

May 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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I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD:



THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD

GIVETH HIS

LIFE FOR  
THE SHEEP.



JOHN 10:11



***From the Pastor...***

“Shalom. Peace. Be with you.  
As I have been sent,  
so with the gift of the spirit,  
I send you out into the world.”

(John, chapter 20)

**Powerful** words that Jesus shares with those of us who claim to be his disciples. I say claim, because many of us seem to prefer sitting in a closed up room than actually being out doing what Jesus did - healing people with a touch of kindness; loving and accepting people into community. Perhaps we are afraid, like those first disciples were.

**How** can we possibly sit still when we are given the calling by Jesus to go out and spread the Good News and share Shalom with our neighbors? How is that possible?

**When** Jesus came in procession to Jerusalem and people were shouting ‘Hosanna to the King’, the Pharisees were troubled and told Jesus to tell them to stop. Jesus said if they were not shouting the very stones would raise up their voices. As Kelly Fryer writes in her book, *Reclaiming the ‘L’ Word*, “this is a *God* thing. And silence is not an option.” Stones can speak?! Can we? In Acts chapter 4 we read, “for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

**Silence** is not an option here my friends. When we find a great deal for milk or gas or jeans, do we sit on it and keep it to ourselves? No, we call up Hazel and say, “Hazel you wouldn’t believe the deal I got on these jeans...” When we go to a restaurant and find out that it’s simply marvelous, we spread the word to our friends and families, “You just have to try this restaurant, *Pickled Peppers* in Poughkeepsie Pennsylvania, they have the best pickled pigs feet!”

**So how** can we keep from singing the praises of our God? Our God who sent Jesus the son, who by dying and rising gives us the hope of eternal life in a beautiful place when we end this

journey on earth. No, our journey here will not be perfect, we will still endure the trials and tribulations that life has to offer, but we have the promise and hope of a better life in the 'great by and by' as the song says.

**Just to** be clear, this New Life is not just for us, it's for everybody. Who's going to tell them? You are. I am. We will tell them. We will venture out into the world that is ours, with the Holy Spirit, and offer a word or gesture of Shalom to those whom we met. Not just those that we know and like and love, but to those who are different from us, who make less money or more money, who talk another language. You get the drift.

**God** doesn't want us to come to church and 'sit still'. God wants us to be restless with God's spirit, restless to get up and get going and go out in Shalom.

Shalom.  
Peace.  
Be with you.  
As I have been sent,  
so with the gift of the spirit,  
I send you out into the world.  
Peace  
Shalom

***From the Council President***

*Pastor Tina* 



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

The Council meeting went very well. We updated the copier lease with Martin Business Group and received a savings of \$27 per month.

Norbert's Matching Funds are at \$2,400. The picnic is a go and the sign-up sheet for attendance be forthcoming.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful service and it was nice to see the church packed. I want to give a big thank you to Doris Betz for the Easter Garden, it was fantastic-a job well done!

Yours in Christ,

Nate Anderson  
Council President

### March & April Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>March</u>	adults/youth			
22	70/3	\$2413.00	\$19.00	\$41.91*
29	39/1	\$ 896.00	\$ 8.00	\$29.60*
<u>April</u>				

5	72/8	\$3430.00	\$ 9.00	\$108.95
12	104/11	\$1528.00	\$25.00	\$ 47.34

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

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The Financial Update will be in next month's newsletter.

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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.

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### **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!

## **May Flower & Fellowship Schedule**

**Eternal Candle:** The Eternal Candle for May is from Russ & Cheryl Ramczyk in honor of Jennifer & Jacinta

**Altar Guild:** Janice & Dick Adney

**Weekly Beloit Daily News ad:** Lydia Group

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### **May 3**

**Flowers:** Bob Kristianson in honor of daughters Lynn & Carla  
**Bread of Heaven:** open  
**Fellowship:** Bob Kristianson for his birthday

### **May 10**

**Flowers:** Doris Betz in memory of Dick  
**Bread of Heaven:** Doris Betz  
**Fellowship:** open

### **May 17**

**Flowers:** Candy & Jackie in memory of Phyllis Hoefer-Richter  
**Bread of Heaven:** Doris Betz  
**Fellowship:** For all graduates from the Worship & Music Committee

### **May 24**

**Flowers:** Maggie Janke for her birthday  
**Bread of Heaven:** Diana Schneider  
**Fellowship:** open

### **May 31**

**Flowers:** open  
**Bread of Heaven:** Doris Betz  
**Fellowship:** open

## **Saint John's Bible Exhibit**

An upcoming exhibit that will be hosted by the First Congregational Church in Crystal Lake, IL. The Saint John's Bible Exhibit will be opening May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a remarkable project. Using tools and materials that were used by scribes for thousands of years, Donald Jackson and his international team of artists and scholars created the first hand-written and illuminated Bible commissioned since the invention of the printing press. This 7 year journey began when the Bible was commissioned by St. John's Abbey and University in Minnesota.

Donald Jackson is one of the world's leading calligraphers and he is a Senior Illuminator to the Queen of England's Crown Office. This exhibit has toured museums and art galleries and

the The First Congregational Church will have the opportunity to view this exhibit in our chapel from May 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 21<sup>st</sup>. Please see the fliers hanging in the hallway bulletin board for pictures and more information.

## **CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS RETREATS**

Christ in the Wilderness is a hermitage retreat center located near Galena in the rolling hills of northwest Illinois. Solitude and time for reflection in one of three hermitages, as well as spiritual direction for those who would desire it are available. Pray or meditate in a beautiful small chapel. The center is situated on 80 acres including creek, woods and meadows. The hermitages are heated and air conditioned for year round use. Numerous walking paths are wandering across the hills and meadows, which allows one to enter more deeply into the natural world around. If you are interested in spending some time in tranquil reflection on life's journey, please see the flier posted in the Klingberg Chapel or contact us at 815-947-2476 or [citw@dishmail.net](mailto:citw@dishmail.net) for more information. Our website is [www.citwretreat.com](http://www.citwretreat.com) if you would like to find out more about us.

### **ENDING APRIL 30TH:**

### **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.

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### **"Why God made Moms"**

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

*Why did God make mothers?*

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

*If you could change one thing about your Mom,  
what would it be?*

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on her back.

**May Birthdays**

5/1 Bob Kristianson	5/7 Richard Mitchell
5/1 Ruth Kilday	5/17 Beverly Spangenberg
5/3 Lana Dummer	5/23 Isabel Crowley
5/4 Evelyn Rounds	5/25 Richard Berner

**May Baptism Anniversaries**

5/14 Sue Engebretson	5/28 Ruth Kilday
5/17 Richard Wallace	5/31 Debbie Perry
5/23 Archie Perry	5/31 Bruce Johnson

**Graduating this month**

David Ramsey from UW Parkside

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**Newsletter Articles**

**May Newsletter articles are due Monday, May 18. Newsletters will be assembled on Friday, May 22.**

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**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?**

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Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.

Mother Teresa

### **Weathering market volatility**

Market volatility points to a basic investing truth: You cannot predict market direction with any degree of certainty or consistency. The key to survival is to have a long-term strategy and follow a few time-proven guidelines to help manage your money and emotions.

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

**Don't panic:** If your investment strategy reflects your long-term financial goals, don't make drastic changes or let market swings steer you off course.

**Keep investing:** Realize that even after markets have dropped, they have rebounded over time. Consider your financial ability to continue investing through periods of low prices. While it does not assure a profit or protect against loss, buying on a regular schedule regardless of price—called dollar cost averaging—may benefit you in the long run.

**Diversify:** It is important to maintain a good mix of stocks, bonds and cash in your portfolio. Various asset classes perform differently, so the upswings in one may offset the declines in another. While diversification can help spread risk, it does not eliminate it.

**Focus on time, not timing:** When you invest, do it with long-term objectives in mind. History has proven that a successful

investment strategy stays focused and stays invested. Avoid the temptation to buy as the market surges and sell as it dips—market analyses show that timing the market rarely, if ever, works and it can cost you dearly.

Consistently staying invested can help you realize possible positive returns over time. Those who miss out on the market's best-performing days may miss out on significant returns (and growth) of their investments.

Consider the 10-year performance of the Standard & Poor's 500<sup>®</sup> Index (an unmanaged index which measures the performance of 500 widely held common stocks of large-cap companies) from Dec. 31, 1997, to Dec. 31, 2007. Those fully invested over the full 10 years would have enjoyed an average annual total return of 5.91 percent. A \$10,000 investment tied to the index would have grown over that period of time to \$17,756.

By contrast, if an investor missed the 10 best days of the market (happened to pull his or her money from the market on its 10-most "up" days), he or she would have experienced an average annual total return over that 10-year period of negative (0.30) percent. That same \$10,000 investment would have shrunk to \$9,702.

Similarly, missing the 20 best days of the market would have resulted in an average annual total return of negative (3.91) percent, and his or her \$10,000 investment would have declined to \$6,715.

Of course, no individual may invest directly in any index, and past performance is no guarantee of future results. Still, the lesson remains clear: Staying invested in the market is the only sure way to never miss the market's best days.

*Matt Mabie, is a FA with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Beloit. He can be reached at (608) 314.3084. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping nearly 3 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. This column was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by this representative.*

## **ROCK COUNTY FOSTER CARE NEEDS FAMILIES**

Rock County needs foster families for sibling groups of 3, school age kids with mental health issues, mother & child, and teenagers.

Licensing requirements to be a foster family are 6 hours of pre-placement training, criminal background check, home inspection and a personal interview.

The role of a foster parent is to be a mentor and caretaker, work with the child's birth family and with agency representatives, and to be flexible and team oriented. A foster parent provides stability for a family and permanence to children.

Challenges of being a foster parent include working with biological parents, working with the Juvenile Court System, the child's behavior, ongoing training and working within and withstanding the challenges of a complex human services delivery system.

Factors to consider in becoming a foster parent is that it is a lifestyle choice and a family decision.

If you would like more information on becoming a foster parent, contact Renee Sutkay at 608-757-5240 or email her at [sutkay@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:sutkay@co.rock.wi.us)

**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!

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**There are many people who have lost their jobs in the last months who could benefit from the opportunity of meeting with others who have had the same experience.** A support group is being formed that will meet at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Beloit, on Thursday afternoon at 2 PM, starting on April 24. Anyone who is dealing with unemployment issues is welcome to come.

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**The TMO’s (Time Marches On) will be meeting at 4:30 PM, Saturday, April 25 for a potluck and program.** We’ll be celebrating “Danish Night” with Victor Borge.

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**Lydia group will meet Tuesday, May 5th at 1 PM in the Klingberg Chapel.** Carolyn Kalk will be hostess and Pastor Tina will lead a Bible study. All women are welcome.

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**J.T. Bean from Heartland Hospice will give a Temple Talk on May 10,** discussing volunteer opportunities with Hospice.

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**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.

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**The W.O.W'S will be lunching at Hhffrrrgh Restaurant at 12:30 PM, Thursday, May 14.**

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**Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church (Stateling Rd at WI 140 & IL 76) is hosting a Scandinavian Smorgasbord on Saturday, May 16 at 4:30 PM & 6:30 PM. The menu includes Lefse, fish balls, meat balls, Scandinavian pastries, salads, & beverages. Ticket prices are \$10 in advance, \$11 at the door for adults, and \$5 for kids age 5-12 years, free for kids under 5. Advance tickets may be purchased at Hahn's Ace Hardware in Clinton or call 815-544-3863 or 608-676-5300.**

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**Honoring Graduates: The May 17th fellowship will be to honor all 2009 graduates. If you know of an Atonement high school, college, or technical school grad, please let any Worship and Music committee member or the church office know. David Ramsey will be graduating from the Parkside campus of U.W. this May.**

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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

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**HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD  
ONLY GETS 10%?**

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