

Building Bridges To God

EQUIPPING
THE
SAINTS



Through the Cross of Christ

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church January 2014

January 1~ Happy New Year!

May the New Year bring you ALL great health and happiness!

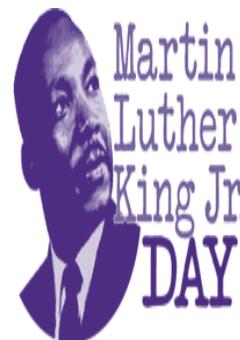


January 6~ Epiphany

As the Wise Men followed the star to worship you, Jesus, may I always follow the signs that point to you.

January 20 ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance

*"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear".
Martin Luther King Jr.*



Congregational
Meeting



January 26 ~ After Worship

Annual Congregational Meeting

Save the date!

Committee Reports are due by Jan. 6



"Did you find everything you were looking for?"

January 2014

Like a thousand shoppers before me, the cashier asked me that question as I moved through his line.

Well, truthfully...*no*. I *didn't* find everything I was searching for this Christmas. No world peace. No end to gun violence...human trafficking...injustice...racism...hunger. No cure for cancer. No dramatic improvement to the economy, and jobs for the unemployed. I doubt very much that when congress reconvenes this month, Democrats and Republicans will set aside partisan bickering and actually cooperate for the public good.

I'm still looking, searching, hoping.

Okay, I admit it: I'm a tad idealistic. Even so, I really didn't expect to find those things in Meijers.

In this new year, I wish we (All Saints members, all of us) could ask that same question of those who come and visit us on a Sunday morning: "*Do you know what you're looking for in a church? Do you find it here?*"

Do *you* find what you're looking for here? What keeps *you* coming back, week after week? Or... if you're one of those folks who doesn't worship here very often...*what are you missing here? What can't you find at All Saints?*

Those are the questions our *STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM* is asking, as they look to the future of this church. *Norm Merkel and Bill Reber* share leadership responsibility; about a dozen of our members volunteer their time and creative energy to serve on this committee.

Truth is, we live in a *consumer-driven culture*. People 'shop' for a church, like they shop for everything else. We know that we can't be like Meijers (or the Andersons, or Krogers). We can't give everyone exactly what they want.

But we can offer them what they *need!* A warm welcome. The gospel of Jesus Christ. Friendship. The opportunity to invest themselves in serving others. The satisfaction of knowing that their life and gifts have eternal meaning and significance, in service to God.

At the start of a new year, I'm asking each of you to make a commitment to *think-through* these important questions and define your own answers. Then talk about them with others here. And maybe...sometime in 2014...when visitors walk through our doors on a Sunday morning, we'll know exactly what we have to offer them...even if they're not really sure what they're looking for.

May this new year of grace give you everything you need...and more!

In Christ our Savior,

Pastor Rich Rentner



Special thanks to all the members of our music team for the special Christmas music that made our Christmas Eve worship so meaningful.

We also appreciate the ministry of our worship team, for putting services together for projection each week, and for operating the sound board.

Thank you all!



MITTEN TREE

Thanks to all who helped fill up our Mitten Tree last month!

We collected many hats and gloves for several boys and girls.



Thanks to everyone who helped with the Drive Thru Living Nativity last month. The weather really wasn't on our side this time, but hopefully next year will be better.

We really appreciate everyone who helped with each and every detail that goes into this event. Without YOU, we wouldn't be able to do what we do.



Epiphany

The church season of Epiphany begins on Jan. 6 each year. The name comes from the Greek word *Epiphaneia*, meaning "to appear, to show or to manifest."

Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the arrival of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the infant Jesus. The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus, the light of the world.

Symbols for the season include light, a star and the color green, which represents life, growth, hope and eternity.



"Millions of fish begging to be caught, and we only brought two worms."

For Everything a Season

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. "What did you see?" he asked.



The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they'd seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. "Don't judge a tree ~ or a person ~ based on just one season of life," he counseled his children. "Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life's seasons have been lived.

"Furthermore," he added, "don't give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you'll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn."

Congregational Meeting



Save the date ~ January 26, after worship we will have our annual congregational meeting.

Attention Committee Chairs:

Please have your reports emailed to me by January 6, so I can start getting the books together.

Thank you =)

Carole

Humor to break up the winter blahs...

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.



2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  8:30 AA (open) Office closed	2 8:30 AA (closed) Office closed	3 Office closed	4
5 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 S. S. 10:00 Worship	6 Epiphany Reports due 8:30 AA (closed)	7 6:30 Finance 7:00 Strategic Planning Comm. 8:30 AA (open)	8 8:30 AA (open)	9 8:30 AA (closed)	10	11 9:00 Lady Saints  <i>Women's Fellowship</i>
12 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	13 7:30 Bible Study Resumes 8:30 AA (closed)	14 7:00 Property 8:30 AA (open)	15 8:30 AA (open)	16 7:00 Council 8:30 AA (closed)	17	18
19 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 6:00 ALT Dinner at St. Paul's downtown	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 7:00 S.O.S. 7:30 Bible Study 8:30 AA (closed)	21 7:00 W & M 8:30 AA (open)	22 8:30 AA (open)	23 Newsletter put together 8:30 AA (closed)	24	25 9:00  MEN'S BREAKFAST
26 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship Congregational Mtg	27 7:30 Bible Study 8:30 AA (closed)	28 6:30 Ryewyck Blockwatch 8:30 AA (open)	29 8:30 AA (open)	30 8:30 AA (closed)	31	

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

READER

Jan. 5 Irene Fink
Jan. 12 Barb Mougie
Jan. 19 Donnajean Stockmaster
Jan. 26 Sue Merkel

GREETERS

Irene Fink
Ann Miller
Janet Caskey
Bev Rose

COMMUNION PREP/ASSISTANT

Jan. 5 Judy Grimes & Sue Slater
Jan. 12 Chris & Donnajean Stockmaster
Jan. 19 Barb Mougie & Peg Mauer
Jan. 26 Norm & Sue Merkel

MONTH
JANUARY

ALTAR

Mary Lou Houle

COUNTERS

Jan. 5 Rose Thomson & LaVerne Busddieker
Jan. 12 Sue Merkel & Judy Reber
Jan. 19 Ann Miller & Pat Toepfer
Jan. 26 Mary Lou Houle & Janet Caskey

OFFERING

Jan. 5 Rose Thomson
Jan. 12 Tim Merkel
Jan. 19 Roger Meyer
Jan. 26 Judy Reber

USHERS

Jan. 5 Bill Reber, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
Jan. 12 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch
Jan. 19 Bob Krueger, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
Jan. 26 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch

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