



The All Saints

# SPOKESMAN



Volume 33 Issue No. 2

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

February 2009

Church Office Phone: .....815-234-5277

Pastor Cell Phone: .....779-537-4811



Church Email: ....allsaints624@hotmail.com

Pastor Email:.....as5277@gmail.com

**Coming to All Saints**

## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

7:00 pm beginning on Ash Wednesday

Kick Off Sunday February 15 8:00 am & 10:30 am	Introduction to the <i>Oral Gospel Tradition and Mark 1</i>
Ash Wednesday February 25 7:00 pm	Imposition of Ashes & Communion <i>Mark 2 and 3</i>
March 4 (Wed.) 7:00 pm	<i>Mark 4 and 5</i>
March 11 (Wed.) 7:00 pm	<i>Mark 6 and 7</i>
March 18 (Wed.) 7:00 pm	<i>Mark 8 and 9</i>
March 25 (Wed.) 7:00 pm	<i>Mark 10 and 11</i>
April 1 (Wed.) 7:00 pm	<i>Mark 12 and 13</i>
Maundy Thursday April 9 7:00 pm	Communion & First Communion <i>Mark 14 and 15</i>
Easter Sunday April 12 8:00 am & 10:30 am	Holy Communion <i>Mark 16</i>

Please see  
Pastor Scott's article  
for more details



**Come hear the  
Gospel according  
to Mark**  
as told dramatically in  
the original, oral  
tradition among  
1<sup>st</sup> century Christians.



### Souper Bowl of Caring – Sunday, February 1

Come to church prepared to vote for your favorite team – monetary or food donations will be accepted. Support our youth by participating in this fun event that will help our local food pantry, People Helping People.

### Friday Night Potluck – Friday, February 6 beginning at 6:00 pm

Please plan to join us for a fun pot luck gathering in the Fellowship Hall at church. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up and indicate what you will be bringing (salad, main dish, or dessert). Soup, beverages, and table service will be provided. This will be a fun way to ‘warm up’ during these cold winter months! If you have any questions about this gathering, please contact Kay Johnson.

### For Lutherans wishing to transfer their membership to All Saints

Several households have expressed interest in transferring their Lutheran membership to All Saints after moving to the area. We would like to offer a welcome and orientation session to help you in becoming members at All Saints Lutheran Church. The session will be held on **Sunday, February 15th at 5:00 pm** with a family meal and childcare provided. Please RSVP to the church office by February 8. An official welcome at Sunday morning worship is tentatively scheduled for February 22.



## A Note from Pastor Scott Schmidt

*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.* Romans 10:17

*The Gospel according to Mark* starts: “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The “Season of Lent” begins February 25 with **Ash Wednesday**. With all this in mind, I’d like for us here at All Saints to start a “new beginning” this Lent by coming together as a family of faith for mid-week Lenten services. For some of us, it will be something new. For some of us, it may be a routine we cherished in a former congregation. For all us, it is an opportunity to focus on one of the four Gospel accounts. After Ash Wednesday, we will gather in worship at 7:00 pm during the five following Wednesdays and then for Maundy Thursday. A schedule is on the newsletter front.

So, come and **hear** each week, as the words recorded by Mark come alive in a dramatic telling of the Gospel. It is believed, that in the first century after Christ’s death and resurrection, that *The Gospel according to Mark* was first shared from town to town by oral storytellers, from memory. Then, it is believed that after three or four decades, Mark’s Gospel eventually was written onto paper made from papaya leaves.

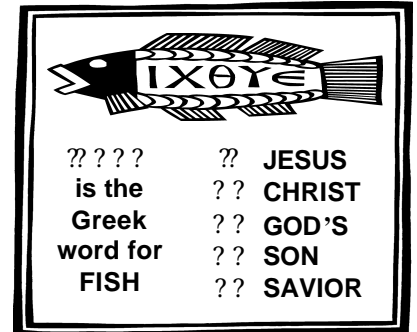
So, I will dress the part of a first century storyteller and proclaim (from memory) this Gospel account. I will tell two chapters each week during Lent. These will build to what has been experienced in other congregations as a powerful understanding of the meaning behind Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Savior. This will be the fourth season of Lent that I have shared this dramatic proclamation of **Mark**.

In a previous congregation during my internship year, one woman said she wished they could forego traveling across the state on Easter break. She wanted to **hear** the “end of the story.” Her husband cynically said, “You can read it in the Bible.” She said, “It’s not quite the same.” After the weeks of **hearing** the story build toward Holy Week, others said they almost felt as if they were “. . . there when they crucified my Lord,” and also with Jesus and the twelve at the Last Supper, and at Gethsemane, and the empty tomb. A few years afterwards, another man told me that having **heard** the whole account of **Mark** in this way really affected his understanding of Good Friday and Easter. He said it turned a whole new page for his **faith**.

So, during Lent, I invite you to **hear . . . the Word of God** as recorded in *The Gospel according to Mark*. At Sunday worship, February 15, I will introduce the oral tradition of the Gospel and then share Mark, Chapter 1. Then, in place of midweek scripture readings and in place of a sermon, I will dramatically share two chapters each week during Lent until we gather on Easter Sunday to hear the resurrection account in Mark 16.

*So, I am excited to share this with you!* This Lent, I do look forward to proclaim to you – “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, God’s Son” our Savior. I hope you can join us on Wednesdays this Lenten season.

Proclaiming Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Scott Schmidt



### Confirmation Lesson Schedule

Sunday Morning 9:15 am

- 2-1 Apostles’ Creed –Jesus the Redeemer
- 2-8 Apostles’ Creed –Jesus the Lord
- 2-15 Apostles’ Creed –The Holy Spirit
- 2-22 Apostles’ Creed –The Church and the Saints
- 3-1 Apostles’ Creed –The Forgiveness of Sins

Midweek (Wednesday) 6 pm

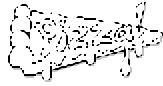
- 2-4 New Testament – The Universal Letters
- 2-11 No class – Leader & Guide Huddle
- 2-18 New Testament – The Revelation of John
- 3-4 New Testament – The Bible and My Life

Looking ahead: make-up lessons for Wednesday Night Confirmation Classes are scheduled for the Saturday mornings of March 14 and 21. A time schedule will be given to youth who have make-up lessons.

# YOUTH NEWS

## Thank-You's

Pizza Sales were Great! Thanks to everyone who helped with this fund raiser. We raised \$420.00. Way to go Youth!!



Coming in February . . .



February 1 - Souper Bowl of Caring  
See article on front page.

February 14, 5-8 pm at church - Family Fun Night  
Family, Friends, Neighbors, whoever - everyone is invited to bring games or other fun things to do. Enjoy pizza, snacks and drinks along with good fellowship!

February 8 & 22 - Don't forget our Youth Nights are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the Month from 5 - 7 pm. Bring a friend or two for more fun!

February 13 - Deadline to sign up to go see the play "The Diary of Anne Frank" on February 27 in Rockford. Cost is \$15 for ticket and pizza.

February 22, 6:30 pm - Parent Night for all who are attending Youth Quake.

Coming up in March . . .

March 6-8 - Youth Quake Weekend

March 14, 5-8 pm - Spaghetti Dinner

Audrey Adams, All Saints Youth Leader

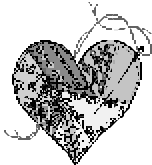
## Planned Youth events for 2009

February	1st	(sun)	Souper Bowl Sunday = need volunteers to hold souper pot for services
	8th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	14th	(sat)	Family Nite out = 5-8 pm ; Bring your favorite game and enjoy pizza, snacks, drinks with everyone.
	22nd	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm = also Quake parent meeting at 6:30 pm
March	6-8th	(fri-sun)	Youth quake @ Wisconsin Dells, Lake Dalton
	8th	(sun)	NO Youth Nite
	14th	(sat)	Spaghetti Dinner = 5-8 pm
	22nd	(sun)	Youth Nite = Rollerskating
April	12th	(sun)	Easter Breakfast
	12th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	26th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm = Sock Hop Night
May	10th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm
	24th	(sun)	Youth Nite = 5-7 pm

## ALL SAINTS GROUPS

### Quilters

The quilter's plan to meet **February 5th** and **March 5th at 9 a.m.** Recently we donated one of our quilts to the Hospice Home that will be opening sometime soon. The cold weather in January has made us mindful of how comforting it is to wrap up



in a quilt. The cold weather has also kept many of us indoors more and given us time to work on sewing materials together for our comforters. Thank you for all the donations of fabrics. We have a good time working together. Please join us whenever you can.

- Millie Knodle

## Tuesday Night Bible Study

### An Attitude of Discipleship

The Tuesday Night Bible Study Group meets every week at **7:00 pm**. For February, we will meet in the conference room. (Please use the South entrance in respect for the AA group meeting in Fellowship Hall.) The topics of discussion for February are as follows:



- 2-3-09:** Theme: **Serving**  
Text: Mark 1:29-39  
Discover ways to serve Jesus and to extend the love of Jesus to others.
- 2-10-09:** Theme: **Transformed**  
Text: Mark 1:40-45  
Reflect on what happens when we are transformed by Christ.
- 2-17-09:** Theme: **Boldness**  
Text: Mark 2:1-12  
Be inspired by the boldness of those who believe Christ can make a difference.
- 2-24-09:** Theme: **Listening to Jesus**  
Text: Mark 9:2-9  
Commit to being a committed disciple and listening to Jesus.

### Crafters!!

The Crafters are looking forward to their **February 10th** meeting after the January gathering was canceled due to inclement weather. New projects will be available at that meeting. We gather at **9 AM** and always have coffee, treats and good fellowship. Plan on coming!



- Linda Hank

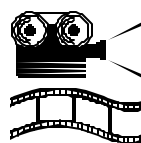
## Religious Book Club



Book club will meet on **Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** at **1:00 pm** in the fellowship area at church. Millie Knodle will lead our discussion about the book A Woman's Place by Lynn Austin. This book discusses the lives of four different women. Under the storm clouds of destruction that threaten America during the early 1940's, this unlikely gathering of women will experience life in sometimes startling new ways as their beliefs are challenged and they struggle toward a new understanding of what love and sacrifice truly mean. Virginia longs to find a purpose beyond other's expectations. Helen is driven by a loneliness money can't fulfill. Rosa is desperate to flee her in-laws' rule. Jean hopes to prove herself in a man's world. Join us as we share our thoughts about this book and enjoy a snack thanks to Gloria Olsen. In March we plan to watch a Video, so watch the March newsletter for more information.

- Carolyn Niederer

## SATURDAY NIGHT SAINTS



Travelogues begin again!. Join us on **February 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm** at the Loves Park City Hall Auditorium for "Inside the Tuscan Hills" by John Wilson.

"...a vivid portrait of a place where ancient traditions have never disappeared and an insider's look at the rich rural culture of Tuscany. ... witness the regions' amazing diversity of landscape, arts and food – revealing how the Tuscans themselves really live ..."

Please sign up on the bulletin board so seats can be saved.

## CHURCH NOTES

### **Boy Scout Sunday is February 8.**

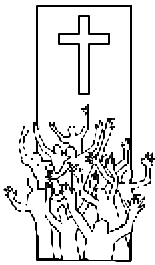
Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be participating at both services as greeters and ushers. If you are an active scout and would like to participate, please call the office.



### **Healthy Congregations Workshop Series continues in February**

The Healthy Congregations workshop series began in January and will continue through February and March with 28 participants from All Saints and from United Church of Byron. In **February we meet on the 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm**. A complete schedule is in the narthex.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009



VBS is only 6 months from now, and we are already beginning our preparations. As those of you who have been involved in the past know, there is a lot to do in the months leading up to our fun filled, active week of Vacation Bible School. This is the time of year that we look at the different publisher's curriculum and choose what to order. If you have an interest in looking at what different programs are being offered this year, you are welcome to join us to preview material and videos to get an idea of what themes and activities are available. We are meeting on two nights – **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8:30 pm each night.** Discussion will be the same or similar at both meetings so you don't have to attend both sessions. If you can't be there the whole time, that is fine also. Join us whenever and for however long you can – it will be informal. If you are interested in getting some ideas before you come to a meeting, the following web sites are available.

[www.groupvbs.com](http://www.groupvbs.com) – 2 different choices

[www.davidcook.com](http://www.davidcook.com) – on their site look for the quick link area in the lower right area

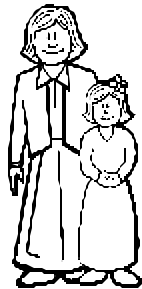
[www.gospellightvbs.com](http://www.gospellightvbs.com) – 2 different choices

Those are ones I have been able to look at so far. This is not a required meeting to be involved in VBS - just opening up this step to find out what interest there may be in helping with the planning stages of this outreach effort. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Carolyn Niederer or Theresa Fitzsimmons, or contact the church office, and we will contact you.

- Carolyn Niederer

### Sunday School News

On January 11, Millie Knodle came to the 3-4 grade class to present handmade bible bags to each of the children to help them remember to bring their bible and ongoing projects between Sunday School and home. She also gave an interesting talk to the kids about how quilts are made, why her group makes them, and she talked about the fellowship she enjoys in the process. The kids were enthusiastic and respectful, it was a great



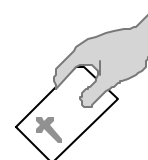
talk. We hope the bags will help the kids feel a personal connection with their bible studies but even more importantly we are all blessed when we can bridge generations within our congregation bringing the wisdom and experience of age to the strength and energy of youth. (Proverbs 20:29) The experience was so positive that we would like to invite other adults in our congregation to share with the children any experiences or skills related to service within our church or special ministry. For example, watch for the Praise Team to join with the Sunday School kids during worship in February. Perhaps someone from the altar guild, or the building maintenance crew would like to talk with the kids about how and why they do what they do - please contact Dan or Melanie Anderson.

Sunday School classes continue to meet every Sunday from 9:15-10:15 for ages 3 through adults. We have seen several new faces in the past two months, all are always welcome. You can get news and see what is happening by looking at the bulletin board or talking with any of the teachers.

-Melanie Anderson

### NEW OFFERING BOXES

The new offering boxes for 2009 are in the Narthex. Be sure to pick yours up if you have not yet done so. If you do not find your box, please let the office know and we will correct this oversight. **Envelopes for high school youth and college age students are now available.**



**PLEASE NOTE: ENVELOPE NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED** in an effort to accommodate the choice of giving on a weekly or monthly basis. This change has necessitated a whole new numbering system. **To ensure your offering gets credited to your account, you must use only your new 2009 envelopes to make offerings in 2009.** Any number or envelope you have had in the past is now invalid and should be discarded.

**World Hunger Envelopes** were not available to be inserted in envelope boxes this year. They will be included in the April and November newsletters.

FYI – Extra envelopes are available in the narthex including World Hunger and Zoom Toward Zero Envelopes. Please write your name and 2009 envelope number on the envelope so your offering will be recorded correctly.

## Order Flowers!



The flower chart is posted in the Fellowship Hall above the bulletin recycle basket. Please check to see if there is a time you would like to share flowers with us.

The cost is \$18.00 per bouquet or \$36.00 for two. Make your check payable to "Altar Guild" and place in the collection plate. The flowers are used for 2 Sundays so check with the Altar Guild members listed in the bulletin to see when you can pick them up. They are from Merlin's and are very fresh and last a long time.

*Think beautiful thoughts and Praise the Lord!*

- Lois Lapp

## Waste Buster Report

So how are the waste busting efforts going in your home? We are interested to know. Or effort is progressing. We have gone from a throw-away family to an increasingly recyclable family. We have cut our normal 3 trash cans at the curbside to just 1. Dad still has a bunch of motor oil he has to recycle in the barn, and thanks to the Ogle County Solid Waste Department, they have given us a great resource in which to find a place to dispose of it. Information on the resource we are talking about is available to everyone in the Narthex. Get yours now.



Thank You  
Rebecca Raum

**Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 pm**

Additional highlights of the last meeting:

At the Green Team meeting on January 22, we reviewed our progress on implementing items on our "Action List" and also enjoyed an excellent presentation on Ogle County's Program by Joy Bliton. The present list will soon be posted on the bulletin board for all to see. If there is anyone who has additional ideas or would like to tackle one of the projects listed, please contact Bob Branson or Pastor Scott.

- Bob Branson

## Family Life Forum Sundays at 10:20 am Fellowship Hall

Participants will view a "Parenting Today" video and have discussion afterwards:

---

Video for Feb. 1: The Middle Childhood Years - ages 6 to 10;

---

Video for Feb. 8: The Adolescent Years - ages 11 to 15

---

Topics for Feb. 18 & 25 to be posted at a later date.

## A Thank You Note from LSSI

(for "The Giving Tree" donations)

*Dear Friends,*

*On behalf of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, I want to thank you for your generosity in reaching out to the less fortunate during the 2008 Christmas season. Together with friends like you, LSSI was able to provide gifts, gift certificates, and/or gift boxes of food and household items to: 175 children and teens, 120 seniors, 65 families, 12 developmentally disabled adults who live in LSSI's group homes. Your gifts, gift certificates, and/or food and household items demonstrate to those served by LSSI that someone does care, furthering LSSI's mission of bringing 'Healing, Justice and Wholeness' to people and communities. On behalf of all the clients served by LSSI, thank you for your generosity and I hope that God blesses you in this New Year.*

*Yours in Christ, Kathy Hall*

*Sr. Development Director, Northern, Illinois Region*

## Blood Drive

A reminder - All Saints, in conjunction with Northern Illinois Blood Bank, is sponsoring a Blood Drive on **Thursday, March 26, 2009**. A Thank You to those who have signed up and/or volunteered to make phone calls. We still need more volunteers since NIBB prefers to have a minimum of 20 donors to make it worth their time to set up in the church. This is a good opportunity to provide a life-saving commodity and also is an opportunity for All Saints to be more visible in the community. Look for more information to be posted in late February/early March.

- Bob Branson

## RUMMAGE SALE

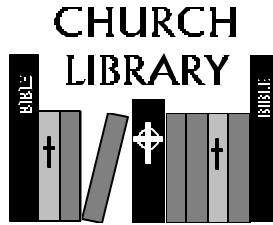
Mark your calendar – Tentative dates for the Annual Rummage Sale is **March 19, 20 and 21** with set-up beginning on March 16.

## NEWS FROM THE

We have added several items to our Library in the last month. There are two new small booklets. In the first "small, but powerful booklet, you'll discover an everlasting, inexhaustible hope you can draw from everyday for the rest of your life." The second booklet, *Walk With Jesus*, provides a daily reading through the 40 days of Lent. It "takes you on that day-by-day journey through the last days of Jesus' life."

Audrey Adams has graciously donated over 20 books and a DVD. Thank you, Audrey. The following is a partial list:

- ? *A Man Named Dave* and *A Child Called It* by Dave Pelzer are two books chronicling the life of a brutally abused and starved child by an alcoholic mother.
- ? Several Christmas books including *The Christmas Box*, *The Christmas Stories* ( *A Christmas Carol*, *The Chimes*, and *The Cricket on the Hearth*) by Charles Dickens, and *Humor for the Holidays* which includes "stories, quips, and quotes" for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. The DVD is *Benji's Very Own Christmas Story*.
- ? *Murder Under Blue Skies* by Willard Scott with the acclaimed mystery writer, Bill Grider
- ? *The Rescue* and *White Chocolate Moments* by Lori Wick
- ? *Small Miracles for Women* is a true story collection of 50 women and the miracles that blessed her.
- ? *The Tenth Circle* by Jodi Picoult looks into the bond between a parent and child whose world was turned upside down with an act of violence and her father's attempts to protect her by using his past experiences. Picoult's father is a comic book penciler and has hidden a message in the artwork of this novel. You will find 86 letters, usually 2-3 per page, in the background of the illustrations.
- ? *Sisters Through the Seasons* and *Dude Ranch* which are 7th Heaven books based on the hit TV series of the same name.
- ? The Love Inspired Novels: *Crossroads*, *Heaven Knows*, *Rainbow's End*, and a short story *Family Ever After*



You'll find this collection of new books to our library on the cart in February minus the holiday books. (These will be in the library, on the shelf behind the door and will be featured in the month of the appropriate holiday). I hope you will find a book or author that you will enjoy reading either on the cart or in the library itself.

- Anne Morgart.

## This and That

?Any group interested in applying for matching funds through Thrivent, please contact Bob Branson.

?Please use the contact information in the picture directory when making phone calls, sending emails, etc as this is the most up-to-date.

?ADDRESS WANTED: We would like to update our files on young adults who are in college, have been recently married, are serving in the military or are otherwise no longer living at home. Please notify the office so we can keep them up-to-date.

## ?IF YOU ENTER THE HOSPITAL:

If a member of your household is admitted to a hospital or care/rehabilitation center, please let us now so that we can offer pastoral care, prayer concerns, etc. if you so desire. You can call All Saints (815-234-5277) or Pastor Scott Schmidt (cell phone - 779-537-4811). Both Pastor's and Council President Marlene Roberts' cell phone numbers are recorded on the answering machine at All Saints. Thank you for your assistance in keeping us informed. God be with you!

## Reminders:

**Deadline for articles for the March Spokesman is Friday, February 20.** Please email articles to Carolyn Niederer at [rjn2cjn@comcast.net](mailto:rjn2cjn@comcast.net) or the church office at [allsaints624@hotmail.com](mailto:allsaints624@hotmail.com). Thanks!

*Note from secretary: I appreciate that most of you submit your articles on time or even early. In an effort to stem the tide of last minute frenzy during newsletter week, from now on, if articles are not submitted in writing or email by the deadline, I cannot guarantee they will be included in the newsletter. Thank you for respecting this deadline.* – Carol Vander Wyst

<b>Worship Attendance</b>				
January	8:00	10:30	Total	9:15 SS
4	61	61	122	na
11	75	104	179	71
18	60	80	140	69
25	62	83	145	58
Total			586	198
Average	65	82	147	66

## **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

January 12, 2009

- ? Mortgage balance is \$365,799.25 as of January 2009.
- ? Questions raised about if building expansion fund (blue envelopes) will be used again. Steve Jones will be sending a letter and including envelopes asking for support. Suggested next year's stewardship campaign should combine this fund into the general fund and a maintenance fund stewardship effort.
- ? Jim Wilcox has agreed to be a candidate for the next church council.
- ? Millie Knodle presented handmade bible bags to the 3rd and 4th grade Sunday School students and gave a presentation on how quilts are made.
- ? A new toilet has been ordered to replace the one in the old men's bathroom. (*as opposed to the bathroom for "young men" !?!*)
- ? New water heater has been replaced in sacristy. Another may need to be installed in the kitchenette.
- ? Several special gifts have been given including a box to house the new AED (defibrillator), presentation pointer, replacement lamp for projectors, white noise machine and white boards and easels.
- ? Mid-week Lenten services will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday service will also celebrate the first communion of students.
- ? Council is looking into purchasing another car for Pastor as prices are down at this time. (If someone is interested in buying the existing car, contact Bob Branson, Steve Jones, or Pastor Scott.)

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

January 25, 2009

On Sunday, January 25, we met for our annual meeting, with 38 voting members present following the 8:00 am service and 39 voting members present following the 10:30 am service. Council President Marlene Roberts was the meeting chairperson. Pastor Scott Schmidt opened each session with prayer. Dan Anderson and Steve Jones were re-elected to a second three-year term on council, and Jim Wilcox was elected to his first three-year term on council, filling the seat previously held by Gary Asher. Mike Reibel was elected to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Fund Committee. Skip Richardson and Audrey Adams were elected to

be voting members along with Pastor Scott Schmidt at the 2009 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Finance Chair, Steve Jones, presented the proposed 2009 budget of \$212,015 with a Power Point® presentation. (Details of the budget are in the 2008 Annual Report which is available for pick-up in the narthex as discussed at last year's annual meeting.) The budget was approved. Also, presented was the possibility of changing the format and time for next year's annual meeting to a single session rather than split sessions. Council will continue to explore the possibility and welcomes suggestions on this.

**Please contact the church office if you would like an Annual Report Booklet delivered to you.**



*The usual financial information chart is not included in the newsletter this month. Council members and financial leaders are currently reviewing how best to present accurate financial data that is understandable and useful to congregation members.*

Bulletin Bloopers (from other churches - although we do occasionally have our own. See Marlene's Council Highlights above)

- ? Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- ? For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

- submitted via email by several folks wishing to brighten your day!

## **LUTHERAN NEWS**

### **2009 Congregational Resourcing Event – Word of God. Word of Life. March 7, 2009: 8:30 am – 3:15 pm Kishwaukee College, Malta, Illinois**

Dr. Matthew Marohl, Associate Professor of Religion at Augustana College and a member of the ELCA Committee on the “Book of Faith” Initiative, will be keynote speaker. The Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) will offer many varied educational workshop selections for key congregational leaders and interested congregation members. Augsburg Fortress will have a display and other displays from agencies and institutions will be present. During the CRE Worship, a special offering will be taken.

Church council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, and leaders – just about everyone in a congregation – can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries.

***Deadline for registration with Synod is March 1 at a cost of \$17.00. After March 1, cost is \$22.00***

**Registration Forms are in the narthex. Please turn in registrations to All Saints office by February 26.**

### **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Northern Illinois**

#### **April 17-19; June 12-14; October 16-18 – 7:15 pm Friday to 5:30 pm Sunday – Schaumburg, Illinois**

Application deadline is Friday, March 13. Application fee is \$45.00 For more information contact Dave & Jean Dobbelstein: dave\_jean@comcast.net or 1-847-839-3546.

## **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Don Eubanks and Friends Benefit Gospel Music Concert Series, February 22, 6-8 pm,**

#### **First Baptist Church of Byron**

Southern and Bluegrass Gospel Music. Free will offering for Ogle County Hospice. Sponsored by Sunrise Restaurant, Merlin’s Greenhouse and First Baptist Church of Byron. For more information call 815-234-8737. Other upcoming dates in the series: March 22 and April 19.

*Northern Illinois Synod Bishop Gary Wollersheim Returns From Holy Land Visit*

#### **ELCA, ELCIC Bishops Report on 2009 Bishops' Academy**

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) released "Report and Reflections from the Bishops' Academy Visit to the Holy Land," an account of their recent visit to the Middle East. The Jan. 22 report was signed by the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, and the Rev. Susan C. Johnson, ELCIC national bishop, on behalf of academy participants.

Bishops from both churches visited Israel and the West Bank Jan. 6-13, and a few visited Jordan Jan. 3-6. The 44 bishops met with religious, political and community leaders in the region, and visited sacred sites. The visit focused on supporting the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), learning about what life is like for Israelis and Palestinians, and advocating for peace and justice for all people there.

In their report, the Lutheran leaders noted that the war in Gaza between Hamas and Israel started shortly before the trip began, but the group decided to continue with their visit as planned.

"Throughout our time in the Holy Land, the situation in Gaza was a dramatic backdrop to our travels and for our conversations with people from different faiths and viewpoints who endure fear and bear oppression in ways that we have never known," Hanson and Johnson wrote.

The report recounts much of what the bishops experienced during their Holy Land visit. They concluded the report by pledging to continue to "accompany" the ELCJHL, to learn more about the situation in the Middle East and how to change it, "and to advocate in every way possible for the justice that will lead to the security and shared homeland that is the only foundation for lasting peace."

"We will be faithful in ongoing visitation to our Palestinian brothers and sisters, determined in our call to be a public church, and communicate with our governments for their intervention in the Middle East," the Lutheran bishops wrote. They added they will be "persistent in our efforts to build bridges with inter-religious partners, and courageous in telling the truth of the 'facts on the ground' in the Holy Land."

# PARISH PATTERN

## FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE . . .

No question, the weather has not been the best this January. Cold, cold, and more cold. Snow, snow, and more snow! But the doors of the church were always open. Many meetings were held and everyone seemed to make it. New officers have been put into place from many of these meetings. Altar Guild had their Annual Meeting and following that many stayed to help take down the Christmas decorations. Thanks to all of you who helped! The meeting for WELCA was held and twenty women came out. Pastor was a guest. Many things are in the planning stages for the women this year. Committees were formed and many already have dates and projects put into place. Thanks to all who are taking an active part in these events. We welcome Jim Wilcox as a new council member and Dan Anderson and Steve Jones as returning members. A big thank you to all who wrote final reports and got them into the office on time so we could get the Annual Report Booklet printed and ready. It seemed to work well by just having the reports out on the table in Narthex. If you would like one and can't get to church, please call and we will see that you get a copy. Let's hope February has better weather and all can get around to participate in all the activities.

See you next month-----The Church Mouse!

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Ethel Montgomery, Elmer Montgomery, Mollie Krecklow, David Klink, Kathleen Combs, Lorraine Buenik, Mary Eakle, Barbara Matthews, Deb Curtis, Edward Jones, (Steve's father), Don Dummer, Ann Grabowski, Francis Goreth (John Goreth's mother), Virgil Eads (father-in-law of Julie Eads), Betty Niehaus, Trevor Penn, Edith Provencher, Marilyn Schroeder, Bill Berglund (Lois Lapp's brother), Roger Reimer, Dessie Whitlow, Pat Pederson, Kathleen Kuss and Julie Flesner.*

We pray for the mission work of First Love Ministries including **Reuben Johnson** while they are in Nairobi, Kenya (East Africa). Also for those serving in the military, especially **Steve Huber, Alex Schmidt, Amber Dach**, Nick Petke, Jacob Houston, Jayme Wilcox, Matt Schumacher, Gregory Peterson, Matt Cowan and Rob Irving

*Christian Sympathy to Pastor Scott Schmidt and family on the death of his uncle, William Parchert, Sr.*



New Office Hours: **Monday through Thursday** with *Usual Core Hours* of 10:00 am – 3:00 pm except for the second Wednesday. Carol, Marlene and Pastor each will cover various days allowing for expanded office coverage. At times the office may be staffed beyond these hours. Call first. Pastor will still post his typical hours in the *Spokeman* calendar.

**SPOKESMAN STAFF:** **Editor**—Carolyn Niederer; **Parish Coordinator**—Marlene Roberts; **Secretary**—Carol Vander Wyst  
**Reporters:** Audrey Adams, Melanie Anderson, Bob Branson, Linda Hank, Kay Johnson, Millie Knodle, Lois Lapp, Anne Morgart, Carolyn Niederer, Rebecca Raum, Marlene Roberts, Pastor Scott Schmidt  
**Assembly Team:** Martha Cupp, Carol Houston, Kay Johnson, Al & Gloria Olsen

A PUBLICATION OF  
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
624 Luther Drive  
Byron, IL 61010

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Byron, IL 61010  
Permit No. 20

(February Issue – Mailed 1/29/09)

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”