

## Ash Wednesday Worship

**March 5**

6:00 pm – 6:45 pm Pancake Supper served by the Youth  
(fundraiser for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering)

7:00 pm Worship with imposition of ashes and communion



## Soup Supper & Lenten Worship

**Five Wednesdays in Lent**

(March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, & April 9)

6 pm – 6:30 pm Soup and Bread Supper

7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship



## All Saints Blood Drive

**Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

We will contact those who have given in the past to ask if they would like to schedule an appointment March 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in donating for the first time, please call Jim Wilcox at 815-298-5546. For questions regarding health, medications, or travel that may deny you the opportunity to donate, call the Rock River Blood Center at 815-965-8751.



## First Communion Class

It has been the tradition here at All Saints to offer First Communion instruction to 4<sup>th</sup> graders so they can take their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. In order to prepare students for this important day in their life, Pastor Marilyn will be offering two communion classes for both parents and students to attend together. The classes are scheduled for Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (1:00 – 2:30 pm). Please contact the church office to register at (815) 234-5277.



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**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Michel Williams  
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 815-262-2963

**OFFICE SECRETARIES**

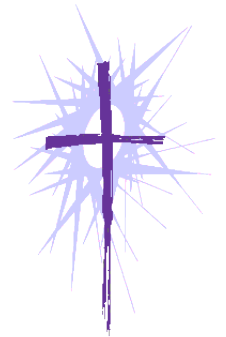
Karen Larson  
 Cindy Beitel  
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 815-234-5277  
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Deadline for the April Newsletter is **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please send articles to Yvonne Anaya  
[yward1973@yahoo.com](mailto:yward1973@yahoo.com)

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

*“O Lord, throughout these forty days  
 you prayed and kept the fast;  
 inspire repentance for our sin,  
 and free us from our past.*

*You strove with Satan, and you won;  
 your faithfulness endured;  
 lend us your nerve, your skill and trust  
 In God’s eternal word.” (ELW #319*



As we turn the calendar to the month of March, we will be entering into the season of Lent. The season actually begins on March 5, which is Ash Wednesday. This is a solemn day of penitence, where in worship, we come forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads. These ashes are signs of our own mortality, of our need for repentance, but they also come as a sign of hope to us in the cross.

On the first Sunday of Lent each year, we are confronted with the story of Jesus’ wilderness experience. According to Matthew’s Gospel, our lectionary for the year, Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River and then the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. There he would spend 40 long days and nights trying to withstand the temptations of Satan while being comforted by the angels who waited on him. When his ordeal in the wilderness was over, Jesus began his public ministry in the Galilean countryside.

I have always puzzled over this sequence of events ... why did Jesus, after his baptism, have to spend time in the wilderness before he could begin his ministry? And, why was it for such a long time? The best explanation I can come up with is that it was an excellent training ground for what was ahead of him as he faced the challenges and demands of his ministry. This transition period gave him plenty of time alone to converse with God and to gain the strength he needed to emerge and be ready for public service.

As you and I journey through life, we face a variety of wilderness experiences ... where temptations seek to lead us astray, when people we hold near and dear are taken from us, when things like jobs and relationships disappoint us, when the supports around us fail. How we spend that wilderness time greatly impacts how we come through it.

This Lenten season, I invite you to join with members of your church family for our Wednesday evening midweek services which will focus on those wilderness times ... those broken times in our own lives and in our world. We’ll then turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross.

In closing, I offer these words as my prayer for us all through this time of Lenten reflection:

*“Be with us through this season, Lord,  
 and all our earthly days,  
 that when the final Easter dawns,  
 we join in heaven’s praise.” (ELW #319)*

*Pastor Marilyn Hanson*

## Annual Congregation Meeting Highlights

### January 2014

- Elected to Church Council: Bob Branson, Dennis Cassens, Allison Roberts & Sarah Krug (youth)
- Synod Assembly voting members: Kay Johnson, Michel Williams, & Courtney Loomis (youth)
- Mission Endowment Fund Committee: Lavonne Berkeley & Michael Schlagel
- Adopted a budget of \$242,647 for 2014
- Adopted amendments to the constitution as presented
- Heard a report of the Call Committee
- Adopted the proposal to project liturgy and hymns on screens for worship instead of using printed bulletins, beginning May of 2014
- Discussed the possibility of a building expansion in the future

## Highlights of the February Church Council Meeting

- Elected Kay Johnson, President and Dennis Cassens, Vice President of the congregation
- Received, with regret, the resignation of Allison Roberts from the Church Council
- Appointed the following council members to chair our standing committees:
  - Christian Education – Dennis Cassens
  - Finance – Steve Reid
  - Outreach – Rebecca Heaslip
  - Property – Bob Branson
  - Social Ministry – Jim Wilcox
  - Stewardship – Steve Jones
  - Worship – Troy Rahn
  - Youth & Family Ministry – Sarah Krug
- Voted to ask Sonja Stoker to take Allison Robert’s position on the council for 2014 and serve as secretary of the congregation
- Received the financial reports, noting that we are experiencing a shortfall of income over expenses by \$2,047
- Voted to re-instate the Parish Coordinator position through September 30, 2014 and offer it to Marlene Roberts
- Approved the request of AI-Anon to continue using our church facility for a donation rather than a set fee each month
- Approved the use of Memorial Funds to purchase equipment for networking the office computers. Mark Hart will install the equipment
- Discussed the need for more volunteers to mow the grass in the summer months.
- Heard that All Saints will host the Blood Drive here on March 27
- Discussed nursery staffing and the need for more volunteers to serve in this ministry
- Approved the proposal presented by Pastor Marilyn to have all standing committees of the congregation meet on the same evening each month, followed by the monthly Executive Committee meeting -The date set for “Committee Night” was the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday evening of each month beginning on March 24, 2014, at 7:00 pm (See back page)

## Parish Coordinator Position

Marlene Roberts accepted the position of Parish Coordinator and will continue the Sunday coordinator position and help with training volunteers through September.

### Scripture Texts



March 2  
Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

March 9  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

March 16  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

March 23  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

March 30  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### Tuesday Night Bible Study



*All are welcome to attend as often as you are able. We will use the Gospel lessons for Sunday as our study material from the site [www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org). (Please use the South entrance.)*

March 4  
Discipleship: An Instrument of Peace and Love  
Text: Matthew 4:1-11

March 11  
Discipleship: An Instrument of Pardon and Faith  
Text: John 3:1-17

March 18  
Discipleship: An Instrument of Hope and Light  
Text: John 4:5-42

March 25  
Discipleship: An Instrument of Joy and Consolation  
Text: John 9:1-41

## January Finance Report

General / Facilities Giving	\$ 12,468.00
General / Facilities Expenses	\$ 17,531.23
Mortgage Reduction / Capital Campaign Giving	\$ 6,062.00
Mortgage Balance	\$ 259,980.23

## Offering Envelopes

As you know, the General Fund and Facilities Fund have been consolidated into one account. The 2014 offering envelopes reflect this change, and also combines the Capitol Campaign and Mortgage Reduction funds on one line. It would be helpful to the offering counters if you would circle which mortgage account you would like your offering applied. If you use the "Other" line on the offering envelopes, please write on the line where you would like those funds applied (i.e. NI Synod benevolence, LOMC, Youth Group and so forth). This will assure the gifts you are giving to All Saints will go to the funds you intended. Thank you for your help.



## Finance Committee – Treasurer Needed

The council is looking for a volunteer to fill the position of Church Treasurer. If you feel that you have the time, willingness and talent to fill this rewarding position, please contact Pastor Marilyn Hanson or Steve Reindl. Carolyn Niederer is ready to train an interested candidate immediately. She will also be available after stepping down to act as a consultant.

## Rummage Sale

Go ahead, clean out those closets and box up what you can no longer use and give it to the WELCA Rummage Sale. The sale will be held April 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Lodge. Easter is later this year (April 20<sup>th</sup>), so the sale will be before Easter.



## Call Committee

The Call Committee's most recent progression through the Ministry Site Profile centered around discussing and applying the results of the congregational survey. Thank you to all who responded; your input is now included in the profile. We also examined the All Saints mission statement and current congregational assets and challenges. All these elements will contribute to appropriate candidate recommendations by the Synod. The Call Committee hopes to complete the Ministry Site Profile at our next meeting at the end of February.

*-Rachel Niederer, Recorder*

## WELCA News

Thank you to all who have contributed items for the military boxes we sent off on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We sent four boxes this time, two to service personnel and two to the base chaplains for distribution to those who don't receive mail or packages from home.

I have receipts for 85 boxes which have been sent since this project started. All Saints Church is proud of all of you who have participated in this endeavor. We're down to only two names now and that's a good thing, don't you think? We will continue to send packages every other month to those whose names you submit until all of our troops come home.

Betty Klink

## HELP YOUR CHURCH –

### Annual Spring Clean Up

Our church runs on the efforts of many volunteers. In addition to maintaining a pleasant place for us all to worship, a well maintained property can influence visitors' choices to worship here or make a return visit.

The annual spring clean-up day at the church is scheduled for **April 26<sup>th</sup>**. There is a need for all people, regardless of their skills, to perform a variety of tasks to help maintain our facilities. To date, only seven people have indicated on their time and talent sheet a willingness to help in this bi-annual event. Other duties, such as lawn maintenance, are a weekly responsibility. More volunteers are needed. Please keep in mind as our congregation grows, we hope our volunteer participation increases as well.

All Saints has thrived on volunteerism, which has built up community spirit and allowed the congregation to use its financial resources in other directions. If you would like to volunteer for the spring clean up or lawn maintenance, please contact Cindy at the church office.



## Worship Committee Update

With Lent fast approaching us we are in the process of planning for the mid-week Lenten soup supper. WELCA and the confirmation youth have already selected their Wednesday's to provide the soup and extras, but we will still need people to help out on the following Wednesday evenings (3/19, 4/2 and 4/9). Please see sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards.

At our most recent meeting, the committee has also decided to rearrange and update some of the volunteer positions for worship! We will hold a training class for everyone involved in volunteering for ushers and greeters on **Sunday March 16 at 9:30** in the sanctuary. Please make arrangements to be there or speak with me personally so I can speak with you about the changes. *The new arrangement will begin on March 23!*

We are continuing to work on beginning a homebound eucharistic ministry team VERY SOON! So if you are interested in this type of ministry please contact pastor or myself ASAP.

Yours in Christ, Troy Rahn

## Church Closure

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013 for the first time in 35 years All Saints church services that day were cancelled due to the severe weather. To keep informed of any weather related closings, "LIKE" us on Facebook and/or check the homepage at [www.AllSaintsByron.org](http://www.AllSaintsByron.org).

## 2014 Congregational Resourcing Event

This event is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, at the Kishwaukee College in Malta, IL. The sign up deadline was February 23, but if you have an interest, please contact the church office.

Worship Attendance				
February	8:00	10:30	Total	Sunday School
2	68	57	125	44
9	49	65	114	49
16	65	71	136	53
23	72	63	135	40
Total	254	256	510	186
Average	63.5	64	127.5	46.5



# YouthNews

March 2014

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*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21*

**Youth Quake/Zone** We all had a great time being together, hearing faith stories, the speaker, and listening to Christians bands. Thanks to all the parents for providing food for the trip. A Big THANK YOU to Pete Raum for being an adult chaperone. We couldn't have attended without you.

### Souper Bowl of Caring.

Thank you for your donations. Broncos received \$165.00 and Seahawks brought in \$86.00. This was the first time in 6 years that All Saints voted for the losing team.

### March 5<sup>th</sup> .....Ash Wednesday

Pancake Supper from 6:00 -6:45 pm at church. Come help out and earn youth dollars. Arrive at 5:30 pm to help make sausages and pancakes.

### March 9<sup>th</sup> .....Youth Nite /Movie Night

All age youth will meet together for snack and movie. We will meet at church from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. An adult volunteer is needed to help with Jr. High youth. Thanks!

### Winter Jam 2014 Tour Spectacular

Winter Jam will be Saturday, March 29, 2014, at the Sears Center Arena in Hoffman Estates, IL. This is an incredible evening of live concerts by 10 top artists in Christian music plus worship and ministry.

Admission is only \$10 per person at the door! Doors open at 5:00 pm. This event will start at 6:00 pm. Come one, come all. **Please sign up on youth board and car-pooling may be available.**

# YouthNews cont

**April 5<sup>th</sup> ...Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner is coming up soon. It will be held at church from 5:00 -7:00 pm. Please come, eat and mingle with folks and support our youth group. Youth volunteers are needed to make the dinner. Sign up on the youth board.**



**April 7<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 - 7:30 pm - Annual Rummage Sale Set-Up**

Youth, let's help out. We will meet at the Masonic Lodge to help fill tables, unload boxes and whatever else needs to be done. This is a great service project.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> ... Easter Breakfast set up**  
10:00 am - noon. See youth board for sign up to help or to add to the list of donations.

**April 20<sup>th</sup> ... Easter Breakfast**  
Breakfast will be served from 7:00 -7:45 am and 9:00-10:00 am.  
Sign up on Youth board to help serve.

**Let's have a..... Family Fun Night (TBA)**  
Get your families together. Let's have a family bowling night and have some fun. We will meet at church at 4:30 pm, and go to the Towne & Country Bowling Alley in Mt. Morris. Bowling starts at 5:00 pm. Please bring \$7.00 for two games and shoe rental. Bring extra money for snacks.

Audrey Adams,  
All Saints Youth Leader

## S.T.A.T.I.C.

Students Taking Action Together In Christ

## Confirmation Schedule

- Sun., March 2 The Lord's Prayer – Our Father
- Wed., March 5 Old Testament – Wisdom Literature (6:00 – 6:45 pm)  
Plan to attend Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm with your family
- Sun., March 9 The Lord's Prayer – Hallowed
- Wed., March 12 *Leader and Guide Huddle*
- Sun., March 16 The Lord's Prayer – Kingdom Come
- Wed., March 19 Old Testament – Voice of the Prophets
- Sun., March 23 The Lord's Prayer – Will Be Done
- Wed., March 26 Confirmation Service Project (make and serve soup)
- Sun., March 30 The Lord's Prayer – Daily Bread

## The Quilters

The quilters plan to meet March 6th and 20th from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the church. The cold weather did not keep ladies from coming to work on quilts for the needy this winter. The two hours go by quickly as donated sheets and fabrics are transformed into quilt backings and squares for quilt tops. Three layers of fabrics measuring sixty inches by eighty inches equals one quilt. Machine stitching is done to bind the edges together. We believe this work is one way we can tell others that we care about them. Please join us on the first and third Thursdays of the month whenever you can.





## Book Club

The book, *Summer Island* by Kristin Hannah, will be discussed in March instead of February. If you have not had a chance to read it, now you have a few more weeks! Join in the fellowship on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall.



### Summer Island Synopsis:

Years ago, Nora Bridge walked out on her marriage and left her daughters behind. Now she is a famous talk show host. Her daughter, Ruby, is a struggling comedienne. The two haven't spoken in more than a decade. Then a scandal from Nora's past is exposed, and Ruby is offered a fortune to write a tell-all about her mother. Reluctantly, she returns to the family house on Summer Island, a home filled with frayed memories of joy and heartache. Confronting a past that includes a never-forgotten love, a sick best friend, and a mother who has harbored terrible family secrets, Ruby finally begins to understand the complex ties that bind a mother and daughter—and the healing that comes with forgiveness.

## The Gathering

The ladies of "The Gathering" have knitted prayer shawls, hats and lap robes for cancer patients at the Swedish American Regional Cancer Center (SARCC). Recently, more lap robes and prayer shawls were delivered to the SARCC and were gratefully appreciated. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting any of these objects and would like further information or instructions, call Gloria Olsen at 815-335-2555.



Additionally, four boxes were packed and sent to overseas military personnel. As long as military personnel are stationed overseas, boxes will continue being sent about once a quarter. Contributions are welcomed and a list of suggested items can be found on the side of the donation box located in the Narthex.

"The Gathering" will meet on Tuesday, March 11 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Jo Marie Branson volunteered to provide the coffee treat.

## Library

The following items featured this month are Lenten and Easter themed:

- DVD *The Passion of Christ*
- Children's Videos
- Audio tapes titled: *Lutheran Vespers, A Young Believer's Lenten Journey*
- Children's books: *The Week That Led to Easter, Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem, Good Friday, The Day Jesus Died, The Easter Women, He's Risen! He's Alive!, The Story of Easter, The Time of Easter*
- Guideposts' *The First Easter*
- *The Case for Easter, A Journalist Investigates the Evidence for the Resurrection* by Lee Strobel
- *Easter Gospels- The Resurrection of Jesus according to the Four Evangelists*
- *The First Easter* by Peter Marshall
- *The Very First Easter* by Paul L. Maier
- *The Cross* by Max Lucado
- Lenten Devotionals: *Followers of the Cross*, donated by Audrey and Dave Adams, and *Walk With Jesus*



Donated by the Adam's family:

- *She's all That*- Lily has lost a promotion, her boyfriend has an issue with monogamy, and she's sure her bad hair is the reason. She needs a Spa Weekend with her Spa Girls!
- *Calm, Cool & Adjusted*- Poppy is a chiropractor with bad fashion sense, a lover of all things natural, and unable to get a second date. Her route to self discovery contains a plastic surgeon, a house in Santa Cruz and a wedding date from the dark side. Time for a Spa Girl's Weekend!

## Health & Healing



**Holly Fortener**  
**Al Olsen**  
**Mike Schlagel**  
**George Wrasse**  
 Kim Sherman  
 Mary Dummer  
 Francine Reibel  
 Laura Logas  
 April Roos  
 Nancy Stout  
 Charlize Soltes

### In the Military

**Tyler Peterson**  
 Stacy Seaworth  
 Ryan Westphal

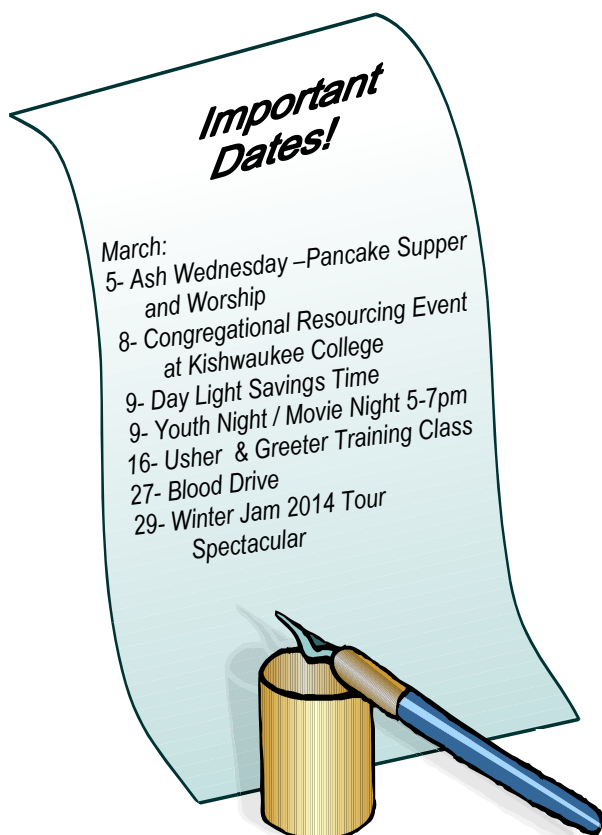
### In Sympathy

Deloris Kant  
 Alfred Kornett  
 Steve Woods  
 Jim Orr  
 Kathy Hamas  
 Pat Reinche

A PUBLICATION OF  
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
624 Luther Dr.  
Byron, IL 61010-9684  
March Issue - Mailed 2/25/2014

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## Committee Night Begins on March 24

All Saints will begin a new schedule and format for the meetings of its eight standing committees – Christian Education, Outreach, Social Ministry, Finance, Stewardship, Property, Worship and Youth & Family Ministry. All committees will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, beginning on March 24. The format for the evening will be as follows:

- 7:00 – 8:00 pm      Committees meet individually around tables in the Fellowship Hall for planning and visioning.
- 8:00 – 8:15 pm      Committee members come together for devotions & sharing of committee highlights.
- 8:30 – 9:00 pm      Executive Committee meets to prepare agenda for upcoming Church Council meeting.

Come and join one of our committees on March 24. We'd love to hear your ideas! Serving on a committee is important work and a way you can help shape the ministry of this congregation.

Office Hours - Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.