



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 39 Issue No. 12 / DECEMBER 2016



As we approach Advent, we anticipate the birth of our Savior. All Saints is offering three mid-week worship services on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and 14 at 7:00 pm. These services will be short 30 minute worship services using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. This liturgy is a peaceful, contemplative alternative to the hectic nature of this holiday season.

Preceding each Wednesday's worship service, a free soup supper will be served from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. Please join us for this time of fellowship. Additional information will be in the Sunday bulletins and a sign-up sheet for soup, bread and dessert donations is located on Bulletin Board #2.

Come Worship with Us Christmas Eve

**Saturday, 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 candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night."

Christmas Worship Schedule

Join us for the continued celebration of Christ's birth on Sunday, December 25 at 9:00 am. There will be only one worship service on Christmas Day. We will resume our normal worship services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am on January 1st.



Poinsettia Plants

If you would like to order a Poinsettia plant this year to help adorn the sanctuary on Christmas, please do so by **December 4**. 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.

**Sunday School for all ages will not meet Dec 25 & January 1.
Sunday School classes will resume on January 8, 2017.**

**Sunday Worship 8:00 and 10:30 am
Whole Family Education Hour
Sundays 9:15 am (Sept - May)**

**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 for the January
 Saintly News is **December 12**

Please send articles to

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A Note From Pastor Janet Wold

Dear Friends,

Here we are again in the midst of our busy getting-ready-for-Christmas season, known in the church as the season of Advent. The other day I was with a group of people and I asked them what images came to mind when they heard the word "Advent." Predominantly the answer was "Christmas is coming." And indeed, that is a part of Advent...getting ready for Christmas. My hope is that our focus can be on getting our *hearts* ready as well as our homes. Advent is a beautiful season of the church year – the royal blue paraments that adorn the altar, the Advent wreath that brings more light to the season as the weeks progress, and the beautiful Advent hymns that are a part of our worship this time of year.

I recently read the following story (*thanks to Sundays and Seasons!*)

Scott Joplin was a composer of ragtime music, catchy little tunes with a syncopated beat, played on a piano. Joplin was invited to perform at the St. Louis World's Fair. He had a falling out with the fair organizers. They put him in a small room right next to a large hall in which John Philip Sousa was directing his brass band. Needless to say Joplin and his music were overwhelmed.

The music we play in our sanctuary in this season is likewise overwhelmed. The music here is plaintive and largely in a minor key. The words are filled with yearning, "Savior of the nations, come." Or they hold promise, "The king shall come when morning dawns." When the songs are in a major key there is an edge to them and a warning, "Wake, awake for night is flying." This Advent music and message are in danger of being drowned out. From all quarters we hear Christmas carols casting visions in reggae, don't-worry-be-happy.

In the busy-ness of this season, my prayer is that we will not lose focus on the reason we are celebrating and we will take the time we need to prepare for the Lord's coming. None were ready on the night when God became fully human, except God. Yet God came in Christ Jesus for the homeless, the outcast, the unprepared – for sinners. God came in human flesh and comes now in Word and sacraments to each of us.

That wonderful good news is cause for great joy! God has come, is coming, and promises to come whether we are ready or not. Thanks be to God for that great gift!

In Christ –

Pastor Janet Wold



Save the Date!

Please plan to join us at 10:00 am on
 Saturday, January 7, 2017 to undecorate the
 church. Many hands make light work!
 Coffee and donuts will be served!



Tuesday Night Bible Study

Join the group every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. We meet in the main conference room so please enter by the south doors. We will continue our study of the book of James. We anticipate completing this book by the end of the year. We will not meet on December 27.



Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

This study meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm in the conference room. We will not meet on December 28.

All Saints Photo Directory Has Been Ordered

All of the photos have been taken, and the layout for the new All Saints Photo Directory has been sent to Lifetouch. We are looking forward to getting the new directories, and will get them to everyone who participated in the photo sessions as soon as they arrive. If you did not participate in the photo sessions, but would like an updated photo directory, we have a limited number of extra copies that will be available for \$5.00 each. Contact Karen or Cindy in the church office to reserve your copy.



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 29th**. Please include a financial report and a brief overview of what your group has done in 2016. Reports need to be submitted to the office by **January 8th** 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

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.



Sunday Scriptures

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

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

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Psalm 146:5-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

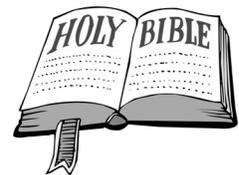
Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Psalm 80:1-7,17-19
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Psalm 96
Luke 2:1-20

December 25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Titus 3:4-7
Psalm 97
John 1:1-14



Please Clip & Save for your reference

Altar Guild

The annual Altar Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2017 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 2017. Current Altar Guild members are invited and encouraged to attend.



We are always looking for new Altar Guild members to assist in setting up the sanctuary for Sunday worship. If you are interested in joining but have questions about the work we do, please contact Kay Johnson, Michel Williams, Bridget Reibel or Jo Marie Branson for more information. Everyone is invited to join – men, women, youth – everyone! Many hands make light work!

November Council Highlights

- ⇒ Heard \$195.00 was raised for the youth group at the Chili Dinner
- ⇒ Heard Trunk or Treat was a huge success with 12 vehicles and 50-60 children participating
- ⇒ Heard three Council seats will be up for election or re-election in 2017
- ⇒ Approved proposed rewording of the Financial Responsibility Guide
- ⇒ Approved \$600 to be spent by Property Committee to repair/upgrade parking lot lighting
- ⇒ Heard Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Dec 11
- ⇒ Heard Stewardship mailing will occur the week of Thanksgiving with returns by December 4
- ⇒ Set the date of the Annual Congregation Meeting for the last Sunday of January (1/29/17)



Sunday School News

The All Saints Christmas program will be held on December 11th during the 10:30 am service. All children participating will need to be at the church at 9:15 am for the last practice and to get ready for the program.

Upcoming practices are December 4th, during the Sunday School hour (practices and fittings for costumes). Saturday, December 10th from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, we will have practice, snacks and also the children will be decorating Christmas cards for our shut ins and the residents of Neighbors Nursing Home.

Sunday School offering collected in December will go towards purchasing an animal through ELCA Good Gifts. If you would like to donate to this cause, please add that amount to your weekly offering and indicate “Sunday School Good Gifts” on the “other” line of your offering envelope.



WELCA

Thank you to all who supported the bake sale on November 20th – to both those who baked and those who bought! We are working towards purchasing new blinds for the windows in the fellowship hall. We will set up a committee to get information about the different types of blinds and keep the congregation informed of the progress of this endeavor. The new carpet in the fellowship hall has received many compliments. We will put information about how to clean up spills on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

Please note the date change for the next WELCA meeting on Saturday, January 14th at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. This will be a potluck breakfast buffet. We will be setting our schedule for 2017 and look forward to suggestions from those who attend. We hope to see some new faces as well as those who have been active for many years in WELCA. Contact Carolyn Niederer or Marlene Roberts with any questions.

Looking for Council Members

Congregation Council elections are just around the corner at our annual meeting in January. We need at least three candidates to run. If you have an interest, please let Dennis Cassens know. Contact any of the council members for more information. The Congregation Council is a great way to sharpen and use your leadership skills. Take this opportunity to share your time and talents.

The GATHERING

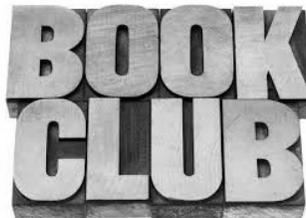
The GATHERING will have a special holiday breakfast on Tuesday December 13, at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy great food, fellowship and fun! Contact Lois Lapp or Gloria Olsen for more information.



The quilters plan to meet on Thursday, December 1st, from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the church. The Lutheran World Relief newsletter told that more than \$12 million of quilts and kits are distributed around the world each year. The need to help people continues to be great and the distributors often go to remote areas in countries that are difficult to reach. No matter where a quilt goes, warmth is just as important as the love being sewn in it. Each month we spend time together to tie quilts together. This time is a blessing to us also as we enjoy Christian fellowship.

Book Club

The Book Club does not meet in December. If you would like to join us, we will meet in the fellowship hall (or in the conference room if it is cold) on January 23, 2017 at 1:30 pm. We are each choosing a Christmas book to read and share. Come hear a story we have chosen or share a book you have read.



Christmas at Generations at Neighbors

Generations at Neighbors Nursing Home is once again looking for Christmas presents for their residents. Their party is December 22. Donated gifts must be dropped off no later than December 20. See Bulletin Board #2 for more information.

K-5



Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at UCB after school until 5:30 pm. We walk the kids from school to UCB.

Next Kids Club meets December 14, 2016



Youth NEWS

December 2016

The Youth Group meets at United Church of Byron (UCB) or All Saints Lutheran (ASL) as noted below.

December 2nd ... Miracle on 2nd Street

The youth of All Saints will be selling hot dogs for \$1.00 from 6:00-8:30 pm. Sign up on youth board to help. We have lots of fun. We will arrive on the corner across from the bank at 5:30 pm to set up our stand. You will need to dress warm for this event.

January 16th ... LYO & LOMC Present the Annual Northern Illinois Synod Ski Trip. This event is for all ages. We will go to Chestnut Mountain in Galena for some skiing and lots of fun. We will leave church at 9:00 am and return in the late afternoon. See youth board for sign up sheet. **I will need to know who is going by 1/8/17.**
Cost: \$45 –Lift, Lesson, Rental
\$25 –Lift ticket only...\$8 Meal Deal

February 5th ... Souper Bowl of Caring. Let's begin the Souper Bowl of caring with a simple prayer: **"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."**

We will again hold 2 large soup pots at the doors of the sanctuary for you to vote for your favorite team. Please help up raise money for People Helping People. Thank you for your donations.



March 1stAsh Wednesday

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

If you would like to chaperone an event please let Audrey know.

Our Mission statement:

Seeking God, Serving Others & Having Fun!

Audrey Adams, All Saints Youth Leader

S.T.A.T.I.C

Students Taking Action Together In Christ

Library News

December is "Christmas on the Book Cart." There are non-fiction Christmas books, holiday novels, DVD's, CD's, and VCR tapes to enjoy. Added this December are:

Donated by Mary Jo and Dennis Cassens:

The Immortal Nicholas

Starry Night by Debbie Macomber

Mr. Miracle by Debbie Macomber

A Country Christmas by Debbi Macomber contains two novels of romance at Christmas time: *Buffalo Valley* and *Return to Promise*.

A Seaside Christmas by Sherryl Woods

The Christmas Bouquet by Sherryl Woods:

The Christmas Train by David Baldacci

Pearl Harbor Christmas, A World at War, December 1941

Also included are:

A Patchwork Christmas Collection

A Wild Goose Chase Christmas

Angels at the Table by Debbie Macomber



Worship Attendance				
	8:00	10:30	Total	Sunday School
October 30	44	97	141	39
November 6	63	72	135	43
13	53	59	112	46
20	58	57	115	na
Total	218	285	503	128
Average	55	71	126	43



A special Thank You to members Millie Knodle, Jim Wilcox, and Dennis Cassens for their "Faith" talks relating to our "Giving in Generosity" stewardship campaign and to Steve Jones for creating the power point presentation "Why We Are Grateful". We at All Saints have a rich history of our church family giving in generosity and are blessed that our church family and home are always there for us. Thank you to everyone, past and present, who have given to make this happen!

We hope each and every one of you will prayerfully consider how you can join us in our support of the mission of All Saints. Although the filling out of our commitment cards outlining our financial commitment and our time and talent responses outlining the giving of ourselves each happen once per year, stewardship is an everyday, all of the time commitment.

Our ministries come in so many forms; it's exciting to think of all of the "touch points" our congregation and our members have with each other and in the communities in which we live on a regular basis. As we challenge ourselves and each other to continue to grow in our stewardship, we know that we will be richly rewarded for our giving!

Again, thank you for all that you do for All Saints!

Doug Knodle, Stewardship

Confirmation Schedule

December 4	Holy Communion	<i>I don't know what communion is for.</i>	<i>Luke 22:14-20</i>
December 7 (Wednesday)	Confession & Forgiveness	<i>I don't understand why we need to confess if we're already forgiven.</i>	<i>1 John 1:5-10</i>
December 11	NO CLASS	Sunday School Christmas Program - Confirmation Class Participation Required...	...practice Saturday, December 10 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.
December 18	Daily Prayers	<i>I don't see the point in praying prayers that other people wrote; it seems forced, insincere, and awkward.</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</i>
December 21 (Wednesday)	NO CLASS	ADVENT BREAK	
December 25	NO CLASS	CHRISTMAS BREAK	
January 1	NO CLASS	HAPPY NEW YEAR	

Finance Report

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual October	Budget Octoberr	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2016
Revenue	General Fund	\$15,087	\$16,717	\$140,181	\$167,174	\$200,609
	Mortgage	\$2,713	\$2,333	\$20,305	\$23,333	\$28,000
	Other Giving	\$609	\$429	\$3,315	\$4,292	\$5,150
	Total Revenue	\$18,409	\$19,480	\$163,802	\$194,799	\$233,759
Expenses	1000 Mission Support	\$500	\$1,417	\$5,238	\$14,167	\$17,000
	1000 Other Outreach	\$242	\$471	\$2,668	\$4,708	\$5,650
	1000 Total Outreach	\$742	\$1,887	\$7,906	\$18,875	\$22,650
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$1,742	\$1,189	\$7,781	\$11,886	\$14,264
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$10,223	\$11,433	\$108,104	\$114,331	\$137,198
	2000 Total Ministries	\$11,965	\$12,622	\$115,886	\$126,217	\$151,462
	3000 Total Building (Non Capital)	\$2,045	\$2,896	\$22,372	\$28,963	\$34,756
	3000 Total Expense	\$14,752	\$17,405	\$146,164	\$174,055	\$208,868
	3000 Capital Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$2,074	\$2,074	\$20,742	\$20,743	\$24,891
	3000 Capital Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$60	\$0	\$0
	3000 Capital Total Building Capital	\$2,074	\$2,074	\$20,802	\$20,743	\$24,891
	Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$16,826	\$19,480	\$166,966	\$194,797	\$233,759



Christmas Cantata

12th Annual County Wide Cantata

Singers & instrumentalists from all over the county will present "Behold the Star" at Trinity Lutheran Church (Brayton & Ogle) in Mount Morris. The concert begins at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 4. Prelude music begins at 2:30 pm. A freewill offering for the Loaves & Fishes and Lifeline Food Pantries will be taken. If you would like to sing with the *Hallelujah Chorus*, music will be provided when you arrive at the church.

In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

- Al Olsen**
- Leroy Pederson**
- Jim Reif**
- Skip Richardson**
- Kim Sherman
- Mary Dummer
- Don Hartman
- Juanita Williams
- Duane Burnett
- April Roos
- Dean Booth
- Bill Brown
- Dean Lundgren
- Pamela Newman
- Marie Schulte
- Tim O'Hare
- Laura Egler
- Marcia Kasmaric
- Chuck Goering
- Dolores Burton
- James Maxwell Farrell
- Evan Flannery
- Larry Lee
- Judy Zoellick
- Arnold Schramm

Shut Ins

- Eileen Carlson**
- Blanche Schroeder**
- Lori Pederson**
- Patricia Mohr**
- Mary Whitmer**

Military

- David Bishop**
- Joe Wrasse
- Landon Skaar

In Sympathy

- Jeffery Corden
- Jane Peele



MISSISSIPPI DELTA BLUES Man

Dan PHELPS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th
4 to 6 PM
FREE WILL OFFERING
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
PROCEEDS BENEFITS
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 LUTHER DR
BYRON, IL 61010







A PUBLICATION OF
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 Luther Dr.
Byron, IL 61010-9684
December Issue - Mailed 11/29/16

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Byron, IL 61010
Permit No. 20

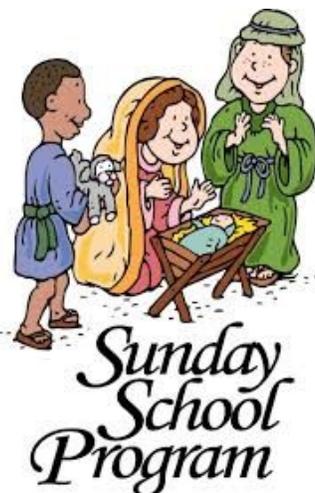
“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”

Sunday School Christmas Program

Join us on Sunday, December 11 at
10:30 worship for the Sunday School
Children's Christmas

Program “The
Christmas Story”.

The pre-school
through 8th grade
youth will be singing
and telling the story
of Christ's birth.



December 4

Blues Concert

December 7

Soup Supper and Advent Worship

December 10

Sunday School Program Practice

December 11

Sunday School Program

December 18

Soup Supper and Advent Worship

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 pm and
10:30 pm

December 25

Christmas Day Worship 9:00 am

Office Hours - Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, and Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.