December 2015



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We at Atonement Lutheran Church reach out with the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

As Christ's ministry includes everyone, we, too, welcome persons of any ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, marital status, age, economic situation, and physical or mental ability.

We celebrate the gifts each one brings to the life and ministry of this community of faith.





Office Hours

10:00am - 3:00pm Tuesday thru Friday





Advent and Christmas Schedules

- Wednesday Advent Services featuring Holden Evening Prayer on December 2nd, 9th, and 16th at 7:00pm.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Holy Communion on Thursday, December 24th at 7:00pm and 11:00pm.
- ◆ A Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 27th at 10:00am. (Please note: This will be a **one service** Sunday.)

Deck the Halls...Deck the Tree

Join the tree trimming/decorating party on Sunday, December 13th at 9:30am between the two services. There will be fun tasks for all ages as well as Christmas cookies (please bring some of your favorites Christmas Goodies to share!).

Shannon White and crew will be putting the tree up on Saturday, December 12. (Let Shannon know if you would be willing to help.)

Also, donations of poinsettias will be appreciated and will make our Christmas Eve services even more beautiful. Bring your poinsettia on December 20th and take them home with you following the service on Sunday, December 27th. If you have question, please contact MaryLou or Marian.



Income/Expense Snapshot...Atonement Lutheran Church ~ October 2015

General Fund

	Current Year <u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Previous Ye <u>Actual</u>	ar <u>Budget</u>
INCOME				
Members Offerings	\$159,491	\$141,164	\$146,749	\$147,950
Grants	\$4,346		\$716	
Room Rents	\$7,835	\$9,750	\$9,951	\$9,250
Dedicated Fund Transfer	\$6,000	\$23,000	\$18,232	\$22,500
Total Income	\$177,672	\$173,914	\$175,648	\$179,700
EXPENSES				
Pastoral Compensation	\$58,824	\$58,824	\$58,824	\$58,824
PastoralBenefits	\$24,196	\$27,684	\$29,545	\$30,247
Pastoral Expenses	\$2,838	\$3,216	\$1,920	\$3,200
Staff Compensation	\$32,042	\$38,000	\$30,482	\$41,000
Staff Benefits	\$0	\$300	\$70	\$380
Staff Payroll Cost	\$5,008	\$5,833	\$4,061	\$5,500
Worship & Music	\$825	\$2,022	\$2,075	\$2,657
Education	\$277	\$1,250	\$512	\$1,307
Youth	-\$1,347	\$542	\$61	\$575
Outreach/Hospitality	\$830	\$1,317	\$828	\$1,659
Social Ministry	\$1,170	\$1,542	\$2,746	\$2,640
Stewardship	\$140	\$1,187	\$569	\$1,625
Health Ministry	-\$50	\$0	\$0	\$500
Parish Life	\$1,179	\$1,125	\$3,055	\$1,283
ELCA Mission Support	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$11,000	\$10,000
General/Administrative	\$8,176	\$9,654	\$9,107	\$8,592
Facility Expenses	\$17,550	\$20,682	\$20,487	\$20,645
Insurance	\$8,192	\$6,833	\$6,836	\$6,833
Total Expense	\$164,850	\$185,637	\$182,178	\$197,467
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$12,822	(\$11,723)	(\$6,530)	(\$17,767)

Endowment Account

	Monthly Activity	Investment Account	<u>General</u> <u>Endow</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	Memorial Gardens	<u>Organ</u> Upkeep
Balance @ 9/30/15		\$70,474	\$26,703	\$21,125	\$9,309	\$1,337
October	\$2,963	\$2,963	\$1,123	\$888	\$391	\$561
Balance @ 10/31/15		\$73,437	\$27,826	\$22,013	\$9,700	\$13,898

Capital Fund

BANK ACCT BALANCE \$44,997

@ 1/1/2015

INCOME \$83,950

EXPENSES \$76,890

BALANCE @ 10/31/2015 \$52,807



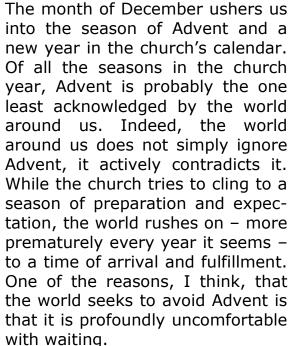
From the Pastor . . .

${f D}$ ear Friends in Christ,



Pastor

Ed Milliken





Waiting is most often seen in our world as a negative act, as something to be avoided. Waiting is idleness, waiting is a waste of time. Time must be used, filled up, made productive. We get frustrated with waiting and we want to hurry on, to get to the point, to get something done, to see something accomplished.

But consider another side to waiting. In every instance, waiting speaks to our incompleteness, our need for someone or something outside ourselves. We wait for a plane or a bus or a ride from a friend because we cannot reach our destination alone. We wait for news because others know what we do not know. We need their wisdom, their insight, their skill. But, more than that, it is trusting

that someone will meet our need. Waiting is faith.

We wait for the coming of Christmas this month, of course. Those with even the least faith can understand that aspect of this season. But the Advent readings point out our needs – that to which we have faith, that for which we wait – yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

This season points us back to the time when God broke into human history. The prophet Jeremiah will declare that "the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he will execute justice and righteousness in the land." We wait for the One who brings these gifts of God to human history.

As usual, John the Baptist will be a companion in our walk through this season, calling us to prepare ourselves for a new beginning. Though his words can sound harsh and even threatening, he has been sent as a messenger from God to prepare the way for the coming of our Lord. The hard sounding words are meant to shake us, to wake us up, to stir us to contemplation and to action.

Finally, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent we come to the threshold of the celebration and out time of waiting and watching are nearly over. The time is right, the characters are moving into place, and the







Adult Forum News ... by Pastor Ed

"In the Grip of Grace," a study of Paul's letter to the churches in the Province of Galatia will be the focus of the adult forum in December. Paul's letter to the Galatians could easily be considered one of the most radical books in the New Testament. It shows Paul at his most youthful, least understated and most non-compromising. Outside of perhaps Romans, Martin Luther considered Galatians one of the most important books in his reforming work of the church. Join us as, with Luther, we discover that we are indeed in the grip of grace.

December 2015



Prayer & Bible Study

Please join us on Monday afternoons each week for prayer/meditation and bible study. 1:00pm-3:00pm in Narthex



Audio on Line

 \mathcal{W}^{e} have added audio recordings of our worship services on our website www.atonementlutheran.com. Just click on Worship Services in the heading bar and services will be listed by date, the description of the gospel for Sunday Services



from the Pastor . . . (continued from page 3)

Christmas drama begins to unfold. Mary, who carries within her the Holy One who comes from God, sings a song of God's deliverance. Indeed, God is doing great things, and blessed are we who slow down long enough to pay attention to what God is doing in our midst.

May this season, this month, be blessing in your life and may it lead you into a deeper faith, hope, and love.

We would like to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas filled with love and peace, and a new year filled with God's richest blessings.

Pastor Ed and Lucy



Rhonda Harman ~ Director of Family Ministry



Family Ministry/Education News



 \bigcap hristmas time is a lovely time. God bless you all with the Spirit of Christmas! May you be filled with Christmas joy and happiness!!!

What does Christmas spirit mean to you? Joy? Happiness?

What might we be doing when we hold Christmas joy near and dear to our heart? Joy is about doing fun things we enjoy doing, while we are doing them.

Happiness is about the good feelings we feel while we are working "towards a goal or looking back fondly after having achieving it". The concern is, if you are never satisfied with your process can you be truly happy? As a young person I remember never feeling "good enough" to make my Dad happy. Now I know that was in my head, not his. Life lessons can take a life time to learn sometimes.

The ways we look at the journey are vital to happiness. Sure life has ups and downs, but if we turn challenges into projects and hard stuff and difficulties into opportunities then the path achieving the goal becomes the path to happiness.

Joy is different than happiness because it can't be earned. It comes to us through

God's Almighty grace. The joy of the Lord is my strength. Apostle Paul, wrote,

"I rejoice in the mystery that has been ages". Colossians kept hidden for 1:24,26,28.

On His final night, Jesus said to his disciples, "These things have I spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full". John 15:11

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace". Romans 15:13

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22

Self-accepting people are joyful people, accept: your body, mind, mistakes, emotions, personality. Help others reach their full potential-"Catch" them doing something right!

So go my friends and experience true Christmas Joy and happiness and spread that same good cheer amongst all our brothers and sisters!

Merry Christmas; In Christ's Joy,

Rhonda Harman



Infant Formula Program

We are still providing formula donations for many mothers. The visiting nurse distributes formula, if needed, at the end of each month. If you able, Cash donations would be welcomed and much appreciated. Please, designate for Infant Formula Fund on check or envelope.

Atonement 2016 Proposed Budget ... by Dick Kilbride

			2015 <u>Budget</u>	oposed 2016 Budget
INCOME	Offerings Grants Room Use & Event Fees	\$	181,800 11,700 27,600	\$ 198,200 11,700 24,000
	Total	<u>\$</u>	221,100	\$ 237,900
EXPENSES	Pastoral Compensation Pastoral Benefits Pastoral Expenses Staff Compensation & Expenses Staff Benefits Staff Payroll Cost	\$	70,589 33,221 3,860 45,600 360 7,000	\$ 73,338 31,733 3,349 47,800 - 8,000
	Worship & Music		2,375	3,775
	Education		1,500	2,450
	Youth		650	650
	Outreach & Hospitality		1,580	1,530
	Social Ministry		2,000	2,300
	Stewardship		1,425	1,425
	Health Ministry		600	600
	Parish Life		1,350	4,880
	ELC Mission Support		6,000	6,000
	General & Administrative		11,425	11,425
	Facility Expenses		24,325	28,965
	Insurance		8,200	9,600
	Total	4	220,060	\$ 237,900
	Net	\$	(960.00)	\$ -0-

WELCA Meeting ... by Jean Amundson



 ${\cal T}$ his year, the Leader's Guide is included in the WELCA magazine, "Gather,". Our next meeting is on Wednesday December 16^{th} .

The goals for the new session are as follows:

- 1. To gain a sense of biblical time and God's gift of grace that unfolds over that time.
- 2. To share personal stories and to deepen relationships.
- 3. To cultivate a few new study practices, including "divine reading" (more on this later!).

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Ponderings from the President ... By Susan Painter

Long before the Halloween trick-ortreaters set forth on their soggy adventures, and certainly before Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving, the puffing and promotions began in the stores: tinsel and toys, eggnog and elves, snowmen and santas. Christmas is pressed upon us sooner and sooner each year. What is most distressing about this early and unwanted imposition, however, is that it isn't really CHRISTMAS all around us, but COMMERCE.

The "deals" are promoted. The "great sales" are in the air. Hours to shop are longer, prices are "slashed," and urgency shouted from the stores: "*Only* XX days until Christmas!"

As I watched artificial decorations hung on a plastic tree in a nearby shopping center, just a few days into November, I realized why this season is often full of distress and depression: we are deluged with all the wrong "things" and for all the wrong "reasons." People camp out – yes, camp! – in parking lots so they can be first through the doors for "black Friday" ... to buy **things**, when others sleep in the streets, because they have no home to call their own. Where is the memory of the One who was born in a stable? Where is the real meaning of the season?

Instead of letting frustration and fury take over, I decided to look for small acts of kindness and generosity that embody the real Christmas:

 The local packaging store that wrapped a box and then suggested the customer mail it at the post office, because it would be less expensive;

- The host at a restaurant who rushed to open the door for us when the windy weather made it hard to move;
- The technician at the furnace company who walked us through a "glitch" in our system instead of coming out and charging for a service call;
- The people of Paris who opened their homes to strangers fleeing the terrorists.

As Pastor Ed reminded us on Christ the King Sunday, let us welcome the blessed season of the Christ Child. Let us focus this Advent on

- the widow who dropped her only remaining coin into the offering basket;
- the father who forgave and celebrated when his prodigal son returned;
- the good Samaritan who stopped to help instead of continuing on his way;
- and of course, the Christ who, from the cross, offered forgiveness.

May we celebrate this holiday with true gifts of joy and gratitude for the birth of the King who came to dwell among us.





Property Committee ... by Mary Lou Mate

Room Rental

Our church facilities/rooms on the lower level are available for rent...short term events (parties, meetings, weddings) or long term (weekly or monthly) if needed. Please, check with our office for available dates and time.

Phone# 541-265-2554 E-mail: office@atonementlutheran.com



Library Committee ... by Jerryann Olson



Readings for Advent—check out our church library display!

Come, Lord Jesus by Susan Briehl

...is a small devotional book for this season of preparation for Christmas. The author says that one should adapt the suggestions given to their own pattern of life. Each day of Advent includes the stanzas of a well known hymn.

Watch For The Light — collection of brief essays

...by a wide range of classic and contemporary authors including Thomas Aquinas to Annie Dillard, Martin Luther to Sylvia Plath.

The Jesse Tree by Raymond & Georgene Anderson

...the opening sentence asks: "Would you like something unique for Advent? Then you will want a Jesse Tree." It proceeds to explain what is a Jesse Tree and how to make one using symbols of Advent.

Approaching Christmas by Joyce Huggett

...are meditations to help us to be still, to focus on the meaning of Christmas.









December 2015



		DUU		LUIJ		_
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2:00pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel Choir World Aids Day	4:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Service	8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails	First Friday Brunch Cancelled 12-7:30pm Photo Session (FH)	8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (FH) 9-4:00pm Photo Session (FH)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00am Worship 9-12 Blood Pressure	Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study	2:00pm Staff Mtg	4:00pm Confirma- tion	8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails		8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (Ed Rm)
11:00am Worship 12:30pm Ed Mtg	5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH)	5:30pm Social Ministry Mtg	4:00pm Finance 5:30pm HMT	12-5pm OCQG Mtg /Potluck (FH)	tluman Rights	10:00am Christmas Tree Setup
	6:30pm Parish Life **Pearl Harbor Day**	7:30pm Chancel	7:00pm Advent Service	**Human Rights Day**		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00am Worship 9:30am Christmas Tree Trimming	Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study	2:00pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Early Risers	12:00pm WELCA Xmas Luncheon	8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish		8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (FH)
	5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 6:00pm Property	7:30pm Chancel Choir	4:00pm Confirma- tion 7:00pm Advent Service	Tails		
11:00am Worship	озоории гторенту	Bill of Rights Day	8:00pm Council			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:00am Worship 9:30am Sunday Sch 11:00am Worship 12:15pm 50 th Anni- versary Mtg	Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study	WAVES Deadline 2:00pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel		7:00pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service	Christmas	8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (FH)
	5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH)				25	
	Humbug Day	Choir		270 001 7100		
27	28	29	30	31		
10:00am Worship	Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study	2:00pm Staff Mtg		8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails		
	5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephens	6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel Choir		New Year's Eve		







Makin' Waves December 2015

Altar Guild

Marian Brown



Worship

10:00 a.m.

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Worship Page

Readers

Deb Christensen

8:00 a.m. Rhonda Harman Marian Brown Marian Brown Donna White 11:00 a.m. Deb Christensen Marian Brown Carla Johnsen Marian Brown Tami Johnson 13 8:00 a.m. Dan Elbert Tami Johnson Bette Harmon 11:00 a.m. Jerryann Olson Jean Amundson Marian Brown 20 8:00 a.m. Jerryann Olson Terri Homer Lois Greenwood 11:00 a.m.





Marilyn Day	12/2
Taylor Johnson	12/4
Tracy Goudy	12/12
Shannon White	12/9
Susan Painter	12/11
Meredith Mann	12/25



26 Tom & Jean Hamilton



- Terri McCully Susan & John Painter 13
- 20 Deb Christensen
- 27 Jean & Tom Hamilton



Musicians

Tami Johnson

- 6 Pete Amundson & Paul Stangeland
- Paul Stangeland & Terri Homer
- 20 Terri Homer & Pete Kraack
- 27 Pete Kraack & Peggy Gilman



Social Ministry Committee

Food for Food Share Program ... by Terri McCulley





for all the support we have received for this program. Anything is welcome and helpful, but this month we will focus on **Stews & Soups** to try to "fill the barrel" again.

Stone Soup ... December 28th

 \mathcal{W} e host the Stone Soup Kitchen at St. Stephens Church, for those who need a meal. If you are able to help, there will be a sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the Narthex (usually by 3rd week of the month).



Mark your calendars for December 2, 2015, as Georgie's Beachside Grill hosts Dine out for Samaritan House donating 15% of the days proceeds to the homeless family shelter.

A great way to ring in the holidays! Rose Davies Volunteer, Samaritan House





Reminder...



Website Calendar

We have a separate calendar on our website. It includes all activities on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. It will be updated with changes or added activities as it is scheduled. website: http://www.atonementlutheran.com



Monthly Setup/Cleanup/Snacks... Please sign up on any open dates. Sign-up sheet located on bulletin board... We appreciate your time and effort!

Flower Chart Signup... Providing flowers is a great way to remember birthdays, anniversaries and special events.



Phone: 541-265-2554 Fax: 541-265-2571

Email: Office@atonementlutheran.com

Return Services Requested



Reaching Out with God's

Reminder...



One Service Sunday
December 27th





Fill our Food Barrel
This Month: Stews
& Soups