

January 2012

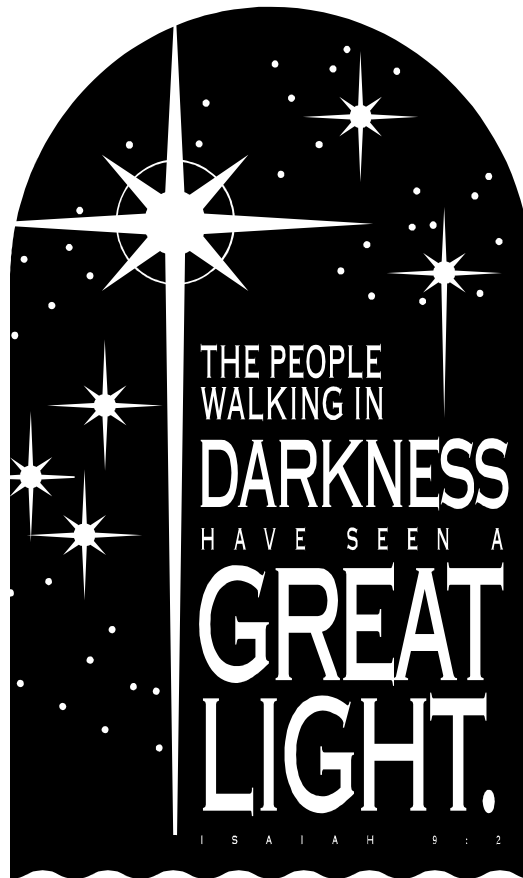
Celebration of ATONEMENT

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...

Blessings and Happy New Year to you all! As I'm sure I've told you before, I'm not into making New Year's resolutions because I hardly ever keep them. Perhaps you are the same?

Martin Luther encourages us to start each day new, as a clean slate, in the name of the Father Son and the Holy Spirit, remembering that we have been baptized and made clean through Christ's death and resurrection. Now that I think I can handle, day by day.

"Every action is inextricably dependent upon the one that preceded it, like some infinite dance that continues out in perpetuity until one of the partners exits the floor," *Unsaid*, by Neil Abramson, p. 13. If each one of us began each day remembering Whose we are perhaps our actions would be more consistent with following Christ, for each action depends on the preceding action. I'm not saying that church attendance is more important than loving one's neighbor, but the two do go together like a horse and carriage or a Wii Station and its remote. To put it succinctly we, you and I, need each other and we need to nourish the relationship we have with each other here in church as well as our relationships with God. If you haven't been making the decision to come to worship, we miss you. If you have been joining us for worship we are so glad you do.

MISSIONAL DISCOVERY JOURNEY

Atonement will be starting on a Missional Discovery Journey this

year.

The Missional Discovery Journey (MDJ) is a program by the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA and its New and Renewing Evangelizing Congregations Mission Table. The MDJ is an eighteen month program designed to engage pastors and lay leaders in the Spirit-led development of a missional vision and practice for their congregations.

Being missional means continually asking the question, "Where is God leading us?" Missional means to be focused outward. It is to recognize God's mission to bless and heal the world. God has a purpose for us and we are here to discover what that purpose is in our neighborhood and community. Being missional means continually asking the question, "Where is God leading us?"

Atonement's MDJ committee is made up of the following people: Nate or Betsy Anderson, David Ramsey, Jr., David Rounds, Phyllis Steel, Gerry Swederski, Mary Wentland and Pastor Tina.

We will be meeting with other churches on the following dates:

Jan. 19 - Pastor's Orientation 9:30 - 1:00

Saturday Sessions (from approximately 8:30 - 3:30)

Feb. 11 - What Does It Mean to Be Missional

April 28 - Discipleship and Discernment

July 28 - Adaptive Leadership - Leading Change

Oct. 20 - Healthy Congregations - Systems Thinking

Jan. 12, 2013 - Hospitality - Welcoming and Creating Space for Others

April 13, 2013 - Missional Context - Engaging Your Community

Plus one additional Saturday session to close this part of the journey in summer or early fall 2013.

MATCHING FUND

Norbert Larson made the announcement on December 11th that the matching fund is back. This year up to \$15,000.00 will be matched. So please give what you are able, in addition to your pledge. It takes money to make the wheels turn at Atonement and we are running short of funds. Prayerful consider what you can give. Please write 'matching funds' on the memo line of your check or on an envelope if you are giving cash. Thank you.

Pastor Tina 

The Annual Meeting will be held after the service on January 29th, 2012.

The Annual Reports will be ready
January 22.

Please start turning in all reports to the office ASAP. If you might be interested in collating the report later in the afternoon on January 20th, please let the secretary know.

November/December Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>November</u> adults/youth				
20	43/1	\$1055.00	\$ 4.50	\$ 22.00
27	43/3	\$ 932.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 22.15
<u>December</u>				
4	46/5	\$2585.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 79.30
11	51/3	\$2661.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 36.35

Financial update as of 11/30/11

Total income Jan-Nov. 2011	\$ 96,452.50
Total expenses Jan-Nov. 2011	<u>-\$107,273.04</u>
Net income (Jan-Nov. 2011)	\$-10,820.54

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?***

January Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for January is from Norbert Larson in memory of his Father & Mother

Altar Guild: Dick & Jan Mitchell

Weekly Beloit Daily News ad: no sponsor

January 1

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

January 8

Flowers: Bob Kristianson in memory of his mother

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: The TMO's (Time Marches On)

January 15

Flowers: Arlene Ruegger in memory of Richard

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

January 22

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

January 29

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: Diana Schneider

Fellowship: no sponsor

THIS YEAR

It is never too late to begin a new habit- or to recovenant our side of the promise with God- or to name anew the responsibilities we have as faithful people. The following serves as a model for living our faith in the New Year 2012.

Mend a quarrel
Seek out a forgotten friend
Dismiss suspicion; replace it with trust
Give a soft answer
Encourage yourh
Keep a promise
Find the time
Forego a grudge
Forgive an enemy
Listen
Apologize if you are wrong
Try to understand
Think first of someone else
Appreciate
Be kind; be gentle
Laugh a little
Laugh a little more
Welcome a stranger
Speak your love
Speak it again
Speak it still again

EPIPHANY: A TIME TO...

The word Epiphany means “to make known.” On Epiphany, Christians celebrate the full manifestation of God’s glory in the coming of Christ. The day of Epiphany (January 6th) brings Christmas to a glorious conclusion, but we are not to stop there. The season of Epiphany is God’s TIME to reveal God’s glory. It is:

A time to worship because it deals with the glory of God manifested in Jesus Christ. The season begins with the Wise Men coming to worship the newborn King. The season ends with the worship experience on Mount of Transfiguration.

A time of light because the light of Christ knows no end; it goes to the ends of the earth. His is the light to lighten the whole world. The light of Christ is not merely to shine on Christians, but through them, for the salvation of humankind.

A time to witness because the light of Christ needs to be spread throughout a dark world.

Be an Epiphany. Make known the presence of God by the witness of your life!

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 Luetz 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	

THANK YOU!

I would like to offer a 'thank you' to all of you who have worked so tirelessly this past year to make Atonement 'work' and keep it going. Each and every thing you do from cleaning the toilets to filling the oil in the candles to putting together bulletins to attending worship and contributing is important. - Pastor Tina



I know that I will probably forget some folks, but it is unintentional. I would like to add to my list of last month's 'thank you's' by adding Jeanne Cole and Barb Anderson for the meals they've provided. To Norbert Larson for the rides to church, to those who have hauled me around Beloit for various and sundry reasons - thank you. - Pastor Tina

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!

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 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.

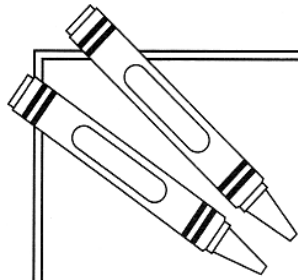
THE END IS NEAR!

The old email address for Atonement (Atonement@jvl.net.com) will be discontinued sometime next month. Please use the new address (atonement@atonementbeloit.org) for any future correspondence with the church.

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.

LAST CALL! There are no assistants or readers scheduled for Christmas Day and New Years Day. If you are available and would like to fill in one of those days, please let the secretary know this week.

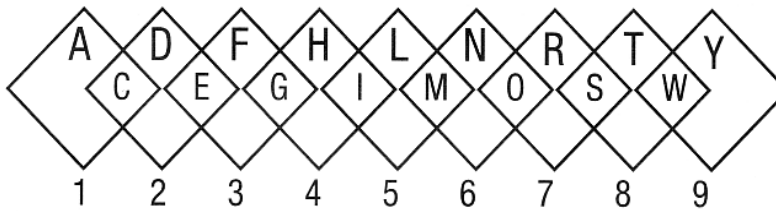
Secretary's hours: I will be filling in for a vacationing co-worker at my other job the week of December 26-30. Office hours here that week will be 1-4 PM Monday thru Friday.



Just for **KIDS**

“A New Year – A New You”

Find the words from 2 Corinthians 5:17.



“ e ’ ;

8 4 2,3 7 2,3 3 6,7 7 2,3 4,5 3

1 6 9 6,7 6 2,3 4,5 7,8 4,5 6

1,2 4 7 4,5 7,8 8 ’ 4 2,3 4,5 7,8 1

6 2,3 8,9 1,2 7 2,3 1 8 4,5 6,7 6 ;

8 4 2,3 6,7 5 2 4 1 7,8

3,4 6,7 6 2,3 ’ 8 4 2,3

6 2,3 8,9 4 1 7,8

! ”

1,2 6,7 5,6 2,3



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Celebration is published by Atonement Lutheran Church

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January