



THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

December 2011

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Christmas Joy 2011

In December we will collect our last special offering of the year - "The Christmas Joy Offering". Members of the Presbyterian Church are blessed with a strong sense of community within the Church. In times of joy and sorrow, triumph and tribulation, we find support and comfort in the foundation of faith that our ministers and church workers provide us. Their acts of generosity and compassion often extend beyond the confines of general kindness, bringing our spirituality to the forefront of our lives to provide reassurance that God is always with us.

Our clergy and church servants' steadfast commitment to their ministry can sometimes require personal sacrifice, but it is one that they accept as part of their service to God. For this and their seemingly endless capacity to give unto others, we look for ways to help with their needs. By lending a hand, we not only send a message of thankfulness for their devotion to the Church and the church community, but also provide reassurance to them that we maintain our pledge to stand by them in good times and in bad.



The Christmas Joy Offering gives us one way to show our support to our dedicated active and retired church workers, their spouses, and their families who face financial difficulties. For those of us who have been blessed, it's a wonderful opportunity to express generosity while meeting important needs in the PC(USA) community.

ANGEL TREE



We will again be sponsoring the Angel Tree this Christmas - for the new members of our congregation, we buy gifts for the children who have a parent in jail, so they can still receive a gift to make the season a little brighter.

The names will be available from the tree Sunday, December 4th and December 11th. The gifts will need to be wrapped and brought back to church by, Sunday, December 18th, as they will be picked up on Monday, December 19th to be delivered.

Because the names seem to grow every year, we will be sharing the names 50/50 with the North Presbyterian Church of La Crosse. Thank you to everyone who participates in the Angel Tree.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

5:00 PM Family Worship

7:00PM Service of Lessons & Carols

Remember to join us for hymn sing worship on Sunday, December 25



October 2011 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance October 1st	(\$3,493.97)
Receipts	18,432.42
Reserve money Transferred	11,071.69
Fellowship Hall Rentals	425.00
Expenses	(14,380.99)
Balance October 31st	\$12,054.15



**To reach
someone in
the kitchen
via telephone,
please dial
786-0675.**

Thank you!

Highlights from Session:

- Session approved the 2012 budget. The finance committee commented just because it is in the budget doesn't mean the committees need to expend all their dollars. A second comment was made concerning thoughtful and prayerful pledging to the Lord.
- Pathways will be meeting with the session on a monthly basis keeping the session informed and seeking the sessions input during the next step on our transformational journey. On account of the holidays the Pathways team believes it is best to hold off until January for next congregational involvement event.
- Special congregational meeting is called for January 8, at 10:00 a.m. with worship following. And the annual congregational meeting is scheduled for January 29th immediately following worship.
- Please keep the session in your prayers as they continue to seek to be faithful in their leadership.

Hats off to:

- Lyle Miles & Beth Hinck, Tomi Carlson and Shirley Beaty the November issue of *The Lamplighter*
- our November nursery volunteers: Will Griffin, Brianna Holt, Laura Kelley & Alexis Shaw
- our November liturgists: Tracey Rogers, Jane Foner, Maraveen Mayer & Helen Harold
- our November acolytes: Laura Burdick, Alanna Wuensch, Alayna Aleckson, Josie LaJeunesse, Dylan Noel, Noah Reynolds, Lauren Garves & Martha Haugen



Decorating the sanctuary this season!

This year we are inviting you to share a red poinsettia in memory, in honor or in celebration of someone. We need at least 30 poinsettia's this year! You will be able to take your poinsettia home after Christmas Day worship. We need the flowers **here by Sunday, December 18th** and need you to call the office (786-0910) with the **details about your poinsettia by Friday, December 16th!**



Thank You!

Thank you to all my church family for the lovely "retirement" party and the beautiful cross necklace. I was really surprised, especially to see so many of my out of town relatives there. It was all greatly appreciated.

God's love to all---

Sue Strauss

A NOTE FROM PASTOR STEPHANIE



Do any of you remember those silver Christmas trees from days gone by? Well, when I was growing up we had a silver Christmas tree. Back in the day they were quite popular and I can still remember the fun we had putting it together.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with silver Christmas trees let me tell you about the process. Each branch was kept in a paper sleeve to protect them. The four of us kids would get the job of pulling those silver branches out of the sleeves and then we'd hand them to mom and dad to poke into the silver metal pole. As they added the various sizes of branches to the poles, eventually this beautiful Silver tree would take shape.

As the years wore on, so did the tree. The branches began losing the tinsel and actually some of the ends were getting pretty bare. At the time we couldn't afford a real tree, so we were content using the old worn silver tree. Worn or not, the fact remained that I looked forward to putting up that silver Christmas tree every year and the climax was watching the color wheel as it turned and changed the color of the tree from red to blue to yellow to green. Around and around it went and with each turn memories were recorded in my mind!

Last year while I was out shopping, what to my wondering eyes did appear – BUT a silver Christmas tree in a store window with a color wheel turning and changing its colors. I stood and watched as the wheel turned and tears began flowing down my cheeks. Memories flooded back and I was a young girl again with all the joy and mystery of Christmas pouring into and out of my heart!

I pray that this year the joy and mystery of the birth of Jesus Christ will be yours. I encourage you to attend Christmas Eve and Day worship services. Jesus will shed the light in our lives and we will be changed. Because, you see, when we allow Jesus to be born anew in our lives, the power of what Christmas is all about floods into our memories and we are once again renewed! That is why worship – to experience this baby born for each of us. Know that and claim it this Christmas!

Kiernan and I wish you and your family a joyous and life-giving Christmas! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Pastor Stephanie

**Mark your calendars: There will be no Sunday School on
December 25th or January 1st.**



On December 18th, the Sunday School Children will be performing a Christmas concert during worship. We are looking for students in grades 6-12 to help with the program by singing and being some of the character roles in the program. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Jones or Pastor Stephanie. Practices will be from 9:30-9:45 on Sundays in November, and will be at 8:45 on Sunday mornings during the month of December.

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: David Daoust & Kent Buehler

LITURGISTS

4—Vickie Bain
11—Tracey Rogers
18—Howard Garves
25—Nick Miller

NURSERY CARE

4—Connor Dunn
11—Tayler Garves
18—Braxton Ghelfi
25—Will Griffin

* with a Parent/Guardian/Adult,
over 25, accompanying them

COMMUNION BREAD BAKER: Marie Haugen

FELLOWSHIP (Serve & Clean-up):

Membership & Evangelism Committee



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1—Shellee Dunn
2—Tomi Carlson, Jesse Martin, Barb Reynolds
3—Jarrod Bonsall, Matt Cullmann, Ruby Davis
5—Vickie Holt
6—David Daoust, Jr., Becky Indahl
10—Heath Bonsall, Tyler Koenek
11—Bert Brown, Kris Buehler, Adam Trautsch
14—Ryan Pfaff
15—Grace Griffin
17—Kevin Lee
18—Char Haverly, Mary Johnson
19—Dana Hass
20—Brynn Kleiner
23—Jeff Simonson, Lindsay Eggen
24—Jeff Faas
26—Cassandra Trautsch
27—Shayna Arndt, Alexander Carlson, Melissa Wolf
27—Charl Van Der Nest
28—Rachel Auna, Diana Beirne, Matt Raymer
29—Lauren Garves
31—Jennifer Garves, Samuel Kleiner

ACOLYTES

4—Grant Bohnsack & Sam Horton
11—Autumn Schuster & Carissa Hass
18—Brendan Holt & Grady LaJeunesse
25—Alanna Wuensch & Martha Haugen

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

...Sandy Carlson and family on the death of her mother, Marilyn Davis.

...Steve Anderson and family on the death of his mother, Elizabeth "Betty" Anderson.



Congratulations on the following baptisms:

Isaiah Frederick Murphy,
Payton Elva Wolf,
and Tatiana Marie Bueno,
baptized on November 13th

and

Khloe Preslee Frie,
parents: Michael & Katie Frie
baptized on November 27th

Congratulations to:

Lance & Deon Hughey on the birth of Christopher James

and

David & Amy Silbaugh & family
on the birth of Joseph Michael



Just for Kids answer: manger; angels;
star; shepherds; Joseph; Mary; Jesus;
Bethlehem; wise men

FALL FESTIVAL



Thank you goes to all those who participated in our Fall Festival with their cookies, crafts, food, donations and help. It was a beautiful day. A wonderful surprise were the men and women who came to help serve and clean up without having been asked. One person could not believe that the cream puffs were homemade. Another person from Bangor Presbyterian who came to our Festival for the first time said that if they expect us to come to theirs, they needed to come to ours. How true! ~ Helen Harold



The amount of income from this year is:

Raffle	\$744.00	Cookies	703.25	Lunch	367.86
Crafts	399.50	Donations	110.00		

After advertising expenses, our income is \$2,255.17. Thank you to all who organized the event, contributed, and came to participate in the festivities.

The winners of the raffle prizes were: Nativity hanging—Delores Zanter; MP3 player—Bert Brown; Afghan—Dorothy Schmaltz; Quilted hanging—Vickie Holt; Pillow cases—Tammy Netival; Cookie jar—Kellie Oslie; Decorated box—Carol Hass; Bracelet & earrings—Sue Strauss; Christmas plate—Elinor Johnston; Clock—Dorothy Schmaltz. Congratulations to all!

PW Christmas Finger Food Buffet

Don't miss this wonderful event! Thursday, December 1 at 6 PM we will meet for a potluck finger food buffet, with punch and coffee provided by hostesses Sherry Bonsall and Kathy Anderson, followed by a short business meeting and installation of officers led by Pastor Stephanie. Then for the program. This is special as we will have fourteen members of our church family participating, including several little girls as "stars" and little boys as astronomers and shepherds. The "Star" is told by a storyteller with players acting out the story. The "Star" is the Bethlehem star that shines each Christmas over Bethlehem, but it will be here a few weeks early just for us so we can be prepared for the real star on Christmas Eve. Invite a friend, call someone to give a ride. Let us prepare ourselves for a beautiful advent season.

Hunger Offering

If you have seen pictures of starving children in Africa you can well imagine that our Hunger Offering can alleviate some of the need. The offering is combined with One Great Hour of Sharing money as well as year-round contributions from groups and individuals. The Hunger Offering will be received at the December meeting.

Church Women United Christmas Tea



Friday, December 2 is the Church Women United Human Rights Celebration Tea at First Lutheran Church in Onalaska, beginning at 9:30 AM. You may bring an unwrapped practical gift for New Horizons to the PW meeting which will then be taken to Onalaska by Helen. The program is "Living Our Legacy, Driving the Movement". Please call Helen, 786-0856 if you would like to go.



Congratulations to those elected to serve the church for 2012 at the congregational meeting of November 13, 2011:

Elders

Jane Foner
Sherry Bonsall
David Daoust
Becca Bohnsack
Nick Miller
Kathryn Ebert
Chase Aleckson

Deacons

Rita Logging
Nancy Olson
Sally Holte
Valerie Olson
Kris Seeger
Tiffani LaJeunesse

PER CAPITA 2012: Per Capita is a financial responsibility for every adult member of a Presbyterian congregation. For 2012 the per capita will be \$27.63. When submitting, please write in “per capita” on the memo part of your check or on the outside of your envelope. ***Thank you!***

Photo Play

Do you wish you had time to organize your boxes of photos? Do you like to scrapbook, but just can't find the time, or maybe feel you need some fresh ideas? Starting in January, we have a special time just for you. Bring your photos, scrapbooking supplies, whatever you may have to work on your photos. Need some ideas or suggestions? Come and see what others are doing. Maybe you just want to get your boxes of photos labeled for the next generation, or you want to make a special gift for a wedding or graduation. This is your time. Beginning on January 19th, we will offer Photo Play every 3rd Thursday in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church of West Salem from 6 – 10 pm. There is a \$5 fee that will be going back to the church to cover utility usage. There will be no daycare facilities available, so would appreciate no small children. No pre registration is needed... just come and have fun sharing your photos and stories. If you have any questions, please contact Shayna Arndt at 608-498-0611 or e-mail sbarndt@charter.net or Vicki Arndt at 608-790-1210 or e-mail arndtv@charter.net

**High School Youth Group will meet on
Wednesday, December 7 & 21 at 7:00 PM.**

Come and join in with *your* friends, make
new friends and have *fun*!

*Wishing you all the joys of the
holiday season and a happy New Year!*

*From your church staff at the
Presbyterian Church of West Salem*

Larry

Laura

Ed

Holly

Julie

Stephanie

Sarah



**2011-2012 CONFIRMATION
NEWS**

- December 7th—Class for 7th & 8th graders
- December 14th—Wednesday night Worship service
- Community Dinner is Wednesday, December 28th from 5:00-6:00. 8th graders and mentors assist with this meal. 6th & 7th graders and mentors in the craft room.

MID-WEEK WORSHIP

On The 2nd Wednesday of each month we will be offering an Alternative Worship service beginning at 6:30 PM and lasting for about 45 minutes.



Pastor Larry and Pastor Stephanie will take turns leading worship on these Wednesdays with the Confirmation Students being the liturgists. Crossroads will lead the music which will be more contemporary in nature.

Hope you join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month—the next one is December 14th!



We Need Your Help with VBS 2012!

The leaves have fallen and the snow is about to fly, but the Christian Education Committee is already planning for Vacation Bible School! We have chosen the “SonRise National Park VBS, Point Your kids to Jesus” theme. We are really excited about the fun learning activities this curriculum will provide to the kids in our community. We need your help though. We are looking for donations to make 2012 VBS even better than this past year. The kit itself is \$200. We are also looking for playground equipment to be used by VBS and year round youth activities. This is our wish list of equipment:

Parachute, Balls, Hoola Hoops, Cones, Jump Ropes

We will be purchasing high quality equipment that can be used for years to come. Please contact Becca Bohnsack at 786-0333 or dbbohnsack@centurytel.net if you can help us out.

Fliers to check out on the Kiosk!



- Benefit concert for A Place of Grace—Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 PM
- Christmas Bazaar at First Presbyterian Church, Bangor—Saturday, December 3 from 10:30 AM-1:00 PM

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**625 West Franklin Street
PO Box 861**

West Salem Wisconsin 54669

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Change Service Requested

Looking Ahead:



- *December 1–6:00 PM–PW Christmas Finger Food Buffet Meeting*
- *December 11–Choir Cantata during Worship*
- *December 18–Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship*
- *December 24–5:00 & 7:00 PM Worship services*
- *December 25–10:00 AM Worship–Hymn sing*
- *December 28–5:00 PM Community Dinner*

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.