

September 2011

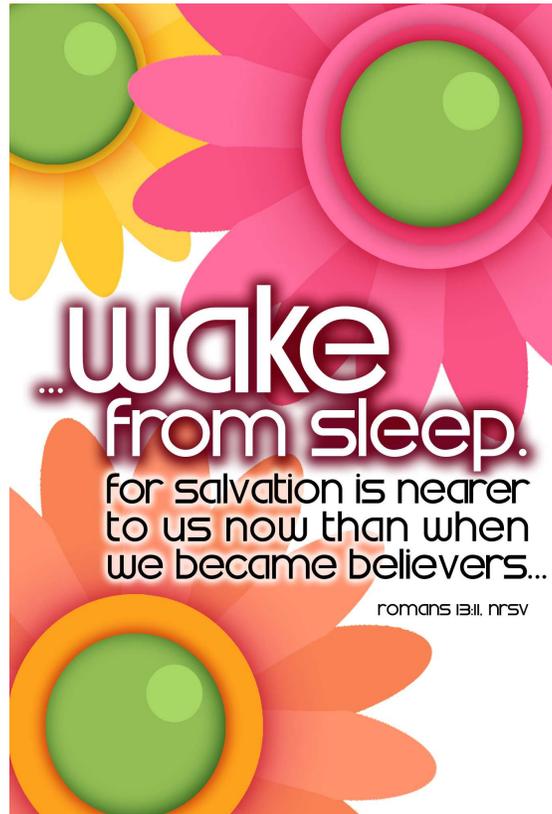
Celebration of ATONEMENT †

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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From the Pastor...

I've noticed that my Netflix bill has gone up; food is costing more at the grocery store and at the restaurants; gasoline will probably never go back down to \$2.00/gallon. Membership dues, the price of clothing, the price of a round of golf all have increased. It costs more to live nowadays and we complain about it, yes, but more often than not we get out our credit cards, check books, PayPal or wallet and pay the price asked. The only thing that hasn't gone up is the 10% we are asked to give back to God. The 10% tithe of the bounty that God has given to us has remained level despite the rise in cost to do business as a church. In these tough economic times your church struggles as much as you do. As you consider your pledge for this next year, do so from the perspective of faith and abundance. We do have enough, even more than enough. It's all about priorities. For example, I have down graded my Dish Network plan to save some money (to pay other bills, so I can keep my tithe at 10%). I decided I really didn't need more than 200 channels to watch on TV. Instead of buying so many wonderful books (books, beads and music are my downfall) I've been spending more time at the Beloit Public Library. God does indeed provide what we need for life. I invite you to consider your needs, notice I didn't say wants, and to not give in to the theology of scarcity. Perhaps you can't raise your pledge by 1% this year. Contemplate giving up one 'want' a week and give the money you would have spent on the 'want' to Atonement: one pack of cigarettes, one movie, one latte, one meal out. In case you haven't noticed, the number of our tithing members is slowly dwindling. Those of us who remain must step up to the plate, that is the offering plate. Thank you in advance for what you do contribute. May God inspire you to continue to do so and to give more as you are able. Pastor Tina

Health update: Most of you remember the Sunday that I couldn't come to church because I injured my neck. Well, that led to X-rays when I mentioned it to my rheumatoid arthritis doctor, which led to an MRI; which led to a visit with another doctor. Sometime this late summer, early fall I will be having C1-C2 fusion surgery. Highly unexpected on all counts. As you have done in the past, I know that you will step up to the plate and take care of business. You've had lots of practice with me! Things are tight budget wise and this will strain things even more. Perhaps the Holy Spirit may call some of you to donate money to the supply pastor fund, as I will be off for about 6 weeks. Thank you in advance for your prayers for healing. I'm especially in need of prayers for peace and calm as I anticipate this surgery.

Pastor Tina 

PRAYER LIST

Each Sunday we engage in liturgy, the work of the people. As a group we do what I hope each one of us does at home each day. We sing praise to God, we hear the word of God read and preached; we raise each other up in prayer; offer thanksgiving to God and we receive the sacramental meal of bread and wine. What we do here is important. It has been brought to the attention of music and worship committee that some people would like more order in the listing of the people for whom we pray each Sunday. Pattye and I don't know everyone who is listed, so it's hard to make a judgment call about how long they remain on the list. I would like to ask that if you have placed someone on our Prayers of the Church list to please let Pattye know if they can come off the list. Thank you, Pastor.

July/August Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>July</u>	adults/youth			
31	75/4	\$1226.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 1.00
<u>August</u>				
7	55/2	\$3145.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 38.32
14	51/2	\$2718.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 21.41

Financial update as of 7/31/11

Total income Jan-July 2011	\$61,892.38
Total expenses Jan-July 2011	-\$ 69,975.57
Net income (Jan-July 2011)	\$ - 8,083.19

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?***

September Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for September is in memory of Don Holmbeck from his family

Altar Guild: Russ & Sue Engebretson

Weekly Beloit Daily News ad: Gene Sanda

September 4

Flowers: Bob Kristianson in memory of his brother

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

September 11

Flowers: Jeanne Cole for Mike's birthday

Bread of Heaven: Ray & Jo Capes

Fellowship: no sponsor

September 18

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: Church Council Potluck

September 25

Flowers: Sue Grade in memory of loved ones

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

AIR CONDITIONERS NEEDED

Dear Faith Community Partners:

Most of you are aware of our air conditioner program for seniors; we may even have supplied one of your members with one. With the continuation of record-hot temperatures and with another month and a half of summer still before us, perhaps you can help us. Some generous cash donations have enabled us to buy brand new air conditioners, but at the present time, there are no new air conditioners available at any stores in our area! So what we need now are used air conditioners, in good, working condition, 3 - 8,000 BTU (110 volt) that might still have some life left in them. The elderly, especially when they are on medications, living alone, or on limited income, are especially vulnerable. Could you encourage your members to search their hearts and garages, attics, and basements to see if they might have a unit in working condition that they would be willing to donate? We could especially use some of the larger units that might also fit into a sleeve (the vents are in the back rather than the sides) for some of our seniors who live in high rise apartments that can only use through the wall units.

We still welcome seniors in Rock County (including your own members) to register to receive a unit, but unless we hear from others who have one to donate, many will go wanting-and that could literally cost them their lives. Our current needs show 42 seniors on our waiting list, and 14 of those need units to put into a sleeve.

David H. Zimdars, Skills Bank Coordinator

Voluntary Action Center

611 E. Grand Ave., Beloit

Phone: (608) 365-1278

Website: <http://vacbeloit.org> Email: dzimdars@vacbeloit.org

It's Sunday School time again!

The first Sunday of the month we will be having class at 8:15 a.m. We will be meeting on 9-4-11; 10-2-11; 11-6-11; 12-4-11; 1-1-12; 2-5-12; 3-4-12; 4-1-12; 5-6-12; and 6-3-12. If you'd like to teach this class there is a sign up sheet in the chapel. Don't forget to bring your kids to church! Following the class, kids are asked to join us in church.

Pastor Tina would like to invite 10 people to share their favorite Bible story with Atonement's children. A sign up sheet will be going around on Sunday mornings and also in the chapel so that we don't overlap our stories. The children are young, so a simple story and craft will be fine. You will need to provide any 'props' or art supplies, although we do have crayons in the chapel. Thank you in advance for sharing your love of Jesus with the kids.

SOMETHING FOR ANDY part 2 (continued from July newsletter)

"Yeah, I'm glad he is going to be OK, but I don't know how he and his mom are going to handle all the bills. From what I hear, they're barely getting by as is."

Belle Ringer nodded, and Frannie hurried off. Since I hadn't had time to round up a busboy to replace Andy and didn't want to replace him, the girls were busing their own tables until we decided what to do. After the rush, Frannie had paper napkins in her hand and a funny look on her face. "What's up?" I asked. "I didn't get the table where Belle Ringer and his friends were sitting cleared off, and Pony Pete and Tony Tipper were sitting there when I got back to clean it off," she said. "This was under

a coffee cup." She handed the napkin to me, and three twenty-dollar bills fell onto my desk. In bold letters, was printed "Something For Andy". "Pony Pete asked me what that was all about, so I told him about Andy and his mom. Pete looked at Tony and they ended up giving me this." She handed me another napkin with "Something For Andy" scrawled on its outside. Two \$50 bills were tucked within its folds. Frannie looked at me with wet, shiny eyes, shook her head and said "truckers."

That was three months ago. Today is Thanksgiving, the first day Andy is supposed to be back to work. His placement worker said he's been counting days until the doctor said he could work, and it didn't matter it was a holiday. He called 10 times, making sure we knew he was coming. I arranged to have his mother bring him to work. Andy was thinner and paler, but couldn't stop grinning as he pushed through the doors. "Hold up there, Andy," I said. I took him and his mother by their arms. "Work can wait. Breakfast for you and your mother is on me." I saw booth after booth of grinning truckers. We walked in front of a big table. Its surface was covered with cups, saucers and plates, all sitting on dozens of folded paper napkins. "First thing, Andy, clean up this mess," I said, trying to sound stern. Andy pulled out a napkin. It had "Something for Andy" printed on it. Two \$10 bills fell on the table. Andy stared at the money, then at the napkins, each with his name scrawled on it. I turned to his mother, "There's more than \$10,000 in cash and checks on that table from truckers and trucking companies that heard about your problems. Happy Thanksgiving."

Well, it got real noisy, with everybody hollering and shouting. There were a few tears, as well. But you know what's funny? While everybody else was shaking hands and hugging, Andy, with a big smile on his face, was busy clearing cups and dishes. Best worker I ever hired.

September Birthdays

9/2 Joseph Moen 9/23 Debora Marvin
9/16 Pat Sauser 9/25 Erica Reedy
9/20 Ken Affeldt

September Baptism Anniversaries

9/18 Marjorie Reynolds 9/30 Jessica Hoefer
9/24 Cason Janke

Newly Baptized

Naomi Paige Hansen August 7, 2011

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.

We always need stamps!

Donate whatever comfortably fits your budget: a roll, a book or two or even just a few stamps. Just think-if 10 people donate 10 stamps, it equals a whole roll!

THANK YOU!

I'd like to thank all of the people who made National Night Out the success it was, despite the rain! All of you worked hard and gave it your all. Migweetch - Gracias - Thank you



Thank you to everyone who helped "Stuff the Bus"! We gathered a *huge* amount of school supplies for Beloit's school children. Good job!



The Altar Guild is looking for some additional members. If you're interested, please contact Candy Hoefler at 365-2616.

Rock County Homeless Veterans: Caravilla is being rehabbed to be HOME for homeless vets from Rock County. There are 24 apartments, with 2 men per place. So far 5 men are settled, with more coming. Needed are double bed sheets, towels both large and small, dishes, silverware, glasses, personal toiletries, books for the library, games, and monetary gifts to help with buying clothes and such. If you can help, please contact Madelyn Gmach at 365-8032, and she will pick your items up.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

~ Albert Camus

Lydia will meet Tuesday, September 6th, at one o'clock in the Klingberg Chapel. Jan Mitchell will be hostess and Pastor Tina will lead a Bible Study. All women welcome!

On September 18th we will be
having a fall potluck.

Please bring a dish to pass.
Dessert, beverages and table service
will be provided.
Come one - Come all!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A BENEVOLENT GOD
CAN LET BACK-TO-SCHOOL HAPPEN TO GOOD
PEOPLE

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