you there!



TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Thanks to a wonderful group of helpers, we were able to decorate the sanctuary the last weekend in November. We now need to make plans to put all the decorations away until next year. Please join in helping take down the decorations after worship on January 8th. Have you driven past the church in the evening with the decorations lit? What a great way to celebrate the Light of Christ coming into the world.

Next Movie Night—Friday, January 20th

Pizza Dinner at 6:00 PM & Movie begins at 6:30 PM
All are welcome! Come join in the fun!

** Change in Office Manager Hours **

Beginning Tuesday, January 3rd the Church Office hours will be:

Mondays: 7:30—11:30 AM

Tuesdays: 7:30 AM—1:30 PM

Thursdays: 7:30 AM—1:30 PM

November 2016 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance November 1st	\$14,472.71
Receipts	16,739.06
Expenses	(30,129.47)
Ending Balance—November 30th	\$1,082.30



PER CAPITA 2017

For 2017 the per capita is \$29.80. When submitting, please write in “per capita” on the memo part of your check or on the outside of your envelope.
Thank you!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION:

- Approved PW Schedule for 2017
- Voted to accept Mike Siekert as Treasurer and Charles Engel as Clerk of Session for 2017
- Approved several winter activities for Youth
- Approved setting Lenten special services at 6:30 PM on March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th in West Salem and March 1st and April 5th in Bangor. Maundy Thursday will be in West Salem
- Recognition & thanks given to elders completing their terms: Becca Bohnsack, Charles Engel, Greg Meeuwsen & Tracey Rogers. Welcome to newly elected elders: Kevin Aleckson, Barbara Hopkins, Mike Siekert and Kristjan Sells.

Hats off to:

- our December nursery helpers: Anna Bohnsack & Connor Brown
- our December acolytes: Ethan Crusan, Dane Bohnsack, Willis Jones, Julia Byrnes, Jaycob Brown & Keahna Littlejohn
- our December liturgists: Jenni Loging, Kevin Arndt, Charlie Evans & Helen Harold
- our December sound room: Tiffani Aleckson & Erick Sells



Elders

Class of 2017

Lois Sanwick
Carolyn Lindeman
Carol Griffin
Valerie Olson

Class of 2018

Nick Miller
Kelly Crusan
Jane Foner
Barb Hopkins

Class of 2019

Shawn McAlister
Mike Siekert
Kristjan Sells
Kevin Aleckson

Deacons

Class of 2017 Kris Seeger, Becky Auna, Lill Twining, Rita Loging and Helen Harold

Class of 2018 Susan Evans, Charlie Evans, Jackie Siekert, Marilyn Bahr and Rita Thompson

Unexpected

We enter the New Year of 2017, that means about $\frac{1}{6}$ of this century is past, surprise. It is a time of New Year's resolutions. A time to reflect on the past and hope for the future. If last year was great, we give thanks. If last year was one we wish we could have skipped over, we pray 2017 will be better for us.

As we begin 2017 I'd like to impress on you we worship a God of the unexpected. Consider these people and events: Abraham was told to leave his home and family and journey on to the place where God would bless him. No GPS, no road map, no off spring until he and his wife Sarah, were well past childbearing years. Surprise, look at the blessing the Jewish people had received through one man that left his home and followed God's lead.

What about Noah, building an ark in the middle of the desert. Talk about surprise, two of every creature came to that ark and were saved from a flood. How about Daniel in the lion's den, or his three friends Shadrach, Meshack and Abed-nego walking around in the fiery furnace unscathed. Our God can do what we might consider impossible.

We hear of a trumpet blowing to bring down the walls of Jericho. A little shepherd named David, encountering and defeating the great giant Goliath. These are merely high lights of our amazing God in the Old Testament and how God uses the unexpected to save God's people.

Then there is the New Testament, our Savior born in a cold and drafty stable. Jesus performed miracles of all sorts, changed water into wine, healed scores of diseases, walked on water, became the sacrificial lamb for our salvation. He didn't command an army but changed the course of humanity. He never wrote a book, yet the book about God's work continues to be the best seller in the world. He taught us to turn the other cheek and greatness is found in service.

The God we worship has turned almost everything humanity thinks is right, upside down. Surprise! God has a different plan than what the world offers us. My prayer for each of us as we head into a New Year is that we might look for the unexpected from God and then look to see how God continues to guide and love us even when the unexpected enters our lives. Blessings to you all as we continue on this journey of faith, seeking to be as faithful as any in the Bible, expecting the unexpected.

Pastor Larry

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

The Presbyterian Church (USA) believes in the priesthood of all believers, thus we are all equal. A good way of stating and showing that we are equal is by Councils (General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery) sharing their administrative cost equally among their members. Therefore, each council informs its members what it needs in order to pay salaries and administrative expenses to do its work on the member's behalf.

In 2017 Per Capita breaks down this way:

General Assembly is asking all members to pay \$7.50 per member.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies (which encompasses Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, about half of Nebraska and a small portion of Montana and Upper Peninsula of Michigan) is asking \$5.30 per member.

John Knox Presbytery is asking \$17.00 per member.

We are considered members in each of these Councils therefore our 2017 grand total per capita is \$29.80/member.

339 members of the Presbyterian Church of West Salem times \$29.80 per member = \$10,102.20 our per capita for 2017. These dollars will leave our checkbook and could be likened to a season ticket to enter sporting or entertainment events. At times the sporting or entertainment event doesn't measure up to our expectations. At other times, it exceeds our expectations. So also, is the larger church. Per Capita is our "season ticket" to be part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

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#Some members make a pledge and believe per capita is part of that pledge. Others make a "special payment" indicating on their check this is per capita. Either way is acceptable. The session merely wishes for you to be informed about what per capita is and how much it is that we pay to the larger church on an annual basis. If you have other questions concerning per capita, contact one of the pastors or a session member.#



PW December 2016 meeting

PW met on Thursday, December 1st at 6 pm for a Christmas finger food buffet hosted by Carol Griffin and Diana Swim. The tables were festively decorated and the potluck assortment was wonderful.

The Hunger Offering was collected followed by a short business meeting.

Vickie Holt led the installation of the officers for 2017: Moderator - Helen Harold, Vice Moderator - Diana Engel, Treasurer – Nelda Manter, Secretary – Joyce Garves, and Nominating - Sharon Shaw.

Diana Engel narrated a skit featuring Becky Auna as a police officer, doorman, and Salvation Army person along with Caroline Sells portraying a young immigrant girl working for a family with ample wealth and material things. The program was titled “Gift of the Heart” The girl couldn’t think of anything the family needed so she bought a baby dress for a poor family and had the Salvation Army take it to a family in need. The wealthy family had not thought of such a simple but meaningful gift that was truly needed. Thank you, Becky, Caroline and Diana for a wonderful interpretation of the joy of Christmas giving.

The next meeting will be a potluck brunch on February 2nd. The project will be tying fleece blankets for New Horizons. Come and join us for good food, fellowship and fun.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Thanks to all those who rang bells during Thanksgiving weekend. They were: Tiffany LaJeunesse, Lill Twinning, Jackie & Mike Siekert, Cassandra Francis, Carol and Catherine Griffin, Kelly and Erika Crusan, Ethan and Evan, Ryan and Casey Pfaff, Dax, Tate and Charlie.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR DECEMBER DINNER A SUCCESS!!!

There aren't enough thank yous to go around to everyone that made our dinner a huge success. There is a lot that goes into an event like this from planning, setting up, food prep, gathering donations of goods and goodies, and a myriad of other responsibilities. Without everyone's help we would not have been able to raise almost \$1800.00! Those in attendance seemed to have a good time eating, talking, laughing, shopping, and enjoying great music. Sorry that so many people had conflicts, but that will always be the case. A few people stopped in just to bid on silent auction items. A huge thank you to Greg and the Driftless River Band for their wonderful uplifting music. We have some new ideas for next year! Thanks again to all!



JANUARY

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

4th—5:00 Meal & Class in Bangor

11th—5:00 Meal & Class in West Salem

18th—5:00 Meal & Class in West Salem

25th—Community Dinner

Youth Group

Winter is here and the youth group is ready to take full advantage! **On December 29th**, we are planning to spend some time snowshoeing and then warm up inside around the fire roasting marshmallows at Brian and Molly Baker's house in Brice Prairie from 1:00-4:00 pm. Snowshoes are provided - be prepared to be outside for a couple hours of hiking in the snow. Is two hours in the cold not enough for you? Come that morning by 8:30 am and we will go ice fishing as well! Please contact me if you are able to make it, need more information, or need a ride there. Brian Baker (608)797-6575



In February we will be taking an afternoon to go skiing at Mt. La Crosse. This will be a whole family event, so stay tuned for specifics as we get them worked out. Our final winter event will be to take the youth group rock climbing at UW-La Crosse. This will likely be scheduled for sometime **in March**.

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS**HEAD USHER:** Charlie Evans**FELLOWSHIP (Serve/Clean-up):** Worship & Music Committee**LITURGIST & GREETER**

1—Nick Miller
 8—Noah Garcia
 15—Kathy Schedin
 22—Nancy Olson
 29—Alanna Wuensch

NURSERY CARE

1—Luke Noel
 8—Garrett Byrnes
 15—Chase Jones
 22—Aly Cvikota
 29—Shelby Knaack

GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

1—Helen Harold
 8—Barb Reynolds
 15—Alan Schedin
 22—Greg Olson
 29—Crystal Wuensch

ACOLYTES

1—Willis Jones & Evan Noel
 8—Gavin Loging & Lucy Raymer
 15—Ethan Crusan & Gideon Wolbrink
 22—Julia Byrnes & Keahna Littlejohn
 29—Jaycob Brown & Dane Bohnsack

**FROZEN APPLE
 PIES FOR SALE -
 \$8.00 EACH!**



Get them before they are gone! See Diana Engel for pies.

SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

1—Tiffani Aleckson
 8—Erick Sells
 15—Tiffani Aleckson
 22—Erick Sells
 29—Tiffani Aleckson

A NOTE OF

A BIG “Thank You” to all who helped make this Christmas a little happier for 102 children! Every name on the Angel tree received a present, either through a purchase by an individual, family or our church donations. Working together we can bring joy and love to others and show that we care. Again, **THANK YOU!!**

~ Stewardship & Mission Committee

**Birthdays**

1—Fred Dodd, Larry Olson
 2—Martha Burdick
 3—Howard Garves, Sandra Schmidt
 4—Rebecca Auna, Patricia Ruetten, Lucille Raymer
 5—Leeann Krall, Kenneth Hauser, Shanna Roe
 7—Cindy Ashland, Mark Gullickson
 8—Dave Bohnsack
 9—Terry Miller, Ernest Tourville, Debbie Tourville
 10—Glenda Koeneke, Rita Loging, Garrett Byrnes
 14—Sharon Holven, Alexandra Galbraith, Emily Pickar
 16—Rose Wolbrink, Kent Buehler
 18—Jackson Bonsall, Rebecca Byrnes

19—Katelyn Carlson, Kaitlin Seeger, Matthew Schwier, Maureen Longcor,
 Michael Siekert
 20—Brian Lusk, Dorothy Schmaltz, Patrick Zalewski
 21—Brian Baker, Elgin Brown, Brooklyn Haverly-Ghelfi
 22—Michelle Lusk, Luke Noel
 23—Doris Riniker
 25—Dixie Fladhammer, Aubrynn Kreibich
 26—Ethan Sells
 27—Kevin Arndt, Nancy Olson
 28—Doris Carlson, Edward Lusk, Alexis Shaw
 29—Delores Torgerson
 30—Diane Rogala, William Silbaugh
 31—James Beebe, Diana Meeuwssen

Presbyterian Church of West Salem

**625 West Franklin Street
PO Box 861
West Salem Wisconsin 54669**



Quick Look Ahead:

- *Installation/Ordination of Elders and Deacons—Sunday, January 15th*
- *Pizza (6:00)/Movie Night (6:30) - Friday, January 20th*
- *Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, January 29th*

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.