

December 2010

# Celebration of ATONEMENT †

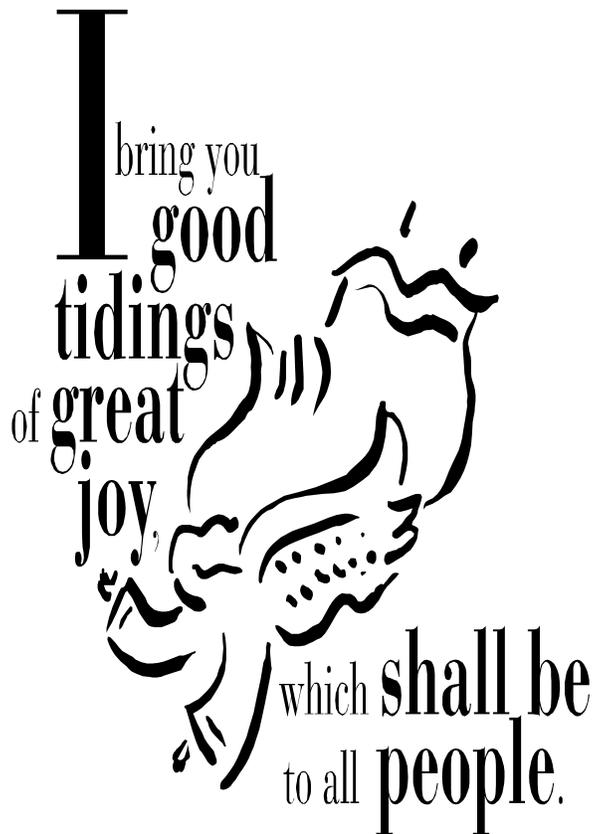
Newsletter of Atonement Lutheran Church,  
Rev. Tina Koenig Ray, BCC, Pastor

*"Called by God to serve and witness to all in response to God's grace."*

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Luke 2:10



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

In his book *Gracias!* the late Henri Nouwen tells of hearing these words from the book of Isaiah in an evening worship service:

"A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him" (Isaiah 11:1-2).

The next day, those words kept coming back to Nouwen, and that caused him to reflect on them. He said:

"Our salvation comes from something  
small, tender, and vulnerable,  
something hardly noticeable.

God, who is the Creator of the universe,  
comes to us in  
smallness,  
weakness, and  
hiddenness."

As you continue to get ready for the Christmas celebrations you will have as a family, please save some time to look for the small; the tender and the vulnerable moments of life and the people who are hardly noticeable.

I wish you many blessings and peace this Christmas Day and always. Know that the Christ child comes to each one of us and offers us new life, eternal life.

Pastor Tina 

### October/November Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>October</u>	adults/youth			
24	47/2	\$1101.00	\$ 8.00	\$22.75
31	52/3	\$2515.00	\$ 8.00	\$27.71
<u>November</u>				
7	58/3	\$ 2213.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 42.96
14	53/5	\$ xxxx.00	\$ x.00	\$ xx.xx

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### Financial update as of 10/31/10

Total income Jan-Oct. 2010	\$82,510.58
Total expenses Jan-Oct. 2010	-\$95,744.71
Net income (Jan-Oct. 2010)	\$-13,234.13

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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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**I will be covering for a coworker at my other job who's been picked for jury service beginning the week of November 21 thru December 5. Depending on if she has to report or has been selected for a jury, I may not be here in the morning during that time period, but I will be here in the afternoon from 1-4 PM. If you need any assistance, please leave a message on the answering machine and I will call you back as soon as I am in the office- Pattye**

## THE GROWING LIGHT OF ADVENT

Welcome to Advent, the season of growing light. As the light of the candles on the Advent Wreath increases week after week, we grow in our knowledge and understanding of God's glorious plan of salvation. Reviewing the meaning of each of the candles on the Advent Wreath helps to "shed some light" on this Good News of Jesus, who is the Light of the World and the baby born for us on Christmas.

***The Prophets' Candle***-Be enlightened by the prophets, who listened to God and dutifully foretold God's plan to send a Savior to the world. This candle calls us to listen to God's Word this Advent and to remember that Jesus is coming to save us from sin and death. One candle glows the first week.

***The Bethlehem Candle***-Be enlightened by this tiny town, which though it was small, would welcome a King. This candle calls us to prepare our hearts for Jesus this Advent, to welcome all people, and to remember that Jesus is coming to be with us to rule, guard and guide our days. Two candles glow the second week.

***The Shepherds' Candle***-Be enlightened by these ordinary folks who went with haste to find Jesus in the manger. This pink candle calls us to be joyful in the Lord this Advent and to remember that Jesus is coming to all people in every time and place. Three candles glow the third week.

***The Angels' Candle***-Be enlightened by these messengers of God who sang, "Glory to God in the highest" on the night of Christ's birth. This candle calls us to glorify the Lord this Advent and to remember that Jesus is God's Son who is coming from heaven. All four candles glow the fourth week.

## 2010 HOLIDAY MEALS & GIFTS

If you know of anyone needing help or if you yourself need help this year, here are a list of Beloit agencies you can contact:

### **Caritas:**

**2840 Prairie Ave.**

**Beloit, WI 53511**

**Phone: 608.362.4403**

- \* **Christmas:** Working in conjunction with Salvation Army and their Christmas program.
- \* **For more information please Judy at 608-362-4403.**

### **Salvation Army Beloit:**

**628 Broad St.**

**Beloit, WI 53511**

**Phone: 608.365.6572**

- \* **Christmas:** Toy Shop sign up will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am -12:00pm and 1:00pm - 3:00pm. There will be one make up day held on November 30 from 3:00pm - 7:00pm. Distribution times will be given out when you sign up. They will also be having a Christmas dinner December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00pm - 7:00pm.
- \* **For more information please call Christopher at 608-365-6572.**

### **Share Program:**

**1 Eclipse Center**

**Beloit, WI 53511**

**Phone: 365.5837**

- \* **Christmas:** The Share Program is offering Christmas baskets for a cost of \$25.00. The baskets include 6 pound boneless honey ham, canned pineapple, corn soufflé, 8" apple pie, fresh produce assortment with potatoes, broccoli, carrots, apples, oranges and additional sea-

sonal produce. Order deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.

- \* Please contact JoAnne to place order at 608-365-5837.

**River of Life Church**  
**511 Public Ave.**  
**Beloit, WI 53511**  
**Phone: 608.362.8866**

- \* Christmas: They will be having Christmas Dinner on December 25th from 11:30am - 2:30pm at River of Life Church.
- \* For more information please call River of Life Church at 608-362-8866.

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**Do you just luv babies?** Can't get enough of holding them and snuggling and chasing after them? Well, then have we got a job for you! We will be starting up a nursery in the youth room of the basement. Whitney Luety is setting up a signup sheet for those interested in helping. When it's up and running we will post a sign on the door! Meanwhile, get ready to get your baby fix!

**Sunday School Begins!** The first Sunday of the month will be Sunday School! At 8:15 AM bring your young ones to church for a ½ hour of Bible stories, arts & crafts and music. The kids will learn a song and share it with us at worship that morning. If you would like to help out please see Pastor Tina or the sign up sheet in the Klingberg Chapel.

**Adult Sunday School!** While your kids are at Sunday School, meet with Pastor Tina and talk about the day's theme from an adult perspective.

## **December Flower & Fellowship Schedule**

**Eternal Candle:** The Eternal Candle for December is from Doris Betz in memory of loved ones

**Altar Guild:** Phyllis Steele & Irene Baker

**Weekly Beloit Daily News ad:** Pat Sauser, Dick & Janice Mitchell

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### **December 5**

**Flowers:** Bob Kristianson in memory of his sister

**Bread of Heaven:** Judy Gundry

**Fellowship:** Lydia Circle

### **December 12**

**Flowers:** Cheryl & Rus Ramczyk for their 35th anniversary

**Bread of Heaven:** no sponsor

**Fellowship:** Ed & Doris

### **December 19**

**Flowers:** Don & Marcy Reedy for their 34th anniversary

**Bread of Heaven:** Cheryl Ramczyk

**Fellowship:** Cheryl Ramczyk

### **December 26**

**Flowers:** Sue Grade in memory of Don

**Bread of Heaven:** no sponsor

**Fellowship:** no sponsor



## A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM JESUS

"Dear children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Now, having said that, let Me go on.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of your Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town. Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can and may remember Me anytime you see any tree.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it.

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know; they tell Me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing John Doe complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth,

and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make all the difference. You might also consider supporting the local Suicide Prevention Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name. You may already know someone like that.
9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them (and I suspect you don't) buy some food & a few gifts and give them to the Marines, the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.
10. Finally if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

P.S. Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember:

I LOVE YOU,  
Jesus

### December Birthdays

12/2	Dick Mitchell	12/8	Kiarra Davies
12/4	Charles Marvin, Sr.	12/17	Gene Sanda
12/4	Adeline Swain	12/29	Dawson Van Fleet
12/5	Duane Shanbarker	12/30	Peggy Johnson

### December Baptism Anniversaries

12/12	William Hoefer	12/15	Doty Goff
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### **December Dartball Schedule**

12/7	Atonement Rejects @ Atonement Rebels
12/14	Messiah Cougars @ Atonement Rejects Atonement Rebels @ Faith Flingers

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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.

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**It's pointsettia time again!** The florist hasn't given us a price yet for the plants this year, but the sign-up sheet is in the Klingberg Chapel. Please watch the weekly bulletin for more information.



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**The Christmas Mitten Tree is up in the Narthex of the church.** All mittens/gloves, caps, scarves and socks that are donated will be divided between Caritas and the Salvation Army prior to Christmas. Together we can reach out to youngsters in need and help keep hands and feet warm this winter.



**TMO's (Time Marches On) will meet at 4:30 PM, Saturday, December 4th in the Klingberg Chapel. Bonnie & Duane Ottow are hosting, and everyone 55+ is welcome to attend.**

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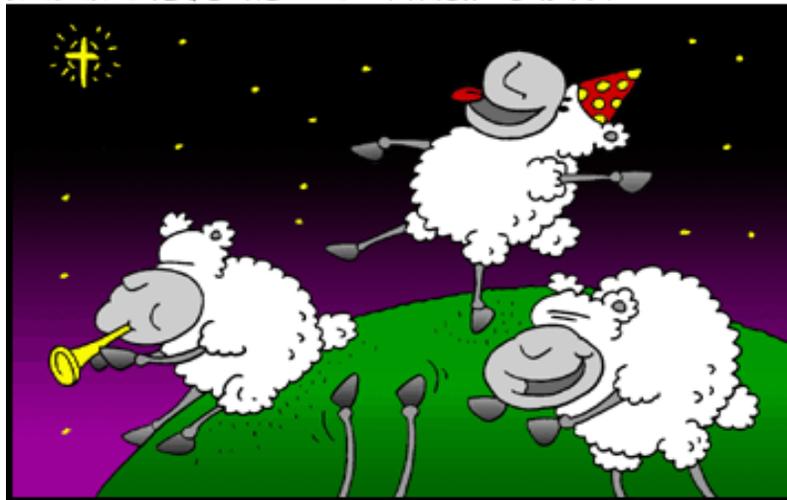
**Tuesday, December 7th at 12:30, Lydia Group is going to have lunch at Cafe Belwah, 500 Pleasant St. Please call Isabel Crowley @ 364-0057 to make a reservation. All women are invited to join us for good food and fellowship, and to bring a friend.**

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**Hands of Faith guests will be with us the week of December 5-12. The clotheline of needs is up in the hallway, and the sign-up sheet is in the Klingberg Chapel**

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Thanks to Duane Garman (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-27-1999

**LITTLE DID THE SHEPHERDS KNOW WHAT WAS  
GOING ON WHILE THEY WERE VISITING BABY  
JESUS IN BETHLEHEM**

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