

February 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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*Love  
your neighbor  
as yourself.*

*Leviticus 19:18*



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

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:6-8

**As I work on** this annual report the rise of incivility looms before me. I am of course referring to the horrifying shooting in Tucson Arizona earlier this month. One, I am shocked that anyone would use actual crosshairs to identify people; and two, I am saddened by the actions of the man in Tucson and by all who would express their anger, frustration or opinion in an aggressive way, i.e., shooting, shoving, grabbing of clothes, shaking fingers, getting "in your face".

**We as a society** are definitely not taking heed to Micah 6:8 (see above). We are called, through our baptism, to treat one another with respect and dignity whether we agree with each other or not. We are called to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God. If we walk humbly with God we are secure in our knowledge of WHOSE we are and that we are beloved children of God redeemed through Christ's blood and so are all the same in Christ. So what becomes of our boasting, it is excluded. (Romans 3:27) Therefore no one has any reason to not walk humbly before God and others; no reason to not treat each other with respect and kindness and to not expect justice for all, because we listen to what the Lord requires of us.

**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, occasional Bible studies are offered and a new monthly Sunday school as well; a neighborhood/community prayer service; annual picnic, Time Marches On, Brotherhood, Lydia Group, Widows and Widowers, Dart ball; Adopt a road, Hands of Faith, Caritas; worship services at area nursing homes, National Night Out.

**Number wise**, our attendance average is 58. A large percentage of our membership participate in weekly Holy Communion and contribute financially or with gifts in kind. We baptized Kalie and Olivia Hanna and Dylan Van Fleet; we buried Carole Doubleday, Evelyn Herkis, Erika Hoefler and Evelyn Rounds.

**Once again the** council faced the challenge of putting together a reasonable and faith filled budget for 2011. Thank you to all of you who made a pledge to Atonement's ministry, 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 6 years now. My hope and prayer is that we will continue to grow together as we make Atonement a place where the people of God live out God's mandate as found in Micah "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Pastor Tina 

### December/January Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>December</u> adults/youth				
19	55/2	\$8104.00	\$21.00	\$33.43
24 (5 PM)	36/4			
24 (11PM)	21/1			
26	36/0	\$2060.00	\$ 8.00	\$12.95
<u>January</u>				
2	48/2	\$		\$ 29.21
9	65/6	\$ 6915.00	\$48.00	\$ 26.10
16	49/3	\$	\$	\$ 11.65
23	50/4	\$ 4065.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 24.91

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### Financial update as of 12/31/10

Total income Jan-Dec. 2010	\$107,895.28
Total expenses Jan-Dec. 2010	-\$116,249.66
Net income (Jan-Dec. 2010)	\$ -8,354.38

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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 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?***

## THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS

Last year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided more than **\$100 million** to help

 *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* congregations, communities and individuals in need. The

Thrivent Choice<sup>SM</sup> program offers two ways members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach funds. Some members can participate in both, based on eligibility.

### Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup>

Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran organizations you prefer nationwide, including Atonement Lutheran Church. If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars, you will receive a letter in the mail at the point you become eligible. If you are unsure of your eligibility, call your Thrivent Financial representative; 1-800-847-4836.

### Voting Events

All members 16 and older can vote during specific Voting Events to help determine where Thrivent Financial distributes \$1 million among Lutheran and non-Lutheran charitable organizations. This information can be found online at [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com). The voting event is open until February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**You can direct your** Choice Dollars online at: [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice/](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice/) or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative and tell them you want to donate to Atonement Lutheran Church.

**If you're unsure** whether you have Choice Dollars, members are designated Choice Dollars based on their:

- Insurance premiums;
- Contract values;
- And Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership.

Potential designated Choice Dollar amounts range from \$25 to \$500.

You'll find a brochure about Choice Dollars in the Klingberg Chapel. If you're thinking about buying any kind of insurance, why not consider Thrivent, so you too could donate your Choice Dollars to Atonement Lutheran Church.

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## NEW YEAR, NEW WEBSITE!

Atonement is moving it's webpage and email from JVLNET to a new location. The new website will be at: [atonementbeloit.org](http://atonementbeloit.org), and the email address will be: [atonement@atonementbeloit.org](mailto:atonement@atonementbeloit.org). The current email address of [atonement@jvlnet.com](mailto:atonement@jvlnet.com) will still work until January 2012. The new website is much easier to use and add information to. Look for groups schedules and activities, an online calendar which can be updated with the most current information (even more current than the printed calendars), current Council minutes and newsletters plus an archive of past minutes and newsletters.

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**Join us for Sunday School the first Sunday of the month!** 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.

## February Flower & Fellowship Schedule

**Eternal Candle:** The Eternal Candle for February is from Bonnie & Duane Ottow in memory of loved ones

**Altar Guild:** Don & Marcy Reedy

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

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### February 6

**Flowers:** Adeline Swain & Cheryl Ramczyk in memory of Judi Cleveland's birthday

**Bread of Heaven:** Cheryl Ramczyk

**Fellowship:** Cheryl & Adeline

### February 13

**Flowers:** no sponsor

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

**Fellowship:** no sponsor

### February 20

**Flowers:** no sponsor

**Bread of Heaven:** Arlene Ruegger

**Fellowship:** no sponsor

### February 27

**Flowers:** Bonnie & Duane Ottow In memory of parents

**Bread of Heaven:** Arlene Ruegger

**Fellowship:** no sponsor



## **WEATHER RELATED POWER OUTAGE TIPS**

Prepare ahead of time for the possibility of your power and heat going out. At the first sign of a power outage, gather your supplies together. You want everything where you'll need it by the time it gets dark-especially flashlights. Learn how and where to report a power outage before it takes place. Know where your service panel and utility shut-offs are located in your home and know how to turn off water valves in case a pipe breaks.

### **Stock up on emergency supplies before a storm arrives- have at least a three-day supply on hand:**

Water (1 gallon per person per day)

Nonperishable food

Manual can opener

Food & water for pets

Warm blankets

Extra medication (if you have medication that requires refrigeration, check with your pharmacist on proper storage during a power outage.)

Flashlights and extra batteries

Make sure your cell phone is charged.

### **During an outage:**

First check to see if a fuse is blown or a circuit breaker has been tripped.

Report a power outage to the electric company.

Disconnect or turn off appliances that were on when the power went out, but leave one light on so you will know when the power comes back on.

Do not open the refrigerator or freezer door.

Shut the drapes and close the doors to unused rooms, except rooms that have plumbing in them.

Gather everyone in the same room to stay warm.

Open cabinet doors that lead to plumbing to keep pipes from freezing.



When the weather is very cold, let the water drip from faucets. Bundle up in layers, making sure your head, hands and feet are covered.

Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.

**After an outage:**

Be extra cautious if you go outside to inspect for damage after a storm. Downed or hanging electrical wires can be hidden by snowdrifts and could be live.

Never attempt to touch or move downed lines.

Do not touch anything power lines are touching. Always assume downed lines are live lines. Call your utility company.

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## **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	2/14	Noah Dummer

## **A loss to the Atonement family**

Evelyn Rounds December 27th, 2010

## **Newly Baptized**

Jan 16, 2011 Kole Lawrence Simonds (Ashlee Pearsall's son)

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## **February Dartball Schedule**

Feb. 1	Atonement Rebels @ Sun Valley Too Messiah Thunder @ Atonement Rejects
Feb. 8	Atonement Rebels @ St. John Jets Our Saviors Trolls @ Atonement Rejects
Feb. 15	Faith Flyers @Atonement Rebels Atonement Rejects @ Faith Flingers
Feb. 22	Atonement Rebels @ Trinity Eagles Trinity Mighty Darts @ Atonement Rejects

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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!

**Thank you from the Lydia Group!** The Mitten Tree collected 140 hats, gloves, mittens, scarves & socks which were donated to Salvation Army, Sparrow's Nest & Caritas. Thank you everyone!



## ATTENTION USHERS:

Please be sure to check the Ministers of Welcome schedule to see what week your team ushers. I had to rearrange several of the teams on the schedule due to conflicts with ushers who also assist.

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**Lydia will meet Tuesday, February 1st at one o'clock in the Klingberg Chapel.** Janice Mitchell will be hostess and Pastor Tina will lead a Bible study. All women are welcome to attend.

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**Hands of Faith guests will be here the week of February 20-27th.** Sign up sheets are in the Klingberg Chapel and the clotheline of needs is hanging in the hallway. Please take time and consider volunteering to prepare a meal or stay overnight with the families.

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**The Beloit Conference Spring Gathering of the Women of the ELCA will be Saturday, March 5 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 749 Bluff St. from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.** Speaker Nancy Stacy will give a presentation called "A is for Apron" and attendees are invited to bring your oldest, favorite or special apron. Cost of the luncheon is \$6 per person. Please place your reservations by February 28 to Theresa Popple, 666 S. Bluff St., Lot 209, South Beloit, IL 61080 or call 389-2797. Please add your home church in the memo line of your check.

Celebration is published by Atonement Lutheran Church

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