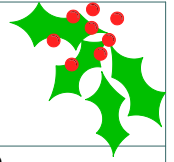


Atonement in Action



Volume 10, Issue 12

December, 2010

Worship Service times

Sundays

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.



Wednesdays in Advent

Join us for worship and learning during the Advent season of waiting and watching, preparation and anticipation.

Wednesday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.-
Common Ground Worship in Lundin Hall. All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 8

- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.- Family Worship
- 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.- Adult Bible Study on "Waiting"
- 7:30 p.m.- Holden Evening Prayer with preaching

Wednesday, December 15

- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.- Family Worship
- 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.- Adult Bible Study on "Longing"
- 7:30 p.m.- Holden Evening Prayer with preaching



Sunday School Classes Sing in Worship

Our Sunday school children from Kindergarten through Grade 6 will sing during 11:00 a.m. worship on the second and fourth Sundays in Advent: December 5 and 19. Help your family prepare for the coming of God's son by gathering regularly during the season of Advent to praise and glorify God. How good it is when our children and adults recognize and respond to Emmanuel, God with us!

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Christmas Caroling



We will continue our Atonement tradition of caroling to our homebound members on Sunday, December 19, 4:00-6:00 p.m. All ages – children, youth and adults – are invited to participate. For confirmation students, this event counts as a confirmation service project. Meet in the church narthex at **3:45 p.m.** for a brief practice and organization into teams. Following the caroling, we will gather at GNA Pizzeria in West Reading for dinner on your own. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Be sure to let us know how many are coming and whether you will be joining us for dinner at GNA Pizzeria.

Atonement Lutheran Church

5 Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

Phone: 610-375-3512; Fax 610-375-3511; www.atonementwyo.org

From Pastor Summy: Keeping Christmas

I am sitting at the desk in my office on November 17 and I am already sick of Christmas.

In what seemed like a first to me, some stores had Christmas items for sale *before* Halloween. Are you kidding me? TV is jam-packed with “holiday” ads—and most of us have not recovered from the barrage of mind-numbing political advertisements yet.

It is no wonder, then, that for many, Christmas itself is anti-climatic at best. What day could possibly live up to all the hype? By the time it arrives we are happy to get it over with. Any sense of wonder and magic has long since been stripped away. No matter how much stuff is exchanged, no matter how expensive or cool or new all the stuff is, it doesn't measure up to the fulfillment of longing and anticipation and waiting that is at the heart and soul of Christmas.

Peace on earth. Joy to the world.

God's will: good will to all.

A child is born.

These are the sentiments, the hopes and dreams, the fulfillment that is worth celebrating. Even those for whom worship isn't a priority much of the rest of the year find their way to church on Christmas Eve. Even we who spend too much, who get sucker punched by the senseless secular sentiment, know enough to pause for a moment, at least, to hear the old story told once again, to listen for angel song and shepherd excitement, to light a candle against the cold, dark winter and sing “Silent Night.”

Amidst the bombardment of 24-hours-a-day holiday hoo-ha, I invite you to join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in keeping Advent together. One by one we will light our candles in defiance of the darkness without and the shadows within. On Wednesday, December 1, at our Common Ground worship service, we will gather with our brothers and sisters in recovery to give thanks to God for forgiveness, for second chances and making amends, for new life. On Wednesdays, December 8 and 15, we will explore the Advent concepts of “waiting” and “longing,” both through Bible study and worship (see page 1). During our Advent days, maybe we can take time to look and then discover

God hidden in the movements and relationships of our lives.

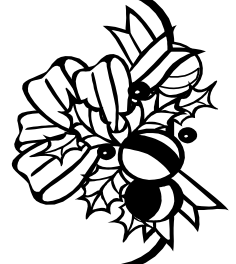
Then, perhaps, when Christmas comes, we will be both ready and surprised at the same time.

And we will keep Christmas.

Pledge Card Reminder

If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible. You may submit your card to the church office or phone or email your information to Matt Simmons, church financial secretary, msimmons@atonementwyo.org. Your prompt response is essential for council and staff to plan the 2011 budget. Volunteers will be making reminder phone calls during the second week of December. Thanks for your cooperation.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS ON DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2. Classes will resume on January 9 at 9:45 a.m.



Christmas Decorating



We will be decorating the church for Christmas at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 11, and volunteers are welcome. We also could use help preparing the decorations Thursday, December 9 and Friday, December 10 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Youth are definitely welcomed, especially for carrying the wreaths up from the lower level on Thursday, and for decorating on Saturday. If you have questions, please contact Carol Lubitz at 610-777-3436.



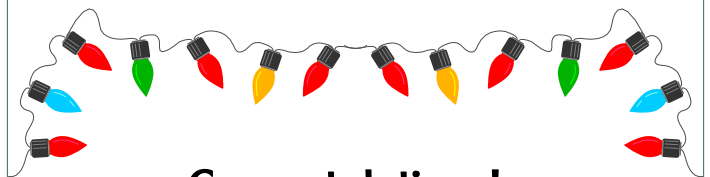
Council Corner

Greetings from your Congregation Council. This month at Council, we:

- Reviewed financial information as of October 30, 2010. We remain slightly ahead of budget as we approach the end of the year. Pledges are slightly behind budget for the year, but everyone has done an excellent job in keeping overall expenses below budgeted amounts. October was a strong month for pledge receipts and we hope that this trend will continue through the end of the year.
- Discussed transition matters and needs in light of Chris Summy's announcement that she will accept the position of Spiritual Counselor at Caron Treatment Center at the end of this month. This is a wonderful opportunity for Chris to fully utilize her significant counseling gifts, and we wish her all the best. You have received a separate letter regarding a farewell celebration for Chris which will occur after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 12.
- Reviewed stewardship matters with Stewardship Committee Chair, Bryan Wang. You have received stewardship materials in the mail. Council sincerely thanks the committee and Bryan for their work. Council also recognized the efforts of Fred Hafer (and both Pastor Summy and Pastor Lee) in producing a top-flight stewardship video presentation, which was presented at the conclusion of both services on November 14. A copy of the video presentation has been included in the stewardship mailing. Please prayerfully consider the materials and your commitment to Atonement.
- Agreed to have Pastor Summy contact Pastor Art Wyse to see if Pastor Wyse would be willing to resume his visitation pastoral activities on a part-time basis. As you may recall, we had discontinued the part-time visitation pastoral services in connection with budget constraints for this year. With the change in Chris Summy's status, it became possible and desirable to reach out to see if Pastor Wyse would be willing to commence his valuable work again.
- Reviewed staff and committee reports. Among other things, we heard from Cynthia Bickley, our preschool director, about her recent educational trip to South Africa. Cynthia advised that there are valuable lessons that can be learned from the South African experience in educating young children and applied to our own thriving preschool.

Thank you for letting us be of service to you.

Regards,
YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL
Dave Swartz
President



Congratulations!

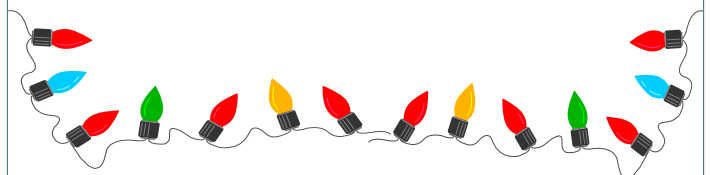
Congratulations to...

Dr. Cedric Jimerson, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Heritage of Green Hills.

Greta Koch, Maddy White, and Ali Van Sickle, members of the Wyomissing High School Girls Tennis team, which finished second in the PIAA state tournament.

Common Ground/Atonement for receiving the 2010 Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse Recovery Award.

Ken and Peg Gill for receiving the "Making a Difference" Community Service Award from Easy Does It, Inc.



Thank You from the Stewardship Chair

Dear Atonement,

Thank you. Every day for these past two months, as we've planned, prepared for, and executed our fall campaign, I've been reminded of what it means to believe. I've heard the stories and witnessed the acts of many good and faithful stewards, individuals who graciously give their time, talents, enthusiasm, dedication, and material resources to help accomplish God's work through our church.

I'm grateful in particular to:

- everyone involved in the production of the video. First and foremost, Fred Hafer, for his expertise, leadership, and many hours of hard work on the project, and Pastor Lee, for much assistance and guidance. Our interviewees: Bill and Cindy Laubach; Catharine Lentz; Dave Swartz; Matt Shirk; Tom, Michelle, Caroline, and Amy Endy; Peggy Glasgow; and our pastors. Finally, I note with gratitude that the cost of the DVDs sent to every member household was donated by one of our members.
- Kathy Yenser, who helped shape the stewardship lesson and message for our Sunday school children. I also thank Tom Yenser for conducting Atonement's first kazoo band, Karen Wang and Crystal Shirk for teaching the lesson, and our children in third through sixth grade for sharing their artwork.
- The actors in the Stewardship Sunday skit—Angela Beam, Ellen Bryan, and Bob Eisenbrown—and Pastor Lee, for overseeing the project. Thanks also to Margaret D. McGee (www.inthecourtyard.com) for sharing her script with the world.
- Jo Sturgis, for fielding my wild administrative pitches throughout the campaign with grace and poise.
- The stewardship committee: Pastor Summy, Matt Shirk, and Carl Botterbusch, for their advice and support.
- The entire Atonement family. You continue to amaze me, teach me, and inspire me with your generosity

and commitment to our church. I'm blessed to serve as a council representative and stewardship committee chair for such a caring and faithful community.

Sincerely,
Bryan Wang



Life Passages

Life Passages is a new Sunday morning speaker series intended to help and guide people across many of life's transitions. The topic on December 12 will be "Unplugging the Christmas Machine – or – How much is enough?" This month the Rev. Mike Bennethum will help us guide our children through the commercial pitfalls of the holiday season. Helping children and youth develop a healthy sense of values related to money and material possessions is one of the important challenges of parenting. The holiday season, with its relentless advertisements that tie happiness and contentment to the acquisition of more and more things, makes that challenge greater. Explore some resources that parents, grandparents, and other caregivers can use to help young people think about money and stuff in the context of our faith in the God who sent Jesus to be our greatest treasure.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will resume its monthly meetings on Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands with Admiral Daniel Cooper, U.S.N. Ret., as our speaker. Future breakfasts will take place at The Highlands on the third Thursday of each month through May and resume again in September. All men are invited and encouraged to bring guests from within or outside the membership of Atonement. Please sign the sheet in the narthex to make your reservation.



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

We gather again to hear the story of the holy birth in Bethlehem, to sing together the song of the angels, and to experience Emmanuel, God with us, in word and sacrament.

Friday, December 24

11:00 a.m.

A family-friendly service of Holy Communion, featuring music by the children of Laudate Choir and Treble Choir.

6:00 p.m.

Beloved carols, Scripture readings and prayers make up this 45-minute service especially appropriate for families with young children.

7:45 p.m.

Quiet, contemplative service of Holy Communion with candlelighting and music by Youth Choristers and Atonement Ringers.

10:30 p.m.

Festival Holy Communion with candlelighting and music by Basic'ly Brass and Atonement Choir.

Saturday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

Simple service of Holy Communion filled with seasonal carols offers an opportunity to reflect on the wonder and joy of the Nativity.

Sunday, December 26

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Two services of Holy Communion at the regular times, filled with the sights and sounds of Christmas. Bring your out-of-town guests to worship!

Christmas Donations

Donors are needed for the poinsettias which will decorate the church on Christmas Eve. We are requesting \$8.00 per poinsettia, but any amount is welcome. (Checks should be made payable to Atonement.) If you wish to order one or more plants, please return the attached form to the church office by December 14. All plants will be delivered to shut-ins following the Christmas Eve services.

I wish to provide ____ poinsettia plant(s) for Christmas Eve.

__ in loving memory of _____

__ in thanksgiving for _____

Name _____

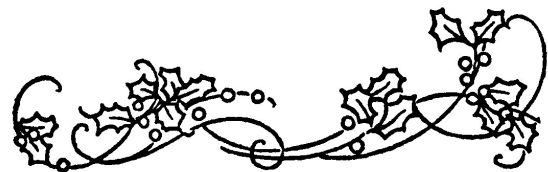
As an alternative to (or in addition to) donating a poinsettia, you are invited to make a donation to the World Hunger Appeal. Donations will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, and may be made in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one. Please return the form below by December 14 with your donation. Make checks payable to Atonement.

I wish to make a donation of _____ to the World Hunger Appeal.

__ in loving memory of _____

__ in thanksgiving for _____

Name _____



Holiday Closings at Atonement

The church building and offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays on the following dates: Monday, December 27, Tuesday, December 28, and Friday, December 31.

Repeat the Sounding Joy!

Sing or ring with an Atonement music ensemble this Advent/Christmas Season. Everyone loves the music of Christmas, so here is your opportunity to join in the song. You are invited to join one of our choirs for the month of December and sing for Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve. Find the choir that is right for you from the list below.

Atonement Choir—College-age and adults

Meets Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.; rehearse beginning December 2
Special rehearsal with brass ensemble Thursday, December 23,

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sing in worship:

- Lessons and Carols – December 12 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve – December 24 at 10:30 p.m.

Youth Choristers—Grades 7-12

Meets Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.; rehearse beginning Dec. 1
Sing in worship:

- Lessons and Carols – December 12 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve – December 24 at 7:45 p.m.

Treble Choir

Grades 3-6

Meets Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 p.m.; rehearse beginning Dec. 1
Sing in worship:

- Lessons and Carols – December 12 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve – December 24 at 11:00 a.m.

Laudate Choir

Grades K-2

Meets Mondays, 4:15-5:00 p.m.; rehearse beginning December 6
Sing in worship:

- Christmas Eve – December 24 at 11:00 a.m.

Atonement Ringers

Older children, teens and adults

Meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.; rehearse beginning November 30
Ring in worship:

- Christmas Eve – December 24 at 7:45 p.m.

Atonement Praise Band

Teens and adults

Meets December 9, 13 and 16

6:15-7:30 p.m.

Sing and play in worship:

- Sunday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m.

For complete rehearsal schedules and more information, contact Tom Yenser.



Concert at Historical Society

On Tuesday, December 14, at 1:30 p.m., at the Historical Society of Berks County, 940 Centre Ave., Reading, the Hilltones and Hilltrebles will present an afternoon concert of holiday selections. The Hilltones (all male) and Hilltrebles (all female) are the select vocal ensembles at The Hill School, a private boarding school, in Pottstown, PA. In their history as a group, they have performed in concerts and cathedrals throughout the country and the world. The groups are under the direction of Reading native and Atonement member, Mr. Stephen C. Longenecker, Jr. Stephen is the Oaklawn-Tuttle Chair of Vocal Music at The Hill School, where he runs the vocal music program and teaches the music theory classes and the History of Art and Music. The concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will follow. Call 610-375-4375 for information. Parking is available at the Henry Janssen Library, 160 Spring Street, or on the east side of Centre Avenue and Second Street.



Preschool News

Preschool parents will be invited to our Christmas Chapel on December 15 and 16. Our preschool classes act out the nativity story narrated by Pastors Lee and Summy. Mr. Yenser will lead us in a few carols. Families will then head downstairs to classrooms for cookies and punch.

Registration for next fall begins when we return from our Christmas holiday. We have set aside January 3-14 for Atonement members to register for their preferred classes. Please call the preschool office (610-375-8049) for information or to schedule a visit. Registration forms are available on our website.

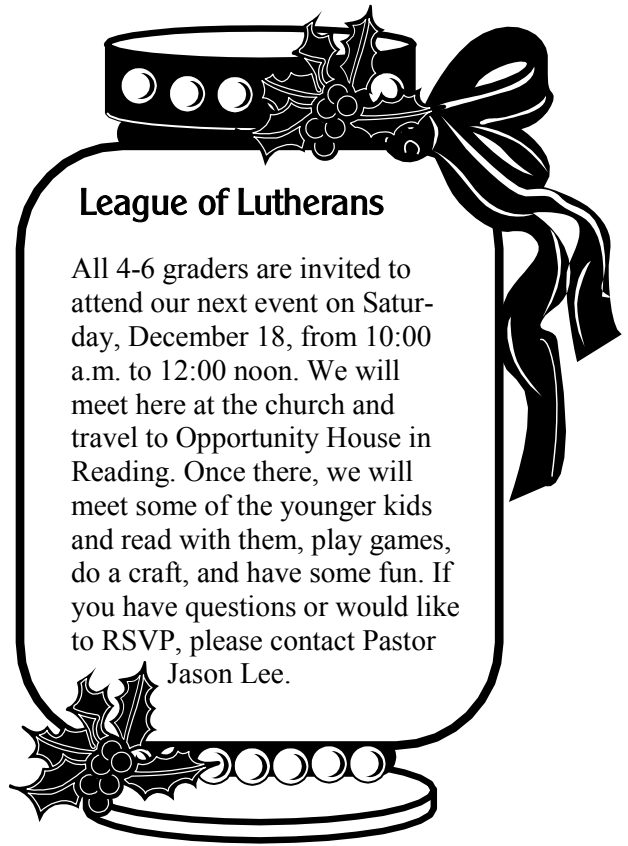
My trip to South Africa with the People to People Early Childhood Delegation was amazing! There were twenty delegates: Sue Russell, president of NAEYC, Carol Brunson Day, CEO of the National Black Child Development Institute, four college professors, ten heads of county and state programs, two exceptional teachers, and two faith-based directors. We were all impressed by how far education has come since the end of apartheid. Early Childhood Education (ECE) is a top government priority providing not only education but health care (e.g., AIDS vaccine), nutrition, and social services to South Africa's youngest citizens. There are also many privately funded programs.

Our delegation visited six different centers as well as the University of Pretoria (now offering ECE degrees) and the Early Resource Center (providing anti-bias books and in-service education for practitioners). We brought much appreciated books and toys. We were able to share ideas as well as observe many different ECE practices. I have been sharing my experience with our preschool classes as they learn about cultural differences, geography, penguins and bush animals. A DVD of highlights was presented to interested parents in the preschool lobby.

I think my most lasting impression of South Africa, beyond all its wonderful diversity, is the great optimism and resilience of its people.

Ironically, this month's NAEYC magazine had an article entitled "Teaching Preschoolers to Think Optimistically." The preschool staff will be discussing ways to model thinking and coping strategies that will help our young children at Atonement Preschool develop optimistic explanatory styles (learned optimism). I hope we can make a difference.

Cynthia Bickley, Director



League of Lutherans

All 4-6 graders are invited to attend our next event on Saturday, December 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We will meet here at the church and travel to Opportunity House in Reading. Once there, we will meet some of the younger kids and read with them, play games, do a craft, and have some fun. If you have questions or would like to RSVP, please contact Pastor Jason Lee.

Women of Atonement News

The Women of Atonement are enjoying their study on diversity and our fellowship with one another. We have happily welcomed some new members. We will be decorating a Christmas tree in the parlor with the chrismons, which are beautiful handcrafted ornaments made by the women of the congregation many years ago. Women of Atonement will be purchasing gifts for children from Kid's Peace. Please stop by the parlor and take a walk down memory lane when you see the chrismons.

Our December meetings:

- Mary/Esther Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 1 at 1:00 p.m. at the Highlands.
- Hannah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the privacy room at church.

All women members of Atonement are welcome.

From Christine Summy

To my dear ones of Atonement Lutheran Church,

In mid-October, I received a call from Caron Treatment Center offering me the position of Spiritual Counselor. And as I struggled with discerning what God might be up to, with how I might respond to this call, I was reminded of a quote one of my Old Testament professors shared on the first day of my first class at seminary:

“The world that has been so carefully prepared for you is being taken away from you,” she said, *“by the grace of God.”*

It made me think about how carefully I have been prepared for ministry by the church. Counting the six years I attended seminary, I have 24 years of higher education behind me. But nothing has prepared me for ministry more than my four years of service to this congregation. There is always more to learn, room to grow, but I was lovingly prepared. And no one has been more generous in that preparation than Atonement, risking to call not only Rick as Senior Pastor, but also me, his wife, as Director of Adult Ministries. I wonder if this congregation will ever know what an extraordinary leap of faith that was.

And so I feel a great deal of sadness and loss about leaving Atonement. My heart is full. After twelve years of congregational ministry I am leaving everything I know how to do and be and so many people I have come to love. I have no way of knowing whether my decision is a good one or a bad one, and by the time I discover the answer, there will be no going back. To pause there is to feel suspended in mid-air.

“By the grace of God” that saying goes. God is in this loss which means it’s not robbery but relinquishment. An amazing, world class treatment facility for drug and alcohol addiction has taken the risk to call an unordained, lay female to be a Spiritual Counselor there. Another incredible leap of faith.

There is no excuse for not trying to be a faithful servant there. Not even that I have come to love all of you and this place so much. Not even the incredible ministries we have done together.

We have done a lot together: classes taught, books read, long talks, chances for us to hear a good word

from God that might make some sense in our daily lives. We’ve served our neighbors. I’ve struggled in every way I know how to draw near to God and have openly shared that struggle. Together we have explored the mysteries of Holy Communion, along with the vast collection of books in the Bible. Together we have longed for and sought out what God might be up to in our lives in Spiritual Formation groups. We’ve navigated both the predictable passages of life and some of its more cruel tricks. And through it all, the Word of God has gathered us in, leading us through the darkness like a pillar of fire guiding us out of exile.

I fully expected to spend the rest of my life here. I even expected to finally find my niche in the columbarium in Lundin Hall with my ELCA Associate in Ministry lapel pin resting in my ashes.

To look back and think on the gift of having been given each other to love and serve at Atonement four years ago and to know I was nudged by God to leave here is yet another pretty significant leap of faith. But I am fairly sure that all of the personal, professional, educational and vocational events God has led me through during my lifetime have prepared me for just this moment in time. Some of you know that my mom and I lost my dad to addiction in 1988. Some of you know that I attended Caron’s 5 ½ day program for adult children of alcoholics, a program that brought me to this very place to attend my first Alanon and ACOA meetings 20 years ago, that I worked in the field of addictions as a counselor for awhile, that ten years after that, I came to Atonement for my formation for ministry and candidacy in the Lutheran Church, and that seven years after that you called Rick and me to serve here. After having reflected on that journey and seeing where it has led, to behold the kind of reversal of fortune that only God can accomplish, to see that God has taken the most difficult and saddest events of my life and offered me a chance to turn them for good for the sake of others, well, it is impossible to go back and unsee all of that.

When I left the parsonage to come to church that morning, some geese were flying in formation overhead. Though they were out of sight, I could hear them honking. It was comforting. I took their presence as a sort of blessing. Like them, I am on the move, flying without a map. Traveling on the pure instinct of my DNA, life experience and the longing to follow God. Standing there with my face turned up, I felt a lump in my throat, and I cried.

“Take me with you.” I whispered, knowing that coming here would only lead to the inevitable, irrevocable necessity of making this announcement. Listening to the geese calling out to each other as they flew toward their destination, I don’t believe God judged their instinct to follow. And I thank you so much that you haven’t judged mine.

My heart is overflowing with emotion and gratitude. For what has been. For what is now. And for what has yet to come. There are so many things to say thank you for. And memories to hold tight onto. And some things to let go of. And a wilderness to wander.

I never in a million years dreamed Caron would call me. The thought of having been chosen makes me a little squirmy. I did not seek to leave this place. Nevertheless, my goal is, and always has been, simply this: to follow. Wherever and whenever and however God asks. And saying “yes” to Caron to serve there seems to me another chance to do that.

I have, I pray, done what God has created me to do, knowing full well that the world, a world so lovingly and carefully prepared for me, by you, has been relinquished, by the grace of God.

All of my love,
chris

From the Prayer Ministry Team: The Gift of a Friend



One Sunday it was so icy that I considered not going to church. But it was my friend’s birthday, so I took the risk. I planned to tease her by saying that my presence was her present. But before I could say a word, she told me just that. That seeing me was a gift to her. In my prayers I give thanks to God for my friends.

From the Congregational Advocate: In the Flesh

“I Love to Tell the Story,” a hymn from the 1800’s, text by Katherine Hankey, plays in my mind as the church prepares for Advent, the season of preparation and waiting. Our Thanksgiving holiday is still to come as I write, yet Christmas carols are playing on the radio. “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas” sounds in the background. I balk at the sound and look with confusion at the fully dressed maple trees adorned in brilliant orange-red leaves. They don’t appear ready to let go of their dressing. I am not ready to go into the winter night. Why must we rush from one season to the next discarding the gift and beauty of the present?

I am remembering the image of a pregnant Mary reaching forward to join hands with her cousin, Elizabeth. I saw this picture at an Advent retreat, and I still bring it forth in my mind’s eye. The two women held one another in friendship, support and love. Each of them was leaning into a time of waiting and wonder, a time of mystery and solitude. Both of them would face human suffering and an unfamiliar journey. Mary was present in an early stage of pregnancy hands clasped by her older relative, Elizabeth, who was also pregnant despite being beyond the years of conception. Their hands joined in recognition and welcome, as well as loving care, one for the other. Each knowing they would have to let go and travel alone.

I am reminded of the fragile gift of presence. A relationship that is here today suddenly is gone tomorrow. I think of the ones no longer physically present to reach out and touch. Yet, in my mind’s eye, I still see their faces, their sparkling eyes, their knowing smiles. I am like the maple tree hanging on to the fullness and beauty of friends and family that colored my life and made it more full. In reflection they seem to be right here, not so far away. Yet, I know I cannot reach out and feel the warm flesh of their hand in mine. I wait and wonder as the story unfolds.

So too, with this savior to be born. Incarnate, in the flesh, to walk with us and teach us to love, yet one day to leave and be raised up. “I love to tell the story.” Savor the present. Anticipate the presence. Live in the mystery. Thanks be to God.

In Christian love,
Lois

Learning Ministries Day

Learning Ministries Day will be held at Muhlenberg College on January 22, 2011. Sunday School teachers for classes of all ages, committee members from Children's, Youth and Adult Ministries, and others interested in ongoing faith growth are invited to attend.

Mark your calendar for an enriching day planned by the Faith Formation Resource Team of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA. The theme for the day is *Technology and the Bible: It's All Geek to Me*. The keynote speaker is The Reverend Hans Wiersma, an Associate Professor of Religion at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he teaches courses in theology, Biblical studies, church history, ministry, and religion and culture. He is co-author of *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms* (2008) and *Crazy Book: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Biblical Terms* (2009). He has contributed to a number of Augsburg Fortress publications, including *The Lutheran Handbook*, *The Lutheran Study Bible*, and the *People of Faith Bible Study* resources.

In addition to the key note presentation by Hans Wiersma, each registrant may select two workshops to attend. Workshops include: Fishing for People and More!; Computers and Your Christian Education Programs; VBS Potluck 2011; Book of Faith Initiative; Teaching the Faith: A Ministry of Gladness; Church Day Camp; Nuts & Bolts to Congregations New to Using Computers; Keep on Asking, Keep on Seeking, Keep on Knocking; Congregational Web Sites: Best and Worst Practices; Social Networking: Benefits and Blunders; Conversations with Hans; New Media and Bible: Technologies and Techniques; From Papyrus to IPAD: How The Bible Comes Down to Us; Using Video and Photos for Ministry; The Use of Assistive Technology for Christian Education and Spiritual Enrichment.

A schedule for the day as well as descriptions and leaders for the workshops can be found at <http://www.godslove.org/calendar/details.htm>.

Please contact Pastor Jason or Kathy Yenser to get more information about the day and a registration form. Individuals should register through Atonement and not directly with the synod office. Deadline for registration is Sunday, January 9.

Memorials

Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

We are grateful to acknowledge the following gifts to the glory of God and:

In loving memory of Neil Hill by:

Paula & Pete Desjardins

The Rev. & Mrs. J. Raymond Brubaker

Robert & Gail Hoch

Robert & Janice Sharets

Ruth Rosenstock

Barton & Kristina Smith

Janis & Larry Longlott

Deborah & Lee Steinmeyer

Michael & Rita Donlon

Marvin & Dorace Harding

T.L. Lewis

Harold & Constance Yoder

Bruce & MaryAnn Hoffman

Barry & Shelby Ziegler

Jeanne & Graydon Dodson

Mary Grace Wiser

Irene & John Hoover

Arthur & Vicki Espinoza

John & Marion Mattes

Reading High Class of 1945 Reunion Committee

Anabel Stump

Gail & Art White

Doris Leslie

Susan Harenza

Nancy Rehr

Linda Reedy

Bradford Sterl

Marilyn Poore

Roger Hertz

Frank Kauffman

Marian Pounder

Laree Trollinger

Alf Pettit

June Maier

In loving memory of David Bestwick by:

Maria & Leif Johnson

Mary Lee Davis

Preschool Fund:

We are grateful to acknowledge gifts to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Jane Freeman, Neil Hill, and Betty Wentzel by Rich and Jean Sweigart.

Music Fund:

We are grateful to acknowledge a gift to the glory of God and in loving memory of Roger V. Weand, by Phyllis Peters.



Youth News

December '10

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 19, 2010 @ 3:45 p.m.

We will join with the rest of the congregation as we visit members and sing carols and enjoy each other's company. We will gather in the narthex at 3:45 and depart to share our musical talents. We will end the evening with a Dutch-treat dinner at GNA in West Reading. Come as a family or come with friends. The more the merrier. Please sign up on the clip board in the narthex.

This counts as a Confirmation Service Project.

Atonement Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 29, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

That's right: Atonement Youth Christmas Party! The theme of the party is ugly Christmas sweaters. What, all of your sweaters are stylishly awesome? Goodwill has some that people don't want anymore – cheap! Or maybe your parents or grandparents have some they don't use. There will be prizes awarded for the ugliest and most gaudy sweaters.

If you have any left over Christmas cookies, bring them to share! Also included in this time: food, games, music, exciting times, and cake! So, don a unique sweater and join us!

Save the Date – Youth Ski Trip

February 18-20, 2011

Sign up sheets will be out soon, but it is never too early to put it on your calendar. We always have a blast! We hope you will join us this year. Many more details are forthcoming.

Service Events

To find service events, go to our Catechetics page and click the link, "Service Events."
Lots more info can be found on our website: <http://www.atonementwyo.org>

To find the Youth page, go to "Ministries," then click "Youth Group."

The Catechetics page is found under "Education."

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

5 Wyomissing Blvd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610-2081

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Atonement Staff

Richard H. Summy, *Senior Pastor*
Jason M. Lee, *Associate Pastor*
Arthur B. Wyse, *Visitation Pastor*
Tom Yenser, *Director of Music*
Cynthia A. Bickley, *Preschool Director*
Kathy Yenser, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Jo Eileen Sturgis, *Parish Secretary*
Matthew Simmons, *Financial Secretary*
Tom Gresh, *Property Manager*
Mick Bryan, *Sexton*
Lois Hein, *Congregational Health Advocate*

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Our website: www.atonementwyo.org
Church office phone number is 610-375-3512

Our Mission

By God's grace, we strengthen one another in faith and share the good news of Jesus through worshiping, learning, and serving.