



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 47 Issue No. 2 / February 2024

Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday Worship with imposition of ashes and communion will be held at 7:00 pm. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey together. This worship will be preceded by a free soup supper at 6:00 pm.



Lenten Midweek Worship February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20



Lenten Worship featuring Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm. These services will be short 30-minute worship services using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. We will also be utilizing the DVD, *Why Easter Matters*, by Andy Stanley for the first four Wednesdays. Due to copyright restrictions, we will not be able to upload these services to our Facebook page or website. Worship will be preceded by a free soup supper at 6:00 pm. If you wish to donate soup, bread, and/or dessert, please sign up on Bulletin Board #2.

Easter Garden Orders

Would you like to order an Easter plant to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary for Easter services? Order forms will be available in the weekly announcements and in the church office. Plants will come from Merlin's Flowers. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 17th. The cost is \$17.50 per plant for lilies, mums, geraniums, or tulips, and \$25 per plant for azaleas or hydrangeas. Make your check payable to All Saints Altar Guild. These plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter and can be taken home after Easter worship service.



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

PRESIDENT & FINANCE

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:

The following is an edited version of my letter in the annual report. I know everyone doesn't get a chance to read that, so I wanted to share my thoughts in this format as well.

This past year has been yet another one full of ups and downs, but through it all, God has been with us. Thanks be to God for that!

Our current worship schedule of 9:00 am with the worship being recorded seems to still be working. Our in-person attendance has remained strong, though certainly not at the level it was pre-pandemic. However, when you factor in those who worship online, we can see that many folks are being fed by the worship services at All Saints. The challenge with online worshippers is that we don't know who they are unless they've "liked" it on our Facebook page. The joy of our online worshippers is that several times folks who are not members here have come up to me and told me they watch our service every week. How great is that? Our congregation is making an impact beyond our walls.

Certainly, we make a difference in the world via our bounty of giving. Whether it's quilts and health or school kits going around the world through Lutheran World Relief, helping in times of disasters via Lutheran Disaster Relief, supporting our local charities People Helping People, the Byron School food pantry or St Vincent DePaul or the money we send to our synod with our benevolence dollars, our generosity changes lives.

At the January church council meeting I announced that I will retire from ministry and resign as your pastor this coming June. A letter was sent out to members on January 9. This was not an easy decision to make, as I love being a pastor and particularly being YOUR pastor. However, after prayerfully considering this, Alan and I have decided this is the right time. Change is hard, I know. It will be a change for me, certainly, and obviously a change for you as a congregation. I know our bishop and her staff will be critical in helping you through this time of transition. I also know that God will be with us both as we prepare to go in different directions.

There will be time enough for us to say our thank yous and good byes, but let me finish by thanking a few folks in particular right now. 1) Our council. These folks have faithfully guided our congregation this past year and I am grateful. 2) Our staff. From our secretaries to our musicians, I am deeply appreciative of the skills they bring to help our congregation be the best it can be. And finally, 3) My family, particularly my husband. Their encouragement and love make all the difference in the world to me.

God bless each of us as we enter into this new year of ministry.

In Christ,

Pastor Janet



Staff

PASTOR

Pastor Janet Wold

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER

Laura Hopkins

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Amy Harn

OFFICE SECRETARIES

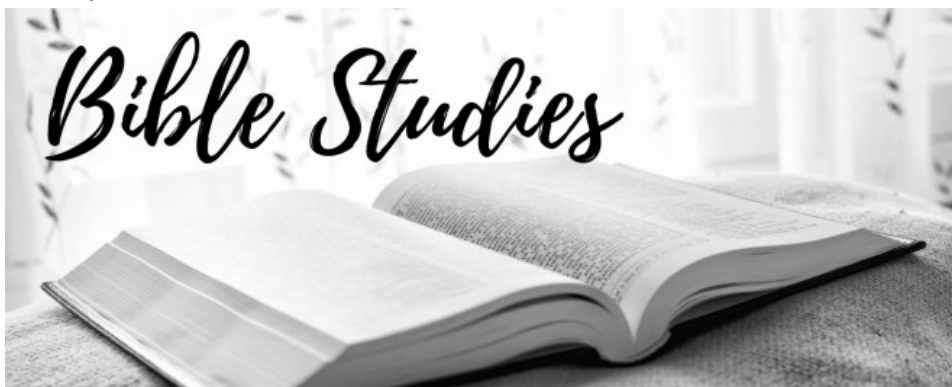
Cindy Beitel
Karen Larson

Deadline for the March Saintly News is **February 16**
Please send articles to
Rebecca Presson

Pastoral Acts

January 7 – Baptism of Ariya Rose McCarthy





Check the calendar for changes to the Bible Study schedule.

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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. This study is on hiatus for the winter.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study, facilitated by Pastor Janet Wold, meets at 1:30 pm in Conference Room 310. 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. The next Adult Sunday School course of study is *Lost Christianities: Christian Scripture and the Battles over Authentication* with lectures by Professor Bart D. Ehrman. This will begin on Sunday, February 18th. These lectures focus on the remarkable fact that many of the struggles of early Christians were not against pagans or other nonbelievers but against other Christians. The series provides a fascinating opportunity to study little known and sometimes controversial Scriptures that might have become part of the Bible.

Byron High School Choir Performance

The Byron High School Choir, directed by Amy Harn, will perform at All Saints on Saturday, February 24th at 4:00 p.m. This benefit performance will showcase some of the music they will perform on their trip to Ireland this summer. Performing with the choir are All Saints members Masyn Brown, Devin Lorio, Myla Draheim, and Mia Girten. A free will donation will be solicited to help fund this trip. After the concert, a reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall.



February Sunday Scriptures

February 4

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 11

Transfiguration of our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 14

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38



*Please Clip & Save
for your reference*



Game and Pizza Night!

Please join us for *Game Night*. On Saturday, March 2, 2024, we invite you to join in on the fun. All ages are welcome. A variety of card and board games for all to play will be available. You can also bring your favorite game to play. This is a great social event for the congregation. We will start the evening off with pizza. (A free will offering will be collected.) You can bring your favorite game night treat to share. The fun begins at 5:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you and playing a good game of! Contact Annette Leombruni Jones if you have any questions.



Good Gifts Auction Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Good Gifts Silent Auction during Advent. We had over 50 items for auction and raised \$1,212! This money will go a long way to purchase items for people in underprivileged areas of the world. The Sunday School children will chose the items to purchase.

Blood Drive Results

During our Blood Drive on January 22, 22 units and 1 double red unit were collected. Our next Blood Drive is going to be August 19.

Thank You!

Altar Guild

The annual Altar Guild meeting was held on Saturday, January 6, 2024. At that time the following officers were elected: Kay Johnson, President & Sunshine chair; Lynn Knodle, Vice-President; Jan Sloan, Secretary; and Jo Marie Branson, Treasurer. We need people to help us set up communion for worship each week. It's not difficult work, and you will be paired with an experienced member for training. If you are interested in participating in this vital ministry, please contact Kay Johnson for more information.



We welcome Steve Jones, Kay Johnson and Rory Brown as returning members of the All Saints Congregation Council! Committee assignments will be completed at the council meeting on February 12.

Worship Totals	Online Viewers	In-Person	Total	Sunday School
December 24 AM	47	60	107	28
24 PM	104	86	190	
31	114	56	170	
January 7	156	56	212	14
14	204	53	257	5
21	140	59	199	15
Total	765	370	1,135	62
Average	128	62	189	16

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 for students at Mary Morgan Elementary. At the high school they provide breakfast to anyone needing it. Below is a list of all items needed. **Currently the most critical needs are for jelly, peanut butter, fruit, cereal, Lipton sides, individual fruit cups and pudding cups, crackers (both boxes of crackers and sandwich crackers), taco kits, and personal hygiene items as listed below.**

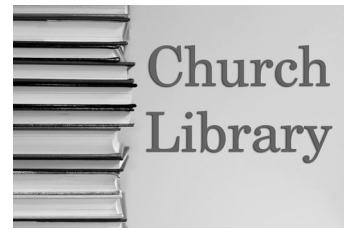
Canned Vegetables	Granola Bars
Canned Fruit	Cereal Bars
Canned Tuna	Fruit Cups
Canned Chicken	Applesauce
Jelly/Jam	Hamburger Helper
Peanut Butter	Tuna Helper
Mac & Cheese	Taco Kits
Pasta/Pasta Sauce	Condiments
Crackers	Instant Potatoes
Rice	Boxed Potato Sides
Lipton Sides	Healthy Snacks
Canned Soup	Sandwich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

*Personal Hygiene items include shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, tooth brushes, mouthwash, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors.

Please place your donations in the basket by the main entrance. Thank you for your generosity!



Food Pantry Donations Needed



Library News

February is a great month to relax in a comfy chair with a book from the rack in the hallway or from the shelves in the library. The shelves are full of great books of all categories. So run, don't walk to the church. Better yet take the car. Then, when you get home with your stack of books, kick off those shoes, sit down in your most comfy chair, and read!



February 4	Law & Gospel	<i>I don't know why the law still matters when we have the gospel.</i>	Matthew 22:34-40
February 11	Saint & Sinner	<i>I never felt like I'm a "good enough" Christian, and I don't know what to do about it.</i>	Romans 7:15-25
February 14 (Ash Wednesday)	Service Project/ Soup Supper	<i>Help with Soup Supper and attend Ash Wednesday Worship</i>	
February 18	The Church	<i>I don't know why I have to go to church to be a Christian.</i>	Acts 2:41-47
February 25	Freedom of a Christian	<i>I thought freedom meant I was free of expectations and requirements.</i>	Galatians 5:1, 13

the MINUTES

January Council Highlights

- ◆ Giving kept pace with budgeted items in December.
- ◆ Sunday School Christmas Program was well done and well attended. Almost all children enrolled in Sunday School participated.
- ◆ To date, 44 Stewardship pledges have been received for a total of \$157,502.
- ◆ Soup suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. No Ash Wednesday pancake supper this year.
- ◆ Budget for 2024 was reviewed and approved for submission to the congregation for approval on January 28th.
- ◆ Blood drive is scheduled for January 22nd, for which all but 9 appointment slots are filled.
- ◆ Pastor presented a letter announcing her retirement effective June 30, 2024. Her last Sunday will be June 23, 2024.

Thank you to Outgoing Council Members!



Thank you to Steve Jones, Kay Johnson, and Rory Brown for their service to the Congregation Council. Their terms ended with the January council meeting. Steve served as Council President and Finance Chairman; Kay served as Vice-President and Stewardship Chairman, and Rory Brown served as the Youth and Family Ministry member. New Council Members will be installed as council members on February 4th. Council committee assignments will be made at the council meeting on February 12th and will be announced in the March 2024 "Sainly News."

Quilters

The quilters plan to meet on February 1st and 15th at 9:00 am at the church. Our work continues to make warm quilts to send to people in need. Lutheran World Relief sent 551,700 quilts and kits to 14 countries in 2023. Our church is grateful to be part of this effort.



The GATHERING

The GATHERING will meet on Tuesday, February 13th at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a morning of fun, fellowship, and food!



Book Club

Join us on Tuesday, February 27th to discuss this month's selection *House of Secrets* by Tracie Peterson. We meet at 1:00 pm in conference Room 310.

When her father orchestrates a surprise trip to the summer house of her childhood, Bailee Cooper is unprepared for what follows. What is intended to be a happy reunion for Bailee and her sisters, Geena and Piper, quickly becomes shrouded by memories of the past. Together again, the three sisters sift through their recollections of fifteen years ago, of an ill mother and of their father making a desperate choice. They vowed, as children, to be silent but one sister believes the truth must now be revealed. Yet, can they trust their memories?

December Financials

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual	Budget			Budget
		December	December	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Total 2023
Revenue	General Fund	\$18,843	\$16,771	\$190,079	\$201,259	\$201,252
	Mortgage	\$1,463	\$1,246	\$14,739	\$14,956	\$14,952
	Other Giving	\$579	\$833	\$6,543	\$10,000	\$9,996
	Total Revenue	\$20,885	\$18,850	\$211,361	\$226,215	\$226,200
Expenses	1000 Mission Support	\$2,207	\$1,166	\$9,681	\$14,000	\$13,992
	Other Outreach	\$0	\$515	\$5,313	\$6,200	\$6,180
	Total Outreach	\$2,207	\$1,681	\$14,994	\$20,200	\$20,172
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$4,289	\$5,219	\$51,369	\$62,792	\$62,628
	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$7,239	\$7,166	\$93,016	\$86,037	\$85,992
	Total Ministries	\$11,529	\$12,385	\$144,385	\$148,829	\$148,620
	3000 Total Building (Non Capital)	\$2,165	\$2,704	\$29,646	\$32,514	\$32,448
	Total Expense	\$15,901	\$16,770	\$189,026	\$201,543	\$201,240
	3000 Capital Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$1,246	\$1,246	\$21,839	\$14,956	\$14,952
	Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total Building Capital	\$1,246	\$1,246	\$21,839	\$14,956	\$14,952
Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$17,147	\$18,016	\$210,865	\$216,499	\$216,192	
Net	Net for Month/Year (Revenue Minus Expense)	\$3,737		\$496		
	(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year	(\$869)		(\$5,634)		

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.

If Byron Schools are closed due to weather related issues, the church office will be closed also. If you are unsure, please call the office before driving to church.



Congregational Resourcing Event 2024

You are invited to the Congregational Resourcing Event on March 16, 2024 at Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL Rt. 2 Dixon, IL. This full day will be time to gather together as we share ideas and inspiration for all the great ways we are opening God's story together in our congregations and in our communities.



The theme for our synod for 2024 is *Open God's Story*. This will be a time to connect God's work throughout the Bible with God's work in our lives. Our guest speaker is Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, the Senior Director for New Ministry Development and Evangelism at the Churchwide Office of the ELCA. He will talk about the value of evangelism and share some stories that help us connect scripture with today.

Registration is now open and closes on March 2nd. The registration fee is \$35 for the event. This includes breakfast treats, coffee, and lunch. All registrations must be paid with a credit card. To register, go to www.nisynod.org/cre and click the "register here" link.

In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

Audrey Adams
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

Lee Joyce

Billie Jean Hartman

Jim Carson

Mindy Vanatter

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

Marilyn Litscheim

Tim Litscheim

Jeff Johnson

Norm Sagon

Toni Girten

Eric Stropud

Shut Ins

Lori Pederson

Kit Reif

Mary Whitmer

Military

David Bishop

Dylan Bishop

Tyler Peterson

Staff Sgt. Kyle Reif

Matt Vizer

Sage Harper

Tyler Peterson

Cristiano Sasso

Logan Usrey

Tyler James Yoakum



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“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”

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.

On February 11, 2024, we will again hold two large soup pots at the doors of the sanctuary at the conclusion of each worship service for you to vote for your favorite Super Bowl team. Money collected supports our local food pantry, People Helping People. Thank you for your donations!



February



February 11

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

February 14

Ash Wednesday Worship and
Soup Supper

February 21, 28

Lenten Worship and Soup Supper

February 24

Byron High School
Choir Performance

March 2

Game and Pizza Night

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