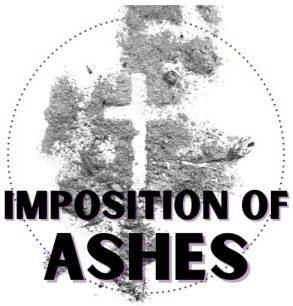
ALL SAINTS
LUTHERAN CHURCH / BYRON, IL

THE Saintly NEWS

Volume 48 Issue No. 3 / March 2025

Ash Wednesday - March 5, 2025



Ash Wednesday Worship with the 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 pancake supper at 6:00 pm.

Lenten Midweek Worship
March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9

Lent is a season of repentance, turning to God and asking for God's goodness to wipe away our sins and show us how to live anew. Lent also turns us toward Easter and the abundant life God will offer through the Three Days. See Vicar Michelle's letter on page 2 for more information on these worship services. Please note these worship services will **not** be recorded and uploaded to Facebook or the All Saints website. Come and see what Lent is all about!

Each Wednesday's worship service 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. Please join us for this time of worship and fellowship.

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, April 6. 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.

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
Jan Sloan

WORSHIP
Jean Whipple

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY
Rory Brown

Staff

VICAR
Michelle Wandersee

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER
Laura Hopkins

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Amy Harn

OFFICE SECRETARY
Kris Jones

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

Greetings Dear Friends,

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light upon my path.
(Psalm 119:105)

It's hard to believe that the season of Lent is upon us! It's one of my favorite seasons of the church year. I used to try the discipline of "giving up" something for 40 days in order to strengthen my relationship with God. I always gave up sweets (except my daughter's birthday cake that usually falls during Lent), or one year I tried to give up eating popcorn. Both the sweets and popcorn seemed like a big sacrifice for me, but I had to wonder how giving up those things brought me closer to God? The only thing it really taught me was that I don't have enough will-power to actually make it for the 40 days.

Then my pastor at the time explained that maybe it wasn't about giving up something that brought us closer, but the adding of a discipline of studying scripture, starting a daily morning prayer practice, attending midweek Lenten services, reading a daily Lenten devotional, or just finding time to sit in God's presence, may be a more fruitful way to continue to stay connecting with God each day.

I also love gathering together on Wednesdays for soup and worship. I've always enjoyed coming together as a community each week to share a meal. I think that's one of the strongest ways to build community. I would like to invite you to practice the discipline of attending our midweek Lent soup suppers and worship services. We will be using a different format of worship this year. It is a resource from the Northern Illinois Synod called "Turning Toward God's Abundance".

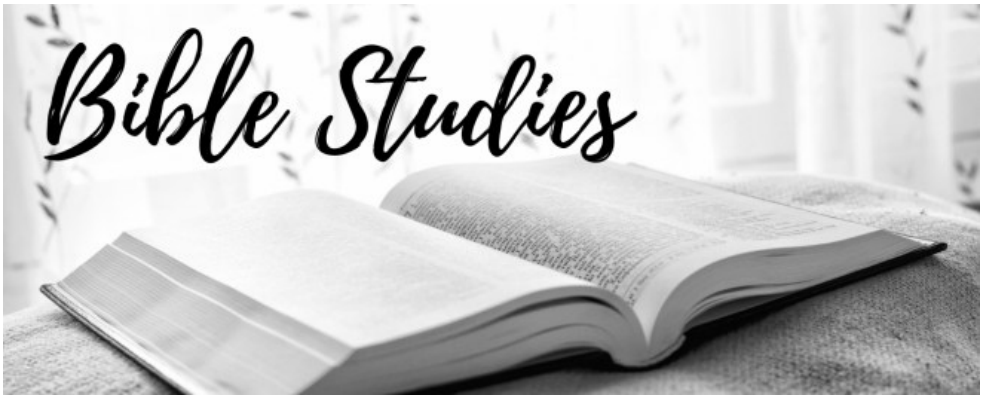
Here is a description of the service:

Lent is a season of repentance, turning to God and asking for God's goodness to wipe away our sins and show us how to live anew. Lent also turns us toward Easter and the abundant life God will offer through the Three Days. This Lenten midweek service turns us toward God's abundance by focusing on five divine attributes drawn for the gospel texts for Lent (year C): faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. Each service is designed for sustained reflection on the gospel in the context of contemplative prayer, readings, silence, and song.

March 12: Theme: Faithfulness
Prayer Practice: Visio Divina "divine seeing"
March 19: Theme: Mercy
Prayer Practice: Sung prayer (Holden Evening Prayers)
March 26: Theme: Compassion
Prayer Practice: Bidding prayer
April 2: Theme: Forgiveness
Prayer Practice: Candle prayer
April 9: Theme: Love
Prayer Practice: Prayer with anointing (receive a blessing with oil)

I hope you are able to join us for these midweek services as we gather together to turn toward our God of abundant love, grace, and mercy.

Vicar Michelle



Check the calendar for changes to the Bible Study schedule.

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.

Adult Sunday School
Sunday Morning, 10:00 am in the small Conference Room. Led by Steve Jones. Beginning March 2nd, Adult Sunday School 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.

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, 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 Sunday School takes its summer break. 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!

March Sunday Scriptures

March 2 – Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36

March 5 – Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9
First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 16
Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 23
Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 30
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Please Clip & Save for your reference

Welcome New Council Members!

We welcome Jan Sloan and Jean Whipple, and welcome back Caryn Huber who were elected as members of the All Saints Church Council. Caryn returns as the Council Secretary. Jan will be filling the Outreach/Social Ministry Committee vacated by Jim Wilcox, and Jean will be filling the Worship Committee vacated by Carol Miller. Jim and Carol both served two terms on council, and we thank them for their service!

Worship Date	Online Viewers	In-Person	Sunday School	Total
January 26	137	59	2	198
February 2	197	65	13	275
9	129	55	8	192
16	154	48	7	209
23	160	58	7	225
Total	777	285	37	1099
Average	155	57	74	220

Call Committee Report

The Call Committee is happy to report that we have completed work on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and it was submitted to the Northern Illinois Synod on February 10. Now we wait, and remember patience is a virtue! The Synod will review our document and match us up with pastoral candidates who have entered their name for consideration for a new call. There is no time frame for the Synod to get back with us with name(s) of interested pastoral candidates. Until we hear back from the Synod, the Call committee will not be meeting monthly as we have since we began this process. Once we have information from the Synod, we will begin meeting again and we will update you as to our progress at that time.

CALL COMMITTEE

January Council Highlights

- We welcomed new members Jan Sloan and Jean Whipple and welcomed back Caryn Huber. Jan will serve as Outreach/Social Ministry Chair, Jean as Worship Chair, and Caryn will remain as council Secretary.
- Giving for January was strong.
- Call committee reports the Ministry Site Profile is complete and presented it to Council for adoption. The MSP will now be submitted to the NI Synod.
- AED training will be scheduled for this Spring.
- Spring clean-up Day is scheduled for April 26.
- January 20 blood drive collected 27 units. Our goal was 22. This event has the potential of saving 81 lives.
- Ash Wednesday pancake supper and mid-week Lenten soup supper sign-ups are on bulletin board #2.

Souper Bowl of Caring Results!

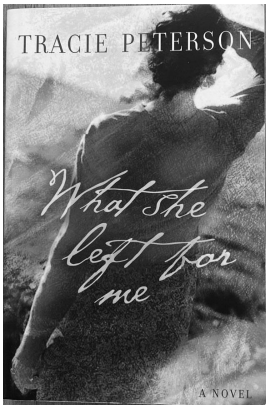
The congregation of All Saints successfully predicted the winner of the 59th Super Bowl by choosing the Philadelphia Eagles as the victors over the Kansas City Chiefs. The final "score" (money collected) was $852 with $593 for the Eagles and $259 for the Chiefs. The real winner of the day is People Helping People who will receive 100% of the money donated for the food pantry. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

Quilters

The quilters meet from 9:00-11:00 am on the first and third Thursdays of each month. This month we are meeting on March 6th and 20th at the church. Our work continues to make warm quilts to send to people in need through Lutheran World Relief. The two hours we work together are a time of fellowship and service. Thank you to everyone who has contributed fabric, thread, and sheets to help us create quilts. We continue to need queen size sheets or 4-yard lengths of fabric to finish the backs of the quilts. All donations may be left in the plastic tote in the hallway and are very much appreciated!

Book Club

Join us on Tuesday, March 25th to discuss this month's selection: ***What She Left for Me*** by Tracie Peterson. We meet at 1:00 pm in conference Room 310.



Perhaps she was naïve. Perhaps she was too trusting. But after her husband's betrayal, Jana McGuire is left with only one choice: to humbly seek refuge with a mother she barely knows.

Jana longs to understand and connect with her mother, but Eleanor has firmly shut the door on the past, allowing admittance to no one. As the heartache of Jan's situation heightens, her need for her mother compels her to seek out the truth of that past. But will Jana's search bring back a pain that was better left alone?

Library News

Spring might be right around the corner, but it's still chilly enough to want to curl up with a good book under a cozy blanket! Check out the offerings in the library or on the library cart in the entrance hallway. There's something there for everyone!

The GATHERING

We will meet on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This month we will be working on prayer pockets to be given out during Lent. Join us for fellowship, food, and fun!

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!

Blood Drive

I would like to thank all who donated to the church blood drive that was held on Monday, January 20th. We had a wonderful turnout despite the frigid weather! We collected 27 units of blood exceeding the blood bank's goal of 22 units **saving 81 lives**!! Our next blood drive will be held Monday, August 18th, 2025.

Sincerely,
Jan Sloan

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.

Spring Clean-Up Day!

April 26 at 8:00 am is the date and time of our Annual Spring Clean-Up Day. There's work that needs to be done on the inside as well as the outside, as we prepare our church to be as beautiful as the spring flowers that will soon be blooming! A sign up sheet will be placed on Bulletin Board #2 soon so we know how many will be coming to help.

January Financials

Budget Items		Item Description	Actual January	Budget January	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2025
Revenue		General Fund	$32,140	$16,389	$32,140	$16,389	$196,668
		Mortgage	$3,138	$1,247	$3,138	$1,247	$14,964
		Other Giving	$0	$417	$0	$417	$5,004
		Total Revenue	**$35,278**	**$18,053**	**$35,278**	**$18,053**	**$216,636**
Expenses	1000	Mission Support	$1,225	$833	$1,225	$833	**$10,000**
		Other Outreach	$3,004	$924	$3,004	$924	**$11,084**
		Total Outreach	**$4,229**	**$1,757**	**$4,229**	**$1,757**	**$21,084**
	2000	Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	$1,067	$1,289	$1,067	$1,289	**$15,468**
		Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	$7,868	$8,490	$7,868	$8,490	**$101,880**
		Total Ministries	**$8,935**	**$9,779**	**$8,935**	**$9,779**	**$117,348**
	3000	**Total Building (Non Capital)**	**$2,697**	**$3,455**	**$2,697**	**$3,455**	**$41,460**
		Total Expense	**$15,861**	**$14,991**	**$15,861**	**$14,991**	**$179,892**
	3000 Capital	Mortgage Principal and Interest	$2,485	$1,247	$2,485	$1,247	**$14,964**
		Other Building Capital	$0	$625	$0	$625	**$7,500**
		Total Building Capital	**$2,485**	**$1,872**	**$2,485**	**$1,872**	**$22,464**
		Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	**$18,346**	**$16,863**	**$18,346**	**$16,863**	**$202,356**
Net		**Net for Month/Year (Revenue Minus Expense)**	**$16,932**		**$16,932**		
		(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year	**$1,483**		**$1,483**		

Newsletter Distribution Changes!

We are no longer sending the newsletter out using bulk mail. Copies of the newsletter will be available in the narthex for two weeks after publication. Please pick up your newsletter when you come to church or during regular church office hours. If you would rather receive your newsletter via email, please call the church office and we will make that change for you. Unclaimed newsletters will be mailed after two weeks, but in an effort to reduce costs, please help us out by picking up your newsletter rather than waiting for it to be mailed to you. Thank you!

In Our Prayers

Health & Healing
Kathy Burrows
Phyllis Coffman
Jim Coffman
Greg Lading
Sandi Reid
Cindy Yoakum
Bruce Roller
Keith Padgett
Dick Sabin
Bobbie Chisem
Rick Luhdholtz
Mindy Vanatter
Jim Bowers
Judy Owens
Geoff and Judy Zoellick
Lori Ludens
Randy Roberts
Sybil & Alton
Jayne Fitzsimmons
Mimi Leombruni
Lisa Helms
Rose Millard
Debra Olsen
Holly Stuckenberg
Paula Davis
Grace Swedberg
Mike Lading
Suzie Geske
Mike Egan
Mike Shepard
Terri Kimbell
Leigh Ann & Chris
Dave Fink
Frank McCabe
Terry Van Laningham

Shut ins
Lori Pederson
Kit Reif
Mary Whitmer

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

In Sympathy
David Van Laningham

A PUBLICATION OF
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 Luther Dr.
Byron, IL 61010-9684
March Issue - Prepared 2/28/25

"ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED"

LENTEN CALENDAR

March 5

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper 6 pm

Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm

March 9

Spring Ahead!

March 22

Congregational Resourcing Event

March 12, 19, 26

Lenten Soup Suppers 6 pm

Lenten Mid-week worship 7 pm

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