

THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

October 2017

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Fall Clean-up Day Scheduled for October

The Building and Grounds Committee would appreciate your help on the first Saturday in October (October 7th) starting at 9 AM. We will need a good crew of helpers to assist with chores that will freshen up the church as we head into the fall season. We will have the cleaning supplies and a list of where to start as there are windows to wash, baseboards to dust, cupboards and bathroom walls to scrub. There are also outdoor chores so everyone's talents



can be used. If that morning doesn't work for you please drop by in the PM and know that anyone that has an hour to give would be welcome to join in the effort.

MOVE NIGHT!



Roll out the Red Carpet...Movie Night is Back! We hope you can join us for pizza and a movie on Friday, October 20th. Pizza will be served at 6:00 pm and the movie (TBD) will begin at 6:30 pm. It is always a fun gathering with your church family! Feel free to bring a friend or two as well! See you there!

WOW!!!



There just isn't a word around that is better than that to describe the results of this rummage sale. The first weekend our total profit topped \$10,000 – amazing! It took a core group of people many days and much sweat to accomplish this. Everyone that was able to give us an hour or two or more was also very appreciated. We were very blessed to have been willed the contents of Margaret Chalsma's house. The confirmation students spent part of an evening with us making countless trips up & down the steps

loading items to be transported from Bangor to West Salem. Margaret was a member of the Bangor Presbyterian church, but always felt welcomed and cared for in our church. We owe her a debt of gratitude. We also had many donations from our members and other friends. The rummage sale seems at times to be an overwhelming challenge, but working together as a family we did make it happen. Thanks to all who made and brought delicious meals and treats for our crew. The best miracle was that Diana could once again be at the helm keeping us all on track. The second weekend we were able to make \$4,712.50 for a grand total of \$14,712.50 for the Fall sale. Adding the \$6,269 from the May sale, brings the total income for the church from rummage sales thus far this year to \$20,981.50. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone for your support!

August 2017 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

 Balance August 1st
 \$5,998.69

 Receipts
 21,374.86

 Expenses
 (19,409.43)

Ending Balance—August 31st \$7,964.12



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 Bike Ride change to October 15th
- Approved Stewardship letter
- Approved Trunk-or-treat participation October 31st from 4:00-6:00 PM in Village Park
- Approved Thanksgiving Worship, November 22nd, in West Salem at 6:30 PM; joint Christmas Eve day Worship in West Salem at 10:15 AM; Christmas Eve Worship in West Salem at 5:00 PM





Hats off to:

- our September nursery helpers: Byrnes family, Willis Jones & Keahna Littlejohn
- our September liturgists: Nick Miller, Avis Evenson, Alanna Wuensch & Nancy Olson
- Our September acolytes: Ethan & Evan Crusan, Jolie Meyers, Ava Schuster,
 Dane Bohnsack, Jaycob Brown, Gavin Loging & Xander Wuensch
- our September sound room: Tiffani LaJeunesse, Grant Bohnsack & Kelly Crusan



THANK YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU to the congregation of this church. Our committee had asked that the special Pentecost offering of 40% would go to help needy students in the West Salem Elementary School with supplies, and in a free will donation where we had placed envelopes in the back of the church. We also sold coupon books to aid in the fundraising. Well, we were completely floored to learn that the Pentecost offering raised \$116 and the free will/coupon donations raised \$978, for a grand total of \$1,094. Your generosity will not go unnoticed. The school is already in need of supplies to help students, and this will greatly help our community's children and families. Again, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SAVE THE DATE!



Saturday, December 2nd we will be having our annual Silent Auction. We are trying something different this year—a Potato Bar! We will have many good potato toppings for your deliciously baked potato. We will be entertained by Greg Meeuwsen's band. There will also be a variety of special items on which you may bid on. Hope to see you there!



A NOTE FROM PASTOR STEPHANIE:

On Saturday, October 7th, I will officiate at my last scheduled Wedding for 2017. This wedding happens to be for a young man I baptized while a Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Viroqua. His fiancé is a young woman whose family I have known for many years, so I am excited to be a part of their wedding day.



Every time I prepare for a Wedding, I spend time wondering if there is a secret to a happy marriage – and being single I struggle with what that might or could be. I have yet to discover if there is a secret to a happy marriage, but over the past 31 years I have discovered that there is indeed a Biblical Blueprint (if you will) for building a joyful union. It seems to me what makes for a fulfilling relationship is:

a love that is genuine; open communication between partners; considerate generosity; intentional Sabbath-keeping; thankful hearts and minds.

The Apostle Paul counsels us to let our love be affectionate, honorable, passionate, and committed—committed to one another and committed to God. Paul further encourages us to listen well, be tolerant of each other's differences, and speak with tenderness of thought and voice. It is Paul's prayer that we will build bonds of —mutual affection, showing respect and honor to our partners and to all those with whom we share our lives.

The late pastor and Biblical scholar Donald Barnhouse pointed to Jesus Christ as the model for such affection and concluded that love is a multi-faceted gift and discipline, he said, "Love that goes upward is worship; love that goes outward is affection; love that stoops is grace."

When each of us gives fully of ourselves to others, loving with affection, tenderness, and grace, we lay a foundation for a joyful union—a foundation that lends itself to building a vibrant home in which God is honored, Christ is served, and the Spirit is empowered. This is no less true of our—church home than it is of our—personal homes.

What is it "they" say? The family that prays together stays together? It may sound hokey, but those of us who are intentional about developing partnerships of faith tend to have longer, more fulfilling, relationships than those of us who put ourselves and our own interests first and foremost in our lives. Christians who welcome this good news will likely also welcome the words of author Ken Carter when he speaks about the discipline of generous love in his book The Gifted Pastor:

"If I open my hands to give, I discover that I am also receiving. If I close my hands to possess, I realize that I have nothing."

May we all strive to open our hands in giving, for to do so is to embody the love of Christ in a meaningful way. I have no idea if there is a secret to a happy, successful union, but there is a Biblical Blueprint for a lifetime of joy no matter what life brings us! May God be with you in your relationships and Blessings to Taylor and Tyler as they "tie the knot" in October!

Pastor Stephanie

PW Fall Festival

The Fall Festival is fast approaching. Do any of our "crafty" members or friends have any items which would be suitable for use as raffle prizes? If you can donate anything, please call Sue Strauss at 786-0758 or let Holly in the Church office know. Thanks a lot for your help!

Please join us for Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:30 PM the Community Dinner will be before Worship at 5:00 PM



PW Meeting

Thirteen women were present at the September 7th evening dessert meeting. Julie Baker and Sharon Holven served a wonderful (calorie-free?) chocolate dessert with home-made ice cream. The Thank Offering was collected with 60% to go to hospitals and community health programs and 40% to creative ideas for mission.



Bible study will be held October 4th, 11th and 18th. The study is titled "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews".

The Coulee News newspaper had an interview with Helen Harold, Peace & Justice representative for Church Women United, on human trafficking. Helen discussed ways to make people aware of the issue.

A summary of her struggle as a cancer survivor was given by Diana Engel. Nelda Manter presented her with a gift certificate from a food service called "The Blue Apron". Ingredients for six meals will be delivered to Diana's home for her to prepare since she is again able to enjoy preparing and eating food.

Twenty purses were filled with personal care items to be given to the Salvation Army.

We enjoyed participating in a fun 'Personality Snack' test. The snacks were good but results of the test remain inconclusive.

ENJOY THE OUT-OF-DOORS IN OCTOBER!

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE

A Family bike ride is being planned for October 15th, meeting at the church at 1:30 PM. We will either bike the Root River Trail or the Sparta Bike Trail. Both trails are well groomed and the Root River Trail is paved. Both routes are fairly flat and appropriate for all levels of riders. Plan for about a two hour ride with a playground stop at the halfway point. Please stay tuned for more details. See anyone on the Christian Education committee with questions.

PUMPKIN DECORATING

The Membership and Evangelism committee asks all children to come and "carve" pumpkins after church on Sunday, October 29th. We will be drawing, painting, etc. on the pumpkins---no knives or carving. We look forward to this fun time with you!

2017 Trunk-Or-Treat—West Salem Village Park & Downtown

Tuesday, October 31st 4 – 6pm

Our church, once again, will be participating in this event for families and children. We will have a booth in the Village Park, along with other groups and businesses handing out treat bags to children age 12 and under. This a safe and fun trick-or-treat experience, and also provides some publicity for our church.

~ Sponsored by the Membership and Evangelism committee

MUSIC ANYONE?

Are you interested in being part of a Contemporary/Praise Group? We need singers and instrumentalists! Please contact Greg Meeuwsen or Pastor Stephanie.

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Kevin Aleckson FELLOWSHIP (Serve/Clean-up): Stewardship & Mission Committee

LITURGIST & GREETER NURSERY CARE

1—Jane Foner 1—Brigitta Haugen
8—Tracey Rogers 8—Genevieve Sprain
15—Noah Garcia 15—Anna Bohnsack
22—Howard Garves 22—Connor Brown

SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

1—Grant Bohnsack

29—Shayna Arndt

8—Tiffani LaJeunesse

15—Kelly Crusan

22—Tiffani LaJeunesse

29—Kelly Crusan



29-Luke Noel



GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

1—Ann & Mariah Terry 8—Kevin & Rose Lee 15—Barb Reynolds 22—Joyce Garves

29—Kevin Arndt



Congratulations to

Kyle & Jenny Rogers on the baptism of Maddox George

on Sunday, September 24th!

OCTOBER CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

6th—5:30 Class in Bangor

11th—5:00 Class in West Salem

18th—5:00 Class in West Salem

25th—5:00 Community Dinner

28th—9:00-Noon Class in West Salem

- 1—Christopher Hughey
- 3—Larry Haverly
- 4—Natalie Haverly, Mark Wolf
- 5—Diana Engel, Margie Denson
- 6—David Noel
- 7—Patrick Brummond, Trisha Jones
- 8-Helen Harold, Kristjan Sells
- 10—Clark Burdick, Gwyn Calvetti, Randall Griffin
- 11-Vickie Bain, Pete Hass, Jerry Meyer
- 15—Genevieve Haugen
- 16-Nick Bonsall
- 17—Susan Evans, Terry Loging, Sharon Shaw, Sheryl Lee

18—David Silbaugh

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- 19—Lynda Bahr, Easton Gerdes
- 20—Heidi Horton, Evelyn Benzing
- 21—Rachel Winther
- 22—Kimberly Seeger, Ava Schuster
- 24—Addison Bonsall
- 25—Scott Griffin, Brittany Bjorkman
- 27—Paytyn Bonsall
- 28-Colin Hass, Gideon Wolbrink
- 30—Jaycob Brown
- 31—Joyce Garves, Sue Winterfield

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Quick Look Ahead:



- October 3rd-Bingo at Mulder's
- October 4th, 11th & 18th–PW Bible Study
- October 7th—Church Clean-up Day
- October 20th—Movie Night is Back!
- November 11th—PW Fall Festival
- November 14th—Red Cross Blood Drive

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.