



# THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 48 Issue No. 1 / January 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!

## Annual Congregation Meeting Information

### 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 Congregation Meeting Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:00 am

This year the 2025 Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 immediately following worship. We will gather in the sanctuary and review the annual report, review and vote on the 2025 Budget, elect church council member(s) to fill vacancies on the Church Council, appoint voting members to the 2025 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly to be held June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Augustana College in Rock Island, and approve changes to the All Saints Constitution. If you are interested in any of these vacancies, please see Vicar Michelle

Wandersee or Council President Steve Jones. Nominating forms are available on the oak table in the narthex.

### Annual Meeting Voting Requirements

All Saints' Constitution lists two minimal requirements 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.

## Looking for Council Members

Congregation Council elections are just around the corner at our annual meeting in January. We need at least three candidates to run. Council positions will be assigned to all Council members at the February council meeting. If you have an interest, please let Vicar Michelle Wandersee or Council President Steve Jones know. Contact any of the council members for more information. The Congregation Council is a great way to sharpen and use your leadership skills. The Congregation Council meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Take this opportunity to share your time and talents.



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,

As we begin a new year together, I would like to introduce (or re-introduce) a practice of scriptural reading called “Lectio Divina” which is Latin for “Divine Reading. I would invite you to read the following scripture two times and after each time ask yourself the following questions:

1. What word or phrase jumped out to you?
2. What question(s) do you have about the passage?
3. What does the passage mean to you today?

Luke 10:1-4

*After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup>Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup>**Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.***

The phrase that is in bold is what jumped out at me. Why not take anything with us? It seems like Jesus wants us to remain focused - to not get distracted by people or things.

I recently attended a workshop called History and Hope with some folks from the All Saints and Shepherd of the Valley's Call Committees and Councils. We began our time together with this same practice and scripture, and then paired up and asked those three questions. It was awesome to hear all the insights and questions from around the room. The Holy Spirit was present and moving during this time together and was centering us with the work that was ahead of us.

Each church is in the Call Process, and this workshop, set up by the Northern IL Synod, is part of the learning and discerning process. And since this meeting was centered on the theme “History and Hope”, it was a great learning experience for me as an “outsider” since my history only extends to 4 months with All Saints.

We shared our history and our hopes with one another around the tables. Some of the highlights were:

- We feel that the Holy Spirit is continuing to move at All Saints and is working on strengthening our connections with one another, the community, and the world.
- We felt that since a lot of our answers were similar that we must be moving in the same direction.
- For almost 48 years, All Saint's History and Hope has been grounded in deep love for God and mission. There is a lot to celebrate and there is still a lot to do!
- So, this year, I'm going to challenge you to reflect on your years or months spent at All Saints and answer these questions that we used above:

1. What jumps out to you about All Saints?  
(what are those things we do well or not so well)
2. Where do you see God at work?  
(what areas do you feel or see God in action?)
3. What are you wondering about?  
(what questions do you have about the past or future?)



I'm looking forward to the seeing all blessings that God will continue to bring to All Saints in 2025!

- Vicar Michelle Wandersee

## Staff

### VICAR

Michelle Wandersee

### TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER

Laura Hopkins

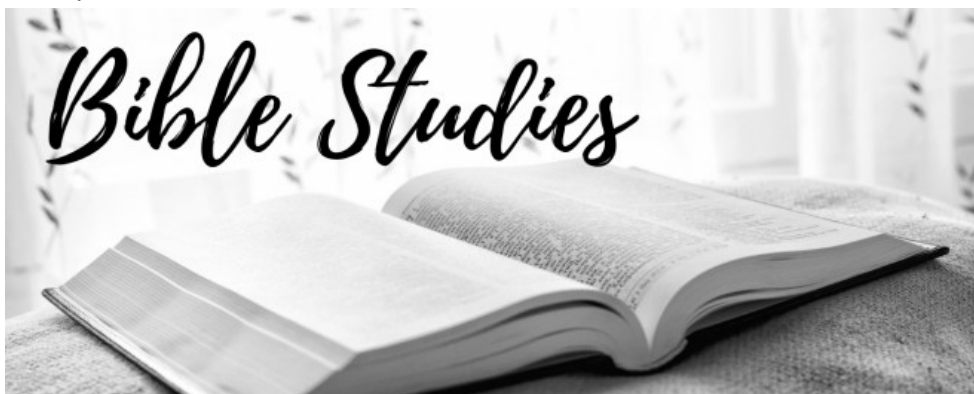
### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Amy Harn

### OFFICE SECRETARY

Kris Jones

**Deadline** for the February Saintly News is **January 17**  
Please send articles to  
**Rebecca Presson**



***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.

**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.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all the people who kept our plants and landscaping watered this summer. Your dedication kept them beautiful and vibrant all season long!

~Jan Sloan



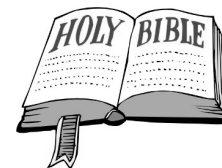
## January Sunday Scriptures

**January 5**  
**Epiphany of Our Lord**  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-2

**January 12**  
**Baptism of our Lord**  
Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 19**  
**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**  
Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

**January 26**  
**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**  
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21



*Please Clip  
& Save  
for your  
reference*



## 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](mailto:dadanielowski@gmail.com).



Worship Date	Online Viewers	In-Person	Sunday School	Total
November 24	244	73	22	337
December 1	212	59	16	287
8	158	71	21	250
15	198	89	21	308
Total	812	292	80	1182
Average	203	73	20	296

## December Council Highlights

- Learned the bulk mail permit fee renewal will increase after January 19. Discussed other options for delivering bulk mail.
- Giving has kept pace with budgeted expenses. Mission support pledge was met for 2024.
- Annual report articles are due by January 6, 2025.
- We need two to three people to run for Congregation Council to replace outgoing members.
- Amazon wish list has been created by Amy Harn for necessities used by the church. Items ordered this way will be delivered to Kay Johnson to avoid theft of items delivered on weekends.
- One order for Sunday School supplies has been received.
- 2025 budget will be finalized at the end of the year when final numbers are in.
- The stewardship campaign is concluding. Currently we are behind last year's pledges. 40 time and talent forms have been submitted. Stewardship videos were well received.
- The Annual Blood Drive is scheduled for January 20, 2025 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm





## Book Club

Join us on Tuesday, January 28 at 1:00 pm in the main conference room (#310) as we review the book “The Doctor’s Lady” by Jody Hedlund.

*Priscilla White knew God wanted her to be a missionary, not a wife. Then, the missionary board declares the only way she can serve is to be married. Now, married in name only, her epic journey west will test her spirit and the new longings of her heart.*



*Call  
Committee*

## Pastoral Call Committee Update

The Call committee continues to work towards the completion of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is the document that will be presented to prospective candidates for our next Pastor. We are planning to have the MSP complete soon and ready for submittal to the Northern Illinois Synod for their review and processing. Once the MSP is presented to the NI Synod, they will begin the process of vetting candidates for our consideration.

## Altar Guild

The Annual Altar Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 9:00 am in the Main Conference Room (310). Current and prospective Altar Guild members are invited and encouraged to attend! Please plan to stay after the meeting to help undecorate the church!



## Quilters

The quilters plan to meet on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



## The GATHERING

The GATHERING will meet on Tuesday, January 14 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	

\*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](http://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.



## Stewardship Update

Thanks be to God for the generous outpouring of gifts that All Saints Lutheran Church experienced on December 1<sup>st</sup> as we celebrated the commitment of gifts for our ministry for next year. We currently have received 39 Statements of Intent totaling \$134,592.

If you have not already done so, please join us in celebrating our ministry and growing in discipleship by filling out your Statement of Intent and Time and Talent form. You are invited to prayerfully consider how God is calling to you to share your gifts and then complete the Statement of Intent and Time and Talent form with a spirit of joy and thanksgiving for the many blessings God has given, especially our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for all that is happening at All Saints! Thank you, too, for all you do in our ministry together.

Kay Johnson  
Stewardship Chair



## November Financials

Budget Items	Item Description	Actual November	Budget November	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2024
Revenue	General Fund	\$16,320	\$16,389	\$182,627	\$180,279	\$196,668
	Mortgage	\$2,269	\$1,246	\$14,904	\$13,710	\$14,952
	Other Giving	\$1,306	\$416	\$34,973	\$4,584	\$4,992
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$19,895</b>	<b>\$18,051</b>	<b>\$232,504</b>	<b>\$198,573</b>	<b>\$216,612</b>
Expenses	Mission Support	\$1,600	\$833	\$12,950	\$9,167	\$10,000
	Other Outreach	\$2,305	\$868	\$8,261	\$9,582	\$10,412
	<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$3,905</b>	<b>\$1,701</b>	<b>\$21,211</b>	<b>\$18,749</b>	<b>\$20,412</b>
	Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$693	\$1,136	\$14,600	\$12,639	\$13,632
	Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$6,180	\$11,336	\$92,009	\$124,748	\$136,032
	<b>Total Ministries</b>	<b>\$6,873</b>	<b>\$12,472</b>	<b>\$106,610</b>	<b>\$137,387</b>	<b>\$149,664</b>
	3000 <b>Total Building (Non Capital)</b>	<b>\$7,671</b>	<b>\$2,876</b>	<b>\$35,521</b>	<b>\$31,695</b>	<b>\$34,512</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$18,450</b>	<b>\$17,049</b>	<b>\$163,341</b>	<b>\$187,831</b>	<b>\$204,588</b>
	Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$1,246	\$1,246	\$16,275	\$13,710	\$14,952
	Other Building Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Total Building Capital</b>	<b>\$1,246</b>	<b>\$1,246</b>	<b>\$16,275</b>	<b>\$13,710</b>	<b>\$14,952</b>
	<b>Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)</b>	<b>\$19,696</b>	<b>\$18,295</b>	<b>\$179,616</b>	<b>\$201,541</b>	<b>\$219,540</b>
	<b>Net for Month/Year (Revenue Minus Expense)</b>	<b>\$199</b>		<b>\$52,888</b>		
Net	<b>(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year</b>	<b>\$1,401</b>		<b>(\$21,925)</b>		

## Christmas Program Photos



## 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

Marilyn Litschheim

Tim Litschheim

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

Jaxson Strickler

Pam Spainer

Terry Kimbell

Leigh Ann & Chris

Dave Fink

### Shut ins

**Lori Pederson**

**Kit Reif**

**Mary Whitmer**

### Military

Staff Sgt Kyle Reif

Matt Vizer

Kaden Harper

**Tyler Peterson**

Christian Sasso

Logan Usrey

### In Sympathy


Jeff Johnson



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70th Anniversary  
Rock River Valley  
BLOOD CENTER

**WE NEED BLOOD...**  
LIKE NEW YEARS  
NEEDS RESOLUTIONS!

*Saving Lives for Seventy Years*

**All Saints Lutheran Church**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Monday, January 20th • 1pm – 6pm**

624 Luther Dr, Byron, IL  
*Please bring a photo ID & eat and drink before donating!*  
**TAKE AN HOUR TO DO SOMETHING THAT  
REALLY MATTERS!**



**January 4**

Altar Guild Meeting  
Undecorate the Church

**January 20**

All Saints Blood Drive

**January 26**

Annual Congregation Meeting

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