



The All Saints

SPOKESMAN



Volume 33 Issue No. 1

Website: <http://www.allsaintschurchbyron.org>

January 2009

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCA Meeting – Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm

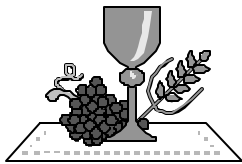
Please mark you calendars for Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm. This is the date and time for the quarterly WELCA meeting. This meeting is especially important to all Women of the church, since we will be holding election of Officers for the 2009-2010 term, and creating committees for the various events we will be planning for 2009. We will also vote on a new Constitution for our organization.

If you would like to be included on the ballot for one of the three offices: President, Secretary, or Treasurer, please contact Gloria Olsen at 815-335-2555 as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Kay Johnson at 815-262-8789



ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, January 10 at 9:00 am



The annual meeting of the Altar Guild will take place on **Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 am** at the church. (Note date change.) We will have election of officers and annual reports from treasurer, president, pastor and secretary. The Altar Guild takes care of communion, baptisms, and special events. New members are always welcome. If anyone has any concerns about communion or anything relating to altar guild duties, please contact Kit Reif (234-5606).

-- Kit Reif

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING January 25th after each service

The 31st Annual Congregational Meeting of All Saints will be **January 25th** following the 8:00 am service. It will then recess to be reconvened after the 10:30 am service. As noted last year, copies of the Annual Report will not be mailed out but will be available in the Narthex prior to the meeting.



ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE JANUARY 8th. All Organizations, Committees, Secretaries and Treasurers must submit a year-end report for the Annual Report Booklet. Please include a financial report and a brief overview of what your group has done in 2008. **Reports need to be submitted to the office by January 8th** so the booklet can be compiled and made available prior to the Annual Meeting. Copies of last year's report are available if needed. If possible, please submit your report in a Word file and email it to the church (allsaints624@hotmail.com). Of course, a hand written report will be accepted as well. Thanks!

Healthy Congregations Series begins this Sunday, January 11 at 1:00 pm

The Healthy Congregations workshop series (over 10 Sundays) begins January 11th with 26 participants from All Saints and from United Church of Byron. In January we meet on the 11th, 18th, and 25th from 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm. A complete schedule for January, February and March is in the narthex. We do have enough materials (\$30) to add a couple of participants. If interested, contact Pastor Scott Schmidt.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Pledge information to date - General Fund: \$82,403; Facilities Maintenance / Zoom toward Zero: \$33,250
116 Time & Talent Sheets have been turned in.



**Come help take down Christmas Decorations on Saturday, January 10
at 10:30 am. Lunch will be provided.**

A Thank You Note from Pastor Scott Schmidt

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2-6

First, I wish to **thank you**, the members of All Saints, for the generous and gracious gift presented to Trish and me at the Christmas Eve Services. As I was caught off guard, I do say to all of you, “Thank you very much!”

Also, as the Bible passage above says, I do **thank God** in my prayers for you, the people of All Saints Lutheran Church. In our first six months together as pastor and members of the body of Christ, I feel very blessed to have been called here as your pastor. Some mornings I awake wanting to sing praises to God for the people here and for the enthusiasm to be Christ’s Church which flows within the members and for your desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. So, I do say, “Thanks be to God for all of you!”

Then, I am confident that as the Holy Spirit has called us together, we have a strong future of ministry and mission. I believe that God will complete the good work among us that already has been building and growing for the past 30 years, and will continue to unfold. Again, for all of this I say, “Thank you, and thanks be to God!”

In Jesus’ name,
Pastor Scott Schmidt

Confirmation Lesson Schedule

Sunday Morning 9:15 am

1-4 No Class
1-11 Apostles’ Creed –God the Provider
1-18 Apostles’ Creed –God the Preserver
1-25 Apostles’ Creed –Jesus the Savior
2-1 Apostles’ Creed –Jesus the Redeemer

Midweek (Wednesday) 6 pm

1-7 New Testament – The Letters of Paul
1-14 No class – Leader & Guide Huddle
1-21 New Testament – The Letter to the Hebrews
1-28 Family Date Night Week
2-4 New Testament – The Universal Letters

Additional notes:

Bring \$5 to cover the cost of pizza for the January 7 meeting at 6:00 pm.

There is currently no one committed to bring snacks for the third Wednesday meeting – Jan. 21. Please call or email Pastor if you can bring an opening snack on that date.

YOUTH + NEWS

Thank-You's

Go out to all who participated and helped support our youth by giving to our socks 'n' undies collection for the Rockford Rescue Mission. With everyone's help, we collected 265 pieces!



Christmas Caroling was a blast! We even had a light snowfall to make it a special event. What an exciting night!

How are pizza sales going? Funds are being raised for the Youth Quake this year in March at the Wisconsin Dells. Deadline is January 11 for all money and orders to be in to Audrey. Pizza delivery will be on Jan. 26 at church at 1:30 pm. If you can help unload or sort please let me know. Thanks!



Thanks to everyone who signed up for the Youth Quake. More info will come soon.

Mark your calendars for the Souper Bowl for Caring on February 1. I will need volunteers to help out between both services. Thanks!

Don't forget our Youth Nights are the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month from 5 – 7 pm. Bring a friend or two for more fun!

Coming up in February . . .

Family Fun Night on February 14, 5 – 8 pm. Everyone can bring games and fun things to do. Pizza and snacks will be served.

Audrey Adams, All Saints Youth Leader

Planned Youth events for 2009

January	3rd	(sat.)	Movie Matinee = 2-4pm = bring your favorite movie and enjoy popcorn, pop, and snacks for a fun filled afternoon
	11th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	25th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	26th	(mon)	Pizza delivery to the church @2pm
February	1st	(sun)	Souper Bowl Sunday = need volunteers to hold souper pot for services
	8th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	14th	(sat)	Family Nite out = 5-8 pm ; Bring your favorite game and enjoy pizza, snacks, drinks with everyone.
	22nd	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm = also Quake parent meeting at 6:30 pm
March	6-8th	(fri-sun)	Youth quake @ Wisconsin Dells, Lake Dalton
	8th	(sun)	NO Youth Nite
	14th	(sat)	Spaghetti Dinner = 5-8 pm
	22nd	(sun)	Youth Nite = Rollerskating
April	12th	(sun)	Easter Breakfast
	12th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	26th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm = Sock Hop Night
May	10th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	24th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm

ALL SAINTS GROUPS

Tuesday Night Bible Study

An Attitude of Discipleship

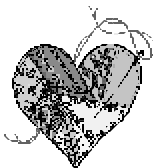
The Tuesday Night Bible Study Group meets every week at **7:00 pm** in the 3-5 grade classroom of All Saints. (Please use the South entrance in respect for the AA group meeting in Fellowship Hall.) The topics of discussion for January are as follows:



- 1-6-09: Theme: Connected
Text: Mark 1:4-11
Explore ways baptism connects us with Christ and others.
- 1-13-09: Theme: Inviting
Text: John 1:43-51
Connect discipleship with inviting others to "come and see" Jesus.
- 1-20-09: Theme: Responsive
Text: Mark 1:14-20
Ponder ways to follow Jesus as well as invite others to follow him.
- 1-27-09: Theme: Openness
Text: Mark 1:21-28
Recognize the importance of being open to Jesus.

Quilters

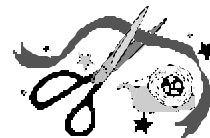
The quilter's plan to meet on **January 8th and February 5th at 9 am**. Hopefully we will have lots of help making comforters throughout the coming year. Some of our ladies have gone to spend a few months in the south. Materials have been sent along with a few ladies so they can sew when they have some free time. There are over 20 quilts completed and on the storeroom shelves. It is delightful to watch the shelves fill up as the months go by. Thank you to everyone who donates materials for us to use. Thank you to all the ladies that show up faithfully every month to make life brighter to the people that receive a quilt. Please join us whenever you can.



- Millie Knodle

Crafters!!

Meeting on a snowy morning in December, the Christmas spirit was high among the ladies who navigated slick roads to get together. Projects were completed and added to our stash to be offered for sale at the Bazaar in October. Coffee and refreshments were enjoyed by all. As a special treat, the ladies lunched at Sunrise Restaurant. Please join us for a morning of good fellowship. Our next meeting will be **January 13 at 9am**.



- Linda Hank

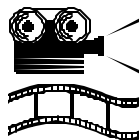
Religious Book Club



The afternoon book club will be back in session on **Monday, January 26th at 1:00 pm!** We will be discussing the book, God Wrote a Book by James MacDonald. The book God wrote is, of course, the Bible. While many people agree that it's an important book, they doubt that the words in the Bible are the very words of God Himself. Where do you stand? Pastor James MacDonald provides a personalized, accurate response to your real questions, sharing with you in a straightforward way what the Bible is and what it can do for you. Our snack will be provided by Ethel Montgomery. Join us for some fellowship and fun!

- Carolyn Niederer

SATURDAY NIGHT SAINTS



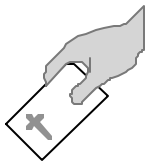
There will be no travelogue in January. They will begin again on **February 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm** at the Loves Park City Hall Auditorium with "Inside the Tuscan Hills" by John Wilson. Please sign up on the bulletin board so seats can be saved.

For those interested in becoming members of All Saints, please contact Pastor Scott Schmidt. For someone wanting to transfer their membership from another Lutheran congregation, we are planning a Sunday in the near future to welcome transfers. Also, for someone coming from another denominational background or new to the faith, we are beginning to make plans for our next membership class.

CHURCH NOTES

NEW OFFERING BOXES

The new offering boxes for 2009 are in the Narthex. Be sure to pick yours up if you have not yet done so. If you do not find your box, please let the office know and we will correct this oversight. Envelopes for high school youth and college students will be coming soon.



PLEASE NOTE: ENVELOPE NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED in an effort to accommodate the choice of giving on a weekly or monthly basis. This change has necessitated a whole new numbering system. **To ensure your offering gets credited to your account, you must only use your new 2009 envelopes to make offerings in 2009.** Any number or envelope you have had in the past is now invalid and should be discarded.

World Hunger Envelopes were not available to be inserted in envelope boxes this year. They will be included in the April and November newsletters.

Family Life Forum

Class will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 11th and 18th. We will view a "Parenting Today" video and have a discussion time afterwards. The video for January 11 is *Baby Steps - The First 12 Months* and for January 18 is *Small Steps, Giant Leaps - 12 Months to 3 Years*.

Waste Buster Report

Protecting Creation

Salutations!

Happy New Year! With the start of a New Year it is traditional to make up New Year resolutions.

Along with those resolutions, this may be a good time to start being green.

A good way to start being green is to visit your local stores for a nice looking container (especially since they are all now on sale for everyone to repack their Christmas stuff.). This can be labeled your, "recycle bin." or if you were a little thriftier, a box or paper bag would do.

Things that are recyclable are paper, cans, bottles and plastic. If you want, you could save your aluminum and donate it to local girl/boy scout



troops, or maybe a youth group. They always need funds to support activities.

Your local waste management company may offer curbside pickup of your recycled materials or you could drop it off at the large recycle bin at the forest preserve. There is **no need to separate** these items. Just place them in the bin.

We've talked with the people at the Forest Preserve and the Ogle County Solid Waste department and have found out that the county has a new booklet on recycling in Ogle County. We will have these booklets available for you at the first of the year to start off your new green way of thinking. We would appreciate it if you would share these booklets with friends and family to spread the word.

We welcome your input and invite more people and youth to join the committee. We can make a difference. Remember we are trying to protect God's Creation. He made a beautiful world for us in which to live. Let's keep it that way.

Thank You

Rebecca and Pete Raum

Friday Night Potluck

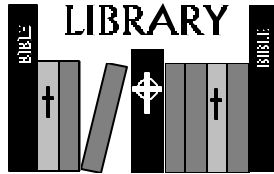
Please plan to join us on **Friday, February 6 at 6:00 pm** for a fun pot luck gathering in the Fellowship Hall at church. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up and indicate what you will be bringing (salad, main dish, or dessert). Soup, beverages, and table service will be provided. This will be a fun way to 'warm up' during these cold winter months! If you have any questions about this gathering, please contact Kay Johnson.

Blood Drive

A reminder - All Saints, in conjunction with Northern Illinois Blood Bank, is sponsoring a Blood Drive on **Thursday, March 26, 2009**. A Thank You to those who have signed up and/or volunteered to make phone calls. We still need more volunteers since NIBB prefers to have a minimum of 20 donors to make it worth their time to set up in the church. This is a good opportunity to provide a life-saving commodity and also is an opportunity for All Saints to be more visible in the community.

- Bob Branson

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and are now looking forward to a blessed 2009. If you need a New Year's resolution, may I suggest visiting the church library and book cart and checking out many (!!!) books in the new year.

The following is a continuation of the helpful and inspirational titles started last November.

?Robert Fulghum- *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* is full of "uncommon thoughts on common things".

?Billy Graham- *The Inspirational Writings*- including: *Peace with God, The Secret of Happiness, and Answers to Life's Problems-Guidance, Inspiration and Hope for the Challenges of Today.*

?Franklin Graham- *Living Beyond the Limits* focuses on God's promises of a full life with real-life examples of putting God's Word into practice.

?Paul Harvey- *For What It's Worth* Mr. Harvey mixes humor and headlines with stories from all over America. "Truth is funnier than fiction".

?Bill Hybels- *The God You're Looking For* written by the Pastor of Willow Creek Church shows how "understanding the true personality and nature of God can make ordinary people extraordinary and weak people strong". Chapters in the book include: God Who Knows it All, God Who Is Always There When You Need Him, God Who is in Control, God Who can Laugh and Cry With You, God Who is Gracious among others.

?Dr. Timothy Johnson- *Finding God in the Questions* is a "deeply personal journey through faith".

?Paul E. Little- *Know Why You Believe* Do Science and scripture conflict? Little consulted experts in science and archaeology.

?Dolores Leach and Arleen La Belle- *Personal Power The Guide for Today's Working Woman* contains 9 chapters detailing how to get people to listen to you and your ideas, how to overcome conflicts, how to develop tools such as risk taking, decision making, effective communication and how to balance your personal and work life.

Have a healthy and happy New Year

- Anne Morgart.

This and That

?ALL SAINTS RECEIVES TWO GREAT GIFTS:

The Byron Fireman's Assoc. has given us an AED-Automated External Defibrillator. Also, our new full color brochure designed by Melanie Anderson and funded by a \$550 grant from N. Il. Synod Outreach Committee is in the Narthex.

?ADDRESS WANTED: We would like to update our files on young adults who are in college, have been recently married, are serving in the military or are otherwise no longer living at home. Please notify the office so we can keep them up-to-date on the life of All Saints.

?IF YOU ENTER THE HOSPITAL:

If a member of your household is admitted to a hospital or care/rehabilitation center, please let us now so that we can offer pastoral care, prayer concerns, etc. if you so desire. You can call All Saints (815-234-5277) or Pastor Scott Schmidt (cell phone - 779-537-4811). Both Pastor's and Council President Marlene Roberts' cell phone numbers are recorded on the answering machine at All Saints. Thank you for your assistance in keeping us informed. God be with you!

?OOPS – We forgot to update the anniversaries record last month. Chad & Christen (Niehaus) Thompson celebrated their 1st Anniversary on December 29, 2008!

?PICTURE DIRECTORIES are on the table in the Narthex. They are labeled and alphabetized. If you did not participate but would like to have a copy, there are extras. A donation of \$10 toward printing expenses would be appreciated.

Reminders:

Deadline for articles for the February Spokesman is January 22. Please email articles to Carolyn Niederer at or the church office at allsaints624@hotmail.com. Thanks!

<u>Worship Attendance</u>					
Dec	8:00	10:30	Total	9:15 SS	
7	97	68	165	58	
14	87	103	190	NA	
21	97	63	160	NA	
Eve 24	7 pm 147	10:30 pm 43	190	NA	
28	55	60	115	NA	
Total*	483	337	820	58	
Average*	84	74	158	58	

*Totals include Christmas Eve services, averages do not

Welcome New Partners in Mission

On Sunday, December 14th, the following people were welcomed as new participants in our mission at All Saints.

David Adams is married to Audrey Adams who is already a member. They have two children, Courtney and Jay. David is employed as a manager and enjoys golfing, cooking and camping. His sponsor is Audrey Adams.

Susan Baldrige and husband Jeff and daughter Gabriel live at 6011 Stevens St., Byron. Susan is a housewife and Jeff is a parts man. Susan's sponsors are Phil & Carol Houston.

John Catron is a sales professional at Slumberland Furniture. He enjoys sports, country music, and school activities with his "step-kids-to-be". His sponsor is Cheri Eden.

Susan Hunter and husband, Rob Hunter have two children, Vance and Maggie. Susan is a teacher at Kings School and Rob is a barber at O'Hare's Hairport. They enjoy cooking together and camping together as a family. Susan has transferred from Faith Lutheran of Rochelle.

Bill & Patty Johnson live on Mockingbird Lane with their son Noah. Bill has transferred from Alpine Lutheran. He is a carpenter and enjoys four-wheeling and racing. Patty is self-employed as a district manager with Arbonne International and enjoys four-wheeling and scrapbooking. Their sponsors are Reuben & Kay Johnson.

David & Audrey Adams
Courtney & Jay Loomis
7601 E. McGregor Rd.
Rockford, IL 61102

Jeff & Susan Baldrige
Gabriel
6011 Stevens St.
Byron, IL 61010

John Catron
910 Indian Parkway
Winnebago, IL 61102

Rob & Susan Hunter
Vance & Maggie
108 W. Merchant St. Box 874
Byron, IL 61010

Bill & Patty Johnson
Noah
3893 Mockingbird Lane
Byron, IL 61010

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

December 8, 2008

- ? Mortgage balance is \$365,751.05 as of Nov. 26.
- ? Thank you letter received from Pastor Bill Nelson for remembrance of his father Ken.
- ? Healthy Congregations program will start in January.
- ? Discussed financial tracking software which has additional capabilities for use in membership tracking which a member is willing to donate.
- ? Both Christmas Eve services will be candle-light services.
- ? As of December 7, \$71,068 has been pledged to general account and \$30,140 to facilities maintenance.

- ? Funds have been secured for new garage but plans are on hold until weather clears.
- ? Meals on Wheels are on for May and October of 2009.
- ? Potluck Dinner plans are made for Jan or Feb.
- ? Youth will be selling pizza until Jan. 11. "Sock n Undies" raised over 265 articles for Rockford Rescue Mission.
- ? \$550 grant received for use in printing new church brochures.

2008 STEWARDSHIP DECEMBER and YEAR TO DATE						
	<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	13,650	131,040	5,770	55,392	2,885	27,696
Received	15,055	120,167	5,102	41,278	2,125	24,731
Status	1,405	-10,873	-668	-14,114	-760	-2,965
Percentage	110%	92%	88%	75%	74%	89%

PARISH PATTERN

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE . . .

Even with the bad weather we have had in the month of Dec. everyone seemed to get their jobs done and get here on time. So lots of thanks to so many people who braved very cold weather, including snow and ice. Even Christmas Eve proved to be a little challenging, but what a wonderful sight to see so many people out for the early candle-light service. Thanks to all who helped to get everything set up. The luminaries were very inviting as we drove up the drive - thanks to **Reuben** and **Bill Johnson** who spent several hours in the cold setting them up. Thanks to all who donated Poinsettias for the sanctuary and to **Kit & Jim Reif** for setting them up. And going back a couple weeks to those that decorated the church, we say thanks. Now it is a new year and so many things are on the calendar. Bible Study on Tues. night is attended by quite a few and growing each week. The Youth group is very involved with all sorts of activities. Please help them earn money to go to Youth Quake in March by ordering pizza, bread or cookies from them. This coming Sunday, Jan. 11 starts the Healthy Congregation Class. Those are just a few things that are going on in the coming year that are open to all. Thanks to all that are leading or taking an active part in all the things going on at All Saints, new and old. You are all greatly appreciated!

We welcomed six new members into our congregation in Dec. and we have about five more households who have expressed interest in All Saints. Every Sun. we have had visitors and they are coming back. If you see a new face, go say hello and introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. We are growing! What wonderful news.

See you next month-----The Church Mouse!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elmer Montgomery, Mollie Krecklow, David Klink, Lorraine Buenik & her caregivers **Carla (Ken & Kathleen) Combs, Mary Eakle, Barbara Matthews, Deb Curtis,** Don Dummer, Ann Grabowski, Francis Goreth (John Goreth's mother), Virgil Eads (father-in-law of Julie Eads), Betty Niehaus, Trevor Penn, Edith Provencher, Darie Olsen (Al & Gloria Olsen's daughter-in-law), Marilyn Schroeder, Bill Berglund (Lois Lapp's brother), Roger Reimer, Dessie Whitlow, Pat Pederson, Kathleen Kuss and Julie Flesner.

We rejoice with **Marilyn Williams** on her successful back surgery and pray for her continued recovery.

We pray also for those serving in the military, especially **Steve Huber, Alex Schmidt, Amber Dach,** Jacob Houston, Jayme Wilcox, Matt Schumacher, Gregory Peterson, Matt Cowan and Rob Irving.

*Christian Sympathy to **Bill & Bev Nelson** on the death of Bill's father, Ken Nelson, in late November. A memorial fund has been set up in Ken's name here at All Saints. Anyone wishing to make a donation, be sure to note that it is for the Ken Nelson Memorial Fund.*

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

12-8-08: Robert Hay (died 12-3-08)

12-18-08: Javian David Dach-Henson (died 12-13-08)

SPOKESMAN STAFF: Editor—*Carolyn Niederer*; Parish Coordinator—*Marlene Roberts*; Secretary—*Carol Vander Wyst*
Reporters: *Audrey Adams, Bob Branson, Linda Hank, Kay Johnson, Millie Knodle, Lois Lapp, Anne Morgart, Carolyn Niederer, Pete & Rebecca Raum, Kit Reif, Marlene Roberts, Pastor Scott Schmidt*
Assembly Team: *Martha Cupp, Kay Johnson, Mel & Millie Knodle, Al & Gloria Olsen*

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“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”