



THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

December 2017

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Holiday Dinner & Silent Auction Fund Raiser!#

Saturday, December 2nd 5:00pm – 6:30pm

- Provide your donations for the silent auction:

* a service, new items, gift baskets, crafts & hand-made items,...be creative

* candy and snacks (not cookies) for the treat sale

- Music provided by the Driftless River Band!

- Tickets \$7 (Kids 3-11 \$4, Children age 2 and under are free)



Tickets: On sale at the church office and Sunday mornings in the entryway.

Menu: Baked potato bar with all the fixin's & desserts.

*Join us for a fun evening of food, fellowship,
music and silent auction deals!*

Sponsored by Music & Worship and Membership & Evangelism committees



Sunday School Christmas Pageant 2017

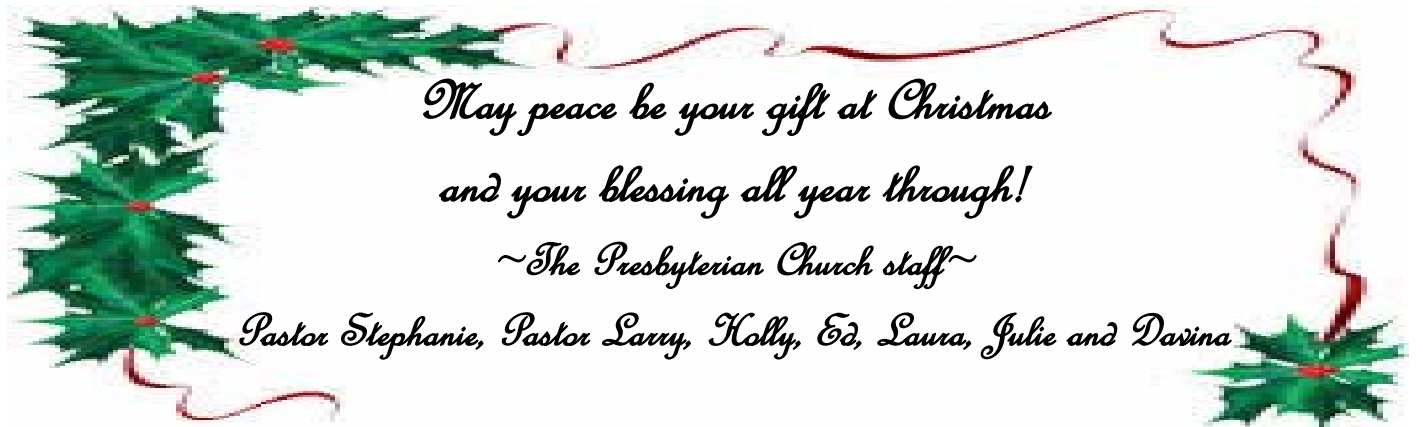
Please join us during worship on December 17th as our youth present our 2017 Christmas Pageant "Rehearsal for Christmas Eve." This year we will be presenting our pageant at both Bangor and West Salem! Students will carpool to Bangor and present our pageant at their worship service at 9:00am and again in West Salem at 10:15am. Once again we will remember the events of Jesus' birth in a fun and family friendly way!

~ Merry Christmas from the Christian Education Committee!

*May peace be your gift at Christmas
and your blessing all year through!*

~The Presbyterian Church staff~

Pastor Stephanie, Pastor Larry, Kolly, Ed, Laura, Julie and Davina



October 2017 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance October 1st	\$19,370.98
Receipts	22,969.13
Expenses	(22,712.23)
Ending Balance—October 31st	\$19,627.88



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.

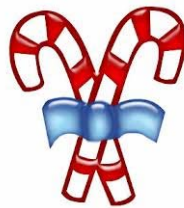
Thank you!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION:

- Approved Annual Meeting—January 28, 2018
- Approved Elder/Deacon Ordination/Installation—January 7, 2018
- “Thank You” to Kristy Mandel
- Approved Budget for 2018
- Approval of Building Use form

Hats off to:

- our November nursery helpers: Chase Jones, Aly Cvikota, Alyssa Byrnes & Tanner Jones
- our November liturgists: Jackie Siekert, Jane Foner, Laura Burdick & Jenni Logging
- our November acolytes: Dane Bohnsack, Gavin Logging, Lucy & Evelyn Raymer, Ava Schuster, Kendall Stephenson, and Gideon & Josiah Wolbrink
- our November sound room: Tiffani LaJeunesse, Grant Bohnsack & Genevieve Haugen



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 Logging and Helen Harold

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

For unto Us a Child Is Born

#isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” This is one of those passages that people who have been around the church for years will say they know, but many also confess they don’t know exactly where to find it.

There is a great difference between knowledge and experience. Knowledge is what Pastor Stephanie and I learned in Seminary. Much of that knowledge was very useful for the ministry some of it not so necessary. Experience, on the other hand, could not be taught in the classroom. Experience is something one must live through. I have never been in a tornado nor a hurricane situation, but I have gone to help clean up after a tornado destroyed a neighboring town and after Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Those experiences of clean-up are very different from seeing pictures on the television. Pictures on the television and in magazines may show us what the recent hurricanes have done to Puerto Rico but most of us can’t say we know what those particular people have been through and are still going through. Only experience can offer that to a person.

So, what about Isaiah 9, knowledge may offer us a moment of joy because God has looked with favor upon us by sending this son. Knowledge gives us a little understanding of how great this son will be, for the government will rest on his shoulders. And knowledge offers us a list of names, which also communicates to us some of the aspects of who this child will become. Some people get excited with this type of knowledge, most place it in the back of their minds and may consider that knowledge from time to time.

My wish for us all is this: may the birth of Christ be more than knowledge for us this year. May this birth we celebrate be an experience in all its blessedness. May it be to us as joyful an experience as when our first child was born. May we be filled with wonder as little children when they see a stack of presents with their names on them. May this birth fill us with awe such as when we see a sunrise or sunset that takes our breath away. May we celebrate in such a fashion as to give thanks to God for giving us this ultimate gift, unto us a child is born.

As we move into this busy time of the year, as we seem to rush from one thing to the next never taking enough time to really appreciate the people around us, or the God who has offered us a Savior in Jesus Christ, may these few words “unto us a child is born” cause us to experience God and God’s blessings in the weeks to come.

On behalf of the Olson’s and Steiner’s, we wish you all a blessed and Christ filled Christmas.



#Pastor Larry

Blue Christmas Worship

Once again, at 6:00 PM on December 20th we offer a special service for those who find this time of the year not all bright and cheery. “Blue Christmas or Longest Night” service is geared to those who wish to worship yet find themselves feeling a little blue. The aim is 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. We certainly understand this service is not for everyone but if you are one who finds the nights too long or are on the blues side of living, join us December 20th at 6:00 PM as we seek to worship God in the middle of our time of darkness or time of being blue.

PW Fall Festival

We had a very successful Fall Festival, thanks to all who donated the cookies, candy, craft items, squash, raffle items, food for the breakfast and the advertising. The only expense was the \$25 fee for the raffle. As a result, our profit is a total of \$2,553.50:

Cookies/Donations - \$827.75; Crafts/Squash—\$700.25; Raffle—\$651.00;

Breakfast—\$399.50



Thank you to all, especially the many workers, who helped make this fundraising event such a success.

Winners of the raffle items were: Cash—Marc TeRoude; Pillowcases—Tom Ladwig; Wooden Duck—Shari D'Acquisto; Le Coulee Cheese Castle Certificate—Sandy Schmidt; Cookie Jar Package—Becky Byrnes; Glass Plate—Kris Seeger; Champagne Glasses—Jerry Quackenbush; Crystal Sun Catcher—Augusta Ames; Braided Rug—Avis Evenson; Family Tree Floral Gift Certificate—Bob Davis

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HANGING OF THE GREENS—Please plan to join in the fun immediately after church on November 26th to decorate the church for Christmas! The more participation we have, the more quickly it goes. We need young, capable, steady legs & backs to help carry up the decorations from the basement. We love to see all ages working together!

We need your help! Donations of items are needed for the Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction.

The committee is open to all possible donations. Are you a crafter? We will happily accept your crafty creations! Are you a baker or candy maker? YUM!! We would love it if you would donate some yummy goodies!! Are you someone who can cook a meal, but not sure if that is something we would want? It is! You can donate a meal for a certain number of people (you choose how many) and we will auction it off. We will gladly accept any items or services that you would like to donate. There is a table in the Fellowship Hall for you to drop off your items on. Items need to be to the church by Friday, December 1st. Thank you for your help and contributions!

LITURGISTS! - It is the time of the year to get the liturgist schedule ready for 2018. If you are interested in serving the church in this meaningful way, please let us know. We certainly welcome new people to become involved in this aspect of the service. If you no longer feel this is right for you, please let us know and we will remove you from the schedule. Please find a Worship & Music committee member and we will get your information.

Reports from Committees for the Annual Report are due in the office by Sunday, December 17th.
 The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29, 2018.

December Special Services
Blue Christmas—
December 20th at 6:00 PM
Youth Christmas Pageant—
During Worship December 17th
Joint Christmas Eve Morning Worship:
A Service of Lessons at 10:15 AM in West Salem
Christmas Eve Worship Services:
5:00 PM— at both West Salem and Bangor



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy offering, one of the four special offerings that our church participates in, will be from December 3rd through December 24th. Envelopes for your donation will be found in the pocket in the back of the congregations chairs beginning the first of December. This offering provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church. Please give generously during this Christmas season. Thank you!

Changes to Local Programs

This year our church will no longer be giving out Salvation Army Vouchers to needy individuals/families. In lieu of this, (tentatively) four local churches will give to an existing local fund, the Community Assistance Program, this is a separate fund from our Pastor's Emergency Fund. This program will be used as a primary fund to provide to individuals seeking help.

In addition, the Angel Tree program that we have been previously involved with for many years has been discontinued for the La Crosse County jail inmates.

In light of these two important programs we are no longer participating in, we encourage you to contribute to the Community Assistance Program. This donation can be made through our church by :

1. Writing a check made out to "Presbyterian Church" with "Community Assistance" on the memo line.
2. Cash in an envelope indicating "Community Assistance Program" on the envelope.

This donation can be placed in the weekly offering plate or mailed to the church.

We hope that your gift during this holiday season will brighten someone's holiday and provide hope in their time of need.

~ Stewardship & Mission Committee



MUSIC ANYONE?

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

Donations Needed! Our Savior's Lutheran Church quilter's are looking for fitted and flat sheets. The sheets are used for the quilts they make and send overseas. If you have sheets you can donate, please drop them off at OSLC, or if you have questions please contact Kris Seeger. *Thank you!*

Holiday Dinner, Silent Auction & Craft Sale

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
625 West Franklin St., West Salem, WI

Dinner – 5:00 to 6:30 pm

Silent Auction – 5:00 to 6:15 pm

Crafts & Goodies for sale throughout the
evening

The whole community is invited to this fun holiday event! Come join us for dinner, silent auction, and a craft & goodies sale. **Live music provided by the Driftless River Band.** There is even a space to dance!!

Dinner

- \$7.00 for Adults
- \$4.00 for children ages 3-11
- Free for children 2 years & under

Menu

Baked Potato Bar with all of the fixings including, but not limited to sour cream, chili, cheese, and much, much more, dessert, and a beverage.

For more information & to purchase tickets contact:
Presbyterian Church of West Salem 608-786-0910

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

On November 12th we welcomed 7 new members. Please welcome them when you see them at church:

Mike, Jean, Ann,
Dustin & Danielle and Walt & Joan



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Dave Bohnsack

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

LITURGIST & GREETER

3—Kevin Arndt
10—Avis Evenson
17—Charlie Evans
24—Nick Miller
31—Helen Harold

NURSERY CARE

3—Julia Byrnes
10—Genevieve Haugen
17—Willis Jones
24—Keahna Littlejohn
31—Brigitta Haugen

GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

3—Shayna Arndt
10—Lill Twining
17—Susan Evans
24—Merlin Jones family
31—Sue Strauss



SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

3—Grant Bohnsack
10—Tiffani LaJeunesse
17—Genevieve Haugen
24—Genevieve Haugen (10:15 AM)
Kelly Crusan (5:00 PM)
31—Kelly Crusan

ACOLYTES

3—Jaycob Brown & Evan Noel
10—Ethan & Evan Crusan
17—Dane Bohnsack & Xander Wuensch
24—Lucy & Evelyn Raymer
31—Gavin Logging & Jaycob Brown



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

...the family of Barb Reynolds on the death of her daughter-in-law, Regina L. (Gibbons) Reynolds.

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.

DECEMBER CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

6th—5:30 Class in Bangor
13th—5:00 Class in West Salem
20th—5:00 Class in West Salem



Birthdays

1—Shellee Dunn
2—Tomi Carlson, Barb Reynolds
3—Jarrod Bonsall
5—Vickie Holt
6—David Daoust, Jr.
8—Josiah Wolbrink
10—Kennedy Wolf
11—Kristine Buehler

14—Deacon Meyers, Ryan Pfaff
15—Grace Griffin
17—Kevin Lee
18—Charlene Haverly
19—Dana Hass
27—Shayna Arndt, Alexander Carlson,
Melissa Wolf, Henry Nickerson, William Heeter
28—Rachel Auna, Ellanore Zellmer



Presbyterian Church of West Salem

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

Quick Look Ahead:



- *November 26th—Hanging of the Greens*
- *Dinner/Entertainment/Silent Auction December 2nd at 5:00 PM*
- *PW Finger Food Buffet—Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 PM*
- *Sunday School Christmas Pageant—Sunday, December 17th*
- *Blue Christmas—Wednesday, December 20th*
- *Christmas Eve Worship Services—5:00 PM in West Salem & Bangor*

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.