

All Saints Lutheran Church

# Saints Alive!

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2012

In Spirit \* In Community \* In Service

[www.saintsonhigh.org](http://www.saintsonhigh.org)



## For we observed his star at its rising Celebrate Epiphany

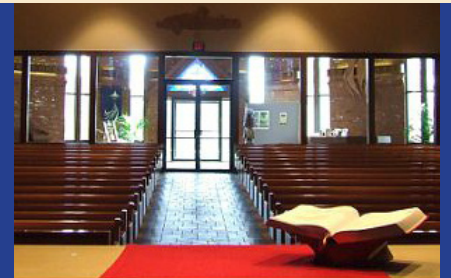
From [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

On the day of Epiphany, January 6, the church celebrates the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi who come to worship Jesus.

The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6 until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrat-

ed as the Transfiguration of our Lord, this year on Feb. 19.

During this time, we celebrate the revelation of Christ to all nations; Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan; Christ as the light of the world; the public ministry of Jesus Christ, including Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana; and growth in a Christian's baptized identity.



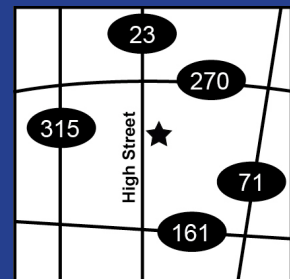
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
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**New Year's Day Worship**  
10 a.m.

**Office closed**  
Jan. 2

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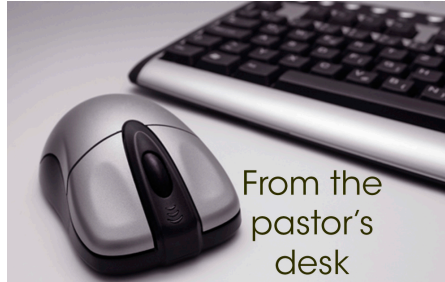
# In God, 'guaranteed acceptance'

Today I typed in the words "guaranteed acceptance" into the AVG search engine on the Internet. I went through seven pages of options, and all I saw listed were loan companies and insurance agencies. There were no churches or Christian ministries listed. Not one.

So I thought, "Maybe I need to try Google. Their search engine is No. 1." So I typed in "guaranteed acceptance," and the results were exactly the same.

"Maybe churches are not ranked very high on Google" I thought, so I went to page 16 of the search, then to page 25, then to page 34. Insurance agency after insurance agency was listed, but not one church or Christian ministry. That means that the top 34 Web pages on Google that pop up on a search engine with the term "guaranteed acceptance" are about loans and insurance and not about the God who loves us.

Why didn't a church pop up on any of the search engines? People are searching the Internet with the term "guaranteed acceptance," otherwise businesses wouldn't have that



among their key words.

Maybe no one expects that from a church. If this is so, that is very sad.

Worse, maybe we don't believe in "guaranteed acceptance" as people of God in the church. If so, this is very, very sad.

Maybe no one expects guaranteed acceptance from God. If this is so, it is tragic.

Friends, "God loves us as we are, not as we should be," Brennan Manning once said, "because we'll never be as we should be." Manning wasn't making it up. The Bible tells us about a God who loves unconditionally. This no-strings-attached type of divine love means that He provides "guaranteed acceptance." No questions asked. No medical exams. No pre-approval. Only

love. Guaranteed.

Does guaranteed acceptance mean guaranteed agreement? No. Agreement is a whole different matter. Acceptance precedes everything.

Men and women, young and old, rich and poor, are searching, thirsting, yearning for acceptance, to be loved, to be valued, to be respected for who they are as a person, not for what they do or don't do.

As a church, we need to think more like an insurance company, willing to take on the risk of "sick" people, guaranteeing acceptance when they come into our presence as God's people. We need to think and behave more like God who loves unconditionally.

What if Americans, Ohioans for that matter, associated "guaranteed acceptance" more with God and the followers of Jesus than they do insurance agencies and loan companies? If this could be so, what a wonderful day it would be.

Pastor Mike Weaver

## Stewardship

Thank you for participating in this year's stewardship campaign "Onward".

If you've not done so already, please share with us your intention to support All Saints by returning your commitment card to the church office.

We urge even those who are unable to pledge at this time to return the card or e-mail their intentions to [gloriab@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:gloriab@saintsonhigh.org), as it helps in planning our

2012 budget.

We appreciate you and look forward to our continued service together through Jesus Christ.

### As of Dec. 19

Responses: 280 families  
Commitment total: \$669,047

### Ministry Forms

All Saints mailed its 2012 Ministry Opportunity forms along with the

pledge cards the week of Oct. 17.

The forms list All Saints ministries in which you may wish to participate. Please take the time to find a way you will serve. If you didn't receive a form, please contact the church office at 614-885-0112 or [aslc@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:aslc@saintsonhigh.org) to request one. If you have not completed and returned your form, it's not too late. Please send it in!

Remember that we've all been called to be servants of Christ.

# Contemporary team seeks time change

During its regular business meeting Dec. 12, Congregation Council heard a proposal from representatives of the Contemporary Worship Team regarding service times.

Pastor Mike Weaver, Director of Contemporary Worship Pam Wachtel and All Saints member Mike Williams said that they, along with other team members, have been discussing initiatives for 2012.

"We have one big initiative to ask," said Pastor Weaver. "We want to move contemporary worship from 11 to 9:30."

Discussing various ideas during the past few months, the team kept finding a "big rock" in the way, Pastor Weaver said, and that was the time of worship.

For families with young children in Sunday School, especially, the time of service can discourage attendance. Many also have outside activities that prevent



attendance at 11 a.m. worship. Pastor Weaver said that the service, which builds on our revitalized youth ministry is also good for the whole church, as it brings in new faces and creates an atmosphere of welcome for those "on the fringe," especially teens and young adults.

Council encouraged the team to talk with representatives from the Traditional Worship Team, Adult Sunday School teachers and organizers, the Facilities Committee and others who might be affected by such a shift.

"We've got to have a plan. I think we need the rest of the church behind it," said Council President

Marj Ellis. "I think it would be a lot going on at 9:30, but I think we could make it work."

Pastor Gerber said that she will work with the team and other affected parties to bring back a plan that includes details and a timeline for any possible change.

In other business, Council:

- Received a report from Council Nominating Committee Chair Brian Erickson. At the time, four of the five required candidates for the ballot had been selected and agreed to run for election. A fifth has since been selected. (See story on our annual Congregational Meeting below.)
- Heard of Pastor Bonnie Gerber's plan to put together an accessibility task force to make the building more welcoming to those with physical disabilities.

## All Saints plans annual Congregational Meeting

All Saints will hold its annual Congregational Meeting following its 11 a.m. services Jan. 29.

During the meeting, the congregation will have the opportunity to approve annual reports from All Saints' committees, vote on the annual budget for 2012 and elect three members to Congregation Council.

Annual Reports will be available online, and a limited number of printed copies will be available through the church office.

Details of the budget have not been finalized, as the church continues to receive pledges from

members and review projected costs for the coming year. The Support Committee will review projections and present a draft to Council this month. Council expects to approve a finalized recommended budget at its regular business meeting Jan. 16.

Look for information on our slate of five candidates soon in the bulletin, weekly updates and online.

Additional nominations may be made in writing to the church office, signed by two members and consented to by the nominee at least 20 days prior to the annual meeting. This year that deadline

is Jan. 9. No nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Absentee ballots may be filled out in the church office during office hours starting at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24 until the end of worship services Jan. 29.

The close of absentee voting for council members will be announced at the beginning of the annual meeting.

**This procedure applies only to the election of Council members.** To vote on other actions, including the budget, you must attend the meeting after 11 a.m. services Jan. 29.

## January Service Opportunities

Jan. 8	Fair Trade Coffee Sunday
Jan. 1– Jan. 13	Coat Drive
Jan. 20 10 am -3:30 pm	Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry
Jan.15	Laurels Nursing Home Worship

### Lutheran Social Services Food Pantries

#### Urgent needs

- Sugar-free items for diabetics
- Low-sodium items
- Diapers, all sizes
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Coffee in small jars, or 1- and 2-lb. cans
- Powdered drink mix with sugar
- Tea bags, individually wrapped or small boxes
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Jelly
- Pasta or rice side-dishes
- Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise

#### Guidelines

- Place food in the collection cart at the Lay Ministry Supply Room (near office).
- No opened boxes of food.
- Please do not bring clothing donations to All Saints.
- Call Furniture Bank of Central Ohio (614-272-9544) for home pick-up of furniture, appliances, and household items.

#### Other donations

- Eyeglasses: Lions Club
- Used printer cartridges (ink or printer toner, copier toner cannot be accepted); Benefits Mid-Ohio Food Bank
- Campbell Soup Labels: Benefits Oesterlen
- Services for Youth. UPC code from any Campbell's product.
- Pop Can Tabs: Benefits Ronald McDonald House at Nationwide Children's Hospital



## Help warm up our neighbors

All Saints is partnering with the Worthington Food Pantry and Resource Center in January to give away warm winter wear to our local neighbors in need.

Good used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens are needed for men and women, boys and girls. We will collect these items through Jan. 13. The giveaway will be at the Worthington Food Pantry and Resource Center at 445 E. Dublin-Granville Road, building G, on Sunday, Jan. 15.

## We did it, thank you!

With our partners at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ironton, we distributed 650 food boxes to families in need in Lawrence County through our Christmas with Dignity campaign. All Saints contributed 500 of those boxes, requiring \$15,000 in donations.

We thank all those who donated, those who volunteered at the event, those who baked cookies and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, which contributed \$1,600.

We also thank Temple Israel's Bubbie's Blessings, which sent hand-knitted hats and mittens for the families.

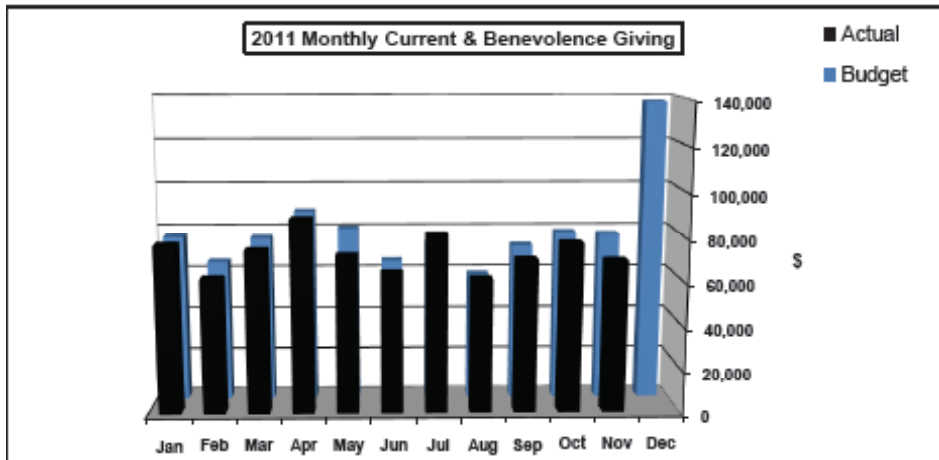
## Thank You

All Saints thanks the anonymous donor who provided funds to purchase a wheelchair to serve those in need of help to participate in worship and fellowship.

The chair arrived in time for Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services, and we are very grateful for this gift that creates such a blessing for the congregation.

## On the Numbers

### November Financial Report



November income came in at 89 percent of budget: \$68,249 vs. \$76,589. Year-to-date income is at \$796,981 vs. \$812,967 as projected. In 2010, total income received was \$825,594. The difference in income from 2010 to 2011 of \$28,613 represents a decrease of 3.5 percent.

November expenses came in at \$69,422, which is lower than the budgeted amount of \$71,276.

Total expenses through November are \$787,873 vs. \$826,202 as projected. In 2010, we had expenses of \$841,305 which is \$53,432, 6.4 percent higher than this year. Year-to-date income exceeds expenses by \$9,108.

Your financial support is important and necessary to the continued ministry at All Saints. We appreciate you considering supporting our many ministries.

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$796,981	\$812,967	(\$15,986)
Expenses	\$787,873	\$826,202	(\$38,329)
Net	\$9,108	(\$13,235)	\$22,343

# Join us next month to celebrate 50 years

On Sunday Feb. 11, 1962, the new All Saints Lutheran Church held its Charter Day service with 86 adults and 68 children in attendance.

On Sunday Feb. 12, 2012, we will gather to celebrate 50 years as a congregation dedicated to the glory of God.

As we begin a golden year of celebration, Pastor Doug Warburton, a son of the congregation and pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Gahanna, will help by sharing the word of God with us at all four worship services. We will celebrate with a year of reminders of how we are being sent to be Christ's disciples in the world.

Plan to attend worship Feb. 12, 2012 to begin a year of celebration.

## Yoga/Pilates

All Saints' own Jane Karras offers yoga and Pilates courses. Here is the schedule.

### Yoga

6 p.m. Mondays, starts Jan. 9  
5:45 p.m. Wednesdays, starts Jan. 4

### Pilates

6 p.m. Tuesday (NEW CLASS), starts Jan. 10  
10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, ONLY (switching to Thursdays)  
10 a.m. Thursdays, starts Jan. 12



### Gentle Yoga

10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5 ONLY (switching to Wednesdays)  
10 a.m. Wednesdays, starts Jan. 11

All classes are held in the Parish Hall. Cost \$5 class. Bring light weights to Pilates.

### Please note new days for morning classes!

All classes are drop-in and open to everyone regardless of fitness level and meet in Parish Hall. The cost is \$5 per session.

**Weather policy:** If Worthington Schools are canceled, all classes are canceled. Morning delay cancels morning classes; early dismissal cancels evening classes.

## Global Mission

### Greetings from Bratislava

**Editor's note:** The Rev. Arden Haug, along with his wife, Janna, are sponsored missionaries of All Saints. Here we share an abridged letter on his recent experiences.

Bratislava, Slovakia  
December 3, 2011  
Wittenberg, Germany

Dear Friends,

The Castle Church in Lutherstadt-Wittenberg was established as the university chapel for the newly established University of Wittenberg in 1502. Officially, it is named All Saints' Church, which could give an indication as to why crowds were expected to visit the church on the feast of All Saints, Nov. 1. Most often, the church is simply referred to as the Castle Church or Schlosskirche, to distinguish it from the Town Church or Stadtkirche. It is undoubtedly, the most distinctive and prominent building in Wittenberg.

The Castle Church is often referred to as the "birthplace of the Reformation." It is after all, according to tradition, where Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517, on the eve of the Feast of All Saints. Some writers have even stated that the sanctuary is more than the birthplace, but that it is the Reformation Memo-



Martin Luther's tomb at the Castle Church in Lutherstadt-Wittenberg.

rial Church. Many visitors to the city may not know that the Castle Church also serves as the final resting place of Martin Luther. The subdued lighting and setting might actually surprise the casual tourist. A large bronze plaque embossed with the image of Luther proudly adorns the wall of the Church, but the rectangular box in the floor is the true memorial. It is positioned directly below the pulpit, so that every preacher is keenly aware that the words of the sermon must pass over Luther's grave on the way to the listening congregation.

...

In my new role as the Director of

the ELCA Wittenberg Center, I preached on Reformation Day in the Castle Church. I can't say I slept very well the night before the service. I was a bit intimidated by the thought of preaching in such a significant cultural and historical place. Fortunately, there was enough to keep me busy the rest of the day, so I couldn't worry too much about what I said.

...

After a busy three weeks in Germany, it was good to return home to Slovakia. There were activities taking place in Bratislava as well, including the Evangelical Lyceum's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. This is the historical Lutheran school that was re-established in 1991, and where the ELCA volunteers serve. And for the Bratislava International Church, there were the annual observances of All Saints Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and finally Thanksgiving. The ELCA volunteer teachers in Poland and Slovakia gathered in Bratislava for a "family-style" Thanksgiving dinner. Our teachers have learned to make "sweet potato pie" as a substitute for pumpkin and "lingonberry relish" instead of cranberries. The subtleties are not so important. The community of missionaries giving thanks is the most important... but, nevertheless, the meal was delicious.

Arden Haug

### Greetings from Kosice

**Editor's note:** All Saints commissioned member John Rogers before his mission trip to Kosice, Slovakia began earlier this year. John sent this update on his work and experiences via e-mail. It begins with a description of a recent visit to a hospital in the city.

The kids we visited there had emotional and developmental chal-

lenges. The kids and the staff both seemed glad to see us.

My main responsibility was writing the children's' names in calligraphy. They found the work fascinating.

When some kids started coming through the line a second time with new names, I realized they were giving me names of siblings, cousins or friends. My presence

made it possible for them to assemble gifts they could present with pride – and economically! If I am still here next year, I will definitely want to repeat and possibly expand this outreach.

The calligraphy has proved useful on other occasions as well. For an open house at school (where potential enrollees inspect the

See **ROGERS**, page 7

## Inactive Member Ministry

The time has come to make a new beginning. Concern about church inactivity certainly weighs on the minds of Christians. Urgent concern for inactive persons themselves presses forth from Christian hearts. And out of these real concerns a clamor of questions emerges: Where can we, as individuals, begin? What can congregations do? What do we need to know?

Individuals and congregations can do much about church inactivity. And that's good, because there is much to do. Studies reveal that an average of approximately 30 to 35 percent of the membership of any congregation is inactive.



These are hurting, homeless people. Concern for inactive members goes right back to Jesus' concern for people in need.

How do you define inactive members?

Here is the definition of inactive members I like to work with:

*Inactive members are individuals who have chosen not to participate in the*

*worship life, financial support and program activities of the congregation.*

Basically, individuals become inactive at the point where they begin to detach emotionally and physically from the congregation. This may mean reduced attendance or continued absence from worship services; it may mean reduced giving or no giving; it may mean a reduction or stoppage of participation in church program activities.

**From "Reopening the Back Door: Answers to Questions about Ministering to Inactive Members" by Kenneth C. Haug**

## Rogers

From page 6

facility and meet teachers), I wrote out visitors' names while we talked about their interests.

And just last night I curtailed my sleep so I could prepare certificates for the winners of the school's "English-language Olympics," held earlier this week.

Fortunately, Slovaks value handmade items, so I expect my Christmas gifts for colleagues will reflect both my lettering and my preference to economize.

I expect to spend most of the holidays in my familiar Košice surroundings. I will join a colleague's family for Christmas Eve and the next morning. Otherwise, I hope to devote some time to improving my Slovak language skills.

From a missions perspective, my teaching assignment seems more like a cover story than the real work. Developing relationships with students, colleagues and with other Americans working through-

out Slovakia through other mission organizations - this takes time and seems equally important.

Of course, only Americans celebrate American Thanksgiving, so that day was a regular workday here. A Thanksgiving dinner was planned for the Sunday immediately afterward in Bratislava for ELCA mission personnel.

I decided not to attend. The tight time constraints would have compromised my work schedule in both weeks bracketing the weekend. And the travel time and expense seemed indefensible.

So instead, A.J. and I prepared a traditional feast and hosted 10 Slovak friends. We were in fact quite thankful. And the Slovaks were gracious guests.

My Visa finally came through. So many administrative and bureaucratic obstacles have come and gone over these past four months.

It is already time to consider whether I should remain for a second year here. It seems likely I am

being led in that direction.

I try not to focus on this mission as an intercultural experience, even though it is very much exactly that. Offering anecdotes that highlight local traditions seems to focus more on the details that distinguish us rather than on the grace that draws us together. The grace motivates me more than cultural novelty can.

Nonetheless, I feel I cannot close without mentioning my attendance this past weekend at a traditional pig-slaughtering. The event was held on the grounds of a former Carthusian monastery on the border with Poland, about three hours from Košice.

Although the killing of a pig is the sine qua non of the day - and a dodgy sight to behold - the true focus is the daylong feasting that follows. My hosts were the parents of three students at my school. And yes, the tavern in the monastery provided yet another venue for sharing my calligraphy to supplement my minimal Slovak speaking skills.



## Beginnings Ministry: Birth through age 3

Happy New Year! This is a time of year we think of as a new beginning. It's a time to reflect on our lives and make resolutions to do new things.

As caretakers of lives that are just beginning, parents of young children can resolve to create a home life that will connect children with Christ, their family and with our church and community. Is yours a household of faith? Will your child grow to know a loving God? Maybe you can resolve to say grace before meals, have bedtime prayers, do daily devotions and attend church regularly. Even the youngest children will benefit from faith-filled parents.

Best wishes for a blessed new year.

Kay

### Partnering with Parents

The Beginnings Ministry team wants to get to know you and your new baby. That's why we'll bring a gift to new parents to introduce you to our ministry, invite you to the young families events, tell you about Splash! and answer questions you may have about baptism, the nursery, preschool, or Sunday School. We just want to make a connection, so we won't plan to come in or stay long. (We've been where you are!)

If you had a baby before November 2011 and you'd like a visit, please contact the church office. Otherwise, as new babies arrive, we'll contact you.

*For more information on Beginnings Ministry, contact 614-885-*



Santa stops here! Our littlest loved visits with a superstar on Dec. 10.

0112, Kay at [kayl@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:kayl@saintsonhigh.org) or Pam at [pamw@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:pamw@saintsonhigh.org).



## Children's Ministry: Preschool through 5th grade

### First Communion

All Saints' 5th-graders and their families will celebrate First Communion on Maundy Thursday, a new and exciting experience for our congregation.

In the church year, Maundy Thursday is remembered as the initiation of communion with the disciples, and therefore **the** first communion. Each year, we remember the meal that Jesus set before them, offering his body and blood, even before the disciples fully understood what he

was doing.

As we move our First Communion for 5th-graders to Maundy Thursday, we are trying to make our rites of passage coincide with the church year to better center the focus on Jesus' life. Celebrating First Communion is a reminder to us that this time is truly about the sacrament and about the community where Jesus originally offered it.

At their final class April 1, our First Communicants will make the bread that will be used for Maun-

dy Thursday communion for the congregation, creating an opportunity to serve the entire worshipping community at All Saints.

On Maundy Thursday, those participating in their First Communion will receive communion from the pastors, and then each of them will commune their families. This is to show that we are the body of Christ, a priesthood of all believers and that we do this to remember Jesus.

Prior to the worship service, we

**Continued on page 9**



## Children's Ministry: Preschool through 5th grade

from page 8

invite all participants and their families to share in a meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m.

We are excited about this opportunity to share more fully with your child the real meaning of Holy Communion.

We hope you can join us for this special day, but we also want you to know that we respect your right to ask for your child's First Communion to be on a different day if there are family conflicts.

If you choose, we will rejoice and celebrate with your child on a Sunday morning you select. We would invite your family to commune first to commemorate the First Communion. However, because of the reality of Sunday mornings and our time constraints, your child could not in turn commune the family.

Classes to prepare for First Communion will be from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Sundays Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 4 and April 1. Please watch for more information on these classes.

If you would like to sign your child up for these classes, please contact Pam Wachtel at 614-885-0112 or [pamw@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:pamw@saintsonhigh.org).

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Bonnie Gerber  
Pastor Mike Weaver



Santa isn't the only one with a list! A little girl shares her Christmas wishes with the man with the bag during Breakfast with Santa Dec. 10.

### Family Worship Services

Experiencing worship with your children is important as a parent. When was the last time you sat in a worship service with your child?

Many kids that attend Sunday School never step foot in a worship service. As a church, we want to make sure we provide opportunities for children to be able to worship alongside of not only their parents, but also other brothers and sisters in Christ.

By providing these opportunities, we hope to help kids understand the importance of belonging to a church body long after their Sun-

day School days are over.

Services will be in the Parish Hall during the Sunday School hour beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please join us!

Our Family Worship Service dates are Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 4, April 1 and May 13.

Please note there will be NO Sunday School offered for Preschool 3's through 5th-grade on these Sundays.

*For more information on Children's Ministry, contact Pam at 614-885-0112, or Pam at [pamw@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:pamw@saintsonhigh.org).*



## Youth Ministry



## Middle School Ministry: Grades 6 through 8

As I write this newsletter, 2011 is coming to a close. It has been such a great year, as it is always an honor to watch these youth grow in their faith.

I think one of the moments that stands out in my mind (and will ALWAYS stay with me) was on the 7th-grade retreat. It has been tradition to watch the movie, "Luther," on this retreat. Not only were the students engaged during the movie, but at one point they applauded Martin Luther for standing up for what he believed in. It is such a reminder that our youth truly are on a journey, and as they are forming their faith, it is so important to present them with positive role models and opportunities to experience God, to talk about God and our faith and to continually pray for and with them so that amidst all the distractions in their world, they take the time to truly hear God, see God and walk with God.

May you see God working in your life and walking with you in the New Year.

~Lisa

### Confirmation

Saturday Sessions for Confirmation education run from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Remaining sessions: Jan. 7, Feb. 4,



Our 7th-graders learned and bonded during the annual retreat.

March 3, April 14 and May 5

Retreats remaining: 8th-grade:  
April 14 - 15

Confirmation Sunday for 8th-graders:  
May 20

### Youth Group

Here is a sneak peek at what's in store for 2012:

Jan. 13 - Lazer Craze

Feb. 4 - OSU Hockey Game

Feb. 12 - Pancake Breakfast

*For more information on Middle School Ministry, contact Lisa Brooks at 614-885-0112 or lisab@saintsonhigh.org.*



## High School Ministry: Grades 9 through 12

As I write this newsletter, 2011 is coming to a close. As I look back at the year, I can't tell you how blessed I feel to have the privilege of working with our High School Youth. They are a great group of kids. I am also thankful for the wonderful volunteers that we have involved in this ministry. It wouldn't happen without them, and I am so grateful for their service. As we look on to 2012, I am so excited about our trip to New Orleans in the summer and am again thankful for the support we have received from the congregation. It is my goal to reach more high school students in 2012, and I pray that it is the goal of our parents to encourage their high schoolers to become involved. Happy New Year and join us, young or old, as we kick off the new year of High School Ministry!

~Lisa

### Sunday Evenings

Join us from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays as we learn and grow together. We will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8. Never yet been to youth group? It's a perfect time to start, as we kick off the New Year!

### Special Events

Take a quick peek at activities we have planned so far for 2012:

Jan. 15 - 16 - Overnight at Jacob's Porch

Feb. 4 - Cabin Fever

Feb. 24 - 25 - 30-hour Famine

April 29 - Shack City (benefitting Habitat for Humanity)

### 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering

We currently have 21 youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July of 2012. At the time of this newsletter, there is still space available. Please let Lisa Brooks know as soon as possible if you have a youth who would like to join us. You may contact her at 614-885-0112 or lisab@saintsonhigh.org.

### Cookbooks

We still have cookbooks available. The cookbooks are \$16 and benefit the students attending the ELCA Youth Gathering.

*For more information on High School Ministry, contact Lisa Brooks at 614-885-0112 or lisab@saintsonhigh.org.*

## Preschool News

The Preschool will begin registering children of church members, currently enrolled students, siblings, and the church Mom's Day Out Groups for the 2012-13 school year beginning Jan. 9. Registration for the community will begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 23.

Interested parents are encouraged to make a visitation appointment to learn more about the Preschool program. Preschool office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and

8:30 a.m. to noon Friday. Contact the preschool at 614-846-6080. You can also learn more about our program by visiting our Web site, [www.littlesaintsonhigh.com](http://www.littlesaintsonhigh.com) or by contacting the Director Mary Lou Koloff at [marylouk@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:marylouk@saintsonhigh.org). Next year's classes:

AM 3's	T-TH	9-11:30 A.M.
PM 3's	T-TH	12:30-3 P.M.
AM 4's	M-W-F	9-11:30 A.M.
PM 5's	M-T-W-TH	12:30-3 P.M.
EXTENDED AM 4's	M-W	9 A.M.-1 P.M.
	F	9-11:30 A.M.

All Saints Preschool offers:

- An experienced staff
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Continued opportunities for staff training in the latest Early Childhood Practices
- Continued implementation of Ohio State Standards for Preschoolers
- Child Portfolio, provided for each child, and given to parents at the end of the school year

# Be sure to catch Cabin Fever!

The Shull Small Group is preparing for its annual Cabin Fever, scheduled this year for Feb. 4.

This year's event will feature a Chili Cookoff as well as the "No Talent Talent Show."

To sign up for either, e-mail Rox-

anne Shull at roxanne.shull@sbcglobal.net or barbara.duane@gmail.com.

Proceeds this year will be donated to our teens going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.



## Cross Training

### 9:30 a.m. Sundays

Carolyn Eselgroth will offer the course, "The Reason for God" by Pastor Timothy Keller at 9:30 a.m. Sundays from Jan. 8 through Feb. 12.

Among the topics:

Why does God allow suffering in the world?  
 How could a loving God send people to Hell?  
 Why isn't Christianity more inclusive?  
 How can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"?  
 Why have so many wars been fought in the name of God?

These are just a few of the questions and doubts even ardent believers wrestle with today. As the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, Timothy Keller has compiled a list of the most frequently voiced "doubts" skeptics bring to his church as well as the most important reasons for faith. And in the New York Times bestselling "The Reason for God," he addresses each doubt and explains each reason.

Keller uses literature, philosophy, real-life conversations and reasoning to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly rational belief, held by thoughtful people of intellectual integrity with a deep compassion for those who

truly want to know the truth. Captured live and unscripted, pastor and author Timothy Keller meets with a group of people over six sessions to address their doubts and objections to Christianity. Using literature, philosophy, real-life experiences, and the Bible, Keller and the group explore the truth of Christianity. We will use the Discussion Guide and DVD to learn how to engage others in dialogue on six common objections to Christianity. Whether in a group setting or individual conversation, *The Reason for God* is a resource for what to say in response to these objections, and a model for how to say it. Session Titles and Descriptions: 1. Isn't the Bible a Myth? 2. How Can You Say There Is Only One Way to God? 3. What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life? 4. Why Does God Allow Suffering? 5. Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice? 6. How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time?

### The Greatest Story: Jesus

Beginning Thursdays, Jan. 12, join us as we experience Jesus' life and ministry from Advent to Easter.

Participants will journey through the Gospel narratives – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – in this exciting exploration of the life and ministry of Jesus. The book "The Greatest Story: Jesus," by the Rev.

Allen R. Hilton and Dr. Mark Allan Powell, uses the Bible in an engaging and informative way through 16 sessions.

You may purchase a participant book for \$15. Please let Pastor Bonnie know if you'd like to join us at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays and if you'd like to purchase a book.

Topics include:

- Who Is This Jesus? Four Gospels
- God Is With Us Birth Narratives
- This Is My Son Baptism, Calling, Temptation
- Fulfilled In Your Heart Ministry Begins
- Follow Me Calling Disciples
- Who Then Is This? Making Miracles
- Who Touched Me? Healing
- Let The Forgiven Forgive Forgiving
- Blessed Are You Teaching
- The Kingdom Is Like... Storytelling
- Lost And Found Storytelling
- I Am Sayings And Symbols
- Entering Jerusalem Holy Week
- Broken For You Final Night
- Crucify Him! Trial And Death
- A Sunday Response Resurrection

### New member classes

Classes for those interested in joining All Saints will be at 7 p.m. Wednesdays beginning April 11 and run through May 30. New members will be received in worship on June 3.

## Concerts at All Saints

Concerts at All Saints will feature an organ recital by Curtis Pierce at 4 p.m. Feb. 12. A former All Saints organist and student of Wilbur Held, Pierce returns to All Saints to present a recital in conjunction with the congregation's 50th anniversary observance. Curtis will play works by Arne, Bach, Christiansen, Couperin, Franck, Hollins, Vierne, and Widor.

## Thursday Night Bible Study

The books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are part of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. We will begin a study on these books at 7 p.m. beginning Thursday, Jan. 12. We will review these two books to see what wisdom we can learn.

## Young Retireds

### Wednesday, Jan. 4 Lutheran Social Services

Brad Draper will visit to talk about Lutheran Social Services. He was the former director of congregational relations and has taken Barb Packer's place as director of food

pantry services.

Please bring something to donate to the food pantry and all the questions you have always wanted to ask about social services in Columbus. Olive Garden will cater the noon luncheon, which will be \$10 per person.

## Parish Directory

### Birth

Alena Grace, daughter of Kyle and Sarah Stevenson (granddaughter of Bob and Marj Stevenson), Nov. 22.

Skorczewski, on Dec. 1; Steve and Karen Reed on the death of Steve's mother, Doris Reed, on Dec. 2; Lee and Pat Spade and Pam Spade on the death of brother and uncle, Bob Spade, on Dec. 8; Gail Anderson on the death of her daughter, Kristi Anderson, on Dec. 12; Bev Schwieterman on the death of her husband, Bob, on Dec. 15; and Gail Sackett on the death of her father, Lawrence Williams on Dec. 18.

### Sympathies

Expressed to Scott and Amy Chapman on the death of Amy's father, Don Rayle, on Nov. 30; Andy and Karen Zastudil on the death of Karen's uncle, Jim

## Our Mission

All Saints strives to:

- Give Glory to God;
- Share the Good News of Christ;
- Grow in Expression of Faith and Discipleship.

## Sunday Worship

Traditional, Sanctuary  
8:15, 9:30 and 11 a.m.  
The Gathering, Parish Hall  
11 a.m.

Office: 614-885-0112 Fax: 614-885-0199  
E-mail: [aslc@saintsonhigh.org](mailto:aslc@saintsonhigh.org)

### Office and Program Staff

Lead Pastor	Bonnie Gerber
Pastor	Mike Weaver
Pastoral Care	Jim Jensen
Administration	Gloria Bock
Programs & Lay Ministry	Kay Labosky
Communications	Stacy Wendt
Children's Ministry	Pam Wachtel
Middle School and High School Ministry	Lisa Brooks
Facilities	Tom Oswald
Preschool	Mary Lou Kolloff
Office Manager	Sandi Snyder
Secretary	Arlene Belter
Bookkeeper	Jodi Wilson
Nursery Coordinator	Amy Jepsen

### Music Staff

Organist	Tom Gerke
Assistant Organist	Jan Sprecher
Chancel Choir	Jan Arthur
Youth Choirs	Brenda Curie
Jubilate Chorus	Pam Spade
Contemporary Worship	Pam Wachtel
Youth/Jubilate accompanist	Mary Jane DeArmond

## Married 50 years or more

Each month we will recognize those couples whose wedding anniversary falls in that month and who will celebrate 50 years or more of marriage.

Jan. 6	Bob & Marj Stevenson	50 years
Jan. 12	Ed & Jody Gaiser	51 years
Jan. 21	Tom & Lois Wahtola	51 years

