



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
625 W. Franklin St., P. O. Box 861
West Salem, WI 54669
Telephone (608) 786-0910 Fax (608) 786-4910
Email: preschurchws@gmail.com
www.presbyterianchurchwestsalem.com

Pastor Larry Olson &
Pastor Stephanie Steiner

February 2018

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Making Giving to Church Easier

It is the aim of the Finance Committee and the Session to make donating to our church as easy and as convenient as possible. Everyone is now using credit cards and debit cards more frequently as well as having utility bills and other routine bills automatically deducted from a bank account. It was felt that this should be the case when giving to our church as well.



The church has contracted with Vanco to make this possible. You are now able to have money transferred from a bank account, from a credit card or from a debit card and have it sent to the church on a regular basis. The church will pay \$0.45 for each transaction from a savings or checking account. It will pay 2.75% of the amount plus \$0.45 when the money is transferred from a credit card or debit card. To use the service, you will need to get on the church website at

www.presbyterianchurchwestsalem.com. On the top bar click on "Giving", then you will need to "Sign-up". After clicking on "Signing-up" you will need to fill in the requested information. You will then be able to adjust these items from your computer at any time.

~ The Finance Committee

ICE FISHING DAY



On February 18th, everyone is invited to come out ice fishing on Lake Onalaska from 12:30-5:00 PM. We will grill hot dogs and drink hot chocolate while we try to catch some fish. If you've never been ice fishing before, this is a great chance to give it a try. Contact Brian Baker if you are interested in attending at (608)797-6575.

Family Game Day



Join in in this fun event of Games at Church for adults and children!

February 25th at 3pm - 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Hot dogs and drinks provided. Bring a snack to share, and bring your favorite game.



There will be a variety of inside games for children and adults.



December 2017 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance December 1st	\$14,348.77
Receipts	32,393.82
Expenses	(18,342.53)

Ending Balance—December 31st \$28,400.06



PER CAPITA 2018

For 2018 the per capita is \$31.00. 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 calendar for 2018
- Congregational Ice Fishing afternoon, February 11th at 12:30 at Brian Baker’s
- Lenten Schedule: Soup Supper 5:00-6:00; Bible Trivia 6:00-6:15; Lent Worship 6:15-7:00; Worship Time includes Ash Wednesday in Bangor, Maundy Thursday in West Salem, no meals those 2 nights; Easter Service, 7:30 AM in Bangor and 10:15 AM in West Salem, breakfast at both
- Next meeting at 6:30 on February 19th—Confirmation class interviewed



Hats off to:

- our January nursery helpers: Julia Byrnes, Anna Bohnsack, Connor Brown & Luke Noel
- our January liturgists: Jane Foner, Helen Harold, Howard Garves & Kathy Schedin
- our January acolytes: Jolie Meyers, Kendall Stephenson, Gideon & Josiah Wolbrink, Ava Schuster, Ethan & Evan Crusan
- our January sound room: Tiffani LaJeunesse, Grant Bohnsack & Genevieve Haugen



Elders

Class of 2018

Nick Miller
Kelly Crusan
Jane Foner
Barb Hopkins

Class of 2019

Shawn McAlister
Mike Siekert
Kristjan Sells
Kevin Aleckson

Class of 2020

Valerie Olson
Carolyn Lindeman
Charles Engel
Kathy Schedin

Deacons

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

Class of 2019 Kris Seeger, Jean Pearson, Diana Swim, Chris Winther and Helen Harold

Continuing Education

#Proverbs 1:7 states: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

As I write this note to you all, I will be heading off for some continuing education shortly. What will I learn over three days at a Lutheran Seminary I will not know until I have completed the course. Will the speakers be encouraging, insightful, offering me tools to help my ministry in West Salem? I will only be able to answer those questions and others when I return.

I can tell you that I go with expectations. I expect to learn something. (That might be to hear again what I already know but have not been employing in my life.) I go with the expectation that those women and men who put this convocation together are Christians who seek for pastors to become better pastors so they called together this group of leaders to offer insight and encouragement to pastors. And I go with the hope of being reenergized in ministry.

Who among us has learned everything there is to learn? Who among us has perfected the Christian lifestyle? I would hope your answer is none of us. That is the reason behind continuing education. That is the reason behind worship every Sunday morning. As good as we might be, as learned as we think we are, there is more to learn, there are steps we can make that will assist us in our walk with our Savior Jesus Christ.

Do you learn something new every Sunday? Probably not, but that doesn't mean Sunday worship is unnecessary. Maybe you have the lesson of that particular Sunday well in mind, it just could be the person sitting next to you needed that lesson. If there is nothing new in the lesson, could it be that you haven't been living what you already know? And that lesson calls to your heart to take a step towards Christ?

A pastor's continuing education is much like Sunday worship in that I hope I will learn something new, but if not, I hope that I will be encouraged to walk more closely to my Lord and Savior. And even if that is not accomplished I would hope hearing of the joys and struggles of other pastors might encourage me to be the best pastor I can be.

So, continuing education is not only about pastors, is about all of us and our continual need to learn more, to see more, to live more like Christ. There is no age limit on continuing our education. My hope for all of us is that we would not become complacent in our walk with Christ but would continue our education.

By the way, Lent begins on February 14th with Ash Wednesday, these Lenten experiences could be a great time to further your education.

#

Pastor Larry

The Worship & Music Committee would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this Advent season so special.



The hanging of the greens, that make the sanctuary look magical, and then taking them down and packing them away for next year is a labor of love!

The talented and generous musicians that are part of this family are very special and much appreciated. As always, the Christmas pageant presented by the children and so ably produced by the Christian Ed leaders, warms all of our hearts. The words and love

shared with us by our pastors is very uplifting. We are so Blessed to be part of this loving, giving, supportive family of God.



PW Meets February 1st

PW's first meeting of the year will be a pot luck breakfast at 9 AM on Thursday, February 1st in the large Sunday School room. Our activity will be tying fleece quilts for New Horizons. The Birthday offering will be taken. Rita Thompson and Diana Engel are hostesses. Please join us as we do this hands on mission project.



Birthday Offering

The Birthday offering was begun in 1922 and since then grants have been given to help women and children in our country and all over the world. Recipients for 2018 will be chosen in May after the Birthday offering money has been received. Envelopes will be found on the table in the gathering area and in the chair pockets. Please give generously.

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LENT 2018: This is Love

Our Lenten Journey this year invites us to look to the cross of Jesus to prepare our hearts and lives for Easter. We will gather around a simple meal of soup and bread, enjoy Trivia, and then gather together for Worship. Each week you will receive a puzzle piece magnet—what will the puzzle pieces make? Join us as we focus on the love of Jesus for us!

February 14th—Ash Wednesday—Bangor Worship at 6:15 (Repentance)

February 21st—5:00 to 6:00 Soup Supper in West Salem; Trivia at 6:00; Worship at 6:15 (Humility)

February 28th—5:00 to 6:00 West Salem Community Dinner; Trivia at 6:00; Worship at 6:15 (Joy)

March 7th—5:00-6:00 Bangor Meal; Trivia at 6:00; Worship in Bangor at 6:15 (Sacrifice)

March 14th —5:00 to 6:00 Soup Suppers in West Salem; Trivia at 6:00; Worship at 6:15 (Witness)

March 21st —5:00 to 6:00 Soup Suppers in West Salem; Trivia at 6:00; Worship at 6:15 (Service)

March 28th—Maundy Thursday Worship service will be at 6:15 in West Salem (Communion)

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thanks to our generous community the Community Care and Share Food Pantry is in good shape. Schools, churches, organizations, businesses, banks and countless others have donated money so we are able to purchase needed items. Not only food, but personal products have been given so we are able to offer those needed items, also.



FROZEN APPLE PIES FOR SALE

- **\$8.00 EACH!** Get them before they are gone! See Diana Engel for pies.

FEBRUARY

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Monday the 5th—Bangor 8th Graders meet with Session at 6:30 PM

7th—5:00 Class in Bangor

14th—Attend Ash Wednesday Worship

Monday the 19th—West Salem 8th Graders meet with Session at 7:00 PM

21st—Attend Lenten Worship

28th—5:00 Community Dinner & Attend Lenten Worship

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS**HEAD USHER:** Nick Miller**FELLOWSHIP (Serve/Clean-up):** Worship & Music Committee**LITURGIST & GREETER**

4—Tracey Rogers
 11—Jackie Siekert
 18—Nick Miller
 25—Shayna Arndt

NURSERY CARE

4—Julie Byrnes
 11—Genevieve Haugen
 18—Willis Jones
 25—Keahna Littlejohn

GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

4—Walt & Joan Willis
 11—Mike Siekert
 18—Amity & Sean Hill
 25—Kevin Arndt

SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

4—Grant Bohnsack
 11—Genevieve Haugen
 18—Genevieve Haugen
 25—Kelly Crusan

ACOLYTES

4—Dane Bohnsack & Ava Schuster
 11—Gideon & Josiah Wolbrink
 18—Lucy & Evelyn Raymer
 25—Ethan Crusan & Jaycob Brown



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

BREAD NEEDED!

We are not asking for money! If you have a favorite bread that you would like to share with others at the soup suppers, please consider donating some for one or more of the suppers. Realistically, even if you don't have a favorite, a donation of bread would be greatly appreciated! THANKS!

**The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:**

...Carol Hass and family on the death of her mom, Violet Peterson, December 24th.

...the family of Sally Baumgart, on her death, January 2nd.

...Jodeen Kobishop on the death of her mom, Eleanor Paremski, January 2nd.

...Tomi Carlson and family on the death of Earl on January 7th.

...Dr. Curtis Baltz and family on the death of his grandson, Skylar, on January 7th.

**Birthdays**

2—Ted Yankee

3—Mason Gress

5—David Motes, Jacob Cvikota, Kathy Schedin

6—John Holt

8—James Cullmann, Kelly Lusk, Genevieve Sprain

9—John Schmaltz, Diane Adams

10—Valerie Olson, Erick Sells, Amy Kalember

12—Jeanette Kroll, Ray Ebert

13—Jocelyn Heller

14—Christine (Matthews) Siroin

15—Broderick Rogala, Anne Zalewski, Andrew Raymer

16—Faith Holt, Faith Zoerb

19—Pamela Eggen, David Miller, Michelle Servais

20—Laura Burdick, Teresa Schnitzler, Janna Seeger, Kris Schwier

21—LaVerne Torgerson

23—Kathy Brummond, Robert Shaw, Aric Tourville

25—Mary Winther, Tiffani LaJeunesse

26—JoDeen Kobishop

27—Nicole Griffin

29—Nathan Wilczynski

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Quick Look Ahead:



- *PW Breakfast Meeting—February 1st*
- *Red Cross Blood Drive—February 5th*
- *Ash Wednesday Worship in Bangor—February 14th*
- *Ice Fishing Day—February 18th*
- *Lenten Dinners and Worship in West Salem—February 21st & 28th*
- *Congregational Game Day—February 25th*

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.