

April 2009


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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"He
is risen;
he is not here."

MARK 16:6



From the Pastor...

I asked the question Sunday, “Do we have any Badger fans in worship today?” We had a few. Imagine that. Whatever teams you are a fan of, I bet you know a lot about the team members, their stats, the games won and lost and who the Badgers are going up against next. My brother Bobby used to sign cards, “Love, Bart Starr”. I’ve spent years working that one out in therapy! Anywhoo, you study everything there is about the team you are a fan of.

My question for you is “Are you a fan of Jesus?” Do you follow Jesus Christ with the same vim and vigor? Do you study scripture to learn who Jesus was, and what he did, and all that he said? Have you read the Old Testament to understand what the prophets said of him hundreds of years before his birth? Have you read books to understand what scholars have said about Jesus in the centuries since his death? This may be what it means to “follow” Jesus. And if you did all of this, would our world call you a “fan” or would you be a “fanatic?”

But maybe “to follow” means to imitate him, to mimic him, to try to be like him in everything you say and do in this world. You may not have done so well at the “walking on water” thing, but when it comes to loving people, or being fair in business, or being courageous when it comes to defending the weak; in all of this, you try to follow Jesus.

Nobody said it would be easy to follow Jesus. “If you are going to be my followers” Jesus tells them, “then you must deny yourself, take up the cross, and follow.” An old poem says: And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied, “Go into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than the known way.” Let us put out our hand in the darkness of the unknown future and know that God will be there to grasp our hand as we follow Jesus.

(Some inspiration was received from Pastor Steven Molin.)

ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES - 2009

Pastor Tina 

Wednesdays - 7:00 PM

<i>Host Church</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
March 25: St. Jude Catholic Church	Pastor Tina Koenig Ray
April 1: The Overflowing Cup	Pastor Doug Gray
Maundy Thursday: Washing of the Feet at Atonement	
Good Friday (noon): River of Life (downtown campus)	Pastor Prude

Host Church:

1. Designs the liturgy, according to its own tradition.
2. Recruits worship leaders from clergy/laity of participating churches.
3. Provides greeter/ushers, music, worship aids, etc.
4. Provides refreshments for socializing time following the service.

The offerings are designated as follows - 40% Hands of Faith; 20% Emmanuel Baptist Lunch Program; 20% Caritas; 20% Overflowing cup Ministry.

Please let Pastor Tina know if you are interested in helping with the service.

From the Council President



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

I'm happy to say that the Council meeting went well, all business was handled satisfactorily.

The church picnic will be at Riverside Park Harry Moore Pavillion on June 28 after the service, be sure to mark your calendars. We'll put a sign up sheet out for the picnic on June 1.

Norbert's Matching Fund is sitting at \$855 as of today, 3/12/09.

Bless you and hope you all have a good month.

Yours in Christ,

Nate Anderson
Council President

CORRECTION: the date for the Palm Sunday brunch is April 5, not April 25 as stated in last month's Council President's Report.

February & March Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>Feb</u>	adults/youth			

22	50/2	\$1768.00	\$5.00	\$27.88
<u>March</u>				
1	60/6	\$2473.00	\$12.00	\$43.50*
8	51/2	\$1350.00	\$ 8.00	\$40.87*
11	63/4	(midweek Lenten service)		
15	49/5	\$1337.00	\$38.00	\$41.25*

*special collection for March will be donated to
Beloit Meals on Wheels

Financial update as of 2/28/09

Total income Jan-Feb 09	\$19,869.49
Total expenses Jan-Feb 09	- \$22,123.21
Net income (Jan-Feb 2009)	\$-2,253.72

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.

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!

April Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for April is from Donna Luety in memory of Paul Luety

Altar Guild: Mary Wendtland & Norbert Larson

Weekly Beloit Daily News ad: Norbert Larson

April 5

Flowers: open

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: Palm Sunday brunch

April 12

Flowers: Doris Betz in honor of friends

Bread of Heaven: Irene Baker & Phyllis Steele

Fellowship: Irene Baker & Phyllis Steele

April 19

Flowers: open

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

April 26

Flowers: Donna Luety in memory of Paul

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

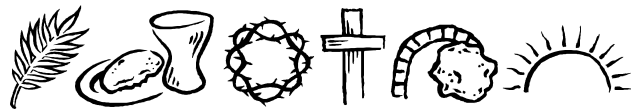
Fellowship: no sponsor

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

2009 EASTER MESSAGE

*“Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified ... has been raised.” ~
Mark 16:6*

When



Mary

Magdalene, Mary and Salome came to the tomb, their hopes and fears intersected. They wondered aloud about the impossibly large and heavy stone that presented an obstacle to their immediate plans. Worse, what they thought lay behind the stone was unspeakably devastating. Jesus, who embodied the hope of God's promise in a fully human life, was not simply dead, but crucified -- executed in the most extreme humiliation, a savage mockery of the hope that had lived with him.

But the stone was gone, the grave empty. Where they had expected to hear the silence of death's mockery, they were met by an astonishing message that the crucified one was raised from the dead, that their hope was victorious over humiliation, and that Jesus lives and is leading the way into an unexpected, surprising future with God.

Jesus lives and resurrection hope beckons. Jesus' resurrection on the third day signals that God is not finished until the life of Jesus renews the whole creation. Sinners once haunted by the threats of judgment will live forgiven, restored, renewed and freed. All lives broken by sin's injustices and haunted by death's terrors will be transformed by joy and transfigured into the new creation in Christ.

You and I are witnesses of this new creation. You have been baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection and have heard his promise. Your lives are hidden in his and he feeds you with a foretaste of the eternal feast of joy. He will meet you in your hope. He claims your daily work and makes it into a holy calling. He lives in you and sends you into the world as an ambassador of reconciliation, a testimony of God's incomparable love. Jesus lives! Your life in him is resurrection witness.

"This is our God; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!" ~ Isaiah 25:9

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

This Lenten journey we will be using a resource written by a woman with whom I was ordained, *Reclaiming the 'L' Word* by Kelly Fryer.

She writes, “Monday through Friday the traffic report sounds like this: ‘If you’re supposed to be at work by nine, I hope you’ve left your house by now...it’s bad out there!’... I have a vision of my own. Cars backed up for miles, bumper to bumper on a Sunday morning. And that guy in the traffic helicopter hovering overhead, reporting happily from the sky, “Well, folks, if you’re on your way to a nine o’clock service this morning, I sure hope you’ve already left your house. It’s madness out there!’” Wouldn’t that be wonderful!

The ELCA Division for Research and Evaluation spent 10 years studying growing churches. While things like how well you keep your church or what style of worship you have may be important, they are not the deciding factors. The one determinant is, “whether or not a church has a clear enough vision of where God wants it to go that it is willing to do whatever it takes to follow wherever God leads.”

Fryer suggests that one begins the journey by “remembering who we are. This will happen as we turn to Scripture and to our theological tradition. This will happen as we turn to one another in meaningful and lively conversation. This will happen as we turn to God in prayer. And it will happen only as each one of us takes responsibility for doing these things.”

With Kelly, I too believe that God would love to see a world full of traffic jams as people venture out to get to church. If you would like to see such a phenomena, why don’t you join us Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. this Lent (and a little bit beyond) as we begin the journey with a conversation or two.

March 25	Everyone is Welcome
April 1	Love Changes People
April 8	Everybody Has Something to Offer

EASTER

- E Emancipation from sin's power.
 - A Affirmation that Jesus' claims are true.
 - S Strength from Jesus, a conquering force.
 - T Trust. Because of Easter we know Jesus is Lord and that we can trust him.
 - E Energy. Easter energizes our mission.
 - R Resurrection hope for us too.
-

**Churches are not hotels for saints,
but hospitals for sinners.**

Caritas "Feinstein Challenge"

Caritas implores you to address hunger "close to home" in our Stateline Community during these next two months of the Feinstein Foundation Challenge grant availability. Did you know?

* Rock County is experiencing an 8.1 % unemployment rate; this is the highest percentage of unemployment in the State of WI

* Business closings, layoffs, hiring freezes and reduction from full time to part time hours are happening in the workforce

* Families are growing in size as they experience layoffs or job loss and have to return to family members homes to help them survive these lean times

* In this first month of the year, 67 new families have come to Caritas for assistance

* Caritas has seen an increase of 58 more households from our food pantry in the first month of the New Year

* Cost of food purchased by Caritas in 2008 cost \$89,343 which is up 18 percent from the previous year.

During the months of March 1 through April 30, 2009, Caritas will be campaigning to end hunger in our Stateline by promoting giving food and funds to the Food Pantry. These are tough economic times, and many people are struggling. With your support through this season we can help others find nutritional support.

This year we have set a goal of \$49,000, which will help us purchase food for half a year of operation. We anticipate an increase in client need unlike any we have seen in the past as the economy continues to work out its financial woes. Once again, this year we will have opportunity to request support from the Feinstein Foundation when the campaign season ends. Food donations will be given the value of \$1 per item and money will be counted at face value.

We invite everyone who can make a gift to Caritas, large or small, please help us alleviate hunger in our Stateline.

Donations of food can be brought to Caritas Monday through Friday, March 1-April 30 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Checks can be mailed to Caritas, 1175 Madison Road, Beloit, WI, 53511. Please designate your intent in the memo section of your check "Feinstein". Thank you for your help in ending hunger in our Stateline Community.

WHY, 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 doesn't glue stick to the bottle?
- 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?
- Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?
- Why do you find dead bugs in enclosed light fixtures?
- Why do we try to keep the house as warm in the winter as it was in the summer when we complained about the heat?

April Birthdays

4/10 Pat Guaginte	4/23 Todd Anderson
4/13 McKenna Davies	4/23 Russ Engebretson
4/13 Florence Buchholz	4/25 Nicole Johnson
4/16 Irene Baker	4/26 Candy Hoefler
4/19 Joan Guetschow	4/29 Paul Bolender

April Baptism Anniversaries

4/2 Fern Miller	4/13 Barb Anderson
4/5 Bonnie Ottow	4/18 Kyle Hoefler
4/6 Sally Luety	4/20 Austin Anderson
4/7 Freda Leeder	4/25 Michael Janke
4/12 Ross Johnson	4/29 Charleta Affeldt
4/13 Jackie Holmbeck	

A Loss to the Atonement Family

Don Grade

February 25, 2009

Newsletter Articles

May Newsletter articles are due **Monday, April 13.**
Newsletters will be assembled on Friday, April 17.

**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?

APRIL
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

Bulletin Bloopers I'm sure glad I didn't make...

After the morning worship, the choir will meet in the rehearsal room next to the new restrooms. They will be practicing a hymn for Christmas: "Who is He in Yonder Stall".

We continue to apologize for our broken air conditioner. Please join us for hot coffee and toasted bagels following Sunday School.

Latecomers are asked to wait until the service is over to be seated.

Thank you for bearing with remodeling. The windows in the

church have been replaced with bullet-proof glass and the auditorium is now ready for weddings again.

We now have a "Church Lost & Found". If you have lost anything, please place it in the big green box in the secretary's office.

Attention: The bowl in the back of the church marked "For the sick," is for monetary donations only.

Next Saturday we will hold our Adult Personal Growth Workshops. Complimentary day care will be provided at a cost of \$5 per child.

The youth group is sponsoring a canned-goods drive for the needy. Please participate and bring your can to church.

The sign-up sheet for the Easter Garden is in the Klingberg Chapel. Prices are \$15 per plant, same as last year.

The Lydia group will meet at 1 PM on Tuesday, April 7 in the Klingberg Chapel. Jan Adney will be the hostess, and Pastor Tina will conduct a Bible Study.

Please consider joining us to be a part of the Easter Choir April 12th. David Ramsey has written new music for us to praise the Lord. Rehearsals are after the services for about 20-25 minutes for the next 5 weeks. We welcome anyone willing to help enlarge the choir. Even if you can't be at every rehearsal you can speak to David for a copy of the music and be

a part of the choir. Thanks- Worship and Music Committee

Luther College Symphony Orchestra, one of the top Midwest collegiate orchestras, will appear in concert on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 3:00 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 3300 Rural Street, Rockford, Illinois. The concert will include works by Mendelssohn and Rimsky-Korsakov. Freewill donation. For concert information, please call (815) 399-0531.

Beloit Regional Hospice is conducting a free “Beginning the Healing”: grief support group, a 7-week course beginning April 14, 2009 from 5:30 PM- 7 PM at 655 3rd Street, suite 200, Beloit. Please phone 363-7421 to register or if you are interested in attending this group.

The “Matching Fund Gift Challenge” will end on May 1, 2009. The response has been great, but you aren't up to the Outreach Committee goal of \$5,000 yet!

David Ramsey will have his senior recital Sunday May 10th at 5 PM in Kenosha. All of the music has been written by David, and will be performed by musicians from Parkside. We're hoping to carpool to attend this event. Contact any Worship and Music member if interested in going.

Mutts (muttscomics.com)



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