

January 2011

# 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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"Come, FOLLOW me," Jesus said,  
"and I will make you  
FISHERS OF MEN."



## **The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2011 after the service.**

The Council would like everyone to please bring finger food for the meeting, they'll provide the coffee.

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**The Annual Report will be available on January 23, 2011, which means reports need to be turned in to the office ASAP!**

Reports can be emailed to [atonement@atonementbeloit.org](mailto:atonement@atonementbeloit.org) or [atonement@jvl.net](mailto:atonement@jvl.net) or dropped off at the office. If you would like to type your own report, please use Arial 12 font or something close so all the reports look the same.

***Volunteers will be needed late in the afternoon on Friday, January 21 to assemble the reports. If you're interested, please contact Pattye in the office.***

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The February newsletter would normally be ready for distribution on January 23, but because of the Annual Report going out that day, the newsletter will be ready on January 30th instead.

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**Office hours the last week of December will be 1 PM-4 PM because I will be covering for a co-workers vacation at my other job.**

**November/December Worship**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>Nov</u>	adults/youth			
21	57/6	\$2223.00	\$ 8.00	\$25.05
28	49/3	\$ 792.00	\$ 3.00	\$24.68
<u>Dec</u>				
5	50/6	\$ 1730.01	\$ 23.00	\$ 29.07
12	22/2	\$ 1268.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 16.06

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**Financial update as of 11/30/10**

Total income Jan-Nov. 2010	\$90,613.73
<u>Total expenses Jan-Nov. 2010</u>	<u>-\$103,975.61</u>
Net income (Jan-Nov. 2010)	\$-13,361.88

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

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***Don't forget to send in your pledge or offering even if you're on vacation.  
Have you caught up?***

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## NEW YEAR, NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE AND EMAIL!

David Rounds has been busy moving Atonement's website to a new webhost. Our new website address is: [www.atonementbeloit.org](http://www.atonementbeloit.org) and email address is [atonement@atonementbeloit.org](mailto:atonement@atonementbeloit.org). The old email of [atonement@jvl.net](mailto:atonement@jvl.net) will remain active until January 2011. The new website comes with much more storage capacity and is far easier to edit (so easy even a secretary can do it!) which means more frequent updating and a lot of improvements to items on the previous website and some new things that weren't possible with that website. In David's own words:

The "What We Believe" page is taken from information provided on the ELCA web site.

Pattye already has edit access to the "Calendar" page and has the capability to print directly from the calendar to pdf for the newsletter. She also can enter more information that can be displayed by anyone viewing the calendar.

The "Newsletter" page links to a pdf copy of the current newsletter.

There is one page that has not been created, "Church Council". I will leave the content of this page up to the council. This page on other church sites varies from just the meeting minutes to a list of the council members to a full professional business looking spread that includes council members with full contact information, committee assignments, photos, etc.

The "Archives" page has all the available newsletters and council minutes in pdf (Acrobat Reader) format.

The "History" needs a few details added to the end of Carolyn's 95th anniversary writeup.

Suggestions of additional pages such as a Photo Album, Blog, Guest Book, Worship Service Podcast, etc. are welcome.

Email addresses are:

Church office: [Atonement@AtonementBeloit.org](mailto:Atonement@AtonementBeloit.org)

Pastor Tina: [Pastor@AtonementBeloit.org](mailto:Pastor@AtonementBeloit.org)

If anyone else (committees or any of our groups) would like their own email address, we can create a virtually unlimited number of additional addresses, which can be accessed through a webmail reader, mail program such as Outlook or Thunderbird or be redirected to a personal email address.

Our new email addresses (along with the old one) are now active. My plan is to continue our account with JVLNET for another year -- it is up for renewal in January during which time the old email address will still work.

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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.

## **January Flower & Fellowship Schedule**

**Eternal Candle:** The Eternal Candle for January is from Norbert Larson in memory of parents, brothers and sisters

**Altar Guild:** Dick & Janice Mitchell

**Weekly Beloit Daily News ad:** no sponsor

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### **January 2**

**Flowers:** Bob Kristianson on memory of his mother

**Bread of Heaven:** no sponsor

**Fellowship:** no sponsor

### **January 9**

**Flowers:** no sponsor

**Bread of Heaven:** Ray & Joanne Capes

**Fellowship:** The T.M.O.s (Time Marches On)

### **January 16**

**Flowers:** Arlene Ruegger in memory of Richard

**Bread of Heaven:** no sponsor

**Fellowship:** no sponsor

### **January 23**

**Flowers:** no sponsor

**Bread of Heaven:** no sponsor

**Fellowship:** no sponsor

### **January 30**

**Flowers:** no sponsor

**Bread of Heaven:** no sponsor

**Fellowship:** Annual Meeting

## **The SPARROW at STARBUCKS**

The song that silenced the cappuccino machine

author: John Thomas Oaks

It was chilly in Manhattan but warm inside the Starbucks shop on 51st Street and Broadway, just a skip up from Times Square. Early November weather in New York City holds only the slightest hint of the bitter chill of late December and January, but it's enough to send the masses crowding indoors to vie for available space and warmth. For a musician, it's the most lucrative Starbucks location in the world, I'm told, and consequently, the tips can be substantial if you play your tunes right. Apparently, we were striking all the right chords that night, because our basket was almost overflowing.

It was a fun, low-pressure gig - I was playing keyboard and singing backup for my friend who also added rhythm with an arsenal of percussion instruments. We mostly did pop songs from the '40s to the '90s with a few original tunes thrown in. During our emotional rendition of the classic, "If You Don't Know Me by Now," I noticed a lady sitting in one of the lounge chairs across from me. She was swaying to the beat and singing along.

After the tune was over, she approached me. "I apologize for singing along on that song. Did it bother you?" she asked. "No," I replied. "We love it when the audience joins in. Would you like to sing up front on the next selection?" To my delight, she accepted my invitation. "You choose," I said. "What are you in the mood to sing?" "Well. ... do you know any hymns?" Hymns? This woman didn't know who she was dealing with. I cut my teeth on hymns. Before I was even born, I was going to church. I gave our guest singer a knowing look. "Name one." "Oh, I don't know. There are so many good ones. You pick one."

"Okay," I replied. "How about 'His Eye is on the Sparrow'?" My new friend was silent, her eyes averted. Then she fixed her eyes on mine again and said, "Yeah. Let's do that one." She slowly nodded her head, put down her purse, straightened her

jacket and faced the center of the shop. With my two-bar setup, she began to sing.

Why should I be discouraged?  
Why should the shadows come?

The audience of coffee drinkers was transfixed. Even the gurgling noises of the cappuccino machine ceased as the employees stopped what they were doing to listen. The song rose to its conclusion.

I sing because I'm happy;  
I sing because I'm free.  
For His eye is on the sparrow  
And I know He watches me.

When the last note was sung, the applause crescendoed to a deafening roar that would have rivaled a sold-out crowd at Carnegie Hall. Embarrassed, the woman tried to shout over the din, "Oh, y'all go back to your coffee! I didn't come in here to do a concert! I just came in here to get somethin' to drink, just like you!" But the ovation continued.. I embraced my new friend. "You, my dear, have made my whole year! That was beautiful!"

"Well, it's funny that you picked that particular hymn," she said. "Why is that?" "Well . . ." she hesitated again, "that was my daughter's favorite song." "Really!" I exclaimed. "Yes," she said, and then grabbed my hands. By this time, the applause had subsided and it was business as usual.. "She was 16. She died of a brain tumor last week. I said the first thing that found its way through my stunned silence. "Are you going to be okay?"

She smiled through tear-filled eyes and squeezed my hands. "I'm gonna be okay. I've just got to keep trusting the Lord and singing his songs, and everything's gonna be just fine." She picked up her bag, gave me her card, and then she was gone. Was it just a coincidence that we happened to be singing in

that particular coffee shop on that particular November night? Coincidence that this wonderful lady just happened to walk into that particular shop? Coincidence that of all the hymns to choose from, I just happened to pick the very hymn that was the favorite of her daughter, who had died just the week before? I refuse to believe it. God has been arranging encounters in human history since the beginning of time, and it's no stretch for me to imagine that he could reach into a coffee shop in midtown Manhattan and turn an ordinary gig into a revival. It was a great reminder that if we keep trusting him and singing his songs, everything's gonna be okay.

The next time you feel like GOD can't use YOU, just remember...

- a.. Noah was a drunk
- b.. Abraham was too old
- c.. Isaac was a daydreamer
- d..Jacob was a liar
- e..Leah was ugly
- f..Joseph was abused
- g..Moses had a stuttering problem
- h..Gideon was afraid
- i..Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- j..Rahab was a prostitute
- k..Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- l.. David had an affair and was a murderer
- m..Elijah was suicidal
- n..Isaiah preached naked
- o..Jonah ran from God
- p..Naomi was a widow
- q..Job went bankrupt
- r..John the Baptist ate bugs
- s..Peter denied Christ
- t..The Disciples fell asleep while praying
- u..Martha worried about everything
- v..The Samaritan woman was divorced,more than once
- w..Zaccheus was too small

x..Paul was too religious  
y..Timothy had an ulcer...AND Lazarus was dead!

No more excuses now!! God can use you to your full potential.

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### January Birthdays

1/5	Bob Brauns	1/26	Norbert Larson
1/7	Mary Wendtland	1/26	Bruce Johnson
1/11	Sue Grade	1/29	David Luety II
1/15	Justin Reedy		

### January Baptism Anniversaries

1/2	Jennifer Ramczyk	1/11	Peggy Johnson
1/2	Jacinta Ramczyk	1/24	Kalei & Olivia Hanna
1/4	Janice Adney		

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### January Dartball Schedule

Jan. 4	Atonement Rejects @ Messiah Chiefs Trinity Mighty Darts @ Atonement Rebels
Jan. 11	Our Saviors Trolls @ Atonement Rebels Atonement Rejects @ Sun Valley Too
Jan. 18	Atonement Rebels @ Messiah Chiefs Our Saviours Vikings @ Atonement Rejects
Jan. 25	Messiah Cougars @ Atonement Rebels Atonement Rejects @ River of Life

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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.

## THANK YOU!

Lydia Group would like to thank everyone for helping to make the Pie Fund Raiser a big success. Your generosity was wonderful. Special thanks to all the ladies who donated the delicious pies. We earned \$185.00 and Lydia has matched that amount and put a check for \$400.00 into Atonement's general fund. Lydia Group will not meet in January. Next meeting will be February 1st, 2011.



**Hands of Faith will be holding it's 6th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at 6 PM, January 13, 2011 at Our Lady of the Assumption, 2222 Shopiere Road, Beloit. More details will be in the bulletin as they become available.**

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**Beloit Regional Hospice is offering free volunteer training sessions for those interested in serving terminally ill patients and their families.** We are looking for caring and committed individuals. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn and participate together in their community and make a difference. Our next two-day session volunteer training program will on Saturday, January 22 and January 29, 2011 from 9 AM to 3 PM at Beloit Regional Hospice, 655 Third St. Suite 200, Beloit.



LET'S START TODAY'S SERVICE OFF WITH OUR  
ANNUAL POST-HOLIDAY BREATHING EXERCISES

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*January*