

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA, RIC DECEMBER 23, 2025



THE SCOOP

SUBMITTED BY PASTOR JENNIFER

All Saints Lutheran Church, Wales, WI

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Join Us This Season
All Are Warmly Welcomed!

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24th
4:00 pm

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25th
10:00 am



SUBMITTED BY PASTOR JENNIFER

All Saints Lutheran Church



FOOD DRIVE



DECEMBER 2025

We are excited to announce our annual Food Drive, where we come together as a community to make a positive impact on the lives of those facing food insecurity.



ITEMS NEEDED

- ▶ Cereal
- ▶ Potatoes
- ▶ Canned Food
- ▶ Non-Perishable Items

Items are being collected for Kettle Moraine Food Pantry

Items must not be expired.

SUBMITTED BY AMY HOLLAND

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Monday, December 22nd 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, December 23rd 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday, December 24th 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Thursday, December 24th 9:00 am – 11:00 am

The church office will be closed Monday, December 29th -January 1st so that the church staff can spend time with their families for Christmas.

Please contact Pastor Jennifer if you need pastoral care.

End of year contributions can be mailed to the church (postmarked by December 31) or dropped into the church mailbox near the office door.

Thank you, and have a very merry Christmas!



ALL SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

A monthly Column featuring the wonderful Ministries of All Saints!

December Edition: Music Ministries

Rebecca Seevers, Reporting



Music Groups at All Saints

We have three music groups that regularly enhance our worship services at All Saints... bell choir, vocal choir, and ensemble. We thought we would give you a deeper knowledge of the two directors (Jean Voelkel and Lori Dittmar) who lead those groups in this "Spotlight" article. These choirs take the summer off, during which there is music provided by individuals or others that want to form an ad hoc small group.

Jean Voelkel is retired from teaching, and is a wife, mother, and now... new grandma! She leads the bell choir, getting an extraordinary sound out of this group. She has a long history with All Saints as one of its original members.

In Jean's words... "I joined the Bethel Handbell Choir after college & learned how to ring with this group. Jeff, Ben, & I watched our church being built & attended the first church service in this new building. The atmosphere was ELECTRIC, and everyone was so friendly that we decided to join right away. The first group we joined was the choir!



I started ringing with the Bell Choir in the second year we had the bells. When our bell director left, Pastor Paul Stumme Diers asked me if I would like to direct. I had never done anything like this but agreed to try it for six months. Well, that was over 20 years ago. I am grateful Pastor Paul gave me that nudge because I love leading this group!

We ring with 12 positions. Some of our players travel/ have other commitments so we are fortunate to have an extra person or two to fill in when needed. **If anyone is interested in becoming a substitute, please let me know! Reading music is the only requirement for this group. We practice every Wednesday evening, except for the summer months.**

For me, music is a connection to God, ourselves, and others. It is his voice, his message, that can be very personal or shared with others. Music helps me be present in our worship services. It is how God speaks to me and through me. Being part of a church musical group is not about perfection (even though we all want to do our best) but rather sharing and being present with the message. And of course, fellowship!"

Lori Dittmar leads the ensemble and the vocal choir. She has been working with us for the past year and has done an amazing job. Lori is a very busy woman, as the Associate Principal of Kettle Moraine High School, and has a 14-year-old son. Lori's Master's degree is in Educational Leadership and Administration; however, her bachelor's is in Music (and flute was and still is her instrument of choice). In Lori's words... "Music has been in my soul for as long as I can remember. I was involved in as many ensembles as possible in middle and high school. I was a music teacher and band director for 14 years before becoming a principal. I've played in professional ensembles, including one which performed at Carnegie Hall. When I officially joined my first church, I also became their choir director. I served in that role for about 5 years before moving away from that area.



I think music is important anywhere! It is a medium that takes no experience or special talent to enjoy. At All Saints, our music groups allow friends of all ages and abilities to come together and worship together, sharing Christ's message in a meaningful way.

The time commitment for choir is one hour per week and one Sunday performance a month. It's an hour to join your friends, challenge yourself, and produce beautiful music! There are no "tryouts" for the choir. The Ensemble is a smaller group, where individuals are invited to sing. The Ensemble rehearses monthly and performs the Sunday following rehearsal. I know there are people that would like to be involved in more music groups -- with enough interest, we may be able to start a women's group!"



Ring in the holiday season with our free gift to you: the new LivingLutheran.org is now live! Set up a free digital membership and enjoy these can't-miss features:

- A welcoming, easy-to-access format.
- A personalized dashboard prioritizing the stories that interest you.
- Access to members-only content.
- E-news delivery options to get the stories you want, both online and in your email inbox.

Visit livinglutheran.org/create-account and sign up for your free digital membership today to stay connected with unforgettable stories of God's people living their faith.

SUBMITTED BY GEORGE CORLISS

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE DECEMBER 2025:
SUBMITTED BY PAM GASPER

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO RETURNED THEIR STATEMENT OF
INTENT PLEDGE CARD FOR 2026! BELOW IS WHERE OUR CAMPAIGN CURRENTLY
STANDS:

76 STATEMENT OF INTENT RESPONSES RECEIVED
68 PLEDGES
33 INCREASED INTENT FROM 2025
17% AVERAGE INCREASE
17 INCREASED INTENT BY AT LEAST 10%
6 NEW PLEDGES
\$237 K PLEDGED VS. \$219 K IN 2024 AND \$208 K IN 2023

ALL GIFTS ARE APPRECIATED AND STATEMENT OF INTENT CARDS ARE WELCOME
THROUGH MID-JANUARY OR AT ANY TIME.

SUBMITTED BY JUDY KNOERNSCHILD

All Saints Variety Show

Date: Jan 31

Time 6:00

Variety Acts needed:

Musical: solo, duet, group - can be vocal or instrumental -
whatever you like to do!

Ages: ALL ages! Adults, Children, Families, Youth - solo/duo and
groups

Other types to make it a variety: Dance, Comedy, Skit.... whatever!

Questions: Contact Judy Knoernschild 262-408-3897

jknoernschild@gmail.com

OR Russ Zell zellrzell@wi.rr.com (262) 844-0014

MIGRANT STORIES
SUBMITTED BY LAURA DRALLE AND GEORGE CORLISS

LIKE THE BABY JESUS, WE ARE ALL DESCENDED FROM IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS. I (GEORGE) COME FROM AN IRISH SAILOR, A BRITISH LAWYER, A SWISS FARM FAMILY, AND MANY OTHERS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN. PERHAPS BY REFLECTING ON OUR ANCESTORS' STORIES, WE CAN IDENTIFY WITH CURRENT MIGRANTS? WE HAVE ONE SCOOP ARTICLE READY FOR JANUARY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR FAMILY STORIES. AROUND YOUR FAMILY HOLIDAY TABLE, GET YOUR ELDERS SWAPPING STORIES ABOUT THEIR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS. "ELDERS" MIGHT BE GREAT GRANDMA, OR IT MIGHT BE YOU. EACH STORY IS UNIQUE. WRITE THEM DOWN.
SEND YOUR STORIES TO AMY, PASTOR, LAURA, OR GEORGE.

SUBMITTED BY CHUCK GALLAGHER

SERVING IN WORSHIP 2026

Thank you to everyone who serves as readers, communion assistants, greeters, and more!
Here is the link to the 2026 Sign Up Genius!



A Christmas Message from Bishop Erickson

SUBMITTED BY GEORGE CORLISS

THIS ADVENT SEASON OF WAITING, WATCHING, AND HOPING TOOK ON NEW MEANING FOR ME THIS YEAR, AS I UNDERWENT KNEE REPLACEMENT SURGERY THE DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING. I HAVE BEEN WAITING AND WATCHING AND HOPING THAT MY KNEE WOULD STRENGTHEN AND I WOULD SOON BE ABLE TO RESUME MY NORMAL ACTIVITIES. OF COURSE, THIS WAS NOT A PASSIVE WAITING, AS I HAD EXERCISES TO DO AND THERAPY SESSIONS TO ATTEND, AND I NEEDED TO PAY ATTENTION TO MY BODY AS I SLOWLY BECAME MORE AND MORE MOBILE.

WHATEVER IT IS THAT WE MAY BE WAITING AND WATCHING AND HOPING FOR THIS SEASON, I INVITE US TO REMEMBER THAT GOD WANTS TO PARTNER WITH US IN THE RESTORATION OF CREATION, AND THAT THE PEACE ON EARTH PROMISED BY THE ANGELS WILL ONLY COME IF WE ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK.

I WAS RECENTLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A PODCAST THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE THEMES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE AND HOPE IN VARIOUS CHRISTMAS CAROLS. WE CONCLUDED THE CONVERSATION WITH THE CAROL "I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY," WHICH IS AN ARRANGEMENT OF A POEM WRITTEN BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW IN THE MIDST OF THE CIVIL WAR. IN THE MIDST OF A STRING OF PERSONAL TRAGEDIES AND THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR, HE RECALLED HEARING CHURCH BELLS RINGING ON CHRISTMAS DAY. AS HE REFLECTED ON THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL, HE WROTE:

AND IN DESPAIR I BOWED MY HEAD;
"THERE IS NO PEACE ON EARTH," I SAID;
"FOR HATE IS STRONG,
AND MOCKS THE SONG
OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD-WILL TO MEN!"
THEN PEALD THE BELLS MORE LOUD AND DEEP:
"GOD IS NOT DEAD, NOR DOTH HE SLEEP;
THE WRONG SHALL FAIL,
THE RIGHT PREVAIL,
WITH PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD-WILL TO MEN."



I AM MINDFUL OF ONE OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES FROM THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THAT "THE MORAL ARC OF THE UNIVERSE BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE." I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT, WHILE THIS IS TRUE, IT DOESN'T BEND BY ITSELF. WE ALL NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HARD AND HOLY WORK OF BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS AND NETWORKS THAT HELP BEND THE ARC OF THE UNIVERSE TOWARD THE VISION OF PEACE AND JUSTICE AND MERCY THAT GOD HAS ALWAYS INTENDED FOR CREATION.

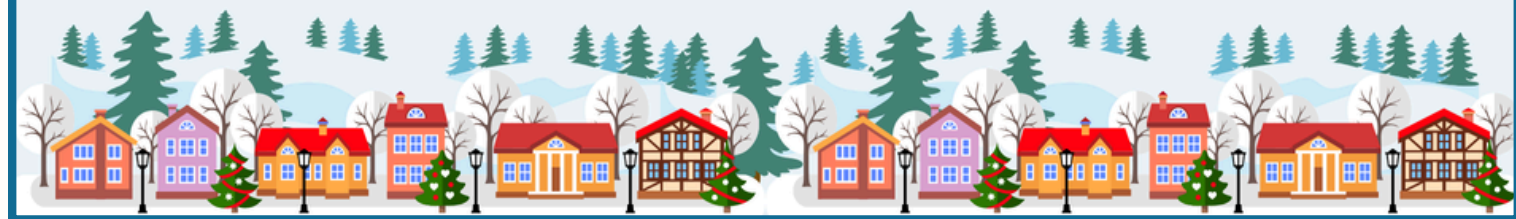
PERHAPS ANOTHER WAY TO UNDERSTAND THIS IS TO RECALL THAT, WHILE PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL IS A GIFT FROM GOD, WE HAVE TO UNWRAP THIS GIFT, OPEN IT, AND MAKE USE OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US. JUST AS GOD NEEDED MARY AND JOSEPH AND THE SHEPHERDS AND THE MAGI TO DO THEIR PART IN MAKING THE FIRST CHRISTMAS COME ALIVE, GOD NEEDS ALL OF US TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES, USE OUR GIFTS, AND DO WHAT WE CAN, ACTIVELY WAITING FOR THE REIGN OF GOD TO BREAK INTO OUR WORLD.

PAUL ERICKSON, BISHOP OF THE GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD

Scrip-RaiseRight December Update!

What an amazing congregation we have. I placed a Scrip order this week for over \$5200! WOWZA! That is a lot of gift cards ordered. The rebate that the Human Concerns team will earn on this order alone is close to \$300. Another WOWZA! Thanks to all who placed orders this week. AND—it is not too late to get those gift cards for Christmas. Any orders placed on Sunday, 12/14, will be at the table for pick up on Sunday, the 21st. This order will probably be the last one we will place until early January. So—if you need any New Year items or a celebration you might need a gift card for January, please plan ahead and order this Sunday! Thank you again for your amazing support of the Human Concerns Team. We will provide a full report in January with a list of the donations for 2025.

I also want to thank those that have been using the RaiseRight app to order gift cards. There are many bonus rebates available through the app only and many of you look for the specials when ordering. If you ever need any help with the app or just want to find out how it works, feel free to ask Judy K, Rebecca S or George C—they use it often!



BARB'S HANDMADE CARDS



I wanted to thank all the people who bought handmade cards that are on the round table in the Narthex. I donated \$162 to the church this week for cards that have been sold over the past few months—THANKS! There is a box of special Christmas cards at the table if anyone wants to buy a unique one for \$3—cheaper than a Hallmark! I will exchange that box in January for one with Valentines/Easter/Mother's and Father's Day. Each handmade card includes the envelope and may have something stamped in the inside—please take it out of the plastic bag to check if you want. Thank you for buying my cards!

SUBMITTED BY GARY VALINE

Tech Desk Volunteers Wanted



Assist with Sunday Broadcasts



Assist with Audio and/or Video



Not Full Time, on a Rotation



Some Training Needed



Teens or Adults Can Volunteer



Can Be Very Fun!

Any teen or adult interested in helping us,
please contact the church at office@aslcwales.org
or Gary Valine at 262-391-1287.

SUBMITTED BY KATHY NEUBERT

Friday, January 2nd at 5:00 pm

SERVING DINNER AT THE

HOPE CENTER

*We are in need of milk, cookies
and volunteers.*

Please contact Kathy Neubert to sign up.



With the Holidays upon us, I know you are busy. I am hoping some people can help me serve this meal. Our Waukesha county homeless are in need of our love and caring by serving them a hot meal. Thank You!

SONGORO PARTNERSHP



WONDERFUL YEAR END CONTRIBUTION

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The scholarship program that has been keeping most of the Songoro youth in school is not as well funded this year as it has been in the past. This is a proactive program that is improving the standard of living for today's members of our partner congregation as well as tomorrow's generations. The Tanzania government only pays for education for students until the age of twelve. Students past that age must pay school fees that are not realistic for most of the families of the Songoro Parish. The fees state secondary schools are approximately \$70.00 per year. The fees for private schools are \$250 - \$350. Students educated at private schools are more likely to obtain meaningful employment or possibly even higher education. Any size contribution is appreciated and will help.

Many young people without secondary school education wind up in city slums and resort to petty theft or prostitution. It is not possible for all young people to remain on the 1-3 acre family subsistence farms with annual family incomes of approximately \$500.

The Songoro Scholarship Program is not as well funded as it has been past years. It will be difficult for the Scholarship Committee in Songoro to inform some of the students that they will not be able to attend school this year. Songoro Scholarship Program envelopes are available at the Mt Meru Coffee Project display in the narthex and in the pews. You can change a life by supporting this program.



Thank You, All Saints!

Submitted by the Human Concerns Team

The Christmas Spirit

As you celebrate the birth of our Lord with your family and friends, I hope you will pause and think about Hephatha's families who received gifts through our Tree of Giving Ministry. I hope you see a smile and hear a giggle. And as these families gather for their Christmas meal, I hope you can hear the prayers that are offered in thanks for you and All Saints.

Once again during this Christmas season, members of All Saints showed their kindness and generosity by providing gifts for 31 people and Christmas dinner for each of our five families who are members of Hephatha Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Pastor Mary Martha furnished names of these five families who are faithful members, carrying on the mission of Hephatha. That's a lot of gifts and food! And, again, All Saints' members and friends went above and beyond what was asked. This has happened year after year, even though some of the gifts can be costly. We thank you for your caring hearts!!

Each of the adults in these families is trying very hard to improve the lives of their children (and themselves) by working, attending school and doing volunteer work in their communities. Every one of them is deeply appreciative of the support they receive.

This is truly a team effort and there are many to thank. Of course, all who bought gifts or gift cards, we thank you! Last Sunday, a wonderful team of youth and teens wrapped gifts so we thank Brielle Noffke, Javier Serna, Isaac Rose and Karise Holland (and Eric Holland who dove right in and assisted). A special thanks to Rick and Janet Strohmayr and Ginny Kozminski who secure Thrivent grants and shop for gifts. We thank Barb Diechl and Rebecca Seevers who host a holiday party and ask guests to bring a gift for a kid; these are distributed among our families based on age and interest. Thanks to James and Laura Dralle, Rebecca Seevers and Charlie Rose, Al and Kathy Theis and Chuck and Ellen Gallagher for delivering gifts.

You need to know we are blessed by your participation in any form; we are making a difference in the lives of God's people. Team work—All Saints style--each and every year!

Merry Christmas,

The Human Concerns Team



Happy Birthday to

Jacqi Lawson

Wendy Stippich

Sue Misko

Lindsay Barnes

Kylee Zell

Owen Walgren

Adriana Serna

Gracie Johnson

Jim Kozminski

Jeff Kozminski

John Bauman

Riley Grainger

Karise Holland

Dale "Butch" Stukel

Heidi Crotteau

Russ Zell

Harrison Mayer

Happy Anniversary

Hannelore & Ron Bohrer

58 years

James & Larua Dralle

38 years

John & Peggy Kuchenbecker

57 years

Dyan & Steve Pasono

47 years



VOLUNTEER
FOR WORSHIP

BREEZE
LOG ON INFO

ALL SAINTS
CALENDAR

WWW.ASLCWALES.ORG