



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 36 Issue No. 12 / December 2013



Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

Tuesday, December 24 - 7:00 pm and 10:30 pm

Join your All Saints family for a Christmas Eve service of carols and communion in the beautiful poinsettia adorned sanctuary. Invite your family and neighbors to praise God for the uplifting joy and good news of our Savior's birth. Both services will conclude with a candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night."

Advent Mid-Week Worship and Soup Supper

As we approach Advent we anticipate the birth of our Savior, but at the same time, we realize that for some people the holidays are a time of stress, trials and tribulation. We will have three mid-week (Wednesday) Advent services on December 4, 11 and 18 at 7:00 pm. These services of healing and forgiveness will be approximately 30 minutes in length. The laying on of hands and anointing of oil will be offered. Participation in these two portions is completely optional.



This year we invite you to a light soup supper and fellowship before the Advent services each Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. All are welcome! These will be simple, light soup suppers provided by volunteers and/or groups of the church.

If you can help set up, provide soup, crackers, bread, cookies, or clean up, please sign up on Bulletin Board #2.

We hope you will join us for these Advent activities.
Worship Committee



Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 15, at 9:15 am. We will practice during Sunday School on December 1, and on December 8. A dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 10:00 am. Anyone who would like to participate or help with the Christmas Program is invited to contact Alisha Fortener at 815-742-8033.

***Whole Family Education Classes will not meet on December 22 or December 29.
Classes will resume on January 5, 2014.***

**Sunday Worship 8:00 and 10:30 am
Whole Family Education Hour**

**Responding to the Gospel
to carry out God's mission**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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Deadline is Dec 15th for the Jan Newsletter. Articles should be e-mailed to Carolyn Niederer. rjn2cjin@comcast.net

Dear friends in Christ,

Christmas is coming! The stores are decorated beautifully for the holiday season and the big sales promotions have begun. Neighbors are trimming their homes with brightly colored lights and thoughts of Christmas shopping, holiday baking and card writing are most certainly on our minds.



Christmas is coming! We know that it's true. However, in the church we try not to rush into the season too quickly. Instead, we set aside the four weeks leading up to Christmas to observe the season of Advent. The word Advent means "coming", the coming of Christ at Christmas. We mark the season by lighting candles on an Advent wreath, one for each Sunday of the season. We sing hymns that speak of hope and expectation. Our assigned scripture readings for the Advent season help prepare us for the coming of Christ by speaking to us of "waiting" and "watching."

We know all about "waiting" don't we? It seems that we do it all the time. We wait in line at the grocery store. We wait for our order to be filled at a restaurant. We wait for the mail to come or we wait for a response to a text message we just sent. We wait for news of the birth of a grandchild. We wait for kids to come home for a visit. College-bound youth wait for news on whether they've been accepted at their college of choice. The elderly, especially those who are tired and in poor health, wait to die. It seems we are all waiting for something!

We also know a lot about "watching." We watch our favorite television shows and cheer on our sports teams, hoping for victory. We watch and sometimes shake our heads at the declining moral values we observe in our society. We watch as political candidates are cheered on by their supporters or chastised by their opponents. We watch with fear and trembling as life around us is destroyed ... when hurricanes, earthquakes or fires strike in the blink of an eye.

"Watching" and "waiting" are the themes of Advent, and perhaps life in general. What can you do spiritually this Advent season to make these weeks of watching and waiting fuller and richer for yourself and your family? Let me suggest a couple of things. If it isn't a daily practice already, consider setting aside a little bit of time each day for reading scripture, reflecting on what God's message might be for you, and praying for courage and guidance to follow in the way you are led. Consider joining your church family for a soup supper and short mid-week Advent service on Wednesday, December 4, 11 & 18. It may be just what you need to quiet your mind and renew your spirit in the midst of a very busy season.

A blessed Advent to you,
Pastor Marilyn

Pastoral Acts: November 19 – funeral for Richard W. Johnson

Annual Report Time

Attention all Organizations,
Committees, Secretaries, Treasurers:

Now is the time to review the past year and write your report for the Annual Congregation meeting to be held **January 26th**. Please include a financial report and a brief overview of what your group has done in 2013. Reports need to be submitted to the office by **January 5th** so the booklet can be compiled and made available prior to the Annual Congregation meeting.

Copies of last year's report are available if needed. If possible, please submit your report in a Word file and e-mail it to the church (Office@AllSaintsByron.org). Of course, a hand written report will be accepted as well.

Thank you!
Congregation Council

Poinsettia Plants

If you would like to order a Poinsettia plant this year to help adorn the sanctuary please do so by **December 8**. Plants are \$12.50 each. You can make a check out to All Saints Altar Guild and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the office along with the order form. Additional order forms are available in the church office.



Call Committee

At their December 9th meeting, the Congregation Council will be appointing a Call Committee for the purpose of calling a new pastor to lead All Saints into the future. Names of those selected for this Call Committee will be announced Sunday, December 15, 2013 at both services.

Friends for Neighbors

The Christmas list for Neighbors Rehabilitation Center residents has 9 names for this holiday season. The list of names is on Bulletin Board #2. Each name is attached to a page that will give you instructions as to how you can brighten one resident's day. The gift needs to be **delivered** to Neighbors Rehabilitation Center in Byron by **December 17** in time for their party on the 19th.

Annual Meeting Voting Requirements

All Saints' constitution lists two minimal requirements in order to be considered an active voting member at congregation meetings: receive Holy Communion and make at least one financial contribution of record in the current or previous year. "Of record" simply means that the financial secretary has recorded your donation because you have used an offering envelope or written a check.

Scripture Texts



December 1
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

December 8
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 15
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 22
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 24
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

December 29
Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Tuesday Night Bible Study



All are welcome to attend as often as you are able. (Please use the South entrance.)

We will use the Gospel lessons for Sunday as our study material.
(www.ELCA.org)

December 3
Matthew 3:1-12

December 10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 17
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24
No Bible Study – Christmas Eve

December 31
No Bible Study – New Years Eve

Financial Report

General / Facilities Giving	\$ 13,411.72
General / Facilities Expenses	\$ 16,431.06
Mortgage Reduction / Capital Campaign Giving	3,300.95
Mortgage Balance	\$ 269,215.75

WELCA

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) will meet on Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am for a breakfast potluck in the Fellowship Hall at church. Please bring a breakfast dish to pass and your ideas for WELCA activities in the new year!



All women of All Saints are members of WELCA and are invited and encouraged to attend this fun meeting.

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Holiday Shopping Extravaganza on November 9. Seventeen vendors, some of them members of All Saints, displayed their products for sale. Lunch was provided by the All Saints Youth Group and was much appreciated by the vendors and shoppers alike. The next Holiday Shopping Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2014, so mark your calendars now!

Altar Guild

The Annual Altar Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2014 at 9:00 am. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the ministry of Altar Guild, elect officers for the coming year, and create a schedule for Altar Guild service for 2014. Current Altar Guild members are invited and encouraged to attend.



We are in need of new Altar Guild members. Everyone is invited to join – men, women, youth – everyone! Many hands make light work!
Kay Johnson, President



On October 24th, All Saints was the host for the annual Lifeline Screening event.

In less than hour All Saints fellowship hall was turned into a small medical facility. There were partitions for privacy, an area for blood drawing, and a waiting area as well. While the event began to take place there was the sound of a heartbeat that could be heard by the guests that showed up to participate in this worthwhile screening process.

I was fortunate enough to be able to spend the day at the church during the activity which enabled me to greet visitors as they arrived. I received many thanks from our guests who appreciated All Saints hosting the screening process. This was a great way to open All Saints doors to our neighbors and offered the opportunity for them to participate in the various screening processes offered.

At the end of the event, I was told by the Life-line Screening staff that all 41 appointments had made it to the activity, which was a very successful day for them. This year there were no guests identified with immediate health concerns as has been the case the last few years.

God Bless,
Jim Wilcox
Social Ministry Chairman

Time and Talent Sheets

If you have already returned your pledge card and Time & Talent Sheets to church, THANK YOU! If you have not returned them, we hope you will prayerfully consider how you can share your time and talents with All Saints, and return them to church by Dedication Sunday, December 8, 2013.

Nursery Help Needed

All Saints is in need of adult volunteers to help staff the nursery during Sunday morning services. As a convenience, All Saints provides child care during services. With few adult volunteers, we need additional members to staff our nursery.

Out of concern for liability for the church and volunteers, the nursery needs to be staffed by two responsible people: an adult and a teen. The church council determined if the nursery could not be staffed with the required personnel on any given Sunday, any children left for child care in the nursery would be returned to their parents. We don't intend to inconvenience anyone, however the safety of our children is our utmost priority.

If you are interested in helping with this worthwhile activity, please consider volunteering by calling the church office. If we have enough volunteers, each one will be called to serve only a few times each year. If you would like to consider being a substitute, that would be helpful too.

Blessings,
 Jim Wilcox
 Council President

Confirmation Lesson Schedule December 2013

- Sun., Dec 1 – The life of Jesus – The Gospel overview
- Wed., Dec 4 – Old Testament – The Fall
- Sun., Dec 8 – The life of Jesus – the birth of Jesus
- Wed., Dec 11 – *Leader and Guide huddle*
- Sun., Dec 15 – Sunday School Christmas Program
- Wed., Dec 18 – Old Testament – People of the Promise
- Sun., Dec 22 – NO CLASS
- Wed., Dec 25 – *Family Date Night*
- Sun., Dec 29 - NO CLASS

Worship Attendance				
November	8:00	10:30	Total	Sunday School
3	78	63	141	48
10	78	77	155	50
17	77	71	148	na
24	68	74	142	na
Total	301	285	586	98
Average	75	71	147	49



YouthNews

December 2013

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Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4

On November 9th, we served lunch for the Holiday Shopping Extravaganza held at church. **THANKS** goes out to everyone who helped out. The youth group made a profit of \$180.00.

December 4th & 18th ...STATIC Nite

High school youth get together from 6:00-7:30 pm Wednesday nights at church. We have all kinds of fun, do adventurous things, plan events and so much more... **If you are in 8th grade now**, we would love to have you join us.

December 6th ... Miracle on 2nd Street

6:00-8:30 pm - The youth of All Saints will be selling hot dogs for \$1.00. Youth, go sign up on youth board to help, We have lots of fun. Please arrive at 5:45 to help set up. We will be on the corner across from Byron Bank.

December 8th ... Youth Christmas Party 5-7 pm at church - We will have a gift exchange. Bring a \$5 gift for a boy or girl. Please bring a treat to share. Have a favorite game? Bring it with and we can all join in.

December 14th ... Christmas Caroling/Pizza Share your holiday spirit and join all of us at All Saints to go Christmas caroling. We will meet at church at 2:30 pm to plan our route. We will be caroling from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Dress for the weather! The caroling groups will return to church and have pizza. You are welcome to come as a family and invite some friends to join in also! See you there!

December ... We will be selling Little Caesar's Pizza Kits. Come see Audrey to get your pizza form to start selling.

December 22nd ...NO Youth Night

**Have a very Merry Christmas
 and a Happy New Year!**

YOUTH NITE's...January 12th & 26th

5:00-7:00 pm at church

Jr. High and High School youth will meet together for snack and devotions at church. Jr. High and H.S. will split up for an hour, and then get back together to play some team building games. I will need an Adult to help with Jr. High youth.

January 16th ...Youth Quake/Zone meeting

For all those who will be going to Quake/Zone, we will meet at church at 6:30 pm for a parent and youth meeting to go over all plans for the youth quake trip in February. Please plan to attend.

January 20th ... LYO & LOMC Present the Annual Northern Illinois Synod JR. & SR. High Ski Trip

We will go to Chestnut Mountain in Galena for some skiing and lots of fun. See youth board for sign up sheet and more information.

Youth Quake/Zone.. 6th-12thgrade

Friday, January 31st - Sunday, February 2, 2014 @ Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells.

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all." 1 Chronicles 29:11

**Audrey Adams**

All Saints Youth & Family Leader

Our Mission statement:

Seeking God, Serving Others & Having Fun!

S.T.A.T.O.C

Students Taking Action Together In Christ

Book Club

Book club takes the month of December off. Join the group on Monday, January 27th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



We will be discussing the book, *Orphan Train* by Christina Bakerkline. Rich in detail and epic in scope, it is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

The GATHERING

At the November meeting of "The Gathering", it was announced that \$305.50 was earned at the Holiday Shopping Extravaganza. This was all profit as every article was donated. A big "thank you" to everyone who helped make this a great fundraiser. Remaining items have been donated to Angels Treasures. Thank you Dorothy Lalowski for the fig bars. So good and tasty.



The December 10th "Gathering" will meet at Sunrise Restaurant in Byron at 9:00 am for breakfast (pay your own way). Please wear your Christmas attire and jewelry. Be festive!

January will find "The Gathering" resuming knitting, crocheting and other handwork projects. Everyone is invited to come, no need for handwork. Socializing is great. January 14 at 9:00 am is the next "Gathering".
Linda Hank

QUILTERS

The quilters plan to meet on December 5th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the church. There will be only one meeting this month so the rest of the month may be used to prepare for Christmas. Twenty finished quilts are on the shelves waiting for more to join them. Working on the quilts is a work of love as we think about the needy people who will receive them one day. It is also a time of joy for each of us as we gather on our work day to spend a few hours together. This is an open invitation to all to join us in December and throughout the New Year.



Millie Knodle

Thank you

The family of Richard Johnson wishes to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy at this difficult time. Dick, who was a charter member of All Saints, passed away on Friday, November 15 at 5:00 am. His funeral was held at All Saints on Tuesday, November 19.

Families in Faith

"I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you" Romans 12:4-5.

Thank you all who attended the Thanksgiving potluck to thank the Lord for all he has given us. It was enjoyed by all.

Come join us for FAITH, FELLOWSHIP and FUN!

Families in Faith will be joining the Youth Group on Dec 14 from 3:00-5:00 pm for Christmas caroling. Come at 2:30 pm to help plan our route. Please come have fun as we celebrate Christmas.

Our next task force meeting will be held on Jan 8, 2014 @ 6:00 pm. We will be talking about plans for the new year! We would love to see you there!

If you have questions please contact Marddi Rahn at navy_rn@hotmail.com or 815-631-4491 or Rachel Brown at rnbrown68@gmail.com or 815-621-8290.

Library

December's book cart is full of Christmas Non-fiction books, Holiday Novels, DVD's, and CD's. I hope you will look them over, check them out, and enjoy the season with a good book, music and/or movie.



New this month are:

- *A Season of Angels* by Debbie Macomber finds each of the three angels on a mission to answer someone's prayer. Shirley helps 9 year old Timmy find a new father. Goodness finds the right man to answer Monica's prayer for a husband and home. Mercy brings hope back to Leah who wants a child. The catch is each angel must teach a lesson before the prayer can be answered.
- *Home for the Holidays* by Debbie Macomber contains two holiday stories. *The Forgetful Bride* finds Caitlin going home to Minnesota, but gives her ticket to a stranded soldier. She spends Christmas with childhood friend, Joe, who she pretend "married" at age 8. Now he wants to marry for real. *When Christmas Comes* is full of mix-ups and misunderstandings with chaos and confusion that starts with Emily trading her home for Charles' condo. Through it all, romance begins to emerge.
- A great DVD for the family to watch together is *Facing the Giants*. Fear and failure fill high school coach Grant Taylor's life and high school job until he turns to God in desperation.

The following books have been donated by Audrey and Dave Adams:

- *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans
- *Angels* by Billy Graham
- *Crazy Talk, A Not So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms* by Rolf Jacobson
- *Fascinating Facts from the Bible* by Jeff Rovin
- *Power for Living* by Jamie Buckingham
- *My Dinner with Andrew* by Martha Williamson, executive producer of the TV program, "Touched by an Angel."
-

Have a happy and blessed Christmas, Anne Morgart

Health & Healing



Cindy Adams
Shirley Asher
Lore

Bogdanovich
Eileen Carlson
Susan Davis
Carol

Gugliemetti
Phil Houston
Chad Nelson
Al Olsen

Steve Reid
Kit Reif
Skip
Richardson
Bill Runnion
Blanche
Schroeder
Mike Schlagel
Shannon
Spangler

Monica Berkeley
Norman Cozart
Clark Faris
Francis Goreth
Scarlet Griffith
Sue Hokanson
Tim O'Hare
Nancy Stout
Kaden & KaleighAnn Williams
Walter Bajus
Kim Kilmer
Charlize Soltes
Linda Coley
Kerri Kleinschmit
Richie Suttiff
Cayden Meyer
Kemi Akoni
Annetta Wilson
Peggy Swinney
Elizabeth Typer
Christy Eastman
Sharon Creamean
Doug Roberts
Shirley Bull
Bud Smith
Gloria Stadel
Kim Sherman
Larry Watson
Lucille Wesseln
Oscar Wilson
Mary Dummer
Al McNary
Keirsten Cellitti
Pat Reinche
Jim Orr
Francine Reibel
Naomi Law
Madison Schutt
Laura Logas
April Roos
Mark Kirking
Robin Huetter
Peggy Thompson
Rhonda Storey
Bill & Rose Cassens
Christopher Oleson

In the Military

Tyler Peterson
Jeremy Buttram
Stacy Seaworth
Mike Mursewick
Ryan Westphal

In Sympathy for the families of

Bernadine Reibel
Hal Goerlitz
Richard Johnson
Joyce Wallin

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Join us for a fun afternoon of Christmas caroling on December 21st from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Caroling groups will return to the church for pizza.

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