



# The All Saints SPOKESMAN



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January 2008



## Looking Back Before We Look Forward

During December it seemed like the weatherman didn't want us to set any attendance records for Sunday worship. Five Sundays in a row of lousy, treacherous weather! However, the Christmas Eve services were as well attended as last year. We certainly want to thank Dan Danielowski and the members of the Praise Team for their music that evening! If anyone would like a copy of

"What Happened One Night to a Barn Boy Named Joe", copies are available for the asking.

But even before that we had an outstanding Christmas program presented by our Sunday School children. "One of the best ever," we heard a member comment. Thanks to all the leaders who made that happen.

Audrey and I want to thank you all for the generous Christmas gift. In case you haven't heard, it was a gift certificate for two to the Fireside Dinner Theater in Ft. Atkinson, WI. Someone must have heard that we hadn't been up there in a while.

When I came back to the office this week I noticed the great new blinds that had been hung in the passageway to the church and in the nursery. They should do a good job of keeping the cold out in the winter and the sun out in the summer.

Now, looking ahead.....

**We have received word from the Bishop that there are three pastoral candidates for us to interview. Consequently, Pastor Chris Steinstra, Assistant to the Bishop, will be meeting with our Call Committee soon to present information on the candidates and brief the committee on the interview process.**

As you read this, Pastor Bill and Isabelle Wittig will be on their way to India with a group of 24 members of our Northern Illinois Synod. They will be visiting with members of our Companion Synod, The Arcot Synod of the Lutheran Church in southeast India. We offered our prayers for their safe journey and we'll want a report about their venture when they return. You can follow their adventures through their blog at <http://nis2008india.blogspot.com/>

And finally, as we look ahead – you don't have to look far to see that Lent begins very early this year, on February 6<sup>th</sup>. More about that later.

Pastor Stees

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## Zoom Towards Zero

The letters and pledge forms to extend our Zoom Towards Zero Campaign will be mailed out shortly. As we noted in last month's newsletter, there are both a gap between our general pledges and our financial needs that predicated continuing the campaign and the desire to pay off the mortgage early. Continuing the campaign for 3 years will help us to fulfill both of those needs.

When the materials are received, we ask that you pray about the stewardship needs of All Saints and consider pledging to support our capital needs. Thank you for your continued benevolence!

Steve Jones

# Walk with *Jesus*

## Update on Stewardship

As of 12-23-07, 97 pledges totaling \$120,060 and 125 Time & Talent Sheets had been returned. If you have not returned your pledge card or T&T sheet, please do so as soon as possible. Extra Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets are on the Narthex table.

## YOUTH NEWS

- Audrey Adams

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Epiphany Retreat

**January 11-12, 2008**

(for 3-6 grade) \$27 per person

Join us for this annual retreat that explores LOMC during the winter, teaches about Epiphany and includes a Christmas tree bonfire & party.

Retreat begins at 7pm and ends at 4pm @LOMC

#### Youth Group Meeting

**January 13, 2008 5:00 - 7:00 pm**

Plan to be there! Meet in the Youth Room at the end of hallway. January event to be planned - Bowling, game night, rollerskating - what shall it be?



Bring your ideas so we can plan

### ~~~~~ GAME NIGHT ~~~~~

**February 16, 2008 5:00 - 8:00 pm**

Planned for **EVERYONE** - bring your whole family and invite all your friends for a night of games, pizza and sodas.

Bring your favorite game!!!!

### UPDATE ON PAST EVENTS

>>>>> Lets all go Caroling <<<<<<<

We were rained out on our December 22, 3-5 pm Caroling Day. We will schedule it again for next Year. -- Date will be December 20, 2008!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
Have you noticed all the Purple around? The confirmation leaders purchased Hoodies for the confirmands. It is open to the congregation now and another order will be going in soon. Fill out a peach order form on the narthex table. Great Idea!

## ALL SAINTS GROUPS



### Quilters

A New Year and our goal is to have over 100 quilts to send to places where there is a need. We have such an enthusiastic group of ladies that enjoy helping people. We enjoy our brief time together too. In December, we tied eight quilts. They were then taken home and machine sewn around the edges. They all look so pretty no matter what material or colors are used. Please join us on the **first Thursday of each month at 9 o'clock**. (We met on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.) February 7<sup>th</sup> is the next time that we will be together. Hope to see you there!

- Millie Knodle

### Crafters!!

The crafters will meet on their regular day, **2nd Tuesday of the Month, Jan. 8th, at 9:00 am**. We will be deciding what we will be buying with the money from the craft sale. Any new ideas are really welcome.

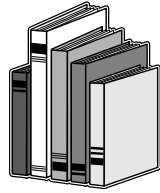


Our goal is to encourage fellowship while we work to serve the Lord. Every one is welcome. Join us - we are a fun group!

Lois Lapp and Gloria Olsen.

## Religious Book Club

The book club will meet on Monday January 28th at one o'clock at the church. Mickey Williams will be the leader and Kit Reif will be the hostess. The book to be discussed is Glass Castle by Jeanette Wells. There is plenty of time to find the book at the library or book store and have a good read. The book for February is Sarah's Quilt by Nancy Turner. March's selection is What She Left For Me by Tracy Peterson. Some of the ladies find real bargains going to the internet and purchasing used



books at greatly reduced prices. Winter is the perfect time to catch up on your reading. We love to receive recommendations for future book club meetings. Please join us when you can.

- Millie Knodle

## SATURDAY NIGHT SAINTS

### **Travelogue returns in February**

“More Stories from the Holy Lands” by Sandy Mortimer will be the topic for February 8<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now! The programs are always informative and very well done. Join us!

## CHURCH NOTES

### Vacation Bible School in January?

No we are not changing our VBS schedule, but we are actually already starting our preparations. We will be reviewing some choices of themes and publishers information in the month of Jan. We will order a few Exam kits to review in the month of Feb. If you have an interest in helping with the planning phase of VBS, or want to help in the summer during our active week, you can contact Theresa Fitzsimmons 234-8363, or Carolyn Niederer 234-3296. This is a great outreach ministry – a chance to tell others about Jesus in a fun and an easy way to reach out.

The VBS staff would like to give a big Thank You to Dick Johnson for the great shelves he made for us. The shelves are a much needed help to store the many decorations and supplies that we use from year to year.

-Carolyn Niederer & Theresa Fitzsimmons

### **HOW I SPENT MY CHRISTMAS VACATION**

I'm not a travel agent. I don't work for the Springfield Visitor's Bureau, but I would like to share an experience with you that parents and/or grandparents might find helpful.

The day after Christmas our five families drove down to Springfield. Our goal was to take in all the Lincoln sites. Our six grandchildren had never been there and only a couple of their parents. We checked into the elegant President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in downtown Springfield about noon. Special holiday rates were only \$70.00 per room!

It was within walking distance of the major sites. We went through the Old Capitol and Lincoln's Home that afternoon. Found a reasonable restaurant a block away. The kids enjoyed the hotel pool the rest of the evening.

In the morning we headed over to the fabulous new museum. Arriving fifteen minutes after it opened there were only about three dozen people present. Those of you who have been there on bus trips or during the school year can appreciate that.

The guides were friendly and talkative as they obviously appreciated the absence of the usual crowds. There were no long lines and you could look at exhibits without feeling rushed. We had lunch there. In the afternoon we went out to Lincoln's Tomb and stopped for a brief time at New Salem before we headed home.

This is something you might want to cut out and put away until next Christmas when the kids and grandkids come and you are wondering what to do. It's a great time to be in Springfield. Highly recommended by all sixteen members of our family.

Pastor Stees

### Sunday School News

A big thanks to all the kids and their parents who participated in this year's Christmas Program. It seemed to be enjoyed by all, especially the participants! If anyone has ideas or suggestions for next year please let us know.

Sunday School classes will resume January 6, 2008.

-Dan & Melanie Anderson

<b>Worship Attendance</b>					
Dec	8:00	10:30	Total	9:15	SS
2	45	60	105		49
9	56	61	117		63
16	46	137	183		na
23	63	38	101		na
24	7 pm 111	10 pm 65	176		na
30	43	37	80		na
Total			762		112
Average	51	67	127		56

(Total and Total Average includes Christmas Eve services. Averages for 8:00a and 10:30a worship do not include Christmas Eve Service numbers.)

**Annual reports are due NOW** so the booklet can be finished for the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. To speed up the process, please email articles attached as a Word file or submit a disc. Of course, a hand written report will also be accepted. Thank you!

**Deadline for articles for the February Spokesman is January 24.** Please email articles to Carolyn Niederer at [rjn2cjn@aol.com](mailto:rjn2cjn@aol.com) or the church office at [allsaints624@hotmail.com](mailto:allsaints624@hotmail.com). Thanks!

## **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **December 10, 2007**

A new snow removal contact was signed with Bill Hamlin.

Transfers of \$2,000 were made from the Expansion Fund and the Facilities Maintenance Fund to apply to the building loan.

In January members will be given the opportunity to renew their commitments to the Expansion Fund.

The 2008 budget has been finalized for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Mini-blinds were approved for the entry hall way and nursery.

The church security system will need to be put on an independent phone line to meet code specifications.

“All Saints” sweatshirts have been provided for members of the Confirmation Class and available for order by members.

The Nominating Committee is seeking one more candidate to fill the ballot for the Annual Meeting.

<b>2007 STEWARDSHIP DECEMBER and YEAR TO DATE</b>						
	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Facilities Maintenance Fund</u>		<u>Expansion Fund</u>	
	Monthly	Year to Date	Monthly	Year to Date	Monthly	Year to Date
Goals	13,577	141,196	6,121	63,655	2,885	30,000
Received	14,468	122,381	5,067	41,005	3,746	36,126
Status	+891	-18,815	-1,054	-22,650	+861	+6,126

In a never-ending effort to attract the unchurched, some churches have considered translating their unfamiliar terminology into familiar football phrases: (continuation of list)

- **Incomplete Pass:** A dropped offering plate
- **Interference:** Talking during the prelude.
- **Linebacker:** A statistic used by a preacher to support a point just made.
- **Passing Game:** The maneuver required of late comers when the person sitting at the end of the pew won't slide to the middle.
- **Quarterback:** What tight wads want after putting fifty cents in the offering plate.
- **Running Backs:** Those who make repeated trips to the rest room.
- **Two-minute Warning:** The chairman of the board looking at his watch in full view of the preacher.

From Leadership Magazine Summer '94, by William Ellis

## **PARISH PATTTER**

### **FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE . . .**

Please take note of the cover on the overhead screen. Thanks to **Gary & Shirley Asher** for a beautiful job – and also for the removal of the sink, cupboard and doors in the library!

The alarm system is now covered by long lasting batteries. Thanks to **Reuben Johnson** and **Bob Branson** for working on the system and thanks to both of them and **Steve Jones** for purchasing the batteries. Thanks also to **Bob** and **Reuben** for hanging the new blinds in the hall and nursery.

Thanks for the great response for the food pantry! We delivered 248 items to People Helping People!

A monitor for the nursery is still on the wish list.

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church, made donations to the giving tree, and gave presents to Neighbors residents. It was a glorious Christmas Season!

**Dan, Ben & Kate Danielowski, Mike Reibel, Randy Mastricola, Steve Jones, Stacy Fillmore and Marlene Roberts** comprised the Praise Team which led the music for Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. Well done!

So many things were happening during December it has been hard to remember and keep track of all of them. If I missed something or someone, I'm sorry

and I'll try to do better next year. But Thank You all! You are greatly appreciated!

Happy New Year!

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Chad and Christen (Niehaus) Thompson who were married on December 29<sup>th</sup> at All Saints.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to Ken Combs and Family on the death of Ken's brother, Dave, on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Judy Gentry** on the birth of grandson, Jordan Macoye, on August 7, 2007. His parents are Kevin and Jenny Flowers.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Shirley Asher, Kathy Burrows, Linda Elliot, Mary Whitmer,** Tom Amundson, Amanda Papacek, Roger Reimer, Lo'Ren Hagie, Dean Hilliard, Wendal Anderson, Harold Wright, Will Engling and Ken Combs & Family; for those serving in the military: Donovan Avery, Brad & Christina Carter, Gregory Peterson, Rob Irving and Kevin Carlson

### **PASTORAL ACTS**

#### **WEDDINGS**

Dec. 29: Chad & Christen (Niehaus) Thompson

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 20 following each service.  
Reuben Johnson, Bob Branson and Mark Hart are nominees for Council.

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## **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,  
“Oh, excuse me please” was my reply.  
He said, “Please excuse me too;  
I wasn’t watching for you.”  
We were very polite, this stranger and I.  
We went on our way and we said good-bye.  
But at home a different story is told,  
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal,  
My son stood beside me very still.  
When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.  
“Move out of the way,” I said with a frown.  
He walked away, his little heart broken.  
I didn’t realize how harshly I’d spoken.

While I lay awake that night in bed,  
God’s still small voice came to me and said,  
“While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy  
you use,  
But the children you love, you seem to abuse.  
Go and look on the kitchen floor,  
You’ll find some flowers there by the door.

Those are the flowers he brought for you.  
He picked them himself; pink, yellow and blue.  
He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise,  
You never saw the tears that filled his little eyes.”

By this time, I felt very, very small,  
And now my own tears began to fall.  
I quietly went and knelt by his bed;  
“Wake up, little one. Wake up,” I said.  
“Are these the flowers you picked for me?”  
He smiled, “I found ‘em out by the tree.  
I picked ‘em because they’re pretty like you.  
I knew you’d like ‘em, especially the blue.”

I said, “Son, I’m sorry for the way I acted today;  
I shouldn’t have yelled at you that way.”  
He said, “Oh Mom, that’s okay.  
I love you anyway.”  
I said, “Son, I love you too,  
And I do like the flowers, especially the blue.”  
- Author Unknown