

News from the Journey . . .

December, 2009

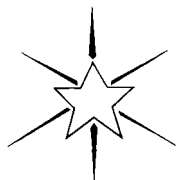


All Saints Lutheran Church, Fitchburg, Wisconsin

"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

All Saints' Christmas Concert: *"A Baby Changes Everything"*

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



Christmas Eve Worship Services

3:00 p.m. - Family Worship

5:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship

Sunday, December 27

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship Services of Readings & Carols

Pastor's Letter . . .

A Risky Christmas

The first Christmas was not necessarily calm and bright. It may well have been confusing and dark for Mary and Joseph. They were stepping into the unknown. It was risky. But faith is risky. But the object of faith is solid.

Mary and Joseph were traveling in faith as they left Nazareth to walk to Bethlehem. The same was true of the magi and the rag tag shepherds. But as they stepped into the unknown, they did not step alone. They walked in the light of the promise of Good News for them and for all the world. The Good News of a Savior is for you. It has your name on it. You are *not* left out and you are *not* forgotten. You are *not* without hope and power in the days ahead. God brings you the love of the Christ child and his longing for you.

We do travel together. We are better together. We do serve together. But in doing so, we serve with joy, the one who came, lived, taught, healed, suffered, died, and was raised for life! *Our* life!

All around us may be chaos. But in us is the promise. Not only is Christ here, but he is here for life! We can take the next step and travel together.

*“ . . . to you is born this day in the city of David,
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”*

Luke 2:11

- Pastor Rick

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**Children's Ministry**  
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Christmas Workshop: All children are invited to join us on December 20 for a special Christmas workshop during the Sunday School time at 9:40 a.m.. We will begin in the far east classroom and rotate to different rooms for the special activities.

No Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on December 27. Classes resume on January 3.

Children and Youth Serving Others: Thank you to the children for working to share God's love. The grade 2 and 3 children made Thank-giving decorations that they gave to people in the congregation. Grades 4 and 5 sewed neck warmers which were given as Christmas gifts to special people in the congregation.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



“JOY TO THE WORLD...”

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



New Short-Term Small Groups Forming

"Better Together" is not just a catch phrase. Being a Christian involves a relationship with God but it, also, involves a relationship with other Christians.

Come join others in learning about how we can be better "Christians Together" in a 6-week small group that will go January 10-February 14. The small groups will use resources from Rick Warren's study, "Better Together".

For more info, contact Small Groups Coordinator Jeanie Sieling, 271-9408.

Words of Thanks

Thank You to mission partner Bill May for making the communion wine for the past ten-plus years! Bill is involved in All Saints' Adult Choir.

Madison Area Lutheran Council (MALC) appreciates All Saints' support for the boxcar loading of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) supplies (October) and the support of the Dane County Jail Chaplains, Julia Weaver and John Mix.

An offering of \$1,100 was received for MALC at Thanksgiving Eve worship. Pastor Mix was at 62 Steps November 8.

Thanks be to God for the gift of new life to mission partners Brian and Joan Stoikes at the birth of Elizabeth Sarah on Sunday, November 22 . . . and for the baptism of Natalie Kay Aurit, daughter of Jim and Ahren Aurit and sister of Jeffrey and Julia, on November 15.

Small Groups Ministry

The Kitchen Angels Small Group

is creating an All Saints Lutheran Church Cookbook. Your recipes are needed! It would be nice if all households could be represented by at least one recipe. Pick up a recipe form on the table located in the new fellowship hall. Vegetarian recipes welcome. Place your recipes in the basket on the display table or e-mail them to Nicki Troia at ntroia@hotmail.com. Recipe due date is February 28, 2010. Cookbook pre-orders will be taken in April.



Proceeds from cookbook sales will go to a designated charity and to purchase additional kitchen items. Contact Nicki with questions at 271-0582.

Life Together Small Group: In January, Life Together Small Group will begin the book, "Faith and Doubt", by John Ortberg. All are welcome! For more info, contact Roger Damrow, 288-9245.

Teresa McGovern Center Project: The Women's Breakfast Small Group is sponsoring a community service project for 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.

Visit the small group's display in the fellowship hall for more info and a "Wish List" of items that are being collected through December 31.

Job Transition Program

In-Between Jobs? The Madison Area Job Transition program is sponsored by ELCA congregations in the Madison area and meets at 9:00 a.m. the first and third Saturdays of each month at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Raymond Road and Whitney Way. Resources, speakers, and break-out sessions on networking, resume writing, and interviews are some topics discussed. For more info, contact Bob Shimmel at:

madisonareajobtransition@gmail.com



What is the Missional Discovery Journey?

In September All Saints began a Missional Discovery Journey (or MDJ for short), along with other South-Central Synod of Wisconsin congregations. It has been lifted-up in prayer and temple talks. One of All Saints' MDJ team members, Angela Troia, was invited to share about this journey with newsletter readers.

The MDJ team – Pastor Rich, Roger Damrow, Jason Kunding, and Angela Troia, along with our MDJ coach, Pastor Jack Way of Barneveld Lutheran – has been gathering at monthly seminars to explore the question: what does it mean to be a missional congregation? One message we've heard is that the Church is a who, not a what – a great illustration of that is the old children's game of folding your fingers together and saying "This is the Church, this is the steeple, open it up and see all the people." There's no way to make the "Church" without the fingers – the people.



There's no way to make the "church" without the fingers – the people.

The purpose of the Missional Discovery Journey is "to recognize that the Church exists not for itself, but for the sake of the world and for the sake of God's mission to bless and heal the whole world." We've learned a lot of valuable things so far – one lesson that has stood out for me is that as much we can do individually, we can do so much more when we work together.

Matthew 5:14 says "You are the light of the world", and I believe a part of our mission is to spread that light to others in our community. I'm hoping that as the MDJ team goes through this journey, we will find ways for All Saints to shine brightly, lighting the way for others.

About Angela Troia . . .

Angela is a Madison native who became a mission partner at All Saints in 2008. She sings in the Adult Choir at 8:30 Classic Worship service, and especially enjoys the simple harmonies of classic hymns like "Amazing Grace" and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness".

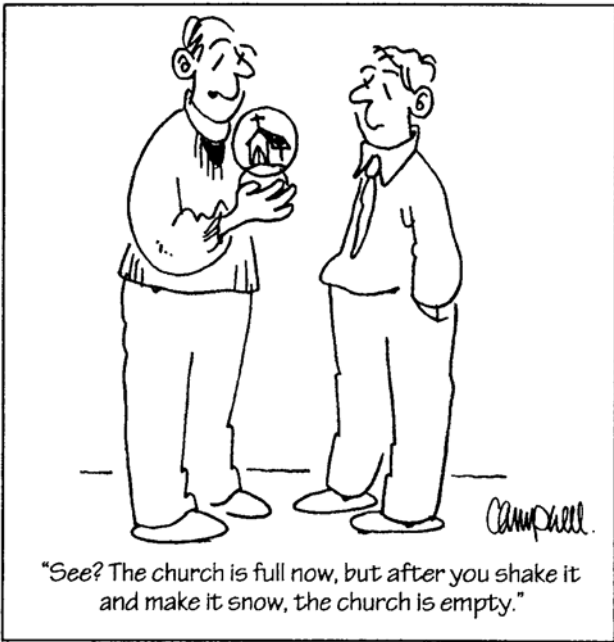
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**A Music Opportunity . . .**  
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Former Joyful Noise members are invited to play with the current ensemble at the 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve service. If interested or for more info, contact Nancy Pokorney, 827-6426.



Mark These Dates On Your Calendar

- February 12: 4th Annual Coffeehouse – Plan to share your talent!
- February 17: Ash Wednesday
- March 14: Bible Wax Museum



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## News and Notes . . .

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Weather Cancellations: As winter is here (!), please check with Georgia at All Saints' office (276-PRAY), the answering machine, the Channel3000.com website, or WNWC radio website for cancellations at All Saints.

Offering envelopes are ready to be picked-up in fellowship hall. Picking them up saves postage costs at the end of the year.

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.

Year-end financial giving statements will be mailed mid-January. To have your financial giving listed for 2009, contributions should be received in the church office by December 31, 2009, or have a postmark of December 31, 2009.

Annual Reports and new directories will be mailed together prior to the Annual Meeting.



Sunday Morning:

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship
 10:45 a.m. New Song Worship
 (childcare provided at both services)
 Christian Education for all ages – 9:40 a.m. Sundays

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## Council Updates . . .

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The Nominating Team is praying and seeking new (3) council members for the 2010-2012 term.

The Missional Discovery Journey Team has met twice with synod congregations. The team is Jason Kundinger, Roger Damrow, Angela Troia, and Pastor Rich. Along with six other congregations, ways to pray, listen, and act in mission are next steps in the 18-month journey.

General Fund giving for November was at 62% of our plan. This is the lowest month in the fiscal year. Some of this is absorbed by earlier cost savings in a staff vacancy, moderate utility bills, and cost-saving efforts by staff. Thank you ahead of time for your prayers and assistance with this. We hope to make-up some ground in the month of December.

All Saints' Congregational Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 24, 11:30 a.m., sanctuary. The main agenda item is the election of new council members and ministry updates. Annual reports and new directories will be mailed ahead of time.

Due to winter weather the Congregational Budget Meeting to vote on All Saints' 2010 Budget is rescheduled for Sunday, January 24, 11:30 a.m.

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| <b>CHURCH STAFF</b> |
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**Pastor Richard A. Johnson**.....Phone: 276-7729  
 Home Phone: 278-0950  
 e-mail: [pastorrich@allsaints-madison.org](mailto:pastorrich@allsaints-madison.org)  
**Worship and Music Director**..... Dr. Sherri Hansen  
 (Phone: 234-8570; E-mail: [sherrihansen@tds.com](mailto:sherrihansen@tds.com))  
**Kids Praise Director:** Janet Johnson.....276-7729  
**Joyful Noise Director:** Nancy Pokorney.....827-6426  
**Accompanists**.....Ingrid Kundinger, lead pianist;  
 Janet Johnson, Nancy Pokorney  
 .....H.S. Youth Sponsors  
**Children's Ministry Coordinator**.....Kathryn Olszewski  
 (Phone: 833-8560; E-mail: [katholsz@aol.com](mailto:katholsz@aol.com))  
**Small Groups Coordinator**..... Jeanie Sieling  
 (Phone: 271-9408; e-mail: [gsieling79@gmail.com](mailto:gsieling79@gmail.com))  
**Secretary, Georgia Wagaman** .....Phone: 276-7729  
 e-mail: [georgia@allsaints-madison.org](mailto: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



## 62 Steps!



62 Steps is an opportunity of adult discovery and learning on a variety of topics for faith and life. 62 Steps is open to all and meets on Sunday, 9:45 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Here are the upcoming topics in January:

Sunday, January 3: Fellowship time and refreshments

Sunday, January 10: Better Together. The Gifts You Have From God. Understanding Your Personality. 1 Corinthians 1.

Sunday, January 17: Bryna Godar will share a report on her service trip to Paraguay last summer.

Sunday, January 24: Panel of mission partners share how they use their gifts.

Sunday, January 31: Update on Churchwide Assembly, August, 2009.