

October 2008

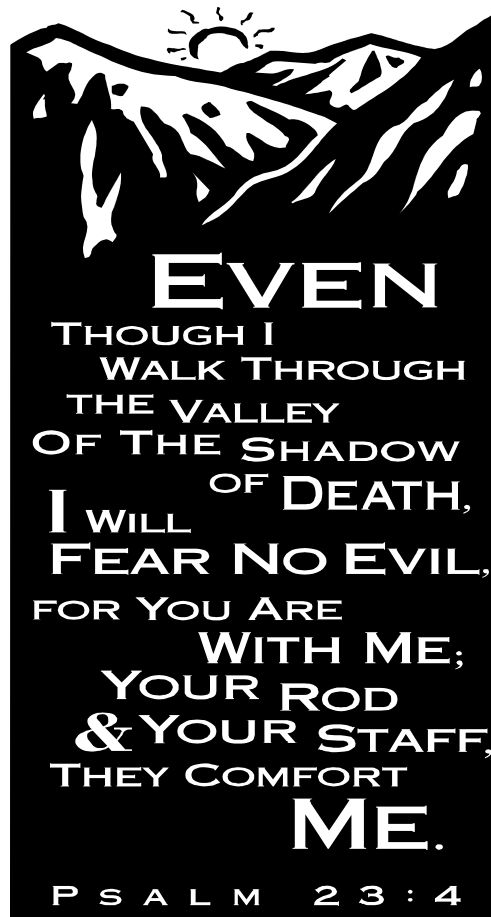
Celebration of ATONEMENT

Newsletter of Atonement Lutheran Church,
Rev. Tina Koenig Ray, BCC, Pastor

“Called by God to serve and witness to all in response to God’s grace.”

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From the Pastor...

Recently I rediscovered a tape (yes, a tape, not a CD!) by GLAD called “Color Outside the Lines”. Personally it speaks to me about how God works in my life. I attended college with intentions entirely different than what I am now. The lines that I drew when I was young included veterinarian school and being married with children who looked like me as a kid - adorable. God has definitely colored outside the lines in my life and continues to do so.



Color Outside the Lines

By Tony Wood & Scott Krippaehne 1994

Performed by GLAD

I love you, I trust you. Your vision and your plan
My life is a canvas that I place in your hands
I've got some ideas of work you may wish to do
I like what you're creating but I see you're starting to

Chorus

Color outside the lines I've drawn
Doing something different than I counted on
As you color outside the lines
I find the pictures not at all what I had in mind
But with one step back it is clear to see
In Your hands life becomes a masterpiece
Ignore all the limits that I've put into place

Sometimes you scare me but I won't pull away
I trust You my creator & one day I'll find
That all along You've had something wonderful in mind **Chorus:**

I know You're faithful to finish what You start
You make even common things become a work of art
So keep on working it's Your name
that's written on my heart **Chorus:**

We at Atonement are  being invited by God to
step back and take a look at the larger picture and
to color outside the lines that we have drawn.

In the past Atonement has grown through the growth of the nuclear family. As members had more children, church membership went up. These children, on the most part, remained faithful members of Atonement growing their families and thereby the church. The trend has been to have fewer children these days.

Also our society has experienced a loss of loyalty and a rise in the consumer mentality. These have contributed to the demise of attendance and membership of Atonement. It has not helped that we have had 2 pastors die in office, one pastor break the trusting bond that exists between a congregation and her pastor through sexual misconduct and another through a rigid way of doing things. Life has definitely colored outside the lines that the founders of Atonement drew in the beginning. You as the people of God here at Atonement may not have recovered from these losses.

Is it possible that folks are still holding on to the past in a life

defeating way? Is it possible that the communal memory of Atonement clings to how life was before the picture began to go awry? Maybe it's the fear of change and the fear of the unknown that causes us to resist attempts to color outside the lines.

In order to begin to color outside the lines, i.e., go with the flow of the Holy Spirit, we need to acknowledge several things. The first is that it is virtually impossible to walk into the future while we carry a load of regrets and hurts and past painful experiences. We don't forget the hurts, but neither do we dwell on them. Two, and this may be harder than the first, we need to realize that Atonement does not exist for our pleasure. We are not the goal - sharing Christ and the love of God with others is the goal. Filling the pews is not the goal - bringing God's love here on earth is the goal. Raising more money is not the goal - loving our neighbors as ourselves and God with all our heart is our goal.

If you have not noticed, Atonement is on a spiral that could lead to three outcomes:

- perhaps we can gather our wits about us and trust the power of the Holy Spirit and color outside the lines that we have drawn.

- perhaps Atonement has served God's purpose and we must decide to close with grace and dignity and pass the torch to someone else. Not all things human last forever.

- perhaps we can just ignore the trend and see what happens and remain viable long enough to bury our primary members.

Tradition is not bad in and of itself. But doing things the way they have always been done and not remaining open to the movement of God's Holy Spirit has killed organizations larger than Atonement. Blessed by the Holy Spirit, the Christian church has survived for over 2000 years because of its message and because of its adaptability. Martin Luther himself started coloring outside the lines that had been drawn by the church of his time.

New is not evil. Different is not bad. It is possible to learn new things even when we are advanced in age. The spirit of God is not necessarily done with us yet. Will we as a congregation open ourselves up to the possibilities and do the hard work? Yes, hard work, of changing the way we think; of changing the way we do things. Let us discover together the new thing that God calls us to do.

As we read in Isaiah 43, “But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, he who formed you, O Atonement: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Don’t miss out on this stimulating conversation of faith.

August & September

Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General</u>	<i>Pastor Tina</i>	<u>Fund</u>
<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>			
<u>August</u>	adults/youth			
24	59/2	\$ 846.00	\$ 8.00	\$34.85



31	62/8	\$1117.00	\$18.00	\$44.88
<u>September</u>				
7	62/2	\$2383.00	\$ 8.00	\$45.19
14	63/4	\$2322.00	\$17.00	\$69.89

Financial update as of 8/31/08

Total income Jan-Aug 08	\$ 70,706.77
Total expenses Jan-Aug 08	- \$ 78,910.86
Net income (Jan-Aug 2008)	\$ - 8,204.09

Due to the new privacy laws regarding health information, the hospital will not release the names of patients. So if you are going into the hospital, or know someone who is hospitalized, please call the church office or let Pastor Tina know.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns

October

Pray that we as members participate actively
in giving back to God through tithing.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns

OFFERING OURSELVES TO SERVE

In 1972, NASA launched the exploratory space probe Pioneer 10. According to Leon Jaroff in *Time*, the satellite's primary mission was to reach Jupiter, photograph the planet and its moons, and beam data to earth about Jupiter's magnetic field, radiation belts, and atmosphere. Scientists regarded this as a bold plan, for at that time no earth satellite had ever gone beyond Mars, and they feared the asteroid belt would destroy the satellite before it could reach its target. But Pioneer 10 accomplished its mission and much, much more. Swinging past the giant planet in November 1973, Jupiter's immense gravity hurled Pioneer 10 at a higher rate of speed toward the edge of the solar system. At one billion miles from the sun, Pioneer 10 passed Saturn. At some two billion miles, it hurtled past Uranus; Neptune at nearly three billion miles; Pluto at almost four billion miles. By 1997, twenty-five years after its launch, Pioneer 10 was more than six billion miles from the sun.

And despite that immense distance, Pioneer 10 continued to beam back radio signals to scientists on Earth. "Perhaps most remarkable," writes Jaroff, "those signals emanate from an 8-watt transmitter, which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light, and takes more than nine hours to reach Earth." *The Little Satellite That Could* was not qualified to do what it did. Engineers designed Pioneer 10 with a useful life of just three years. But it kept going and going. By simple longevity, its tiny 8-watt transmitter radio accomplished more than anyone thought possible.

So it is when we offer ourselves to serve the Lord. God can work even through someone with 8-watt abilities. God cannot work, however, through someone who quits.

October Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for October is from Ed Schneider
in memory of Joyce
Altar Guild: Sue & Don Grade
Weekly Beloit Daily News ad: the Johnsons' & the Ramczyks'

October 5

Flowers: Doris Betz in honor of children, grand children & great
grandchildren
Bread of Heaven: Diana Schneider
Fellowship: open

October 12

Flowers: Roland & Marge Mueller for their parents
Bread of Heaven: Arlene Ruegger
Fellowship: open

October 19

Flowers: Ed Schneider in memory of Joyce
Bread of Heaven: open
Fellowship: open

October 26

Flowers: open
Bread of Heaven: Cheryl & Russ Ramczyk
Fellowship: Cheryl & Russ & Adeline

WANTED: CASA VOLUNTEERS



County volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused and

neglected children who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Justice Court System through no fault of their own. CASA volunteers serve as the “eyes and ears” of the court, meeting weekly with the child or children and reporting monthly back to the court. The relationship that the CASA volunteer builds with their assigned child or children and with those family members and collaborators that are a part of the child’s life allows the volunteers to give the court a better picture of the life of the child. Amidst turmoil, instability and unsettled circumstances, CASA volunteers provide a constant, reliable presence and advocate for children who may otherwise slip through the cracks. Our volunteers undergo thirty hours of initial training and commit to serving on a case for a one year minimum. CASA of Rock County is regulated by National CASA Association standards and is governed by Wisconsin CASA statutes.

If you are interested in the program, you can contact CASA of Rock County them at: casarockcounty@yahoo.com or call them at 608-305-0187.

PLAN TO ATTEND:

Ken Medema will lead a workshop called "The Offering as Worship" at Our Savior's, Rockford on Saturday, November 1 from 9-noon. Especially invited are the stewardship leaders and worship and music leaders of your congregation. Group rates available. Contact RALM for more information.

Ken Medema will perform concerts on Sunday, November 2 at 3 PM at Our Savior's, Rockford and at St. Matthew's in Princeton on November 30.

October Birthdays

10/2	Evelyn Herkis	10/12	Brooks Mitchell
10/3	Rollyn Affeldt	10/14	William Hoefler
10/7	Erika Hoefler	10/24	Janice Adney

10/8 Robert Kilday
10/9 Doris Betz

10/31 Ezekiel Wheaton

October Baptism Anniversaries

10/14 David Rounds
10/16 Rollyn Affeldt
10/17 Kim Davies
10/17 Kiarra Davies

10/17 McKenna Davies
10/19 Ken Affeldt
10/27 Richard Berner

A Loss to the Atonement Family

Don Holmbeck September 14, 2008

Newsletter Articles

November Newsletter articles are due Monday, October 13 .
Newsletters will be assembled on Friday, October 17 .

OCTOBER						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

“Constant kindness can accomplish much.
As the sun makes the ice melt,
kindness causes
misunderstanding,
mistrust,
and hostility
to evaporate.” -Albert Schweitzer

WHY, WHY, WHY??

do we press harder on a remote control when we know the
batteries are going dead?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know
there's not enough money?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

THANK YOU!

Bob & I want to thank all of you for your prayers and cards. I want to especially thank you, Tina, for being at the hospital with my husband and family when they so needed prayers and support. Thank Bob Kristianson for the visit and the bag of goodies, and give my love and thanks to my Church Family. I always remember you all in my nightly prayer. God Bless- Bob & Ruth Kilday.



Thank you for your thoughtfulness and stopping by with green bag & fresh bread. Sorry I was out on errands at the time. I enjoy the church newsletter & messages. - Marge & Curt Reynolds



I appreciate all of the people who brought our meals and stayed with us. And also I want to thank the Church for allowing us to stay and sleep for this past week. For that I am grateful. Thank you - Beatrice & children

We always need stamps!
Donate whatever comfortably fits your budget
-a roll, a book or two or even just a few stamps.
Just think- if 10 people donate 10 stamps,
it equals a whole roll!

Final proof copies of the general directory and the office edition directory are in the Klingberg Chapel. *Please* take time to check both directories for any inaccuracies, and feel free to write on them with corrections and/or additions. There were some glaring mistakes the 2006 editions that have been corrected, and with your help the 2009 editions will be error free.

The Red Cross will be conducting a Community Blood Drive here at Atonement from Noon until 6 PM, Tuesday, September 30. For an appointment, please call 365-8839 or visit givebloodgivelife.org. For more information, please see Char Affeldt.

The Lydia Group will meet at 1 PM, Tuesday, October 7 in the Klingberg Chapel. Carole Doubleday will hostess, and Pastor Tina will be conducting a Bible study. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

The W.O.W.' S will be lunching at the Fireside in Roscoe at 12:30 PM, Thursday, October 9. If you need a ride, please contact Joan Guetschow at 365-4685.

“The one who achieves makes many mistakes, but never makes the biggest mistake of all: doing nothing.”- Ben Franklin

The Fall Gathering of the Beloit Conference of the Women of the ELCA will be held at Luther Valley Lutheran Church in Beloit on Saturday, October 18 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM. The focus for the morning will be “Experiences in Tanzania.” The speaker will be Pastor Mary Froiland who will speak about her recent trip to Tanzania, what they did and what can still be done.

Registration is \$6 and is due October 13. Send your registration to: Sharyn Pann, 708 Waterford Dr., Beloit, WI 53511. She can be contacted at 608-361-0754.

The last Adopt-a-Road Clean up along our portion of Milwaukee Road will be after the service on October 19, 2008

Please dress appropriately in comfortable clothing and sensible shoes. Safety vests and gloves will be provided. If you would like to volunteer, contact Norb Larson for more details.

Don't forget to send in your pledge or offering even if you're on vacation or we have a snow or ice day.

Have you caught up?

Freda Leeder's 99th birthday is November 20. Her family is planning a card shower for her, and would like everyone to send Freda a birthday card.

Freda's address is: Riverside Terrace 9 SE, 3055 South Riverside Drive, Beloit.

Freda's niece Connie Torkilson is also putting together a scrapbook to present to Freda on her birthday. Connie would like people to send pictures of the people in the congregation (with names of all the people in the picture), pictures of Atonement, pastors, etc. Connie's address is PO Box 137, Orfordville, WI 53576.

SMILES FROM THE BIBLE

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. The Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark ?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck. (Groan...)

PS...

Did you know it's Biblical for a Man to make coffee?

Yup, it's right there in the Bible. It says . . . "He-brews"

Mutts (muttscomics.com)



Celebration is published by Atonement Lutheran Church

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