



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
625 W. Franklin St., P. O. Box 861
West Salem, WI 54669
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Pastor Larry Olson &
Pastor Stephanie Steiner

December 2018

COME AND JOIN THE FESTIVITIES!



Annual Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction

December 1st is the Annual Holiday Dinner & Silent Auction with live music.
Please check out page 5 for all the details of this fun event to kick-start the holiday season!



Blue Christmas 2018

"Comfort, comfort my people, says God"

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays. We will again be hosting a Blue Christmas service on Thursday, December 20th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant 2018

The Christian Education Committee invites you to join us in Worship on Sunday, December 16th as our students present our 2018 Christmas Pageant "A Super Christmas!" It is a play about finding the true superhero of the Christmas season--Jesus Christ! You won't want to miss it!



May the Joy of Christmas

bring peace and happiness to all!

~Have a happy holiday season! From The Presbyterian Church staff~

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



October 2018 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance October 1st	\$14,773.50
Receipts	18,327.95
Expenses	(22,073.91)

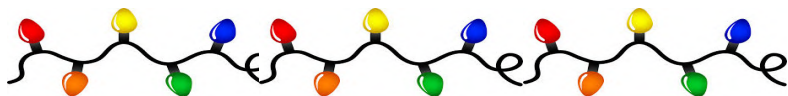


Ending Balance—October 31st \$11,027.34



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION:

- Approved Sunday School Pageant cast party on Saturday, December 15th at 5:00 PM with practice
- Approved Giving Tree to support Community Assistance



Hats off to:

- our November nursery helpers: Gavin Logging, Evan Noel, Lucy Raymer & Luke Noel
- our November acolytes: Josiah Wolbrink, Xander Wuensch, Liam & Cameron Lambertson, Bradley Baker, Evan Crusan and Dax Pfaff
- our November liturgists: Avis Evenson, Kevin Arndt, Laura Burdick & Jenni Logging
- our November sound room: Genevieve Haugen, Grant Bohnsack, Kelly Crusan & Tiffani LaJeunesse



Prayer Chain

Helen Harold	786-0856
Sharon Shaw	786-0653
Vickie Holt	786-1659
Sharon Cullmann	797-1732
Elinor Johnston	786-2441
Marilyn Bahr	786-0315
Diana Engel	786-1560
Becky Auna	786-0097

*****Reports from Committees for the Annual Report are due in the office by Sunday, December 16th.**

*****The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 27, 2019.**

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

I Can't Wait

As we move into December, at least for younger children, the wait for Christmas seems to be forever. The Christmas decorations have been up for weeks. You might even have some presents under the tree. The curious might even sneak a shake of the present to try to figure out what is in that present.

When we long for something, whatever that might be, it seems like it takes forever for that something to happen. Centuries ago, long before the Messiah came, the people of Israel longed for the Messiah. The one who would make their lives complete. The bible is filled with “how long” statements. Psalm 13:1-2 The Psalmist asked God, “How long” four times. “How long will you forget me, hide your face from me, must I bear pain, shall my enemies be exalted?”

Psalm 119:84, “How long must your servant wait?” Habakkuk 1:2, “How long, O Lord must I call for help?” Even in Revelations 6:10 we hear about having to wait for God’s judgment to come on the earth.

Waiting is not one of the easiest of disciplines in the group of Christian disciplines. Just consider how we like to keep busy, have noise around us, be on the move rather than silently and patiently wait for the Lord to speak to us. Silent prayer time can seem to last for hours when in fact it might be a couple minutes at the most. Waiting for that answer to prayer might take months and even years and it is easy to grow impatient and think that God is either not paying attention to us or is unwilling to answer us.

Down through the centuries Christmas has been and continues to be a waiting game. Waiting to see if this special birth will make this world a better place. Waiting to see if the promise of salvation will be fulfilled by this Messiah who came centuries ago. Waiting to hear again God so loved the world, God so loved me, that God sent the Son into the world so that all may be redeemed.

I’m guessing some of you are thinking to yourselves, all Christmas is, is a big rush from one party to the next, from one activity like baking, decorating, cleaning, shopping to the next. There is no waiting when we get to December. For some of you that is likely true, but maybe we need to take a different look at Christmas as a time to slow down and consider again how great a gift was offered for us? Wait upon the Lord, to hear the silent yet powerful word “for unto us is born, this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Young people get excited about the gifts to open because we have made opening presents a big thing. Is it time to make the “big thing” the coming of the Christ child? Is it time to sit quietly in awe and wonderment that God loves us so very much that God sent the Savior into the world?

I hope we can pause and wait for the Christ child to enter our lives in a new way this year. And I hope we can again celebrate, with the enthusiasm of young children and their opening of presents, the coming of Christ into the world.

On behalf of Claudia and I, Pastor Stephanie and Kiernan, we wish you all a joyous and Christ filled Christmas.

Pastor Larry



Enjoy a little laugh!

What did the Gingerbread man put on his bed?

A cookie sheet!

NOTE TO ALL

**The December Community Dinner
will be
Wednesday, December 19th!**

December Special Services

Blue Christmas—

December 20th at 6:30 PM

Youth Christmas Pageant—

During Worship December 16th

Christmas Eve Worship Services:

5:00 PM— at both West Salem and Bangor



A GOOD DAY!

The sun shone on November 10th which helped make our Fall Festival a huge success! Thanks to all who helped support the event. The breakfast brought in \$418.75, the cookies \$672.00, crafts \$537.75 and the raffle \$619.00. The winners of the raffle were: Jackie Wehrenberg—picture; Kandi Holt—cash; Sue Strauss—duck; Fran Leicht—quilt; Bethany McAlister—Le Coulee Cheese certificate; Doug Elsen—layette; Jackie Wehrenberg—Christmas figurine; Lois Miller—pillowcases.



PW ADVENT EVENT

Please join us on Thursday, December 6th to celebrate the beginning of Advent. At 6 p.m. we will enjoy a potluck finger food buffet along with coffee and punch. Following a short business meeting and installation of officers we will move to the sanctuary where the program, "Gifts for the King" will be presented by Barb Hopkins, Caroline Sells and Tiffani LaJeunesse. Hostesses are Becky Auna and Deb Allen. The Hunger offering will be received. Please join us for a beautiful evening.



Mission Opportunities for December

The last month of the year is always time for the Joy Offering in the Presbyterian Church. I am sure many of you have heard the message in the past but this is to remind you of the purpose of this contribution. The Christmas Joy money is specifically earmarked to support those who are looking to enter church leadership roles and for those who have put in years of service to the church, present and past. Scholarships to Presbyterian Schools and Colleges as well as funds for Disaster Assistance to pastors and church workers caught up in natural disasters are a couple of examples of how your donation could be used.

Please take time this Christmas season to share the joy and give to this last Special Offering of 2018.

Our second mission this month will be a Giving Tree with the purpose of raising money for our local Community Assistance Fund. Our collection of donations will be added to the account which is used to care for people with needs such as gas money, rent or utility bill payments. A second purpose for this fund is to help be prepared for a local disaster. One church is to disperse funds in the area and currently it is our church that is doing oversight. We will have a small tree with envelopes for contributions set up in the Fellowship Hall and hope many of you might consider being a help to those close to home in need.

Thanks to all who have been so generous in contributions this year, every little bit helps and together we can make a difference.

Sound Room Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in learning how to operate the sound system in our sanctuary? If so, we need you! We are looking for volunteers to help in the sound room on Sunday mornings and for special events such as weddings. 6th graders and older are encouraged to learn how to operate our sound system. Please see anyone in the sound room or on the Christian Education Committee if interested.

LITURGISTS! - It is the time of year to get the liturgist schedule ready for next year. 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.

Holiday Dinner, Silent Auction & Craft Sale

Saturday, December 1, 2018

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 space to dance!!

Dinner

\$8.00 for Adults

\$4.00 for children ages 3-11

Free for children 2 years & under

Menu

Taco Bar with all of the fixings including, but not limited to, sour cream, chips, salsa, refried beans, cheese, and much, much more, dessert, and a beverage.

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

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Kevin Aleckson

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

LITURGIST & GREETER

2—Charlie Evans
9—Nancy Olson
16—Jane Foner
23—Kevin Arndt
30—Nick Miller

NURSERY CARE

2—Gideon Wolbrink
9—Dane Bohnsack
16—Jaycob Brown
23—Julia Byrnes
30—Ethan Crusan

GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

2—Susan Evans
9—Merlin Jones family
16—Tim & Dixie Fladhammer
23—Shayna Arndt
30—Lill Twining

ACCOYLTES

2—Jolie Meyers & Evelyn Raymer
9—Ayden & Ava Schuster
16—Lily Oldenburg & Bradley Baker
23—Josiah Wolbrink & Evan Crusan
30—Liam & Cameron Lambertson

SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

2—Grant Bohnsack
9—Tiffani LaJeunesse
16—Genevieve Haugen
23—Genevieve Haugen
24—Tiffani LaJeunesse (5:00 Worship)
30—Kelly Crusan

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

...Schuster family on the death of Kyle's
dad, Jim, on October 21st.



Congratulations to :



Justin Steiger & Kayla Lockington on the
baptism of Emery Catherine Ronald on
November 11th!

DECEMBER CONFIRMATION SCHED- ULE

5th—5:00 Class in Bangor
12th—5:00 Class in West Salem
19th—5:00 Community Dinner



BIRTHDAYS

1—Shellee Dunn
2—Tomi Carlson, Barb Reynolds
5—Vickie Holt
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
23—Lindsay Eggen
27—Shayna Arndt, Alexander Carlson, Melissa Wolf, Henry Nickerson, William Heeter
28—Ellanore Zellmer



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***625 West Franklin Street
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Quick Look Ahead:



- Dinner/Entertainment/Silent Auction December 1st at 5:00 PM
- PW Finger Food Buffet—Thursday, December 6th at 6:00 PM
- Sunday School Christmas Pageant—Sunday, December 16th
- Blue Christmas—Thursday, 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.