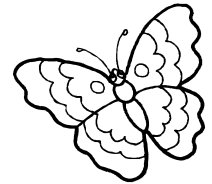

The All Saints SPOKESMAN



Volume 31 Issue No. 7

Website: <http://www.allsaintschurchbyron.org>

August 2007



What is August?

Around here, August is the month for gearing up for September! Committees are getting together to do planning – Worship, Christian Education and others are thinking about what they need to do to get ready for September. Rally Day is coming up the second Sunday in September. The Worship Team will be back. Confirmation classes will begin. Programs (and people!) that have slowed down during the summer months will come alive!

One of the things I have observed at All Saints is the need for more delegation, to spread out many of the necessary responsibilities for effective ministry. We have already taken steps to effect this in the office with some of the clerical and financial functions. That's the easy part. Now we may be calling on members who "have never done that before" to step up and take a role in some of the programs and activities of the church.

The interim pastor's job is not to "upset the fruit basket" (or is it "apple cart"?) but to see that the ministry and mission of the church run smoothly during this transition period. There may be minor adjustments, but we'll leave major innovations to the brave new pastor who will be coming to All Saints some day. We'll be talking about the "new pastor" process next month, when you'll be hearing about a Visioning Event. .

In the meantime please consider me "your pastor". I am available. Just give me a call at home if I'm not in the office (usual office hours are Monday and Thursday mornings). I'm slowly beginning to learn some of your names. I hope to learn more during August before the big crowd comes back in September. I don't remember names well when they are given to me in a long line of people. Generally I pick up your name by associating you with some task or event. I recall an old doctor friend of mine who took me to my first Rotary meeting. He said, "Now Art, don't expect me to tell you everybody's name. But I can tell you what they've all **got!**"

Pastor Stees

Rally Day is September 9

and that marks the beginning of the All Saints Whole Family Education Program. To ensure its success we need volunteers. It does require some time, but we have resources to help anyone interested in leading or helping with the classes or a music program. Please contact me about your interest, **we will have one meeting August 19 during the regular Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15)** where we will pass out curricula and make sure everyone is ready.

Please consider serving as:

Presenter or one of the Guides for the Confirmation Program—Judy Mathers will meet with a new leader to share information about the lessons, and I will see that the group receives the needed support and resources through the church council. Usually a parent of a current confirmand will accept this Presenter position, with other parents leading in smaller groups making it a great way for families to study our faith together. This program is also critical to helping our youth transition into more responsible roles as adult members of our church family. Traditionally the group has met on Wednesday evenings for a shared meal and study group with make up sessions on Sundays at 9:15 am.



(continued on next page)

Sunday School Teachers for Preschool-Kindergarten and 3rd-4th Grade— These classes use learning resources supplied by the church that correlate with each weekly lesson. A teacher might spend an hour preparing for class each week. Classes meet together in the sanctuary for an opening talk and music from 9:15-9:30, then they go to classrooms for activities led by their teachers until 10:15. If every week is a problem, consider volunteering anyway, we can work out a way to share the schedule.

Music Coordinator—For selection and leading music with the Sunday School kids, 9:15-9:30 every Sunday, plus one service each month.

Helpers and Substitutes for all classes.

Yours in Christ,
Daniel Anderson 815-962-5857

www.allsaintschurchbyron.org

Did you know we have a website? The address, or URL, is listed at the top of the bulletins on Sunday, and also on the front page of the Church Directory. Until Pastor Bill's retirement, Karin Nelson did a great job of keeping the website updated. We are now working to give the website a new look. If you have any ideas for content you would like included in the new design, give Kay Johnson a call at 815-234-3068.

Hopefully we will have the newly designed website launched by Rally Day in September!

- Kay Johnson

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2007 Budget Total \$204,855

In our 2007 programmed year, All Saints is projected to spend over \$204 thousand dollars. This sounds like a lot of money, but our costs to run the Parish add up quickly. A lot of people have asked, "Where does our money go?" It goes to a lot of places.

The number one budget item is salary. Over half of our spending goes to pay salaries and benefits for the Pastor and staff.

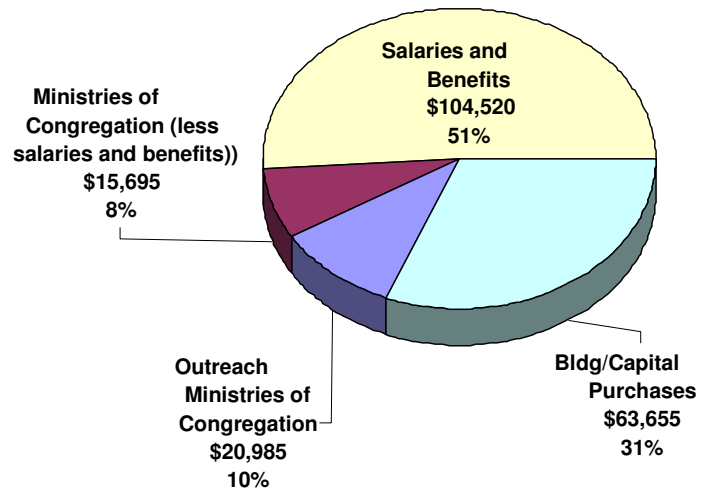
There are many other expenses. 16% of our budgeted expense is our mortgage. Our regular weekly envelopes alone do not cover all of what we need to spend because our mortgage is so high and our Facilities Maintenance offerings are not enough. Luckily, our "Zoom Towards Zero" offerings allow us to make up the difference and pay more than the principle and interest due. Our mortgage cost of over \$33,000 per year accounts for 16% of our budget, well over half the total Building and Capital Costs. The other \$30,000 is made up of a lot of items, the largest of which is over \$8,800 of projected electricity costs. Next is over \$6,000 a year of cleaning costs. With the large, newer addition and our older existing facilities, the cost to keep our Church and interior spaces clean adds up.

We donate a little more than 10% of our gifts from the Congregation to the greater Church. That is basically our Tithe. The vast majority of this, \$18,000, goes to Mission Support.

As you can see, there are a lot of expenses to cover. Summertime is the worst time for us as people go on vacation and are active in other things that cut down on Church attendance. It is important to stay current on your pledges because the expenses continue piling up even when you are gone away. Direct deposit is an easy way to stay current. You can also drop off your envelopes in advance (and we can even hold them to deposit week by week if you like) or mail them to the Church.

We appreciate the generosity of our Congregation. You have always risen to the occasion and supported All Saints and I have no doubts that you will continue to support the Church. Together in Christ, we work together to do God's will!

Steve Jones,
Finance Chairman



2007 STEWARDSHIP JUNE and YEAR TO DATE

Facilities Maintenance

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Fund</u>		<u>Expansion Fund</u>	
	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Goals	10,861	67,883	4,897	30,603	2,308	14,423
Received	8,551	59,301	2,701	18,365	2,384	16,267
Status	-2,310	-8,581	-2,196	-12,238	76	1,844

2007 STEWARDSHIP JULY and YEAR TO DATE

Facilities Maintenance

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Fund</u>		<u>Expansion Fund</u>	
	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Goals	13,577	81,459	6,121	36,724	2,885	17,308
Received	9,340	69,380	2,950	21,554	2,680	19,243
Status	-4,237	-12,080	-3,171	-15,170	-205	1,935

YOUTH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



YOUTH INVASION AT LOMC

Youth, 4th through 12th grade, are invited to rock to the sounds of a local band (The Adams Family) and a Chicago group (Encounter)

at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, **Saturday, August 11, 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.**

Pastor Linda Norman from Chicago will challenge them with an adventure. And, there's food! Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips. The cost? It's FREE! Gift of LOMC and the youth of St. Paul Lutheran, Oregon. **Contact Audrey Adams (815-509-2682) with your reservation.**

**BYRON CIVIC THEATRE
SPECIAL EVENT**

**CHILDREN OF EDEN
Sunday, August 12 at 7:00 pm**

BCT is offering a special "Pay What You Can" night just for area church youth groups.

Those in 5th grade and up, call Audrey Adams to make your reservation. 815-509-2682



We had a splashing good time at our last car wash so we're having another one!

Come get your car sparkling clean!
**Youth Group Car Wash at All Saints
Saturday, August 18 10 am – 1 pm**

UPDATE ON PAST EVENTS

Mini-Putting and Cookout – The youth had a beautiful evening for mini-putting June 6th at Stone Quarry Park. Everyone brought a friend so that doubled our fun. We visited the water park as well, then had our hot dog cookout and finished with an ice cream cone. Thanks to all who helped out!

Camping Trip – The stars shone the night we stayed at the LOMC campground after the church picnic on June 23rd. We cooked hot dogs, had s'mores then went on a night hike. Fun! After sleeping late and having a breakfast of scrambled eggs in a bag, we went to worship then returned to All Saints. What a wonderful experience!

- Audrey Adams

TIME FOR COLLEGE VISITS?

This is the time of the year we receive information from our fine Lutheran colleges about visitation days for high school juniors. Carthage College in Kenosha, WI has special visit days on August 3, 10,17, 24. (262-551-5759). Augustana College at Rock Island, IL will arrange personal visits at anytime. (800-798-8100) These private liberal arts and science schools are frequently overlooked as people tend to think they cost too much. But you don't know until you look at the financial aid packages available and then compare that to public universities. Check them out!

ALL SAINTS GROUPS



Quilters

The quilters will meet on **August 2nd** and **September 6th** from **9 to 11 a.m.**

Every month many ladies come to tie quilts on the first Thursday of each

month. The store room shelves are filling up with beautiful comforters for people in need. In October we will be sending the quilts along with layette kits to Lutheran World Relief. 310,856 quilts were sent to needy countries last year. All Saints Quilters were happy to be a part of this most worthwhile project. We join with WELCA who will also send health kits and soap at that time. We still need infant sleepers, shirts and sweaters for the layettes. Maybe end of summer sales or garage sales would have some of these items. All donations for this cause will be gratefully accepted. Please join us whenever you can.

- Millie Knodle

Crafters!! Coming soon – the All Saints Fall Bazaar

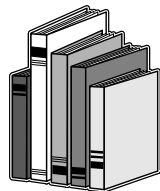


Mark October 11, 12, and 13 on

your calendars – these are the dates of the Bi-Annual Fall Bazaar to be held in the church Fellowship Hall. The Sainly Crafters have been working for two years to create many beautiful items. We are on the count down to the sale now. We will meet at the regular time –**August 14 at 9:00 am** at church. If you would like to help out, the Sainly Crafters meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am. No previous crafting experience necessary! We are a fun group doing what we can to buy extras for our church home. Please join us. If you have been doing things at home, please let us know or just bring them to the working meeting.

- Lois Lapp & Gloria Olsen

Religious Book Club



The book club will start meeting again on **September 24th at one o'clock at the church**. The selection for September will be The Painted House by John Grisham. The book depicts the hardscrabble life of an Arkansas farming family during the early 50's. It is loosely based on experiences from Grisham's own childhood.

At the heart of it all is the essence of the human spirit and the story of one family's ability to love and survive in the face of overwhelming adversity. Hope to see you on September 24th for a lively discussion on this book.

- Millie Knodle

WELCA

(Women of ELCA)



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF DRIVE

It is once again time to bring in items for LWR. Collection boxes will be placed near the front entrance.

This year we are not gathering clothing, but concentrating on the Health kits. Please keep your clothing for the Spring Rummage Sale.

Each health kit will contain: One hand towel, one washcloth, one bath-size bar of soap in its original wrapper (any kind), one toothbrush, one tube of toothpaste, one comb (wide toothed preferred), one nail file or nail clippers with file attached, and six Band-Aids (preferably 1/2" to 3/4"). Wrap items in a towel and secure with yarn. If you are unable to prepare a complete kit, any of these individual items are needed and appreciated. This year it has been requested that we send extra bars of soap, so if you have purchased a 'megapackage' for home use, please share! A special box will be set out just for bars of soap.

If you prefer to give a monetary donation, make checks payable to WELCA-LWR. This will allow us to purchase items needed to complete the health kits. Please give your check to Kay Johnson or place it in the WELCA mail box in the church office.

Items will be packed in late September or Early October. Exact dates for packing and shipment to LWR will be announced in the September *Spokesman*. Sign-up sheets for those able to help with packing and delivery of these items to Zion Lutheran Church in Rockford will be placed on the bulletin board in September.

Thank you for your help in making this another successful LWR drive. A little generosity on our part means the world to someone in need.

- Kay Johnson

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 11, 2007

Pastor Stees was welcomed to his first regular council meeting. He reported that he will be in the church office Mondays and Thursdays and available at any other time as needed.

Three bids were received for re-roofing the original church building. Low bidder, Stevens Construction, was awarded the contract for \$11,275. This was paid for from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Mary Raney and Pastor Nelson will represent All Saints at the Assembly of the Northern Illinois Synod, at Augustana College, June 15th & 16th.

An 8' x 10' drop-down screen has been purchased and installed in the sanctuary.

A "thank you" was read from Pastor Bill and Bev Nelson for the retirement party and gifts.

Considerably discussion centered on the number of bank and savings accounts and necessary signatures. Steps will be taken to consolidate some accounts and bring required signatures up-to-date.

In order to have necessary oversight over budgetary expenditures, the Council adopted a policy that any expenditure over \$100 should have pre-approval of the appropriate Council member.

A Petty Cash Fund for the secretary's use was authorized.

The computer in the Pastor's office will be connected to the printer in the Secretary's office.

July 9, 2007

A report from Kay Johnson on updating the church Web site.

New answering machine has been donated for the office.

Approximately 50 people are signed up to go to Lutheran Family Night at Magic Waters July 16th

Parish Coordinator (Marlene Roberts) is now making weekly phone calls to remind Sunday volunteers instead of sending out post cards.

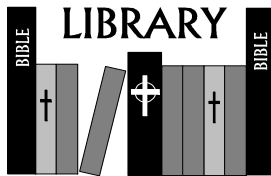
Reviewed church's cash-flow situation. There is insufficient income to pay past-due bills. Information will be created for upcoming newsletter.

Christian Education – a very successful Vacation Bible School is in progress. A Sunday School teacher is needed for the Pre-K class. A Presenter is needed for Faith Inkubators (Confirmation).

Property: A heat pump and a motor fan are being installed in the sanctuary air conditioning system.

Audrey Adams will be attending the Youth Certification School at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque in September. Financial support from the congregation is necessary to fund this important ministry in our congregation.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Summer! It snuck in amid the graduations, weddings, vacations, and other busy family times. We rejoice in the beautiful weather that allows us to do fun things outside like planting flowers and having picnics. Checking out a book or magazine from the All Saints Library and reading it in the hammock is another way to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

The All Saints Library was very happy to accept book donations from the Ken Nelson family and Pastor Bill and Bev. Nelson.

- Kathy Burrows

A coincidence is when God performs a miracle, and decides to remain anonymous.

Worship Attendance

June	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Total</u>
3	134	75	209
10	79	101	180
17	56	29	85
24	44	50	<u>94</u>
Total			568
Average	78	64	142

Worship Attendance

July	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	64	49	113
8	66	52	118
15	63	48	111
22	57	40	97
29			
Total			439
Average	63	47	110

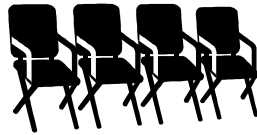
UPDATE ON PAST EVENTS

All Church Picnic

Saturday, June 23rd was a beautiful day for a picnic! We had a few families who had fun together and enjoyed the outdoor facilities at LOMC. We played some games – sack races, pass the orange, 3-legged race – and enjoyed the food everyone brought. After lunch we went on a 2-hour hike and enjoyed the trails. Mark your calendar for the Second Annual Picnic on June 22, 2008!

- Audrey Adams

Northern Illinois Synod June 15-16, 2007



I had a wonderful time at the NIS assembly. The Christian fellowship was wonderful. The food and lodging were great. Ladies hear this, “I did not have to cook for two days.” I thought that by walking to the cafeteria I would burn up all of those extra calories, but I was wrong. Umm, Umm good.

I attended the business meetings and was able to vote on different resolutions. An equal number of men and women are lay delegates. Bishop Woolershim led the meeting in a business and democratic manner, but also added his special humor.

I attended Forums that gave me better insight into the purposes of the different committees in the church. The one that really made me examine myself, was the stewardship committee. I realize more that all I have really belongs to God and he expects me to use it wisely.

My spiritual life was fed by attending the church services. Taking communion with 520 other Christians was spiritually moving. Ordained ministers both new and old were honored. Churches were honored who had anniversaries of 100, 125, and 150 years. The older ministers and congregations had lived through many changes in the Lutheran Church but were steadfast in their love of God and their Lutheran beliefs.

Our church congregation may go through some changes during the next few months. I feel that this Scripture should be our guideline:

Proverbs:16:3 “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plan will succeed.”

- Mary Raney, lay Delegate to the NIS Assembly.

ΩA HOO!

AVALANCHE RANCH WAS A WONDERFUL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUCCESS!



Each day was filled with fun activities and learning as we experienced a wild ride through God’s word. Children enjoyed music, bible stories, crafts, games, snacks, a movie and lots of hands-on fun; the children even got to meet Mr. Fur! (Thanks, Pastor Stees and Mr. Fur.) Our outreach touched 20 preschoolers and 38 elementary students, as well as, ministering to the staff each day. We could not have done this work without the 28 volunteer staff members and a great deal of additional support from those who helped with miscellaneous tasks and donated food items and other things we used throughout the week.

THANK YOU to our awesome staff for bringing so much joy to so many of God’s children throughout the week: Amy Harn the Sing & Play leader; Allison Roberts as - Horseplay Games Leader; Audrey Adams - Wild Bible Adventures Leader and her assistant, Isabelle Wittig; Lynn Hart - Cowpoke Crafts and Missions Leader; Scott Fitzsimmons - Chadder’s Wild West Theater Leader; Mary Raney - Chuck Wagon Chow leader and her assistants, granddaughters, Michilena and Jessica and Marlene Roberts who filled in; Theresa Fitzsimmons the Spotlight Drama Leader; Carolyn Niederer the Showtime Roundup Leader; Deb Curtis helping with registration and picture taking; Jan Ball and Laurie Raum as Prairie Dog Preschool Directors with assistance from crew leaders Danielle Hall, Kara Montag, and Anastasia Bergmark; and the tireless and enthusiastic elementary crew leaders – Rachel Niederer, Amanda Harn, Shirley Asher, Rich Schrader, John Catron, Lexie Williams, Kylie Lingel, Joey Gackstetter, Sara Sievert, and Chris Johnson. Set up and decorating was fun and time consuming and we are grateful for those who also spent hours on this effort, especially Rich and Carrie Schrader family, David Adams, Carolyn and Rachel Niederer, Mark Hart family, Dick Johnson family and Scott Fitzsimmons family. We also want to recognize the contributions of nearby church

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communities First General Baptist Church of Rochelle and First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle who graciously lent sets and related program supplies to aide our decorating and setup efforts. Huge thanks to Theresa Fitzsimmons and Carolyn Niederer for their work of planning and organizing Vacation Bible School. Thanks to Mark Hart for setting up the multimedia equipment and to Dan Danielowski for use of the equipment. Thanks to Lisa and Zack Harvell for attending to the staff's

little ones in the nursery each day and making sure they got a chance to praise God as well. To anyone who is unrecognized here, but recognized by God or in the heart of a child for helping out with this outreach, thank you. As this VBS program has come to a close with much success, please consider joining us next year for vacation bible school at All Saints, there's fun for all ages!

- Theresa Fitzsimmons & Carolyn Niederer

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Habitat for Humanity

Five of our members have been working on the Habitat for Humanity house in Forreston- Gary & Shirley Asher, Reuben Johnson, Randy Masticola and Bill Wittig. If you have in interest in this volunteer opportunity, please talk to one of the men involved in the project.

Welcome New Partners in Mission

On Sunday, June 3rd we welcomed the Bishop family as new participants in our mission at All Saints.

Randal and Toni Bishop and their children, Rebecca, David, Richard and Dylan moved from Carpentersville to Byron. Randal works at Rock River Ford as a mechanic and enjoys camping and

dirt bike riding with his sons. Toni works as a customer service manager at Walmart and in her free time enjoys reading and camping. Rebecca (15) will be a freshman, David (13) 8th grade, Richard (11) 6th grade, Dylan (8) 3rd grade attend school in Byron. The whole family is active in the scouting program. Their sponsors are Brad & Julie Christian.

Add this information to your church directory:

Bishop, Randal & Toni Phone: 815-234-4867
8031 Ryan Circle
Byron, IL 61010
Children: Rebecca, David, Richard, Dylan

PARISH PATTTER

by Marlene Roberts

THANK YOU'S

It has been two months since a newsletter was printed and you can imagine all the thank you's I have. But being summer, lots of vacations, picnics, etc. have taken place and not all replacements were called in. Sooooo, I am just putting a BIG Thank You to all who have helped in any way to keep things running in an orderly fashion these past two months. As new Parish Coordinator, I have called on many of you to fill in and so I offer thanks personally. One change I would like to acknowledge: **Lori Pederson** is replacing **Sylvia Richardson** at watering the inside plants. Thanks to Sylvia for keeping the plants alive!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Lore Bogdanovich, Lorraine Buenik, Audrey Blobaum, George Isberner, Lynn Turnquist; those witnessing for peace in Iraq and for the safety of those in overseas military service: Tony Berkeley, Donovan Avery, Brad & Christina Carter.

BIRTHS

- Ireland Rose Heaslip, daughter of Andrew & **Bekki Heaslip**, was born June 13 in Rockford. She is the sister of Kennedy and granddaughter of **Steve Jones** and Sue Richardson.

- Samuel Anthony Bedgood, son of **Jasmine Danielowski** and Troy Bedgood, was born on June 16 in Rockford.

