

February 2010

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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Create in me a
 **clean
heart,**
O God;
and renew a
**right
spirit**
*within
me.*



Psalm 51:10



From the Pastor...

**“YHWH turns a desert into pools
of water,
a parched land into springs of water.”** Psalm 107:35

“Don’t go chasing waterfalls, please stick to the lakes and rivers you’re used to,” from ‘Waterfalls’ by TLC. That song caught my ear the other day. The first thing I thought of was baptism. Could be ‘cause we’re marking the Baptism of our Lord tomorrow and the Lydia Group and I talked about our Baptisms this week also.

I’ve never been up close and personal with a waterfall. I’ve admired them from a few feet away, but you know how they go behind a waterfall in ‘Last of the Mohicans’ and also in ‘Avatar’, now that would be the bomb, way cool! To feel that powerful rush of water flowing over your body, cleansing you of any dirt and filth. That would be awesome! The sheer power of it almost knocking you over. Imagine if you did fall over and follow the flow of the water as it raced down, down, faster and faster until you dove into a deep, deep pool of crystal clear sweet water. Talk about remembering and refreshing your baptism. (Kids I wouldn’t suggest you actually try this, this is what we call a metaphorical experience.)

Water plays an important role in our physical and our spiritual lives. We read in Isaiah 48: “They did not thirst when YHWH led them through the deserts; I AM made water flow for them from the rock; the Great Mystery split open the rock and the water gushed out.”

I would say with the woman Jesus meets at the well in the fourth chapter of John, “give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty...that it may gush up within me to eternal life.”

We have been given this water; it does indeed gush up within us bringing us eternal life so we may never be thirsty for things that lead to death of mind, body or spirit. I would encourage us, as the people of God here at Atonement to 'chase after waterfalls' in a spiritual and missional sense.

We continue to have about 150 members, we offer a variety of opportunities for worship, fellowship, service and involvement with the community at large: Holy Communion is offered weekly, a healing service with laying on of hands every fifth Sunday, an annual neighborhood/community prayer service; annual picnic, Time Marches On, Brotherhood, Lydia Group, Widows and Widowers, Snappers Game, Dart ball; Adopt a road, Hands of Faith, Caritas; worship services at area nursing homes, National Night Out.

Number wise, attendance average is 59, which is up from last year. About 78% of our members are taking Holy Communion and contributing. We baptized Jaxon Wabeke (Jackie Holmbeck's grandson) and Madeline Luety; we married Nicole & Jim Boylan and Brian & Heather Hanson; we buried Dolly Berner, Mary Mann, Don Grade, Deena Laird, Bob Anderson and Carolyn Kalk.

This year your council was a bit worried about how they would put together a reasonable and faith filled budget for 2010. But you rose to the occasion and we received more pledges than we did last year and our pledge total is higher than it was last year. Good Job Everyone! Yes, your pledge is important, whether it is \$5.00 a week or \$125.00 a week. The money is important for the operation of Atonement, but it is more about the spiritual discipline of giving back to God. It is about trusting God to provide for you when the first check you write is to Atonement. Thank you.

It continues to be an honor to serve as your pastor. It's

hard to believe that I have served as your pastor, interim and called, for 5 years now. My hope and prayer is that we will continue to grow together in the next 5 years as we make Atonement a place where people will find peace and the opportunity to grow in their mission of serving God.

Once again, I would encourage us, as the people of God here at Atonement to 'chase after waterfalls' in a spiritual and missional sense. To believe that YHWH does indeed turn deserts into pools of water and parched lands and lives into springs of water.

Pastor Tina 

LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Lenten services will be at 7 PM at the following locations this year. The Pastor preaching the services will be announced at a later date.

- February 17 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- February 24 Atonement Lutheran Church
- March 3 First Presbyterian Church
- March 10 St. Jude's Catholic Church
- March 17 Second Congregational Church
- March 24 Sun Valley Presbyterian Church
- April 2 River of Life Church

December/January Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>December</u> adults/youth				
20	60/3	\$1788.00	\$18.00	\$33.70
24	34/4	\$ xxxx.00	\$ xx.00	\$xx.xx
27	37/2	\$ 633.00	\$ 8.00	\$19.30
<u>January</u>				
3	54/3	\$4630.00	\$ 8.00	\$37.33
10	54/6	\$2292.00	\$18.00	\$32.01
17	64/6	\$2393.00	\$ 8.00	\$194.91*

*Special collection for Haiti Earthquake Relief

Financial update as of 12/31/09

Total income Jan-Dec. 09	\$118,963.85
<u>Total expenses Jan-Dec. 09</u>	<u>- \$120,870.13</u>
Net income (Jan-Dec. 2009)	\$ -1,906.28

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.

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

Have you caught up?

February Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for February is from Carole Doubleday in memory of Mel Doubleday

Altar Guild: Marcy & Don Reedy

Weekly Beloit Daily News ad: no sponsor

February 7

Flowers: Norb Larson in honor of Mother, Father, brothers & sisters

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

February 14

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: The TMO's (Time Marches On)

February 21

Flowers: Sue Grade in memory of Don

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

February 28

Flowers: Adeline Swain & Russ & Cheryl Ramczyk in memory of Judi Cleveland's birthday & for Russ & Cheryl's birthdays

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

THE RED THREAD

David Langerfeld

A missionary was traveling in the Far East when he came across a booth in a market place. It was a tapestry makers booth. As he walked by he saw a strange sight. A man was standing in the booth shouting at his loom on the other side of the booth. As he shouted threads appeared in the tapestry almost by magic.

The missionary asked his guide for an explanation. "The man you see," said the guide, "Is a master weaver. He is speaking to his apprentice behind the loom telling him what color thread to use and where to put it. Only the weaver knows the entire design, so it is vital that the apprentice do exactly as the master commands." "Does the apprentice ever make a mistake?" asked the missionary. "Of course. But the weaver is a very kind man in this case and he will rarely have the boy take out the thread. Instead, being a great artist, he simply works the mistake into the design."

How much that is like God. We cannot see the pattern of the tapestry God is weaving. We are on the other side of the loom looking at knotted threads placed seemingly without purpose. Occasionally we can catch a glimpse of the design, but then as soon as we think we have it pegged the master calls for a thread which changes every thing. So, we have to trust the master weaver that he knows what he is doing. And like the apprentice, we, too make our mistakes. We put in a red thread instead of a violet one. We knot it in the wrong place or place it crookedly. And God in his mercy doesn't upbraid us but takes our own mistakes and make them part of the design. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

February Birthdays

2/7	Les Nystrom	2/22	Phyllis Steele
2/12	Kyle Hoefler	2/23	Margaret Peterson
2/21	Cheryl Ramczyk	2/28	Richard Wendtland

February Baptism Anniversaries

2/8	Charlotte Laird	2/21	Robert Ruegger
2/13	Susan Grade		

Newly Baptized

1/24/2010 Olivia & Kalei Hanna (daughters of Shannon Woods)

New Members

Lillian Bagley 817 Harrison Ave, Beloit (608) 718-7352

Shannon Woods 648 McKinley Ave, Beloit (608) 931-0112

Newsletter Articles

March Newsletter articles are due Monday, February 15.
Newsletters will be assembled on Friday, February 19.

All members of the congregation have an invitation to attend the Church Council meetings to see and hear how the business of Atonement is conducted. The Council meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Klingberg Chapel. Please join us.

**Don't tell the Lord how big the problem is,
tell the problem how Great the Lord is!**

THANK YOU!

The "Matching Gift Fund" is now over.
Thanks to all who donated. - Norbert Larson



The Secretary's hours are currently 9 AM -Noon on Monday & Tuesday, 1-4 PM on Wednesday, and 9 AM - 1 PM on Thursday & Friday.

SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER

In the interest of being good stewards of Atonement's resources, we have created an PDF (compatible with both Windows and Macs) edition of the monthly newsletter. Please contact the Church Office with your email address if you would like to sign up. - Pattye Gilmour

Hands of Faith guests will be here the week of January 31, 2010. The clothesline of needs will be going up soon, and the sign-up sheets will be in the Klingberg Chapel. Do you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering to stay overnight or provide a meal? Talk to them, and if they would like to help, please forward their name and number to the office.

Lydia will meet Tuesday, February 2nd at 1PM in the Klingberg Chapel. Pastor Tina will present a Bible study and Jackie Holmbeck will be hostess. All women are welcome!

**The Brotherhood will be holding the
Annual Sweetheart Dinner
on Monday, February 15th.**

Watch for posters with ticket, menu, and entertainment information to go up soon. Please contact Rollyn Affeldt at 365-6423 with any questions and/or reservations.

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08-31-2009

ARE WE THERE YET? ARE WE THERE YET?

LAWS

1. Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to use the bathroom.
2. Law of Gravity - Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.
3. Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.
4. Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).
5. Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
6. Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.
7. The Starbucks Law - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.
8. Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.
9. Brown's Law of Physical Appearance - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.
10. Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.
11. Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor. By the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

Celebration is published by Atonement Lutheran Church

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