



"THE REVEALER" VOLUME: 47 / NUMBER: 1 JANUARY 2024

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

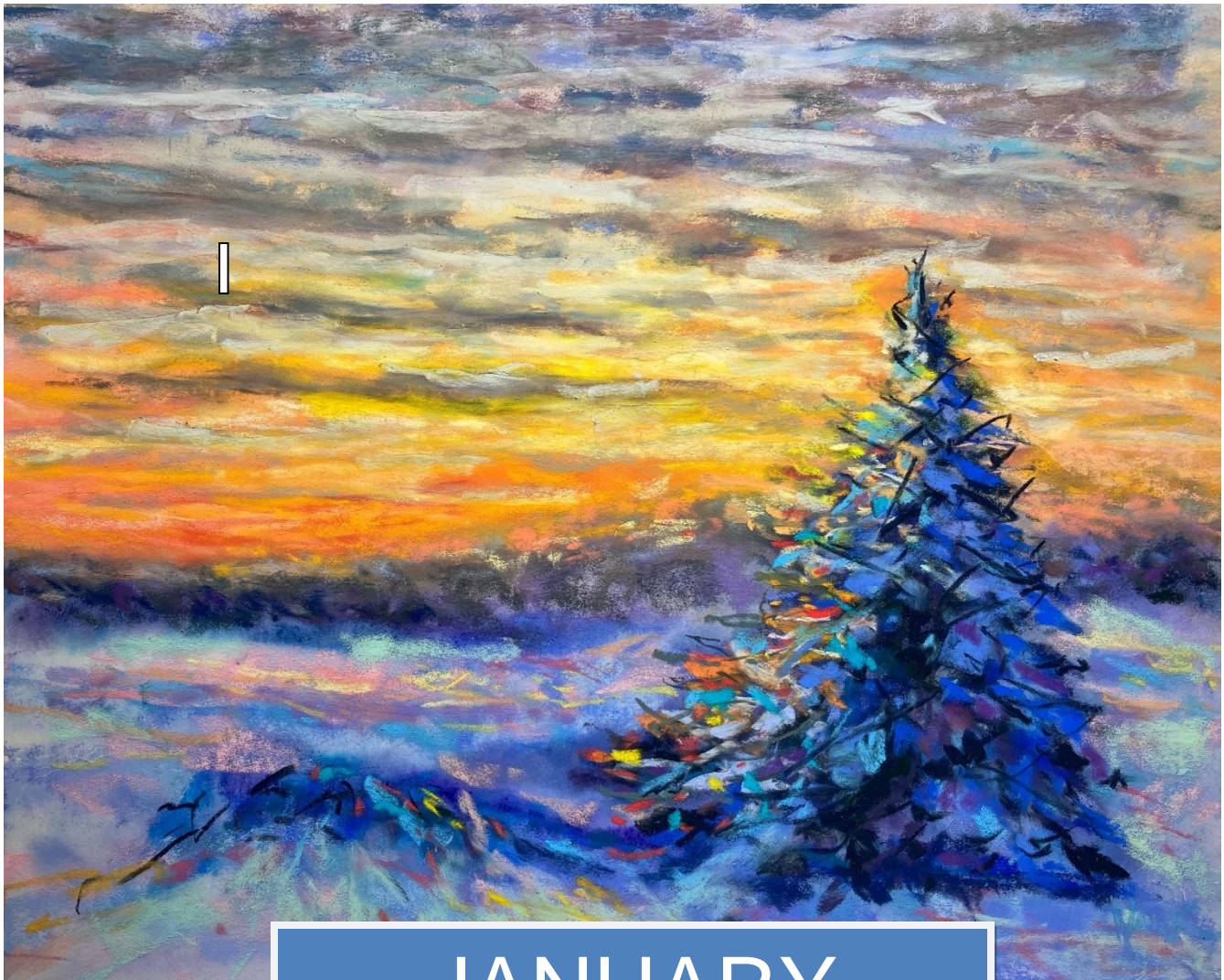
Rev. Jas A. Mortenson, Pastor

9131 South Howell Avenue Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154-4425

Phone (414) 762-5111 www.allsaintsoakcreek.org



We, a diverse Christian family, faithful in word and sacrament strive to share in God's unconditional love through prayer, worship, and outreach.



JANUARY

Saturday: 5:00 pm Liturgy I
Sunday: 8:45 am SCS
9:00 am Pericope
10:00 am ELW
Wednesday: 7:00 pm Liturgy II

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY – FRIDAY
9:00am – 5:00pm
SATURDAY
11:00 – 7:00



- 1-1 Mark Howard, Valerie Fogarty
- 1-2 Kelly Schwartz
- 1-3 Rorrie Lang
- 1-7 Joni McDonald
- 1-8 Leanne Buttke, Wally Hogan,
Denise Schmid
- 1-9 Howard MacMillan
- 1-11 Jodi Heine, Bert Ugrotzi
- 1-13 Diane Hogan
- 1-14 Wendy Osse
- 1-15 Patrick Hochevar
- 1-16 Jason Koenig
- 1-17 Sherri Schroeder
- 1-19 Kay Thein
- 1-20 Paul Turlais
- 1-21 Benjamin Kawczynski, Lori Rathmann
Julie Wishall
- 1-22 Penelope Martinez
- 1-24 Elaine Kuehn
- 1-26 Karen Kuktowski
- 1-27 Keaton Atwood
- 1-28 Sydney LaFond,
Jeffrey Runge, Rick Wettengel
- 1-31 Karol Docter

- 1-1 Cheri & Keith Saylor
- 1-4 Peggy & Richard Rudolph-Lisle
- 1-6 James & Patti Sprague
- 1-17 Kelly and Joseph Schwartz
- 1-20 Pat and Kenneth Bruss-Horswill



COVER ART

**“Blue & Gold” –
Original pastel painting
by Kinga E. Vnuk**



Do you have an address, email, phone number or status change?
Please contact the church office to report any changes to the records.
This helps ensure our files stay current. THANK YOU

Comment Article: The Year ahead.



Oprah Winfrey said, “We can’t become what we “need to be” or “want to be” by remaining what we are.”

To be able to fully embrace the New Year, we need to resolve any remaining issues from the past.

Why carry them with us into the future?

We cannot be truly happy if we hang on to anything that makes us sad. Lord knows, sometimes we carry a lot of stuff with us into each and every NEW YEAR. Maybe it’s time to stop that...and to stop it now!

It is always a good thing to set aside some quiet time. Reviewing the past year is a good thing. Starting with last January and moving forward, month by month, without struggling to remember everything. Try not to judge or to dwell too long on any given situation. It is important to accept what has happened and to forgive if need be...that includes forgiving yourself...

There is nothing we can do to change anything that has already happened, so drop all those “regrets” and “what ifs.”

Acceptance of the past helps us to move on, to move forward...and to hopefully allow ourselves to create the future that we desire.

Focus on where you want to go, rather than on where you have been.

Stop being so hard on yourself, and on others...

We are not perfect, and we get that. We make mistakes, lots of them, we are human.

As you make your review of 2023, be aware of anyone you feel may have hurt you or you may have hurt.

Again, it happens.

If you haven’t forgiven them or forgiven yourself, now is the time to do it. No one really wants to carry garbage into the coming NEW YEAR. Why would we?

Often, we cannot forgive what was done, but we can always forgive the person who did it. We all have good days and bad days... And we all step on each other’s nerves...sometimes, their last nerve...

If you don’t forgive, you will always remain connected to the situation, which will drain you energetically and overshadow future interactions.

Tell me you want “that to happen.”

Tell me you want someone to live rent-free in your head.

The tough things in life often open our eyes to the good things that we were not paying attention to, forgive now, and free yourself to fully enjoy the coming year!

I know it is not easy. It is difficult stuff. But it is important stuff. We have been carrying all kinds of garbage for way too many years. Stuff that is unnecessary. There is something to be said, for “letting go” and “letting God.”

Remember, “What’s broken can be fixed or mended, what hurts can be healed, and no matter how dark it gets, the sun is going to rise again.”

Your present situation is not your final destination.

My wish, my prayer for you, is that you have the best 2024 possible.

Blessings...

See you in worship!

Three liturgies a week, Saturday at 5, Sundays at 10 and Wednesdays at 7.

Come and join us.

The text "Happy New Year" is written in a large, elegant, cursive font with a gold, glittery texture. The letters are surrounded by numerous small, red, star-shaped confetti and spiral decorations, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

Lord, thank you for another year of life and all that you provided for us last year. We lay before you all the disappointments and unfinished work, and we ask for your mercy, peace, and joy as we look to the year ahead. May we delight in the gift of your presence as we discern the journey you have for us in this new year.

Help us to notice our neighbors more this year. May we learn the names of those who live next door to us, the people who serve us coffee and gas each week, and the families we run into at the park or as we walk our animal companions. Remind us to be a source of blessing, even in the most ordinary and simple ways, as we learn to abide in your love and extend it to our neighbors.

Please bring to mind those in our lives who are suffering and help us to be faithful in prayer and service to them. We also ask that you strengthen your servants, scattered around the world, to be the hands and feet of Jesus—especially in places where war, violence, famine, and sickness are devastating families and communities.

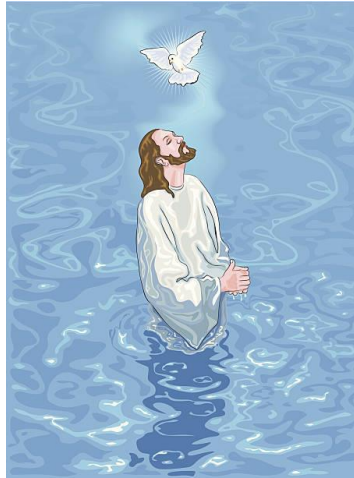
Finally Gracious God, we ask that you walk with us throughout this the entire year 2024, be close to us and to all those we hold dear.

Be with those who do not know how to call upon you and those who have lost their faith. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, we pray for your blessings upon all those who call upon you.

In Jesus' name, we boldly pray.

Amen.

The Baptism of Our Lord (Sunday, January 7th, 2024)



The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, or “Theophany,” (What’s a theophany?) is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptizer. Have you looked up the word theophany yet? You should!

Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the wedding at Cana.

Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany.

It is celebrated in the Catholic Church as well as the Anglican and Lutheran Churches on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6).

Liturgics takes over. Being a “liturgical church” dictates when this date will be celebrated.

The Epiphany of Our Lord is obviously an immovable date. It is ALWAYS January 6th.

The Baptism of Our Lord is celebrated on the first SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY.

That means for us, Saturday night is the EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD and Sunday morning, is the celebration of the BAPTISM OF OUR LORD!

We love our “Liturgy Committee!” Thanks guys, for making the changes happen!



Church Council Nomination Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Nominated by: _____

Self-Nominated (please circle): YES NO

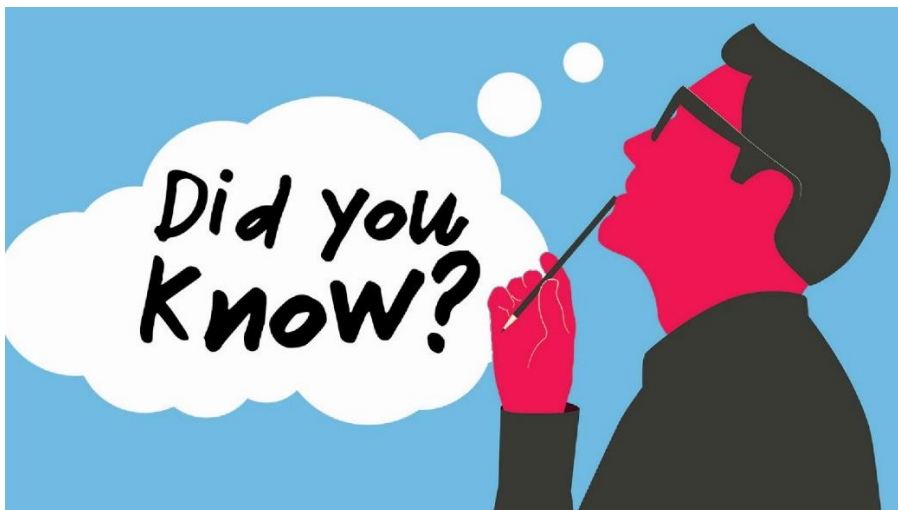
The church council has four openings...and really truly does need your help.

The Church has eight standing committees: Christian Education, Evangelism, Finance, Liturgy, Property, Stewardship, World Concerns, Youth.

If interested: please talk to a current church council member. Or contact our church council president: Helen Haworth.

Did You Know?

- The concept in the Early Christian Writings that describes and defines what it means to be “a servant” before Christ is the word **stewardship**.
- How we use our resources is the subject of economics, and in a biblical sense it is the chief concern of stewardship.
- The English word **economics** and **economy** come from the Greek word **oikonomia**, which is made up of two parts: **oikos**, the word for “house” or “household,” and **nomos**, the word for “law.”
- So, **oikos** and **nomos** together literally mean “house law.”
- **Oikonomia** is transliterated into English as “economy.”
- The English word that translates—rather than transliterates—the word **oikonomia** is the English word **stewardship**.
- **Oikonomia** is transliterated into English as “economy.” The English word that translates—rather than transliterates—the word **oikonomia** is the English word **stewardship**.
- Fundamentally, stewardship is about exercising our God-given dominion over His creation, reflecting the image of our creator God in His care, responsibility, maintenance, protection, and beautification of His creation.



Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night is a Christian holiday, celebrated on January 5.

It marks the twelfth and final night of the Christmas season and the coming of Epiphany.

Contrary to popular belief, Christmas is not just December 25.

I really truly laughed, when I heard the report in Milwaukee on the NEWS, that your trees should be placed curbside on December 26th for pick up. They should not be in a bag. No ornaments should be left on them. The tree pick up was controversial this year to begin with. Now they want to dictate when the end of the Season of Christmas is...I think not!

December 25th is only the first day of Christmas and it includes the eleven days that follow. 11 days, city of Milwaukee, not one!

The Twelve Days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day (December 25) and end on Epiphany (January 6).

During the Middle Ages, Christmas was a time of continuous feasting and merriment, which climaxed on the Twelfth Night.

The days and nights are counted separately.

Therefore, the height of celebration became the night before, or eve, of Epiphany.

The twelve-day count actually begins with the night of December 25, the "first night."

The day of December 26 is the "first day," the night of December 26 is the "second night," and so on.

The Twelfth Night is the night before Epiphany, and the twelfth day is Epiphany itself.





Christian Education

The next Chris Ed Committee Meeting will be on Sunday, January 14th at 11:10 a.m. All are welcome!

Sunday School –All children ages 4 through 6th grade are welcome. Kids can join us at any time throughout the school year.

On December 3rd, the Sunday School kids supported our church by participating in Santa in a Shoebox, sponsored by the World Concerns Committee. A total of 10 shoeboxes were donated and wrapped by the kids that day.

From November 26th to December 10th the Sunday School kids supported the ELCA's Good Gifts Program by collecting donations at all services to gift animals to those in need. The kids raised \$1,610 through this mission project which resulted in 50 animals being gifted. This included Chicks, Honeybees, Piglets, Goats, and a Cow. Way to go kids! A special thank you to those from the congregation who donated.



Hopefully you were able to attend Sunday Services on December 17th. If not, check it out on the Church's Facebook page for a replay. The Sunday School kids sang Hark the Herald Angels Sing (with hand motions) as well as Away in a Manger. Additionally, the older Sunday School Class (Kaitlyn Roslawski and Sydney LaFond) put on a skit titled "Where is Baby Jesus?." A special thanks to all parents for their help working with their children to ensure they were prepared for the service. We couldn't have done it without everyone's help!

As you can expect, there will be no Sunday School on New Year's Eve. Classes will resume on January 7th.

Pericope - If you listen to announcements before each service, you will hear a reminder about Pericope. Come join others on Sunday mornings at 9am in the Church Kitchen to discuss the proper lessons of the day.

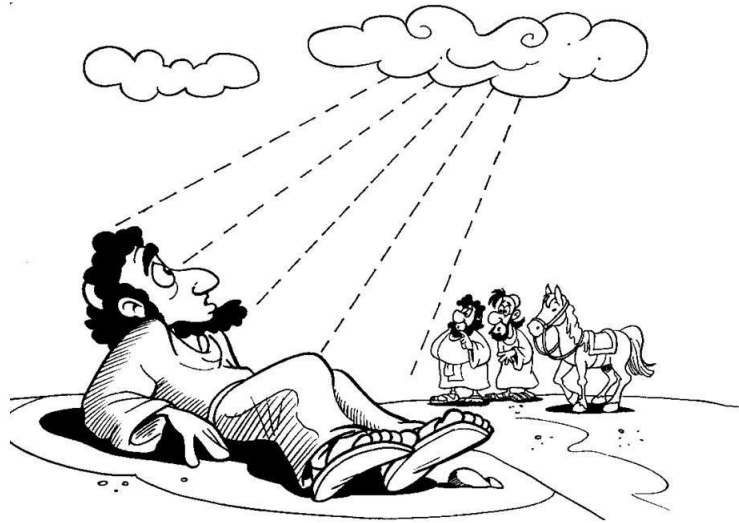
Confirmation – Thanks to all the confirmands and their families who braved the cold and joined in Caroling on December 14th. Please be sure to remember to log those service hours!

Lastly - The Christian Education committee partnered with the Evangelism Committee to collect Hats, Gloves, and other items to help keep Elementary School Children (ages Kindergarten – 5th grade) warm this winter. A total of 12 Hats, 24 Mittens/Gloves, 6 Scarves and 3 Ear Covers were donated for people of all ages.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue LaFond
moremail4sue@yahoo.com
414-897-6354 (cell/text)



Council Meeting – Monday, January 15th at 6:30 pm
Check the Calendar for the dates and times
of the various Committee Meeting



The Conversion of St. Paul (January 25th)

Paul persecuted Christians under the legal structure of Judaism; as such, he was charged to arrest Jewish Christians, but had no authority over “Gentile Christians.”

I am taking it for granted here, that you know what the word “Gentile” means...

Paul's blindness illustrates Christ's teachings on spiritual blindness.

As long as Paul saw things from his own perspective, he was spiritually blind.

Only by having his earthly vision taken away does Paul become capable of truly seeing Christ in glory and truth.

This action also drives Paul to submit to the Church for baptism.

That Paul was a chosen vessel of God does not mean that he had no free will in the matter.

Rather, it indicates that God had selected Paul, knowing that he would freely accept and be capable of doing the work set before him.



Council Capsules

Council approved the following matters at the November council meeting:

- The council approved a motion to allow Jasmine Schneider to move forward with her Eagle Scout project to build two planter boxes outside of the Reflection Pavilion incorporating the two old All Saints Signs.
- The council approved a motion to welcome new members, Linda Payne, Kathleen Kershaw, Ericka Balisteri, and Tony Balistreri.
- The council approved a motion to have a light meal at the Congregational meeting on February 4th and seek contributions from council members and the congregation.
- The council approved a motion to end the spending moratorium on December 31, 2023.
- The council approved a motion to allow PJ to take Saturday, December 23rd off and close the church office as we will not be having a liturgy on that day (approved by Council in September). We will have two liturgies on December 24th at 10 am and 11 pm and on December 25th at 10 am.
- The council approved PJ's request to write a special liturgy and use different lessons for the Pet Blessing on January 17th.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Kleppek,
Church Council Secretary



*Our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy is extended
to Dick Kahle and family
on the death of His Wife, Pam.
Blessed are those who die in the Lord*

The Proposed 2024 ELCA Constitution...

There has been a committee of people in the background, silently and quietly working for well over a year.

They have read our church's present constitution which dates back to the year 2008.

Originally, they looked at proposed changes to the constitution going back to the year 2016. Then, the pandemic happened. The constitution seemed somehow less important.

Some will remember there was a time when only ten individuals could be in the building at a time. Individuals were masked. People were socially distancing themselves.

Then, the church-at-large came out with a 2019 Proposed Constitution for Congregational Use. We looked at that version and worked on it.

Before us, is the newest version of the ELCA Proposed Constitution for Congregational Use.

If you see the asterisk * - those are sections that cannot be changed or altered in any way.

We as a church body have submitted two previous versions to the Synod Office for their approval prior to bringing it to the congregation.

The 2024 Proposed Constitution as we have it, has met with their approval. Should it be accepted at the Annual Meeting by the All Saints Family, it will become the guiding force of this congregation leading us into the future.

It will be especially important when it comes time to call the fourth pastor to congregational ministry.

The guidelines as set forth in the constitution will be strictly adhered to...

In 2025 there are some expected changes that will be made to the Constitution by the ELCA meeting in convention. If we pass the 2024 version, those changes will become automatic...without having to bring them before the congregation again.

We need to do this. We need to do this NOW!








Evangelism Committee

We're looking for
members!



Meetings held the 2nd Sunday
of every month at 11:10am.



The Evangelism Committee is looking for fun and engaging ideas to increase our attendance and grow our membership. If you have any ideas, please consider joining our committee or reaching out to Brittany Czarny (Brittany.czarny@outlook.com) directly.

Evangelism will be looking for a new Committee Chair for 2024 – please reach out if you're interested or have any questions!

Blessing - of the - ANIMALS



Wednesday, January 24th 7:00PM

All Saints will be transformed into a zoo for a night with our faithful companions at our side for a night of worship. We never know what we will get and how many!

Every year it is different.

So, what if someone is loud? So, what if someone has an accident? It's no biggie! Every year we get through it. It is about THEM; it is not about US! Plan on joining us, it's been a zoo here before, you know?



Sunday, February 4th, 2024

To vote: you must have given a recorded offering in your name AND you have had to receive the Sacrament at least once during the previous year. RECEIVED IT, not just written a name on a communion card. You had to be here, and physically been fed at the altar!

We have FOUR POSITIONS OPEN on the church council that NEED to be filled.

We have a new proposed CONSTITUTION for ELCA congregations that must be approved.

We have reports from the various committees of YOUR CHURCH.

We need a quorum of members to conduct business.

We have a new proposed BUDGET for the YEAR 2024 that needs to be approved.

We will try our best to have the ANNUAL REPORTS available as soon as possible so that you will have the opportunity to go over them prior to the meeting.

We have no way of knowing what the weather will be like on that particular Sunday, but we do know that you are needed, that this is YOUR CHURCH, and the work of the CHURCH must be continued.

SAVE THE DATE!

We really appreciate and are thankful for all those who have served All Saints over the years and made this place the "special place" that it truly is.

See YOU at the MEETING!

LOW MASS

A mass that is recited without singing by the celebrant, without a lay liturgist or choir assisting the celebrant, and without the use of incense. The first known use of the expression was in 1531, during the Reformation of the Church.

No music. Liturgy, proper lessons for the day, appropriate prayers, Eucharistic celebration, and final blessings of the faithful.

It is historic in the church. The LOW MASS is still in use to this very day. Some people like it, some do not.

September 8th, 2023 was the date that Charlie Rudolph stopped into the church to let us know that his mother was hospitalized, and she had indeed suffered a stroke. Ischemic strokes are the most common of all strokes and occur in 87 % of all patients.

We are extremely thankful to Kinga Vnuk who immediately stepped up and offered to fill in for Peggy until the end of the year. Three liturgies a week tied up not only Kinga but also her family. We are so grateful for her stepping up...and her helping out. 2023 is behind us.

It is now 2024. Peggy is still recovering. And the Clavinova (Electronic Keyboard) has been silenced.

Kinga has offered to play on January 13th for the celebration of Holy Baptism. But the rest of January will be without music. Prayers for Miss Peggy continue.



We just wanted to keep you in our loop!



**The Staff of All Saints
Would like to thank you.
For all the cards and kind remembrances!
Bless You!**



**Thanks
For all that you do
To
Support 12 – Step Programs!
Tom P.
A Gambler's Anonymous Member
For 20 years!**



It doesn't happen often...

But when it does...

A young man sought our help. He needed food. Said he was desperate. Of course, we have food. Of course, we could help, why wouldn't we? In the course of our conversation, he said he had not eaten in three days. He made sure his children had something to eat, so he refrained. He kept saying that he wasn't concerned for himself, but for his children. They were young. They were counting on him. He said he struck out. Place after place in Oak Creek turned him away, empty.

I suggested something for him first. A bottle of water, a can of SpaghettiOs, he wanted to get back to his children. We microwaved a bowl of SpaghettiOs anyway, I insisted, tears filled his eyes and ran down his cheeks, and he ate like there was no tomorrow. The bowl was emptied. I asked if he could eat another bowl. He said, "NO" he would rather give it to his children. He drank the bottle of water practically in one gulp.

He said, through his tears, no one would help him...no one.

He sobbed and cried the entire time he was here...

When I wheeled out a grocery cart and said, "Here take this." His hands went to his head, his fingers through his hair, the tears continued to flow, and through the tears, he said why are you helping me and my children...

And I said because you asked for help...

Kinga will tell you the same thing. Some people come and are desperate for food. There are those truly in need. You can tell who needs food...I mean NEED IT. It is people like them, why we have a food pantry at All Saints.

The Season of Epiphany

(The third season of the church year!)

What were the previous two seasons named?

Epiphany, (from Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning “manifestation”), is a Christian holiday commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee.

Epiphany is one of the three principal and oldest festival days of the Christian church (the other two are Easter and Christmas).

Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and other Western churches observe the feast on January 6, while some Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Epiphany on January 19, since their Christmas Eve falls on January 6.

The festival originated in the Eastern church, where it at first included a commemoration of Christ’s birth. So originally, in the Eastern part of Christendom, Christmas-Epiphany was one celebration.

In Rome, by 354 Christ’s birth was being celebrated on December 25 (Christmas), and later in the 4th century, the church in Rome began celebrating Epiphany on January 6. So, it was the Roman Church – the Western church that separated the two church celebrations.

In the Western church, the festival primarily commemorates the visit by the Magi to the infant Jesus, which is seen as evidence that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, came also for the salvation of Gentiles.

In the East, it primarily commemorates the baptism of Jesus and celebrates the revelation that the incarnate Christ was both fully God and fully man.

In the West, the evening preceding Epiphany is called Twelfth Night.

The time between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Epiphany is celebrated with special pastries in many countries, and children often receive small gifts in their shoes in honor of the Magi’s gifts to the infant Jesus.

The holiday also has several traditions involving water as a reflection of Jesus’ baptism, including the blessing of houses with holy water.



Finance Committee

GIVING STATEMENTS



For tax purposes, if you have a record of monetary giving to All Saints, you will receive a tax statement at the end of January. If there's something on your tax statement that doesn't appear correct, please either reach out to Sue McIntosh (sjmac53189@gmnil.com) or Barbara Schrubey (bschrubey@yahoo.com, phone 414-421-4134).

Please **DO NOT CALL** the church office. They will not be able to help you. Thanks...

GIFT CARDS



So far through November we've made over \$3,400 in gift card profit for our church. We will have December's figures shortly, but it seemed that those gift cards were flying out of inventory.

Thanks to all who used gift cards in December for gifting. If you came to buy gift cards and we were out of an item, we're sorry - we try to keep things in inventory - but we were busy.

Hopefully 2024 will be another great year for gift card sales. If you have any questions on how gift cards help out YOUR church, stop by the gift card table either before or after each liturgy.

We're always happy to answer any questions you might have. Thanks...

GIVING ENVELOPES



Again, member envelopes will NOT be handed out in 2024. If you're one of our members who choose to contribute to church using envelopes, and you need another supply of envelopes, please mark your name (along with your member number) on the bulletin board leading into the Fellowship Hall. You will receive a box of envelopes within a week to 10 days. When you receive your new box of envelopes, notice that there are NO dates on the envelopes. That means you can use up ALL the envelopes in your box.

Thank you,
Barb Schrubey
Finance Committee member



2024 DONATION CHART

Our 2024 Donation Chart for flowers, candles and bulletins is now posted on the bulletin board in the ASLC Informative Board. Bulletin cost is \$15; Memorial/Honor Candle is \$8. Flowers need to be ordered on your own and need to be on the Sanctuary Altar before 5:00 pm on Saturday evening. Please help out All Saints by donating those items. Your help is greatly appreciated! God bless you!

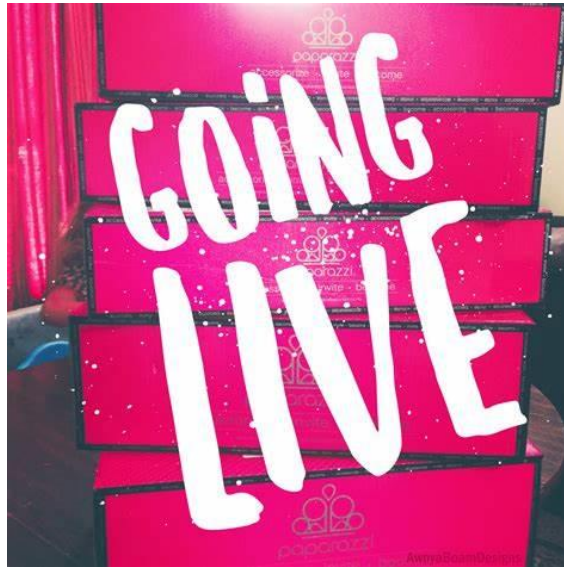


Swap & Helping Hands Board

Are you looking for a used item of some kind or have something that is too good to toss and would like to pass on to someone else? Or do you have a need for some helping hands or would like to offer your services if needed??? Give me your "Needs" and/or "Give aways" and it will be listed in the "Revealer" every month. Do not call the church office.

I, Margaret Coonan, will be organizing these services. No monies will be exchanged.

I can be reached at 414-764-3197. GIVE AWAY: Ping Pong Table (good condition, with cover, and accessories)



Face Book Live Streaming!

First off, thanks to Bob Payne for beginning the Live Streaming at All Saints and for continuing it through the Pandemic. Thanks, Bob! Now, we have to “Thank” Dale Hochevar who has picked up, where Bob left off! Dale is now doing the scheduling, thanks, Dale! It is appreciated!

Live Streaming for January – 2024:

January 7th – Dennis Schneider

January 14th – Brian Rathmann (Welcome Brian to our team!)

January 17th – Dale Hochevar (For your viewing enjoyment! The PET BLESSING!)

January 21st – Daniel Payne

January 28th – Judy Wolter

Bless you guys and thank you for doing this! We constantly hear from people how much it is appreciated. Individuals even write to the church, thanking us for continuing it. People who are homebound love it! People who are vacationing love it! Even non-members are checking it out...as well as those who are hospitalized. You bring ALL THE SAINTS to them, wherever they are! You are making a difference in the lives of people.

Thank you for your time and for stepping up!

If you might be interested in helping out or finding out more about our live streaming on Sunday mornings, please, reach out to Dale Hochevar. We can't wait for the Pet Blessing!



Liturgy Committee -

Greetings and Happy New Year!

We hope that you have had a wonderful and Merry Christmas!

Many thanks to the following congregation members who helped to put up and decorate the tree in the sanctuary, as well as helping to decorate the narthex for Advent and Christmas:

David Speaks
Scott Woiak
Tim Jackalone
Margaret Coonan
Robin Schmidt
Mary Zahn
Lisa Kleppek
Kay, Dan, and Clare Thein

When you see them, be sure to thank them!!

Special thanks are needed for the members of this committee: Lisa, Mary, Margaret, Joy, and Mary (advisory role). Members of the Communion Team; Elaine, Barb, Brittany, Judy, Helen, T.J.
Thank you for all you do!

Jayne Murnane
Liturgy Committee Chair



It's not easy to preach...

As individuals we are trying hard not to “snicker” or to “laugh out loud” quite literally...

Meanwhile, the preacher, stoically sticks to the message at hand.

It is the 3rd Sunday in Advent. It is also a Wednesday night.

It was one of “those nights...”

When “Moriah Joy” decided to “grace us” with “her presence.”

Thank God the cameras were not rolling for FACEBOOK LIVE!

I was getting a weird vibe off of people, they were looking quizzically and smiling...
Paying attention to the words, kind of...

It wasn't a funny sermon...not the least bit confusing...

There, lying “mid aisle” is Moriah Joy...

SNORING as **LOUD** as she can **MUSTER**.

It is the church dog...at her finest!

Bored with the sermon.

Bored with the happenings around her.

All tuckered out!

And giving everyone a reason to chuckle, except for the preacher!

ONLY AT ALL SAINTS!



**The Annual Blessing of Our Animal Companions...
(Also Known as)
The Celebration of St. Anthony, Abbot.**

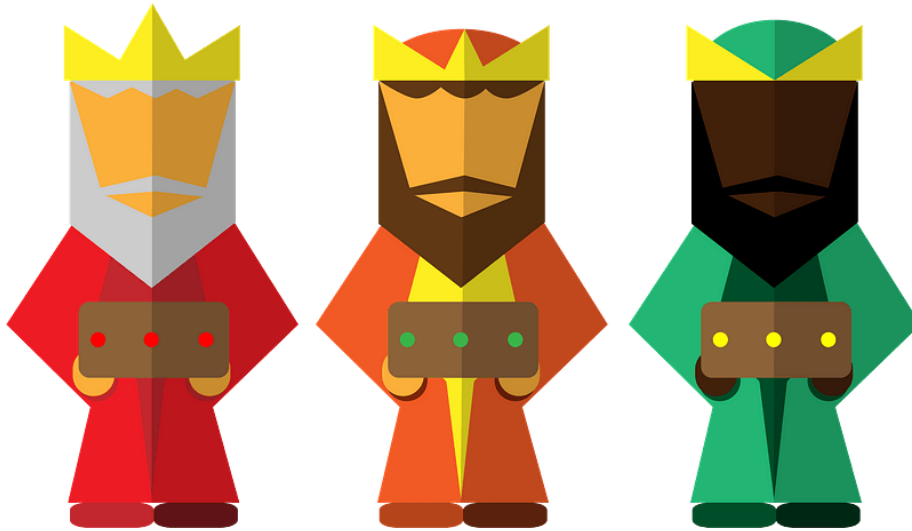
**Wednesday
January 17th
7:00 P.M.**

This year, we will be doing a special liturgy, written just for the day...and just so you know, you do not have to have an animal companion to come and worship with us. Yeah, it's a zoo here, but when is it not? Come on, this is All Saints, we are never quite sure what will happen and go on.

Were you at the recent liturgy where PJ pulled a baby doll out of the pulpit? Where did that come from? What was it doing there? You just never know around this place, I tell ya!

Feel free to join us on the 17th, sit back, and see how truly cool it is to worship with your animal companion at your side! It is just all so normal and natural.
ONLY AT ALL SAINTS!

There is always room for you to come and join us! Or watch it LIVE STREAMED!



The Epiphany of Our Lord Also known as, Three Kings Day!

The date is a “fixed date” meaning that it does not change. The days of the week will change from year to year. This year, the actual date falls on a Saturday! Yay! That weekend will gather together to remember when the “Gentiles” first came to pay homage to the baby Jesus.

Can you name the three kings? They are traditionally named: Casper (or Gasper,) Balthasar, and Melchior. Would you have gotten that correct?

The biblical Magi, also known as the Three Wise Men, Three Kings, and the Three Magi, were distinguished foreign visitors in the Gospel of Matthew...and in the early Christian tradition.

They are said to have visited Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They are often portrayed as Kings, and their exact number is not specified in the Biblical account. It says “some” not “three.” The number comes from the three distinct gifts. Scholars have speculated that they came from Persia, Arabia, or perhaps even from India. They represent the “revealing” of Jesus to the entire world.



So many people to pray for, and we would love it, if you would join us in prayer.

Lynn Speaks
Church Kocourek
Marlene Anderson
Diane Salewski
Rita Cieszynski
Peggy Rudolph-Lisle
Rob Kawczynski
Carolyn Hughes
John Gruber
Joel Raison
Jeff LaFond
Randy Meier
Robin Schmitt
Derk Vander Molen

Jerry Pavlik
Dave Stecker
Rita St. Louis
Ava Rivas
Karen Vander Molen
Diane Hogan
Heike Warner
Asher Ray
Brian & Pat St. Louis
Debbie Maley
Katie Ruka
Benny Brown
Pat Loso

For Dick Kahle, on the death of Pam...
Kenadee, granddaughter of Rob & Pam Kawczynski
Corby and Mike Erickson, friends of Leanne Buttke
Parents of Lisa Kleppek and the parents of Robin Schmitt
The sister of Val Fogarty
Debbie and John Krajnak
Bruce, the brother of Howard MacMillan
Sharon Brindle, the sister of Joni McDonald
The cousin of Rick Ruhl
The fathers of Pam Kawczynski, Pam Kahle, Suz Pitts, and Jodi Heine
For the niece of Mike and Sue McIntosh
For all those addicted and still suffering...
And not to be forgotten, for our police officers, military members, firefighters, paramedics, and all first responders...

And prayers for you, who are reading this even now...we are praying for you, too!



HARLEY TREE UPDATE

Those adorable Labrador Retrievers may start out small, but wait, just wait!

Our 138-pound, Harley started just like this...and then, you turn around...

Another Harley Tree has gone down in the annals of All Saints' history.

Any time we can do something kind to take care of others (animals included) in need, we consider it highly successful. To date, almost \$900 has been generously donated to help benefit Second Hand Purrs (a cat shelter) and HAWS (a dog shelter) along with all the toys, food, beds, etc.

To those who helped make this year's Harley Tree a success, give yourself a pat on the back. Great job...

Moriah, Pj, Nina Slowik, Barbara Schrubey
For The Animals

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you to our church members who donated to our Food Pantry this month:



- Elaine Kuehn

WISH LIST ALA SARA!

Sorry, if I sound like a “broken record” ... I guess you need to be a little bit older to understand that phrase! But I need some of the same things over and over again... it's like we can never have enough of the big 33-gallon black garbage bags...and you would not believe how many rolls of paper towels we are constantly going through...

Anything you can do helps out! Everything is always appreciated...seriously!

My wish list saves the church money...they are items we do not have to go out and purchase...and some people are REALLY GOOD at watching those sales!



Yep, this is what I need...and this too!



Seriously, you guys
Make my day! Bless you!



**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**
YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

(We always have so much to be grateful for...we really, truly do!)

- For all those who helped out in any way, with our Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Sale. Thank you!
- For our fantastic LITURGY TEAMS and for their FLOURISH OF ACTIVITY during the Advent/Christmas Seasons...
- For all who supported our Sunday School Children with the “ELCA GOOD GIFTS PROGRAM!” (Over \$1800.00 was raised in 3 weeks’ time!)
- The Holy Harley Tree continues our outreach to animals awaiting their “fur-ever” homes...Bless you!
- The Santa in a Shoebox response was more than amazing, more than 150 presents to be given away to persons unknown...
- Did you hear about our SWEET SUNDAY QUILTERS giving out their wares at the VA? Nursing Homes? And to all kinds of Care Facilities?
- What about all those COOKIE BAKERS who made the Christmas Bazaar and COOKIE Sale such a tremendous event...almost \$10,000...
- Thank you to Santa and his “Chief Elf” for their appearances again...
- And what about those SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN and their program...
- What about toys, hats, mittens, and scarves?
- Now let’s talk about the FOOD PANTRY and all the people we feed on a regular and ongoing basis!
- Then there are all the poinsettias that grace our altar area...
- And those who give flowers weekly to church...
- The decorations outside the church entrance...
- The wreaths (plural)...
- And the newly painted sign greeting people as they come into the building...
- Those individuals on Communion set up and clean up were amazing...especially with the extra liturgies...
- Then there was “the special music” ... the cello and the violin...
- The readers, the ushers, the greeters, the communion assistants...
- The creation of our Advent Wreath...the Advent Coin boxes...
- It all keeps happening...and we are PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

King delivered a 17-minute speech, later known as "I Have a Dream". In the speech's most famous passage – in which he departed from his prepared text, possibly at the prompting of Mahalia Jackson, who shouted behind him, "Tell them about the dream!" – King said:

"I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today."



World Concerns

We did our final wrapping for SANTA IN A SHOE BOX on December 13th, 2023. We had OVER 150 SHOE BOXES filled with gifts for “others.” Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. Thanks too, to my committee, “YOU ROCK!” By the end of November, we had handed out more than 153 bags of food for hungry individuals...that’s almost a bag every other day, of every week, and every month, throughout the year.

We would like to THANK EVERYONE who has so generously given, thinking of the less fortunate. We receive NO FOOD GOODS from outside sources. It is OUR CONGREGATION feeding people all year round. Your donations are greatly appreciated ALWAYS!

Just a heads up: Our next BLOOD DRIVE will be February 13, 2024, from 2:00 – 7:00 P.M. Announcements will begin soon.

Blessings...

Elaine Kleinhans

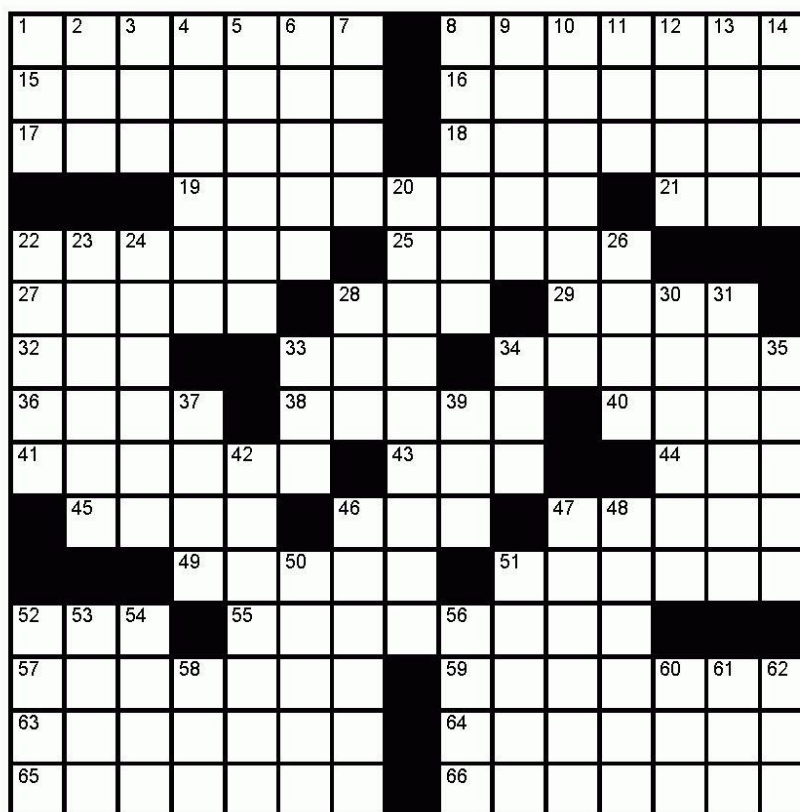
World Concerns, Chair

**THANK
YOU**

...Thank you to Kathy Mack, who did the work on a Thrivent Action Team Box for our Santa In A Shoe Box Project. Thanks to Mary Zahn who worked on arranging a Thrivent Action Team Box for the Holy Harley Tree. Thank you to Greg and Kathy Bauman who arranged for a Thrivent Action Team Box for the Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Sale. Thrivent provides \$250.00 in seed money for each event. Are you a Thrivent member? (If so, please let the church office know!) Mary Jo and Randy Meier also do Thrivent Action Team Boxes for the Fall and Spring Craft Fairs. Thanks so much for all that you do to keep our various fundraisers and special projects going! In the words of Elaine Kleinhans, “You guys, ROCK!”

Across

1. Choice of colors
 8. Charlotte hoopsters
 15. Extreme pains
 16. Native New Yorkers
 17. Fraternity parties
 18. Ankle-to-waist wear
 19. Harpist's progression
 21. F.B.I. worker: Abbr.
 22. Pancho and the Cisco Kid, e.g.
 25. Prepare, in a way, as beans
 27. Like some treated lawns
 28. Launch of 2/20/86
 29. Some deer
 32. Sugar suffix
 33. 1960s-'80s Red Sox great, informally
 34. Locale of seven C. S. Lewis novels
 36. With 38- and 40-Across, grocery purchase ... or what can be found in some other Across answers in this puzzle
 38. See 36-Across
 40. See 36-Across
 41. Milk snakes
 43. Moo
 44. Global financial org.
 45. Facts
 46. No. before or after a colon
 47. Yemen's capital
 49. "You're ___ One, Mr. Grinch"
 51. Coolest, in rap slang
 52. Kwik-E-Mart owner on "The Simpsons"
 55. 1957 Buddy Holly hit
 57. Extreme poverty
 59. "Eat your ___!" (mom's order)
 63. Tropical woe
 64. Fighting words



65. Move quickly (over)

66. Save

Down

1. Nuclear power since 1998: Abbr.
 2. Turn gray, say
 3. Captain's charge
 4. Captivate
 5. Steering system component
 6. Univ. of Maryland athletes
 7. Latin infinitive
 8. "The Wizard of Oz" scarecrow portrayer
 9. "___ by land ..."
 10. Irish exclamation
 11. It might be bummed, for short

12. "___, I do believe I failed you" (opening of a 1998 hit)

13. Aftertaste, e.g.

14. Army NCO

20. Turning gray

22. You might get it coming and going

23. Say 2 + 3 = 6, e.g.

24. Marcos of the Philippines

26. Days of ___

28. Red leader

30. Driver

31. Summation signs

33. Gridiron stats: Abbr.

34. Point just past 11 on a clock: Abbr.

35. Comparable to a pig

37. Greek salad ingredient

39. Long time

42. Castle fortification

46. Hungarian

47. Nancy's pal, in the comics

48. Sour brew

50. Spooky

51. "___ a Letter to My Love" (Simone Signoret film)

52. Some mil. defenses

53. Like some airline travel periods

54. Wrinkly fruit

56. Actor Montand

58. Gangbanger's gun

60. Dander

61. Follower of "harvard."

62. Back-to-school mo.



Letters we receive: Correspondence



Dear PJ,

"When you sow seeds of kindness, you reap a harvest of appreciation."

Thank you for being a blessing!

Thank you and God bless!

Jessica and Dan Miicke



Congratulations

to Savannah Lee Miicke

on Her Baptism.

*May she grow in wisdom and stature
and in favor with God and all humankind.*

All God's Creatures



Dear All Saints Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for collecting donations for HAWS (Humane Animal Welfare Society). What a thoughtful and generous thing to do! We so appreciate your support!
From all of the people and the animals at HAWS –
Thank you and may your 2024 be richly blessed!!
Kindest regards,
Monica Barchus
Administrative Assistant
HAWS
701 Northview Road
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188
Check out our website at www.hawspets.org





From the Kitchen of Saint Ruth

(Mother of PJ)

French Coffee Cake

Ingredients:

- ½ cup shortening
- 1 part butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp soda
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ pint sour cream

Directions:

Cream together the shortening, sugar, and vanilla.

Sift dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture alternate with sour cream.

Spread half batter in greased 9x13 inch pan.

Sprinkle with half of the topping.

Cover with the rest of batter and cover with remaining topping.

Bake for 35 minutes at 350 degrees oven.

Enjoy!



Just for Laughs...

- Reverend Clive Morgan was completing his homily in St John's Church about the dangers of alcohol and the need for moderation and temperance. He announced at the end of the sermon in a loud, clear voice, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' With even greater emphasis he added, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' Finally, he intoned in an extremely serious manner, 'And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.'

The Reverend Morgan then sat down. Jerry, St John's leading chorister stood up and announced with a smile, 'For our closing hymn this Sunday, let us sing together hymn number 109: 'Shall We Gather at the River.'
- One beautiful Sunday morning, Reverend Barnard announces to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...
 A \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes
 A \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes
 And a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour.
 Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'



Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ~ Psalm 100:2

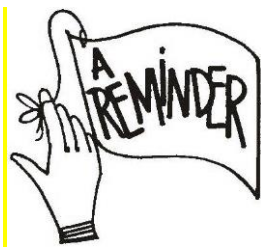
The blue donation's folder is posted on the Bulletin Board. Select your dates for those special occasions or people in your lives and follow the instructions on the inside front cover.

Remember, by donating Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Candles, and Bulletins you help the church budget, and it is a great way to remember those special people and dates in your life. PLEASE PRINT



Donations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Bulletins</u>	<u>Memorial Candle</u>	<u>Honor Candle</u>
January 6 to 12	Open	Templin	Cieszynski	Vnuk
January 13 to 19	Open	Open	Open	Heine
January 20 to 26	Open	Open	Open	Open
Jan 27 to Feb 2	Open	Open	Open	Open



Revealer Articles are due on **Wednesday January 17th by Noon.**

With extending the deadline, to the Wednesday after Council meets - this is a firm deadline for all Revealer Articles. You are encouraged to send them to the church office in advance if possible. Please make sure to have them in on time. Thank you.



Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Numbers you should have at hand:

Rev. Jas A. Mortenson (PJ) Private Line 762-6101 Cell: 414-276-2788

Kinga Vnuk, Administrative Assistant

Office: 414-762-5111

Email:

Email: office@allsaintsoakcreek.org

Church Officers:

Council President	Helen Haworth	414-702-2275
Vice President	Jayne Murnane	414-380-5404
Council Secretary	Lisa Kleppek	414-526-9675
Church Treasurer	Barb Schrubey	414-421-4134
Church Statistician	Kinga Vnuk	414-762-5111
Church Historian	Pat St. Louis	414-294-9419

Committee Structure:

Education	Sue LaFond	414-762-6835
Evangelism	Brittany Czarny	262-639-8325
Finance	Tim Jackalone	414-405-2040
Liturgy	Jayne Murnane	414-380-5404
Property	David Speaks	262-930-0772
Stewardship	Vacant	
World Concerns	Elaine Kleinhans	262-825-0675
Youth	Dennis Schneider	808-255-7391
Church Pianist	Kinga Vnuk	414-483-3144
Church Pianist	Peggy Rudolph Lisle	414-943-3168
Choir Director	Kinga Vnuk	414-483-3144
Funeral Luncheon Coordinator	Helen Haworth	414-762-3733



Find us on
Facebook

All Saints ELCA

Web Page:

<http://allsaintsoakcreek.org>

MONEY COUNTERS TEAMS:

TEAM 1: January 28th, 2024
Paul Salewski, Captain
Tom Coonan
Judy Wolter

TEAM 2: January 7th, 2024
Don Olsen, Captain
Dena Olsen
Elaine Kleinhans

TEAM 3: January 14th, 2024
Brian Rathmann, Captain
Barbara Schrubey, Captain
Lori Rathmann

TEAM 4: January 21st, 2024
Denise Kalski, Captain
Lynn Friedman
Tim Jackalone

SUBSTITUTES:
Kathy Grom, Captain
Jeff Grom
Scott Woiak