



THE Saintly NEWS

Volume 48 Issue No. 2 / February 2025

Newsletter Distribution Changes!!



We are changing the way we distribute the *Saintly News* beginning with this issue!

We were informed the Bulk Mailing Permit cost for 2025 was increased to \$350. Taking into consideration we have to print more newsletters than we need to meet the minimum mailing requirements, as well as paying the increased permit price, we investigated leasing a postage meter. We found that if we asked the congregation to pick up their newsletters at church and only print the number of newsletters we need to get it to each household, we could save as much as \$800-\$1,000 a year.

Newsletters will be placed on a table in the narthex in alphabetical order for two Sundays, and then the remaining newsletters will be mailed

first class to households that didn't pick one up. Out of town and out of state newsletters will be mailed as soon as they're ready. If you no longer wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please let the church office know. We hope this new cost-saving action will benefit us all!

Thank you to Outgoing Council Members!



Thank you to Rory Brown, Carol Miller, and Jim Wilcox for their service to the Congregation Council. Their terms ended with the January council meeting. Rory Brown served as our Youth and Family Ministry member; Carol Miller served as Worship Committee chairman, and Jim Wilcox served as our Social Ministry/Outreach Committee chairman. New Council committee assignments will be made at the council meeting on February 10 and will be announced in the March 2025 "Saintly News."

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

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 9, 2025, we will again hold two large soup pots at the doors of the sanctuary at the conclusion of 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!

Midweek Lenten Suppers and Worship



Lenten Season is just around the corner. March 5, 2025 is Ash Wednesday. All Saints will be serving a pancake supper prior to Ash Wednesday Service. Mark your calendars. Following Ash Wednesday, Soup Supper will be offered each week (Wednesday night) leading up to Easter. Watch for sign-up sheets to contribute to Pancake Supper and/or Soup Suppers.

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

Staff

VICAR

Michelle Wandersee

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER

Laura Hopkins

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Amy Harn

OFFICE SECRETARY

Kris Jones

Deadline for the March
Saintly News is **February 14**
Please send articles to
Rebecca Presson

Dear Friends in Christ,

Psalm 33

*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.
Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new song;*

play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

We have many things to Rejoice in the Lord about at All Saints! Even though I have only been with you all for 5 months, I can definitely feel and see the Holy Spirit's movement through this place! I see the Spirit moving as we live out our mission statement: Responding to the Gospel to carry out God's mission within our church, community, and the world!

I have seen the Spirit's movement within our church while we worship, while we learn during bible studies and the Sunday education hour, and through the giving of your Time and Talents throughout the Stewardship Drive.

I have seen the Spirit's movement through your dedication to the community through donations of money and food to People Helping People, the giving of gifts at Christmas to folks at Neighbor's Nursing Home, and through those that donate blood to save lives through the Rock River Valley Blood Center.

I have seen the Spirit's movement in the world by using your hands as you sew and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and through donations given to Lutheran Disaster Response in response to natural disasters.

These are all things (and more!) that we need to Rejoice in! Our mission is God's mission and we need to be thankful for the blessings that we have received from God that has enabled us to continue to do God's work throughout the years.

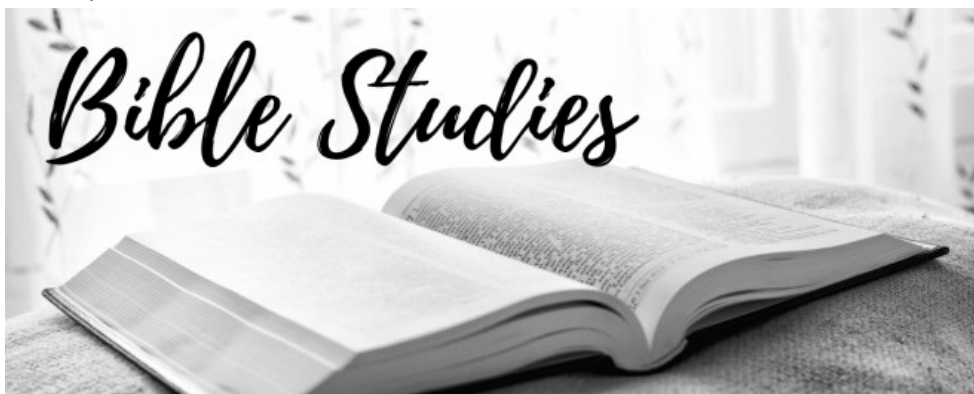
Our challenge now is to be intentional in noticing where the Spirit is working in our lives and at All Saints. Ask yourself these questions:

1. Where did you see God at work this week? At home, work, and church.
2. Who did you share the light of Christ with this week? At home, work, and church.
3. In what ways did you respond to the Gospel to carry out God's mission? At home, work, and church.

Recognize in all the ways the Spirit is moving through you and rejoice!

Vicar Michelle





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. Adult Sunday School is wrapping up their course of the **History of the Bible: Making of the New Testament Canon** and begins a new endeavor with **Searching for the Historical Jesus**, led by Jean-Pierre Isboots. Isboots is a Biblical history scholar and best-selling author. We enjoyed his other course entitled **Archaeology of the Bible** a couple of years ago and look forward to this one, too. We will start it the first Sunday in March, the 2nd.

These courses are made up each week of a half hour video that we watch. There is no preparation required, and no homework or other work is required (I heard a rumor that someone doesn't come because they feared having homework). After the video we have a good discussion on what we viewed and all that takes 45-50 minutes total. All you have to do is watch, listen and enjoy.

Our class is small, having lost a few folks in the last year, but any and all are welcome! We'd love to have you, you will learn a lot and it is always quite interesting! This new course will run for 15 Sundays, so it will run into the fall as we won't have time to finish before school lets out. Most of it is week to week, so if you miss a few sessions, it's not a big deal at all. Hope to see you on March 2nd!

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.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 7:00 pm in Conference Room #310. Led by Steve Reid, this study is on hiatus for the winter.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 1:30 pm in Conference Room #310. Led by Vicar Michelle Wandersee. Watch the weekly announcements for an update on the subject matter of this study.

***February
Sunday
Scriptures***

***February 2 – Fourth
Sunday after Epiphany***

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

***February 9 – Fifth
Sunday after Epiphany***

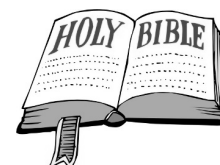
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

***February 16 – Sixth
Sunday after Epiphany***

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

***February 23 – Seventh
Sunday after Epiphany***

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38



*Please Clip
& Save
for your
reference*

Sunday School News

After recovering from the initial surprise with the total amount of money that was raised, the Sunday School students got busy deciding what items to choose. It was fun to see their excitement, cooperation, concern, debate, and flexibility as they completed their important work. Whenever there were questions, the group referred to the descriptions in the Good Gifts catalog for information and clarification. Thanks to all who supported this worthy cause!

What else have the Sunday School kids been up to? They continue to learn about and experience the ministry of Jesus. The summary verse for the next few weeks is "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:3). Students will hear the stories about the wise and foolish builder, Jesus eating with sinners at Matthew's house, Jesus healing a lame man by the pool, and a Roman officer demonstrating faith. Key points are introduced each and every week to enable the children to remember what they learned.



WELCOME
Come Worship With Us

Worship Date	Online Viewers	In-Person	Sunday School	Total
December 22	156	62	0	218
29	155	43	0	198
January 5	124	70	13	212
12	128	58	6	192
19	145	46	12	203
Total	708	279	31	1023
Average	142	56	10	205



Give ELCA Good Gifts!

GIVE A GIFT. CHANGE A LIFE.

Good Gift Selections

Item	Total Donation
50 Chicks	\$50
5 Roosters	\$75
2 Goats	\$100
2 Shares of a cow	\$100
3 Piglets	\$90
A Fish farm	\$250
4 Collections of Honeybees	\$80
3 Water filters	\$90
A Portion of an irrigation project	\$100
Farmers' field school for 2 women	\$150
School fees and uniforms for 8 girls	\$320
Nutrition for 5 children for one month	\$125
5 Food-stocked backpacks	\$50
3 Fruit-tree seedlings	\$30
Clinic visits for 10 children	\$100
5 Mosquito nets	\$50
Vaccinations for 2 children	\$60
10 Blankets	\$100
Vocational training for one individual	\$75
10 Bibles	\$100
Where needed most	\$1.76
	\$2096.76

Good Gifts Auction Results

The ELCA Good Gifts Silent Auction and direct donations made for another very successful year. As of January 15, we collected \$2096.76. The Sunday School children are going to have a great time shopping in the Good Gifts catalog. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the auction, made bids on items, and made direct donations. The ELCA Good Gifts program provides much needed assistance to those who are struggling to make a living. We will let you know the benefits of this program as the Sunday School children not only go shopping but learn of the needs of others. This program is truly an example of "God's Work, Our Hands."

~Carol Miller



Pastoral Call Committee Update

The Call committee continues to work towards the completion of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Only a few more pieces of information are needed to answer all the questions on the form. The MSP is the document that will be presented to prospective candidates interested in becoming our next Pastor. Once the MSP is presented to the NI Synod, they will begin the process of vetting candidates for our consideration.

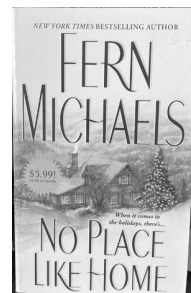


Quilters

The quilters plan to meet on February 6th and 20th at 9:00 am at the church. 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. We are always in need of sheets for backing the quilts and appreciate all of those donations.

Book Club

Join us on Tuesday, February 25 at 1:00 pm for our monthly Book Club meeting. In February we will be reading *No Place Like Home* by Fern Michaels.



The Cisco triplets are appalled by their widowed father's behavior. He seems to care more about his gold-digging fiancée than he does about his own son and daughters. Even worse, he put their spunky grandmother – head of the family candy company – in a nursing home against her will. Setting out to spring Granny Cisco, college seniors Sara, Hannah, and Sam soon prove that trouble comes in threes. Apparently so does love. As the triplets get their grandmother the medical care that will make her independent again, all three find unexpected romance. If everything goes according to plan, there's going to be quite a crowd at granny's house come Christmas – and more proof than ever that there's no place like home for the holidays.

Altar Guild

The Annual Altar Guild meeting was held on Saturday, January 4, 2025. Officers elected are Kay Johnson, President and Sunshine Chairman; Doris Lading, Vice President; Jan Sloan, Secretary; Jo Marie Branson, Treasurer; Barb Elfstrom, Vestments; and Carol Miller, Baptism Banners. We are always looking for new Altar Guild members! The work is not difficult, and we would team you with an experienced member to show you the ropes. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Kay Johnson or any other Altar Guild member for more information.

The GATHERING

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

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	

Most immediate need for February is deodorant, ramen, crackers, mac and cheese, pasta sauce, instant potatoes, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, fruit, instant oatmeal, rice and pasta sides (Knorr's), canned stew, boxed meals spices (salt/pepper, garlic powder, minced onion, basil, cinnamon).

*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!

Most Needed
DONATIONS

People Helping People

In February People Helping People would like: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, and Applesauce.



January Council Highlights

- * Voted to send the proposed 2025 budget to the Congregation for approval.
 - * We have several people running for council seats for the upcoming term.
 - * Blood Drive will be held on January 20, utilizing the Blood Bank's bus rather than the fellowship hall due to Blood Bank staffing shortages.
 - * Lenten Soup Suppers will be scheduled for March and April. We will have a pancake supper on Ash Wednesday prior to worship.
 - * Worship Committee will schedule a meeting to decide on Lenten liturgy.
 - * Call Committee reports Ministry Site Profile is nearing completion.
 - * Opted to not renew bulk mail permit due to cost and waste created to meet minimum mailing requirements.
 - * Approved leasing a postage meter.
- Stewardship campaign has concluded with 44 pledges totaling \$149,724.

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 Financials

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual December	Budget December	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2024
Revenue	General Fund	\$13,905	\$16,388	\$196,533	\$196,667	\$196,656
	Mortgage	\$1,438	\$1,246	\$16,342	\$14,956	\$14,952
	Other Giving	\$724	\$416	\$35,698	\$5,000	\$4,992
	Total Revenue	\$16,067	\$18,050	\$248,573	\$216,623	\$216,600
Expenses	1000 Mission Support	\$1,252	\$833	\$14,202	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Other Outreach	\$145	\$868	\$8,406	\$10,450	\$10,412
	Total Outreach	\$1,397	\$1,701	\$22,608	\$20,450	\$20,412
	2000 Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$1,685	\$1,136	\$16,285	\$13,775	\$13,632
	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$5,804	\$11,336	\$98,759	\$136,084	\$136,032
	Total Ministries	\$7,489	\$12,472	\$115,044	\$149,859	\$149,664
	3000 Total Building (Non Capital)	\$2,662	\$2,875	\$38,396	\$34,570	\$34,500
	Total Expense	\$11,548	\$17,048	\$176,049	\$204,879	\$204,576
	Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$1,246	\$1,246	\$17,521	\$14,956	\$14,952
	Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total Building Capital	\$1,246	\$1,246	\$17,521	\$14,956	\$14,952
Net	Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$12,794	\$18,294	\$193,570	\$219,835	\$219,528
	Net for Month/Year (Revenue Minus Expense)	\$3,273		\$55,003		
	(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year	(\$5,500)		(\$26,265)		

Praise Team Returns!

We are so happy to announce the return of the All Saints Praise Team! They will be participating in worship on the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy the great music!



Congregational Resourcing Event 2025

Growing Disciples at CRE - March 22, 2025

The theme for our synod for 2025 is Growing Disciples. We will be focusing on practices that we can do as individuals, congregations, and communities to grow in faith.

The Event

You are invited to the Congregational Resourcing Event on March 22, 2025 at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Illinois. Come gather together with lay and rostered members from across our synod as we share ideas and inspiration for all the great ways we can grow disciples in our congregations and in our communities.

Registration Information

Registration opens on January 10th and closes March 10th. The registration fee is \$35 for the event. This includes breakfast treats, coffee, and lunch. All registrations must be paid with a credit card. If this is not possible, please contact our church office at 309-794-4004. To register, go to www.nisynod.org/cre and click the "register here" link.



In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

Kathy Burrows
Phyllis Coffman
Jim Coffman
Sandi 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
 Lisa Helms
 Rose Millard
 Debra Olsen
 Holly Stukenberg
 Paula Davis
 Kaerington Kopp
 Alice Ewert
 Grace Swedberg
 Mike Lading
 Suzie Geske
 Mike Egan
 David Taylor
 Mike Shepard
 Terri Kimbell
 Leigh Ann & Chris
 Dave Fink
 Frank McCabe
 Terry Van Laningham

Shut ins

Lori Pederson
Kit Reif
Mary Whitmer

Military

David Bishop
 Staff Sgt Kyle Reif
 Matt Vizer
 Kaden Harper
Tyler Peterson
 Christiano Sasso
 Logan Usrey

In Sympathy

Nancy Wolter
 Pam Spainer



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“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”



February 9

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

March 5

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday worship with communion and
Imposition of Ashes

March 12, 19, 26

Midweek Lenten worship and soup suppers

March 22

Congregational Resource Event (CRE)

April 2, 9

Midweek Lenten Worship and soup suppers

April 17

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 18

Good Friday Worship

April 20

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Easter Sunday

Happy Retirement!



On January 14, 2025, many All Saints members gathered for a delicious brunch prepared by Annette Jones to celebrate Karen Larson's retirement. Karen has served as our church secretary for over 10 years, and we have appreciated her vast knowledge and expertise in the church office. We wish her the very best on this new life adventure!

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