



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 37 Issue No. 12 / December 2014



Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

Wednesday, 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."

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 3, 11 and 17 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 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.

Poinsettia Plants

If you would like to order a Poinsettia plant this year to help adorn the sanctuary please do so by **December 7**. 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.



Whole Family Education Hour will not meet on December 21 or December 28. Classes will resume on January 4, 2015

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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TBD

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Deadline for the January
 Saintly News is **December 14**

Please send articles to

Rebecca Heaslip

rebecca.heaslip@gmail.com

A Note From Pastor Janet Wold

Dear Friends,

The familiar rush to prepare for Christmas is in full swing. What are we doing to prepare? Did we get enough gifts for everyone? Are there enough goodies for the whole season of celebration? Will the Christmas meal be good enough? Is the choir ready for its special music? Are the children ready for their Sunday School Christmas program? Has the pastor prepared an exciting worship service and a dynamic, but short, sermon? Are we ready?

“Are we ready?” just may be the wrong question in relation to God’s activity. God comes, ready or not! Titus proclaims the coming of God’s grace that saves us, not because of righteous deeds we have done, but because of the marvelous mercy of our God manifested in Christ Jesus.

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!

Please plan on joining us this month as we celebrate this holy season.

In Christ,
Pastor Janet Wold

Pastoral Acts

Baptism of August Alton Bierman on November 9.

Annual Report Time

Attention all organizations, committees, secretaries, treasurers:

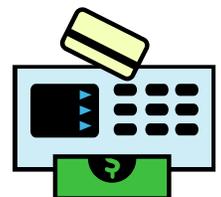
Now is the time to review the past year and write your report for the Annual Congregation meeting to be held **January 25th**. Please include a financial report and a brief overview of what your group has done in 2014. Reports need to be submitted to the office by **January 5th** so the booklet can be 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

Finance Committee Treasurer Position Open

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 position, please contact Pastor Janet Wold or Steve Reid. Carolyn Niederer is ready to train an interested candidate immediately. She will also be available to act as a consultant.



Helping our Neighbors at Neighbors

The Holiday Season is fast approaching. In the past, All Saints has been asked to help purchase Christmas Gifts for some of the residents at Neighbors Rehabilitation Center in Byron.

This year we have been provided a list of 15 residents at Neighbors. The list includes the name, sex, and sizes of the recipient, along with a short "WISH LIST" of what the resident may need. The List of Names is posted on Bulletin Board #2 in the Fellowship Hall. When you choose a recipient to purchase gifts for PLEASE put your name next to the name of that person so we know who has chosen that specific person.

The Neighbors Christmas Party is taking place on December 18th at 2:00 pm. Please have purchased gifts to the church by Monday December 15th so Jim Wilcox can make the delivery of the gifts by Monday afternoon.

When wrapping the gifts we have been asked to make sure the first and last name of the recipient is on the pre-wrapped gift itself, and then additionally put a tag on the outside of the wrapped gift with the first and last name of the resident as well.

If you have any questions please contact Jim Wilcox @ 815-298-5546 or by Email: sgtjim271@yahoo.com.

Happy Holidays, Jim Wilcox, Social Ministry Chairman



Sunday Scriptures

December 7

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 14

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24

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

December 28

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Life Line Screening

On November 4th, All Saints Church opened it's doors and played host to the LifeLine Screening Event. The Life Line representatives arrived shortly before 8am, and within a half hour the church's fellowship hall resembled a doctor's office and waiting room. At 9:00 am, guests began to arrive at All Saints to take part in the various life saving screening processes LifeLine had to offer. During the 7 hour event, over 40 people came to All Saints to participate. One guest was identified with a health issue and was encouraged to visit their personal care physician as soon as possible.

All Saints has partnered with LifeLine Screening for the past several years. The event has proven to be a great Outreach opportunity for All Saints, not to mention the benefits it has provided to the Byron Community.

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to Bekki Heaslip, Mark Hart and his family, and Brenda Schramm who helped me arrange the fellowship hall for the LifeLine Screening event.

Blessings, Jim Wilcox,
Social Ministry Chairman



Finance Report

Oct. 2014 Expense Report

General Giving	= \$ 12,369.17
General Expenses	= \$ 16,486.75
Mortgage Reduction /	
Capital Campaign Giving	= \$ 1,896.00
Mortgage Balance	= \$63,264.21

November Council Highlights

- Heard new sanctuary HVAC System is installed and working properly. A/C will be calibrated in the Spring.
- Reviewed proposed changes to All Saints Constitution to be voted on at the Annual meeting in January.
- Reviewed list of inactive members to contact for input.
- Heard Stewardship plans for pledge cards and time & talent sheets.
- Updated on non-perishable food collection for People Helping People.
- Heard we will be using Setting 8 beginning November 30.
- Heard plans for Christmas Program on December 14.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

7:00 pm in Main Conference Room

We are using the *Attitude of Discipleship* lessons from www.ELCA.org.

December 2

Mark 1:1-8 Prepared

December 9

John 1:6-8, 19-28: Expectant

December 16

Luke 1:26-38: Trusting

December 23 & 30

(No meetings)

Choir News

I thank the Lord every week when Wednesday rolls around. I know that no matter how my day has gone or what has happened those first couple days of the week, on Wednesday night I get to come to Choir. What a great fellowship: singing, praying, and laughing with my brothers and sisters in Christ! If any of this sounds like fun to you, I invite you to join us. We are preparing some Advent and Christmas Songs during the month of December. Please note that the practice schedule is just a little different in December.

Rehearsal **Thurs., December 4 - 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**
 Rehearsal **Thurs., December 11 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**
 Perform Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 am service
 Perform Wed., December 17 at the Advent Service
 Rehearsal Wed., December 17 after the service
 Perform Sun., December 21 at both services.

Sing to the Lord,
 Alisha Fortener, Choir Director

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday School has been preparing for the Youth Christmas Service program. I am very excited for the program this year and its exciting new changes. I would like to thank you all for remembering to pray for the Sunday School. I am happy to tell you that we are blessed with the best teachers and some wonderful new volunteers to help out with the program. The program will take place on December 14th at the 10:30 am service. Youth from preschool through high school are invited to participate. Jr. High and high school singers are invited to come and sing with the choir during this service. Anyone who would like to play a musical instrument is invited to participate in a small ensemble. We will be rehearsing for the program at the following times:

Sunday, Nov. 30, 9:15 - 10:15 during Sunday School
 Sunday, Dec. 7, 9:15 - 10:15 during Sunday School
 Sat., Dec. 13, 9:00 – 12:00 Dress Rehearsal. We will need extra hands before and after for prep and cleanup. There is a wedding at the church this day so we want to have everything just right.
 Sunday, December 14, 9:15 – youth arrive to get ready for the program. Program starts at 10:30.

Many hands make light work. If you are in high school and I have not heard from you please give me a call to see how you can use your time and talents to praise the Lord. I have lots of behind the scene jobs as well as some readings. If you would like to be in the choir please give me a call or text me so I can email you the practice schedule, and please reference the choir page in this newsletter. There will be a sign up sheet on the youth bulletin board for anyone who can bring cookies or milk for the Saturday practice and Sunday morning late service.

Let Your Light Shine,
 Alisha Fortener, Sunday School
 Superintendent
 815-742-8033 (call or text)
fortenerfamily@comcast.net



Constitution Review and Revision

A revision to paragraph C13.05 of the All Saints Lutheran Church Constitution is being proposed, and will be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. The wording is as follows:

C13.05 When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of six voting members AND ONE YOUTH MEMBER BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14-21 shall be *appointed* ELECTED by the Congregation Council. *Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.* CALL COMMITTEE WILL DISSOLVE UPON ACCEPTANCE OF A CALL.

Additionally, amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations as approved by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly on August 26, 2013 will be incorporated into the All Saints Lutheran Church Constitution. These amendments are included in this newsletter as an insert. *(Italicized wording will be replaced with capitalized underlined wording)

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.

Stewardship News

It's stewardship time again- however, in reality it's always stewardship time! Not in the sense of campaigns, bulletin inserts and pledge cards, but in the sense of the spirit of giving. I could talk about numbers and our finances or about what a tithe is, but what I really want to talk about is the blessing of giving. Yes, giving is a blessing.

For parents, think back to the first Christmases with your kids and how good it felt to see your kids opening gifts. For the younger folks, think how good it felt when you made a gift for your parents. Weren't you proud? Well that is what giving is all about.

Dropping an offering in the plate is not supposed to feel begrudging, it should feel like Christmas morning, or at least be a pleasant feeling knowing that you are giving back to God some of what God has given you and allowing the Church here and abroad to carry out its mission and ministry. Mostly, it's not "exciting" stuff that you are giving towards - salaries are a big part of it; so are the mortgage and utilities. Ten percent of what we get is targeted for missions outside All Saints too. But even those mundane things enable us to carry out the mission, and that mission is to spread the good news about Jesus Christ, and spreading the Gospel of Christ is what it's all about.

In that regard, you are pretty special. While there are about 2.5 billion people who claim to be Christians here on earth, God looks at each of us and all his children as something special. You had the luck to be born in America where clean water, regular meals and a roof over your head is pretty much a given. You probably have a job or retirement income that provides for your home and other needs and wants like food, transportation and entertainment. These are gifts from God to us. We have so much because of God. Our faith allows us to establish a relationship with that God who cares for us, and all he asks is that we freely and willingly give of ourselves in our time, talent and treasures.

The fall focus of stewardship is financial (in the spring we'll do Time & Talent). Please pray and think about your giving in relation to all that God has given you. Set a goal to give a little more than you did last year. Perhaps an increase of 5, 10, or 15 % more is possible. For example, if you give \$20 you might increase by \$1, \$2, or \$3 dollars more. That's about the cost of one medium sized Starbucks or one or two newspapers. It's a sacrifice for sure, but not one we cannot manage. And the good news is that the more you give, the better you feel! You are opening your heart with cheerful giving that allows God's grace to fill it more easily. If you are not able to grow your giving, please do what you can. Thank you! You will get a pledge form in the mail soon. We ask that you return it in the collection plate on Sun., Dec. 7th as we celebrate the receipt of our pledges. If you can't be there that day, please return it prior to that date so we can include it in our celebration.

Thank you for what each one of you does for All Saints. Our work here at All Saints is never done. As we walk together in the glory of God, let his lamp shine before us so we can better see the path he is leading us on to do good works in his name together!

Steve Jones Stewardship Chairman

Worship Attendance				
	8:00	10:30	Total	Sun. School
November 2	66	56	122	51
9	48	97	145	57
16	66	67	133	53
23	59	60	119	56
Total	239	280	519	217
Average	60	70	130	54



Youth NEWS November 2014

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ~ **Philippians 4:13**

December ... We will be selling Little Caesars Pizza Kits. Audrey will have forms for you to pick up and start selling your pizzas.

December 7th ... Youth Christmas Party For all youth. 5-7 pm at Church. Everyone is to bring a snack and a small gift for exchange. It is a must to sign up on Youth board if you are coming.

December 5th ... **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.

Just remember you can always bring your friends!!

Audrey Adams,
All Saints Youth Leader

S.T.A.T.I.C

Students Taking Action Together In Christ

December Confirmation Lesson Schedule

December 3 – The Journeys of Paul
December 7 – Hot Topics/War and Peace
December 14 – Hot Topics/Suicide
December 17 – The Letters of Paul

**ELCA Youth Gathering
July 15-19, 2015
Detroit Michigan**

The 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering will help young people understand that they are called, through their baptism, to follow Jesus' way of the cross. They will return to their home communities to serve Christ crucified by:

- Living among God's faithful people,
- Hearing the word of God and sharing in the Lord's Supper,
- Proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through words and deed,
- Serving all people, following the example of Jesus,
- Striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

Our Youth Gathering fund raisers so far are:

Pizza Sales -\$350.00

Pancake Supper – \$240.00

Valentine's Day Flowers - \$120.00

Easter Breakfast - \$550.00

Car Wash - \$160.00

ELCA Scholarship - \$650.00

Chili Dinner - \$300.00

Donation Gift - \$250.00

Total raised to date - \$2620.00

Total needed - \$7120.00

Total still needed to fundraise - \$4,500.00

Thank you to everyone who has helped us so far.

We have been blessed with a beautiful quilt made by the All Saints quilters for us to raffle.

Tickets are now on sale

Cost is \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10

Our goal is to sell \$500.00

We will then have the drawing for the lucky winner.



Altar Guild

The annual Altar Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2015 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 2015. Current Altar Guild members are invited and encouraged to attend.

We are in need of 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!
Kay Johnson, President

Quilters

The quilters plan to meet on December 4th from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the church. We want to invite others to join us for the two hours we spend together. When you come the first time, we will be so happy to show you the different steps that we take to make a quilt. Thirteen ladies came in November and worked together cutting squares, taking the seams out of large sheets and tying the three layers of fabric together. Two sewing machines were busy too – one sewing squares together and the other to finish the edges of the quilts. We always take time for a coffee break and fellowship. It is good to know that we are using our time and resources and join groups of other Christians to make quilts for people in need. Please join us whenever you can.



Book Club

Book club does not meet in December. We will meet again in January as usual on the 4th Monday of the month. We will have a note in the January newsletter to let you know what book we picked. We do have the February book - *The Guy I'm Not Dating* by Trish Perry. It is being passed around by the group. If you would like to be on the list to be contacted when the book is available, call Carolyn Niederer at 234-3296. Enjoy the Christmas holiday and we look forward to the fellowship in January.

Alternative Christmas Fair

The United Church of Byron is hosting its annual Cookie Walk & Alternative Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 6. The cookie walk is from 9 am - noon and the Alternative Christmas Fair runs from 9 am - 2 pm. A simple soup luncheon will be available for a donation.



WELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will meet for WELCA’s quarterly breakfast potluck, January 10 at 9:00 am. All Lutheran women are a part of this great group. Please bring a breakfast dish to pass. Look forward to great food, fellowship and a discussion of the fellowship hall carpet. We will also be electing new officers. If you are interested in serving as an officer, please contact Sue Davis, Anne Morgart, or Jan Sloan. Snow date will be January 17.

The GATHERING

A big "thank you" goes out to Kathy Burrows, Phyllis Coffman (the hat fashionista), Annette Hall and Judy Kirking for 10 hats and 9 lap robes. All of these items have been donated to patients at Swedish American Cancer Center. Perhaps a little color from the above items will make their day a bit brighter! Kathy Burrows and Gloria Olsen provided coffee hour treats. Thank you, ladies. Our next Gathering will be December 9 at 9:00 am at Sunrise Restaurant. Come and enjoy "The Gathering". No talent required.

Linda Hank

LIBRARY NEWS

To commemorate Martin Luther’s birthday, November 10, 1483, three more books about his life and legacy are being added to the library:



- Life of Luther* by Barnas Sears, D.D., is a biography of Christianity’s most influential leader of the Protestant Reformation.
- Martin, God’s Court Jester* by Eric W. Gritsch contains the most significant Reformation research of the last decade, clearly written with insight and humor.

Listen! God is Calling by D. Michael Bennethum- Caroll Weiser writes: “Pastor Bennethum’s book is an excellent resource for developing the skills to listen for God’s call in every aspect of one’s life.”

The library cart near the front door of church will be filled with many Christmas books, videos, etc. Please check them out and enjoy. Two new books are being added this month:

White Christmas Pie, by Wanda E. Brunstetter is a heartwarming, bittersweet Amish Christmas romance. Will is about to marry, but fears he will eventually destroy his marriage and family as his father had done.

Timepiece by Richard Paul Evans is the prequel to *The Christmas Box*. It is a story of hope and the source of wisdom Mary Anne shared with Richard in *The Christmas Box*.

Thank You! Thank you for all the visits, cards, calls, emails, and especially prayers I received during my illness and recent hospitalization. I’m continuing to improve and knowing my All Saints family is praying for me gives me strength!
God Bless, Kay Johnson

IN OUR

names

- Kay Johnson**
- Barb Kinner**
- Al Olsen**
- Ben Reibel**
- Kim Sherman
- Mary Dummer
- April Roos
- Charlize Soltes
- Peggy Swinney
- Kevin and Olivia Comers
- Kevin Rude
- Lori Mueller
- Don Hartman
- Juanita Williams
- Karen Larsen
- Sutliff Family
- Teresa Hill
- Cherie Schabacker

Shut ins

- Shirley Asher**
- Eileen Carlson**
- Eva Dieckbernd**
- Blanche Schroeder**
- Lori Pederson**
- Patricia Mohr**

In the Military

- Tyler Peterson**
- David Bishop**
- Will Goreth**
- Marddi Rahn
- Stacy Seaworth

In Sympathy

- Walter Bajus
- Don Adams



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A Katie's Cup

Come help us celebrate the release of the first-ever Katie's Cup Christmas CD, professionally performed by a wonderful mix of area Lutheran pastors, church members, and friends of Katie's Cup! So many talented individuals who represent 16 different congregations all shared their talents in support of Katie's Cup coffeebar, our non-profit ministry in the heart of MidTown Rockford.

CDs will be offered for purchase and pre-ordered CDs will be available for pick-up.

Enjoy cake, fellowship and a sampling of the great music of the season!

1 CD - \$15 2 for \$25

CHRISTMAS

CD Release Party
Saturday, December 6
2 - 3 pm
2 pm Music / Program

If you are looking for a special Christmas gift this year, check out this CD that is sure to delight! See Pastor Janet if you would like to order a copy.

The Bach Chamber Choir Concert 10th Annual County-wide Cantata - Singers & instrumentalists from all over the county will present “The Promise of Light” by Joel Raney at Trinity Lutheran Church (Brayton & Ogle) in Mount Morris. The concert begins at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 7. Prelude music begins at 2:45. A freewill offering for the Loaves & Fishes and Lifeline Food Pantries will be taken.

Upcoming Events

December 3, 10, 17
Soup Supper and Advent
Worship

December 5
Miracle on 2nd Street

December 7
Youth Christmas Party

December 7
Poinsettia Order Deadline

December 14
Sunday School
Christmas Program

December 15
Neighbors Christmas
Gift Deadline

December 24
Christmas Eve Worship

Office Hours - Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.