



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 43 Issue No. 12 / December 2020

Mid-week Advent Worship Begins Wednesday, December 2

We will be live streaming the service at the time of worship on Facebook at 7:00 pm each Wednesday evening. The dates are December 2, 9, 16, and 23. This year's Advent worship will feature the DVD *Incarnation* by Adam Hamilton. Because of the licensing requirements of this DVD, we are not allowed to save these services to our Facebook page or website.

Learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives this Christmas. Join Adam Hamilton and reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and the world today!

The live-stream event at 7:00 pm on each Wednesday is the only time it will be available online, so if you do not have internet access and would like to view this DVD, please contact the church office after Christmas to borrow it.



Christmas Eve Worship



Again, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions put forth by the Governor, we will be recording the Christmas Eve worship during the week before Christmas and loading it to Facebook and the church website on December 24. This will make the service available to you to view at your convenience. We will use the same worship format with special music, the lighting of candles, and singing "Silent Night" to conclude the service. We encourage you to watch the recorded service at night, dim your lights, light a candle, and join us in celebrating this most Holy night. If you are so inclined, you can take a picture of your family celebrating with lit candles that we can share on Facebook. We will also serve communion virtually, and wafers are available in the entryway of the church. There are 10 wafers in a package so take as many as you need to celebrate communion with your family.

"Come to the Manger"...

A Christmas Vigil at All Saints

Our sanctuary will be open from Monday, December 21 through Wednesday, December 23 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm for those who would like to take in the holiday ambience. Prepare for the coming of Christ with prayer and reverence in our beautiful sanctuary. Christmas lights will be on and Christmas music will be playing.



Sunday Worship - Recorded Service
available on our Facebook Page and
Webpage at 9:00 am.

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



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

Council Members**PRESIDENT & PROPERTY**

Doug Knodle

VICE –PRESIDENT & FELLOWSHIP

Kay Johnson

SECRETARY

Bill Pirnat

WORSHIP

Carol Miller

EDUCATION

Michel Williams

FINANCE

Trina Andersen

STEWARDSHIP

Scott Fitzsimmons

OUTREACH/SOCIAL MINISTRY

Jim Wilcox

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Audra Miles

Staff**PASTOR**

Pastor Janet Wold

TREASURER

Alisha Fortener

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Steve Jones

OFFICE SECRETARIESCindy Beitel
Karen Larson**Deadline** for the January
Saintly News is **December 14**Please send articles to
Rebecca Presson**Dear Partner in Ministry:**

The following is taken from an article about Advent I found on **Sundays and Seasons.com**. The season of Advent begins on November 29 and continues for nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas. In addition to our Advent services on Sunday, we have a mid-week Advent service that will be livestreamed on the Wednesdays of December: Dec. 2,9,16, and 23 (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).



“Slow down, dear church. Slow down and breathe.

In this season when the cultural gravity pushes us down the hill to Christmas way too fast, it’s time to apply the brakes and slow down. As countercultural as that may seem, there’s too much to hear, too much to see, too much to experience, too much to take in to hurry through Advent. We sit with Isaiah and his people who longingly waited for the coming of the Promised One. We stand with John the Baptist as he calls God’s people to prepare the way of the Lord.

This slowing down makes room for the Spirit to show us those things in our own hearts and in our own congregations and systems that we might rather leave undisturbed and unacknowledged. The Advent scriptures urge repentance, another practice that is best not hurried through. It may not be pleasant to acknowledge the places in our lives where we have wandered; nor is it delightful to hear a word about a God who has standards and who is angry at both individual and corporate sin. Still, that word stands front and center in the Advent scriptures and begs to be preached in a culture that makes no room for such things.

The Advent season is by nature countercultural... which brings us to perhaps the most countercultural message of all, the message at the heart of the Advent season, indeed the entire Christian faith—that God is about to come, not as an angry judge but as a human among us. This is good news upon which to linger and for which we patiently prepare. Allowing the time to pause here in Advent will reap the rewards of patient, thoughtful, prayerful preparation for God’s coming among us.” *From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. License number: SAS014981 All rights reserved. Used with permission.*

I hope you can join us on this journey toward Christmas, pausing to hear God’s word speak to us during the season of Advent. God’s blessings be with you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Janet Wold

Last Day to Order Poinsettias is December 7

If you would like to order a red poinsettia plant this year to help adorn the sanctuary on Christmas, please do so by December 7. Plants are \$15.00 each. You can call in your order to the church office and drop off a check later. You can make a check out to All Saints Altar Guild and leave it in the office along with the order form which can be found in the weekly emailed announcements. Additional order forms are available on the table in the entry to the church.



Bible Studies

The Monday Afternoon Bible Study, facilitated by Pastor Janet Wold, is being held via Zoom at 1:30 pm. This is a study and discussion of the following Sunday's Gospel lesson. A link to the Monday afternoon Bible Study is included in the Thursday announcements email. Feel free to join us! If you need a Zoom tutorial, Pastor Janet will help you with that. If you do not have a computer, you can join via telephone at the number included in the announcements email.

The Tuesday Evening Bible Study facilitated by Steve Reid is on hiatus until further notice due to the Covid -19 resurgence. When we can return, we will be studying Biblical Devotions, and how they are related to Christian living for example, "Who is Satan," "God's Forgiveness," and "Judge Not."

The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study, facilitated by Pastor Janet Wold, is being held in-person in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 pm. Masks are required. The topic of this study is a continuation of last year's study "The Greatest Story." This time our study is focused on Jesus from his birth through his ministry along the dark path of trials and crucifixion, and into the light of Easter morning.

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study, facilitated by Steve Jones is on hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Christmas at Generations at Neighbors

Generations at Neighbors is once again looking for Christmas presents for their residents. We have been given 15 names this year along with suggested gift items. Suggested items are: zipper front sweatshirts (hoods are fine), sweat pants, socks, colognes (guys), perfumes (gals), lotions, and body washes. If you would like to purchase a gift, please call the office and we will give you a name along with their size.

Donated gifts must be dropped off to Generations at Neighbors by Monday, December 14. Gifts need to be labeled inside and out with resident's name.

November Council Highlights

- ⇒ Reviewed the proposed 2021 budget, which will be presented at the Annual meeting
- ⇒ Decided the Annual meeting will be held via ZOOM on January 31 at 11:00 am
- ⇒ Learned October income was less than budgeted. Expenses were covered for the month.
- ⇒ We need to recruit new council members to replace outgoing members not eligible for re-election.
- ⇒ Learned Sunday School is going well via ZOOM
- ⇒ Christmas program will be recorded and broadcasted during worship on December 20.
- ⇒ Learned 50-60 children attended "Trunk or Treat" on October 24

Sunday Scriptures

December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

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

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

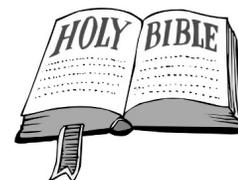
December 24

Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve

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

December 27

First Sunday of Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols



*Please Clip & Save for your
reference*

Attention all organizations, committees, secretaries, treasurers

Now is the time to review the past year and write your report for the Annual Report. Please include a financial report and a brief overview of what your group has done in 2020. Reports need to be submitted to the office by January 4th 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!

Looking for Council Members

Congregation Council elections are just around the corner! We need at least three candidates to run. If you have an interest, please let Pastor Janet 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.

Book Club

Book Club will not meet this month. January's selection is *Snow Day*, by Billy Coffee.

Confirmation Schedule

December 6	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	<i>The Lord's Prayer is just empty words to me.</i>	<i>Matthew 6:5-13</i>
December 13	<i>Holy Baptism</i>	<i>I don't know why people should get baptized.</i>	<i>Romans 6:1-11</i>
December 20	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>I don't know what communion is for.</i>	<i>Luke 22:14-20</i>
December 27	NO CLASS	CHRISTMAS BREAK BLESSED CHRISTMAS	

Annual Altar Guild Meeting

The Annual Altar Guild Meeting, usually held the first weekend in January, is postponed until such time as we can again meet in person. I wish to extend a huge 'thank you' to the All Saints Altar Guild members for their service and I cannot wait until we can again publish a schedule and return to our in-person worship routine.

Library News

While we experience the uncertainty of the COVID 19 pandemic, books will not be on the cart by the entry doors. However, the library remains open any day the church is open. Books can be checked out by filling in the date and your name on the card and placing it in the plastic box on the counter.

The shelves behind the library door are filled with Christmas books, nonfiction and fiction, by many favorite authors such as Debbie Macomber, Sherry Woods, and David Baldacci. There are books for all ages to enjoy as well as CD's and DVD's.

Quilters

The quilters plan to meet twice a month for the duration of the coronavirus restrictions. In December, we plan to meet at 9:00 am on the 3rd and the 17th. We are blessed to have enough space to follow safe distancing and wearing masks to protect each other. The shelves look so empty right now with less than ten quilts completed. That will change quickly as the weeks go by.

Worship Totals	In Person	Online Viewers	Sunday School
Oct. 25	44	184	16
Nov. 1	22	308	12
8		248	13
15		296	13
Totals	66	1036	54
Average	33	259	14

Finance Report

Budget Items		Item Description	Actual October	Budget October	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2020
Revenue		General Fund	\$13,311	\$16,430	\$184,902	\$164,300	\$197,160
		Mortgage	\$1,700	\$2,074	\$17,038	\$20,743	\$24,888
		Other Giving	\$670	\$833	\$7,255	\$8,334	\$9,996
		Total Revenue	\$15,680	\$19,337	\$209,194	\$193,377	\$232,044
Expenses	1000	Mission Support	\$0	\$1,250	\$16,058	\$12,500	\$15,000
		Other Outreach	\$0	\$464	\$2,247	\$4,672	\$5,568
		Total Outreach	\$0	\$1,714	\$18,305	\$17,172	\$20,568
			Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$768	\$1,227	\$7,593	\$12,400
	2000	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$10,305	\$11,037	\$111,492	\$110,401	\$132,444
		Total Ministries	\$11,074	\$12,264	\$119,085	\$122,801	\$147,168
	3000	Total Building (Non Capital)	\$2,314	\$2,566	\$21,846	\$25,707	\$30,792
		Total Expense	\$13,388	\$16,544	\$159,235	\$165,680	\$198,528
	3000 Capital	Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$1,590	\$2,095	\$20,433	\$20,950	\$25,140
		Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$9,450	\$0	\$0
		Total Building Capital	\$1,590	\$2,095	\$29,883	\$20,950	\$25,140
		Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$14,978	\$18,639	\$189,118	\$186,630	\$223,668

Sunday School News

The Sunday School kids have decided to continue their tradition of raising money for the ELCA Good Gifts. There are many needs to choose from, so this year they have selected to support these eight causes:

- Honeybees - \$20**
- A Piglet - \$30**
- Warm Blanket - \$10**
- Fruit-tree Seedling - \$10**
- Stock a Backpack with Food - \$10**
- Feed 10 People at Soup Kitchen - \$20**
- Vaccinations for a Child - \$30**
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) For Frontline Workers - \$25**



If you would like to help the kids make a difference and share your kindness with others, you can mail or drop off your donations during office hours from now until the end of December. Checks should be made payable to All Saints. Make sure to note that your monies should be designated for ELCA Good Gifts. If you have a specific cause you are interested in please identify that as well. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



LOOKING AHEAD:

***Sunday School children will share their version of the Christmas story on December 20th during the worship service. Be sure to tune in!**

***There will be NO ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 27th or January 3rd.**

In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

Kate Danielowski– Cuccaro
George Davis
Heather Green
Jeanine Hayes
John Hetland
Phil Houston
Al Olsen
Kit Reif

Paul Wood
 Gordon Green
 Danette Potter
 Diane Hawkins
 Bill Michaux
 Jonce Wright
 Mary Sanders
 Harold Hilliard
 Joyce Hilliard
 Justine Davis
 Kirby Middleton
 Sandi Rennick
 Matt Henkel
 Dennis Reid
 Vicki Scull
 Jamie Dreyfus
 Scott Gordon & wife Lu
 Gary Diehl
 Richard McCabe
 Doug Karr
 Eric Miles
 Gary Wuslich
 Kevin Lyons
 Diann
 Mike
 Judy Wirth
 Toni Girten
 Rob Leombruni
 Tony Leombruni
 Marco Leombruni
 Ernie Leombruni
 Allyson and David Stine
 Pia Leombruni
 Francis Stevenson

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
 Tyler Peterson

Sympathy

Tim Gonigam
 Lisa Eden
 Loretta Eden
 Patricia Mohr



A PUBLICATION OF
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 Luther Dr.
Byron, IL 61010-9684
December Issue - Mailed 11/25/20

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

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”



December 2, 9, 16, 23

**Midweek Advent Worship
via Facebook at 7:00 pm**

December 20

**Sunday School Christmas Program
during worship**

December 21-23

**“Come to the Manger” Christmas vigil
at All Saints (8:00 am to 4:00 pm)**

December 24

Pre-recorded Christmas Eve Worship

December 27

Lessons and Carols

2021 Stewardship Drive

I'm writing this not even a week after Commitment Sunday. Sunday was the day we asked the Congregation to submit their Statements of Intent for 2021 giving to the church. We had a great initial response as our faithful people came to our drive through for coffee and cookies to drop off Statements along with those mailing them in, placing them in our drop box, going on line to submit and even calling and emailing in their intentions to us. After only 5 days we have nearly as many as we did after six weeks last year, and more keep pouring in. Our goal was to increase our Intentions from 56 to 70 Statements of Intent, and we are well on our way with over 50 in hand and many more expected to follow. Over \$147,000 has been pledged so far, and we fully expect the Statements and Amounts will both reach our goal of 70 and enable us to have the greatest level of intended giving ever at All Saints. It is not too late to fill yours out, so please do so as soon as possible. Remember that if we get to a level of 70 Statements of Intent that one generous family has stated that they will give an extra \$4,000 gift in 2021 that is above and beyond their regular giving. We are truly blessed to have such a generous and loving Congregation!

Yours in Christ,
Steve Jones, Financial Secretary

Office Hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Closed on Friday