



Makin'

WAVES

Atonement Lutheran Church

2315 N. Coast Hwy - Newport, OR 97365
541.265.2554 - www.atonementlutheran.com

February 2017



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Office Hours

10:00am – 3:00pm

Tuesday thru Friday



February 12th is Library Sunday, at 9:30am. We are having games, refreshments and a presentation on library history.

Atonement has an exceptionally nice library, well stocked and well maintained, with a wide variety of books on many topics. If you are new to our congregation, or haven't browsed for a while, please take time to do so. *See you There!*



Congratulations to All for the Positive Momentum

Our Community of Atonement Lutheran Church had a wonderful year.

Have you noticed:

- All our wonderful new members
- The noise, activity and happy smiles on small children's faces
- Our community outreach – feeding & reading to more & more
- The Grand Celebration of our 50th Anniversary
- The progress on our Signage Renovation
- Wonderful Musical Celebrations every Sunday

Did you note:

- Our successful Stewardship Campaign
- All of our Dedicated Fund buckets are filled
- Our Capital Reserve Fund has surpassed our required bottom line of \$50K
- All this and we surpassed Budget Projections

NOW THAT'S SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT...YAHOO!

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

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.





Income/Expense Snapshot...Atonement Lutheran Church ~ December 2016

General Fund	Current Year		Previous Year	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
INCOME				
Members Offerings	\$196,568	\$198,200	\$194,334	\$181,800
Grants	\$4,768	\$4,000	\$4,900	\$0
Room Rents	\$7,845	\$11,700	\$11,625	\$11,700
Capital Fund Transfer	\$15,000	\$24,000	\$16,782	\$27,600
Total Income	\$224,181	\$237,900	\$227,641	\$221,100
EXPENSES				
Pastoral Compensation	\$74,118	\$73,338	\$70,588	\$70,589
Pastoral Benefits	\$32,556	\$31,733	\$29,035	\$33,221
Pastoral Expenses	\$2,635	\$3,349	\$3,788	\$3,860
Staff Compensation	\$37,265	\$47,880	\$39,553	\$45,600
Staff Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$360
Staff Payroll Cost	\$5,810	\$8,000	\$5,994	\$7,000
Worship & Music	\$3,340	\$3,775	\$1,564	\$2,375
Education	\$1,369	\$2,450	\$343	\$1,500
Youth	\$115	\$650	-\$1,231	\$650
Outreach/Hospitality	\$958	\$1,530	\$1,011	\$1,580
Social Ministry	\$1,828	\$2,300	\$1,470	\$2,000
Stewardship	\$347	\$1,425	\$64	\$1,425
Health Ministry	\$0	\$600	-\$50	\$600
Parish Life	\$3,817	\$4,880	\$1,146	\$1,350
ELCA Mission Support	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
General/Administrative	\$10,877	\$11,425	\$10,443	\$11,425
Facility Expenses	\$25,762	\$28,965	\$21,526	\$24,325
Insurance	\$9,593	\$9,600	\$9,698	\$8,200
Total Expense	\$216,890	\$237,900	\$200,942	\$222,060
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	<u>\$7,291</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$26,699</u>	<u>(\$960)</u>

Endowment Account	Monthly Activity	Investment Account	General Endow	Scholarship	Memorial Gardens	Organ Upkeep
Balance @ 11/30/2016		\$75,341	\$29,516	\$22,910	\$8,451	\$14,464
December		\$400	\$157	\$122	\$44	\$77
Balance @ 12/31/2016		\$75,741	\$29,673	\$23,032	\$8,495	\$14,541

Capital Fund			
BANK ACCT BALANCE @ 1/1/2016			\$52,172
INCOME	\$100,770		
EXPENSES		\$91,071	
BALANCE @ 12/31/2016			\$61,871



Prayer & Bible Study

Please join us on Mondays each week for prayer /meditation and bible study. 5:30-7:00pm in Narthex



From the Pastor ...

Pastor Ed Milliken



Dear Friends in Christ,

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6,8)

"Beloved, let us love one another for love is from God. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loves us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 7:7, 9-10)

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 3:3, 39)

For this February newsletter, I offer these passages to you – a Valentine from your God. They are taken from the long love letter that God has written to us which we call the Bible. From cover to cover this book tells the story of God's love for us, his wayward children, and details how God has acted to woo us back into relationship with him. If there is one thing that God would have you know about him it is this: God is love and God is completely passionately, irrationally head over heels in love with you!

Need more proof: Read the Song of Solomon in the Old Testament (sometimes

called the Song of Songs). This book, which should be labeled, "For Adults Only," is an extended love poem in which God drinks in the people he loves from head to toe, as a newly married husband does his bride. He admires her hair, her eyes, her mouth, her neck, her breasts, her belly, her thighs, her ankles. He says to her, "You have made my heart beat faster, my bride. You have ravished my heart with the glance of your eyes. How much better is your love than wine" (Song of Solomon 4:9-10). God's love is passionate!

Or how about Hosea? This book centers on a love relationship that has gone sour. God's people have been unfaithful. They have been lured away by the fertility religion of the Caananites and their temple prostitutes. As an example to his people, God tells the prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute, which he does. But Gomer, his wife, is not content to stay home with one man but instead chooses to continue to "sleep around." Time and time again, God tells Hosea to go and bring her back, much to the derision of his friends and neighbors. How wasteful this love seems – loving when it isn't returned. And yet, this is God's love for us. To we, unfaithful people, God says, "Therefore I will now allure her and bring her back and speak tenderly to her. On that day you will call me, 'My Husband,' and I will take you as my wife forever and you shall know the Lord" Hosea 49:16). God's love is tenacious! All lovers seem to pick out a special name for their beloved as a sign of intimacy. God is no exception. He calls us, "the

(continued on page 4)



Adult Forum News ... by Pastor Ed

In February we will conclude our discussion of the video "Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today," featuring Dr. Walter Brueggeman. The final session will be on February 5th and is entitled, "On Not Doing God Any Favors."

There will be no Adult Forum on Sunday, February 12th. We will instead celebrate "Library Sunday" on that day.

On February 19th a class on "Blood Minerals" led by Rick Letherer will begin. He writes of this class: *The scandal regarding the illegal and exploitive sale of "Blood Diamonds" is rather well known throughout the world. This problem has been addressed, and though not entirely eradicated, significantly reduced by the importers of diamonds.*

Much less known is the similar economic rape of "Blood Minerals" from all of Africa and especially from the Republic of the Congo. Rare earth minerals used in military defense, cell phone, computers, and other electronic devices are creating economic and social chaos as importers continue to exploit Africa to plunder its treasures of natural resources.

The documentary discussing this serious problem seeks to raise public awareness in hopes that the public will again use their power of economic boycott to squelch this dilemma of death in Africa.



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

apple of his eye." And like any lover, God whispers "sweet nothings" in our ear, saying, "I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1) and "I have carved you in the palm of my hand, even if a mother forgets her child I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:16). God's love is tender!

Story after story could be told showing the wonderful, amazing, unconditional love that our God has for us, but I am running out of space. The bottom line is this: God is head over heels, insanely in love with us, with you, with me, with all people. So...what are you gonna do with a crazy God like that? I don't know about you...but I think I'll let her have her way with me!

Pastor Ed Milliken



Souper Bowl of Caring ... by Pastor Ed

Once again this year, Atonement will join thousands of congregations in raising money for hunger in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." On Sunday February 5th, Super Bowl Sunday, a soup kettle will be placed in the narthex and you will be invited to make a donation. All funds received will go to the Newport Food Pantry. *Thank you for your generosity!*



Black History Month? Who Cares? ... by Rick Letherer

February is black history month here in the USA. In Newport and at Atonement, weeks can go by and we won't see a single black person. Why should we care to acknowledge yet another seemingly irrelevant event?

The well being of the black American population and its effect on crime and community stability is a viable topic for another time. The focus of this article is to discuss the relevancy of Africans to our world. Many well-meaning Americans feel that we should only help our own here in the USA and desist or decrease foreign aid. There are several reasons that this approach is short sighted and dangerous.

1. We live in a global economy and a global community. Most of the essential minerals in our cell phones, computers, and electronics come from Africa. With the rapid import and export of people in air traffic, the diseases and unrest fomented abroad are rapidly brought to our doorstep. Even if we don't care about the well being of those we cannot see, helping Africans in their interminable struggle with disease and poverty prevents the ramifications from showing up on our doorstep. Remember the African Ebola epidemic? Remember the worldwide response?
2. The level of poverty and pestilence in Africa enormously surpasses what we see here in the USA. For Africans lucky enough to have a job, the average daily wage is \$2.00 US. Unemployment can easily exceed 50%. Global warming exacerbates drought that devastates crop production. One third of the people in East Africa have aids, and

have no access to any treatment. Millions are without any fresh water; entire wards in hospitals are devoted to treating dysentery and cholera acquired from drinking fetid water. More than 50,000 people die annually, mostly children, because they have no access to clean water, sanitation, or hospitals. Malaria, a treatable, preventable disease, continues to kill thousands every year ... children are the most susceptible to death; 90% of all malaria deaths in the world are in sub-Saharan Africa. Disease and hunger are extreme and lethal.

3. As Christians we have a higher calling to eliminate suffering even for those we may never meet. The ELCA in Tanzania alone has 6.5 million Lutheran members in Africa, and is growing rapidly. There are only 3.5 million of us Lutherans here in the USA. (Living Lutheran magazine July 2016, pg. 14) The church in Africa is growing primarily because of its strong emphasis on social outreach and ministry to the basic needs of its congregants. God is alive and well in Africa!

What can we do to improve the lives of African people?

1. Support Lutheran World relief (Google their website, lwr.org, or click on the Atonement page link for contact info and to make donations). This mostly silent but potent arm of the Lutheran church disseminates vast amounts of goodwill worldwide. They donate livestock, fresh water, and medical supplies. They don't advertise much to save money for the people who need it most.

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WELCA News... by Jean Amundson

All women are invited to the fellowship and Bible study group called WELCA (Women of the ELCA) every third Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm.

The study guide is in the WELCA magazine, which is named "Gather (for Faith and Action)". Copies will also be available at the meeting.

There are always some delicious goodies and fellowship at WELCA meetings. Invite a friend or two—WELCA should really be called "Welcome"!



A Note of Deep Gratitude

We sincerely thank our Atonement family for the many cards, prayers, blessings, food, visits and other expressions of love during John's recent illness, death and celebrations. We thank, especially:

- ◆ Tami and the Chancel Choir for providing the special music, "You are Mine," at John's Service of Memory and Music;
- ◆ The Women of Atonement, for organizing and hosting a social time following the Service;
- ◆ Raynette, for her extra efforts to make the bulletin just perfect;
- ◆ Bruce and Mary Lou who opened their home for a final evening toast to John;
- ◆ And, of course, Pastor Ed for guiding us through the painful and complex details of the graveside service and memorial celebration.

We are nurtured and strengthened by your gifts.

Susan Elizabeth Painter and John's extended family

Black History Month ... continued from page 5

2. Pray this month in February for: 1) the children suffering in Africa, 2) the clergy fighting for the lives of their parishioners, and 3) the volunteers making a difference every day; include a prayer of gratitude for our bounty of blessings here in the USA that we take for granted. Don't be ashamed of your good fortunes ... share it with those in need! Jesus loves good Samaritans.
3. Support governmental aid to Africa. The USA is currently near the bottom of the top ten foreign governments providing aid to Africa. I cringe to guess what may happen to foreign aid in the new administration.
4. Buy fair-trade African made products. Look for and patronize the fair-trade labels. The Etsy website is a starting place for African merchandise.
5. Read a book about African history, watch an African movie (I recommend Hotel Rwanda), or participate in some other African American community activity this month ...have a heart for Africa!

Asante Sana rafiki! (Thank you Friend, in Swahili)





Ponderings from the President ... by Susan Painter

Little by Little



“Little by little we’ll go
No matter how far the distance is we’ll not
be shaken.

Little by little we’ll go and reach our desti-
nation.

Little by little we’ll go
No matter how bumpy or rocky the road
is we’ll not turn back.

But little by little we’ll go and fulfill our
dreams.

Little by little we’ll go
No matter how narrow the path is we’ll
force ourselves to pass.
And little by little we’ll go and achieve our
goals.

Don’t be shaken. Don’t turn back.
Little by little you’ll go and reach your
destination.”

Joyce Chisale, the young woman who wrote this poem, is in her second year of high school in Malawi in East Africa. Her father was too poor to pay her school fees [at \$200 a year for tuition, room and board, the highest in her country], so she worried she could no longer follow her dream to become a doctor – and a poet. But the KIND¹ fund, which offers desks and aid to needy young students, provided the money for her. Television reporter Lawrence O’Donnell told her story to the world, broadcasting Joyce reciting this poem on his MSNBC program a few weeks ago.

This young woman’s determination – despite her desperate circumstances – gives us all a ray of hope in this season of darkness, anxiety and suspicion. She reminds us that change begins with a single step; that one act of kindness may open a world; that a moment of love can triumph

over hate.

If we look, we can find these little moments in other recent stories.

In Portland, Natasha Digges wrote a letter titled, “To the Person Who Broke into Our Home.”² There, she speaks to an unknown intruder who tramped through her house, upending boxes, taking jewelry, her grandmother’s locket, a laptop, and other things. Instead of vengeance, she offers hope: “I hope they help you... I hope you recognize people will care for you without breaking into their homes.” Astonishingly, she suggests the next time the burglar should knock on her door when she is home from her job as a teaching assistant: “Give us the chance to invite you in. Give us the chance to help, before you need to take. You are a part of my community...Give me the chance to have a say in what I can do.”

Across the country, in Fayetteville, N.C., an elderly white Trump voter assaulted a young black protester at a campaign rally. When they met in court months later, the older man faced criminal charges. Instead of arrogance and hostility, he offered regret: “We got caught up in a political mess...and you and me, we got to heal our country.” And the younger one, despite a fear that had hovered over him since the incident, offered his hand. The two men embraced. After the elder was put on probation, he turned again to the man he had wronged: “We’ve got to stick together,” he said quietly, “We can’t let them come between us.”³

And so, we remember that Christ’s ministry was also little by little. One disciple chosen at a time. One woman healed

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Vessel of God ... by Rhonda Harman

Christmas has come and gone and here we are again looking at a brand New Year! Happy New Year to one and all and may God continue to bless you with joy, laughter, peace, grace and love! Yes, all things are possible to those who believe in Christ! "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13.

Do you really believe this? I wonder sometimes if we talk about things too much and do not do enough. Remember Norman Vincent Peale? In Guideposts this month, a descriptive sign at their headquarters reads, "People Helping People". Now that is inspirational isn't it? Nike has an inspiration, "Just do it!". Here is another one. If you think you can or you think you can't, you are right. The Power of Positive Thinking sold 20 million copies since 1952. He said, "there was more than 3,000 years' worth of wisdom in my book, and I assure you, that wisdom didn't originate with me. I was just a vessel for it." We all have gifts to share and God uses us as much as we are willing to just do it! Have you heard the joke about the man who drowns?

Once upon a time there was a man that lived by the river. He heard a radio report that the river was going to rush up and flood the town. The report said that the whole town should evacuate immediately. But the man said, "I'm religious, I pray. God loves me. God will save me." But the waters began to rise. A man in a rowing boat came along and he shouted. 'Hey! Hey you! You up there. The town is flooding. I can take you to safety.' But the man shouted back: "I'm religious, I pray. God loves me. God will save me." A helicopter came hovering overhead. A guy with a megaphone shouted. 'Hey! You there! The town is fully flooded. Let me drop down a ladder and I will help you to safety.' But the man shouted back that he was religious, that he prayed, that God loved him and that God would take him to safety. The man then drowned. When he got to the pearly gates of St Peter, he demanded an audience with God. 'Lord,' he said, 'I'm a religious man, I pray. I thought you loved me. Why did this happen?' God said, 'I sent you a radio report, a helicopter, and a guy in a rowing boat. What on earth are you doing here?'



Ponderings from the President ... (continues from page 7)

at a time. One man forgiven at a time. And ultimately, one single, sacrifice of His Life for us all.

Little by little, we gain strength by the hope and promise of light:
 "The people which sat in darkness saw great light;
 And to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."⁴

¹ The acronym stands for Kids in Need of Desks. Part of the US Fund for UNICEF, it provides desks and chairs for children in Malawi, a country in which 70% of schools have neither piece of furniture.

² *The Oregonian* November 16, 2016, Letters to the Editor.

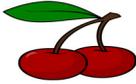
³ Excerpted from *The Washington Post* in *This Week* January 13, 2017 p 40.

⁴ Matt 4: 16.



February 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Black History Month 	 National Cherry Month	American Heart Month 	1	2 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails Groundhog Day	3 12:00pm First Friday Brunch @ 10-7pm Red Cross Blood Drive 	4 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (Ed Rm)
5 8:00am Worship 9-12pm Blood Pressure 9:30am Adult Forum Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Ed Mtg Super Bowl	6 Office Closed 5:30pm Prayer/Bible Study 6:30pm Parish Life	7 2:00pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8 Kite Flying Day!! 4:00pm Finance 5:30pm HMT	9 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails 11-5pm OCQG Mtg (FH)	10	11 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (Ed Rm) Make a Friend Day
12 8:00am Worship 9:30am Library Sunday 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Worship/Music Mtg	13 Office Closed 9:30am Property Clean out your Computer Day 5:30pm Prayer/Bible Study	14  Valentine's Day 2:00pm Staff Mtg 5:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel	15 12:30pm WELCA 7:00pm Council	16 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day 	18 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (Ed Rm)
19 8:00am Worship 9:30am Adult Forum Sunday School 11:00am Worship	20 Office Closed 9-12pm Work Party  President's Day 5:30pm Prayer/Bible Study	21 WAVES Deadline 2:00pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel	22 Walking the Dog Day 	23 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails 5:00pm Randy's Feed & Read	24	25 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg ((Ed Rm)
26 8:00am Worship 9:30am Adult Forum Sunday School 11:00am Worship	27 Office Closed 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephens 5:30pm Prayer/Bible Study	28 2:00pm Staff Mtg National Tooth Fairy Day 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel Choir		Great American Pie Month 		National Children's Dental Health Month 





Worship Page

Worship

Readers

Altar Guild

Musicians

5	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Paul Amundson Donna White	MaryLou Mate Lois Greenwood	Jerryann Olson Jerryann Olson
12	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Rhonda Harman Terri Homer	MaryLou Mate Bette Harmon	Marian Brown Marian Brown
19	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jean Amundson Dan Elbert	Marian Brown Marian Brown	Tami Johnson Tami Johnson
26	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	_____ Deb Christensen	Peggy Gilman Lois Greenwood	Marian Brown Marian Brown



Lucy Milliken	2/1
Dick Tyler	2/9
Lois Greenwood	2/10
Dan Roumagoux	2/10
Lorinda White	2/12
Peggy Gilman	2/16
Sana Banks	2/18
Paul Amundson	2/21
Kathy Elbert	2/20



5	Marian Brown
12	Lucinda White (Birthday)
19	Paul & Jean Amundson (Marly's Birthday)
26	_____



5	Pete Kraack & Bob Olson
12	Peggy Gilman & Dan Elbert
19	Dan Elbert & Bob Olson
26	Peggy Gilman & Paul Stangeland



Social Ministry

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: **Canned Meats**

Stone Soup ... by Sally Jennings



Volunteers from Atonement serve Stone Soup at St. Stephens Episcopal Church on the fourth Monday of each month. Our next Stone Soup meal is Monday, February 27th. Help is needed preparing the food at St. Stephens beginning at 3:00pm. If you would like to serve and help with clean up, please arrive by 5:15pm. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to volunteer at our monthly meal. Please tell Dee Waldo or Sally Jennings if you would like to volunteer at Stone Soup.

Randy's Feed and Read ... by Sally Jennings



Our next Randy's Feed & Read Family Night Out will be on Thursday, February 23rd, in our Fellowship Hall. On the 4th Thursday of every month during the school year, we do crafts, serve a healthy meal, and do reading activities with families who are referred by the school district's Homeless Education & Literacy Project (HELP) and families who live at Samaritan House. You are invited to help make our monthly event a success. Cooking and event preparation begins at 3pm. Help is needed with sign ins, transportation and crafts starting at 5:15pm. Dinner is served at 6pm and kitchen clean up follows. After dinner, reading volunteers are needed to read with the children.

God's work our hands!

Red Cross Blood Drive ~ February 3rd ... by Terri McCully



Please sign up on the website if you can donate blood. Please contact Terri McCulley, if you are able to help people check in or work in the canteen.

Also, Atonement is known for providing yummy treats. If you can donate any treat, again, please contact Terri McCully. Thank you.



Mark your calendar... Wednesday, February 1, 2017, Kum Yon Restaurant in Newport will host Dine Out for Samaritan House donating 15% of the days proceeds to the homeless family shelter. *See You There!*

Rose Davies
Volunteer
Samaritan House Homeless Shelter



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
2315 NORTH COAST HIGHWAY
NEWPORT OR 97365-1710

Phone: 541-265-2554
Fax: 541-265-2571
Email: Office@atonementlutheran.com

Return Services Requested



Reaching Out with God's

Reminder...

**Audio
Worship Services
& Calendar
on website**



Food Pantry

**Fill our Food Barrel
This Month: Canned
Meats**