

December 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."

Inside:

From Your Pastor	2
Attendance & Giving & Financial Update	4
Caritas Adopt-a- Shelf	5
Flower & Fellowship Schedule	6
Community Holiday Guide	7
A Christmas Letter from Jesus	8
Important Dates & People News	10
Announcements & Upcoming Events	10





From the Pastor...

One Quiet Moment... I've had a lot of those lately. I've been listening to this song by GLAD a lot and wanted to share it with you all. I encourage you to find it on the web and download it. I find the words, "And some days the fingers that had fashioned the stars, Would reach out to hold them when the walk was too far." to be a marvelous vision of how Mary and Joseph felt about their son, the son of God. My prayer for all of you is that you take more than a few moments to contemplate the birth of our Savior and a wonderful gift that is, Blessed Christmas to you all.

One Quiet Moment

Written By Bob Kauflin

Performed by GLAD

One quiet moment, on a star-clustered night,
Two weary travelers knew an end was in sight;
So the soon-to-be mother, grasped her husband's strong hand,
And paused to remember where the journey began.
Nine months of yearning filled with joy and with pain;
He almost had left her, but then chose to remain
Close by the woman he had not even kissed,
Who would bear him a son that would never be his.
And in one quiet moment, a woman and man
Accepted the part they would have in God's plan;

To give up His glory, and be born as a man.

In one quiet moment.

They dreamed of the times they would spend with their son,

Taking trips through the hillsides and watching Him run.

And some days the fingers that had fashioned the stars,

Would reach out to hold them when the walk was too far.

They wrestled with knowing that His life would bring change;

Their friends would grow distant, and shun them as strange.

Though they tried not to think it, in their hearts they were
sure,

That their baby was destined to die for the world.

And in one quiet moment, a woman and man

Accepted the part they would have in God's plan;

To give up His glory, and be born as a man.

In one quiet moment, one quiet moment.

And in one quiet moment they could suddenly hear

Thousands of angels singing so clear;

"Glory to God, His Salvation is near!"

In this one quiet moment

In this one quiet moment

One quiet moment.

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				
23	52/5	\$xxxx.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 28.91
30	51/0	\$1121.64	\$ 5.00	\$ 20.96
<u>November</u>				
6	47/5	\$2058.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 27.84
13	48/5	\$1665.00	\$19.00	\$ 22.24

Financial update as of 10/31/11

Total income Jan-Oct. 2011	\$ 90,138.42
Total expenses Jan-Oct. 2011	-\$ 98,453.78
Net income (Jan-Oct. 2011)	\$- 8,315.36

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?***

What Does Jesus Want for Christmas?

CARITAS ADOPT-A-SHELF

A need that has been identified for Caritas neighbors is for personal care products. We invite you to take a key role in the Adopt-A-Shelf Campaign.

We are looking for organizations to “adopt-a-shelf” in our personal hygiene closet. Here’s how it works:

1. Each shelf is identified by a specific hygiene need.
2. Select one of the shelves to adopt.
3. Your organization will be provided with a collection barrel and signage for your shelf’s specific need (or design your own as you wish).
4. Donated items are to be delivered on a regular basis to Caritas or we can arrange to pick them up for you!
5. Your shelf will be labeled with your logo or name to identify it.
6. You can choose the time frame that you would like to keep your shelf stocked (1 yr, 6, 4, or 3 months).

There will be seven “shelves” to meet the needs of our Caritas families. They are:

1. **Hair care** (*shampoo, conditioner, ethnic products, combs, brushes*) - *Adopted by faith communities*
2. **Oral care** (toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss) - Adopted by dental services
3. **Men’s hygiene** (razors, shaving cream/gel, deodorant)
4. **Women’s hygiene** (razors, shaving cream/gel, deodorant)-Adopted by Zonta
5. **Skin care** (body wash, bar soap, hand soap, lotion, powder, hand sanitizer) - Adopted by Cardinal Stritch
6. **Baby care** (lotion, wipes, shampoo, body wash, diaper rash cream/ointment)
7. **Paper products** (tissue, toilet paper, tampons, pads) - Beloit Lioness

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: Irene Baker & Phyllis Steele

December 4

Flowers: Bob Kristianson in memory his sister Dorothy

Bread of Heaven: Bob Kristianson

Fellowship: Bob Kristianson

December 11

Flowers: Cheryl & Russ Ramczyk for their 36th anniversary & Adeline's birthday

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: Lydia Group

December 18

Flowers: Bob Kristianson in honor of daughter Lynn, and Don & Marcy Reedy for their 35th anniversary

Bread of Heaven: Cheryl Ramczyk

Fellowship: Cheryl Ramczyk

December 25

Flowers: Betty Lou Archie Pearson for Pastor David A. and David E. Archie by Betty Lou, David & Maria

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor



2011 Community Holiday Meals & Gifts

Prepared cooperatively by: United Way's First Call and
Rock County Council on Aging

Salvation Army Beloit:

628 Broad St., Beloit, WI 53511 Phone: 608.365.6572

- * **Thanksgiving:** They will be serving a Thanksgiving dinner on November 23 from 4:00pm until 7:00pm. They will not be handing out baskets this year.
- * **For more information please call Christopher at 608-365-6572.**

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 11:00a m - 2:00pm at River of Life Church.
- * **If seniors live in Beloit, delivery may be available.** Must call 1 to 2 weeks ahead to schedule.
- * **For more information please call River of Life Church at 608-362-8866.**

Share Program:

1 Eclipse Center, Beloit, WI 53511 Phone: 365.5837

- * **Christmas:** The Share Program is offering Christmas baskets for a cost of \$34.00. 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 seasonal produce. Order deadline is November 29th. If purchasing baskets with food share, food stamps must be available on card before December 13th to be eligible.
- * **Orders must be submitted no later than Thursday, December 1, 2011.**
Please contact JoAnne to place order at 365-5837.

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 so 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 Hoefler	12/15	Doty Goff
-------	-----------------	-------	-----------

A Loss to the Atonement Family

Eleanor Moen	November 4, 2011
Lucille Maxworthy	November 5, 2011
Cynthia Burnside (wife of Bishop Burnside)	November 10, 2011

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank you all for your prayers, cards and good wishes as I go through this surgery and recovery process. The Doctor was pleased with the results of the surgery and said my bones are in better shape than he was expecting. Always a good thing to hear. Thank you especially to those of you who have stepped forward with food and company, as of this writing; Janice and Dick Mitchell; JoAnne and Ray Capes, Jane and Dave Luety, Jackie Holmbeck and Norbert Larson. I appreciate the extra effort of time and money you have taken to provide nourishment. Blessings on you all, Pastor Tina

Pastor Tina is recuperating for approximately 6 weeks after her surgery. If you need Pastoral Care during her absence, please call the Church Office at 362-8216 or Norbert Larson at 207-3592.

There is a need for volunteers to help count the offering each

week. If you're interested, there is a sign-up sheet in the Klingberg Chapel.

Lydia group is sponsoring the Mitten Tree again this year. All mittens, gloves, hats and scarves that are donated will be distributed to the the Salvation Army, Caritas, and the Sparrow's Nest. The tree is up in the Narthex of the church and will be there until December 18th. You may hang the items on the tree or just leave them under the tree.



Say "Yes" to Jesus & Joy, "No" to Stress & Stuff!

We are collecting nonperishable food and canned goods here at the church for donation. Food can be left either in the Caritas box or on the altar. See Don Reedy for more details.

Lydia will sponsor a 'pie day' for Fellowship on Sunday, November 27th. Any pie donations from the congregation would be gladly accepted. We will request a donation of at least \$1 for a slice of pie and coffee. Lydia will provide the coffee, and ice cream and/or whipped topping for the pies. The money given will all be put in Atonement's general fund. This was a big success last year. Perhaps we can make it bigger this year!

Lydia group will be having lunch at the Elderberry Tea Room in Rockton on Tuesday, December 6th at 12 noon. Please call Janice Mitchell @ 362-6418 by December 2nd to make a reservation. If you need a ride you may call Jackie Holmbeck @365-1415. All women are invited to attend.

Celebration is published by Atonement Lutheran Church

901 Harrison Avenue, Beloit, WI 53511 (608) 362-8216
Office hours: Mon & Tues 9 AM -noon, Wed 1-4 PM, Thurs & Fri 9 AM-1 PM
Email: atonement@atonementbeloit.org Website: atonementbeloit.org

Rev. Tina Koenig Ray, BCC, Pastor	368-1041	(608) 449-6759 cell
Norbert Larson, Council President	207-3592	(608) 290-0130 cell
Pattye Gilmour, Church Secretary	362-3488	(608) 201-8834 cell
Ray Capes, Custodian	362-8711	(608) 290-8706 cell

