

All Saints Lutheran Church

LENT 2026



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

LENT, HOLY WEEK, & EASTER AT ALL SAINTS



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18— noon & 7 p.m.

We begin the season of Lent with the reminder that we are dust and will one day return to dust. This year we will gather for worship at both noon and 7 pm. The noon service will be abbreviated to make it accessible for those who would like to come during their lunch hour.



Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays, beginning February 25—7:00 p.m.

Join us as we journey through the season of Lent with the theme, "Holy Lament". See inside for more details.



Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 29—9:30 a.m.

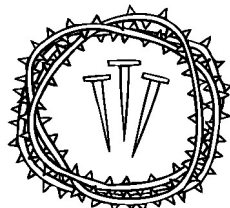
Our worship on this day is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.



Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 2—7:00 p.m.

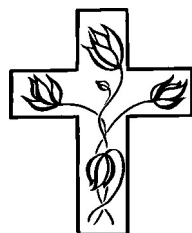
Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal, loving one another in humble service.



Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 3—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, April 5—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!

Voices . . .

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KRISTIN

I just returned from a girls' weekend with some of my favorite people. This is a group of women that make me laugh until my cheeks and my sides hurt. They are also a group of women that I know supports each other, prays for one another, listens intently and encourages one another, and would do just about anything for each other. We munched on lots of snacks and ate at favorite restaurants. We talked over coffee (or Diet Coke) in the morning and late into the night while working on a puzzle. It was refreshing and holy time. I came home both tired and energized, with my heart full.

I don't see these friends often. Maybe once a year – if we're lucky. But they are some of the first people I reach out to with something funny that happened as well as with prayer requests and general life updates. I know that they are always there for me, but the time I get to set aside to be in their presence is sacred time. Those relationships are nourished by spending time in the same space, sharing the stories we wouldn't necessarily share via text or over the phone, stories that only bubble up when you are spending extended quality time together.

We are about to enter into the season of Lent. It is time set aside for us to spend that type of quality time with Jesus. We know that Jesus is always with us. That Jesus listens to us, encourages us, hears our prayers, laughs with us, and cries with us. Lent doesn't change that. Instead it invites us to focus a bit more on our relationship with Jesus. To intentionally spend time telling and hearing stories, as well as quiet time that allows us to be more aware of his presence.

That focus might look different for each of us. Maybe it will be taking on some kind of Lenten discipline that helps us to center our days on Christ. Maybe it will be giving something up – not as punishment, but to make more room for God. Maybe it will be joining us on Wednesdays during Lent – first for our Ash Wednesday worship, and then for our Wednesday evenings together centered in Holden Evening Prayer. Or maybe it will be subscribing to one of the online devotionals listed elsewhere in this newsletter. And those suggestions are just the beginning.

Jesus loves you and will always be there for you – no matter what. And Jesus also wants to be a part of your everyday life. My prayer for you – and for myself – is that we will all make time for this life-giving relationship to flourish and grow, to spend quality time with our dearest Friend during this season, knowing and trusting that he will always answer, even if it has been a while since we last called.

God's peace,

Pastor Kristin



Voices . . .

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

It seems like every few months there is another season – Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall – but also in the church year this year, we have had Advent and Christmas – now fast approaching Lent and Easter. With each of these seasons, there is a freshness which we look forward to. Our winter snow will eventually give way to new and colorful sprouts of Spring. Lent will offer us the anticipation of the great event of Easter and the Resurrection. Music Ministry Team members meet regularly to create fresh new sounds for our worship experiences. Our ensembles are open to new members throughout the year, so if you ever thought of becoming involved – this is a good time to try one or more of our groups: Handbells, New Song Praise Team, and Choir. You will be welcome.



Our Midweek Lenten services this year will again be following the Holden Evening Prayer service and will be led by members of our Choir. These beautiful services will be held in the Sanctuary each Wednesday evening at 7:00. Ash Wednesday service is February 18, and the following Wednesday will be the first of the Holden Evening Prayer services. Enter into Lent with our Ash Wednesday service and return each week to journey through Lent together toward Easter.

If you would like more information on the Music Ministry at All Saints, you may contact John Francis at lymhants_2001@yahoo.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The season of Lent begins with the somber celebration of Ash Wednesday. We gather for worship, confess our sins, and are marked with a cross of ash as we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The good people at Old Lutheran have shared this beautiful reflection on Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent:



As we prepare for Ash Wednesday and Lent let us remember that it is a long and dusty road. It is on this journey that we reflect on those who have gone before and those who will come after. We identify with the hurt and the pain. We live in the messiness that comes with the often dirty road that we must travel. Let us also remember that it is this dust we call life that shapes and forms us into resurrection people. Just as we walk wet in recognition of our baptism and the promise that it holds we encourage you this year to Walk Dusty. Remember that in the brokenness, we are healed. While the journey is long and tiresome, resurrection promises are greater. In our dusty walk we claim the promise of new sandals and clean garments. As we walk dusty we remember that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return.

Join us as we begin this season of walking dusty together on Wednesday, February 18, with worship at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The noon service will be abbreviated to make it accessible for those who would like to come during their lunch hour.

Lenten Opportunities...

MIDWEEK LENT: HOLY LAMENT

Each Wednesday night during Lent, we will gather for worship at 7 pm, beginning February 25. We will once again ground ourselves in Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer, while engaging in holy lament.



This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope. (sundaysandseasons.com)

Join us on Wednesdays at 7 pm, beginning February 25, as we join together in holy lament.

BOOK STUDY WITH THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Join us after worship Sunday March 8, 15 & 22

The Social Justice team invites you to join them for a Lenten book discussion of [Who Stole My Bible](#) by Jennifer Butler. In it we explore how Christians struggle to understand how many of our neighbors profess similar beliefs and ideologies, yet the way those beliefs are lived out in how they treat others, how they speak and act, and even how they vote seems so different.

From the book summary:

The Bible has been hijacked. We've all seen examples of sacred scripture being used and abused to justify racism, sexism, reactionary politics, and even violence. If you have ever found yourself wondering what Bible some of your fellow believers are reading, then you are not alone. Scripture is replete with stories of those who followed God's call to resist oppression and fearlessly pursue compassion, justice, and human dignity. Chapters of this book focus on the liberating God of the Hebrews, the authoritarianism of King Solomon, the dream team of women in the Bible, and how Jesus came to bring truth and expose the lies of rulers. Each chapter illustrates the lessons of scripture with true stories of courageous religious communities countering authoritarianism and white supremacy in America today.

WHO STOLE MY BIBLE?

Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for Resisting Tyranny



Join us after Sunday worship on March 8, 15 & 22 for a discussion of this book. Books have been ordered for those who need a copy. Look for Roger Damrow on Sundays February 15 & 22 to pick up a copy of the book.

Ministry Updates...

LENTEN FOCUS: MADISON AREA JAIL MINISTRY

It is our tradition at All Saints that the offerings taken during our Wednesday Lenten services are shared with other local ministries. This year all the money collected will go to the Madison Area Jail Ministry (MAJM). The MAJM has been sponsoring the Jail chaplaincy program for Dane County Jail since 1971 and it is entirely funded by donations from local church members and other community individuals. Our donations support these chaplains at the Dane County Jail who bring Christ to those in jail through church services, Bible studies, prayer, and counseling. MAJM is a ministry of presence. We cannot personally be there but we can provide the financial support for the chaplains who act on our behalf.



MAJM began its year with a baptism. What a great way to start out the year! Chaplain Laura worked with a jail resident over the summer and he requested to be baptized because he wanted to make a public profession of his faith in Christ. He gave a powerful testimony about how his life has changed and how he plans to walk in his faith upon his release. Another resident shared his perspective saying, "There's a lot of hurting people in here. And when the chaplain comes through the door it is like a beacon of light." What a testament to the love of God shared through this ministry.

This ministry of presence is only able to happen because of the support of faith communities in our area. This past year we at All Saints were able to collect four full tubs of warm winter clothes for residents that were getting released during the winter. Although it is important that we reach out to the jail residents through these winter clothing donations and Christmas cards, it is also important that we financially support MAJM so there is a visible presence of God at work as chaplains share God's Word.

Please consider giving whatever you can to support God's beloved children in jail who are loved and sustained by the Dane County Jail chaplains.

Thank you Sincerely,
the ASLC Social Justice Team

GOOD NEIGHBORS PERSONAL ESSENTIALS PANTRY

The generosity of All Saints folks is so very appreciated by the Pantry guests!!

Just as important are those who volunteer at the Pantry! Several members of our congregation are involved. If you are interested in helping there, you can visit <https://www.gnpep.net/volunteer.html> or talk to Margie Rem.

Meanwhile, looking forward, these are the projected monthly focus items:

February-- paper towels

April-- body wash

March-- skin lotion

May-- shampoo



Please remember that any hygiene item is important all of the time.

ST. MARK'S FOOD PANTRY

In this time of increased need in our community St. Mark's Food Pantry and Community Meal continues to provide a needed service for the people of Madison. If you wish to give a monetary donation any time throughout the year, you can do this one of two ways: 1) Website (stmarksmadison.org) - there is a donate button in the upper right corner of the website; 2) Make a check out to All Saints and name the pantry in the memo line or on outside of envelope. Place envelopes in the offering plate or via mail. You are also able to donate to the pantry through the All Saints website.

Learning and Fellowship...

SOUP, SALAD AND DESSERT! FEBRUARY & MARCH



Have you missed the potluck dinners that were once hosted prior to worship during Lent? We will be hosting two potluck dinners this Lenten season. All are welcome to join us for good food and community!

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 25, at 6:15pm to attend a potluck of soup, salad and dessert, followed by worship at 7:00pm, with a second dinner scheduled for March 25.

Signups for bringing food and sharing hosting duties can be found [Here](#) or let Kate in the office know. We look forward to spending this time together! Please contact Jen Barakat with questions.

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our intergenerational Bible study on the book of Acts continues as we explore the life of the early church and the Spirit-led ministry of Paul. In March, we'll dig into Acts 19, a chapter full of energy, conflict, and transformation as the gospel takes root in Ephesus and challenges both individuals and the wider culture.

We will not meet in April as we pause to celebrate Easter.

In May, we'll wrap up our time together with a special presentation from Pastor Kristin and Steven, who will share highlights and reflections from their recent "Footsteps of Paul" trip to Greece and Turkey. Their experience visiting key sites from Paul's ministry will bring Acts to life in a powerful and tangible way.

This study is designed for all ages, and we're grateful for the chance to learn, question, and grow together as we consider what it means to be the church—then and now. We meet on the first Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall at 10:45 am. See you there!

EASTER BREAKFAST HOSTED BY KITCHEN ANGELS

Please join us following worship on Easter Sunday, April 5, 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.



EASTER LESSONS & CAROLS



Join us on the Second Sunday of Easter for a beautiful and uplifting Service of Easter Lessons & Carols, as we continue to rejoice in the glorious celebration of the Resurrection. Through scripture and song, we will walk together through the powerful resurrection appearances of Jesus in the Gospel of John, reflecting on the wonder, hope, and new life revealed in each encounter. With hearts full of joy, we will sing Easter hymns and that proclaim the victory of life over death and light over darkness. Come and be renewed in the joy of the season as, together, we boldly and joyfully proclaim the good news: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Fellowship and Service...

DON MCCORD RETIREMENT

For more years than we can count, there is one thing you could count on when you came to worship- Don McCord would be at the Fellowship Hall doors to greet you and welcome you to All Saints. For many, his welcome was the first they received to our faith community. Don's joyful commitment to this hospitality ministry meant that he has often been at the church even before Pastor Kristin, offering her the same warm welcome he offers to all. While you may still be lucky enough to catch Don at the fellowship hall doors on occasion, he will primarily be retiring from this ministry. We invite you to join us to say thank you to Don for his incredibly hospitality by showering him with cards! Write a card of thanks and either leave it with Pastor Kristin or send it to Don at home to say thanks for his dedication to this important ministry.

We also want to continue this warm welcome to all who attend worship – so you will find “Fellowship Hall Greeter” on our weekly worship sign-up. You are invited to sign up – and may find that you get the opportunity to work side by side with the legend!



WORSHIP LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WEEKLY

Each time we gather for worship, a team of volunteers is essential for making worship run smoothly and enjoyable for all, and we are seeking your assistance in this ministry. Volunteers are needed for: greeting folks at both entrances, ushering, reading scripture, running projection, setting and cleaning up communion, serving communion, supplying snacks for fellowship, and hosting fellowship. Maybe make it a challenge to help in one area, once a month!

You may find assisting during the service adds a new and interesting dimension to your weekly worship. Please contact Kate in the office (office@allsaints-madison.org / 608-276-7729) to share where you'd like to assist, or look for the link to an online signup provided in the weekly e-newsletter.

Your participation in filling these roles is dearly needed, and sincerely appreciated!
Your Church Council

ALL SAINTS ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Spring is right around the corner and you may be doing some spring cleaning. Please save your gently use items for our annual church rummage sale. Unfortunately, we cannot accept mattresses, sofa sleepers and large electronics. Drop off sites are the 1/2 & 3/4 classrooms. Signs are on the doors to designate the rooms. Printed donation forms can be picked up when you drop off your items. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



The sale is planned for the weekend of May 1 & 2. We will need many hands to help sort and set up for the sale, and more volunteers to help make sure our sale runs smoothly the day of. Keep the weekend free and look out for volunteer sign up in early April.

All Saints Annual Meeting

Our All Saints Annual Meeting was held on January 18. Thanks to the following people who were elected to serve in the coming year:

Council:

- Jen Barakat - (2nd Term)
- Rita Olin - (3rd Term)
- Matt Gramse - (2nd Term)
- Renae Sieling - (2nd Term)

Following the annual meeting, the council met and elected officers for the coming year. We are grateful for our executive team who will be continuing in their roles:

- President Jennifer Barakat
- Vice-President Margie Rem
- Treasurer Rita Olin
- Secretary Amie Mitchell

Financial Results of 2025

Highlights of the financial results for 2025 include:

- General fund income for 2025 was \$346,122.17 which was 100% of budget.
- Total expenses through December 2025 were \$365,789.45, which was \$3,394.34 over budget.
- Total benevolence given by All Saints to the ELCA and the Personal Essentials Pantry was \$18,249.92 for 2025 (7.5% of general fund offerings).
- We ended 2025 with a mortgage balance of \$700,992.55. That balance at the end of 2024 was \$720,679.39.
- There was some interest from two different churches in renting part of our facilities. One decided the timing was not right for them now. We continue to explore options to rent out available space.
- Upgrades were made to our phone system, which will result in future savings.
- This past year, we received monies from Serve Boldly for the two weeks they were in our building. They have requested an additional week for this next year.

2026 Budget

The budget was passed and copies are available in the Annual Report or by request. You will notice that we have not included a financial report in this newsletter, as the year end information is the most current available at the time of publishing.



LEADERSHIP LOOKING AHEAD

At our annual meeting, a few of our open elected positions did not have nominees. The nominations committee has continued to work on that, and has nominees that will be presented to the council this month for both the vacant council position and the synod assembly lay voting members. We will announce those names after they have been approved by council. We are still looking for members to serve on next year's nominating committee, which helps to find people willing to serve in our open elected positions. We need three people for that committee, and the term is one year. If you are interested in serving in this way, please reach out to our current nominating committee (Gary Kriesel, Bob Lavigna, Joan Stoikes) or any council member.

We are also seeking 2-3 individuals to form a Personnel Team to support Pastor Kristin and the church staff. This team will conduct annual reviews, provide a safe space for staff to share concerns, and discuss opportunities for professional development. If you are interested, please contact any member of the council.

Reaching into our community...

JOIN US FOR OWLS POTLUCK & FELLOWSHIP!

Looking for a reason to get out, share a meal, and enjoy some laughter? The OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) and Friends would love for you to join us! We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at noon for a potluck lunch filled with good food and even better conversation. Gary's famous 8-cheese lasagna will be there in February. Will you?



After we eat, the fun continues with BINGO! Some months we will even be bringing in a guest speaker to share a little about ministries or community resources – and then to be a guest BINGO caller! You never quite know who might be calling the numbers or what stories and insights might be shared! We are looking forward to welcoming Grace Crevier one of the program directors from Lutherdale Bible Camp, at our gathering on March 24.

Whether you come every month or are thinking about joining us for the first time, you are warmly welcome. Bring a dish to share if you're able, bring a friend if you'd like, and come ready for fellowship and fun.

We hope to see you at the next OWLs gatherings: February 24, March 24, April 28, and May 26!

NEIGHBORS COMING TOGETHER !



On February 3 from 10:00 am to 2 :00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, we partnered with our neighbors at McKee Park Apartments to host a blood drive. We were able to collect **23** life saving donations as well as continue a great relationship with the neighbors in our community. Look for more announcements about how we can help our community coming up.

SERVE BOLDLY

This summer we will once again host Serve Boldly, a ministry of Water's Edge Ministries (formerly Green Lake Lutheran Ministries) for three and a half weeks:

June 28-July 1
July 12-17

July 19-24
July 26-31



Serve Boldly empowers young people, grades 6-12, to accompany and serve their neighbors while deepening an understanding of God's presence in their lives. They provide programs nationwide, in both small and large urban settings.

During these 3 ½ weeks, young people and their adult sponsors, along with dedicated staff, will be staying at All Saints – sleeping in our classrooms, sharing meals in the fellowship hall, and going out into our community to serve with a number of local non-profit organizations. With this ministry using All Saints as their “home-base,” we have the incredible opportunity to serve! Serve Boldly is looking for both paid staff positions as well as volunteers. Last year, we had several members who enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer in the kitchen, helping to provide meals for these hard workers. Contact Pastor Kristin if you are interested, and she can connect you with Sara Jonassen from Serve Boldly for more information!

Things to Know . . .

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Looking for some free, online or printable devotions to help guide your time during Lent? Here are a few to check out:

- [“Oh, Love, How Deep”](#) – from Luther Seminary
- [ELCA World Hunger Lent Calendar 2026](#)
- [Holy Habits Meditations Booklet](#) – from Episcopal Relief & Development

EASTER FLOWERS

The office is accepting flower orders to decorate the sanctuary 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 Sunday, March 1.



COUNCIL

Contact your 2026 All Saints Council members:

President - Jennifer Barakat jennifer.l.barakat@gmail.com

Vice President - Margie Rem mdrem4877@gmail.com

Secretary - Amie Mitchell mitchellamie15@gmail.com

Treasurer - Rita Olin olinri100@gmail.com

Matt Gramse mgramse@yahoo.com

Leigh Luedtke jimandleigh@gmail.com

Renaë Sieling rsieling@frontier.com

Property Team Leader: Sean Hemstad sehemstad@gmail.com

THINGS TO KNOW...

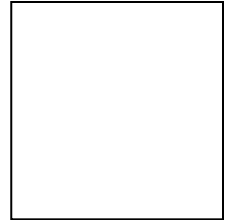
- **Newsletter** articles are always appreciated! The newsletter is a great place to share upcoming dates with the congregation. The next newsletter will be published in May 2026. Items are subject to editing due to space availability. Please contact the church office if you are interested in submitting an article.
 - If you would prefer to receive your newsletter printed through the mail rather than through email, please let the office know so we can send you a copy.
 - 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! You can also find Pastor Kristin's "Thoughtful Thursdays" on YouTube and Facebook - a short devotion that usually includes a little ukulele music!
 - **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.
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"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Save These Dates!

- Feb 18: Ash Wednesday Worship
12 :00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
* Worship will be livestreamed
and uploaded to YouTube
- Feb 25: Lenten Worship - 7:00 p.m.
* Worship continues each
Wednesday during Lent
- March 1: Intergenerational Sunday School!
10:45-11:30 a.m.
- March 29: Palm Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.
- April 2: Maundy Thursday Worship
7:00 p.m.
- April 3: Good Friday Worship
7:00 p.m.
- April 5: 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 Admin..... Kate Kvidera
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
E-mail: office@allsaints-madison.org
- Congregational Council President.....Jennifer Barakat
- Accompanist.....Nancy Pokorney
- Custodian.....Jean Rony Jolimeau

For a calendar of All Saints' activities, go to:
www.allsaints-madison.org