

# Saintly NEWS Volume 44 Issue No. 11 / November 2021

# Thanksgiving Plans - Donations Appreciated

We will not be having a Thanksgiving Eve worship service this year. While we will not be gathering in church, we are still collecting food items and monetary donations for People Helping People. These donations will help them assist members of our community who cannot provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for their families. See Jim Wilcox's article below for specifics.



#### Members of All Saints Church,

I recently spoke with the Coordinator for People Helping People (PHP) Food Pantry, Ruth Ann Goelitz, about the needs and challenges PHP is faced with on a monthly basis to help our neighbors in need. The COVID pandemic has created new challenges for PHP to meet the needs of our less fortunate families in our community.

Ruth Ann explained that as the holidays approach the need for PHP's assistance grows. Currently PHP is assisting approximately 200 people; 47 families receive assistance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month. As the Thanksgiving holiday gets closer the number of families needing assistance tends to increase.

Over the past few years All Saints has helped PHP make sure all the families receiving PHP's assistance are able to enjoy a turkey dinner at Thanksgiving. Ruth Ann said a \$9.00 donation can buy a turkey breast. A \$15.00 donation will help to purchase a turkey for the family to enjoy for their Thanksgiving dinner.

Other items All Saints could help PHP with are the usual Thanksgiving dinner items like, stuffing, canned fruit, cans of vegetables, potatoes and other related items. These donated items can be placed in the shopping cart in the front entrance of the church. Those items will be delivered to PHP for Thanksgiving.

Monetary donations can be made during the Sunday collection and noted on your envelope the amount donated to help PHP. Checks can also be made out directly to PHP which will be given to PHP to help purchase the turkeys. Donations will be accepted through November 21.

Blessings, Jim Wilcox, Social Ministry Chairman

# Mid-week Advent Worship and Soup Suppers Begin Wednesday, December 1

We will be meeting in person for the mid-week Advent worship services on December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7:00 pm. This year's "Grinchy" theme is The Heart That Grew Three Sizes. Due to copyright restrictions on the DVD we will be using, we will not individually wrapped pats of be able to post this worship service. So, the only way you will be able to hear this message is to attend worship each Wednesday evening. You will not want to miss this unique take on Advent.

Prior to the mid-week worship service, we are going to resume our popular Wednesday night Soup Suppers. We will need at least four crockpots of soup, bread and individually wrapped desserts each week. There is a sign-up sheet on Bulletin Board #2 if you wish to contribute. Soup and bread will be served, and we will provide butter for the bread. If no one signs up to provide soup, we will



not be able to have the soup

supper that week.

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Deadline for the December
Saintly News is November 12
Please send articles to
Rebecca Presson

#### Dear Friends:

Hopefully you've been able to read the stewardship mailings we've sent and heard the inspiring temple talks. How can we be more generous is a good question to ask ourselves daily. We can increase our generosity of kindness, of patience, of loving. We can also consider increasing our generosity with finances.

As you consider your giving to the church next year, please consider how you can grow in your own generosity.

An idea for someone whose income has gone down in the last year:

Everyone can grow in generosity, even if that means the overall dollars given decreases. Perhaps, if before your income decreased you were giving away 2% of your income, now with income being less, can you find a way to grow the percentage of giving to 3 or 4%. There are people in our congregation who will need to decrease the total dollars given because of loss of work or other reasons.

#### **Important Stewardship Dates**

The Saintly News

#### **November 8**

Mailing Statements of Intent and Time and Talent Sheets

#### November 14

Collecting Statements of Intent and Time and Talent Sheets

#### Other ideas:

- ⇒ Systematic giving leads to generosity: For most people, we can grow significantly in our giving just by making our gift on a regular basis. Sign up for automatic giving or just add an amount each week or month. Growing giving by \$1 per day equates to significant growth over the course of the year.
- ⇒ An extra gift or two during the year: During the crisis, a story was shared in a stewardship workshop about someone who said, "I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but for now I am doing okay, so I will double my giving in the month of April". Well, what if we decided to double our giving one month or even two months next year?
- ⇒ Grow by a percentage each year: For some, the idea of a tithe is unachievable in a single year, but something people would like to reach someday. By growing giving by a percentage each year, it is achievable over the long-term. If you currently give away 2% of income, perhaps you can reach 3% next year and 4% the year after. This takes discipline, but over the long-term is effective for some. For Alan and me, this is how we've been able to steadily increase our giving over the years little by little ultimately adds up to a lot!

You may have your own ideas for growing in generosity. As a church family, as we each grow in our generosity, it will have a tremendous overall impact for not only All Saints, but for our surrounding community, our synod and literally around the world. Please prayerfully consider ways you can increase your generosity - you'll be blessed and so will those around you!

In Christ,

Pastor Janet Wold

#### **Pastoral Acts**

Memorial Service for Audrey Blobaum on September 25.

All Saints Lutheran Church • Byron, IL 61010

November 2021 Page 3

# **Bible Studies**

Check the calendar for changes to the Bible Study schedule.

The Monday afternoon Bible Study, facilitated by Pastor Janet Wold, continues via Zoom at 1:30 pm. This is a study and discussion of the following Sunday's Gospel lesson. A link to the Monday afternoon Bible Study is included in the Thursday announcements email. Feel free to join us! If you need a Zoom tutorial, Pastor Janet will help you with that. If you do not have a computer, you can join via telephone at the number included in the announcements email.

The Tuesday night Bible Study, facilitated by Steve Reid, meets from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in conference room #310. Enter by the Sunday School wing door. We will continue studying Biblical Devotions, and how they are related to Christian living. Topics include: "The Folly of Taking God out of Country," "The Horizontal Comparison of Ourselves," "The Second Coming – Reading the Signs of the Times," "Contending with God's Intervention of the World's Nations."

The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study, facilitated by Pastor Janet Wold meets in Conference Room #310. We will gather for an in-person Bible study on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm. This fall we are using a series entitled "Celebrating God." This Augsburg Adult Bible Study is a year-round Bible study that is released quarterly. Written by an array of accomplished theologians, this series provides terrific insights into scripture through questions, prayer, suggested memorization, and daily readings.

#### Each session:

- Explores the meaning of the text for the original writer and audience, and for today
- Includes a list of related texts for daily Bible reading
- Provides extensive background on each text. Each week is unique we invite you to come as often as you can!

The Sunday morning Adult Bible Study, facilitated by Steve Jones is held in the Fellowship Hall. The Adult Bible Study continues with the second half of the 24-lecture series entitled "From Jesus to Constantine: A History of Early Christianity." The course looks at early Christianity and its growth from the time of Jesus until Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire in the 4th century. The course is presented by Professor Bart D. Ehrman, who we have enjoyed several times before as our video lecturer. All are welcome!

# **October Council Highlights**

- Giving has not kept up with budgeted expenses.
- Sunday school is going well with mostly younger participants.
- Fall Stewardship campaign is beginning on October 12.
- Advent worship will begin December 1, featuring the return of soup suppers.
- 2022 budget planning has begun.
- We still need people to volunteer to run video during worship.

# November Sunday Scriptures

November 7 All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

November 14 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 21 Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November 28 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36



Please Clip & Save for your reference

Page 4 The Saintly News

# Poinsettia Orders

We are again ordering poinsettias from Merlin's in Oregon. These beautiful 8" plants are a deep red color wrapped in foil with a white bow. The cost is \$15.00 per plant and orders need to be placed by Sunday, December 5. The order form will be available in the narthex each Sunday, and in the emailed announcements sent out each week. Please make your checks payable to "All Saints Altar Guild" and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the office.

### **Book Club**

Books read recently by the Book Club will be on the cart near the front door and then added to the church library next month.

- ◆ The Next Level; A Parable of Finding Your Place in Life by David Gregory
- ♦ The Second Sister by Marie Bostwick
- The Friends of Jesus by Karen Kingsbury
- ♦ Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
- Snow Day by Billy Coffey
- ♦ The Sweetgum Knit Lit Society by Beth Pattillo
- Just Shy of Harmony by Phillip Gulley

#### The GATHERING

The GATHERING will meet on Tuesday, November 9 at 9:00 am. Come join in the fun and fellowship!

# **Quilters**

The quilters plan to meet on November 4th and 18th at 9:00 am at the church. This seems like a good time to thank everyone who has helped with making quilts this past year! There are so many steps to making a quilt, seeing it completed and delivered in a box to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) site. Thank you for the donations of money to help pay for shipping the quilts to the people in need. The work has already begun to have this process continue for the coming year. Thank you.

Worship Totals	Online Viewers	In-Person	Total	Sunday School	
September 26	226	61	287	18	
October 3	176	66	242	18	
10	126	63	189	18	
17	104	53	157	15	
Totals	632	243	875	69	
Average	158	61	219	17	

# **Library News**

The books being added this month to the library are authored by Sherryl Woods.

Mending Fences - Emily and Marcie have been the closest of friends for ten years. But the discovery of a terrible secret in one family and an arrest of a son in the other are threatening to break that bond of friendship.

Seaview Inn, #1 of the series "Seaview Key" - Single mom, Hannah is a go-getter who can handle any crisis. But her 85-year-old grandmother refuses to move to a retirement home, her 20-year-old daughter is suddenly pregnant, an old flame shows up and with a few crises of her own, they all add to the stress of being back home.

Wind Chime Point, an "Ocean Breeze Novel" - Facing a personal crisis, Gabriella seeks the serenity of her grandmother's home on the North Carolina coast. Everything she's worked for has been taken from her and she has a difficult decision to make about her future. The last thing she needs is an unexpected love.

Honeysuckle Summer, # 7 of the series, "Sweet Magnolia" - Raylene has come home to Serenity. She is staying with friends, the Sweet Magnolias, to get away from an abusive husband before he kills her. She meets Carter and falls in love but wonders if she's strong enough to accept his love. Will they have more than this one summer together?

# 2021-2022 Confirmation Class Schedule

November 7	Kings	I don't know where kings fit into the story of Israel.	1 Samuel 8:1-9	
November 14	Babylonian Captivity	I don't know why God would free the people only to let them be captured again.	Jeremiah 25:1-4	
November 21 Prophets		I don't know what qualifies someone to be a prophet.	Deuteronomy 18:15-22	
November 28	NO CLASS			

November 2021 Page 5

# **Finance Report**

	-	3 27ABS 3 2	Actual	Budget			<b>Budget Total</b>
Budget Items		Item Description	September	September	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>	2021
Revenue		General Fund	\$13,017	\$16,488	\$132,914	\$148,397	\$197,856
		Mortgage	\$945	\$2,095	\$12,266	\$18,855	\$25,140
		Other Giving	\$1,010	\$833	\$7,461	\$7,501	\$9,996
		Total Revenue	\$14,972	\$19,416	\$152,640	\$174,753	\$232,992
	1000	Mission Support	\$0	\$1,250	\$12,103	\$11,250	\$15,000
		Other Outreach	\$720	\$506	\$2,498	\$4,582	\$6,072
		Total Outreach	\$720	\$1,756	\$14,601	\$15,832	\$21,072
	2000	Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$1,103	\$1,245	\$6,948	\$11,334	\$14,940
Expenses		Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$11,936	\$11,711	\$100,238	\$105,431	\$140,532
		Total Ministries	\$13,039	\$12,956	\$107,186	\$116,765	\$155,472
	3000	Total Building (Non Capital)	\$1,878	\$2,591	\$20,401	\$23,369	\$31,092
		Total Expense	\$15,637	\$17,303	\$142,188	\$155,966	\$207,636
	3000 Capital	Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$2,094	\$2,095	\$21,832	\$18,855	\$25,140
		Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$668	\$0	\$0
		Total Building Capital	\$2,094	\$2,095	\$22,499	\$18,855	\$25,140
		Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$17,731	\$19,398	\$164,688	\$174,821	\$232,776
Net		Net for Month/Year (Expenses Minus Revenue)	(\$2,759)		(\$12,048)		
		(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year	(\$1,667)		(\$10,133)		

# **Sunday School News**

Some of the best things about Christmas are the symbols and the rituals associated with the celebration of this holiday. Many familiar Christmas symbols are full of Biblical meaning. The Sunday School children will share some of those stories during their Christmas program, which will be presented on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> during the 9:00 am worship service. The program is based on the Christmas play entitled "The 12 Symbols of Christmas." A mom and her



children are planning how to decorate their home for Christmas. As they plan, they discuss the meaning behind each item and how they all lead to Jesus.

If your child is interested in being part of this Sunday School Christmas Program, please let Michel Williams know as soon as possible, so parts can be determined.

# Silent Auction to Benefit ELCA Good Gifts program

Advent season is not far off. During the Advent season, WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) will be holding a silent auction on a variety of items with proceeds being directed to the ELCA Good Gifts program our Sunday School participates in each year. Items donated may be either homemade or purchased and will be collected by the end of November. The auction items will be on display through the month of December beginning with the first midweek Advent Wednesday evening service on December 1st and ending on the 4th Wednesday with winners being announced December 22nd. If you are interested in contributing an item or have questions, please see Carol Miller.

# Byron School District Food Pantry

The Byron School District Food Pantry currently sends groceries home with needy families in the district each week. They also provide snacks to students at Mary Morgan Elementary. At the high school they provide breakfast to anyone needing it. Here is a list of their current needs:

Mac 'n Cheese Hamburger/Tuna Helper Taco kits Lipton sides Rice/Noodles Tuna Canned chicken Spaghetti sauce Cereal Boxed or bagged potatoes Granola bars Cereal bars Feminine hygiene items Snacks Toothpaste Shampoo

Please place your donations in the basket by the main entrance. Thank you for your generosity!

# In Our Prayers

Health & Healing Iolvnn Beers Jim Coffman Phyllis Coffman George Davis Phil Houston Steve Reid Kit Reif Jim Wilcox Bill Michaux Sandi Rennick Dennis Reid Richard McCabe Gary Wuslich Kevin Lyons Diann Mike Gordon Judy Wirth Toni Girten Will Heindrick **Christopher Bowers** Jason DelaCruz Gage Bruce Roller Felipe Sanchez Larry Pearson Cheryl Henert Keith Padget Ann Frerichs Tom Lombardo Francis Stevenson Jared King Judy Hines John Peterson Rhonda Kay Sharon Plenliewicz Margie Myer

Shut Ins Lori Pederson Doris Swedberg Mary Whitmer

Military
David Bishop
Dylan Bishop
Tyler Peterson
Staff Sgt. Kyle Reif
Matt Vizer
Sage Harper
Cristiano Sasso

Sympathy
Doug Roberts
Doug Karr
Barb Kopperud



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# **Decorate for Advent!**

Advent begins Sunday, November 28! Join us in preparing the church by decorating the sanctuary and putting up the various Christmas trees. We have the big Crismon tree and greens in the sanctuary, a tree for the Sunday School hallway, and other trees throughout the church building that need to be

decorated. We need all hands – adults and kids of all ages. We will meet at church at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 27. It is a fun time with the fellowship of working together. A sign-up sheet is posted on Bulletin Board #2. If you have questions call the church office.





#### November 7

Daylight Saving Time Ends All Saints Sunday

#### November 14

Stewardship Dedication Sunday of 2022 Statements of Intent

#### November 21

Deadline for People Helping People Thanksgiving donations

#### November 25

Happy Thanksgiving!

#### November 27

Decorate for Advent

#### December 1

First Advent mid-week worship First mid-week Soup Supper