



THE Sainly NEWS

Volume 49 Issues No. 5 / May 2026

Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation Sunday

The following 8th grade Confirmation students will be affirming their baptisms on Sunday, May 17th during the 9:00 am service:

Briar Brown Henry Hickerson
Wyatt Sell Irelynd Sproule



Their Faith Journey boards will be shared with the congregation prior to the service. After worship, please join in celebrating with cake!

Blessings to the students and their families!



Set Sail VBS!

All Saints and the United Church of Byron are hosting this combined VBS
July 20th-24th - 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Location: United Church of Byron
Ages: Preschool 3 & 4yrs old
Entering K-5th grades
Cost: Free

Registration will be open later this month. Details and a link will be on our website. Many volunteer opportunities will be available! Information on ways that you can help will be shared soon!

Pentecost Flowers

You can help in this project by donating using the insert included in the weekly church announcements or pick it up at church. You may give any amount of money (i.e. \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00) which will be used to buy flowers and other landscaping needs. Thanks for your ongoing help to beautify All Saints! Please make your donation by May 10th. Checks should be made payable to "All Saints Lutheran Church."

Thank You!

On behalf of a grateful congregation, we would like to thank Michel Williams for her many years of leadership in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at All Saints. She has been the Council Representative on the Christian Education Committee and has taught many, many children about Jesus and the Bible. Michel will be retiring from teaching Sunday School on May 17th, and we have been blessed to have her share her faith with children. Thank you, Michel!

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

Allison Sproule

EDUCATION

Heather Brown

FELLOWSHIP

Annette Jones

PROPERTY

Greg Lading

Scott Meier

OUTREACH/SOCIAL MINISTRY

Jan Sloan

WORSHIP

Jean Whipple

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Dylan Sproule

Dear Friends in Christ,

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7 (ESV)



In the life of the Church, welcome is more than a friendly handshake or a warm smile at the door—it is a reflection of God’s own heart. As Lutherans, we believe that God’s grace is freely given to all people, without condition. This grace shapes how we gather, how we worship, and how we open our doors to others.

At the center of our faith is the good news that we are justified by grace through faith—not by anything we do, but by what God has already done for us in Jesus Christ. This means there is no prerequisite for belonging. We do not wait until we have everything figured out or our lives perfectly in order. Instead, we come as we are—beloved, broken, and made new in Christ.

This understanding calls us to be a community of radical hospitality. In baptism, we are claimed as children of God and welcomed into the body of Christ. That same promise compels us to extend welcome to others—not as strangers, but as siblings in Christ. Whether someone is stepping into a church for the first time, returning after many years, or seeking a place to ask questions and grow in faith, there is a place for them here.

Welcoming others is not just the work of pastors or greeters; it is the calling of the whole congregation. It is found in simple acts—learning someone’s name, listening to their story, inviting them into conversation, and walking alongside them in faith. It is also expressed in how we worship, ensuring that our liturgy, language, and practices are accessible and meaningful to all.

As we continue to grow as a church, may we remember that we are always both guests and hosts—welcomed by God and sent to welcome others. In a world that often feels divided and uncertain, the Church has a unique opportunity to be a place of belonging, grace, and hope.

I would like to invite folks that are interested in becoming members of All Saints along with current members to our three-part summer learning series: Let’s Grow Together! This is a combined “new member” class and a “get to know” each other through learning and fellowship. It’s okay if you can’t make all three events. We will conclude the series with a “New Member Sunday” on Sunday, September 13th, where we will welcome all the new members to the congregation and celebrate at the church’s annual picnic. Please see the information below. There will be a sign-up sheet for those that are interested in joining All Saints.

Let’s Grow Together!

Summer Sunday Learning Series for New and Current members of All Saints.

We will meet at 10:15 in the fellowship hall.

June 7th, July 12th, and August 9th

Further details will be in the June/July Newsletters

Come as you are. There is a place for you here.

- Vicar Michelle



Staff

VICAR

Michelle Wandersee

TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER

Laura Hopkins

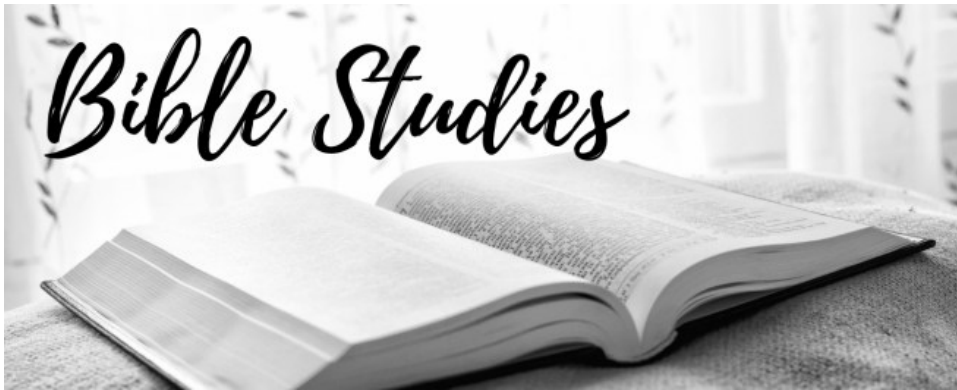
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Amy Harn

OFFICE SECRETARY

Kris Jones

Deadline for the June/July
Saintly News is **May 15**
Please send articles to
Rebecca Presson



Check the calendar for changes to the Bible Study schedule.

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Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 7:00 pm in Conference Room #310. This Study is on hiatus. Please refer to future issues of the Sainly News and the weekly announcements for information on upcoming meetings.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study, 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Vicar Michelle Wandersee. Each week we will study the Gospel for the following Sunday utilizing the Daily Discipleship format. **Note: There is no Bible Study on May 13.**

April Council Highlights

- * Giving for the month of March did not meet budgeted needs.
- * Annual financial audit has been completed by Jo Marie Branson and Carolyn Niederer.
- * Joint VBS will be held July 20-24 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at United Church of Byron.
Long-Range and Strategic Planning meetings will commence April 19.
- * Spring Clean-up day will be held April 25.
- * Tax Exempt status will be added to our Amazon account.
- * Ash Wednesday pancake supper, Lenten soup suppers and Palm Sunday brunch were all well attended.
- * A new Xerox printer/copier has been delivered to the church.
- * Water detection devices need to be installed in appropriate areas per our insurance carrier.
- * Estimates are being obtained for siding the church.
Last day of Sunday School for this year will be May 17.
Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation will be held May 17.

the
MINUTES

May Sunday Scriptures

May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 17

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 24

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

May 31

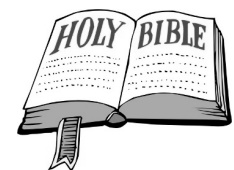
The Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20



*Please Clip & Save
for your reference*



Attention Graduates!

If you have a graduate in the family that you would like celebrated in our June/July newsletter, please email their information to the office at by May 15th.

Please include:

- ⇒ Name
- ⇒ Graduating grade (8th, 12th, community college, college, or trade school)
- ⇒ Name of school/college
- ⇒ And any future plans that the graduate may have (college, trade school, military, job plans).

The GATHERING

We will meet on Tuesday, May 12th at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for fellowship, food, and fun!



Worship Date	Online Viewers	In-Person	Sunday School	Total
March 22	217	85	14	316
29	311	87	n/a	398
April 5	262	110	n/a	372
12	252	55	6	313
19	196	71	11	278
Total	1238	408	31	1677
Average	248	82	6	335

Quilters

The quilters meet from 9:00-11:00 am on the first and third Thursdays of each month. During the months with five Thursdays, we will meet three times, utilizing the fifth Thursday. This month we are meeting on May 7th and 21st at the church. 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!



Library News

Check out the wide selection of books available in the church Library! There's something for everyone, with no dues or late charges. Just good reading at your leisure!

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

June/July Newsletter Deadline

We will be combining the June and July newsletters to be mailed at the beginning of June. If you are a contributor to the newsletter, please keep this in mind when submitting your summer articles. Please submit your articles for the summer newsletter by May 15th.

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.

Special requests for May include cereal, individual applesauce cups, crackers, deodorant and shampoo.

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	

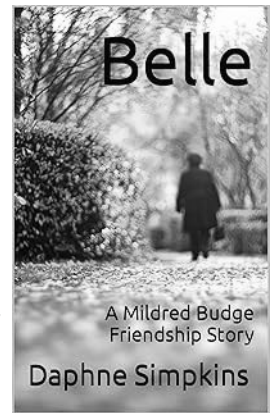
*Personal Hygiene items include shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors. Please place your donations in the basket by the main entrance. Thank you for your generosity!



FEED THE HUNGRY

Book Club

Join us on Tuesday, May 27th at 11:30 am in Conference Room 310 to discuss the book **“Belle”** by Daphne Simpkins.



Belle Deerborn lives next door to Mildred Budge. The Deerborn house is across and open field, and Belle sits out on her back stoop each morning reading her Bible and also watching Mildred live and the people who come and go. Others see Belle as living a confined and desperate life, but that's not true at all. Belle is becoming a great problem solver, is learning to manage herself more thoughtfully, and has a creative side that she is cultivating with her sewing projects. Contrary to the reputation of caregiving, Belle Deerborn is anything but trapped, depressed, or hopeless. She has been surprised by the many evidences of God's very real help in time of trouble, and that very real help often comes from good neighbors.

One of those people is Mildred Budge, but she's not the only answer to Belle's prayers in this tender story about a long-time marriage and how it is coming to fulfilment and also, in a way, winding down.

Special Note Regarding Food Donations

Please be sure to check the expiration date of the food you are donating to both the Byron High School Food Pantry and People Helping People. They cannot accept or distribute food past the expiration dates listed on the containers or previously opened. Items in these conditions will be thrown away.

People Helping People Needs for May

Cans of Tuna & Cans of Fruit

Palm Sunday Brunch Thanks!

Our thanks to Annette Jones for organizing and serving the food for the Palm Sunday Brunch. Thank you to everyone who donated fruit, yogurt bar items, pastries, milk and juice, and everything else that made for such a delicious meal. Approximately 65 people attended. The donations received totaled \$157.00 and will benefit All Saints. Everyone who came enjoyed the fellowship as well as the good food. It was great to be able to gather on such a beautiful Palm Sunday morning!

Thank You

Thank you!

Happy Spring to all! I want to express my heartfelt thank you for making Palm Sunday Brunch a great event. Our All Saints Lutheran Church Community is a very special one! I enjoyed coordinating the event and I especially enjoyed seeing the fellowship that was shared. Thank you for attending the brunch, contributing brunch items, your monetary contributions and for volunteering your time. God's Blessings and Grace to all!

Sincerely,
Annette Leombruni Jones, Fellowship Chair

Opportunity to Serve this Summer

Since summer months are when most people are going to be away on and off, we would like to try something different for signing up to serve during Sunday morning worship. If you are willing and able to help, please look for the sign-up sheets on Bulletin Board #2 and choose which Sunday (or Sundays) you would be available to be a **greeter, usher, assisting minister (instruction available!), reader, or coffee hour host**. This will be used as an alternate instead of the Time and Talent sheets for June, July, and August. Thank you for helping us try something new!

Sunday School Teachers needed for the 2026-2027 school year!

We are looking for volunteers that are passionate about sharing the love of God with our Sunday School kids! This is an important ministry! As the church, we are called to help support, teach, and nurture our kid's faith in Jesus Christ.

Teaching Sunday school, confirmation, and VBS was the beginning of my journey in ministry. The more I taught about Jesus, the more I learned about God's love, mercy, and grace that was for myself and all who believed. I learned right along with the kids! You don't have to have a degree in Christian theology to teach, you just need the passion to do it! God equips all of us with the abilities we need to do God's work.

To help with discerning if teaching Sunday School is something that you would like to pursue, here is some pertinent information to consider:

- Sunday School age children are 3 years to 5th grade.
- Currently there are 9 students. Their ages in the fall will be:
 - (2) 4 years old
 - (1) first grader
 - (1) second grader
 - (2) third graders
 - (1) fourth grader
 - (2) fifth graders
 We have room to grow!
- This past year, these students were combined together into one class with one teacher. The perfect scenario would be that we could have 4 teachers plus helpers. That way 4 teachers could rotate Sundays each month: 4 teachers- 4 Sundays= one Sunday per teacher (you'd flip a coin if we have a fifth Sunday!)
- Helpers could be high school students- perhaps working on their volunteer hours, or extra family members you'd like to rope in with you!
- Sunday School begins with our Kick-Off /Church Picnic on September 13th and ends on May 9th, 2027.
- There will be a couple Sundays off around Christmas, and a couple around Spring Break and Easter.
- Class time will be 10:15-11:00. We will begin each class with an opening and songs.
- We will use a new curriculum called: *Wonder on the Go: a flexible, volunteer-friendly children's Sunday School Bible lessons that connect to the Sunday's lectionary for the day. Minimal prep time necessary! (If you have extra time to prep: there are extra ideas for activities, games, and crafts that you can use).*

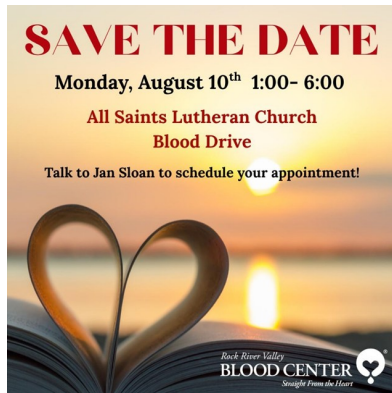
Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to enrich the faith of our youngest members! Contact Vicar Michelle if you are interested.

March Financials

Item Description	Actual March	Budget March	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Total 2026
General Fund	\$12,634	\$16,389	\$63,719	\$49,167	\$196,668
Mortgage	\$1,170	\$1,247	\$8,621	\$3,741	\$14,964
Other Giving	\$0	\$417	\$54	\$1,251	\$5,004
Total Revenue	\$13,804	\$18,053	\$72,394	\$54,159	\$216,636
Mission Support (\$10,000 goal, \$14,000 budget)	\$1,622	\$1,167	\$4,122	\$3,501	\$14,000
Other Outreach	\$0	\$548	\$4,202	\$1,644	\$6,580
Total Outreach	\$1,622	\$1,715	\$8,324	\$5,145	\$20,580
Ministries of the Congregation (Non Salary)	\$1,415	\$1,335	\$4,195	\$4,007	\$16,020
Ministries of the Congregation (Salary and Benefits)	\$7,277	\$7,254	\$21,692	\$21,766	\$87,048
Total Ministries	\$8,692	\$8,589	\$25,886	\$25,773	\$103,068
Total Building (Non Capital)	\$3,572	\$3,778	\$12,291	\$11,338	\$45,336
Total Expense	\$13,887	\$14,082	\$46,501	\$42,256	\$168,984
Mortgage Principal and Interest	\$1,246	\$1,247	\$4,537	\$3,741	\$14,964
Other Building Capital	\$0	\$1,350	\$0	\$4,050	\$16,200
Total Building Capital	\$1,246	\$2,597	\$4,537	\$7,791	\$31,164
Total Expenses (Capital Plus Expense)	\$15,133	\$16,679	\$51,038	\$50,047	\$200,148
Net for Month/Year (Revenue Minus Expense)	(\$1,329)		\$21,356		
(Under)/Over Budget for Month/Year	(\$1,546)		\$991		

Thank You!

The Congregational Council of All Saints would like to thank Carolyn Niederer and Jo Marie Branson for completing the annual financial audit. We appreciate their expertise and time. Thank you!



Amazon Wish List

New items have been added to the Amazon Wish List! Please use the QR code above to access the list. We have also added the ability to purchase items using our tax exemption number. However, items purchased using the tax exemption number must be ordered through the church Amazon account. Please contact the church office or Amy Harn if you wish to take advantage of the tax exemption. They will explain the ordering process to you. Be sure to complete a yellow "Non-Cash Donation Voucher" for any items ordered for donation to the church.



In Our Prayers

Health & Healing

Kathy Burrows
Phyllis Coffman
Kay Johnson
Sandi Reid
Steve Reid
 Dick Sabin
 Jim Bowers
 Lori Ludens
 Randy Roberts
 Sybil
 Jayne Fitzsimmons
 Paula Davis
 David Taylor
 Mike Shepard
 Terri Kimbell
 Frank McCabe
 Pastor Bill Nelson
 Laurie Molosz
 Tammy Burke
 Faith Pauling
 Karen Brown
 Lynn Lauer
 Liz Lauer-Jones
 Dee Rowland
 Evan Flannery
 Amy Starr Geysens
 Loren Colloton
 Joice Kilmer
 Kathy Becker
 Alan & Family
 Jessica Richards
 Theresa & Peter
 Bob Shook

Shut ins

Lori Pederson
Tom Johnson

Military

Staff Sgt Kyle Reif
 Matt Vizer
 Kaden Harper
 Tyler Peterson
 Christiano Sasso
 Logan Usrey
 Steve Cole
 Kylie Krug

In Sympathy

Dee Rowland



A PUBLICATION OF
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 Luther Dr.
April Issue - Prepared 4/27/26

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”



May 3

Strategic and Long-Range
Planning Meeting

May 16

Gospel Celebration

May 17

Affirmation of Baptism
Last day of Sunday
School

CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY **SPRING HAS SPRUNG** **CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY**
GOSPEL CELEBRATION AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Young Eagles Success CLUB
Mr. C - Carl Cole
Jaden Allen
Trinity Rucker

3 PM Saturday, May 16th
All Saints Lutheran Church
624 Luther Drive
Byron, IL 61010
Free - Open to Public

Knotty Luxe ARTS FOUNDATION
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH / BYRON, IL
Diana Cole
Andrew Cole
Dallas Hydrick

An afternoon of praise and joyful music!
These and Other Artists!
Free Will Offering to Benefit Byron HS Food Pantry