



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 47 Issues No. 12 / December 2024

Christmas Celebration - Saturday, December 14

We will enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and holiday spirit on Saturday afternoon, December 14th. Lunch will be served at 2:00 pm. A potluck luncheon with a traditional menu including roasted turkey breast, dressing, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, rolls, and dessert will be provided.



There is a sign-up sheet for potluck items. Also, we will provide an aluminum pan and lid for you to use for your food item. The pans will be in the kitchen for you to pick up and take home. The aluminum pans will make serving and cleanup much easier. If you have any questions, please contact Annette Jones at 779-537-4007.

In addition to the luncheon, we will have a voluntary gift exchange. Gifts should be limited to \$10 in value. There will be a volunteer coordinating the exchange. Bring the gifts to the luncheon on December 14th. All children in attendance will receive a small gift. There is an RSVP/sign-up sheet on the bulletin board #2 to attend. We welcome you and look forward to sharing the joy of holiday fellowship!

Sunday School Christmas Program December 15

The Church School/Sunday School kids, Confirmation students, and Praise Team will be taking part in the Christmas Program during the worship service on December 15. The title of the program is *The Symbols of Christmas*. Familiar Bible passages, songs, and a nativity scene will be employed to tell the Christmas Story.

Mid-week Advent Worship and Soup Suppers

Our Advent soup suppers begin on Wednesday, December 4th and continue on the next two Wednesdays, December 11th and 18th. Each week we will serve soups, bread, and desserts before each Advent Service. Soup suppers start at 6:00 pm each week. If you want to bring soup, bread, or dessert, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board #2.



Blue Christmas Service - Saturday, December 21, 4:30 PM

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Blue Christmas service is designed to provide a time and place of solace during the frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

This will be a meditative and prayerful service with some music for all those that need this time to heal and feel support. Join us after the service for coffee, cookies, and fellowship.

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 in Christ,

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

As we prepare and wait for the coming of Jesus this Christmas, I wanted to share an Advent Blessing with you. This comes from the book, ***Bless This Advent*** by Kate Bowler:

Blessed are we who wait with baited breath, who wait for something new to be born, for new hope of new joy or new life.

Blessed are we whose patience grows thinner by the day. We who are tired of the world as it is. In all of its heartache and loss and hopelessness.

We want more. More hope. More joy. More life.

Blessed are we who sit here, waiting at the still point between desire and expectation. We who are making room for more of you, oh God, this Christmas.

Surprise us with joy in the midst of the mundane, abundance in the midst of so much scarcity, presence in the midst of Christmas chaos.

We have quieted our souls to listen, to wait for you, oh God, for your

Word Made Flesh to life to us.

Amen.

Christmas Blessings to you and your family!

Vicar Michelle Wandersee

Pastoral Acts:

Baptism of Lylah Renee Roberts on November 10

Staff**VICAR**

Michelle Wandersee

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER

Laura Hopkins

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Amy Harn

OFFICE SECRETARY

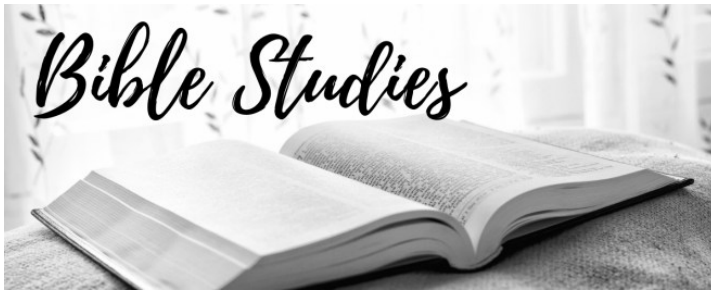
Kris Jones

Deadline for the January Saintly News is **December 13**
Please send articles to
Rebecca Presson

**Praise Team Members Needed!**

The Praise Team is looking for members to sing with the team. We are also looking for guitar players and a drummer. Praise Team participation is open to all ages. Parents of younger children (6th grade and younger) will be asked to accompany their child to rehearsals to help them in learning the music. If you are interested, talk to Dan Danielowski or email him at dadanielowski@gmail.com.





**Check the
calendar
for changes
to the
Bible Study
schedule.**

Sunday Morning Bible Study, 10:00 am in the small Conference Room. Led by Steve Jones. The Adult Sunday School course of study is *Lost Christianities: Christian Scripture and the Battles over Authentication* with lectures by Professor Bart D. Ehrman. 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.

Monday Afternoon Bible Study, led by Vicar Michelle Wandersee, 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, Vicar Michelle 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. **Note: This study will not meet on December 23 or 30.**

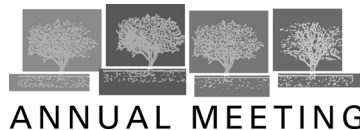
Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 7:00 pm in Conference Room #310. Led by Steve Reid, this study examines Beatitudes. **Note: This study will go on hiatus for the winter beginning December 10.**

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 1:30 pm in Conference Room #310. Led by Vicar Michelle Wandersee. **Note: This study will not meet during the month of December.**

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to meet to gather information for the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The responses to our Pastoral Call Questionnaire are invaluable to us as we move forward with the completion of the MSP. Thank you to all who completed the Pastoral Call Questionnaire. We are continuing to gather information needed for the MSP and hope to have it ready for submittal to the Northern Illinois Synod in the early months of 2025.

Kay Johnson, Call Committee Chairman



Save the Date!

The Annual All Saints Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 following worship. We will vote on the 2025 budget, elect new council members, and approve changes to the All Saints Constitution.

December Sunday Scriptures

**December 1
First Sunday of Advent**
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

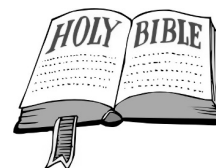
**December 8
Second Sunday of Advent**
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

**December 15
Third Sunday of Advent**
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

**December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

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

**December 29
First Sunday of Christmas
(Lessons and Carols Sunday)**
Isaiah 12:2-6
Matt 1:18-21
Isaiah 61:1-3, 11
John 1:19-23, 29-34
Isaiah 6:1-8
Luke 1:26-35



*Please Clip
& Save
for your
reference*



November Council Highlights

- ⇒ Giving is keeping pace with expenses.
- ⇒ The Call Committee is using answers to the Pastoral Call Questionnaire to work on the Ministry Site Profile.
- ⇒ The next Blood Drive will be held on January 20, 2025.
- ⇒ A Christmas Dinner is planned for December 14.
- ⇒ Reviewed proposed 2025 budget and recommended it be presented to the Congregation at the annual meeting in January.
- ⇒ Reviewed proposed changes to the All Saints Constitution. Recommended changes be presented to the Congregation for approval at the annual meeting in January.
- ⇒ New furnace for the conference room and one classroom was approved by the council via email.
- ⇒ Stewardship videos are shown prior to worship each Sunday. Time and Talent and Statement of Intent forms were mailed on November 12.
- ⇒ Need three people to run for Council for the upcoming three year term.

The GATHERING

The GATHERING will meet on Tuesday, December 10th, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Join in on the fun, fellowship, and food!

Annual Meeting Note from Council

At our annual meeting we have a few items of business to take care of.

First, we need candidates to run for Congregation Council. We have several people rolling off after two terms and one opening to fill a remaining two-year term. See me or send me a note if you are interested. We'd love to have some new participants on the Council. You can be part of our team. We meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm for about 60-75 minutes. We also need volunteers to represent us at the Synod Assembly in Rock Island in June, so prayerfully consider all these opportunities to serve All Saints.

Second, we have a change to the Constitution to modify the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) from being permanently restricted to simply being a special fund. At the level our fund is at after 30 years, there are advantageous administrative and operational changes in doing this that simplify our management of that fund. Currently, we have a committee that does little to nothing as there is nothing for them to do. Maintaining an extra committee is a burden and has no added value. This will change the fund to be a means to collect donations with oversight by the Council. If there ever was a huge bequest, we would reinstitute the MEF Committee and begin to operate with possible ministry funded from the MEF. Right now, we at most have \$200-\$300 a year that could be used if we wanted to. That is not a useful amount. A copy of the Constitution change will be on our social media and web site and copies will be available in the narthex for your review. This proposed revision affects the internal handling of the Mission Endowment Fund and does not require Northern Illinois Synod approval to implement. We will vote on these changes at the All Saints Annual Congregation Meeting to be held on January 26, 2025.

Lastly, if you did not fill out a time and Talent Sheet or Giving Intent Form, please do ASAP so we can update our volunteer schedule and giving intents for year-end reporting.

Thank you! -Steve Jones, Council President

Worship Date	Online Viewers	In-Person	Sunday School	Total
October 27	222	75	18	315
November 3	246	73	18	337
10	132	65	13	210
17	200	79	21	279
Total	800	292	70	1141
Average	200	73	18	286

Stewardship Update

We hope you have enjoyed seeing the video clips we have prepared to bring you the good news that is All Saints to you. These video clips will continue through December 1st. A huge thank you to Dan Danielowski for bringing these video concepts to life! During the week of November 11th, Time and Talent forms as well as the Statement of Intent forms were mailed to each home. Please complete one form for each member of your household. Additional forms will be available at the church office and on the table in the narthex.

On December 1st, we will have our Dedication Sunday, so please return your Time and Talent forms and Statements of Intent by that date. We will also have this information on our website, www.AllSaintsByron.org where you can submit your forms electronically. Thank you for your generosity! You make our mission possible!

Kay Johnson,
Stewardship Chairman

Book Club

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

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

Advent season begins on Sunday, December 1st. The fourth 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 18th. 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.

We have raised over \$1000 in each of the first three 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!

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 2024. Reports need to be submitted to the office by January 6th so the booklet can be compiled and made available prior to the Annual Congregation Meeting. 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!

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.

Altar Flower Reservations

The Altar Flower Reservation Book has been updated for 2025. Sign up early to make sure the dates you wish to commemorate with flowers are available. Please note the cost of the flowers is \$22.00 per bouquet.

Annual Altar Guild Meeting

The Annual Altar Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 9:00 am in conference room #310. Please plan to stay after the meeting to help undecorate the church!

Quilters

The Quilters plan to meet December 5th and 19th at 9:00 am at the church. It is encouraging for our group to have received many generous donations. Working together to help people in need gives us a feeling of purpose as we work to be of service to others. Thank you for all your donations which have helped to serve those 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 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.

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-o's	

At this time the most urgent need is for flour, sugar, oils, seasonings, condiments, boxes of cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, mac 'n cheese, ramen, canned fruit or individual fruit cups. There are two families that are gluten intolerant, so any gluten free items donated would be great. Also, taco kits, mashed potatoes, shampoo, and deodorant are needed as well.

*Personal Hygiene items include shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors. Please place your donations in the basket by the main entrance. Thank you for your generosity!

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.



Adopt a Neighbor

Generations at Neighbors is once again looking for Christmas presents for their residents. We have been given ten names this year with suggested gift items. The names are located on bulletin board #2. Thank you to all who take a name. The residents really appreciate this. Donated gifts must be dropped off no later than Monday, December 16th to Generations at Neighbors at 811 W Second St in Byron.



Council Members Needed

We need three candidates to fill upcoming vacancies on our church council as well as two delegates to attend Synod Assembly on June 12 and 13, 2025. If you have an interest, please let Vicar Michelle or Steve Jones, Council President, 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 26, 2025.

Help Us Undecorate Our Church

Please plan to join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 4, 2025 to undecorate the church. Many hands make light work! Coffee and donuts will be served!

October Financials

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual October	Budget October	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2024
Revenue	General Fund	\$13,465	\$16,389	\$165,629	\$163,890	\$196,668
	Mortgage	\$1,002	\$1,246	\$12,510	\$12,464	\$14,952
	Other Giving	\$80	\$416	\$33,665	\$4,168	\$4,992
	Total Revenue	\$14,547	\$18,051	\$211,805	\$180,522	\$216,612
Expenses	1000 Mission Support	\$100	\$833	\$11,350	\$8,333	\$10,000
	Other Outreach	\$1,975	\$869	\$5,956	\$8,715	\$10,424
	Total Outreach	\$2,075	\$1,702	\$17,306	\$17,048	\$20,424
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$1,146	\$1,138	\$13,824	\$11,503	\$13,656
	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$4,798	\$11,338	\$85,450	\$113,412	\$136,056
	Total Ministries	\$5,944	\$12,476	\$99,274	\$124,915	\$149,712
	3000 Total Building (Non Capital)	\$2,658	\$2,876	\$27,849	\$28,819	\$34,512
	Total Expense	\$10,677	\$17,054	\$144,429	\$170,782	\$204,648
	3000 Capital Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$1,494	\$1,246	\$15,029	\$12,464	\$14,952
	Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total Building Capital	\$1,494	\$1,246	\$15,029	\$12,464	\$14,952
	Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$12,171	\$18,300	\$159,458	\$183,246	\$219,600
	Net for Month/Year (Revenue Minus Expense)	\$2,376		\$52,347		
	(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year	(\$6,129)		(\$23,788)		
Net						

People Helping People

I recently spoke with the Coordinator for People Helping People Food Pantry, Ruth Ann Goelitz, about the needs and challenges PHP is faced with on a monthly basis to help our neighbors in need. Ruth Ann explained that as the holidays approach the need for PHP's assistance grows. Currently, PHP is currently assisting approximately 150 people, or 55 families, who receive assistance on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. As the Thanksgiving holiday gets closer the number of families needing assistance tends to increase.

Over the past few years All Saints has helped PHP make sure all the families receiving PHP's assistance are able to enjoy a turkey dinner at Thanksgiving. Other items All Saints has helped PHP with are the usual Thanksgiving dinner items such as stuffing, canned fruit, cans of vegetables, potatoes and other related items. These donated items were placed in the shopping cart in the front entrance of the church. Those items were collected and delivered to PHP for Thanksgiving. This year All Saints has contributed over \$1100 to PHP to assist with the purchase of turkeys and turkey breasts for our neighbors in need in and around the Byron area.


Even as the holidays pass PHP needs assistance in meeting the needs of less fortunate families all year long. Monetary donations can be made during the Sunday collection and noted on your envelope the amount donated to help PHP.

Blessings,
Jim Wilcox

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN

Blood Drive

JANUARY 20
1:00-6:00



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

All Saints Needs All Blood Types!
For more information or questions on eligibility, visit rrvbc.org

In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

Kathy Burrows
Phyllis Coffman
Jim Coffman
Sandi Reid
Steve Reid
Cindy Yoakum
Bruce Roller
Keith Padgett
Dick Sabin
Bobbie Chisem
Rick Luhdoltz
Mindy Vanatter
Jim Bowers
Judy Owens
Ron Sasso
Geoff and Judy Zoellick
Lori Ludens
Randy Roberts
Sybil & Alton
Jayne Fitzsimmons
Mimi Leombruni
Marilyn Litschein
Tim Litschein
Jeff Johnson
Lisa Helms
Rose Millard
Debra Olsen
Holly Stuckenberg
Paula Davis
Grace Swedberg
Joann Holifield
Mike Lading
Suzie Geske
Mike Egan
David Taylor
Mike Shepard
Bud Rollins
Lois Rollins
Jaxson Stricker
Dave Kopp
Pam Spainer
Terry Kimbell

Shut ins

Lori Pederson
Kit Reif
Mary Whitmer

Military

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

In Sympathy

Mike Jones



A PUBLICATION OF
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 Luther Dr.
Byron, IL 61010-9684
December Issue - Mailed 11/26/24

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1

Dedication of Time and Talent and
Statement of Intent Forms
WELCA Good Gifts Silent Auction begins

December 4, 11, and 18

Mid-week Advent Services and Soup Suppers

December 14

Christmas Party

December 15

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 16

Adopt a Neighbor gifts due to Generations

December 18

Auction winners announced at 6:30 pm

December 24

Christmas Eve worship – 8:00 pm

January 4

Altar Guild Meeting & Undecorate the Church

All Saints Wish List



Use the QR code to
view the Amazon
wish list that
includes items that
are used in and
around our church.
Consider helping
donate by
purchasing any of
the items on the list.
They will be shipped
directly to the
church



Office Hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Closed on Friday