

All Saints Lutheran Church

LENT 2024



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Voices</i>	2-3
<i>Ministry Updates</i>	4
<i>Lent Updates</i>	5
<i>News & Notes</i>	6
<i>In Thanksgiving</i>	7
<i>Reminders</i>	8
<i>Save the Date!</i>	9

*Restore in us,
O God,
the splendor
of your love;
renew your
image in
our hearts,
and all our
sins remove.*

Restore in Us, O God
ELW 328

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES AND DATES TO REMEMBER



Ash Wednesday Worship February 14—7:00 p.m.

We begin the season of Lent with the reminder that we are dust and will one day return to dust. If you are not able to join us for worship, you're welcome to drop in between 12 pm-1 pm for a time of silent prayer and confession in the sanctuary. Pastor Kristin will be available during that time for the imposition of ashes.



Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays, beginning February 21—7:00 p.m.

Join us as we journey through the season of Lent with the theme, "Making a Way Out of No Way". See inside for more details.



Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 24—9:30 a.m.

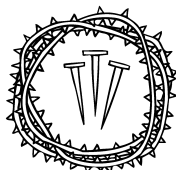
Our worship on this day is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.



Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, March 28—7:00 p.m.

Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal, loving one another in humble service.



Good Friday Worship

Friday, March 29—7:00 p.m.

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life.



Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 31—9:30 a.m.

We gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus—which brings new life for us all!

*Stay after worship for a light brunch
hosted by the Kitchen Angels!*

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KRISTIN

*God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
[God] works in ways we cannot see
[God] will make a way for me
[God] will be my guide
Hold me closely to his side
With love & strength for each new day
[God] will make a way
[God] will make a way*

Songwriter: Don Moen
God Will Make a Way lyrics © Integrity's Hosanna! Music



This song by Don Moen has been stuck in my head for the past several weeks. Well, that's not entirely true. The *first two lines* of this song have been stuck in my head for the past several weeks, as that is all I could remember. I seemed to be humming it all day—every day!

It all started when John and I were looking at possible themes for our midweek Lenten worship. After we had settled on the theme "Making a Way Out of No Way," John sent me a link to this song – the perfect pairing with this theme! The song was relatively familiar to me, but not one that I knew very well. And yet, after only listening to it once or twice, I caught myself regularly singing, "God will make a way where there seems to be no way..." in my head. Not a bad message to be reminded of on a regular basis!

On Wednesday evenings during this season of Lent, we will be reading stories from scripture where God does just that – makes a way when there seems to be no way - for Abraham, Jonah, the Israelites at the Red Sea, Elijah, and Paul.

But it isn't just in scripture where we hear those stories. We have likely all experienced those moments ourselves. What other stories do YOU have about God making a way where there seems to be no way? When have you felt that you were in an impossible situation, but were guided to a way forward that you perhaps hadn't considered?

I have a friend who recently moved her family to a new state for a job promotion. And less than a year later, was let go from that job. But she continues to focus on the gifts that are coming as a result of all of this – extra time to devote to her family, their new schools being a good fit for her boys, and more time for her to volunteer in her community, all while holding on to the hope that the right job is out there for her, and will come along when the time is right. She embodies this trust, even as she waits for the fulfillment of that new way.

The way forward may not be what we expect, and maybe not even the direction we want to go at the time. But when we trust in God to make a way, we trust that God always is always leading us to new beginnings, to new life.

I hope you will join us as we explore these scriptural stories – and that these stories will help you to reflect on those moments when God has made a way for you where there seemed to be no way. And just maybe that promise will get stuck in your head as well, as we sing this song together on Wednesday nights. "God will make a way where there seems to be no way..."

In hope and trust,
Pastor Kristin

MUSIC MINISTRY IN LENT... A NOTE FROM JOHN FRANCIS

We are approaching the season of Lent, and last week during the Sunday School session, Pastor Kristin had us look into Lent and discuss the symbol of 'ashes'. Reminding us we came from dust and shall return to dust - Ashes can be used to help us reflect and remember. I find that this coming season is like the image of heading alone into a desert - expecting that journey to be a tough and solitary one.

When we are alone, we have the time to reflect, to read, to work on special projects. I often spend time playing games on my phone - possibly, because I would rather not encounter my inner self that might be addressed in a book I am reading. A recent devotion I read caught me a bit by surprise. Reading one of the prayers I read daily, I stopped to acknowledge that I wasn't actually believing what I was saying. I didn't fully believe that: "at this moment, I open my heart to receive Thy blessing, knowing that in Thy presence... the load is being lifted from my heart, the doubts from my mind, the fears from my soul, that I am at peace." Why, if I believed that, was I still feeling the heavy weight from each of those pulling me down? It came to me like looking in a mirror. I had this image of who I am, but the reflection was something different.



Perhaps the season of Lent is going to be a time for me to look deeper into that mirror and spend time with God learning how to strengthen my trust and my faith. I often recite the lyrics to the song "Step by Step": "O God, you are my God - and I will ever praise You." These lyrics have taken me through many difficult times on this life's journey. I pray you have some phrase or phrases that help you look into the mirror deeply and begin to see what God sees in each of us.

Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday all in one; and with them both this year begins the season of Lent. Music Ministry here at All Saints is already preparing our music for Easter Sunday, while keeping each Sunday musically enriched. Many thanks to everyone who continues to contribute to worship through the arts.

"The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah will once again conclude our Easter worship service. Singers and instrumentalists are invited to join in the Easter celebration as you are able.

Contact John Francis if you would like to share your talent.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP, FEBRUARY 14

We enter the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Please join us for worship at 7:00 p.m. During worship you will be invited forward to receive the mark of the cross on your forehead with ashes (which were created during our recent intergenerational Sunday School by burning palms from the past couple of years' Palm Sunday services).

If you are not able to join us for worship, you're welcome to drop in between 12 pm-1 pm for a time of silent prayer and confession in the sanctuary. Pastor Kristin will be available during that time for the imposition of ashes.



Ministry Updates...



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

WEDNESDAY EVENING OFFERING TO SUPPORT MAJM

God calls us to reach out to those who need God's presence in their lives. We at All Saints are able to do this for Dane County Jail residents through our financial support of the jail chaplains. These two chaplains minister to the spiritual needs of men and women in jail through church services, Bible studies, counseling, and by spending time with them and listening to their stories. There is no public financial support for the jail chaplains. Therefore, our donations to the Madison Area Jail Ministry (MAJM) help to provide the monies necessary to pay the necessary salaries and benefits to ensure that chaplains can be a spiritual presence in the jail. As All Saints has done since 2012, please prayerfully consider supporting the MAJM through the free-will donations at Wednesday Lenten Services. These Lenten offerings will be split between the ASLC General Fund and the MAJM. Your caring and generosity are sincerely appreciated.



It is also important to acknowledge the significant contributions made by All Saints members to the MAJM Christmas Card outreach project. Our members wrote heartfelt messages in Christmas cards for the men and women in jail. A highlight of this effort was the November 12th Cards, Cookies, and Carols event. It was a time of friendship, fun, and festivity. Messages were also written at another Fellowship Hour as well as some written at home by All Saints members for a total of over 80 cards. MAJM and the All Saints Social Justice Team are so grateful for this meaningful outreach from so many of you.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE GNPEP

Why do we give? One reason is to help others with basic essential needs. For over ten years, the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry has made getting laundry detergent for clean school and work clothes, diapers so little ones can go to daycare, dental products, and feminine products, a little easier. They say "a picture is worth a thousand words," and there aren't enough words to express gratitude for the repeated trunkloads of your generosity!!!



Each month, pantry needs are evaluated. Monthly focus items are selected by Memorial UCC according to seasonal and Pantry guest needs. The February focus item is bar soap. Thank you, in advance, for adding it to your shopping list. Please note: the pantry has requested that "Irish Spring" not be donated due to its highly scented nature.

For more information about the pantry go to: <http://www.gnpep.net/>.

To volunteer: <http://www.gnpep.net/volunteer.html>.

To donate: <http://www.gnpep.net/donate.html>

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Hints of spring are already in the air and gardening season will soon be upon us. We are blessed to have a wonderful community garden here at All Saints that provides both members of the church and members of the community at large sustenance in its many forms: physical, emotional, and spiritual. If you are interested in joining the community garden please feel free to contact me (Ilana Schroeder, schroeder677001@gmail.com). We usually have a full garden but it is not uncommon for there to be a few plots available at the beginning of the season.



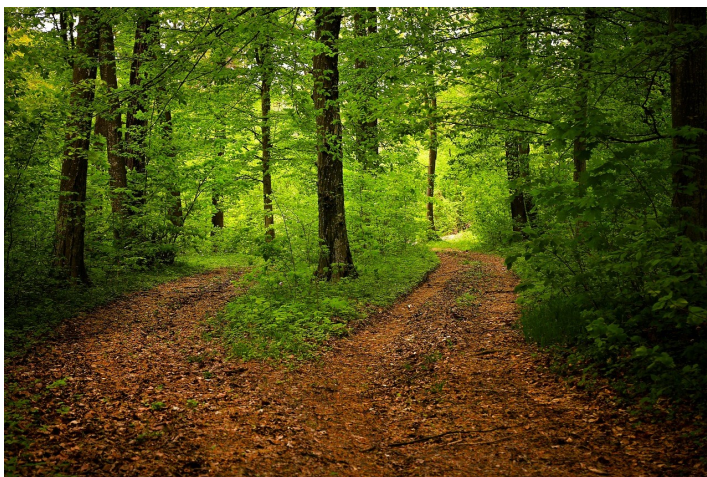
Lent Updates . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES BEGIN FEBRUARY 21

Following Ash Wednesday, we will continue to gather for worship at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent. Our theme will be "Making a Way Out of No Way". The opening litany borrows from Isaiah 43:19 "I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." The stories for each week all find a thread of God making a way where no way seems to be, whether because it feels hopeless or because the person God chose tries to run away or because we feel we have nothing to offer. We are given many glimpses throughout scripture of God making a way out of what seems to be no way at all, of God creating a future for and with God's people, when truly all seemed lost. Through scripture, song, and meditation, we will be reminded of the many ways God moved the faithful out of spaces of uncertainty and despair and into spaces of joy and abundance. Join us as we seek to hear and be inspired by the ways God has acted in the past, and have our eyes opened to the ways God in Christ Jesus acts in the here and now.



JOIN US FOR INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Monthly Sunday School continues through Sunday, May 5. In February we learned more about the season of Lent and why we do the things we do during that time. At the close of that class, palms that were used over the last two Palm Sundays were burned to create ashes that we will use on Ash Wednesday.

On March 3, we will continue our journey toward Easter with a discussion about Holy Week.

HELP DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER!



The office is accepting flower orders for Easter! This year we will be ordering tulips, daffodils and lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Plants cost \$15 and may be taken home following Easter Worship or donated to fill the All Saints flower beds. Please have your flower order and payment in to the church office by Wednesday, March 13.

EASTER BREAKFAST HOSTED BY KITCHEN ANGELS

Please join us following worship on Easter Sunday for fellowship and a light brunch hosted by the All Saints Kitchen Angels. Brunch will be available from 10:45-11:30 a.m. A selection of bagels and fresh fruit will be available with juice and coffee.



News & Notes...



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

DID YOU KNOW?

There are so many ways to donate to All Saints, and we are grateful for every gift we receive – no matter how it comes to us! From the traditional cash or check in the offering plate, to those same items being sent through the mail, to online giving options via a bank account or credit/debit card, and most recently even Venmo! With all these options available, we have had several questions about the fees All Saints takes on when accepting online gifts, so wanted to share those with you so that you make an informed decision about the best way to share your gifts with All Saints.

Our online giving platform (Vanco):

- For EFT (Electronic Fund Transfers from a bank account) - \$.24 per transaction plus .45% of the transaction
- For Debit/Credit Cards - \$.38 per transaction plus 2.67% of the transaction

Venmo

- \$.10 per transaction plus 1.9% of the transaction

So, for online giving, the least amount of fees comes with an EFT, followed by Venmo, with the highest fees associated with Debit/Credit card gifts.

If you are looking for a consistent online giving option with NO fees for All Saints, check into the Bill Pay options at your own bank. You can set All Saints up as a bill to be paid on whatever schedule you would like, and they will automatically send us a check. At most banks, that service is free to you and comes with no added fees for All Saints.

Again, we appreciate each gift we receive and want to offer all these options for your convenience. We are simply providing the information that several of you have requested. Thank you for your continued generosity!

FOURTH QUARTER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The James Company indicated we should expect at least 1½ times our annual giving during our Capital Appeal campaign, which we achieved. Pledges received were \$237,418 toward the mortgage reduction and \$186,380 in faith promises. We didn't reach the goal we set but we knew that goal was lofty. A celebration was held on January 21st.

The budget was a topic of discussion for several months. The executive committee recommended a 5% increase in salaries, as no one has had an increase in 4 years and we wanted our staff to know they are appreciated and we could not function without them. Several cuts were made to budget items mostly due to folks looking for cost savings, such as reducing the number of phone lines, renting a less expensive copier, and finding less expensive insurance policies. While the budget wasn't balanced, the difference was reduced to less than \$12,000 which is the smallest difference we have had in many years. The budget submitted by council was approved at our annual meeting.

Mission Investment Fund (MIF) offered to handle our mortgage of about \$735,000 with a 6.625% interest rate, a 20 year amortization and a loan term of 5 years. Our mortgage has been moved to MIF. We also opened an account with MIF to hold our mortgage fund money.

Council decided for now we would not look further into selling our building, as we feel our capital appeal was a success. However, we may consider selling our garden space if we could get a good deal for it. We would need to agree on access rights, the size of the property and we feel we need to allow our gardeners use of the garden at least this year.

In Thanksgiving . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

TEAM AND COUNCIL UPDATES

Questions? Comments? A word of thanks and encouragement?

Reach out to our 2024 Council Members!

Jennifer Barakat Jennifer.I.barakat@gmail.com

Matt Gramse mgramse@yahoo.com

Gary Kriesel treeman77@ameritech.net

Bob Lavigna lavignas1@yahoo.com

Amie Mitchell mitchellamie15@gmail.com

Rita Olin rmolin@chartermi.net

Margie Rem mdrem4877@gmail.com

Tracy Schoohs btschoohs@gmail.com

Michelle Slawny, Appointed Treasurer slawny@tds.net

Pastor Kristin Woelk pastor@allsaints-madison.org

Property Team Leader: Sean Hemstad sehemstad@gmail.com

THANK YOU, CONGREGATION!

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

The December 2023 Treasurer's Report:

Contributions:	December 2023	December 2022	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Contributions-General Fund	\$23,780	\$30,987	\$263,769	\$216,385
Contributions-Mortgage Fund	\$500	\$1,775	\$61,305	\$37,822
Other Income	\$119	\$3,601	\$15,628	\$7,913
Solar Fund Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$700	\$710
Income vs. Expenses:				
Total income	\$24,439	\$32,658	\$347,898	\$271,217
Total expense	\$24,070	\$28,218	\$327,314	\$333,575
Variance	\$369	\$4,440	\$20,584	-\$62,358

General fund offerings for December were \$23,720 (114%) versus a budget of \$20,833. Year to date general fund offerings are \$263,769 (106%) versus a budget of \$250,000. Although general fund offerings are better than expected for the year, they are still short of our expenses.

Total Church income for all funds in 2023 is \$347,898 which includes \$61,305 for capital appeal contributions.

Mortgage fund offerings for December were \$1,175 (71%) versus a budget of \$2,500. Year to date Mortgage fund offerings are \$37,822 (126%) versus a budget of \$30,000.

Expenditures: December expenditures were under budget for the month at \$24,070 versus a budgeted amount of \$26,393. Year to date expenses are over budget at \$327,314 versus a budgeted amount of \$316,911.

Items of note over budget year-to-date:

- Snow Removal: \$8,748 (\$2,748 over budget)
- Misc. Office & Admin Exp: \$2,147 (\$2,000 of this was the fee to have the tax forms prepared for the ERC tax credit. All Saints should receive \$28,883 in credits.)
- Capital Appeal: \$24,386

Reminders . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

WINTER WEATHER GUIDELINES

'Tis the season for unpredictable weather! To check on weather related cancellations, call the All Saints' office at (608) 276-7729 and listen to the recorded message or check the All Saints website at www.allsaints-madison.org for a notice of any schedule changes. Cancellations will also be posted to Facebook.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and will be prepared to answer calls for assistance when the time comes.

What you can do:

Pray: Please pray for people in the Middle East who have been impacted by the conflict. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Give: Your gifts designated for "[Middle East Crisis](#)" will be used entirely (100%) to provide long-lasting support to those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region.

Connect: To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#).

Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#).

"Like" Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#), follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#) and follow @ELCA_LDR on [Instagram](#).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open: Tuesdays OR Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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). If you would like Pastor Kristin to come visit you, just let her know. She is happy to do so! And remember – you can reach her anytime in the case of an emergency via her cell phone (608-616-0631).

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 in May 2024. Items are subject to editing due to space availability. Please contact the church office if you are interested in submitting 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! And don't miss Pastor Kristin's Thoughtful Thursdays!
 - 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 twice-monthly synod e-newsletter.
 - **Congregation Council Meeting Approved Minutes** copies are available in the church office. If you wish to receive meeting notes via email, please contact the church office.
-

Page intentionally left blank.



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

All Saints Lutheran Church

2951 Chapel Valley Road

Fitchburg, WI 53711-6410

(608)276-PRAY

E-mail: office@allsaints-madison.org

Published Quarterly

Issue No. 413



Save These Dates!

Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday Worship
7:00 p.m.

** Worship will be livestreamed
and uploaded to YouTube*

Feb. 21: Lenten Worship - 7:00 p.m.

** Worship continues each
Wednesday during Lent*

March 3: Sunday School for all ages!
10:45-11:30 a.m.

March 24: Palm Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

March 28: Maundy Thursday Worship
7:00 p.m.

March 29: Good Friday Worship
7:00 p.m.

March 31: Easter Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Church Staff & Leadership

Pastor.....Kristin Woelk

Phone: 608-616-0631

E-mail: pastor@allsaints-madison.org

Worship & Music Director.....John Francis

Email: music@allsaints-madison.org

Church Secretary..... Heather Quartaro

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays OR Wednesdays

E-mail: office@allsaints-madison.org

Accompanists.....Nancy Pokorney

Sunday School Coordinator.....Heather Quartaro

Email: hkquartaro@gmail.com

Custodian.....Carl DiMartino

For a calendar of All Saints' activities, go to:

www.allsaints-madison.org