



# THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem

December 2023

*Trusting in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Presbyterian tradition, the vision of the Presbyterian Church of West Salem is to provide a friendly and open environment that encourages spiritual growth for people of all ages.*

## From the Pastor's Desk....

### Tis a Season!

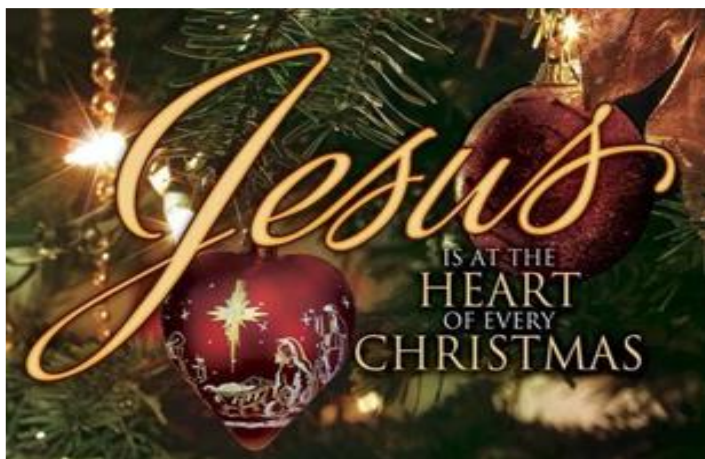
I am writing this to you in preparation for Thanksgiving, but by the time this Lamplighter arrives, the church will be thinking Christmas, as the Sanctuary gets decorated and the snow starts to fall (again, we had our first snowfall a few weeks ago now) and the church prepares for its celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

I'm excited about this season, because all the stops are coming out. Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, and we will be celebrating with a host of music, our usual, our choir, our bells, the band, maybe even a hapless pastor on Guitar.

It is a time to celebrate, to make a joyful noise, to allow the worries of the winter and the dark to fade before the joy of song and music and candlelight.

Sometimes, of course, that is easier said than done. Sometimes seasonal grief gets us down, sometimes the pain of a current context trips us up. And that's okay, in those times, we come to places like church not because we feel joyful, but to see the joy of others and share at least in its memory and remember that such times will return for us eventually, too.

So from Pastor Dan, a very happy Holidays to all of you, and I hope you'll join us in our celebrations.





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**9:00 am – Grades 2-5, Youth Group**

**During Church – Grades K-2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Kids will be dismissed to Sunday School following the Children's Message**

**Families with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders can decide if their child is ready for the older group and enjoys listening to the sermon and participating in the rest of the church service or if going with the younger group during the service is a better fit.**

## Nursery

*Available for 4K and under only  
No staffing available*



## Adult Bible Study

Sundays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall

We will focus on the lectionary scripture presented that Sunday.

Bring your Bible or use one from the church.



**Handbell Ringers Practice**  
Thursdays at 7 pm



**Choir Members, Handbell Ringers,  
and Confirmands!!**

You're Invited, along with your families, to a caroling party on **December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm** (this is after the Packer game!).

We will meet at the church, carpool to a few locations for caroling, and then return to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

Mark your calendars!!!

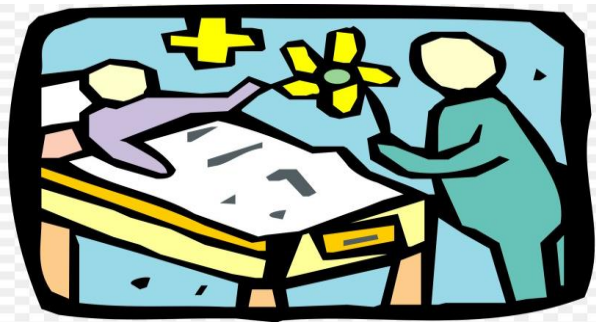


**Wednesday evenings**  
at 6:30 pm

Break will be from December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 8<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

## Heads Up !!!!!!!

*The Nominating Committee is looking for interested people to join committees as most of the committees need additional help. We will also need to elect several new Ruling Elders to replace those going off of Session. Please think seriously about volunteering your time and sharing your desire in helping this church grow and be the best church home possible. Thank You !!!!*



### ***Hospital Visits 2024***

For many years, the Deacons of the church have been contacting Gundersen Pastoral Services weekly for the names of our parishioners that have been hospitalized. The intention of these calls was to provide Pastor Dan the information in order for him to provide a visit to the hospitalized individual.

New in 2024, Deacons will no longer be making these calls to the hospital. Instead, we ask that anyone planning a hospital stay or friends/family of anyone unexpectedly hospitalized, please contact one of the Deacons to arrange for prayer, support, and/or a visit from Pastor Dan.

#### **Deacons List:**

- Becky Auna: 608-786-0097
- Carol Griffin: 608-786-3236 (Home)  
608-780-6763 (Cell)
- Helen Harold: 608-786-0856
- Vickie Holt: 608-786-1659
- Jenni Logging: 608-769-1883 (Cell)
- Kris Seeger: 608-786-2695 (Home)  
608-461-1599 (Cell)
- Jackie Siekert: 608-451-0058
- Diana Swim: 608-386-9606
- Karen Quackenbush: 786-0992 (Home)

### **Presbyterian Church Community Dinner**



#### **DATE CHANGE**

**Wednesday, December 20th**  
**5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**  
**In-House**



### **Presenting the Presbyterian Women's Holiday Market** **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-1pm**

**Cookie Walk – Homemade Goodness \$6/lb**  
**Craft Fair – Outside Vendors and Congregation Crafters**  
**Baked Breakfast Buffet \$4.00/person, 5 and under free**

*Fund raiser for Presbyterian Women's missions.*

**Congregation:** Please bring 3-4 dozen cookies per family for the cookie walk. Other baked goods accepted as well. All craft donations welcome. Bring cookies and crafts to the church before 7 pm on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Craft Vendors:** Tables are available for \$10. Set up starts at 7am Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please contact Becky Auna to rent a table, 608-786-0097.

Contact the PW Board with questions.

Becca Bohnsack 608-738-2975, Becky Auna 608-786-0097,  
Sharon Cullman 608-797-1732, Carol Griffin 608-780-6763  
or Val Olson 608-397-1568



### **Presbyterian Women Meeting** **Potluck Finger Food Buffet** **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** **6:00 p.m.** **Church Fellowship Hall**

*Please bring your favorite food/snack to share.*  
*Coffee and punch will be served by the hostesses Vickie Holt and Erika Crusan.*

*A short business meeting and program will follow.*  
*All women are welcome and invited to attend.*

**Prayer Chain:**

Becky Auna 608.786.0097  
Marilyn Bahr 608.786.0315  
Rose Cooper 608.369.3848  
Sharon Cullmann 608.797.1732  
Diana Engel 608.786.1560  
Helen Harold 608.786.0856  
Vickie Holt 608.786.1659  
Sharon Shaw 608.786.0653



*Fellowship time  
in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30am – 10:00am*



**Tabitha Circle**

Bring your crafts and join us!  
The first and third Monday  
of each month at 1:00 p.m.



**Exercise Group**  
**Tuesdays and Fridays**  
**9-10 AM**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Tithes and Offerings  
can be mailed to:**

Presbyterian Church of West Salem  
PO Box 861  
West Salem, WI 54661

**Per Capita**

Per Capita is an obligation  
for each member of the  
Presbyterian Church.

*The Per Capita is \$35.15  
per member for 2023*



**Communion Sunday**  
**December 3rd**



**Birthdays December 2023**

<b>Shellee Dunn</b>	<b>December 01</b>
<b>Tomi Carlson</b>	<b>December 02</b>
<b>Barb Reynolds</b>	<b>December 02</b>
<b>Chance DuBois</b>	<b>December 05</b>
<b>Vickie Holt</b>	<b>December 05</b>
<b>Parker Chrouser</b>	<b>December 06</b>
<b>Josiah Wolbrink</b>	<b>December 08</b>
<b>Kennedy Wolf</b>	<b>December 10</b>
<b>Deacon Meyers</b>	<b>December 14</b>
<b>Ryan Pfaff</b>	<b>December 14</b>
<b>Grace Griffin</b>	<b>December 15</b>
<b>Kevin Lee</b>	<b>December 17</b>
<b>Dana Hass</b>	<b>December 19</b>
<b>Shayna Arndt</b>	<b>December 27</b>
<b>Alexander Carlson</b>	<b>December 27</b>
<b>William Heeter</b>	<b>December 27</b>
<b>Melissa Wolf</b>	<b>December 27</b>

## December 2023 Worship Teams

### Liturgists

December 3rd	Nancy Olson
December 10th	Nick Miller
December 17th	Shayna Arndt
December 24th	Chris Winthers
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Hopkins

### Sound Room

Kelly Crusan
Gideon Wolbrink
Dane Bohnsack
Lily Oldenburg
Evan Crusan

Music:	Julie Baker, Greg Meeuwsen, Lisa Jones, Vicki Arndt
Head Usher:	Shawn McAlister
Communion:	Sara Oldenburg, Becca Bohnsack, Becky Auna, Nick Miller Sherry Bonsall, Jackie Siekert



### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**JUST A LITTLE  
CHRISTMAS  
SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 17TH**

### ELDERS

<i>Class of 2023</i>	Charles Engel	Nick Miller
	Sara Oldenburg	Sharon Cullmann
<i>Class of 2023 Youth Elders</i>	Gideon Wolbrink	Ethan Crusan
<i>Class of 2024</i>	Becca Bohnsack	Kelly Crusan
	Sherry Bonsall	Greg Meeuwsen
<i>Class of 2025</i>	Mike Siekert	Shayna Arndt
	Shawn McAlister	Pamela Twining

### DEACONS

<i>Class of 2023</i>	Helen Harold	Diana Swim
	Carol Griffin	Jenni Loging
	Kris Seeger	
<i>Class of 2025</i>	Becky Auna	Jackie Siekert
	Vickie Holt	
	Karen Quackenbush	

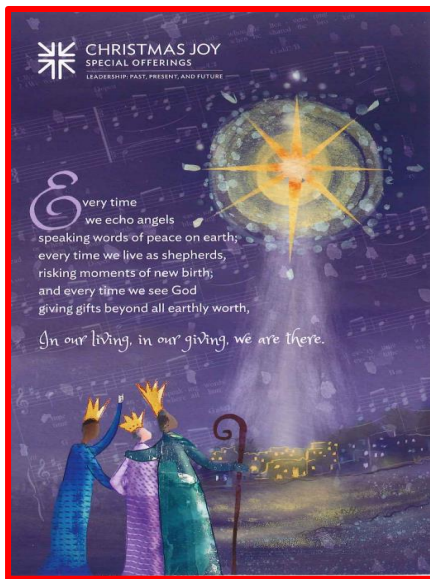
CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Candlelight Service*

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm



**Blood Drive!**

January 18th  
12:30 – 5:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall



### Christmas Joy Offering

Since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition. Each year the offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. **This offering will be collected through December 24th.** As we make our way to the manger celebrating the wondrous birth of the Christ child, please consider a gift to this worthwhile offering once again this year. **Thank you!"**

## The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



During this season of Advent, the Stewardship & Mission Committee is sponsoring a "Giving Tree," with funds going to the purchase of items from The Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world. We will have a tree set up in the back of the sanctuary that will have envelopes with varying dollar amounts and causes printed on them. For example, one envelope will be for giving a \$10 donation going toward the purchase of farming tools, while another envelope will be for giving a \$25 donation going toward the purchase of a family of chickens, and so on. We hope you would consider making a gift to our 2023 Giving Tree. It will be fun to see what our congregation can purchase this Christmas season for those in need around the world.

**Thank you!**

Please submit newsletter information to the office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month:  
[preschurchws@gmail.com](mailto:preschurchws@gmail.com)

### Stay Connected!

Visit our website: [www.presbyterianchurchwestsalem.com](http://www.presbyterianchurchwestsalem.com)



625 W Franklin Street • West Salem, WI • 54669 • 608.786.0910

Sunday School 9:00 am • Adult Bible Study 9-10 am - Sunday Worship 10:15 am

### OFFICE HOURS

*Pastor Dan McCurdy* • Monday through Thursday 8:45 am. - 2:00 pm.

[DanielSMcCurdy@gmail.com](mailto:DanielSMcCurdy@gmail.com) • 330.465.4794

*Church Office* • Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8:30 am. – 1:30 pm.  
[preschurchws@gmail.com](mailto:preschurchws@gmail.com)