

News from the Journey . . .

November, 2009



All Saints Lutheran Church, Fitchburg, Wisconsin

"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 25 - 7:00 p.m.
(Pie Reception Afterwards)



A special offering will be given to the Madison Area Lutheran Council (MALC), which sponsors the Dane County Jail Chaplaincy (for male and female inmates) and coordinates the Lutheran World Relief boxcar loading. MALC is solely supported by congregations in our area.



Advent Journey to Christmas . . .

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 6 - 1:30 p.m.

Caroling in the neighborhood, followed by Gingerbread House Building, 2:30 p.m., fellowship hall!



Children's Christmas Program

"The Good Shepherd and His Sheep"

Sunday, December 13 - 10:45 a.m.



Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 20 - 3:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Thursday, December 24

3:00 p.m. - Family Service

5:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service



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## Small Groups Ministry

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Teresa McGovern Center Project: All Saints' **Women's Breakfast Small Group** (which meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 7:15 a.m. at Ancora Coffee) has selected to do a community service project for the Tellurian Family of Services, particularly the Teresa McGovern Center. This is a 55-bed residential treatment facility providing intensive inpatient and outpatient addiction and mental health treatment.

Since clients have minimal financial resources, the Women's Breakfast Small Group wants to give them support for some basic items, such as art supplies, journals, small umbrellas, gift certificates, mini-photo albums, inspirational books, lotions, or pillows. Please visit the small group's display in the fellowship hall. Help yourself to the information and the "Wish List" of items and see if there are items you could provide. Items will be collected through December 31.

The Giving Tree: On Sunday, November 29, the Giving Tree will be set-up. The tree will be filled with stars identifying particular needs and wishes of persons served by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and by Dane County Family Services. You are invited to take a star off the tree, provide the requested item, and return it to All Saints by December 13. This is a great opportunity to share God's bounty and blessings at Christmas time. The Giving Tree is coordinated by several of All Saints' small groups. We look forward to continuing this tradition to spread the joy of Christmas. Specific details of the project will be provided when the tree is up. For more info, contact Lydia Small Group co-facilitators: Caroll Borgen, 835-5674, and Carol Eisele, 271-7931.



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## Children's Ministry

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Children's Christmas Program: Come see the children present "*The Good Shepherd and His Sheep*" on December 13 at the 10:45 a.m. New Song worship service.

The children look forward to putting on their costumes and sharing the story of Jesus' birth with the congregation. Join us for this special Christmas celebration!

Scripts will be handed out on November 22 and practice will be held on December 6 and 13 at 9:40 a.m.

Sunday School: In November we finish learning about the Israelites. We will hear about Joshua becoming their leader and the Israelites entering the Promised Land. Some of the things we will do include making the leaning towers of pasta (which represent the walls of Jericho), drawing comic book covers, and creating a "movie" about the Israelites crossing the Jordan River.

No Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on November 29 (Thanksgiving weekend).

Children and Youth Serving Others: Thank you to all of the youth who raked leaves for people on November 1. You did a great job!

In November grades 2 and 3 children are making Thanksgiving gifts and grades 4 and 5 are making special Christmas gifts to give to others in our church and community.

Kitchen Angels Small Group will meet Saturday, November 14, 1:00 p.m., for a salad and dessert lunch and will not meet in December. In January, the Kitchen Angels will resume on the second Saturday (January 9) at 1:00 p.m., when they will clean and tidy-up the kitchen during the meeting.

Life Together Small Group meets at noon after the Sunday New Song worship service. The next meeting is November 22. The group is studying Luther's Large Catechism. Everyone is welcome! For more info, contact Roger Damrow, 288-9245.

Pastor's Letter . . .

Growing a Culture of Generosity

On the north side of the house, west of the white pine, is a pesty patch of mushrooms. They hug the ground – deep brown hats – white stems. I clear them out and a week later they are back. Smiling? There is a a culture for them on the damp north side. They thrive.

How do we create cultures of generosity? A culture of generosity grows generous attitudes, giving of resources, and skills. One writer noted giving by North American churchgoers was higher during the Great Depression (3.3% per capita income 1933), a time of lack, than in a time of prosperity, 2004 (2.5% per capita income 2004).

What does this say?

A culture of generosity grows with thanks. A culture of generosity grows with the promise God provides. A culture of generosity “finds its root in a sense of abundance rather than scarcity.” (*Beyond Money*). A culture of generosity prays and thanks God and wants to share.

Thanksgiving is a time of faith, stepping out to give, give thanks, and see the gifts of God all around us.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship is Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m. Arbor Covenant, Madison, will, also, join us. A pie reception will follow in new fellowship hall. An offering will be received and sent to Madison Area Lutheran Council (MALC), which supports the two chaplains at Dane County Jail, Madison, and the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) boxcar loading each October in Madison. I hope to give thanks as we travel together.

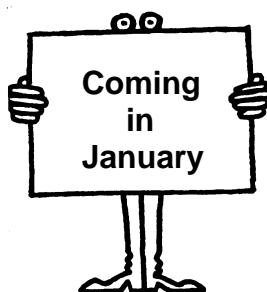
- Pastor Rick

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**Words of Thanks . . .**  
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On the second and third Sundays of the month, All Saints' collects non-perishable food for St. Mark's Lutheran Church's Food Pantry.

All Saints received this note from Kis Howard of the food pantry:

“What a blessing it is when one of you appears at the delivery door of our food pantry! Your generous donations so often arrive when we are feeling low on resources or In need of a little encouragement. With your help, we've been able to serve many grateful families! I thank God each time I think of you!”



New Small Groups

Watch for an Upcoming Announcement . . .

Several new short-term, 6-week small groups are coming in January!

Watch for temple talks and more details on these new opportunities. If you are interested and want more info, contact Small Groups Coordinator Jeanie Sieling, 271-9408.

Prayer Joys and Concerns . . .

God's blessings on the military chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan that serve troops and staff . . .

The Holy Spirit's wisdom and power for the synod Missional Discovery Journey congregations (7). All Saints' team members are Roger Damrow, Jason Kunding, Angela Troia, and Pastor Rich Johnson . . .

We give thanks to God that Kathleen Meyer, LaJean Wilson are home and continued strength for Inez Larson, rehabilitation . . .

Council Updates . . .

Congregational Council would like to announce the following:

All Saints' Budget Hearing, November 15, 12:00 noon, and November 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to ask questions and look at the proposed spending plan and 2010 ministry goals.

All Saints' Congregational Budget Vote: To include more people (such as Sunday School staff, musicians, and worship helpers), we've set the congregational meeting for Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-8:00 p.m. We seek to honor your time. Child-care will be available in the new nursery. We have the wonderful privilege of stewarding our ministry and please plan to attend.

Council members are Jason Kunding, president; Karen Julesberg, vice president; Ellen Healey, recording secretary; Sue Martinson-Zyhowski; Sara Storkson; Dan Rohrer, treasurer; and Pastor Rich Johnson.

Photo Directory? We have had a number of requests for a photo directory at All Saints. The last photo directory was done in 1999. We need a team of three people to work with the photographer, schedule, and plan a directory sometime in 2011. Please contact Pastor Rich or Georgia at 276-7729 by November 30.

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

Building Fund Update . . .

We would like to update you on the Building Fund's budget, offerings, and account balance through September 30, 2009.

This spring began the monthly mortgage payment of \$8,200. Council budgeted this to commence in January. Final construction and details, however, concluded in early spring so as to begin payments later than budgeted. There was no adverse effect on our mortgage or budget.

Current year contributions to the Building Fund are \$82,372. These include three-year gifts, major gifts, (beginning in 2007) one-time gifts, and general Building Fund contributions. Thank you!

The current Building Fund balance is \$301,406. If monthly contributions are lower than the mortgage amount, the difference is drawn from the Building Fund. If there is more, the amount is placed in the Building Fund.

Offerings designated to the Building Fund can only be used for the building mortgage. When contributing to the Building Fund, we encourage you to use the offering envelopes and the designated "Building Fund" for your records and year-end statements.

Next month . . . General Fund update.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Richard A. Johnson.....Phone: 276-7729
Home Phone: 278-0950
e-mail: pastorrich@allsaints-madison.org
Worship and Music Director..... Dr. Sherri Hansen
(Phone: 234-8570; E-mail: sherrihansen@tds.com)
Kids Praise Director: Janet Johnson.....276-7729
Joyful Noise Director: Nancy Pokorney.....827-6426
Accompanists.....Ingrid Kunding, lead pianist;
Erin Egan, Janet Johnson, Nancy Pokorney
.....**H.S. Youth Sponsors**
Children's Ministry Coordinator.....Kathryn Olszewski
(Phone: 833-8560; E-mail: katholsz@aol.com)
Small Groups Coordinator..... Jeanie Sieling
(Phone: 271-9408; e-mail: gsieling79@gmail.com)
Secretary, Georgia WagamanPhone: 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)
Childcare Staff Person.....Chris Carollo-Zeuner
(Sundays, 8:30-11:45 a.m.)
Custodian.....Dennis Ahnen

A Musical Invitation . . .

With the Advent Season approaching, Worship and Music Director Sherri Hansen invites all to consider several special opportunities below. To follow-up on any of these, contact Sherri at 234-8570 or sherrihansen@tds.com. Sherri invites:

Adult Choir: I want to invite people to come sing with the Adult Choir during the season of Advent and Christmas. Many of you have busy, fall commitments, but if you would like to come and sing for any of the Sundays, December 6 and 20, the Christmas concert on December 20, and/or Christmas Eve, please talk to me (Sherri). Friends and relatives from other churches are, also, welcome to join us. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

Handbell Choir: We are in the process of resurrecting our handbell choir and are recruiting for a full three-octave choir. Whether you're a veteran ringer or have never rung before but always wanted to try, there's a place in the choir for you. Rehearsals will start in November and will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays before New Song rehearsal. We'll plan to ring at the Christmas concert and probably once a month at the 8:30 a.m. Classic Worship service.

Advent Activities: Finally, check out some of the activities for the Advent season: caroling party on Sunday, December 6, 1:30 p.m. followed by gingerbread house building at 2:30, and, also, the annual Christmas concert, which will be held at All Saints on Sunday, December 20, at 3:00 p.m.

I wish you a peaceful Advent season full of light and hope.

Sherri

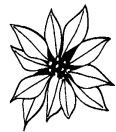
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**Cookies, Youth and Final Exams**  
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All Saints' youth plan to make studying for final exams more enjoyable by sending college student mission partners care packages in December.

The youth will meet for pizza at 6:00 p.m. Friday, December 4, in the new kitchen. After dinner, the youth will bake cookies, assemble care packages, and have games during the down time.

For more info, youth interested in preparing the boxes may contact Cherie Godar, 255-5905 or cgodar@tds.net.

Poinsettias Bloom Again



Poinsettias will help decorate the sanctuary this Advent Season. If you would like to provide one, watch for the order form in the worship service folders.

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**Thank you Boxcar Loaders!**  
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Thank you to youth and adults who helped load school kits, health kits, layettes, quilts, and soap for Lutheran World Relief. The ingathering was Saturday, October 10. Seventeen people from All Saints helped. Special thanks to Dan Olszewski, Tim Traeder, Doug Smyth, and Eric Zerbe for being sponsors with our youth.



62 Steps!



62 Steps is an adult discovery, learning and discussion around a variety of topics for faith and life. 62 Steps is in fellowship hall (about 62 steps from the lobby) on Sundays, 9:45-10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Sunday, November 15: *Lutheran World Relief* video update. This is a mission and relief arm of the wider church. LWR affirms God's love for all people. They work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering.

Sunday, November 22: *The Real Christmas Story* (or CSI Bethlehem). Come discover the Christmas story in a new way – rescuing the truth from familiarity. Where was the manger and what was the inn? How radical was Jesus' message to men *and* women? Three sessions, November 22 and 29 and December 6.