

# Old Salem Shrine News

1874-1910

August 2020

Vol. 8



***Old Salem Shrine  
Upper 55<sup>th</sup> Street  
(Salem Church Road)  
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota***

## **Warm greetings from the Old Salem Shrine Board of Trustees**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all our lives in so many ways. We are all experiencing the unprecedented degree of uncertainty around many aspects of daily life, including the cancellation of our Founder's Day service and Open House. Watch our website ([OldSalemShrine.org](http://OldSalemShrine.org)) or Facebook ([Facebook.com/oldsalemshrine/](https://www.facebook.com/oldsalemshrine/)) for the status of our Epiphany Service in January as it gets closer.

***“My hope for the church is that it remains a continuing legacy for future generations.”***

Jill Lewis, 2020

It is with deep sadness that we share that Jill Zehnder Lewis passed away Sunday, June 7, due to pancreatic cancer.

Jill was President of our Board of Trustees for many years and the driving force behind Old Salem Shrine's Founder's Day and Epiphany Services, as well as opening the church to occasional weddings and baptisms. In addition to serving as President, she was also the church's dedicated organist. The family requested memorials be made to Old Salem Shrine Church in care of our Treasurer, Maggie Stiffler-Hobbs at PO Box 2191, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076.



## **A Message from the Trustees**

The trustees thank you for your past support in attending the annual services and contributing toward the maintenance of the church and cemetery. Old Salem Shrine provides the community with an introduction to the social dynamics of the 1860s and 1870s, when neighbors came together to give of their treasure to build this church, worship God, and celebrate and share their faith.

## Old Salem Shrine

The inspiration they inspired has endured, and we hope that it will continue with individuals, such as you, to provide the interest, support, and resources to sustain its future.

As a church without a congregation, funding for routine maintenance has accrued from the services and events held at Old Salem Shrine during the year. The potential for funding of more costly operating expenses poses a significant challenge.

Research of the history of Old Salem Shrine revealed that it survived two years of grasshopper plague, plummeting land values, widespread debt, and the territory literally emptied of money. Those living on the frontier experienced severe poverty. Today, we are experiencing a similar situation to the founding fathers in 1939 – but in 2020 it is a pandemic.

We need your help in volunteering and providing monetary support.



History shows that the frontiers were able to sustain this church during the hard times and wars, so it is our hope that through your contributions and volunteering we can continue to support Old Salem Shrine during this period of pandemic.

At the present time, primarily by the work of volunteers, the trustees have been able to maintain the property. There is a need to build a fund large enough to keep the grass mowed, the weeds pulled, and make needed repairs to the cemetery and the church building.

In previous years, funding for routine maintenance has accrued from the Founder's Day and Epiphany services, plus occasional weddings, and baptisms. This year, however, because of the COVID-19 regulations, we canceled Founder's Day and may need to do the same for the Epiphany service. We must look to you and the community for resources if Old Salem Shrine's future is to be sustained. It would be a shame to have this historical church unavailable for weddings, baptisms, and our annual services and open houses, since these events provide important opportunities for the community to know, experience, and appreciate our history.



*“Old Salem is a signal to the modern generation of a ‘grounding’ to the past—so much that our ancestors gave up to have a place of worship and a church family.”*

*Jill Zehnder Lewis  
June 2020*



### Weddings & Baptisms at Old Salem

Fee: \$200

Contact Margaret Fell – 651- 457-7809

### Cemetery Inquiries

Contact Joe Brotzler – 651-571-0180

**Contributions to Old Salem Shrine are needed to maintain this beautiful and historic treasure. Please donate today!**

Online: Old Salem Shrine website

<https://oldsalemshrine.org>

Mail checks payable to Old Salem Shrine to:

Old Salem Shrine

PO Box 2191

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076



### Old Salem Shrine Board of Trustees

Rev. Gail Alexander, Judy Alich, Rev. Laurie Boche, Thelma Boeder (UMC historian), Joe Brotzler, Steve Brotzler, Rev. Amy Jo Bur, Neil Danner, Christian Dinger, Laurie Dinger, Rev. Margaret Fell, Rev. Dan Johnson, Dawn Kinnunen (Vice Pres.), Kathy Lang, Barb Luken, Gerald Manthei, Rev. Paul Marzahn, Dan Miller, Amy (Lewis) Nugent, Rev. John Praetorius, Kathy Spence-Johnson, Krista Stiffler-Hutchinson (Pres.), Maggie Stiffler-Hobbs (Treas.), Brian Taurinskas, Holly Zschokke.

Thank you for your generous support of Old Salem Shrine!

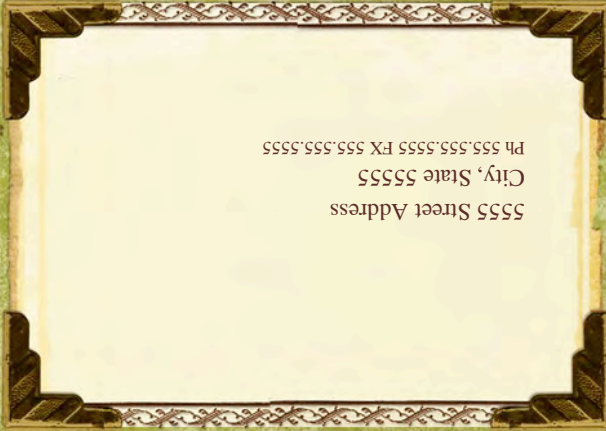
**Old Salem Shrine Services**

Epiphany Service – January 3, 2021 at 4:30 pm (watch website/Facebook for updates)  
Founders' Day - June 6, 2021 - Open House 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Service 3:00 p.m.

**DVD of Old Salem Church History**

A DVD of Old Salem's history entitled *People & Annals of Salem EV Kirche 1857-2011* is available for \$25. It includes an extensive history, biographies, photos and obituaries of the church's founders and early ministers, notes and letters penned by church members, and photos of both early weddings and those held more recently in the church. To order the DVD, visit [OldSalemShrine.org](http://OldSalemShrine.org) or email [OldSalemShrine@gmail.com](mailto:OldSalemShrine@gmail.com).

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