Makin' Waves

Atonement Lutheran Church
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May 2014

Office Hours

10:00am – 3:00pm

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Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 2014
Potluck at Noon, Meeting Follows
Agenda: Financial Report
Strategic Planning Review
Report from Committees
Elections

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.

2014 Oregon Synod Assembly

The Oregon Synod Assembly will meet at the Red Lion in Portland on May 16-18. The theme this year is "Responding to God's Call, Equipped to Lead." In addition to the formal business of the assembly, this year's focus will be on equipping leaders to support vital and vibrant congregations in carrying out God's mission in our local communities. Paul and Ann Stangeland and Pastor Ed will represent Atonement at this assembly.

Strategic Planning and Stewardship

by Linda Kilbride

The first annual review of the Strategic Plan will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Be sure to mark your calendars and be present to hear the results. You'll be surprised at how much has been accomplished this year!

Endowment/Planned Giving...by Linda Kilbride

The Endowment and Planned Giving Committees have joined forces to provide a more comprehensive focus on estate planning as a service for our congregation. Members who have volunteered for this committee are: Bruce Mate, Dan Roumagoux, Dan Elbert, Dick Tyler, Dick Kilbride, Paul Stangeland, Pete Kraack, Walt Duvall, Pastor Ed, and Linda Kilbride. Our mission statement and focus is to "Discover and honor the donor's intent!"

The business of estate planning can be a little daunting to most and one of the issues is the complexity of the language used. Our committee is working to review and agree on guidelines, gift agreements and terms, and terminology. We plan to offer periodic presentations, update brochures and use the church bulletin boards to draw attention to giving options available to members and friends of Atonement.

And, check out previous issues of WAVES (January through April) for more information.

Find The Good News and Praise It

- Kelsi Amanda Buswell (Olga Buswell's granddaughter) will be graduating from George Fox University on May 3, 2014. She is a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Athletic Coaching.
- Michelle Johnson and Anna Herder are graduating from Pacific Lutheran University on May 24, 2014.
- *E-mail from visitor Jimmie Lucht:* We visited your church for the 8:00am service on Easter. What a warm, friendly and welcoming group your congregation is. Thanks for making our Easter so special! we have been humming the hymns all day.

  Also, there was a little lady sitting in front of us. Beautiful little woman, well dressed and of course an Easter hat on. She walked with a cane and was helped to Communion by the younger woman who sat with her. I tell you this because my wife says she wants to be just like that little lady when she \"grows up.\" During passing of the peace everyone hugged her, kissed her and she just shined all the time.

  We will come back to your church again the next time we come to Newport. Thanks for making our Easter special!

From the Pastor . . .

Pastor
Ed Milliken

Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of May finds us celebrating the great fifty days of Easter, continuing out proclamation that "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Christians consider Easter to be the "first day." From Easter comes the practice of worshiping on Sunday morning. It is the fist day of the week. It is also the "first day" of new creation, sometimes called the "eighth day" of the week, for on it Christ restored the image of God in the human and in so doing brought restoration and renewal to all of creation. The Easter season proceeds from and celebrates this "first day." In the resurrection Christ, there is time after the end, life after death, restoration of what was broken, the brightening of what had gone dark. In the fifty days of Easter, Christian communities around the world strive to worship God in a way that illustrates that the body of Christ now lives in the heavenly places and also in the gathered body in the world. Worship is where heaven and earth meet.

On the Second Sunday of Easter (April 27), Christ appears to the fearful disciples, hiding behind locked doors, and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the risen Christ in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and we are strengthened to live out our faith in our daily lives.

The gospel on the Third Sunday of Easter (May 4) begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel. Yet the risen Christ walks with them, and then opens their eyes in the breaking of bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured.

Sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday" the Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 11) presents Christ as the "gate" of the sheep. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war, and we go forth to be signs of the reconciliation and peace we find from him.

As we continue to celebrate the fifty day of Easter, the gospel of the Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 18) includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Strengthened by this hope we bear witness to Christ who is our way, our truth, and our life.

On the Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 25) Jesus promises us that he will not leave his followers orphaned, but though the Holy

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Adult Forum... by Pastor Ed Milliken

Following is a tentative schedule for the Adult Forums in May:

5/4 Rick Letherer Reporting about a recent trip he took to Africa.

5/11 "Coping Skills and Good Grief"

Everyone who loves experiences grief. Coping skills – which can be learned and practiced – are tools for living well. Those coping skills are used by each of us when we encounter difficult times (when bad things happen to good people). Using video clips, worksheets, lecture and discussion, Chaplain Brenda Wills will invite you to recognize your own good coping strategies and pick up a few new ones.

5/18 "The Four Things that Matter Most"

Ira Byoch, MD. Describes 11 words that are important for each of us to hear from the people we love, and say to the people we love, at the end of our lives. He tells compelling stories of his work in Missoula, Montana as an emergency room physician and with hospice patients. Entertaining and convincing, you may find 11 new words to use RIGHT NOW with the people you love. Chaplain Brenda Wills will share

WELCA Meeting ... by Pastor Ed

The WELCA group meets monthly for Bible study, fellowship, and treats. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 12:30pm in the narthex.

The Bible study this year is "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women."

All are welcome.

from the Pastor . . . *(continue from page 3)*

Spirit will come to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth and will guide and empower our lives of faith.

The great fifty days concludes on the Seventh Sunday of Easter (June 1). We gather with the disciples in the upper room where Christ prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid the religious, social, and economic divisions that plague our world, we pray for the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made on in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Join us in this great journey through the Easter season as we continue the celebration of our risen Lord.

Pastor Ed Milliken

Rhonda Harman ~ Director of Family Ministry

Family Ministry News

Up Close and Personal

Barry and Denise McPherson have blessed me with loving friendship for a good long time. They are associate members and regularly attend the early service holding down one of the rear pews with me.

Denise and I have been praying and working together since 2005. She is a trained Spiritual Director who studied at the Shalom Prayer Center in Mt. Angel, Oregon. Denise is a member of Spiritual Directors International and they meet in Corvallis monthly. Spiritual Direction is a monthly time commitment to work with a trained spiritual director. During this time the director will pursue personal spiritual growth starting wherever they find themselves on their particular path. Spiritual direction helps us to search ones' own soulful center on our walk and growth with God.

She is also the bookkeeper for a church in Waldport and yes, her plate is extremely full and often tends to run over.

Barry is retired from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He has several interesting and ongoing projects including working with commercial fishermen at sea. He serves as a volunteer Field Specialist with Amor Ministries. Barry recently returned from his annual two week, springtime ministry helping church groups build houses in Mexico.

This year, there were 6 different church groups who built 10 little houses in Tecate; 7 the first week and 3 more the second. The volunteer builders come from all over the map even one all the way from Atlanta, GA. They stay at the Amor Tent Camps close to the building sites. There were about 300 builders the first week, and 200 the second week. The various groups built around 3 dozen houses total. WOW!

Barry's drives one of the Amor Ministries pickup trucks to supervise from 3 to 10 building sites each trip. He has 3-5 people who are either retirees or college students helping him lead the church groups, each one assigned to a specific building site.

Thank you both, good and faithful servants.

Rhonda Harman

Please mark your calendars for May's Dine Out for Samaritan House on May 7th at Yummy Bowl Restaurant. Donating 20% of their proceeds and serving 11 am - 9:30 pm, Yummy Bowl lets you dine in, take out or receive delivery. Enjoy!

Thanks for your continued support,

Rose Davies ~ Volunteer, Samaritan House

Donna White ~ Director of Evangelism

Let There Be Light

This is a piece about darkness, lightness and change, and how the creation of a new narthex space has affected our church community. If you weren't here before our rebuild in 2004, you may have been shown where our former narthex was located in what is now the back area of our lengthened sanctuary. Solid wooden doors located on the east wall of that narrow space were the point of entry for worshippers. Because the choir loft was and still is above this area, the ceiling is lower there, which at that time created a dark, claustrophobic narthex space which reduced pre-service conversation dramatically and induced rapid entry into the sanctuary. Then as now, this lowered ceiling is ignored as people enter the sanctuary with eyes drawn upward by the soaring space, inviting our spirits to enter with reverence and peace. Though few of us would trade the pleasure of our present narthex for our previous one, certainly one can see the personal advantage of entering the sanctuary in a quiet, reverential manner so that our focus on worship is not interrupted.

One might suppose that lack of conversation space before worship would have enhanced the length of time spent together afterwards, and for many years this was the case. Previously a door, placed roughly where the door to our sound system room is now located, led to stairs either up to the choir loft or down to the lower level. The majority of our membership was younger then, making old bones and joints less of a discouraging factor to trips downstairs for coffee after church. As time passed, people moved away, new people joined, and the average age of church attendees grew. Normal variables continued as Pastors came and went and the extent of member commitment varied, but a gradual decrease in trips downstairs for coffee after services remained a constant. Our spirit of community began to suffer.

Then in 2003 when Pastor Mitch moved on, the amazing Pastor Keith Swenson became our new interim. Pastor Keith had been involved in the building of other churches; his advice and exquisite oversight were indispensable as work commenced on our new structure. He breathed new life into Atonement, fostering caring and commitment among the membership. For six of the eighteen months that Pastor Keith was with us, we moved out of our building, having Sunday services in the old Kingdom Hall which had been purchased by Steve and Marian Brown for the site of their new veterinary clinic. There was neither kitchen nor separate narthex there, simply a counter at the back of the large worship space. It was here where volunteers brought treats to share each week, and we once again experienced the joy of a large body of people stopping to connect with one another after services. In fact, then as now, one had to work their way through this crowd to exit the building! Unwittingly, we were being prepared.

Of course there will always be those who enter and leave church promptly, but let's face it. Entering or exiting this new narthex without having a conversation is trickier than it once was. Does this airy and light-filled, uplifting, communication encouraging space scare reticent people away? I hope not. Does it occasionally make us appear to be so deliriously happy that strangers might wonder why? There are probably those times. It is certainly an atmosphere which many church seekers have found inviting. What it does best of all is give us the opportunity to pay more attention to each other, and attempt to better minister to one another, whether member or friend. We are like a tapestry whose threads are interwoven to create a beautiful masterpiece, extraordinary in its ability to continually be in flux. New threads are always welcome; old threads mellow through the years. Understanding deepens, as does love for each single thread. It is forever a work in progress, never perfect, always seeking.

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Let there be light... *(continue from page 6)*

Jesus went through agony that we might know this greatest of all things, eternal life with the Father. Of COURSE we bubble with gratitude and joy! There are those who think we are just "so darned happy"(I quote), who equate solemnity with faithfulness, for whom too much pre or post worship communication must indicate a shallow faith. Some have tried to help us see the light before they left, but like stubborn children, we thought we were light enough! Loving us, they tried to help us understand, but I say, going to church with people you love and care about does not a weak faith make! In fact, I would say just the opposite. We encourage, stimulate, admire and emulate one another. We make each other better! The tapestry becomes richer and more complex.

How do you equate a low and dark space with a high and light space? The truth is, with difficulty. You do your best with whatever space you have; you may need different things at different times; but always, you are drawn to the light. In the old structure, the sanctuary was lighter than the narthex. Was this symbolism intended? In our rebuild, the opposite is true. This new narthex calls us in, no wonder we love being here! But those who equate our joy with lack of faith surely lack understanding, for we know that as Christians, we will forever seek the Light.

When Bishop Dave was our Pastor, wife Gretchen suggested we post a small sign to the right of the main sanctuary doors asking to keep the doors closed before worship, to enter in silence, and to not converse within the sanctuary before service in respect for both others and the space. Whether a sign is posted or not, Gretchen's idea was a good one. A less polite sign (which shall just remain between us) would read something like "When it is time for worship, quit talking or come in late." But then, coming in late would also be disruptive. Better just....

Yes, we do know there is a time to stop chatting and center ourselves for worship, and yes, we must confess that Pastor Ed has occasionally had to come to the doors and remind us, like naughty children, that it is time for church! We also know that our Saviour understands (as does our Pastor) that we suffer not from lack of faith, but from a great abundance of love.

As has always been the case, our sanctuary is a sacred space for everyone. As we enter from a very light rather than a darker narthex space, we may find ourselves more in need of that quiet exchange which takes place. It only takes a moment...one light for the Other... from airy ebullience to calming quietness. It is the Light which calls us to open our hearts and minds, the Light for which we long. It just takes a moment...only a moment...a moment....

So thanks for the suggestion, Gretchen, to remind us to quiet down and focus. A BIG thanks to interim Pastor Keith Swenson (before Dave), for educating us on the necessity for an upstairs coffee kitchen. Accolades to the fine, detail oriented minds on the building committee for this wonderful structure, and most of all, thanks to Pastor Ed, a man of kindness, compassion, integrity, understanding and attention to detail. Thanks also to both Ed and his wonderful wife Lucy, for their penchant for washing up the coffee kitchen when we're just too giddy to help ourselves, and picking up the pieces elsewhere as needed. You are gems. We needed you, and as always, you showed up.

How much has this light and airy narthex space affected us? I think more than any one could imagine. This new building will celebrate its tenth anniversary later this year. It just keeps getting better, and hopefully, so will we. Amen.

Donna White

*See a post script in June issue

Library Committee ... by Carol Baker

Book Review : The Art of Hearing Heartbeats ...by Jan-Phillipp Sendker

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats was purchased for our church library in memory of Suzanne Aiken, who was a very active member of our church and the book club. She also was a knowledgeable librarian and did most of the computer work required for an up-to-date library system. She helped us have wonderful discussions of the books we read and we miss her very much. We thought that Suzanne would probably enjoy this book, and we wish we could discuss it with her.

The book begins when Julia Win's father disappears one morning without a trace, the day after Julia graduates from law school. A few years later an un-mailed love letter is found written to a Burmese woman named Mi Mi.

Julia decides to solve the mystery and come to terms with her father's past, so she quits her job and goes to the village where Mi Mi once lived. She meets a man who claims to know her father and who seems to have an uncanny knowledge of Julia herself.

We end up learning about Julia's father's early life (which he never spoke of to Julia).

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats is a magical and uplifting tale of hardship and resilience, and the unyielding power of love.

Please check out the book. I bet you'll enjoy it.

Income/Expense Snapshot... Atonement Lutheran Church ~ March 2014

RECEIPTS	MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Member Giving	$ 15,091	$ 15,550	$ 45,594	$ 43,750
Other Receipts	$ 4,424	$ 2,888	$ 11,662	$ 10,650
Total Receipts	$ 19,515	$ 18,438	$ 57,256	$ 54,400
EXPENDITURES				
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Expenditures	$ 18,834	$ 19,961	$ 54,707	$ 59,162
2014 Net (Deficit)	$ 681	$ (1,523)	$ 2,549	$ (4,762)
Prior Year Carryforward			$ (8,123)	
Year-to-Date Net (Deficit)			$ (5,574)	

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	National Bike Month	Mental Health Awareness Month		1 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails May Day	2 12:00pm 1st Friday Brunch at Fish Tails	3 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (FH)
4 8:00am Worship 9-12pm Blood Pressure 9:30am Adult Forum 9:30am Ed Mtg 11:00am Worship/ Sunday School 12:00pm Cinco de Mayo Potluck	5 Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study 5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 6:15pm Parish Life Outreach	6 2:00pm Staff Mtg 5:30pm Social Ministry 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel Choir National Teacher's Day	7	8 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails 12-5:00pm OCQG (FH)	9	10 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (YRm) 8-5pm OCQG Workshop (FH)
11 Mother's Day 8:00am Worship 9:30am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship/ Sunday School	12 Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study 5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 7:00pm Property	13 2:00pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Early Risers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	14 4:00pm Finance 7:30pm HMT	15 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails	16 6:00pm –8:30pm Game Night	17 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (FH) Armed Forces Day
18 8:00am Worship 9:30am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship/ Sunday School 12:00pm Congre-gational Meeting/	19 Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study 5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH)	20 *WAVES* **Deadline** 2:00pm Staff Mtg 7:30pm Chancel Choir	21 12:30pm WELCA 7:00pm Council	22 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Fish Tails 5:00pm Randy's Feed & Read	23	24 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (FH)
25 8:00am Worship 9:30am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship/ Sunday School	26 Office Closed 1:00pm Prayer/ Bible Study 5-7:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 5:00pm Stone Soup at St Stephens Memorial Day	27 2:00pm Staff Mtg 7:30pm Chancel Choir	28 9:30am Library Committee	29	30	31 8:00-11:30am Weight Watchers Mtg (FH)

Worship Page

Worship	Readers	Altar Guild	Musicians
4 8:00 a.m.	Carla Johnsen	MaryLou Mate	Jerryann Olson
11:00 a.m.	Kathy Elbert	Marian Brown	Jerryann Olson
11 8:00 a.m.	Dick Tyler	Marian Brown	Tami Johnson
11:00 a.m.	Bette Harmon	Lin Lindly	Tami Johnson
18 8:00 a.m.	_____	Alice McClellan	Jerryann Olson
11:00 a.m.	_____	Yon Bowers	Jerryann Olson
25 8:00 a.m.	_____	Marian Brown	Marian Brown
11:00 a.m.	_____	Marian Brown	Marian Brown

Bob Olson	5/4	Tim Miller-Morgan	5/20
James Ezzell	5/5	Lily Phelps	5/20
Tom Hamilton	5/5	Margaret Harris	5/24
Reuben Johnsen	5/7	Tami Johnson	5/25
Laura Swanson	5/9	Anne Swinehart	5/25
Helen Ezzell	5/11	Roger Snelling	5/28
Austin Job	5/13	Megan Milliken	5/29
Carol Baker	5/19	Carlton Olson	5/30

30 Dick & Linda Kilbride

4 Paul & Jean Amundson
11 Marian Brown
18 Dan & Kathy Elbert
25 Linda Kilbride

4 John Stern & Linda Kilbride
11 Linda Kilbride & Bob Olson
18 Bob Olson & Terri Homer
25 Terri Homer & Paul Admundson

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 ***Soups*** to try to "fill the barrel" again.

A Night of Fun and Games...by Sally Jennings

You are invited to Game Night on Friday, May 16th, from 6:00 until 8:30 P.M., in our Fellowship Hall. Social Ministry Committee will provide a variety of board games and card games, as well as beverages and lots of tasty snacks. Everyone in our congregation is encouraged to join in for an evening of fellowship and fun. So, put your game face on, and we'll see you on the 16th!

for Help with Easter Food Baskets...by Sally Jennings

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make Easter Food Baskets possible. Because of your generous donations of food, money and your time, the people of Atonement were able to provide all the fixings for Easter dinner for 19 local families in need.

Our shopping crew purchased a boneless ham, salad bag, mini carrots, dinner rolls, bread, butter, a dozen eggs, strawberries and a pie for each family. Volunteers met on Good Friday, at 1:00, to fill 19 boxes with the donated food staples and fresh food. Additional volunteers from our congregation helped deliver a food box to each family on our list.

Families were so grateful to receive this abundance of food. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. God's work, our hands!

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Return Services Requested

Reaching Out with God's

Reminder…

Theme
"God's work
our hands"

May 18th

Fill our Food Barrel
This Month:
Soups