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A thought to consider as we approach the season of Advent:

*The Lord
is coming,
always coming.
When you have
ears to hear
and eyes to see,
you will
recognize him
at any moment
of your life.
Life is Advent;
life is recognizing
the coming
of the Lord.*

– Henri Nouwen

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES AND DATES TO REMEMBER



**The Season of Advent
begins Sunday, November 27**
We'll gather for combined worship at 9:30 a.m.
Note the new time!

Sunday School, December 4

Classes for everyone!
10:45 -11:30 a.m. *New Time!!*
4K-6th grade - craft room
Confirmation - middle school room
High School - high school room
Adult study - Fellowship Hall



Christmas Eve Worship

*We gather to celebrate
the birth of our Savior!*
Saturday, December 24
3:00 p.m. Family Worship
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship



Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25
9:30 a.m.
Join us for a service of
traditional carols and prayers.



New Year's Day Worship

January 1, 2023
9:30 a.m.
A service of lessons and carols
that focuses on the name of Jesus.





A NOTE FROM PASTOR KRISTIN

If you were to ask my husband, Steven, what his favorite holiday is, his response would be quick and definite: "Thanksgiving!" Food, family, football, and, of course, giving thanks all raise that particular holiday high above the rest for him. So much so that he becomes very protective of it.

If we are out shopping, he won't even look at Christmas stuff before Thanksgiving, and for the first few years of our marriage, I tried to follow suit, because I love Thanksgiving, too. However, as time has gone by, I have shifted to picking up a few Christmas things before Thanksgiving – because that time in between feels too short for all of the things – but I only do so when I am shopping without him, and even then, I keep them hidden until after Thanksgiving. It has become a bit of a joke in our household (just like his rule that you can't start eating your popcorn at the movies until the previews start...I'm not good at following that one, either!).



Thanksgiving is early this year, so it provides us a little extra time between Thanksgiving and Christmas for our preparations. So much so that the traditional Advent calendars that mark the 25 days leading up to Christmas are a whole 4 days short, with Advent beginning this year on November 27.

How do you feel when you hear someone mention how many days there are until Christmas? Do you still have that joyful anticipation that captured our hearts as children – the growing excitement that makes those 25 (or 29) days feel like an eternity? Or does that reminder that Christmas is a month away send you into panic mode, wondering how you will ever get everything done in time, and just waiting until it is all over so that you can return to the regular, yet still frantic, pace of your life?

It seems that many of us have returned to our pre-pandemic schedules, where each day has us racing from one thing to the next, wondering once again when things will slow down enough for us to catch our breath. Add the additional commitments that come along during the holiday season, and any time of Sabbath, of true rest, seems like nothing more than a dream.

I am as guilty of this as anyone, but also have a deep appreciation for Sabbath time – and our natural and pressing need for it. I know that without downtime, without that time of rest – not only for my eyes and my body, but also for my soul, my patience runs thin while my emotions run high – and nobody wants to deal with that!

Making time for Sabbath – for that much needed rest and connection with God – can sometimes feel like it is just one more thing on our list of "to-dos." And the last thing we need during this busy season is to add to that list! But in her article on Sabbath in *Practicing Our Faith*, Diana Butler-Bass encourages us to look at it in a different way. She writes: "For time-starved contemporary people, the practice of Sabbath keeping may be a gift just waiting to be unwrapped, a confirmation that we are not without help in shaping the renewing ways of life for which we long."

In this season of Advent, as we look forward to the gift of Jesus, I encourage you to give yourself the gift of Sabbath time. Take time to dwell in and be refreshed and renewed by the presence of God. How that happens will be different for all of us. For some it may mean gathering with those you love to enjoy art, nature or athletics. For others, it may mean time in solitude to read, sleep, reflect, and pray. Whatever it may look like for you, give yourself that gift during these days as we look ahead with hope and joyful anticipation.

Resting in hope & joy,

Pastor Kristin



DECEMBER MUSIC... A NOTE FROM JOHN FRANCIS

This is such an exciting season for music! It seems like everywhere we go now, Christmas carols are playing as a background for the decorations that seem to emerge overnight.

Here at All Saints, we are excited to share in worship each Sunday morning as one congregation. In December, we will be hearing the handbells ring a couple Sundays; New Song and the Choir will each be sharing special anthems, as well as joining together for some of the songs. Our strings will be accompanying some of our carols on December 11.

If you would like to join in, even for this one season, you are welcome to come to rehearsals of your choice on Wednesdays: 3:00 – New Song 5:00 – Handbells 6:30 – Strings 7:00 – Choir

You can contribute to making the music happen this year. Let your voice join in.

A NOTE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Every year around this time, I receive phone calls and emails from our relatives asking me what everyone's Christmas list is. What is it that we each really want or need? It is fun to ask each member of our family what it is that they would really like to receive. We get to decide each year which electronic gadget, book, blanket, or item of clothing we would like. The gift is a token to make us feel that we are seen and loved by our family. The gift givers enjoy the whole process as much as the gift receivers enjoy getting the gifts. It is fun to pick out a gift for someone and see the joy on their face as they discover this gift. It is terrific if they use it. These gifts are fun to receive, but they only last for a limited period. The book is read. The clothing is worn out or out of fashion. The technology becomes obsolete, or we get bored with it.



Deanna Simonson

I think about the gifts that we were each given by God and his incredible generosity. Some of us were given knowledge and wisdom. Some of us can help heal others. Some can speak other languages. Some of us can drive cars. Some of us were given wealth. Some can create beauty. Some of us can cook and bake. Some of us are incredible listeners. Some of very organized. Some can bring out the best in other people and put others at ease. Some are musicians, artists, carpenters, or writers. We were all given many gifts by God. His gifts do not wear out or become obsolete. They last beyond our lifetimes if we use them. We can affect generations of the people whose lives we touch with our gifts.

God did not ask each of us which gifts we would like to have. Rather he created each of us with the potential to discover our own talents, the opportunities to have experiences, and the responsibility to use and practice our gifts. Like any gifts, God's gifts were not given to be tucked away and not used. God also gave us community to share our gifts with.

Being the gift giver is usually even better than being the receiver. Picture giving a young child a sought-after toy. The child is typically elated, smiling, and jumping around. The giver receives as much joy as the child by knowing that their gift is appreciated and will be used.

When we share our talents and gifts, we each can experience that same joy. What a delight it is to serve tasty treats during fellowship, teach young people about the bible, make music, spend time with others in fellowship, serve communion, call a friend, write a note, prepare care packages and meals for college students, work in the garden, give to the food pantry or personal essentials pantry. There are so many ways to share our gifts with others both in our church and community. At All Saints, we have the mission to know, follow and share Christ. During this season of giving, consider how we can each use our gifts to help fulfill this mission.

Upcoming Events . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

THANKSGIVING EVE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 7:00 PM

For more years than any of us can count, Thanksgiving Eve worship and pie fellowship have gone hand in hand. So this year, we are combining them! We will gather in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23 for "Prayer & Pie"! We will pray, sing, talk, and share, all WHILE we are enjoying a heavenly piece of pie! All are invited to bring a pie to share...and if we are eating pie while we worship, whose to say that there won't also be pie AFTER worship? Sounds like a win-win evening as we give thanks to God for all we have. Hope you will join us!



MOVING THROUGH ADVENT TOGETHER!



The season of Advent calls us to pause, prepare, and joyfully anticipate the birth of Jesus. We are familiar with the lighting of the Advent wreath during this time, marking the four weeks of the season of Advent and our movement toward Christmas, with another candle lit each week until the whole wreath is ablaze with the light of Christ.

But the Advent wreath is not the only way we will see that excitement and anticipation building. The decorations in the sanctuary will also build each week. The Christmas tree will appear, and the next week the tree lights will glow. As we gather for worship on the third Sunday of Advent, December 11, we will have a special service that will explain many of the traditions of Advent—and, as a part of that service, we will all be able to participate in the final pieces of decorating the sanctuary for Christmas! Join us for combined worship during this

season at 9:30 a.m., beginning Sunday, November 27. Worship will be livestreamed and uploaded to YouTube by 11:00 a.m. Bulletins will continue to be available on our website.

BUDGET HEARING & ANNUAL MEETING DATES

NOTICE: Please mark your calendar to join us for the
All Saints Annual Budget Hearing - Sunday, January 8

10:45-11:45 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

All Saints Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 15

To encourage attendance at both meetings, we will host one combined worship service at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting immediately following at 10:45 a.m.

Coffee and refreshments will be served in the narthex during the annual meeting.

PUB THEOLOGY

You are invited to Pub Theology – a joint venture of All Saints, West Middleton, Advent, and St. Luke's Lutheran Churches! We will gather at the Thirsty Goat, 3040 Cahill Main (right in our backyard!), to enjoy beverages, food, and time with each other, discussing topics related to God, life, faith, and "what this all means anyway." The plan is to meet on the last Tuesday of every month, and the next gathering is Tuesday, November 29, 6-8 p.m. Please sign up by emailing Pastor Kristin (pastor@allsaints-madison.org) or on the sheet outside her office door to help us have a better sense of how many folks to expect. Thanks!



News & Notes...



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION OPTION

Are you required to take distributions from your IRA account? Are you over age 70 ½? Would you like to save on your income taxes? If you answered yes to one of the first two questions, and to the third, completing a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA account may be a good idea for you!

A QCD is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. These distributions help satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and are free from both Federal and State income tax. You can think about them as "above-the-line" deductions since they reduce your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) as well as your Taxable Income. Reducing your AGI might help keep you from being subject to additional Medicare Part B premiums too!

Your IRA account provider will be able to direct payments from your IRA account to charity of your choice.

Something else to consider...donate the amount you'd normally have paid in income tax to the charity too! For example, if you complete a \$5,000 QCD to your charity, you're likely saving 25-30% (\$1,250-\$1,500) in Federal and State income taxes, so give that to your charity too!

FAITH PROMISES FOR 2023

Thank you to all who have offered your Faith Promises for 2023! If you missed Stewardship Sunday or just haven't had time to consider your giving for 2023, we invite you to still do so. Faith Promise cards can be turned in to the office any time. Faith Promises help us plan our budget for the upcoming year. Thanks for the many ways you continue to be the church in this world!

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS!

The office is accepting poinsettia orders! You are invited to help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas by ordering a poinsettia or two. Plants cost \$13 and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve worship. Please have your poinsettia order and payment in to the church office by Monday, November 28th.

END-OF-THE-YEAR DONATIONS



Thank you for your continuing support of God's mission through All Saints. In-person donations as well as donations via mail or electronic deposit are joyfully accepted. Electronic deposits are able to be set up via our website (www.allsaints-madison.org), through your own bank, or by contacting the church office. As a reminder, all 2022 donations must be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31st to be credited to the 2022 calendar year.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Regular office hours are: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The church office will be closed the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 23 - Friday, November 25
- Friday, December 23 - Monday, December 26
- Friday, December 30 - Monday, January 2



You can usually find Pastor Kristin in the office Monday-Thursday, but, as always, it is best to make an appointment if you want to make sure you catch her. Fridays are now her day off (Sabbath day). Would you like Pastor Kristin to come visit you at your home? She is happy to do so! Just call for an appointment. And remember – you can reach her anytime in the case of an emergency via her cell phone (608-616-0631).

Reaching into our community...



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR PROJECT

As children growing up, we would look forward to the Advent Calendar that had a treat for us each day of December. What if we reversed that idea and **gave** something each day of December?

All Saints is doing a reverse Advent project for Christmas. You can purchase an item that is listed in the St. Mark's Food Pantry calendar and bring it to church and we will box the items up and take them to St. Marks Food Pantry.

Please join us in sharing God's love through this project.



- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dec. 1 Pancake syrup | Dec. 13 Applesauce |
| Dec. 2 Corn muffin mix | Dec. 14 Instant potatoes |
| Dec. 3 Beef ramen noodles | Dec. 15 Graham crackers |
| Dec. 4 Canned fruit cocktail | Dec. 16 Toothpaste |
| Dec. 5 Canned pineapple | Dec. 17 Laundry pods |
| Dec. 6 Bar of soap | Dec. 18 BBQ sauce |
| Dec. 7 Hamburger Helper | Dec. 19 Tuna Helper |
| Dec. 8 Saltine crackers | Dec. 20 Toothbrush |
| Dec. 9 Toilet paper | Dec. 21 Cake mix |
| Dec. 10 Canned peaches | Dec. 22 Granola bars |
| Dec. 11 Canned pears | Dec. 23 Chicken ramen noodles |
| Dec. 12 Jams or jellies | Dec. 24 Any size Ziploc bags |

HELP SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS!

Though it seems that everyone is back to in-person worship, we still have members that are unable to attend. We are looking for individuals to assist in connecting with our members who are hospitalized or unable to leave their homes. Phone calls, cards and in-person visits are all appropriate ways to minister to those that would appreciate knowing their All Saints family loves and misses them. Those with a desire to reach into our All Saints community and make sure members are not forgotten are encouraged to contact Heather Quartaro. By participating in this ministry, you bring joy to others as well as yourself. As Paul wrote in Hebrews 13:16, "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Thank you for helping us support our members!



YOUNG ADULT CARE KIT COLLECTION DATES

Our young adults are moving to school, starting new jobs and carving their path in the world. While they begin this journey, we want them to know that their church family is still thinking of them and keeping them in prayer during Advent. If you would like your child added to the recipient list, please contact the church office with name and address information no later than Thursday, December 1.

We ask for your assistance in donating items needed for creating our annual Holiday Care Kits for our young adults. Needed items include snacks, drink mixes, tea/coffee, tissue packs, pens/pencils, chocolate, gum, chips - all kind of treats - as well as notes of encouragement. We will have a craft table set up in Fellowship Hall in November for creating 'thinking of you' cards. Our high school kids class will gather on Sunday, December 4th to stuff boxes and prepare them for mailing. Thank you for your continued support of this program. For questions, please contact Jen Barakat.

Reaching into our community...



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

BRINGING CHRISTMAS JOY TO THOSE IN JAIL



Once again, All Saints members can brighten Christmas for jail residents with a personal hand-written note on a Christmas card to ensure that the 600 or so men and women in jail each receive a Christmas greeting. Most of them will not be receiving visitors or cards as we do during the Christmas season. The Madison Area Jail Ministry is again asking members of area churches to reach out to bring hope and encouragement through notes on Christmas cards.

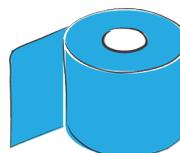
At church on Sundays: One way All Saints members can show their caring is by gathering with Social Justice Team members during the Fellowship Hour on Sunday, November 27, to write notes on Christmas cards. Cards, directions, and sample notes will be available.

At home: If you can't join us during Fellowship Hours on November 27, there will be cards and directions for you to pick up on the table in the narthex across from the church offices. You can pick up the cards and directions on Thanksgiving Eve, **November 23**, write notes on one or more cards at home, and return the cards on **November 27** and put them in the labeled envelope on this same table.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to bring joy to those in jail. The chaplain there says that for far too many of the jail residents, a card from area church members is the only Christmas card they receive and many of them keep the cards for months.

THANK YOU FROM THE GNPEP

Many thanks from our neighbors who benefit from the generosity and thoughtfulness of All Saints folks!



GNPEP

Good Neighbors
Personal Essentials Pantry

We will continue to align our gifts with Memorial UCC's focus items throughout the winter months, so please "stay tuned" to your emailed All Saints Weekly Announcements.

As a special Advent or Christmas offering this year (instead of the special Mary's Travel Bags or Diaper Drive we did last year), I would urge you to consider keeping the St. Mark's Food Pantry in mind.

So many people are in need... in many ways...that our gifts can be shared along multiple paths.

Thank you,
Karin Hanson

HELP SUPPORT LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Lutheran Campus Ministry is a welcoming place for all students to be part of a community of faith, worship, service and fellowship. On Thursday evenings, LCM hosts a worship, dinner and faith conversation gathering for students beginning at 5:30 p.m. In the past, they relied on their staff resources to provide dinner, but due to staffing issues, they have reached out to area churches to assist. Last year, All Saints provided a monthly meal for 15-20 students and staff each month. We would like to provide this service again this year, but need your help! Volunteering includes preparing part of the meal (main dish, side, dessert) and providing delivery to LCM. **Our next hosting date is Thursday, December 15.** Volunteer to be a part of this ministry by adding your name to the signup sheet located in the narthex or by signing up electronically (www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054daca929a57-lcmthursday). Thank you!



In Thanksgiving . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDS!

After two years of exploring their faith through Wednesday night confirmation classes – some in person and some on zoom – we celebrated with five young people who affirmed their baptisms on Sunday, October 9. On that day, these young people claimed for themselves the promises made in baptism and promised to continue in that covenant with God. The whole congregation also promised to continue walking alongside these young people as they take these next steps in their life of faith. Congratulations!



THANK YOU, CONGREGATION!

Thank you for your prayers and financial giving to and through All Saints.

The October 2022 Treasurer's Report:

Contributions:	October 2022	October 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Contributions-General Fund	\$14,555	\$15,262	\$166,218	\$173,374
Contributions-Building Fund	\$2,213	\$2,915	\$34,146	\$25,075
Other General Fund Income	\$45	\$2,478	\$5,876	\$11,736
Solar Fund Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$700	\$25,496
Income vs. Expenses:				
Total income	\$16,882	\$20,820	\$216,286*	\$218,067*
Total expense	\$26,272	\$25,532	\$273,186	\$272,478
Variance	-\$9,390	-\$4,712	-\$56,900	-\$54,411

*Solar Fund Income received in 2021 & 2022 and Endowment Fund losses from 2022 have been removed from the income amounts above.

General fund offerings for October were \$14,555 (76%) versus a budget of \$19,167. Year to date general fund offerings are \$166,218 (87%) versus a budget of \$191,670.

Mortgage fund offerings for October were \$2,213 (89%) versus a budget of \$2,500. Year to date mortgage fund offerings are \$34,146 (137%) versus a budget of \$25,000.

Total Church income for all funds in October was \$16,882.

Expenditures: Total October General Fund expenditures were near budget for the month at \$26,122 versus a budgeted amount of \$26,549. Year to date General Fund expenses are near budget at \$261,498 versus a budgeted amount of \$265,485.

Balance Sheet Comments: As of October 31, 2022, the checking account balance was \$3,282 and the savings account balance was \$59,497. The savings account for the mortgage has a balance of \$13,356. The mortgage payable balance is \$754,212.

Things to Know . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

THIRD QUARTER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The purchase agreement for TDS to purchase a land easement from us was signed and submitted. We are awaiting to hear when the money from that purchase can be expected.

Gods Work Our Hands was held September 11th. There was disappointment as there was no kickball game as it was rainy, but many service projects were done mostly to support Leopold school.

Stanley Brueske was hired as a drummer for New Song.

Worship and Music changes:

- During Advent one service will be held at 9:30
- Glass communion cups and trays for the dishwasher were purchased. This will save us money, and glass does not stick in the communion trays. Two council members donated money for the purchase of the cups.

We will move forward to purchase equipment for streaming and improving our sound system. Personal phones have been used to date to stream our services. Memorial money will be used for this.

The broken furnace will be replaced v/s repaired as it is 30 years old. We can use money from the easement sale to cover this project.

The Financial Sustainability Task Force provided a list of things that can be done to increase our income, however most would not achieve significant relief. Finding tenants to rent space would be the best solution. It was determined we would need every giving family to increase their giving by 25% to attempt to meet All Saints financial needs. Council members agreed to increase their giving.

Questions? Comments? A word of thanks and encouragement?

Contact your 2022 All Saints Council members:

Deanna Simonson, President

Bob Lavigna, Vice President

Margie Rem, Secretary

Gary Kriesel

Rita Olin

Tracy Schoohs

Joan Stoikes

Ron Miller

Michelle Slawny, Appointed Treasurer

Pastor Kristin Woelk pastor@allsaints-madison.org

THINGS TO KNOW...

- **Newsletter** articles are always appreciated! The newsletter is a great place to share upcoming dates with the congregation. The next newsletter will be published prior to Lent (mid-February) 2023. Items are subject to editing due to space availability. Please contact the church office to submit an article.
 - If you would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically through email rather than through mail, please send your email address to: office@allsaints-madison.org.
 - Find us and follow or like us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**! This is a great way to stay up-to-date on upcoming events and notes from Pastor Kristin. And if you are posting about something happening here, be sure to tag All Saints and use the hashtag #knowfollowsharejesus.
 - You can find worship on our website (www.allsaints-madison.org), Facebook page and YouTube channel! Keep an eye out for what will happen with Feel Good Fridays now that Pastor Kristin has changed her day off!
 - Want to know what's happening across our synod in South-Central Wisconsin? Sign up on the synod website (<https://scsw-elca.org/news/>) to have the synod e-newsletter delivered via email.
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