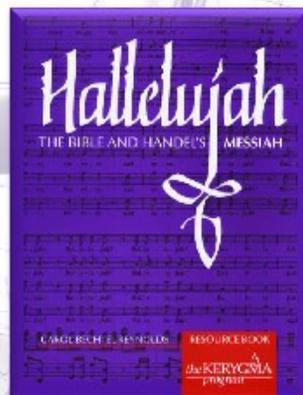


**YOU MAY LOVE THE MUSIC, BUT DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURE?
APPRECIATE HANDEL'S MESSIAH MORE DEEPLY**

Explore the scriptural texts of Handel's Messiah and you will never listen to it quite the same!



*Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 8 at 1:30 pm
All Saints Lutheran, main conference room
Contact Pastor Janet with any questions or just come!*

Curious About Communion??

Typically the season of Lent is the time in our congregation to prepare those who have not yet received communion to take this important step in their faith life. First Communion class will be held on Sunday, March 5 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. These classes are for anyone 3rd grade and older who have not had first communion. If your son or daughter is in 3rd grade or higher, (or younger if you feel they are ready to take this next faith step), and has not taken First Communion, please contact the church office. We will send you the information. Participants in this class will receive their first communion on Palm Sunday, April 9.



Save the Date and Box Your Stuff!

Rummage Sale dates are set for after Easter, April 20 - 22. Go through your closets and find items to contribute to the sale. Your rummage is someone else's treasure!

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Deadline for the March
 Saintly News is **February 13**

Please send articles to

Rebecca Heaslip

rebecca.heaslip@gmail.com

A Note From Pastor Janet Wold

Dear Friends,

The new year is well underway now. How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? New beginnings can be a time when we "take stock" of our lives and make some decisions about what areas we want to work on. Losing weight, quitting smoking, working less, spending more time with family, being more disciplined in our prayer life and/or worship life, getting a handle on our budgets – all of these are admirable goals to work on. However, as was noted in the news recently, the end of January is often a time when we become depressed because we realize we aren't changing ourselves the way we'd hoped at the beginning of the year.

Failure to meet goals can make US feel like a failure. We recognize our inability to achieve perfection and our instincts may be to say "I'm never going to be able to do that, so why even try?" It's hard to admit that we are a people who are unable to do it all...that we are a people who are sinful...that we are a people who need a Savior. Someone once asked me "What if I'm not good enough to get into heaven?" My response to her was "None of us are good enough to get into heaven...that's why we need saving. That's why we need a Savior...to save us from ourselves." Jesus the Christ came into the world because of God's great love for us and desire for us to be in a relationship with him. What we can never do on our own we CAN do with Christ, knowing that we are forgiven over and over, which can then empower us to try again.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19) This is our challenge and our gift from God.

In Christ –

Pastor Janet Wold



January Council Highlights

- * Heard giving is not keeping up with the monthly bills
- * Heard pledges are down from 2016 – hoping more will be returned in the next few weeks
- * Approved the 2017 budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 29
- * Heard we have candidates for the vacant council positions – still need synod assembly delegates and Mission Endowment Fund members
- * Discussed purchasing new lawn tractors to replace 30 + year old tractors that are constantly in need of repair. Getting bids from various vendors. We have received \$1,300 in donations for this purchase.
- * Time and Talent sheets will be sent out in March
- * Heard the annual blood drive will be held April 6th



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 through mid-February. Following that, the topic will be "Passion, Luke 22-24."

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join the group on Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm to explore the scriptural texts of Handel's Messiah. You will never listen to it quite the same!

Quilters

The Quilters plan to meet on February 2nd from 9 to 11 am at the church. In January, eleven ladies came and worked to cut, sew and tie quilts together. The quilt closet shelves are beginning to fill with lovely warm comforters for people in need. The work that we do each month is a labor 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 spend time with each other. We meet the first Thursday of every month and will be happy to have you join us.



QUILTING GROUP

Outreach/Fellowship

We have started sending 30 postcards each month inviting new residents in the Byron area to visit All Saints and worship with us. When we don't have names of at least 30 new people to our community, we will send the postcards addressed as "Hello Neighbor" to folks in Byron and the surrounding area inviting them to worship with us. The goal is to invite at least 30 families per month or 360 in a year to join us in hearing God's word. When you see a new face at worship, please make an effort to say hello and introduce yourself, and introduce that person to others around you. Friendly faces will encourage them to return to All Saints!

Thanks, Pam Kultgen - Outreach Ministry

Sunday School News

The Sunday School Good Gifts donations in December raised \$140.00! We used these donations to purchase 1 pig, 1 set of chicks, 2 roosters, 1 goat and honey bees. We thank you all for your generous donations to make this possible.

Sunday School begins with a large group musical opening and then they break out into two smaller groups, one older and one younger children. **Teachers and helpers are needed each week to lead the smaller groups.** Sign up to volunteer on Bulletin Board #2. Choose the dates and the age group for which you wish to volunteer.

If you have any questions contact Jodi Girten, Education Chair (224-558-9589).



Sunday Scriptures

February 5

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalms 112:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5: 21-37

February 19

7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18

Psalms 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-12, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

February 26

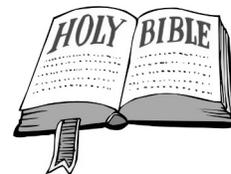
Transfiguration of our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

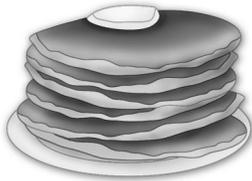


Please Clip & Save for your reference

Ash Wednesday Worship & Pancake Supper

March 1, 2017 - 6:00 - 6:45 pm

A Pancake Supper will be served by the Youth (fundraiser for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering) on Ash Wednesday at 6:00. Worship follows with imposition of ashes and communion at 7:00.



Altar Guild

The annual Altar Guild meeting was held on Saturday, January 7th. During this meeting the following officers were elected for 2017: Kay Johnson, President; Lynn Knodle, Vice-President and Sunshine Chairman; Bridget Reibel, Secretary; and Jo Marie Branson, Treasurer.

We are in need of more helping hands on the Altar Guild. If you are interested in learning what we do, please contact Kay Johnson. If you decide to be an Altar Guild member, you will be paired with an experienced member who will train and guide you.



Please take a moment to consider donating altar flowers that beautify the church throughout the year. The flower reservation binder is on the wall by the Altar Guild bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Bouquets are ordered from Merlin's at a cost of \$18.00 each, and are delivered every other week. There are envelopes in the rack to use for your flower payment. This will help the Altar Guild Treasurer keep track of donations. If you have questions about this system, please contact any of the Altar Guild members listed in the Sunday bulletins, or Kay Johnson.

The GATHERING

The GATHERING will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 14 at 9:00 am. Come join us for good food, fellowship and fun!

The 2017 CRE will be Saturday March 11 at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, IL

Sponsored by the Northern Illinois Synod Congregational Life Committee, the Congregational Resourcing Event is one of this synod's finest yearly events. Church Council members, teachers, musicians, staff volunteer, and leaders – just about everyone in the congregation – can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries.

The 2017 event will focus on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Keynote Presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, Wartburg Theological Seminary Professor of Systematic Theology, Kent S. Knutson & UELC Professor in Theology & Mission Director of the Center for Global Theologies. His keynote will be titled: "Christian Witness in a Pluralistic World – Cross Cultural Challenges," which will bring insights from our Lutheran heritage and discuss ways in which we may respond to the contemporary crisis of defining and confessing the Gospel.

In addition to workshops from the keynote speaker and NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, other workshops feature topics including: Administration/Council/Treasurers, Education, Evangelism/Outreach/Hospitality, Global/Inter-Faith, Leadership, Social Justice, Spirituality/Prayer/Health & Wellness, Stewardship, and Youth/Young Adult/Family Ministry.

Come, experience and bring home new ministry tools! Workshop descriptions and registration forms are available on the oak table in the narthex. Registration deadline is February 19. Registration fees for those who register on or before the deadline will be covered by All Saints. If there is enough interest, we can carpool from the church parking lot. Please let Karen or Cindy in the church office know if you would like to carpool.



WELCA

WELCA had the first meeting of the year on Saturday, January 13th. We enjoyed breakfast treats and conducted our meeting to plan for the activities to come in the next few months. It was good to see so many ladies make time to attend and great to see some new faces. We decided to not have a Spring Banquet this year and will consider the possibility of doing it next year. We discussed fundraising at length deciding that we would like to support raising funds for both a new lawnmower tractor and also blinds for the windows in the fellowship hall. Carolyn Niederer and Theresa Fitzsimmons will look into different options for blinds and costs. If you would like to share information you have with them please contact them. We would like to help on Wednesday, March 8 to provide soup, bread, and dessert for Lenten supper. Please sign up on bulletin board #2. If March 8th is full, pick another date that works for you. We are planning a bake sale in the spring. We want to bring back our service of sending cards to those who are sick and also help provide a meal for those who are ill. More details on those efforts will come.

Of course as we look to Spring, we think rummage sale. Again this year the Masons are letting us use their hall to hold the sale. We will begin to collect items for the sale after Easter, so you can start cleaning those closets. The sale dates are April 20 through 22. There will be more details in the March newsletter. Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 29th at 9:30 am.

Book Club

The Book Club's February selection is *The Church Ladies*, by Lisa E. Samson. Poppy's best friend's son dies in a college hazing stunt. Poppy joins with other local women to pray for Chris and her family. Meanwhile, Poppy, a devout Christian, struggles with her role as a pastor's wife, with her daughter, who has rejected Jesus and her, and with the guilt of an affair she had several years before. Poppy works to hold her family together as well as to help her best friend's family to heal. Come join us on Monday, February 27th at 1:00 pm in the main conference room.



Youth NEWS

February 2017

Meet once a month on Sunday mornings, at All Saints Lutheran (ASL)

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 us raise money for People Helping People. Thank you for your donations.

February 19th ... 6th -12th Grade....Youth Group

Sunday, from 10:30 am-12 pm. We will meet in the youth room at the end of the Sunday school hallway. This is a great opportunity for all the youth to get together, have some fun and grow together spiritually. Please plan to come on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

March 1stAsh Wednesday

Pancake Supper from 6-6:45 pm at church. We will make and serve pancakes and sausages for a dinner before church service. Come help out and earn youth dollars. Arrive at 5:00 pm to help make sausages and pancakes. Sign up on youth board

There is a sign-up sheet for food donations also. ~Thank you!

K-5



Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at UCB along with All Saints Lutheran Kids after school until 5:30 pm. We walk the kids from school to UCB.

February 8, 2017 - 3:00-5:30 pm

.....Youth NEWS continued

**March 11th ...CRE at Kishwaukee College
8th-12th grade**

Saturday from 8:30 am-4 pm this is an event that starts with worship, then there are 3 workshops to attend. Oh yeah, lunch is at 12 pm. If you think you would like to go please see Audrey. We would love to get more youth to attend. There are workshops for youth as well. We would love for you to come!



March 18th Annual Spaghetti Dinner is coming up soon. To be held at church from 5-7 pm. Please come and eat, mingle with folks and support our youth group. Thanks! I am looking for some youth to make the dinner and adults to help too. See youth board to sign up.

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

Stewardship News

As we prayerfully consider giving of our time and talents, why not start by expressing an interest in being a part of our Stewardship committee? We can be very flexible on where and when we meet. We need your input on what stewardship opportunities you would like to see as well as new and better ways to engage our members and our congregation in stewardship.

Additionally, in the coming months we will be soliciting your input and responses as we look towards making our annual commitments of our time and talents. If we each increase our commitment by signing up to help with just one additional item, it would make a substantial difference (reduction) in the time commitment from us all! There are many opportunities to serve and quite honestly, some of them take very little time or talent. Please consider adding at least one additional item to your list when the time and talents sheets arrive. We need your help!

Thank you to all of you who faithfully give of your time and talents! Our church home would not be the same without your involvement and we thank you.

Doug Knodle @ 815.751.0312 - dougnodle@comcast.net

Confirmation Schedule

February 1 (Wednesday)	<i>John</i>	<i>I don't get why John is SO different from the other Gospels and changes the order of events.</i>	<i>John 14:6-14</i>
February 5	<i>Acts</i>	<i>I don't know if church today is supposed to look like the church in Acts.</i>	<i>Acts 1:6-11</i>
February 12	<i>Paul and the Early</i>	<i>Church I don't know why we hold Paul in such high esteem, given his poor track record with Christians.</i>	<i>Acts 9:10-18</i>
February 15 (Wednesday)	<i>Paul's Theology</i>	<i>I'm not sure why Paul's ideas are so important to Christians.</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</i>
February 19	<i>Romans</i>	<i>I don't know why Paul felt the need to cram so many diverse issues and topics into one letter.</i>	<i>Romans 1:1-17</i>
February 26	<i>Letters</i>	<i>I don't know why so many letters are considered Holy Scripture.</i>	<i>1 Timothy 1:1-11</i>
March 1 (Ash Wednesday)	NO CLASS	HELP WITH YOUTH PANCAKE SUPPER AND ATTEND ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE	

Worship Attendance				
	8:00	10:30	Total	Sunday School
Christmas Eve			178	n/a
December 25	58		58	n/a
January 1	32	27	59	n/a
8	54	51	105	23
15	44	42	86	32
22	58	47	105	39
Total	246	167	413	94
Average	49	42	91	31

Finance Report

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual December	Budget December	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2016
Revenue	General Fund	\$15,989	\$16,717	\$167,741	\$200,609	\$200,609
	Mortgage	\$2,381	\$2,333	\$24,259	\$28,000	\$28,000
	Other Giving	\$1,689	\$429	\$5,562	\$5,150	\$5,150
	Total Revenue	\$20,060	\$19,480	\$197,561	\$233,759	\$233,759
Expenses	1000 Mission Support	\$3,221	\$1,417	\$8,769	\$17,000	\$17,000
	Other Outreach	\$0	\$471	\$3,319	\$5,650	\$5,650
	Total Outreach	\$3,221	\$1,888	\$12,088	\$22,650	\$22,650
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$680	\$1,190	\$8,990	\$14,264	\$14,264
	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$10,483	\$11,434	\$128,647	\$137,198	\$137,198
	Total Ministries	\$11,164	\$12,623	\$137,637	\$151,462	\$151,462
	3000 Total Building (Non Capital)	\$2,426	\$2,897	\$27,145	\$34,756	\$34,756
	Total Expense	\$16,811	\$17,408	\$176,870	\$208,868	\$208,868
	3000 Capital Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$2,474	\$2,074	\$25,291	\$24,891	\$24,891
	Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$60	\$0	\$0
	Total Building Capital	\$2,474	\$2,074	\$25,351	\$24,891	\$24,891
	Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$19,285	\$19,482	\$202,221	\$233,759	\$233,759

Blues Concert Series Resumes

The Blues Concert Series will resume for 2017 on March 5 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The featured artist in March will be **Trinadora Quintet Torch Song Show**. Come enjoy this entertaining afternoon. Light refreshments will be served at intermission and a free will offering benefitting People Helping People will be collected.



Library News

The books added to the library this month were donated by the Adams family.

- ◆ *The Shack* by Wm. Paul Young- Mackenzie's daughter was abducted and evidence is found that she may have been brutally murdered. Four years later, he received a note, apparently from God inviting him back to the shack where it had happened. What he finds will change his world forever.
- ◆ *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green- Hazel's tumor has shrunk giving her a few years, but she is still terminal. Her story changes when gorgeous Augustus appears at her Cancer Kid Support Group meeting.
- ◆ *Hear No Evil* by Mary L. Hamilton- Brady is dropped off at Bible camp by his mother who tells him she doesn't want him to live with her and her new husband. His dad, who walked out on them when he was 7, will pick him up. Feeling bad about his life, he meets Steven, a blind cabin-mate, who latches on to Brady as his guide.
- ◆ *God's Tender Words for Life's Tough Moments* by Margaret Houk is a self-help book that gives biblical responses to 42 negative feelings.
- ◆ *Success for Teens* by the SUCCESS Foundation teaches the slight edge philosophy showing teens that success is not about smarts, looks, or luck, but about becoming the best person you can and making the most of your talents.
- ◆ *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson is the Bible in contemporary language.
- ◆ *Help? I'm a Volunteer Youth Worker!* By Doug Fields gives 50 short suggestions that are easy to remember and put into practice.
- ◆ *The Bible's Big Story, Our Story* by Garry Wendt lays out the biblical narrative in a graphic format that helps the visualization of its sequence of events.
- ◆ *Experiential Youth Ministry Handbook* by John Losey helps youth workers to use theory, action and reflection so the student can learn in new ways.

Weather Related Closings

If the decision is made to cancel worship services because of weather, the decision will be made by 7:00 am. You can learn of that decision by:

- Checking our Facebook page or website www.AllSaintsByron.org
- Checking the weather –related closings on local TV stations

It is our intention to have services if at all possible. If you don't feel safe on the roads, please stay home.



In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

Al Olsen
Leroy Pederson
Jim Reif
Skip Richardson
Blanche Schroeder

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
 Dolores Burton
 James Maxwell Farrell
 Evan Flannery
 Larry Lee
 Arnold Schramm
 Theresa Varilek
 Jacob Schroeder
 Keith Padget
 Arthur Burton
 Lois Lewton

Shut Ins

Eileen Carlson
Lori Pederson
Patricia Mohr
Mary Whitmer

Military

David Bishop
Joe Wrasse
Landon Skaar

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Souper Bowl of Caring February 5



“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

At both worship services we will hold 2 large soup pots at the doors of the sanctuary for you to vote for your favorite team following each worship service. Please help us raise money for People Helping People.



February 5

Souper Bowl of Caring

March 1

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 1

Pancake Supper Youth Fundraiser

March 5

First Communion Class

March 5

Blues Concert Series

March 11

Congregational Resource Event (CRE)

March 18

Spaghetti Supper Youth fundraiser