



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem

January 2026

*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....

I think a lot, sometimes, about the "Reason for the Season."

The importance of Christmas is often overstated. After all, of our four gospels, only four felt any need to discuss the birth of Christ. The Gospel of Mark begins with Jesus as grown man, and the Gospel of John goes all the way back to Creation of the Word.

So why do we do Christmas?

Believe it or not... the party might actually be reason enough.

It's good to have a party for Christ's birth. It's good to remember that the coming of Jesus Christ, not as a baby, but as King of Kings, is the coming of a good time, even if it is also a time feared by those who are in power.

People occasionally get irritated at the commercialization of Christmas, and I get it... I celebrate Halloween as much for holding Christmas songs in the store at bay as for any other reason. But having a celebration of Christ's birth, a celebration that children can enjoy and that can push us to nostalgia... that's pretty great, too.

We do not look forward to another Bethlehem. We look forward to Zion, the Kingdom of God where love is the law and all are brought together. But that is worthy of a party, the party a practice of the celebrations to come.

So Merry Christmas, PCOWS! Remember the reason for the season... and enjoy the parties that come with it!

Pastor Dan



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Classes start at 9 am

**Sunday School
Sunday Bible Study
Confirmation Classes**

**Youth Group (Jr. High through High Schoolers)
After church
Every other Sunday**

Nursery

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



Presbyterian Church Community Dinner



**Wednesday
January 28th
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

West Salem Food Pantry Needs

Donating to the West Salem food pantry can make a world of difference. Many families are facing difficult circumstances, whether due to economic strain, job loss, or unforeseen emergencies. By contributing non-perishable food items, or financial donations, you can help ensure that your neighbors have access to the nourishment they need to get through these uncertain times. Your generosity provides not just food, but hope. We are all connected and together, we can make a difference. **At this time the food pantry needs donations of canned meat like spam and chicken, as well as canned soups, other than tomato and chicken noodle. Please place your donations in the shopping carts in the entry ways of the church.**



**January 29th
11:30 – 4:30 pm
Fellowship Hall**

Annual Congregational Meeting



January 25th - After Service



Hospital Visits 2025

If you have anyone in the hospital who would like a pastoral visit, please call a deacon listed below and they will contact Pastor Dan with your request. This includes yourself, family or friends.

Deacons List:

Diana Engel: 608-786-1560
 Helen Harold: 608-786-0856
 Sara Oldenburg: 608-304-9926
 Valerie Olson: 608-786-1834
 Lois Sanwick: 608-788-5443
 Kris Seeger: 608-786-2696 (Home)
 608-461-1599 (Cell)
 Diana Swim: 608-386-9606
 Karen Quackenbush: 608-786-0992
 (Home)

Communion Sunday January 4th



*Fellowship Time
in the Fellowship Hall
9:15 – 9:45 am*

Lighting in the Sanctuary

As many of you have noticed, we have all new lights in our sanctuary.

A big thank you goes out to Dustin Wehrs,
Wehrs Electric.

Lights, labor & lift were all donated!

The ongoing mission of **The Presbyterian Women** is to support the Salvation Army and WINN (What I Need Now) by collecting needed items. This list will be updated as their needs change.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Salvation Army and WINN Needs

FALL AND WINTER NEEDS 2025

WINN – Updated list November 2025

Very warm men's winter gloves

> Long underwear sets:

small, medium, large and 2x

> Hand warmers

> \$10 Gift Cards for: Subway, Kwik Trip and McDonalds

Salvation Army - Bath towels, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, Sheets, pillowcases, blankets, Sweatpants - men's & women's

All items can be placed in the purple tote at the back of the sanctuary, and we will get the items to the correct organization.

Holiday Market

Our Holiday Market held on Saturday,
December 6th was a great success!

We served 88 for breakfast, had 16 craft vendors & just about sold out of cookies.

Our total came to \$1,631.25.

A big thank you to Becky for lining up the vendors and all of you who baked, setup, worked the event, cleaned up & attended.

You are all amazing!

Prayer Chain:

Becky Auna	608.786.0097
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



Tabitha Circle

11:30-2:30

Bring a lunch



10 AM

Tithes and Offerings can be mailed to:

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



Exercise Group

Tuesdays and Fridays
9-10 AM



Birthdays to Celebrate in January 2026

Larry Olson	January 01
Martha Burdick	January 02
Howard Garves	January 03
Linda Krogman	January 03
Sandra Schmidt	January 03
Becky Auna	January 04
Lucille Raymer	January 04
Trish Ruetten	January 04
Ken Hauser	January 05
Leeann Krall	January 05
Cindy Ashland	January 07
Augustine Norman	January 07
Dave Bohnsack	January 08
Terry Miller	January 09
Garrett Byrnes	January 10
Glenda Koeneke	January 10
Rita Loging	January 10
Remlee Miller	January 10
Kordelle Pfaff	January 11
Alex Galbraith	January 14
Sharon Holven	January 14
Cecilia Lambertson	January 15
Kent Buehler	January 16
Rose Wolbrink	January 16
Becky Byrnes	January 18
Katelyn Carlson	January 19
Maureen Longcor	January 19
Matt Schwier	January 19
Mike Siekert	January 19
Katie Thornton	January 19
Dorothy Schmaltz	January 20
Patrick Zalewski	January 20
Brian Baker	January 21
Elgin Brown	January 21
Brooklyn Haverly-Ghelfi	January 21
Michelle Lusk	January 22
Luke Noel	January 22
Bradley Baker	January 23
Dixie Fladhammer	January 25
Aubrynn Kreibich	January 25
Jean Pearson	January 25
Dustin Wehrs	January 25
Kevin Arndt	January 27
Nancy Olson	January 27
Alexis Shaw	January 28
Diane Rogala	January 30
William Silbaugh	January 30
Jim Beebe	January 31
Diana Meeuwsen	January 31

January 2026 Worship Teams

Liturgists

January 4th Barbara Hopkins
 January 11th Elsa Wolbrink
 January 18th
 January 25th Dan Wolbrink

Sound Room

Josiah Wolbrink
 Kelly Crusan
 Brynn Logging
 Kelly Crusan

Music: Vicki Arndt, Julie Baker, Lisa Jones, Caroline Sells
 Head Usher: Ron Seeger
 Communion: Charles Engel, Jenni Logging, Karen Quackenbush, Chris Winther, Kristjan Sells, Mike Siekert

DEACONS

Class of 2026 Kris Seeger
 Karen Quackenbush
 Valerie Olson
 Sara Oldenburg
 Lois Sandwick
 Becky Auna

ELDERS

<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Chris Winther Charles Engel</i>	<i>Jenni Logging Nick Miller</i>
<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Kelly Crusan Kristjan Sells</i>	<i>Barbara Hopkins Vickie Bain</i>
<i>Class of 2028</i>	<i>Amity Hill Pamela Twining</i>	<i>Dave Jacobs Becca Bohnsack</i>
<i>Youth Elder – Class of 2026 – Josiah Wolbrink</i>		

**PASTOR
VISIT**



Would you like a visit from the Pastor? You are important to the Presbyterian Church of West Salem. Please contact the church office if you would like a pastoral visit or to set up an appointment with the pastor. Call 608-786-0910

Recent Session Highlights

- Approved the 2026 church budget
- Approved participating in the 2026 PCUSA Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering
- Reviewed church staff salaries
- Recorded the purchase of a freezer and vacuum cleaner
- Approved a donation to the West Salem School District's Random Acts of Kindness fund from the Peace & Global Witness Offering
- Elected the roles of Clerk of Session, Church Treasurer, and Commissioner to Presbytery



**Installation of Elders and Deacons
will be held on Sunday, January 4th
immediately following morning worship**

Interested in joining our church?

**Pastor Dan will be leading
New Membership classes
on Sundays, January 11th & 18th
at 9 a.m. in the chapel.**

**Please contact Pastor Dan, (608) 786-0910 or
Vickie Bain, (608) 769-3041, if you are
interested or have questions.**

Support Needed for the West Salem Food Pantry

This month the need is for items that they need for their home as well as food. Things like **toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products**. These items are often difficult to find the funds to purchase when on a very tight budget or with little to no extra income in the home. These are also items that tend to be “overlooked” as items that the food pantry would welcome as a donation.

Bring in some of these high demand items and place them in the shopping carts that are located between the entryway doors. Monetary donations are also welcome. Simply put your contribution into an offering envelope and mark it “Food Pantry” and we will make sure it goes to the pantry. **Let’s fill the carts to overflowing with personal care items so that every family that uses the food pantry can have toilet paper in their home!**

Sanctuary A/V System Upgrades

The church has contracted with Lifeline A/V Systems of Platteville to do some major upgrades to our A/V system. The project was prompted by a few things. Our old mixing board (about 20 years old) is starting to fail, with three dead channels so far. The main video processor system failed completely this year, and we are currently using a loaner. The video streaming box has had intermittent failures, and is expected to be near end of life. You may have noticed that the back video screen has a darker area at the bottom, due to a failed row of LEDs. And then to enhance both our in-person and streaming experience, we wanted to add a second camera and increase the resolution of both cameras. With this upgrade, to save money, we will be retaining the main speakers, front TV screens, and sound room computer, and replacing the back TV screen ourselves. Lifeline will be installing a completely new video processing and streaming system, two new cameras, and a new sound mixer to replace both the old board and a separate mixer that handles only the pastor and pulpit mics. The new system will be much more user friendly as well, with simple touch screens for audio and video control. We expect the system to be installed some time between Christmas and Easter. The total price for the system is about \$37,000, and we are seeking donations to offset what would need to come from investment funds.

**If you would like to help, please just write “AV system”
in the memo line of your check. Thank You!**



The Giving Tree Mission - Helping a Family Grow Hope This Advent season, our Giving Tree mission is focused on raising \$1,300 to fund a Family Farm Bundle through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. This life-changing gift will empower a family in need to start their own farm, providing them with livestock, tools, and essential training. **How You Can Help: Choose an envelope from the Giving Tree located at the back of the Sanctuary and any amount toward the farm bundle.** (Checks can be made to the Presbyterian Church of West Salem.) Every contribution brings us closer to our goal and helps sow seeds of sustainability and hope. **What's Included in the Bundle:** The Family Farm Bundle may include a variety of livestock such as chickens, goats, piglets, or even a cow—along with the necessary resources to care for them and cultivate a thriving farm. **Prefer to Give Differently?** You're also welcome to select individual items from the catalog that speaks to your heart. Whether it's a bag of seeds or a water filter, your gift will make a meaningful impact. Together, let's nurture a future of self-reliance and dignity for a family in need.

Please submit newsletter information
to the office by the 15th of each month:
preschurchws@gmail.com

Stay Connected!

Visit our website:

www.presbyterianchurchwestsalem.com



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

Sunday Worship - 10 am

OFFICE HOURS

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

DanielSMcCurdy@gmail.com • 330.465.4794

Church Office • Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8:30 am. – 1:30 pm.

preschurchws@gmail.com