

March 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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John 3:16



From the Pastor...

They who wait on eagles shall wind up with frostbit noses and frozen tootsies. Oh wait that's not how it goes. Let me think... they who wait upon the Lord shall rise up as on eagle's wings... but that's not quite right either. Oh yes, "but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

They're really beautiful, those eagles causing such a stir down by the river. They seem impervious to the freezing wind buffeting against them as they roost upon a limb. Their strength seems to know no end as they soar on the thermals, swooping down for a bite of fish. Watching and listening to them reminds me of how marvelous God's creation is and how we are merely stewards of this big blue marble. I am reminded of those striking words from the prophet Isaiah. Words that can give us strength; that can hold us up when our heads are too heavy; that can support us when we feel like we will simply collapse.

I can imagine that there are many people who are feeling that way today. The way the job market is, the way the cost of living has soared above the clouds. The stressors of life can just be too much and weigh us down like cement shoes.

But Isaiah tells us that those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. Wait, what does that mean, you know the

word 'wait'? 'Hanging around', 'lingering', 'passing the time' are not something we are very good at? We used to be good at going visiting and lingering with folks on the front porch. Not so much anymore, we're all in a hurry to get somewhere. Billy was rotten at waiting in line; he hated it with a passion. My normally good natured husband would turn into a growly bear. Most people don't like to wait and I agree, you wouldn't catch me waiting in those huge lines to audition for American Idol. I guess it depends what you are waiting for and if it's worth it. I'm sure Packer fans waiting in line to get into Lambeau Field felt it was well worth it despite the cold.

As this winter creeps on and we continue to wait for or anticipate spring, perhaps we can use this time period of Lent as a time of waiting on God. Ladies in waiting are required to wait upon their queen or princess. They pay attention to her and listen for her voice and her requests by spending time with her. I encourage you to spend some time hanging with God; read the Bible or another book that makes you think of God like things; come join us here at church and enjoy the fellowship of other Christians; spend quiet moments talking to God in prayer.

Yes waiting can make us uptight but waiting on God should make us stronger. "Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Pastor Tina 

January/February Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>January</u>	adults/youth			
30	43/3	\$1660.00	\$19.00	\$ 6.66
<u>February</u>				
6	28/1	\$ 735.00	\$69.00	\$ 18.21
13	47/3	\$ xxxx.00	\$xx.xx	\$ xx.xx

Financial update as of 1/31/11

Total income January 2011	\$13,061.79
<u>Total expenses January 2011</u>	<u>- \$10,517.61</u>
Net income (January 2011)	\$ 2,544.18

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.

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

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

MARCH FOR MEALS!

Once again, Pastor Tina is revving up the Barbie Mobile to make its annual run around the pews to gather contributions for the Beloit Meals On Wheels, Inc. March For Meals campaign.



As always, the March For Meals campaign is designed to draw attention to the nutritional insecurity of seniors in our community due to lack of funds or volunteers. Atonement Lutheran Church has been benefitted from these efforts when members have received meals, as well as proud to have church members actively involved in the delivery process!

Please consider making a donation during the March For Meals campaign. If interested in volunteering, please contact Marcia Stenberg, Volunteer Coordinator, 362-3683.

LEAD 2011 is Saturday March 12th in Madison!

There are a lot of cool worship workshops like "Exploring the Musical Riches in the ELW"; "Incarnational Place: Impact of Physical Space for the Celebration of Communal Worship"; "Welcoming the Strangers"; "Freedom and flexibility in Worship" and more. There are also workshops on other topics such as refugee resettlement, men's ministry. The cost is only \$25.00 a person and it includes lunch. Come join us, registration deadline is March 5th.

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

Mother Teresa

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, and the email address will be: atonement@atonementbeloit.org. The current email address of 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.

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.

There is a new nursery sign up sheet in the Klingberg Chapel. 2 Volunteers are needed per Sunday from 8:45 -10:15 AM in the Youth Korner of the Chapel.

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.

The Feinstein Foundation's \$1 Million Challenge 2011

For the 14th consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among anti-hunger agencies nationwide using it as a spur to raise funds for agencies like Caritas during March and April, 2011. And Caritas needs this support, this year, during these exceptional economic hard times.

Caritas wishes to inform potential donors (and their local churches, schools and businesses) that the more donations made to Caritas - from March 1st to April 30th - the more of the Feinstein money Caritas will get! Caritas wants to involve everyone.

Only donations or pledges received at Caritas from March 1st to April 30th, from use of the Feinstein Challenge, will be counted. These donations can include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1 per item) or pledges, as long as they were obtained ONLY from use of the Feinstein Challenge.

Please make out your check to Caritas, 2840 Prairie Avenue , Beloit , WI 53511 and in the memo section please write "Feinstein Challenge" and we will know your intent.

We invite all to help us raise funds to end hunger in America by ending hunger in our Stateline community in 2011. Please partner with Caritas in this endeavor as we help those in our community who are struggling right now. This donation toward the Feinstein Challenge Campaign will enable Caritas to continue to provide relief to those who hunger for food in our Stateline area, north of Rockford , IL and south of Janesville , WI .

Thank you in advance of your help,
Judith Petree, Executive Director

The Beloit Domestic Violence Center needs volunteers!

The Beloit Domestic Violence Center is looking for volunteers for lawn care. In the spring, summer & fall they need help with mowing, edging, weeding, pruning, raking, cleaning gutters, and hauling away the yard waste. These tasks would be scheduled on a "as needed" basis. In winter, they need help with snow plowing, salting and shoveling.

They also need volunteers to help facilitate Children's Groups and mentoring. Tasks include: playing games with the kids, reading to them, and helping them with homework. Groups are held from 5-6 PM on Mondays and 10-11 AM on Thursdays. Mentoring and tutoring could be scheduled after school and on weekend afternoons.

The center is in need of volunteers for cleaning the office/ meeting room spaces. Tasks include: cleaning the bathroom, dusting, mopping, vacuuming, washing windows, taking out the garbage and recycleables. We would like to schedule this once weekly. They need help with sorting donations that are received on an ongoing basis. Sorting donations would be scheduled at needed.

Volunteers with pick-up trucks or vans are needed to pick up furniture donations and for moving furnishings and possessions to the clients' new homes.

The Beloit Domestic Violence Center has many opportunities for people to volunteer. Consider doing these things as a pair or in groups. Get your friends, spouse, women's group or bible study friends. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a contribution to your community.

Please call 364-1083 and ask for Bridgette Widner, volunteer coordinator.

March Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for March is from Rollyn & Charleta Affeldt in memory of parents

Altar Guild: Maggie Janke & Andrea Garvey

Weekly Beloit Daily News ad: no sponsor

March 6

Flowers: Russ & Cheryl Ramczyk in honor of our birthdays

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

March 13

Flowers: Bob Kristianson in memory of Opal Kristianson

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

March 20

Flowers: Bob Kristianson in memory of son Donn

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

March 27

Flowers: Jeanne Cole in honor of parents

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor



March Birthdays

3/10 Bonnie Ottow
3/24 Fern Miller

3/27 Cole & Samuel Rowald

March Baptism Anniversaries

3/2 Justin Reedy
3/17 Gene Sanda
3/17 Ron Guaginte
3/17 Richard Mitchell
3/20 Nancy Clickner

3/21 William Rowald
3/22 Candy Hofer
3/25 Dru Dummer
3/29 Morris Hansen
3/23 Dawson Van Fleet

THANK YOU!

Thank you, thank you my Atonement family for your prayers, cards & expressions of caring. God bless you all. - Vi Pankonien



The Lydia group will meet at 1 PM, Tuesday, March 1. Jan Mitchell will be the hostess and Pastor Tina will be doing a bible study. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

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 Pople, 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.

A Second Helping: The Church Basement Ladies Sequel will be on Thursday, March 31 at 7 PM at the Coronado Performing Arts Center, 314 North Main Street, Rockford. We loved these stalwart women of the church in the original show. This time

around the year is 1969-and the ecclesiastical winds of change are blowing! As folks protest the Vietnam War and women are demanding equal pay for equal work, the ladies of the church basement kitchen are dealing with changes of their own. With their heartwarming humor and hilarious antics, the show takes us from serving the High School students at the Youth Banquet to a church sponsored Missionary Night and the rise and fall of a Vikings's Super Bowl Sunday. Don't miss this all-new, laugh-out loud musical comedy. Tickets are \$25. Contact Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries at 815-962-4279 or the Coronado box office at 815-968-0595.

Save the date: 2011 Synod Assembly will be May 14-15 at the Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI. Assembly.

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(See Genesis 1:1-2:3)

04-16-2010

**AND THEN, FOR FUN, GOD CREATED ONE WITH
SUPERHEROES, UNICORNS, LIGERS, OCEANS OF
ORANGE SODA ... AND IT WAS "COOL" MORE
THAN "GOOD"**

Celebration is published by Atonement Lutheran Church

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