

All Saints Lutheran Church

WINTER 2023



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

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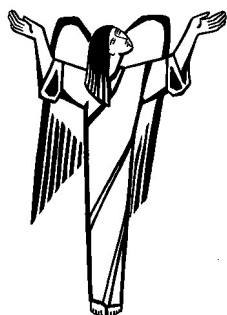
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*Hope is
the light
that leads us
to find
the mystery
of God's love
wrapped
in mercy,
bound
in grace,
and sent
in peace.*

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER



Advent Worship
begins Sunday, November 26
9:30 a.m.
Sanctuary



Intergenerational Sunday School
December 3
10:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
Help us create care kits for young adults and
care packages for members this month!



Special Music Sunday
December 17
9:30 a.m.
Sanctuary
Join us for our Annual Special Music Sunday
with musical selections
that showcase our talented musicians.



Christmas Eve Worship
*We gather to celebrate
the birth of our Savior!*
Sunday, December 24
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship
**Please note: There will be no morning
worship on Sunday, December 24*

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KRISTIN

Advent just might be my favorite season of the church year. The four weeks leading up to Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth are full of anticipation, joy, and hope. The hope that we experience during Advent is a hope that we know will come to fruition. We wait and hope for something that has already happened – Jesus coming among us as God made flesh. But we also wait for Jesus to come again in glory – something that we continue to wait for, but that we hope and trust will happen – someday.



Our recent capital appeal – “Hope Everlasting” – has had us talking about hope a lot around here lately. And while we did not reach our lofty goal for the Mortgage Fund portion of the appeal, your generous responses filled me with hope. While we are still a little uncertain about what the future holds for us, we move forward with hope in the One who continues to remain faithful to us!

And it is not just in our faith promises that I see hope. I experience hope when I hear joy bubbling up from the sanctuary as music groups rehearse on Wednesdays – and even more hope fills my soul as they offer their gifts to add to our worship. Hope is evident as people gather on a Sunday morning to write cards that carry hope and joy to those incarcerated at the Dane County Jail. And hope abounds as I gather with our confirmation students and they are able to share their highs and lows, as well as where they are seeing God in their daily lives.

Hope is powerful. But as John Kirvan writes in *God Hunger*, “Our hope, it seems, always carries with it a hint of doubt. We want something to happen, but maybe it won’t.” He goes on to reference Evelyn Underhill, an English poet and novelist who became a popular spiritual writer later in her life.

Kirvan writes, “There’s no such wavering for Evelyn Underhill when she talks not just of the future but of every passing moment. ‘I expect,’ she says, ‘the resurrection.’ And she means from every death, however little, however frequent. We have every right to expect the same thing and no need to undermine our hope with ‘maybes,’ no need to limit our expectations to possibilities. There is no final death because ‘beyond every death is life.’ Beyond every death is resurrection. This is not one hope among many but the very heart, the very being of hope itself and therefore our lives in and with God.”

As we move forward through this season of Advent and into a new year, we do so with hope. Hope that is grounded in the promise that God is always providing new life. And that hope can be free of doubt, as we have seen over and over that we have a God who is always with us, giving hope, sustaining hope, and building on hope. Whether we see that in big ways or small moments, may we all make room for the hope that God is making all things new – including you and me!

With everlasting hope, *Pastor Kristin*

DECEMBER MUSIC... A NOTE FROM JOHN FRANCIS

This is an exciting and busy time of the church year within the music ministry program. Advent season begins here at All Saints on November 26, and each of the music groups is preparing their selections for the worship services. On Sunday, December 17, we will share a variety of music from each of our groups in worship. Along with all the visual decorations, the traditional stories from scripture, and familiar carols, worshipers will be treated to a meaningful season. After we catch our breath in the New Year, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Valentines Day, and we begin building toward the great Sunday of Easter. The three areas of our music ministry program: Choir, New Song Praise Team and Handbells are always open to new members. Perhaps these coming months may find you engaged in one or more of our offerings here at All Saints. We welcome your involvement and your support throughout the church year as we worship together.

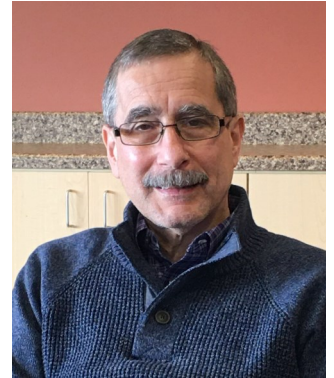
If you would like more information on the Music Ministry at All Saints, you may contact John Francis at lymhants_2001@yahoo.com.

A NOTE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BOB LAVIGNA

As I write this during Thanksgiving week, I think about how I have much to be thankful for, including being a member of the All Saints community.

All of us on the Church Council are thankful for your response to our Hope Everlasting Appeal. As reported in last week's update, the campaign generated about \$176,000 in annual faith pledges and almost \$220,000 for our mortgage reduction. We know that each of you carefully and prayerfully considered pledging and some had to dig deep to help. Thank you.

It's never too late, so if you'd still like to contribute, please return your response form to the church office, or bring it to Sunday worship. If you need an appeal packet, you can call the church office (608-276-7729).



Despite your positive response to the appeal, we continue to face severe financial challenges, and the Council continues to discuss and consider options to ensure our financial future. Among our challenges is the need to refinance mortgage starting in January 2024, and we are applying to several sources for a new mortgage. We will discuss our finances in more detail at the January 14 annual budget meeting, and the January 21 annual meeting. With your continued support and prayers, we will successfully meet these challenges.

Also apropos of our finances, we are seeking a Council Treasurer to replace Michelle Slawny, whose three-year term ends at the end of 2023. If it were up to me, I'd ask Michelle to be Treasurer for Life but our Constitution won't allow that (and pretty sure Michelle wouldn't either). It is no surprise that Michelle has graciously offered to be a resource for the next Treasurer, who can either be elected by our congregation in January or appointed by the Council (therefore having a voice, but not a vote at Council meetings). While financial experience could be helpful, Michelle assures us this is not necessary. The commitment is 5-6 hours a month. If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Kristin (pastor@allsaints-madison.org, 608-276-7729). We're grateful to Michelle for her commitment and outstanding service as Treasurer.

I know that I tend to focus on the financial aspects of being stewards of All Saints, but I also know that there is far more to All Saints than our finances. We are community of faith, brought together by our belief in God and commitment to "Know, Follow, and Share Jesus." Despite our financial challenges, I know it is essential to keep that front of mind. Money is a tool for us to achieve our mission, not an end in itself.

And this Thanksgiving I feel especially blessed and grateful. Whenever the Powerball jackpot rises to some unfathomable amount, I'm tempted to buy tickets, even though I know rationally that the larger the pool is, the longer the odds of winning. I then remind myself that I've already won the lottery – living in America, having a wonderful family and good friends, being healthy, and being a member of the All Saints community.

(But I still buy Powerball tickets – sigh.)

Thank you for who you are and what you do, and have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.



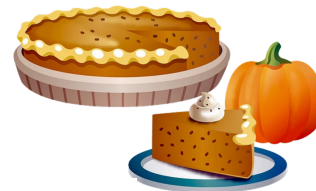
Upcoming Events . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

THANKSGIVING EVE PRAYER & PIE, NOVEMBER 22, 7 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!



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!

On the first Sunday of each month, we gather together for Intergenerational Sunday School after worship. This time of learning, serving, fellowship and fun is for all children of God – from 1 to 101! We hope you will join us in the coming months, as each person adds to the full experience of our time together. In December, we will focus on gifts – the gifts we receive from God through Jesus, as well as the gifts we share with others this time of year and always. Much of our time will be spent preparing gifts to share with our community. In January, as the Christmas lights fade, we'll focus on Jesus, the Light of the World, and ways that we can reflect that light. In February, we'll focus on God's love and how we experience that through the season of Lent, especially this year as Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday. We hope you will join us for these events – December 3, February 4, and March 3.



BUDGET HEARING & ANNUAL MEETING DATES

NOTICE: Please mark your calendar to join us for the
All Saints Annual Budget Hearing - Sunday, January 14

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

All Saints Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21

10:45-11:45 a.m. - Sanctuary

Your attendance is encouraged!

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." We meet on the last Tuesday of every month, and the next gathering is Tuesday, November 28, 6-8 p.m. We'll take a break in December, and then gather again in January.

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!

SCAM ALERT!

We have been made aware of another email scam requesting recipients purchase gift cards for Pastor Kristin. They start out with a message saying that Pastor Kristin needs your help with an urgent matter or has something she needs to discuss with you right away. If you respond to those emails, they will eventually ask you to purchase gift cards for someone in need. These emails are NOT from Pastor Kristin. Pastor Kristin will NEVER text or email members with this type of request. It is safest to check the email address (not just name) that the message is coming from. Pastor Kristin will only ever contact you using her allsaints-madison.org email address or her new gmail address (pastorkristinwoelk@gmail.com). Please report any unknown emails to your email provider (gmail, hotmail, etc.).

**SCAM
ALERT!**

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. Mail is checked daily. Deposits are made on the 15th and 30th of each month. 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 2023 donations must be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31st to be credited to the 2023 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 22 - Friday, November 24
- Monday, December 25
- Monday, January 1 - Tuesday, 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"

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUARTERLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Our "Inspiration and Ice Cream" event at Chapel Valley Senior Apartments in Fitchburg on September 7 was successful and well attended. Pastor Kristin played her ukulele and interacted with the residents. This was followed by conversations and ice cream with the residents and our team. Some of those that attended this event also joined us for our outdoor worship service at McKee Farms Park.

Sunday, November 12, we hosted an event during Fellowship for attendees to write Christmas card messages to those incarcerated in the Dane County Jail. We served Christmas treats and played holiday music. Sixty cards were written and more were taken home for completion!

We are still pursuing ways to get involved with other residents in the Fitchburg area and will delve into that in January. We also decided that some of our events should be recurring. We are also exploring how to get more involved with the Jail Ministry here in Madison.

Submitted by Roxie Kriesel

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, November 30.

We ask for your assistance in donating items needed for creating our annual Holiday Care Kits for our young adults. We began collecting items Sunday, November 19. 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. Kits will be stuffed and prepared for mailing on Sunday, December 3rd.



Thank you for your continued support of this program. For questions, please contact Jen Barakat at jennifer.l.barakat@gmail.com.

HOPE EVERLASTING APPEAL

All Saints has been blessed by the faithfulness and generosity of our members, past and present. We are now wrapping up our Hope Everlasting Appeal. This appeal made two requests. First, we asked you to consider renewing and increasing, if possible, your annual faith promise. Secondly, we asked for an additional three-year pledge to our mortgage fund. Re-establishing this mortgage fund is especially important, as we work with our lender to renew our mortgage in December 2023.



Mortgage Reduction & Annual Stewardship Appeal

Thank you to all that have responded to our appeal. We set a lofty goal of raising \$350 thousand for our 3-year mortgage reduction appeal. While we did not achieve that goal, we have received \$219,000 in pledges toward our 3-year mortgage appeal and \$176,000 in faith promises for the upcoming year. This is quite an accomplishment and will help us to reach financial stability.

If you have not yet sent in your pledge, it is not too late. There are additional appeal packets in the Narthex and the office at church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with All Saints. We are grateful for your generosity.

Reaching into our community...



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

BRINGING CHRISTMAS JOY TO THOSE IN JAIL

Once again, All Saints members reached out with heartfelt messages in Christmas cards for those in jail, men and women for whom these most likely are the only cards they will receive this Christmas. The Madison Area Jail Ministry and the All Saints Social Justice Team are both so grateful for this meaningful outreach by our members. A highlight of this effort was the November 12th Christmas Cards, Cookies, and Carols event when about 60 messages were written in the cards. It was a time of friendship, fun, and festivity. Messages were also written during another Fellowship Hour or by members at home for a total of almost 80 cards with personalized messages. Thank you!



There is still time to participate! Cards and directions are available on the table in the narthex across from the church offices. You can pick up the cards and directions on Thanksgiving Eve, **November 22**, write notes on one or more cards at home, and return the cards on **November 26** 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

The generous donations of All Saints folks continue to support guests of the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry.

Thank you for responding to needs of children's and adults' dental health through toothbrushes and toothpaste and feminine hygiene products.

As our congregation continues to struggle to meet its financial obligations, it is heartwarming to see this response to our neighbor's quality of life. God bless your thoughtful giving!

Thank you, *Karin Hanson*



Thank you for another trunk load of donations headed to the GNPEP!

BINGO NIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Beat the January doldrums with an evening of BINGO fun at All Saints! On Saturday, January 20, young and old and everyone in between are invited to come together for some time of fun and fellowship as we bring back the BINGO fun from our Silent Auction evening. Bring a donation for St. Mark's Food Pantry to help them restock after the holidays and a snack to share (think "appetizer potluck"!). We'll gather from 6-8 p.m. Come for the whole time or drop in for a bit. Hope to see you there!



EXTENDING THE TABLE

We are looking to start a team of folks who would extend our communion table to those who cannot regularly worship at All Saints in person by visiting them in their homes to share the Lord's Supper. Would you be interested in serving on this team? Would you like someone to bring communion to you in your home? Whether you are interested in serving or receiving, please contact Pastor Kristin (608-276-7729 / pastor@allsaints-madison.org) to let her know of your interest.

In Thanksgiving . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDS!

After two years of exploring their faith through Wednesday night confirmation classes, we celebrated with Celia Mitchell and Sienna Otterson on Sunday, October 29 as they affirmed their baptisms. On that day, these young people claimed for themselves the promises God made to them in baptism and made for themselves the promises their parents made for them at their baptisms. They are not alone in this journey of faith, however, as the whole congregation also promised to continue walking alongside them as they take these next steps in their life of faith. Congratulations, Celia and Sienna!



THANK YOU, CONGREGATION!

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

The September 2023 Treasurer's Report:

Contributions:	October 2023	October 2022	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Contributions-General Fund	\$24,854	\$21,519	\$202,187	\$151,663
Contributions-Building Fund	\$0	\$1,970	\$0	\$31,932
Other General Fund Income	\$68	\$431	\$16,282	\$15,192
Solar Fund Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$700	\$700
Income vs. Expenses:				
Total income	\$25,022	\$23,173	\$218,355	\$196,185
Total expense	\$24,590	\$22,960	\$249,352	\$246,848
Variance	\$432	\$213	-\$30,997	-\$50,663

Contributions:

General fund offerings for September were \$24,854 (119%) versus a budget of \$20,833. Year to date general fund offerings are \$202,187 (108%) versus a budget of \$187,497. Although offerings are better than expected for the year, they are still short of our expenses. As you can see below, expenses exceed offerings by \$30,977 so far this year. Total Church income for all funds in 2023 is \$218,355

Expenditures:

September expenditures were under budget for the month at \$25,022 versus a budgeted amount of \$26,393. Year to date expenses are over budget at \$249,352 versus a budgeted amount of \$237,693. Items of note over budget year-to-date:

- Snow Removal: \$8,583 (\$2,583 over budget)
- Misc. Office & Admin Exp: \$2,122 (\$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: \$11,250

Balance Sheet Comments:

As of September 30, 2023, the checking account balance was \$40,468 and the savings account balance was \$15,641. The mortgage payable balance is \$734,974. Oak Bank has agreed to reduce our mortgage payment to interest only for the rest of 2023.

Things to Know . . .



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

THIRD QUARTER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We have yet to hear from the IRS about the Employee Retention Credit tax refund for which we filed. Oak Bank will look at where our finances stand at the time our mortgage expires in December to determine if they will renew the mortgage. We will proceed with other mortgage applications after we have the Capital Appeal contribution figures to help solidify our finances. We have moved the majority of our savings to checking as currently the interest rate is higher in our checking account. Another small church was asking about renting space from us, but they have decided to go elsewhere.

There are a couple of developers very interested in our property. There is a potential for them to offer a ball park figure of \$2 million for our property, but it would not be feasible for them to configure space for our church into their projects. That amount is good to hear, however, we are not yet ready to sell. The ability to renew or get a new mortgage may be that decision maker.

2024 budget discussions have started. A budget hearing should occur 1/14/24 and the annual meeting on 1/21/24.

We are looking for folks to fill necessary church positions. We need someone to serve on the personnel committee now. In January, we need a new treasurer, who could choose whether or not to serve on council. We also have two council positions vacant in January.

Additional items are missing from the church. Police were called, but not much can be done as the building was not broken into. It was decided the building needs to be rekeyed. Staff are working on a plan to determine who should have access to what areas before they can move forward to have new keys made.

The storage/garden garage has been re-shingled with donated shingles and the good work of Jerry Sieling, Sean Hemstad, Mike Barakat, and Elijah G. (a recent visitor to our church).

The outdoor worship and picnic at McKee Farms Park September 17th and the All Saints Auction on October 7th were fun gatherings and huge successes. Thank you to all who helped and attended.

Questions? Comments? A word of thanks and encouragement?

Contact your 2022 All Saints Council members:

Deanna Simonson, President ecsimo@charter.net
Bob Lavigna, Vice President lavignas1@yahoo.com
Margie Rem, Secretary mdrem4877@gmail.com
Gary Kriesel treeman77@ameritech.net
Rita Olin rmolin@chartermi.net

Tracy Schoohs tschoohs@gmail.com
Joan Stoikes joan.stoikes@gmail.com
Ron Miller ronfmiller@aol.com
Michelle Slawny, Appointed Treasurer slawny@tds.net
Pastor Kristin Woelk pastor@allsaints-madison.org

THINGS TO KNOW...

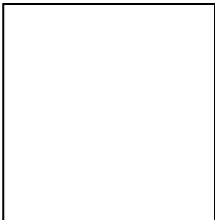
- **Newsletter** articles are always appreciated! The newsletter is a great place to share upcoming dates with the congregation. The next newsletter will be published in March 2024. Items are subject to editing due to space availability. Please contact the church office if you are interested in submitting 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! You can also find Pastor Kristin's "Thoughtful Thursdays" on YouTube and Facebook - a short devotion that usually includes a little ukulele music!



"To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus"

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Save These Dates!

- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Eve Prayer & Pie
7:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 3 Sunday School for all ages!
10:45-11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 17: Special Music Sunday
9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship
Candlelight Worship 5:00 p.m.
- Jan. 7 Intergenerational Sunday
School
10:45 a.m.
- Jan. 14 Annual Budget Hearing
10:45 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
- Jan. 20 BINGO night - 6-8 p.m.
- Jan. 21 Annual Congregational Meeting
10:45 a.m. - Sanctuary

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
Secretarial Hours: 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday
E-mail: office@allsaints-madison.org
- Congregational Council President.....Bob Lavigna
- Accompanists.....Nancy Pokorney
- Sunday School Coordinator.....Heather Quartaro
hkquartaro@gmail.com
- Custodian.....Carl DiMartino

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