

Saints **Alive!**

FOR SHARING STORIES AND IGNITING FAITH



IN THIS ISSUE

*“Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is God’s will for
you in Christ Jesus.*

-- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

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OUR MISSION

To give glory to God,
share the good news of
Christ, and grow in
expression of faith and
discipleship.

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May 29, 2021

Seventh Sunday Of Easter

Lectionary Texts:

Acts 16:16-34

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,
20-21

John 17:20-26

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KEEP UP WITH US

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

William Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

If all the men and women, if all of us, are merely players, then who is the audience? Certainly, the purpose of a play is for someone to watch and be moved or unmoved by the actions on the stage. So, who is that someone? Danish theologian, Soren Kierkegaard said, "Worship isn't God's show. God is the audience. God's watching. The congregation, they are the actors in this drama. Worship is their show. And the minister is just reminding the people of their forgotten lines."

Throughout this newsletter, you will see people who are acting on their faith. People who are actively involved in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. While we may come away from these experiences feeling good, that is not the ultimate goal of our actions. The fundamental goal of our actions is to give glory to God, to please God, to demonstrate to God how much love we have for God and for our neighbors (and for ourselves!).

Recently, I traveled with our Choir to New York City so they could sing at Carnegie Hall under the direction of composer and conductor, Pepper Choplin. I had no idea what I would discover on this trip.

While I was out exploring the city, the choir members were practicing four to five hours a day. I truly learned about being passionate about the gifts God has given us. The awe-inspiring pleasure the singers brought back from practice was evident. Each member shared their stories of what they gained at practice and each had a sense of peaceful well-being about them. They knew they were performing for God and that we, the audience, were merely there to listen.

I will forever cherish this faith-filled experience for them and for me.

I have been on Mission Trips and to Youth Gatherings and I have known the passion and the depth of faith our youth demonstrate.

I have taught Vacation Bible School and know how thirsty our young people are to be connected to and learn about God and how to live a faithful life.

I have experienced college students ask to go on a mission trip because they were so eager to help wherever help was needed.

For all we've done and for all we will do, I believe God is pleased.

Our role continues to be the actors who are reminded of our missing lines, so we never miss out on an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

--PASTOR BONNIE GERBER



Pastor Bonnie Gerber

DATES TO KNOW

JUNE

CONFIRMATION MEETINGS

June 5 @ 11:00 a.m.

June 6 @ 6:30 p.m.

SUMMER SUNDAYS BEGIN

June 12

VBS

June 13 - 17

SUMMER FESTIVAL

June 19

WELCOME TABLE

June 28

JULY

ONLY ONE

WORSHIP SERVICE

July 3 @ 10:00 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

July 4

SENDING SERVICE FOR MISSION TRIP

July 14

WELCOME TABLE

July 26

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

July 23 - 30

AUGUST

FINAL SUMMER SUNDAY SESSION

August 14

KINDERGARTEN MILESTONE/BLESSING OF THE BACK PACKS

August 21

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

August 28

WELCOME TABLE

August 30

WHY WE STARTED MISSION TRIPS AT ALL SAINTS

In 2012, while in New Orleans at the Youth Gathering, we began to brainstorm what we could do to keep the momentum from the Gathering going. We wanted to find a way to keep the energy and relationships built on these trips from waning between Youth Gatherings. Since the Gathering happens every three years, it was difficult to make our youth wait for such good experiences.

Timeline of Mission Trips and Youth Gatherings

2006 San Antonio, TX (ELCA Youth Gathering)
2009 New Orleans, LA (ELCA Youth Gathering)
2012 New Orleans, LA (ELCA Youth Gathering)
2013 Bluefield, WV
2014 Brighton, TN
2015 Detroit, MI (ELCA Youth Gathering)
2016 Red Lake, MN
2017 Newark Valley, NY
2018 Houston, TX (ELCA Youth Gathering)
2018 College Trip to Puerto Rico
2019 Hazlet, NJ
2020 Mission, SD (canceled due to Covid-19)
2020 College Trip to Alaska (canceled due to Covid-19)
2021 Westfield, IN
2022 Lexington, NC

WHY WE STARTED MISSION TRIPS AT ALL SAINTS

Lisa Brooks came up with the idea of mission trips after the 2012 Youth Gathering which led us to team up with Group Mission Trips for our first trip to Bluefield, WV. It was a life changing experience. Since 2012, we have been on six mission trips and two ELCA Youth Gatherings. Our next mission trip will happen in July 2022 as we travel to Lexington, NC.

The numbers have grown over the years. In 2006, Pastor Bonnie took four youth to the Gathering in San Antonio, TX. Lisa Brooks took over and in 2012, we took 19 to New Orleans, while in 2019, we traveled with 51 to Hazlet, NJ and we have traveled with an average of 37 youth over the years. We feel blessed to have 34 already registered to travel to Lexington, NC this summer. Over the past 10 years, 145 youth have traveled to Youth Gatherings and Mission Trips.

In addition, because of these trips, we traveled to Puerto Rico with a group of college students, who wanted to get together for one more trip. A college trip to Alaska was on the books for May 2020 but did not happen due to Covid.

These trips have helped our youth and adult chaperones grow in their faith.

2022 Mission Trip

There is still time to join us in Lexington, NC. If you are a High School youth and want to join us, please reach out to Lisa at lisab@saintsonhigh.org.

If you would like to donate to this trip, you may do so on our website, www.saintsonhigh.org.

Please continue to pray for our youth as well as our travels. We love these trips, and we cherish the bonds we have made with our youth even more!



CHANCEL CHOIR: NEW YORK CITY – CARNEGIE HALL

The ASLC Chancel Choir was presented with the opportunity to sing a sacred music work by Pepper Choplin after being contacted by DCINY in the summer of 2021. The company reached out, after having viewed the choir’s virtual presentation of Pepper Choplin’s ‘We Are Not Alone,’ to ask for our participation in a mass choir event of the composer’s new work ‘Once Upon a Morning.’ The contact noted that our choir seemed amply prepared to tackle Choplin’s work and that our choir would not even need to audition.

Chancel Choir members were presented with the option to sing this new work in Carnegie Hall and 24 members jumped at the opportunity. They knew that they would have to cover all personal costs, including: airfare, food, entertainment, additional travel costs, and hotel stay. They also knew that they would be giving over 10 hours of their trip to rehearsal and performance time. We began preparation for the trip in September 2021 and started rehearsing the music in February 2022.

Once in New York, the singers were Covid tested before the first 5 hour rehearsal. All three rehearsals were spent with several other choirs from around the US. Choirs joined from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina, Hawaii and other areas. We came together to create and present a beautiful cantata celebrating the Gospel of the Resurrection through Pentecost with the composer himself conducting. Singing under expert direction, in Carnegie Hall, with the shared passion of the retelling of the Gospel, in song, was a beautiful capitulation of all that we had learned and shared together in the process.

The Chancel Choir members consider themselves incredibly fortunate to have been given this opportunity and for the support of our congregation in this ministry.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

How Intergenerational Connections Grow Faith

Village (noun): A diverse community of consistent, interconnected people.

I'm currently reading the book, *Find Your People* by Jennie Allen, and in that book she states, "You know the saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' Well, it takes a village to create a full and thriving life for us adults too." My takeaway....we all need a village, a community. I love the second definition of community...."a feeling of fellowship with others.....".

One of our intentional goals at All Saints is to create community. We accomplish that through Service Events and Festivals. We see it in small groups, in Bible Study and Sunday School. But the wonderful thing about being part of a community is the relationships that just form organically. No real plans....just a matter of being present and starting a conversation.

Recently we were made aware of a relationship that happened, not out of a plan, but simply out of worshipping together. It was Confirmation Sunday, and I was pleasantly surprised to see Rick and Patty Bradley at the service. I assumed they were there simply to observe the service as a member of the church. When talking with them they explained how they had become close with one of the families who had a Confirmation that day, the Mullaney's.

This is what the Bradleys had to say:
"About 8 years ago, as new members of All Saints, we began to attend the Wednesday night Lenten suppers. One evening there were two seats available at a table and we were invited to join Jennifer Mullaney and her two little girls, Mariah and Alissa, for the meal.

The following weeks we found the girls had saved us seats at the dinners. Little did we know that night was the beginning of a new inter-generational relationship with Jennifer and the girls, not only at the Lenten suppers but at Sunday worship. Mariah and Alissa searched for us after worship, shared what was going on in their lives, and many times were anxious for us to see their latest drawing or new shoes! They shared stories and eventually we invited the girls to our home to work with Patty making bracelets for themselves and a necklace for their Mom. Over the years we have been invited to attend some events in their lives including: both girls' First Communions; a weekday Montessori/church program downtown where Mariah had a speaking role; Alissa's basketball game; and Patty's becoming a prayer partner with Alissa for one year. Most recently we were honored to have been invited to Mariah's Confirmation and to join with their family in celebration at a nearby restaurant afterwards.

Upon reflection, we realize that we have been blessed with the opportunity to interact with both girls as they have grown in their faith at All Saints over the years. This relationship has exemplified what a positive impact we adults can have on the younger generation both by our example and in our interest in what they are doing, even when we are not looking for it. We have watched Mariah and Alissa develop from little girls coloring with crayons and sharing pictures at the Lenten suppers into young ladies in their journeys into teenage years. As their mother has guided them in their spiritual growth at All Saints, our hope is that Mariah and Alissa have been blessed in our relationship with them as we have been blessed by them, and we look forward to the continuation of this special Christian relationship in the years to come."

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

How Intergenerational Connections Grow Faith

So awesome! Take a look at what it has meant to Mariah and Alissa:

“We were pretty young when we first met Patty and Rick. We ended up sitting next to them at simple supper and they were so nice and talked with us not just our mom. We looked forward to seeing them and made sure to save them a seat if they weren’t there yet. We like having someone else at church that is looking out for us and excited to see us. It meant so much when Patty gave Mariah her First communion and then came to Alissa’s even though COVID moved it outside. Patty and Rick make us feel like we are a part of their family, they feel like a part of ours. This is how God wanted the church to take care of each other and love each other.”

This made us start to think about the other relationships that we have watched form. For instance, Bob and Sudy Hamilton.

“Eleven years ago we needed two people to join our usher team for the 8:15 service. Abby and Rachel Counts attended that service with their parents. We decided to ask the only young people at the 8:15 service if they would like to join the team. We first talked to Tom and Carolyn and the girls needed a week to think about it. They joined us and we did “on the job training” their first Sunday. We next came back to usher with them eleven months later. They had everything under control. We were blessed to enjoy four-five years sharing school, activities, summer youth mission trips, and college plans.

After Rachel went off to college, Peyton and Tatum Lather were the only youngsters at the 8:15 service. So we asked them if they would join the team. No problem. Tatum was more than happy to join us and jumped right in. I am sure she talked Peyton into coming along. Our time with them was cut short by Covid. Peyton off to college and Tatum now going.

All Saints is truly a Christian community blessed with outstanding young people, parents and lay youth leaders.”

I love how the Hamilton’s decided to ask the youth to serve alongside them, and how in a way it seems they were just treating the youth as they would treat any adult serving alongside them, but take a look at what it meant to both the Counts and the Lathers:

“I remember our relationship as being very pleasant. They were interested in getting to know us. We ushered together a lot and got to know them pretty well too. I remember there being some inside jokes. I remember them letting us do a lot of the ushering duties. I remember having conversations with them in the Narthex after closing the doors for the beginning of the service. Through this experience, we gained another person at church to smile at and talk to, made our ties to the church stronger. They were part of the community of people that were our all saints. They are the type of people who notice when you don’t come to church – because you are friends and they are looking to see if you are there. (Completely random note: Bob gives us fist bumps too!)” ~ Abby Counts

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

How Intergenerational Connections Grow Faith

"I can't remember exactly when we began ushering with them. It was sometime when we were both in High School. We sat a row or two behind them every Sunday, so there was always small talk here and there. One Sunday they had mentioned that the other two they used to usher with could no longer do it and asked if Abby and I wanted to. I think we both said "sure" right away. The first few Sundays they were extremely helpful in making sure we felt comfortable with all of the procedures. I remember on multiple occasions that we either forgot to open the doors at the end of the service so the pastors could walk out into the Narthex or forgot to get the offering plates together because we were talking. One time my dad asked, "do you even pay attention to the service or do you just sit back there and talk?". Most of the time, it was the latter! I remember another time Pastor Bonnie included the four of us in her sermon. Bob said afterwards something along the lines of "it's not every day you get in the pastor's sermon!". I don't think it was until then that I realized what Bob and Sudy had done. They knew we went to church. They saw us there every Sunday. But, a part of being a member of this community is serving others. In a nonchalant way, they asked us to be active participants even though adults typically served that role. Because of this, it made me feel important and that I played a role in church. They could've asked anyone, or simply let the other two spots be filled, but they asked two teenagers to help. Their impact on Abby and I was evident when they had gotten in a car accident and were unable to be at church for a few months.

Ushering without them was completely different. It felt like we were going through the motions, making sure we counted the nave, passed the offering plates, and collected bulletins at the end of the service. It just wasn't the same. However, I remember that Abby and I quickly assumed the "leadership roles" on the ushering team, utilizing all the skills Bob and Sudy had taught us to ensure all of the procedures happened smoothly. What we missed the most during those months was the relationship. We missed the talking – even talking so much we forgot where we were in the service! After Abby and I went to college, I remember seeing that they had enlisted two other teenagers (the Lathers) to help usher and I thought to myself, 'here they go again!' ~ Rachel Counts

"It was definitely an adjustment for my brother and I when we started ushering. The Hamilton's were there with us and from that moment on, they were our guides for how to go about it. They made sure we knew everything that went into helping and helped us make sure we were in the right place at the right time. They always made us feel loved and were so kind to us and took us under their wing from the beginning. At the early service it was hard because there not a lot of kids our age but we never felt unwelcome by anyone!" ~ Tatum Lather

"When the Hamilton's asked us to help usher it was very fulfilling. We had been going to 8:15 services for as long as I could remember and to be asked to fill an important role was just very gratifying to me and was a big step in my faith journey." ~ Payton Lather

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

How Intergenerational Connections Grow Faith

Last but not least, Vacation Bible School is another great place for unexpected relationships to form. Take it from a then 7th grader (now senior in college), Matthew Frommer:

“Initially meeting Marilyn, I was a little hesitant because it was someone who I had never interacted with or even heard about through the church grapevine. The first couple days of VBS we made small talk about the weather, or the story we were teaching that day. One day it all switched and we talked about family, and life in general, and how it is all related to God’s big picture. After that it seemed like we were two friends that had known each other forever. She is caring, and kind, and is someone who I genuinely cared about. I believe that it was God putting me in that situation (in which I was not super comfortable at first) and giving me an opportunity to meet one of the coolest OWLs in church. It has been a while since I have met her and taught VBS but it will always be a memory I will love and cherish because God gave me a blessing that year in the form of Marilyn.”

And Marilyn’s thoughts:

“The first morning of VBS, I was introduced to Matthew. I’m pretty sure he was hoping to assist with one of the grade levels, not help as an assistant story teller. He had just completed 7th grade; quiet, bright and responsible, he took the job seriously and though maybe out of his comfort zone, he excelled. One day during a lull between groups we got into a discussion about the stories in the Bible and he lamented that he wanted to read and understand the Bible better, but the timeline was confusing, especially in the Old Testament. I agreed and told him about a chronological Bible I had read which really opened my eyes and helped put the historical events in order. At the end of the week, I gave him a copy and encouraged him to give it a try.

When the time to sign up for the HS Youth Mission Trip came around the following spring, I asked him if he planned to attend. He was very hesitant, so I described what it was like, how much fun it was, how hard the work could be, how rewarding it was to help others and how much one’s faith grows from this type of experience. I was going again and he decided to go and give it a try. He loved it and became involved in the HS Youth Group and I was his “Church Grandma”. That really touched me and made me acutely aware of how, even in very brief encounters with someone, our words and actions can make a difference in someone else’s life. Very humbling indeed!”

We have loved hearing these stories....and we know two things for sure:

- There are more out there (feel free to share with us!)
- There will be more to come!

I say these happened organically, however, I know God’s plans are always bigger and better than anything we can think up. And God built us for relationship! All Saints is a great place to find that village, community, relationship with others....whatever your word is for it. What I find true in the above relationships: all you have to do is be present and be willing to start a conversation! We can all do that!

~Lisa Brooks

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION



Earlier this year on Saturday, April 23, we held First Communion for some of our youth. The youth who partook in First Communion, pictured above, are Callum Anderson, Cohen Cox, Charlotte Del Vecchio, Noah Ellinger, Claire Florea, Mallory Florea, Brooklyn Hoffman, Andrew Kieselbach, Grant Kieselbach, Caiden Lumby, Kate Patton, Kinzley Schmehl, Avery Still, and Keegan Tatz.



The following day, Sunday, April 24, we held Confirmation. The confirmands this year, pictured above, are Lola Marie Florea, Alexander Jerome Fuller, William Raymond Gleckler, Daniel Jay Healy, Kylie Mae Hoffman, Samantha Renee Kendall, Ava Nicole Miller, Mariah Renee Mullaney, Aaron Julius Nestinger, Quinn Patrick O'Briant, Elizabeth Hanna Patton, Samuel Anton Piloseno, Matthew Stephen Woodmansee, and Jared Arthur Zambito.

GRADUATING SENIORS



Top, left to right: Benjamin Woodmansee, Camille Shiffer, Katie Reardon, Tatum Lather, Emily Kendall, and Nick Smith. Middle: Nate Plant, Max Popp, Jamie Rosales, Joe Schaffranek, Joe Kolwicz, and Ethan Weaver. Bottom: Nick Monago, Miah Bey, Gavin Crozier, Benjamin Fisher, Kiera Lumby, and Melanie Allen. Congrats Class of 2022!

ALL SAINTS PRESCHOOL



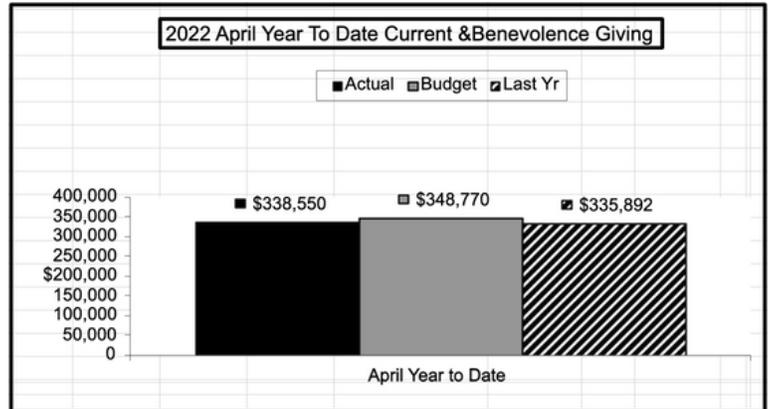
All Saints Preschool is hiring teachers for the '22-'23 school year!
If interested, contact Suzy Eakin at
614-846-6080 or
suzye@saintsonhigh.org



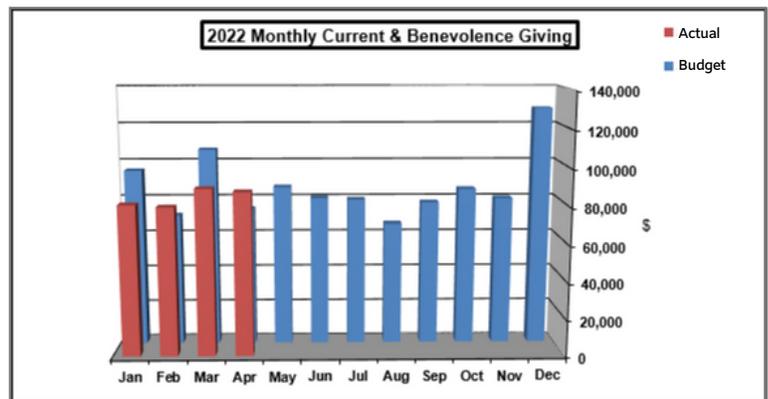
FINANCE REPORT

For the Month of April

April offering came in at 118 of budget: \$82,465 vs. \$70,015. Year-to-date total income came in at approximately 97% of budget: \$338,550 vs. \$348,770. In 2021, total income received was \$335,891. The difference in income of \$2,659 from 2021 to 2022 represents an increase of .79%.



April expenses came in at \$78,557 which is 89% of the monthly budgeted amount of \$87,775. Year-to-date total expenses came in at 96% of budget: \$324,657 vs. \$339,159. In 2021, we had expenses of \$298,997, which is \$25,660; 8.58% lower than this year.



Thank you to the members and friends of All Saints for their financial support of the ministries of our church. We are grateful for our members of All Saints and appreciate your faithfulness and generosity in your continued financial support of the ministries of our church. May God Bless.

<u>Summary</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$ 338,550	\$ 348,770	\$(10,220)
Expenses	\$ 324,656	\$ 339,159	\$(14,503)
Net	\$ 13,894	\$ 9,611	\$ 4,283