

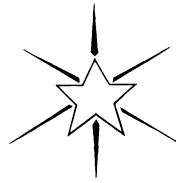
All Saints Lutheran Church • Fitchburg, WI

News From the Journey

December, 2008

All Saints' Music Ministry's Christmas Concert
"O Holy Night"

Sunday, December 21 – 3:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wednesday, December 24

3:00 p.m. – Family Worship
5:00 p.m. – Candlelight Worship

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## News and Notes

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MOPS: A new small group at All Saints is Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS), which meets the second Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m., with childcare provided beginning at 9:15 a.m. The three leaders, Holly Barnish, Ronda Beggs, and Loriann Wunder are planning programs. MOPS is a non-denominational organization that helps mothers with parenting and spiritual growth. If you would like more info, please contact Ronda Beggs, 320-9406, or rondabeggs@sbcglobal.net.

All Saints' Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 18, 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m., sanctuary. Election of Congregational Council officers and Synod Assembly delegates, and a thanksgiving time as we review ministry in the past year.

Support the youth by enjoying a delicious **Spaghetti Dinner** on January 18 following the congregation's annual meeting. The money will help fund youth attending spring Christian youth retreats.

Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on December 28 during Christmas break. Classes will resume on January 4. We will learn about God sending Jesus to us and Jesus' power and love.

Discovering your role in God's eternal plan! *"The Divine Drama"*, February 1, fellowship hall. If you've wanted to read the Bible, intelligently and in depth, this is for you. Pastor Rich and a team will present this second part of a 15-week study on what we believe about . . . Watch for sign-up on January 4, 2009.

Newsletter articles are due the first Monday of each month to Georgia in the church office. Articles are subject to editing due to space availability.

Financial Stewardship Update . . . Thank you for your prayers and financial giving to All Saints! For more info, contact Congregational Council President, Jason Kundinger, 223-0839.

General Fund

November, 2008	2008 Actual	2008 Budget
Year to Date	264,418.12	282,816.00
Avg. Mo.	24,038.01	25,710.55
Avg. Wk.	5,508.71	5,892.00

Building Fund

November, 2008	5,635.00
Year to Date	93,704.00

Prayer Joys and Concerns

We offer healing and prayers of encouragement for those hospitalized and/or now home: Roger Budinger, mission partner, home; Ken Johnson, father of Pastor Rich, home from rehabilitation; Inez Larson, Sylvan Crossings, Fitchburg . . .

Blessings and continued vitality for Lutheran Disaster Relief on their 20th anniversary. We give thanks for their concluding work as part of a federally-funded grant to provide case management services to people affected by Hurricane Katrina. A consortium, of disaster response agencies provided services and resources valued at \$121 million. LDR's share was valued at \$29 million . . .

Resurrection comfort to the family of Jan and Dennis Whitehead, new mission partners, at the loss of Jan's father, Harold Bohlen, November 14 . . .

We pray for wisdom, protection, and courage for our leaders and those working with the financial difficulties. God's peace and power to our newly-elected President and Vice President as they prepare to take office in January

Please pray for a safe homecoming and a steady sense of God's presence for our service personnel near and far. They are Jennifer Anderson (mission partner, stateside), and Dennis Walton (nephew of Patrick and Cherie Godar) . . .

Watch the mail: Year-end financial giving statements will be mailed mid-January. To have your financial giving listed for 2008, contributions should be received in the church office by December 31, 2008, or have a postmark of December 31, 2008 . . . **Annual Reports and new directories** will be mailed together prior to the Annual Meeting.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Richard A. Johnson.....Phone: 276-7729
 Home Phone: 278-0950
 e-mail: pastorrich@allsaints-madison.org
Accompanists.....Ingrid Kundinger, lead pianist;
 Erin Egan, Janet Johnson, Nancy Pokorney
H.S. Youth Sponsors
Kathryn Olszewski.....Children's Ministry Coordinator
Jeanie Sieling.....Small Groups Coordinator
Georgia Wagaman, Secretary.....Phone: 276-7729
 e-mail: georgia@allsaints-madison.org
 (Secretarial Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m./1:00-4:00 p.m., M-R)
Chris Carollo-Zeuner.....Childcare Staff Person
 (Sundays, 8:30-11:45 a.m.)
Dennis Ahnen.....Custodian

Welcome to All Saints . . .



Sunday Morning:

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship
9:40 a.m. Christian Education
10:45 a.m. New Song Worship

Upcoming Worship Themes:

- Dec. 21:** *"Defeating Discouragement. Hope Is Born."*
Luke 1:26-38
- Dec. 24:** *"Born With a Mission."* Luke 2:1-14
- Dec. 28:** *"Preparing for the New Year: Resources and Relationships."* Psalm 1
- Jan. 4:** *"New Hope for a New Year: Beginning."*
Mark 1:1-4
- Jan. 11:** *"Baptized into Hope."* Mark 1:9-12

Sunday Morning Alive!

Adult Learning and Discovery
Sundays – 9:40 a.m. – Fellowship Hall

You are invited for lively discussion and life-long learning about our faith journey in Christ.

- Dec. 21:** Margin: *"The Sovereignty of God."*
- Dec. 28:** Fellowship Time. No Sunday School.
- Jan. 4:** Bible 101: *"Three Ways to Read Your Bible."*
- Jan. 11:** Prayer: *"Three Ways to Pray Today"*



Save The Date!

Coming February 1 . . . Watch for
"The Divine Drama" – Part 2!



Hope Comes

Last winter I had more icicles hanging on our house than I imagined the gutters could handle. They were wonderful in jagged beauty and various sizes. In mid-February the ice seemed more stalwart than ever: long, thick, and sharp as shark teeth.

Then late March came with the sun's higher and closer light. The ice began to lighten, thin, and drip. Some fell into the bushes, some I knocked off with the end of a broom. Things were changing. The light was strong and warm.

***“Do not be afraid:
for see – I am bringing you
good news of great joy for all the people;
to you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”***

Hope comes to us. It comes to us not in a program, idea, or scheme. It is not even in the form of a building. It is in Jesus who is “*God with us*”. This is not just any news it is *good news*.

Hope melts our fears. Hope brings light, slow but sure. It may be in sudden bursts, as on a 50-degree February day, or in slow, sure warming of our hearts and actions.

I pray you will long for, watch, and receive that hope again or for the first time in Advent and Christmas. Worship with your family. Invite someone to come with you. God can do a new thing. God promises to do a new thing and we can watch with a sense of expectant hope.



- Pastor Rick

Children's Ministry

Children's Christmas Program
“Jesus – Our True Light”

Sunday, December 14 – 10:45 a.m.

Everyone is welcome! The Sunday School children will don costumes and bring to life the story of the birth of Jesus. Come celebrate with us the gift of Jesus – our true light.



Raising the Roof of Faith!

Building Update (and Thank You!)

By Jerry Sieling, Building Chair

I want to express my gratitude to the following volunteers for helping stain the exterior of the existing building, storage shed, and base of the cross to match the new addition. The volunteers include: Dan Olszewski, Roxie Kriesel, Bill Mischke, Jason Kundinger, Jan Gauger, David Scott, Terry Miller, Jon Borgen, Ed Bernhardt, and Carol Eisele. The result was a great stain job and we saved \$7,000.00 of our dollars.

Another thank you goes to Sandy Mischke for providing and planting about 75 bulbs, which will come up next spring and beautify our new addition. She, also, has been nurturing our existing flowers and shrubs around the building.

Progress has been good on the building expansion. The parking lot is nearing completion and we hope to have parking lot lights soon. The exterior stone for the new entrance will be installed in early December.

Work continues on finishing the interior. Painting of most interior areas is complete. Bathroom tile work is in progress. Kitchen cabinets are being constructed and will be installed after the floor tile is installed. Suspended ceilings in the fellowship hall, the kitchen, and the nursery are about 60% complete. The wood trim has been readied and will be installed soon. The carpeting has been ordered and will be installed mid-December. The new addition should be ready for our use by the end of the year at which time the remodeling of the existing areas will begin.

Small Groups Ministry

New Small Groups: All Saints' Small Groups Ministry is looking for your input. We would like to try some short-term small groups next year. Among the suggestions: Book Club, Sandwich Generation, Health and Fitness, Movie Group, Surviving in Today's Economy, etc. If you have ideas for a group that would go for 2, 4, or 6 months or would be willing to lead or host a group, please contact Small Groups Coordinator Jeanie Sieling, 271-9408.