



THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

March 2018

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LENT 2018: This is Love

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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!



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 29th—Maundy Thursday Worship service will be at 6:15 in West Salem (Communion)

Easter Worship

7:30 AM Bangor Worship

Breakfast served after Worship in Bangor

9:00 AM Breakfast in West Salem

Children's Easter Egg Hunt in West Salem at 9:45

10:15 AM West Salem Worship



Children's Easter Egg Hunt



There will be an Easter egg hunt in West Salem starting at 9:50 Easter morning. You may bring your own baskets to collect eggs or we will have some decorated bags available to use. We will be hiding plastic Easter eggs with surprises. The littlest children will be allowed to hunt first! Bring the kids and enjoy the fun! It is almost as much fun to watch as it is to hunt. For ages 0—6th grade.

Reminder from Stewardship and Mission

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Now through Easter Sunday please consider making contributions to this special offering. Envelopes are in the chair backs.

January 2018 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance January 1st	\$28,400.06
Receipts	22,462.68
Expenses	(23,342.00)
Ending Balance—January 31st	\$27,520.74



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:

- Unanimously voted to receive Alyssa Byrnes, Anna Bohnsack, Connor Brown, Chase Jones and Genevieve Haugen as Adult members of the church
- Approved Spring and Fall Rummage Sale dates
- Approved Spring Clean-Up Day for June 23
- Approved participating in WS Business Expo on March 18

Hats off to:

- our February nursery helpers: Julia Byrnes, Genevieve Haugen, Willis Jones & Keahna Littlejohn
- our February liturgists: Tracey Rogers, Jackie Siekert, Nick Miller & Shayna Arndt
- our February acolytes: Dane Bohnsack, Ava Schuster, Gideon & Josiah Wolbrink, Lucy & Evelyn Raymer, Ethan Crusan and Jaycob Brown
- our February sound room: Kelly Crusan, Grant Bohnsack, Tiffani LaJeunesse & 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

A NOTE FROM PASTOR STEPHANIE:

This is the time of year that I look at the calendar and become further aware of how old I am. NO- it's not my birthday, but it is the Anniversary of my Ordination. For Thirty-two years I have had the privilege of serving God as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and more than half of those years I have been here at the Presbyterian Church of West Salem.

It seems so cliché to say I am thankful to serve in your midst, but it's the truth. Before I signed a contract to be your Interim Pastor, I was seriously considering a major change of vocation. And then I supply preached here and you applauded my children's sermon (which never had happened before), laughed at the corny jokes in my sermon, hugged me at the close of Worship, and oh yes, best of all, served all kinds of chocolate during fellowship time.

Little by little you loved me back to life and to making a commitment to continue to serve God as a Pastor. The change in me was most evident to my 8 year old daughter at the time. One night at supper she said to me, "Momma, you sure are happy every single day - I wonder why?" (Which to my chagrin implies I hadn't been). I told her I thought it was because I was really enjoying my new job to which she immediately asked, "Am I ever gonna meet those church people?" When she finally did meet you, she didn't want to miss a single Sunday as she, too, was welcomed with open arms.

As I reflect on my time here, there really are few words to express what an awesome journey this has been. What I have found within this congregation are people who are incredible servants of God. People who are willing to step up when I have hair-brained ideas like doing a Free Community Dinner; people who say YES to being an Elder and/or Deacon or a lifelong member of a Committee. People who step up to keep the Community Garden a reality; women who commit themselves to PW ministry and Men who entertain the women of the congregation and make us feel so loved; people who are so dedicated to the choir that we are all blessed by their presence in Worship; people who are willing to keep this incredible facility clean and hospitable; people who volunteer to do ministry on so many different levels, people who are willing to teach our youth and people who love God and one another. When you know there is a need, you are quick to respond and oh the joy and laughter that emanates from all of you makes our mission to spread the Gospel a sheer delight!

This congregation has opened its doors to AA and Al-Anon, WIC, Bloodmobile, Scouts, etc. as a way of making sure this building is a mission field for ministry. And you have all carried this ministry outside these walls as you have participated in the June Dairy Days parade, mission trips, youth and family get-togethers, habitat for humanity, and talking about your church family at work, school, home, etc.

Are we perfect? Absolutely not - after all that's why Jesus died to save us! We have our ups and downs as a church family just as any relationships we have in our life. We agree with some decisions and question others. Sometimes we stand firm, sometimes we stumble, sometimes we fall, but in my time of serving this congregation I have been humbled by your strong commitment to your faith, grateful for the many ways you care for me, thankful that you love me enough to tease me, and overwhelmed by the many ways you show hospitality to all who enter the doors to join us. I do several funerals for unchurched people and never once has the funeral committee turned a family away- quite the opposite- they count it a privilege to serve the families, treat them with grace and dignity and even fix favorite foods for the families.

Reading through this note, it sounds like I am resigning or retiring - sorry- not yet. But that day will come when I will no longer serve you in this capacity and when it does I will always cherish the memories of my time here with a heart full to overflowing with love and joy. After all, you all saved me for the second time in my life- the first one who did that was my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Hugs and Prayers, *Pastor Stephanie*



Attention 2018 graduating seniors!

The Presbyterian Church of West Salem will again be awarding scholarships this year. If you are a member of our church and graduating in 2018, you are encouraged to apply for a scholarship. Scholarship forms are available at church or can be mailed to you upon request. Last year we awarded three scholarships of \$250 each to three very deserving students. Scholarship forms are due in early May and recipients will be announced on Graduate Recognition Sunday."

FROZEN APPLE PIES FOR SALE - \$8.00 EACH!

Get them before they are gone! See Diana Engel for



PW February 1, 2018 Meeting

Twelve women were present for the February 1st PW potluck brunch meeting hosted by Rita Thompson and Diana Engel. A table grace was sung and the PW Purpose recited.

The Birthday Offering was collected and will be divided between a low income housing residence in Oregon, a transitional housing site for women in Minneapolis/St Paul, and to Honduras for a retreat center.

Three funeral meals were prepared and served in January 2018.

Helen handed out the PW calendar for 2018 with the meetings, projects and events. March 24th will be Spring Gathering for PW John Knox Presbytery to be held at our church. Our group will be serving lunch for approximately 35 women for a \$6.00 charge.

Bible studies will be March 7, 14 and 21 continuing the study of Hebrews.

Salad Luncheon will be Wednesday, April 4. Carol Griffin and Lois Sanwick are new additions to the Luncheon Committee.

The June meeting will be a potluck picnic at Julie Baker's home. The date has been changed to June 14th, one week later than the usual day to accommodate Julie's work schedule.

The September 6th meeting will be about The St. Clare Mission, one of the missions we have donated to for many years.

A recipe for friendship was read and two fleece blankets were tied for New Horizon's.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer will be at English Lutheran, 1509 King St on Friday, March 2nd beginning at 9:30 AM with brunch. Please call Kathy at 787-0456 with reservations for the brunch which is \$5.00. The program is written by the women of Suriname, a country in Northern South America, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and French Guiana with Brazil to the South. The theme is "All God's Creation Is Very Good". Call Helen, 786-0856, if you would like a ride.

PW Bible Study

Mark your calendars for the PW Bible study which will be Wednesday March 7th, 14th and 21st at 1 PM in the classroom on the east side of the church. We will be studying "The Cloud of Witnesses", a community of Christ in Hebrews. We will also have a time of fellowship and prayer. Please join us.

COMING UP - SALAD LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018



The Presbyterian Women's Salad Luncheon will be held in the church fellowship hall on Wednesday, April 4th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$2 for children ages 6 to 10 and free for children 5 and under. Beverage and dessert included.

Help is needed to supply homemade salads, desserts, and other foods; to set up and decorate tables; to work shifts in the kitchen and dining room, to sell tickets at the door; and to clean up when all are served. Monetary donations are welcome and some will be used to purchase paper products, butter, beverages, etc. The profits go to our church budget and missions.

Sign up sheets for food donations and help will be posted on the table in the entryway on Sundays or on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall during the week.

We would like to encourage you to share this information with friends and relatives on Facebook or other social media if possible. The luncheon is open to everyone and is a major money maker for our church. The committee thanks you in advance!



Summer Camp Scholarships

Summer camp registration has already begun. The Christian Education Committee has limited scholarship money available for campers. The committee is asking for those interested in a camp scholarship to complete an application form and provide a short essay as to why they want to go to camp.

Applications are due in the church office by April 8th. All applications will be reviewed and it will be determined how much can be allotted to each camper based on the number of applicants. Traditionally scholarships of 1/3 to 1/2 of the tuition cost have been awarded. Scholarship money will be paid directly to the camps. Families will be notified of the scholarship amounts awarded by April 22nd. The Committee may ask campers to give a brief overview of their experience to the congregation.

For more information contact the Christian Education Committee, Nick Miller, Kevin Aleckson, Jenni Loging, Becca Bohnsack, Kevin Arndt, Shayna Arndt or Brian Baker.

www.lxabc.org Living Waters Bible Camp Westby, WI – 35 miles, 40 minutes
www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org Sugar Creek Bible Camp Ferryville, WI – 51 miles 1hr
www.villagecreek.net Village Creek Bible Camp Lansing, IA – 50 miles 1 hr
www.campwyoming.net Camp Wyoming Wyoming, IA – 175 miles 3.5 hours
www.abcamp.org Arrowhead Bible Camp New Auburn, WI – 125 miles, 2 hours
www.fortwilderness.com Fort Wilderness McNaughton, WI – 233 miles, 3.5hrs

Presbyterian Church of West Salem—Summer Camp Scholarship Application

Today's Date _____

Student Name _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Camp You Will Be Attending _____

Date You Will Be Attending _____

Cost _____

Please write a short essay about why you want to go to camp:

All applications are due to the church office by April 8, 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. 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 are able to adjust giving at any time.

~ The Finance Committee



Would you like to help?

Wrapped candy is needed to fill the Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. All donations will be gratefully accepted. Please bring your candy by Palm Sunday, March 25th. The Christian Education and the Worship & Music committees are doing this together so you may give your much appreciated donations to Nick Miller, Kevin Aleckson, Barb Hopkins, or Jane Foner. Thanks for helping with this joyful venture!



Stewardship & Mission Update

A belated update from Stewardship and Mission Committee about our Christmas Giving Tree Project. Thanks to our donations we were able to contribute \$905.00 to the Community Assistance Fund. Pastor Stephanie & Pastor Larry will be distributing these vouchers to be used by those with needs. This mission replaces our Salvation Army program and we will raise funds as need arises. The fund is supported by several area churches in West Salem and our church is the distribution center. Our pastors have vouchers to give out for Hansen's IGA for food or gas as well as the ability to write checks for rent or utilities when needed.

We also continue with our own church program which is the Pastors Emergency Fund. This fund is used for gift cards to Kwik Trip or Wal-Mart to help as requested by those in need. The decision to grant a request for help for either fund is at the discretion of our pastors and they are aware of what money is available. Right now both funds have money to provide assistance for the near future but periodically you will see a request for donations. Thanks again for showing generosity as we support the mission of the church.

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Brian Baker

FELLOWSHIP (Serve/Clean-up): Stewardship & Mission Committee

LITURGIST & GREETER

4—Charlie Evans
11—Tiffani LaJeunesse
18—Laura Burdick
25—Kevin Arndt

NURSERY CARE

4—Brigitta Haugen
11—Anna Bohnsack
18—Connor Brown
25—Chase Jones

GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

4—Susan Evans
11—Kevin Aleckson
18—Martha Burdick
25—Shayna Arndt

SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

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

ACOLYTES

4—Jolie Meyers & Kendall Stephenson
11—Gavin Loring & Xander Wuensch
18—Ethan & Evan Crusan
25—Dane Bohnsack & Kendall Stephenson



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

...Marie Haugen and girls on the death of Greg on February 6th.

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!



MARCH

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

7th—Attend Lenten Worship –Bangor
14th—Attend Lenten Worship—West Salem
21st—Attend Lenten Worship—West Salem
28th—5:00 Community Dinner
29th—Maundy Thursday Worship in West Salem at 6:15
April 1st—Easter Sunday
(See Lenten/Easter Schedule on page 1)

MARCH Birthdays

2—Shawn McAlister
3—Nelda Manter, Alice Sprain
4—Shirley Beaty
6—Sean Horton, Aila Meeuwsen, Angela Molling, Josie LaJeunesse
7—James Rogala, Becca Bohnsack
9—Connor Brown
15—Carolyn Lindeman
16—Harry Griswold, Willis Jones
17—Tracey Rogers, Virgil Thompson
18—Robert Elliott, Marilee Zalewski

20—James Leicht, Greg Meeuwsen
21—Katerina Houser
22—Heidi Ebert
24—Isaac Wolbrink, Marie Haugen
25—Heath Byrnes, John Twining
26—Sandra Carlson
27—Nancy Koeneke, David Wolf
29—Jane Foner
30—Kyle Rogers

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Quick Look Ahead:



- *PW Bible Study –March 7th, 14th & 21st*
- *Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship–March 7th, 14th & 21st*
- *Daylight Savings Time begins–Sunday, March 11th*
- *Maundy Thursday–March 29th*
- *Palm Sunday–March 25th and Easter Sunday–April 1st*
- *PW Salad Lunch–Wednesday, April 4th*

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.