



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 43 Issue No. 4 / April 2020

March 17, 2020

Dear siblings in Christ:

Hear the words of the Psalmist:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Psalm 46:1-3 (NRSV)

There is something about these days that is simply disorienting. The world we know has been upended and is not feeling very comfortable. In fact, it is just kind of scary. As we face the COVID-19 virus, allow me to remind you that God is with us. Everywhere and always. God is our refuge and strength. So, this is a time when we must intentionally stay connected to God.

It is difficult to stay connected to God while we are distancing ourselves from each other. We depend so much on our corporate worship for both connecting to God and to each other. If your congregation has not yet done so, I am recommending that all congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod suspend worship for the remainder of March. Our local, state and federal officials have asked for our cooperation. Now is not the time to think that you are the exception. "Social distancing" is meant to protect all of us.

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Worship in These Challenging Times

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, we are live-streaming our worship service instead of putting our congregation in danger of contracting this illness. Please join us online via our Facebook page at 9:00 am for regular worship each Sunday morning and for the Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday March 25 and April 1 at 7:00 pm. These services will then be posted within 24 hours on our webpage for those who cannot view it live on Facebook. Communion will not be served during these live-stream events. However, if you wish to receive communion, contact Pastor Janet who will set up a time to meet with you.

Palms will be available for pick-up outside the church beginning Friday April 3. You are invited to stop by and pick up as many as you need.

At this time, the office hours will remain the same - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday. If we feel the need to make a change in the office hours, we will communicate that information to you via the weekly email updates as well as on the webpage and church Facebook page.

Even though we will not be meeting in person, it is as important as ever that you continue to give your offerings. Our bills will not stop during this time, and our staff will continue working in whatever way they can. You can mail your offering to the church, but now may be the perfect time to sign up for automated giving, which can be set up directly through your bank. Thank you for your continued support!

We will do our best to communicate with all of you throughout this disruption in our regular life. Email is the fastest way to be able to do that. Watch for emails from the church. A few have been sent out in the past weeks, so if you haven't received them, check your junk mail. If you haven't received any of our messages, please contact us with your email address so you can be added to the list. When you do receive updated information, please help us out by sharing that information with church friends that you know don't have email. Thank you!

We recognize that this time of physical distancing may feel socially isolating, and we want to stay connected to one another. While our online connections will help provide some of that, phone conversations will be important as well. If you would like to help make phone calls to our members of our church family during this time, please contact the church office.

We know this is a difficult and uncertain time, but as we do what we can to help flatten the curve, we also trust in a God who holds us in the palm of his hand.



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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Dear Friends,

I know I speak for many when I say “I’ve never experienced anything like this!” The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust us into a time that feels quite different. There is so much that is unknown right now. However, what we DO know is that we are not alone – that God is with us, that we are the body of Christ. Social distance doesn’t mean social isolation.

My deep gratitude goes out to our Church Council for their leadership during this challenging time. Their thoughtful consideration in the discussion concerning in-person worship was so appreciated. We will continue to hold discussions as this pandemic unfolds.

Here’s the plan here at All Saints to address this:

On March 22 at 9:00 am we broadcasted a “livestream” of an abbreviated worship service, including hymns, prayers and a sermon. This will continue until we determine it is safe for us to worship together in our sanctuary (and won’t THAT be a joyous day!). I hope you’ve been able to watch those services – they are available “live” on All Saint’s Facebook page at 9:00 am. Afterwards you can find a link to watch it anytime on our Facebook page or our website (www.allsaintsbyron.org). If you have prayer requests, please either email to the church office or call us.

Every Thursday, the church office will email you a copy of the upcoming Sunday’s service, including the scripture, hymns and prayers for you to follow along with while watching the service online. For those who do not have email, they will receive that same information by postal mail. If you do have an email and aren’t receiving those announcements, it may be that we don’t have your email address in the church office. Please update us with those addresses. Thank you.

We are encouraging you to reach out to each other – we may not be able to be together physically, but we can reach out to each other via a phone call or a note.

We encourage people to stay current with their offerings. You may mail them, drop them off at the church office (M-Th, 8:00 am to 4 pm) or give them electronically, utilizing your bill pay option with your bank. Your generosity and commitment are vital to continuing our congregation’s ministries and commitments.

Watch your mail, email and social media for more information. Check on one another and support one another. Check on your neighbors. Pray for God to bring a swift resolution to this pandemic. The day is coming when we can worship together again, shaking hands and singing God’s praises. Until that time, know that God cares about you and so do I. Call me, text me, email me – I would love to hear from you!

In Christ,

*Pastor Janet Wold***Deadline** for the May SaintlyNews is **April 16**

Please send articles to

Rebecca Pressonrpresson222@gmail.com

Bible Studies

All Bible Studies are subject to resolution of the COVID-19 virus. Until the time we are given the all clear, we will not be meeting.

SUNDAY MORNING 9:15 am -This study meets in the Small Conference room (Rm. 209). Steve Jones is the class facilitator. *"After the New Testament – The Writings of the Apostolic Fathers"* Who exactly were the Apostolic Fathers? Why were they given that name? Most important is what windows into the shaping of Christianity's canon, church hierarchy, and creed are open for us?

TUESDAY EVENING 7:00 pm – This study meets in the Main Conference (Room #310). Steve Reid is the class facilitator. The Tuesday night Bible Study in April will be studying Christian living in relationship to the teachings of the Bible. All are welcome to join us for a refreshing insight into the study of the Bible.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 1:30 pm -This study meets in the Main Conference room (Room #310). Pastor Janet Wold is the class facilitator.

Library News

The following books will be added to the library this month:

When I Was Weird written by Dick and Sharon Provencher's daughter-in-law, Misty Provencher and illustrated by their granddaughter, Sydney tells the story of "Sydney" who is told she is weird because she "never talks" at school. She is sad until she looks at the other kids in her class and learns everyone else is weird too.

The Hairy Brown Angel edited by Grace Fox Anderson - Would a guardian angel take the shape of a smelly brown mongrel? You'll find an answer to this question and others you may have wondered about in this book. Most are true-to-life stories that picture God at work through the lives of His creatures.

The Amish Midwife by Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould, standard and large print - As her father is on his death bed, Lexie learns about a carved box containing two locks of hair, and a letter given to her adopted parents which starts her search for her biological family. She finds Marta who knows more than she is willing to share with her.

The Dog That Talked to God by Jim Kraus - Mary, recently widowed, buys a miniature schnauzer, Rufus, who to her surprise talks to her and to God. He shares advice with her that could make major changes in her life.

The Lord's Prayer, artwork by Thomas Kinkade Studios. The words of the Lord's Prayer are set to images of the "glory of God's earth and the joy and promise of everlasting life in His grace."

Sunday

Scriptures

April 5 - Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Procession with Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14--27:66

April 9

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 10 - Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13--53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1--19:42

April 12 - Resurrection of our Lord: Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

April 19 - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

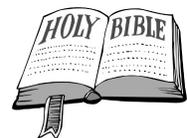
April 26 - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35



Please Clip & Save for your reference

URGENT NEED



Donate
Blood Save Life

All Saints Annual Blood Drive Still Happening!

Please help others in need and donate to the All Saints Blood Drive. Staff from the Rock River Valley Blood Center will be here on Thursday, April 16, from 1-7 pm. Please call Jan Sloan to set up a time to donate that day. You need to be 17 years old to donate or age 16 with parental consent. One in three people will need blood and you never know when you or someone you love might be the one.

Please volunteer to give that day!

Time and Talent Time!

We have included a copy of the Time and Talent response sheet in this newsletter. It is also available online at www.AllSaintsByron.org where you can either print off additional copies or submit your response online. We would like to have responses in to the church office no later than April 12.

March Council Highlights

- * Financial giving was steady, although mortgage giving was down and did not meet budgeted amount.
- * Sanctuary carpeting replacement will begin April 19 with removal of furnishings after second service.
- * Spring Clean-up Day has been scheduled for April 25.
- * Time and Talent sheets are available online and in the church and are due to be returned April 12.
- * Blood Drive is scheduled for April 16.



Spring Clean-Up

Believe it or not it's time for our Spring Clean-Up day. This year we'll be getting together on Saturday April 25th at 9:00 am to give the inside and outside of our church a good clean up. We need lots of volunteers as we have a healthy list of projects. Look for the signup sheet on the bulletin board or call the church office to indicate you will be here to help. We hope you can join us!

The Gathering

Typically, the GATHERING meets on the second Tuesday of the month. If the COVID-19 quarantine is lifted in April, we will meet April 14 at 9:00 am. Watch email notifications from the church office for updates. When we do reconvene, we will begin work on repairing and making new Chrismon ornaments for our large sanctuary Christmas tree. If you are crafty and enjoy small projects, join us to see what has been accomplished thus far. We have a lot of fun and laughs while our creative juices flow.

Quilters

Depending on the resolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the quilters are scheduled to meet on April 9 at 9:00 am. This is the second Thursday of the month and a change from the usual schedule.

Book Club

Since Book Club was cancelled last month, we will discuss *Snow Day* by Billy Coffee during our April meeting at 1:00 on Monday, the 27th.

Meals on Wheels

On March 9th I received a phone call from Robert, the Volunteer Coordinator with LifeScape services. Robert told me in the interest of the safety of our neighbors who receive Meals on Wheels, LifeScape considered making the volunteers submit to a background check. After considering the background checks of the numerous volunteers that gave of their time, LifeScape made the decision to eliminate the Meals on Wheels volunteers.

Robert wanted me to extend his personal thanks to All Saints for the years of support to the Meals on Wheels program.

It's sad to see the program as we have known it come to an end. In the best interests and concerns for the safety of our neighbors the hard decision was made to discontinue the volunteer program. To put everybody's minds to rest our neighbors will continue to receive Meals on Wheels. Delivery of the food will be divided up amongst LifeScape delivery drivers who will now deliver the daily meals.

I personally want to thank the volunteers at All Saints that stepped up and help deliver the meals to our neighbors for many years.

- Jim Wilcox, Social Ministry Chair



Support All Saints While You Shop

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to All Saints Lutheran Church whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

First Communion Class

The First Communion Class will be rescheduled at a time to be determined. We will publicize the date and time in the weekly email updates and upcoming newsletters.



WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

The next All Saints WELCA meeting is Saturday, May 2nd at 11:00 am. Brown bag lunch is optional.

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In recent days, I have also suggested to your pastor, interim pastor, vicar or Synodically Authorized Minister, to prepare for the possibility of not being together for Holy Week or Easter worship. I am not sure that you can understand how hard it is for me to even imagine that. I am, however, asking congregations to remain nimble enough to resume worship quickly when it becomes safer.

I am encouraging congregations to find ways to stay connected, using technology when it is possible. I have asked pastors to stay in communication with you and tend to your spiritual needs. The Internet has made many options available to us that we have not had in the past.

Here are three things we can do to keep the church strong in these difficult days:

JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER. I am calling this synod to pray together at noon each day. Please stop and take a moment to pray for your congregation, the Northern Illinois Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pray for your members. Pray for yourself. Pray for the ill, the frightened, the vulnerable, and the poor. Pray for the dying. Pray for world leaders and our own elected leaders. Pray for our healthcare workers. Pray for researchers. Pray for the unemployed, underemployed and laid off. Pray for all students from college to kindergarten who have been forced away from school. Pray for your pastor or whomever leads your congregation.

Will you join me in prayer at noon every day through May 13?

PRACTICE SOUND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP. Your congregation is probably not prepared for a financial crisis. The church’s ability to do ministry is dependent upon your regular gifts. The synod and church-wide expressions of the church are dependent upon the generosity of congregations. We will remain strong only if we continue to practice first fruits, proportionate giving. While we are away from corporate worship, please give electronically or mail a check to your congregation. Your pastor and the staff of your congregation is still working hard. Let’s not make them worry about their paychecks. Let’s maintain our gifts to food pantries, Lutheran Social Services, Grace Place, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center and the many other ministries we support.

Will you join me in supporting the work of your congregation on a weekly basis?

DON’T LET SOCIAL DISTANCING BECOME SOCIAL ISOLATION. My heart has been broken by some of the stories that I have heard. Continue to extend the ministries of the church to the homebound. Take all the precautions to prevent the spread of illness, but check on your neighbors. If you head to the grocery

store, shop for someone who cannot. A crisis such as this quickly exposes those who are the most vulnerable. That is who the church is called to serve. Be a source of encouragement.

Will you join me in loving our neighbors and encouraging others?

It feels like the ground is shaking beneath us. These days are disorienting. But, we are in this together. We are church together. We are stronger together. Even when we cannot be together physically.

Thank you for your faithfulness. God bless and keep you.

Walking with you,



Bishop Jeff Clements

Worship Attendance				
	8:00	10:30	Total	Sunday School
February 23	45	56	101	26
March 1	54	41	95	26
8	56	41	95	26
15	Worship cancelled through the end of month due to the Covid-19 virus			
22				
29				
Total	155	138	291	78
Average	52	46	97	26

Finance Report

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual February	Budget February	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2020
Revenue	General Fund	\$15,271	\$16,430	\$33,149	\$32,860	\$197,160
	Mortgage	\$1,930	\$2,075	\$3,090	\$4,150	\$24,900
	Other Giving	\$3,966	\$834	\$3,966	\$1,668	\$10,008
	Total Revenue	\$21,167	\$19,339	\$40,204	\$38,678	\$232,068
Expenses	1000 Mission Support	\$1,774	\$1,250	\$3,774	\$2,500	\$15,000
	Other Outreach	\$579	\$469	\$679	\$938	\$5,628
	Total Outreach	\$2,353	\$1,719	\$4,453	\$3,438	\$20,628
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$1,183	\$1,134	\$1,946	\$2,268	\$13,608
	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$10,439	\$11,157	\$25,123	\$22,314	\$133,884
	Total Ministries	\$11,622	\$12,291	\$27,069	\$24,582	\$147,492
	3000 Total Building (Non Capital)	\$1,870	\$4,669	\$3,865	\$5,150	\$56,028
	Total Expense	\$15,845	\$18,679	\$35,387	\$33,170	\$224,148
	3000 Capital Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$2,094	\$2,095	\$4,187	\$4,190	\$25,140
	Other Building Capital	\$6,970	\$0	\$6,970	\$0	\$0
	Total Building Capital	\$9,064	\$2,095	\$11,157	\$4,190	\$25,140
	Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$24,909	\$20,774	\$46,545	\$37,360	\$249,288

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD (World Premier)

Join us for a fun afternoon at the Timber Lake Playhouse on July 12 at 2:00 pm. Tickets for this World Premier musical are \$20.00 each and the deadline to sign-up is June 28. Sign-up on Bulletin Board #2 and make checks payable to Timber Lake Playhouse. Payment can be dropped off in the church office or given to Kay Johnson on or before June 28. Carpooling is available! Check that option on the sign-up sheet. See Kay Johnson for more information.

What a Wonderful World is the magical tale of how Santa and Mrs. Claus met and fell in love. In their 20's. In the 1950's. In this never-before-seen jukebox musical, this new take on an old classic will be both hilarious and heartwarming, as we witness two beloved characters meet and fall in love. With an original story by Jeremy Desmon and directed by TLP's Paul Stancato, this will be the first time Timber Lake Playhouse world premiers a new musical!! This is a must-see-event of the summer!



In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

- Richard Annis**
- Pat Bontjes**
- George Davis**
- Jeanine Hayes**
- Phil Houston**
- Kay Johnson**
- Al Olsen**
- Gloria Olsen**
- Skip Richardson**
- Marlene Roberts**
- Juanita Williams
- Reggie Wallin
- Paul Wood

- Sharon Bayme
- Jeanne Greenfield
- Richard Myers
- Steve Hawkins
- Gordon Green
- Danette Potter
- Diane Hawkins
- Dana Harper
- Ed Putnal
- Mary Gardner
- Bill Michaux
- Jonce Wright
- Wanda Presson
- Mary Sanders
- Harold Hilliard
- Joyce Hilliard
- Billie Jean Hartman
- Justine Davis
- Kirby Middleton
- Sandi Rennick
- Matt Henkel
- Dennis Reid
- Daphne Downey
- Vicki Scull

Shut Ins

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

Military

- David Bishop**
- Dylan Bishop**
- Staff Sgt. Kyle Reif
- Matt Vizer
- Sage Harper
- Wes McGee
- Reggio

Sympathy

- Jack Garvin
- John Kushner



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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16

Annual Blood Drive

April 25

Spring Clean-Up Day

May 24

Summer Worship Schedule begins

July 12

TimberLake Playhouse



FYI - We will be combining the June and July newsletters to be mailed at the end of May. If you are a contributor to the newsletter, please keep this in mind when submitting your summer articles.