

November 2014

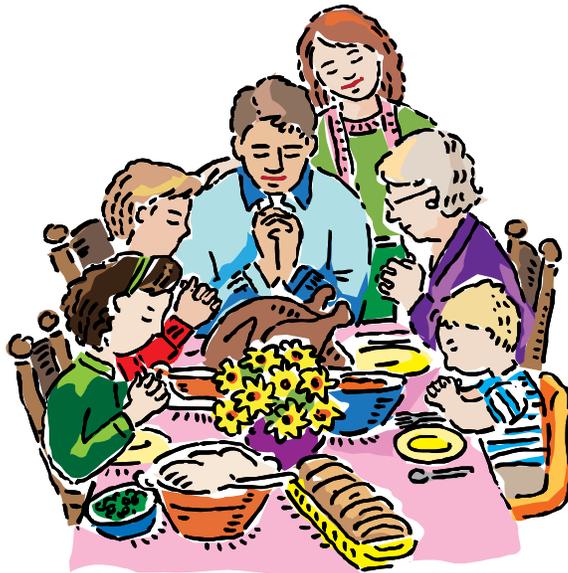
Celebration of ATONEMENT

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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*"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."*

Revelation 7:12, NRSV



From the Pastor...

What Does the ELCA Mean to You?

At the Bishop's Convocation that I just attended, we watched a video produced by the ELCA entitled, "What Does the ELCA Mean to You?" It showed ELCA members of various ages, from numerous walks of life sharing their answers to this question. Some folks were clergy, some were lay people; some lived here in the states and some lived abroad.

I thought about how I would answer this question, hmmm.....

I guess you'd have to say I'm Lutheran because my Dad belonged to Saint Paul's on St. Lawrence so many years ago. He was probably a Lutheran because his father, Grandpa Koenig, was Lutheran.

My Dad was kind hearted and an all-around good guy, but he was a Christmas, Easter, Funerals and Wedding kind of guy. He made sure that us kids were all baptized in the Lutheran church and went to Sunday school, etc. When he discovered he had cancer he became more concerned about being connected to the church.

Anyhoo, where I was going with this was that if my Dad had been Methodist or United Church of Christ I may have ended up as a member and pastor of another denomination.

So, in the beginning, I was simply following the 'family tradition' - at least my Dad's family tradition, Mom was raised Christian Scientist and later became Lutheran.

When I arrived at Luther College in Decorah Iowa they asked me what I was and I said, "Lutheran." "No, what are you?" "Dude, like are you not listening? I'm Lutheran." "Yeah, we got that, but what kind are you?" "Huh?" "Are you

AELC, LCA or ALC?” “I don’t know my Mom’s in the ALCW, does that help?”

I went to seminary at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago as a member of the ALC and came out as a member of the ELCA.

So, what does the ELCA mean to me? It may have begun as a family tradition, but it has become my home. For me it means family and security. I can go anywhere in the United States and find an ELCA church and I should be pretty familiar and comfortable with the liturgy and atmosphere I find. The ELCA means grace. It means loving your neighbor as you love yourself and God with all of your heart. It means all are welcome. It means we all are loved. It means we are God’s hands, voice and feet in our world. And I can’t imagine belonging to any other Christian denomination.

I contemplated asking you all about what the ELCA means to you, but then I thought a better question to ponder would be, “What does Atonement mean to you?”

Atonement is in a tough spot right now. At the special congregational meeting held on the 19th of October those gathered took the first step to make the principal as well as the interest of the Funding for the Future of Atonement Lutheran Church (FFALC) available to the council to cover budget short falls. At the annual meeting we will have a second vote regarding this fund in order to actually make the funds available. Until then we have to find other resources to cover our financial responsibilities.

It’s very important that each member of Atonement think about what Atonement means to you. Our existence depends on it. Literally. Our call to mission and to love those around us who are in need of Gods touch depends upon it.

How would you answer that question? Is Atonement the place where you are fed and find strength each week to go back

out into a troublesome world? Is she the place you want to be buried out of or have available for your kids to get married in or your grand babies to be baptized at? Do you leave empowered and inspired to go out and be God's hands and feet and voice: to speak for the voiceless; to visit the lonely; to feed the hungry and clothe the naked and to set free those who are bound?

Is Atonement the place where you see God at work? God's work, our Hands is one of the slogans of the SCSW and the ELCA. Do you see God's work being done? I think we do a pretty good job of doing God's work when it comes to being neighbor to those who are already members of Atonement. It's being a neighbor to those outside of our church where we have been slowly falling short of doing God's work with our hands for quite some time.

Over my 10 years here I have watched as people have left the church because of death, transfer or apparent indifference. I have watched as people have been welcomed into the church as new members and then have not stayed very long. I've observed various outreach ministries and programming fall by the wayside as our membership has aged and diminished.

My friends, it pains me to say this, but we are not doing ministry anymore, we are simply trying to survive. Jesus did not tell us to "go out and survive". Jesus told us to go out and do as I have done - love your neighbor as you love God and yourself."

I am trusting in the holy spirit to lead us forward. I know you are tired, I know you are fearful of what the future holds. None of us knows what is beyond the next hill or after the next sunset.

We do know, my friends in Christ, that whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lords'. We are a people who believe in the resurrection. **"It may be Friday, but Sunday's coming!"** is an old African American philosophy that expresses what we all believe in - that there is new life after death; that

resurrection follows the crucifixion.

What remains to be seen is whether that new life is for us here in this building, with a revitalized sense of mission and ministry; or new life found in a smaller building more suited to our current size where we can do outreach and mission because our overhead is smaller; or that new life is a gift we can give to someone else who is engaged in life giving ministry and needs a leg up.

“What does Atonement mean to you?”

Pastor Tina 

Reformation Sunday Message from Bishop Mary

*The church of Christ, in every age
Beset by change, but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage,
And keep on rising from the dead. ELW 729*

According to Martin Luther, "Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that [one] could stake [one's] life on it a thousand times." Reformation of the church is not a long past event, but a continuous movement of God's Spirit, calling us to faithfulness to the gospel in an ever-changing time and culture. May we engage the world with such a daring confidence, unafraid to claim and test and rise again, trusting that the Spirit is leading us where we need to go.

September & October Worship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Maint.</u>	<u>Cans</u>
<u>September</u>	adults/youth			
28	31/4	\$1046.00	\$12.00	\$35.25
<u>October</u>				
5	26/5	\$1475.00	\$12.00	\$17.28
12	28/2	\$2351.00	\$12.00	\$18.06
19	31/5	\$1527.75	\$12.00	\$xx.xx

Financial update as of 9/30/14

Total income Jan-Sept 2014	\$74,109.83
Total expenses Jan-Sept 2014	- \$85,804.37
Net income Jan-Sept 2014	\$-11,694.54

So far in 2014 we have received \$935.00 from Thrivent Choice Dollars. Thank you to Thrivent Financial and all of you who have directed your Choice Dollars to the church. If you have questions on how you can get Choice Dollars call Karl Miller at 314-3084

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 usual hours are:
Monday & Tuesday 9AM-Noon,
Wednesday thru Friday 9AM-1PM.
Hours are subject to change**

This Christmas think Pork! ELCA Good Gifts Piggy Bank

Just \$30 can provide a piglet to a family in need. When this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year.

Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income.

What a BIG difference a pig can make!

A pig in the pen is like money in the bank.



Within months, a tiny piglet grows to weigh over 200 pounds! Should a family have a failed harvest, medical expense or other unexpected financial need, this pig can be sold for much-needed cash at the market.

This Christmas we have these boxes available for your children to collect coins in so that they can give a pig for Christmas. If your child/family collects enough for more than one pig, AWE-SOME! We also have some coloring sheets and stickers for each child.

Once all the kids have a bank, anyone can have a Piggy Bank to fill for the ELCA World Hunger campaign.

Sooey! Sooo -eee!

CARITAS ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FUNDRAISER

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us. For some of us, this day marks the beginning of the Holiday season-a joyful time filled with friends, family, food and festivities. For others, this day marks the beginning of a time wrought with anxiety, sadness and uncertainty. Families who come to Caritas for help often share stories with us about the struggles they encounter just trying to make it month to month. Sadly, for them, the Holidays are just another thing they cannot afford.

Preparations are now underway to provide hundreds of Thanksgiving dinners for families in our community. We are asking you to consider supporting our mission of providing Holiday meals in any way you can. This year, we are suggesting a gift of \$40 but will appreciate whatever you can afford to donate. This amount will help finance the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner and provide families with a “green” bag they can reuse when they visit the pantry. Regardless of the amount you can comfortably afford, any monetary gift is greatly appreciated!

Here are some thoughts to consider:

Get creative! Join forces with family members and friends, or any organizations to which you may belong, to cover the cost of a Thanksgiving meal.

Sponsor a meal by writing a check to Caritas for \$45 (or whatever you can comfortably afford to donate) and designate in the memo “Thanksgiving”

Encourage those in need of help to sign up at Caritas Nov 3-4.

Help us reduce our cost on postage. Receipts will be sent upon request only.

Please call Executive Director Donna Ambrose with any questions you may have and thank you again for considering Caritas as they continue to help the families of our community.

November Flower & Fellowship Schedule

Eternal Candle: The Eternal Candle for November is from
Candy Hoefler

Altar Guild: Maggie Janke

November 2

Flowers: no sponsor
Bread of Heaven: Vi Pankonien
Fellowship: no sponsor

November 9

Flowers: no sponsor
Bread of Heaven: no sponsor
Fellowship: no sponsor

November 16

Flowers: no sponsor
Bread of Heaven: Diana Schneider
Fellowship: Vi Pankonien

November 23

Flowers: VI & Gary Pankonien for their wedding anniversary
Bread of Heaven: no sponsor
Fellowship: Lydia Pie Day

November 30

Flowers: no sponsor
Bread of Heaven: no sponsor
Fellowship: no sponsor



November Birthdays

11/13 Avery Mitchell	11/26 Betsy Anderson
11/14 Gary Pankonien	11/27 Lloyd Jero
11/14 David Schneider	11/28 Kim Davies
11/23 Barb Anderson	11/30 Nancy Clickner

November Baptism Anniversaries

11/4 Erica Reedy	11/27 Cheryl Ramczyk
11/19 Marcy Reedy	

A Loss to the Atonement Family

Deborah Oldfield	September 19, 2014
Lester Thompson	September 26, 2014

The Saints of Atonement

Ervin L. Luke	2/28/2014
Freda M. Leeder	4/4/2014
Patricia Bardwell Hadlock	3/26/2014
Paul E. Jakoboski	3/30/2014
Michael M. Janke	6/29/2014
Doty Goff	7/5/2014
Gordy Wargowsky	9/9/2014
Deborah Oldfield	9/19/2014
Mary Dale	9/20/2014
Lester Thompson	9/26/2014

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

1 person is needed for the Council. Contact Norbert Larson if interested in serving.

Several new people are needed for Altar Guild. If interested, please see Candy Hoefler.

Please turn in your Pledge Sheets as soon as you can so the Council can begin work on the 2015 budget. If you need a new sheet, there are more in the office.

Lydia will meet Tuesday, October 28th at one o'clock in the Klingberg chapel. Jackie Holmbeck will be hostess. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Lydia will host a 'Pie Day' fund raiser for Fellowship on Sunday, November 23rd. All donations will be matched by Norbert Larson and will go to Atonement's general fund.

Fall Harvest Festival - Our Savior's Beloit

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2014

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Our Savior's Lutheran Church

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, Wisconsin

Lunch: Autumn Aromas (*Italian sausage, squash, apples*)Green Beans, Salad and Pies

Cost: Free Will Offering

More: Raffle prizes, crafts, baked goods, jewelry, white elephant items, greeting cards.

Proceeds go to VetsRoll, Caritas, 16:49 House, Sparrows Netst, Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center, Lutherdale Bible Camp, OSLC Church projects.

**Transforming Life and Faith:
Women of the ELCA Gather's 2014-2015
Bible Study Introduction Event**

November 15, 2014; 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Midvale Community Lutheran Church

Sponsored by Midvale Community Lutheran Church and the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Women of the ELCA with author Dr. Carol LaHurd.

Carol Schersten LaHurd is a lifelong teacher. After earning degrees from Augustana College (Illinois) and the University of Chicago, she received a Ph.D. in New Testament from the University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A new life partner, a new child, a new job, a new home: most of us recognize how our lives are changed by these experiences. In *Transforming Life and Faith*, we will consider how our lives and our faith journeys are transformed by the events we experience and the people we meet. This event is for everyone who will lead or participate in a Women of the ELCA Gather study, for anyone wanting to experience an engaging overview of key Biblical texts, and for anyone interested in starting a Women of the ELCA study group in their own congregation. All women and friends are invited to attend.

Registration fee: \$10.00. Funding for this event is provided by grants from the Midvale Community Lutheran Church Endowment and the SCSW Women of the ELCA. Please mail registration form and checks payable to Midvale Community Lutheran Church by November 10, 2014.

Registration forms available in the church office or from the website: www.midvalelutheran.org
ATTN: Adult Education Committee
Midvale Community Lutheran Church
4329 Tokay Blvd
Madison WI, 53711

**Gather at the Table: Fall Stewardship Gatherings
for all in the ELCA South-Central Synod of Wisconsin**

Sunday, November 16

Time: 2:30 - 4:00 pm

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Atkinson

Pastor and Council will be attending, and if anyone would like to go with them, please meet at the church at 1:00 to carpool up to the event.

**'TIS THE SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP AND GRATITUDE.
SHARE YOURS WITH US.**

If you are a Thrivent Financial member with Choice Dollars[®] to direct, you can help our church continue its ministry here and reach out to the greater community.

Simply direct Choice Dollars to **Atonement**. We plan to use these grant funds to add to the General Fund.

You can make your direction online at **Thrivent.com** or call Thrivent at **800-847-4836**, and say "Thrivent Choice[®]" after the prompt.

The Thrivent Choice charitable grant program lets eligible Thrivent members recommend where some of Thrivent's charitable dollars are distributed. So far this year, churches nationwide have received more than \$23 million in charitable grant funds as a result of the Thrivent Choice program.

To see if you are eligible to participate or have questions, call Thrivent toll-free at **800-847-4836**.

**Opportunity to Columbia Correctional Institution ~ Great
Congregational Thanksgiving or Christmas Project?**

From Chaplain Mark Teslik: One of the most widely used and appreciated ministries of the Chapel here at CCI is the greeting card project. As a prison chaplain I am able to purchase greeting cards of various types at \$50.00 per 1000 cards or \$5.00 per 100 cards from ARM ministry (see attachment). I send three cards a month to inmates who make requests of the Chapel for greeting cards of various types. There are some limited funds here at CCI that I can occasionally use to purchase the cards from ARM ministry. There are times where we have basically run out of cards but do not always have available funds through the institution to purchase new cards. This is one of those times when most of our variety of cards are gone. Would you or your congregation be able to share the need for donated funds to purchase cards for our greeting card project here at CCI with synod congregations or groups?, such as WELCA? There are 830 inmates here many of whom rely on our providing greeting cards for them to keep in contact with loved ones. Thank you for your consideration.

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 6:00 PM in the Klingberg Chapel. Please join us.

MATCHING FUNDS UPDATE: The initial goal of \$30,000 from both congregation and Norbert has been met. Due to the church's financial condition, Norbert will continue to match your donations to the Matching Funds for the near future. So please give what you are able, in addition to your pledge.

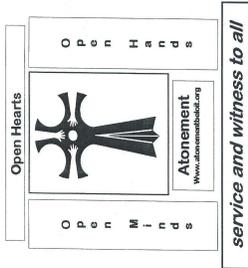
It takes money to make the wheels turn at Atonement and we are running short of funds. Prayerfully consider what you can give. Please write 'matching funds' on the memo line of your check or on an envelope if you are giving cash. Please note "In Kind" giving does not qualify for the matching fund. Thank you.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR: Please remember to make a donation to the basket if you are participating in the fellowship coffee hour. These funds help us to replenish our supplies of coffee, cookies, sugar & creamer.



Thanks to Zachary J. Schertz

11-25-2013



Celebration is published by Atonement Lutheran Church

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 Alonzo Young, Custodian

November