

April 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...

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen, Aho.

This prayer describes my life. From the get go I have felt God's involvement in my life - leading, nudging, correcting along the way. I believe part of this is because my birth grandmother prayed "that God would keep his hand on me", even though she had never met me. (This is great encouragement for grandparents to pray for their grandchildren, it matters.)

I also feel that God does indeed have a plan for me. As it says in Jeremiah 29, verse 11: *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

The road is un-travelled but the God who created me at birth; the God who sustains me in the Holy Spirit and the God who redeems me each day in Christ is with me. I believe the same is true for each one of us.

I have to believe this or go stark raving mad - as life's journey leads back to the operating room and a redo of a failed fusion in my neck. To say I am angry, sad, frustrated and scared is to put it mildly. I am all of those things for myself and also for you the people of Atonement. As you absorb this news you may be feeling any, all or different emotions.

My prayer is that you continue to engage in personal and corporate prayer by faithfully coming to worship to praise God and raise each other up. That you remember that **YOU** are the church together - not just me or any one of us individually, but

all of us together are the people of God and we need to worship together for mutual blessing, forgiveness and love. Speaking of which...

As the people of God we are called to a different standard than the world. We are called to love each other, to let go of past hurts and the negative baggage we carry around with us. Jesus took that baggage and buried it when he hung on a cross; so that we could be renewed and redeemed on Easter morning. If you haven't read the story by Walt Wangerin called *The Rag Man*, I would encourage you to find it and read. It talks about how Jesus takes on our hurts and sins and carries them to the cross.

It may feel like the valley's of life are too deep and too wide, but our God is with us each step of the way, leading us towards resurrection and New Life.

It may seem like it's always Good Friday, but Sunday's coming. Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

Pastor Tina 

Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services for Wednesdays at 7PM, 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church & Host Pastor</u>	<u>Preaching Pastor</u>
Mar 21	Sec Congregational Rev. Doug Gray Rev. Carol Taylor	Rev. Ian Stirrat
Mar 28	Sun Valley Presby Rev. David Ewing	Rev. Carol Taylor
Apr 6	Good Friday Atonement Luth Rev. Tina Koenig Ray	Noon Service: Rev. David Carlson

**ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE
U.S. SEVERE SPRING STORMS**

MARCH 2012

www.elca.org/disaster

Deadly storms raced across the Midwest and the South recently, spawning at least 64 violent tornadoes that killed more than 50 people and injured many more in 14 states. Hundreds of homes, farms and businesses were damaged or destroyed during the outbreak.

Currently, ELCA Disaster Response is monitoring the situation and gathering information. Local agencies and ELCA congregations are coordinating volunteers for cleanup efforts and providing spiritual care.

Your help is needed today to bring immediate relief and ongoing support to communities affected.

Gifts designated for “U.S. Severe Spring Storms” will be used in full — 100 percent — to help disaster survivors clean up and recover.

Donations to the undesignated ELCA Disaster Response fund help us respond immediately and effectively — where it is needed most. Because of your generous offerings of prayer and financial support, the ELCA walks alongside disaster survivors on the road to recovery. Thank you!

.....
Yes, I want to help!

ELCA Disaster Response: *U.S. Severe Spring Storms* \$ _____ DDG0074

ELCA Disaster Response: *Where Needed Most* \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email Address _____

Give through your congregation or send your check directly to:
ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300
write “*U.S. Severe Spring Storms*” or “*Where Needed Most*”
on your check’s memo line.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

January/February Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>February</u> adults/youth				
19	53/3	\$2131.00	\$10.00	\$25.62
26	55/9	\$2057.00	\$ 5.00	\$60.28
<u>March</u>				
4	35/3	\$1763.00	\$70.00	\$17.50*
11	33/5	\$1366.00	\$ 5.00	\$21.88*

*March collection dedicated to Meals on Wheels

Financial update as of 2/29/12

Total income Jan-Feb 2012	\$xx,xxx.xx
Total expenses Jan-Feb 2012	-\$ x,xxx.xx
Net income Jan-Feb 2012	\$ x,xxx.xx

Figures were unavailable at the time the newsletter was printed. Updates will be in next month's newsletter.

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?***

Easter Story Cookies

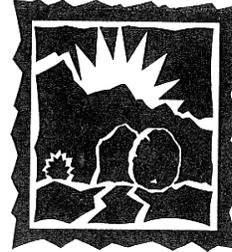
To be made the evening before Easter

Ingredients:

1 cup whole pecans
1 tsp. vinegar
3 egg whites
pinch salt
1 cup sugar

Also needed:

zipper baggie
wooden spoon
tape
Bible



Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isa. 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matt. 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF.

Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matt. 27:65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matt. 28:1-9

April Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for April is from Arlene Ruegger in memory of parents

Altar Guild: Barb Anderson & Norbert Larson

Weekly Beloit Daily News ad: no sponsor

April 1

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: Palm Sunday brunch from the Lydia group (see announcement on pg 11 for details)

April 8

Flowers: Doris Betz in memory of Dick

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: Easter Sunday

April 15

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: Phyllis Steele & Irene Baker for Irene's birthday

April 22

Flowers: no sponsor

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: no sponsor

April 29

Flowers: Donna Luety in memory of Paul

Bread of Heaven: no sponsor

Fellowship: Pat Sauser & Jan Mitchell



April Birthdays

4/10 Pat Guaginte	4/23 Todd Anderson
4/13 McKenna Davies	4/23 Russ Engebretson
4/13 Florence Buchholz	4/25 Nicole Johnson Boylan
4/16 Irene Baker	4/26 Candy Hoefler
4/16 Dylan Van Fleet	4/29 Paul Bolender
4/19 Joan Guetschow	

April Baptism Anniversaries

4/2 Fern Miller	4/13 Barb Anderson
4/5 Bonnie Ottow	4/18 Kyle Hoefler
4/6 Sally Luety	4/20 Austin Anderson
4/7 Freda Leeder	4/25 Michael Janke
4/12 Ross Johnson	4/29 Charleta Affeldt
4/13 Jackie Holmbeck	

Newly Baptized

Delaney Deilya Amanda Van Fleet February 26, 2012

Address Change

Roland Mueller
9401 Old Sauk Rd. Apt 321
Middleton, WI 53562

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 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.

CARITAS ADOPT A SHELF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING

A need that has been identified for Caritas neighbors for personal care products. We have been invited to take a key role in the Adopt-A-Shelf campaign. We at Atonement are responsible for the BABY CARE shelf. We are collecting baby care items such as : lotion, wipes, shampoo, body wash, diaper rash cream/ointments. There is a basket in the hallway outside the chapel, just drop the items in there and they will be delivered to Caritas when needed by Candy Hoefler. If you have any questions, see Candy.

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. Prayerfully 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.

THE END IS NEAR!

The old email address for Atonement (Atonement@jvl.net.com) is being discontinued. Please use the following email (atonement@atonementbeloit.org) for any 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.

The sign up sheet for the Easter Garden is in the Klingberg Chapel. The cost per plant is still \$15 each. For more information, please see Doris Betz.



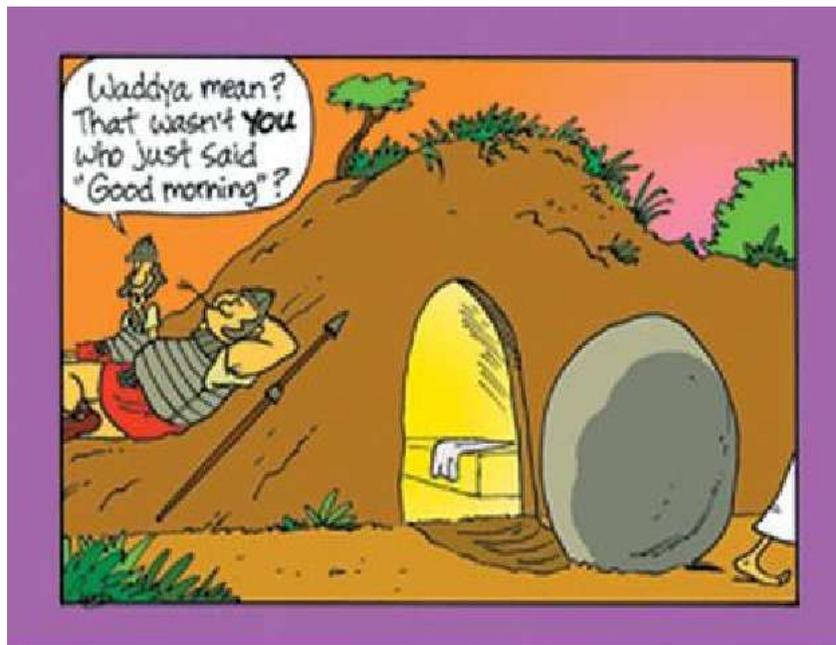
The family of Fern Miller is holding a 100th birthday party for her from 2-4 PM, Saturday, March 24th at Fair Oaks Nursing home on Blackhawk Blvd. Cake & coffee will be served, and the family is requesting no gifts.

The Fellowship Hall is reserved for a birthday party Saturday, March 31st.

Lydia will meet Tuesday, April 3rd at one o'clock in the Klingberg Chapel. Pastor Tina will continue to lead the Bible study, "Bad Girls of the Bible". All women are invited to join us for this interesting study.

Lydia group will serve a 'mini' brunch Palm Sunday for Fellowship on April 1st. A minimum donation of \$2 for adults is requested. No charge for children.

The Spring Gathering of the Beloit Conference of the Women of the ELCA will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1422 Center Ave., Janesville on Saturday, April 28 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM. The Rev. Jason Chestnut, a pastor at Central Lutheran Church in Edgerton, WI, has been telling bible stories by heart for seven years and loves sharing that gift with others. Biblical storytelling is both ancient and modern- a multimedia, kinesthetic, full bodied experience of the Word of God. We invite you to encounter this living word as it was originally proclaimed by the earliest people of faith immersed in an oral culture in which history, tradition, and God's promise were passed on from generation to generation. Registration is \$6 and due by April 22nd. Please send your registration to : Theresa Pople, 666 S. Bluff St., lot 209, South Beloit, IL, 61080 or call 389-2797.



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