



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 46 Issue No. 12 / December 2023

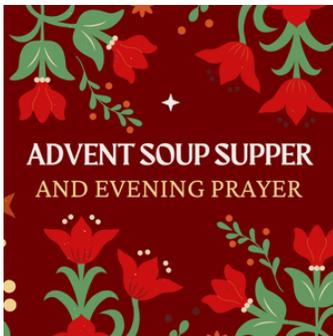
Advent Begins Sunday, December 3!

Decorating on Saturday, December 2

Join us in preparing the church by decorating the sanctuary and putting up the various Christmas trees. We have the big Chrismon tree and greens in the sanctuary, a tree for the Sunday School hallway, and other trees throughout the church building that need to be decorated. We need all hands – adults and kids of all ages. We will meet at church at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 2nd. It is a fun time with the fellowship of working together. There will be donuts for the coffee break! A sign-up sheet is posted on Bulletin Board #2. If you have questions, call the church office.



Advent begins



Mid-week Advent Worship and Soup Suppers Continue Through Advent

Mid-week Advent worship services will be held on December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 pm. Once again we will be using Holden Evening Prayer during worship. Prior to the mid-week worship service, we are going to resume our popular Wednesday night Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm. We will need at least four crockpots of soup, bread, and desserts each week. There is a sign-up sheet on Bulletin Board #2 if you wish to contribute.

Sunday School Christmas Program

“A is for angels, appearing so bright, telling of Jesus that first Christmas night.” This is just one of the many verses you will hear recited during the 2023 Sunday School Christmas program. The children are excited for you to attend their performance, which will take place during the worship service on Sunday, December 17th. Please join us in person or online for The Christmas Alphabet.

****Neither the Children’s Church nor Sunday School will be held on December 24th and 31st.**



Come Worship with Us Twice on Sunday, December 24



This year, the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24. Join us for worship at 9:00 am and then return at 8:00 pm for a Christmas Eve service of carols and communion in our beautiful poinsettia adorned sanctuary. Invite your family and neighbors to praise God for the uplifting joy and good news of our Savior’s birth. The Christmas Eve worship service will conclude with candle lighting and singing of “Silent Night.”

Sunday Worship - In-Person 9:00 a.m.
Recorded Service available on our
Facebook Page and
Webpage at 10:30 am.

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



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

Council Members

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Steve Jones

VICE-PRESIDENT & STEWARDSHIP

Kay Johnson

SECRETARY

Caryn Huber

EDUCATION

Heather Brown

FELLOWSHIP

Annette Jones

PROPERTY

Bob Branson

OUTREACH/SOCIAL MINISTRY

Jim Wilcox

WORSHIP

Carol Miller

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Rory Brown

Dear Friends:

On December 3, we begin the season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting...not a "countdown" to Christmas, but instead a waiting for Christ's return.

We don't wait very well in our society. We are surrounded by 24-hour stores (no need to wait for them to open!), microwave entrees, ATM's, faster internet speeds and instant coffee. I must admit, I get caught up in the impatience as well...how long something takes to prepare and cook is a factor in my deciding if it will be on the menu that week. I get frustrated with lines at the grocery store, slow traffic, and being put on "hold" when calling a company. Christmas decorations are up in stores in October; Christmas music starts to play the instant Thanksgiving is over (if not before)...there doesn't seem to be much "waiting" involved.

So, is the call to "wait" during this Advent season a meaningless one? What is the point?

Waiting can be a good thing. Part of the enjoyment of a trip or the arrival of family or friends is the anticipation of it. We anticipate what we'll see and do on the trip, we anticipate getting caught up with our family and friends when they come to visit. The anticipation can make the whole experience sweeter! As we enter into this season of waiting, my prayer is that we are filled with *that* kind of anticipation and not the frustration we feel normally feel when made to wait. Anticipation of Christ entering into our lives again and again, anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth and anticipation of what Christ will do in our lives in expected and unexpected ways.

God's blessings to you as we await the coming of our Lord.

In Christ,
Pastor Janet



Staff

PASTOR

Pastor Janet Wold

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER

Laura Hopkins

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Amy Harn

OFFICE SECRETARIES

Cindy Beitel
Karen Larson

Deadline for the January
Saintly News is **December 18**

Please send articles to
Rebecca Presson

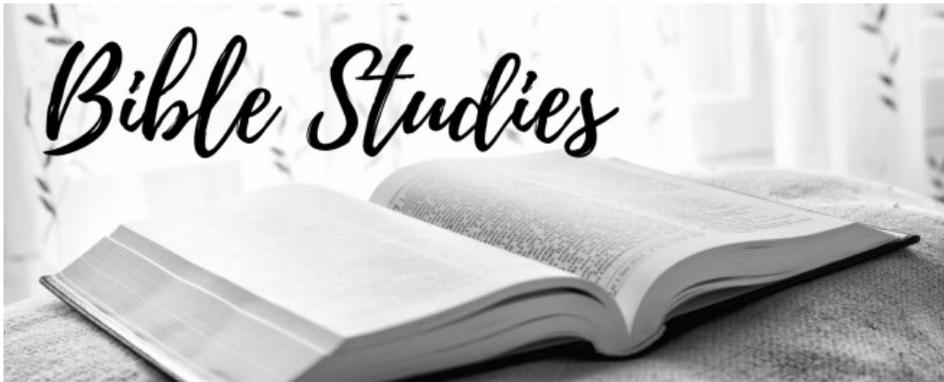
All Saints Constitution Update

The All Saints Constitution has been reviewed and compared to the Model Constitution provided by the ELCA. Several paragraphs have been updated to bring them up to the current wording suggested by the ELCA. Copies of these changes are available on the website at AllSaintsByron.org, and a limited number of hard copies are located on the oak table in the narthex. We will vote on these changes at the All Saints Annual Congregation Meeting to be held on January 28, 2024.

Save the Date!

The Annual All Saints Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 following worship. We will be voting on the 2024 budget, electing new council members, and approving changes to the All Saints Constitution.





Check the calendar for changes to the Bible Study schedule.

Monday Afternoon Bible Study, facilitated by Pastor Janet Wold, continues 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 announcement's 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 announcement's email.

Tuesday Night Bible Study, facilitated by Steve Reid, meets at 7:00 pm in Conference Room #310. This Bible Study will be watching and discussing DVDs entitled *The Bible*. This study will go on hiatus beginning December 19 for the winter. Watch the weekly bulletin for updates.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study, facilitated by Pastor Janet Wold, meets at 1:30 pm in Conference Room 210. This study utilizes a publication entitled *Faith That Glorifies God*.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study, facilitated by Steve Jones, meets in the Small Conference Room at 10:00 each Sunday morning. They are utilizing the study entitled *The History and Archaeology of the Bible*.

Help Us Undecorate Our Church

Please plan to join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 6, 2024 to undecorate the church. Many hands make light work! Coffee and donuts will be served!



December Sunday Scriptures

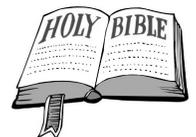
December 3
First Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Mark 13:24-37

December 10
Second Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Mark 1:1-8

December 17
Third Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24
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 1
Christmas Eve
 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14



December 31
New Year's Eve
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
 Psalm 8
 Revelation 21:1-6a
 Matthew 25:31-46



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 2023. Reports need to be submitted to the office by January 2nd 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. Of course, a hand-written report will be accepted as well. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE *Matters*

Worship Totals	Online Viewers	In- Person	Total	Sunday School
October 29	94	65	159	18
November 5	136	68	204	24
12	122	61	183	22
19	68	67	135	22
Total	420	261	681	86
Average	105	65	170	22

Council Members Needed

We need candidates to run to fill upcoming vacancies on our church council as well as two delegates to attend Synod Assembly on June 14 and 15, 2024. 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. Attending Synod Assembly at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL is a wonderful opportunity to see the greater church at work. Take this opportunity to share your time and talents. Elections will be held at the Annual All Saints Congregation Meeting on January 28, 2024.



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.

ANNUAL MEETING

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Good Gifts Silent Auction

Advent season begins on Sunday, December 3rd. The third annual WELCA Good Gifts Silent Auction is planned to begin on that Sunday. Bidding on the items will be available during the Advent season and will conclude at the last midweek Advent service on Wednesday, December 20th. Proceeds from the auction are then passed on to our Sunday School children. They shop in the Good Gifts catalog and direct monies toward purchase of animals and other needed items as listed in the catalog for people in need in third world countries.

Please consider donating a new auction item such as a craft item, homemade item, or holiday decoration. Items should be dropped off at the church by Saturday, December 2nd to allow time to set up the auction. Contact Carol Miller if you have questions.

We have raised over \$1000 in each of the first two years of this project, so it has been a great success. We look forward to seeing what items may be up for bid this year. Thank you for your participation!



Book Club

Book Club will not be meeting in December. Have a Blessed Christmas.



Adopt a Neighbor

Generations at Neighbors is once again looking for Christmas presents for their residents. We have been given 10 names this year with suggested gift items. Thank you to all that have taken a name. The residents really appreciate this.

Donated gifts must be dropped off no later than Tuesday, December 12 to Generations at Neighbors at 811 W Second St in Byron.



December 3	Psalms	<i>I don't know what purpose the psalms serve.</i>	Psalm 1
December 10	Wisdom	<i>I don't know what makes wisdom books more wise than the rest of the Bible.</i>	Proverbs 2:1-15
December 17	Job	<i>I don't know why bad things happen to good people.</i>	Job 1:13-22
December 24 & 31	NO CLASS		

STEWARDSHIP

We hope you have enjoyed our weekly video series, "Parables of All Saints." These videos have highlighted our work not only within our church walls, but locally and globally as well. Without your participation, this work would not be possible, and what a loss that would be to those who benefit from it!



In mid-November each family received a Statement of Intent and Time and Talent form. If you haven't already done so, please fill out these forms and return them to the church. Please complete one Time and Talent form for each member of your household. Additional forms are available in the church office and online on the church website, www.AllSaintsByron.org. Also, check your email for the link to the forms emailed to you by the church office. Please return your Time and Talent and Statement of Intent by Dedication Sunday on December 3. Thank you for all you do to bless this congregation!



Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Altar Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 9:00 am. Following the meeting, plan to stay to help undecorate the church!

Altar Flower Reservations

The Altar Flower Reservation Book has been updated for 2024. Sign up early to make sure the dates you wish to commemorate with flowers are available. Please note the cost of flowers is \$22.00



November Council Highlights

- Reviewed finances. Giving did not meet budgeted items for October.
- Discussed upcoming council openings.
- Stewardship mailing to be accomplished by November 17.
- Advent Mid-week worship and Soup Supper begin December 6.
- Discussed possibility of creating a new church directory using ICON software.
- Reviewed constitution changes before presenting them to the membership.



Laundry Love is a national ministry that provides free laundry services to the needy. Dave Musser from the Rockford chapter will be with us on December 10 to tell us more about this ministry and how we might get involved here in Byron. A free will offering for Laundry Love will be taken that day. For more information go to www.laundryloverockford.org.

The GATHERING

The Gathering will meet from 9:00 – 11:00 am on Tuesday, December 12 at the church. All are invited to join us for a morning of fun, conversation, and food.



Library News

The Library cart in the main hallway is full of great reading for December. Christmas, fiction and non-fiction books are available for everyone's reading pleasure. Check out the cart and a few books!

October Financials

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual October	Budget October	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2023
Revenue	General Fund	\$12,617	\$16,771	\$159,720	\$167,717	\$201,252
	Mortgage	\$1,547	\$1,246	\$12,347	\$12,464	\$14,952
	Other Giving	\$409	\$833	\$5,343	\$8,334	\$9,996
	Total Revenue	\$14,572	\$18,850	\$177,410	\$188,515	\$226,200
Expenses	1000 Mission Support	\$100	\$1,166	\$7,344	\$11,668	\$13,992
	Other Outreach	\$480	\$515	\$5,058	\$5,170	\$6,180
	Total Outreach	\$580	\$1,681	\$12,402	\$16,838	\$20,172
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$843	\$1,098	\$9,714	\$11,108	\$13,176
	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$9,802	\$11,293	\$111,259	\$112,950	\$135,516
	Total Ministries	\$10,645	\$12,391	\$120,973	\$124,058	\$148,692
	3000 Total Building (Non Capital)	\$2,954	\$2,705	\$25,354	\$27,105	\$32,460
	Total Expense	\$14,179	\$16,777	\$158,729	\$168,001	\$201,324
	3000 Capital Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$1,246	\$1,246	\$19,346	\$12,464	\$14,952
	Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total Building Capital	\$1,246	\$1,246	\$19,346	\$12,464	\$14,952
Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$15,425	\$18,023	\$178,075	\$180,465	\$216,276	
Net	Net for Month/Year (Revenue Minus Expense)	(\$853)		(\$665)		
	(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year	(\$2,598)		(\$2,390)		

Quilters



The quilter's plan to meet on December 7th at 9:00 am at the church. Sheets are needed for the backings on the quilts. Our supply is low now and any donations will be gladly accepted. White sheets that are given will be dyed to a dark color. Thank you for the donations of thread, fabric and sheets that have been given in this past year. Lutheran World Relief continues to send their thanks as they distribute the quilts and kits around the world to people in need.

Byron School District Food Pantry

The Byron School District Food Pantry currently sends groceries home to needy families in the district each week. They also provide snacks to students at Mary Morgan Elementary. At the high school they provide breakfast to anyone needing it. Here is a list of their current needs:



Canned Vegetables	Granola Bars
Canned Fruit	Cereal Bars
Canned Tuna	Fruit Cups
Canned Chicken	Applesauce
Jelly/Jam	Hamburger Helper
Peanut Butter	Tuna Helper
Mac & Cheese	Taco Kits
Pasta/Pasta Sauce	Condiments
Crackers	Instant Potatoes
Rice	Boxed Potato Sides
Lipton Sides	Healthy Snacks
Canned Soup	Sandwich Crackers
Ramen	Feminine Products
Canned Ravioli	Personal Hygiene
Spaghetti-os	

Also shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors. Please place your donations in the basket by the main entrance. Thank you for your generosity!

In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

Kathy Burrows
Phyllis Coffman
Jim Coffman
Sandi Reid
Cindy Yoakum
 Richard McCabe
 Mike Gordon
 Will Heindrick
 Bruce Roller
 Keith Padgett
 Ann Frerichs
 Tom Lombardo
 Francis Stevenson
 Margie Myer
 Kevin Nickels
 Dick Sabin
 Bobbie Chisem
 Jennie Sanchez
 John Kirchner
 Rick Uhdholtz
 Susan Caruso
 Lee Joyce
 Billie Jean Hartmann
 Jim Carson
 Mindy Vanatter
 Beth Brandt
 Jim Bowers
 Judy Owens
 Ron Sasso
 Geoff and Judy Zoellick
 Pastor Scott Schmidt
 Lori Ludens
 Richard Reif
 Randy Roberts
 Louise Krebs
 Sybil & Alton
 Charlotte Johnson
 Jayne Fitzsimmons
 Mark Thompson
 Mimi Leombruni

Shut-ins

Lori Pederson
Mary Whitmer

Military

David Bishop
Dylan Bishop
 Staff Sgt. Kyle Reif
 Matt Vizer
 Sage Harper
Tyler Peterson
 Cristiano Sasso
 Logan Usrey
 Tyler James Yoakum

Sympathy

Joyce Hunsaker-Mailand
 Jeff Logas
 Pat Jacobs
 Ernie Leombruni
George Davis



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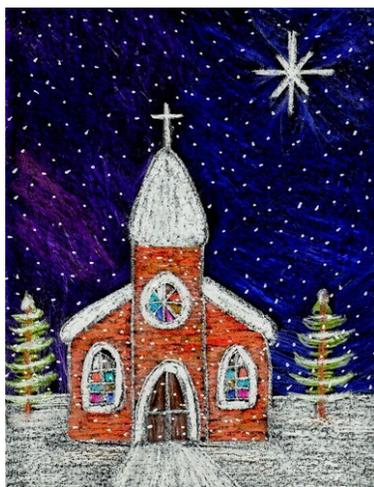
“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”

Inclement Weather Policy

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
- * Checking our 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 and watch the service online.



December

December 2

Decorate the church
for Advent

December 6, 13, 20

Midweek Advent Worship
Midweek Soup Suppers

December 17

Sunday School
Christmas program

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship
8:00 pm

Office Hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Closed on Friday