

ATONEMENT IN ACTION

Volume 11, Issue 6

June, 2011

Worship Service times

Sundays

8:15 and 10:00 a.m.

Atonement Cafe
9:45 a.m.



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Alpha is Coming



Alpha

The Alpha Course is coming to Atonement this summer!

The Alpha course is a 10-week practical exploration of the Christian faith. Alpha began in a little church in England 25 years ago. Since then, more than 16 million people in 169 countries from every major Christian denomination have completed the Alpha course.

An Alpha evening consists of a nice meal, a video presentation, and small-group discussion – all in a relaxed, casual setting, where all people and all questions are welcome.

While it teaches about God's love, the Alpha course helps guests experience that love, as well. Every part of the Alpha course is designed to tell people: Your thoughts matter. Your questions are relevant. Your life is valuable.

The Alpha course will be held at Atonement on Tuesday evenings this summer, beginning on Tuesday, July 12. While summer offers longer daylight hours and a slower pace for many, summer often involves time away. So, if your summer plans include travel, don't hesitate to register for Alpha just because you may miss a few evenings. If you can attend the majority of the sessions, you'll find the experience deeply enriching.

More information about Alpha and a registration form are on the enclosed brochure. Child care and activities will be

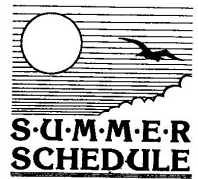
available for children through fourth grade with at least one parent attending Alpha.

If you are curious about Alpha and would like to experience a typical Alpha evening, please come to the Alpha Introductory Dinner on Tuesday, June 28. You'll find an invitation with more details in this newsletter. It is not necessary to commit to the Alpha course before attending the dinner, nor is it necessary to attend the dinner if you are ready to register for the course.

Service Time Change

Throughout the months of June, July and August, our summer worship schedule returns. Services will be held each Sunday at 8:15 and 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday school classes, but everyone is welcome to visit the Atonement Café in the narthex between services for coffee, snacks and conversation.

Please plan to stay after early worship or come early for late worship and join the coffee and fellowship time in the narthex. We have decided not to have a sign up list for goodies but if you want to bring something, feel free! Otherwise we will have coffee and some more kid-friendly drinks available. There is nothing quite like the mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters in Christ.



Atonement Lutheran Church

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

First Communion



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Nineteen young people in Grades 1 through 3 received their First Communion at the 11:00 a.m. service on May 22.

The children are: Cecilia Asplen, Lydia Botterbusch, Mackenzie Buchter, Riley Dauber, Jacob Fidler, Sophia Geddio, Jennifer Gentry, Elizabeth Harenza, Brooke Herb, Colleen Klahr, Hannah Kufro, Summer Mirigliano, Adam Musser, Steven Olexy, Kristin Proudfoot, Isabella Romig, Andrew Seyler, Emily Claire Spatz, and Benjamin Stuckert.

Please remember these children in your prayers. May they know the love and support of belonging to the body of Christ. And may they remember that each of them is a precious child of God whom Jesus will always love, be with, and forgive all the days of their lives.

You Are Invited to . . .

The ALPHA Introductory Dinner

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Lundin Hall

If you are curious about Alpha and would like to learn more, come join some old and new friends for a lovely dinner, followed by a representative video presentation, titled, "Is There More to Life Than This?"

Child care and dinner will be available for children through fourth grade

For reservations, please call the Church Office or register at atonementwyo.org

A free will offering will be taken to defray the costs of the meal

Thank You, Teachers!

Our Sunday school classes for children age 3 through grade 6 ended on May 22. For the summer, both children and teachers will take a break from our faith enrichment classes. They will be able to gather with God's family for worship each Sunday and then enjoy a more leisurely rest of the day. We give thanks for the many parents who have brought their children to Sunday school and worship throughout the year, as they continue to nurture their children's faith.

We also give thanks for the many Sunday school teachers who have graciously shared their time, gifts, and faith to help our children and youth grow in their relationships with God. Our volunteer teachers for this year were: three and four-year-old class: Becky Boland, Vanessa Levering, Tish McCrae, Jen Orzechowski; Kindergarten class: Carol Cox, Deb McKim, Amy Sharkey, Carol Simpson; First grade class: Michelle Endy, Sharon and Maddie White, Laura Youngcourt; Second grade class: Lauren Rothermel, Kate Stuckert, Marcy and Jason Sweigart; Third grade class: Jennifer Dauber, Melissa Hazlett, Laurie Herb, Crystal Shirk; Fourth grade class: Barbara Feeman, Cathie Rosenberger, Dawn and Sam Weidner; Fifth and sixth grade class: Carl Botterbusch, Jen Crocena, Dave Huyett, and Melissa Wandrisco; Catechetics: Jeff Brick, Dana Lee, Susan Mehos; High School class: Dorothy DeLong. May they have experienced God's love and care as they helped their students grow in their understanding as God's children.

Women of Atonement News

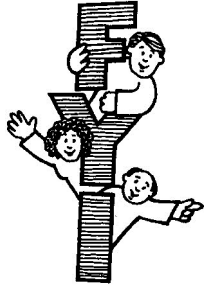
The Women of Atonement have had a very exciting and productive year.

Our annual luncheon was on May 16 in Lundin Hall. Our entertainment was provided by Debby Andrews with her Celtic harp. The music was delightful, and we even sang along to some of our old favorites.

Our plant sale was a big success! Thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their time and effort to make this event a hit. Also, a big thank you to all who donated plants, the raffled items and the various items that we sold. Our first plant sale netted us \$350 dollars; this year we made \$1,023. That is an amazing feat and is due entirely to you, the women of Atonement and to all of the volunteers. We donate to many causes, with the largest recipient being our own Atonement preschool.

Council Corner

Summary of the May Congregation Council meeting:



The meeting was opened with a prayer given by Pastor Summy. The meeting agenda and last months meeting minutes were approved.

Members of Council shared the experiences they had with their prayer partners this past month.

Pastor Summy reviewed with Council the monthly financial reports. Income is staying ahead of the expenses. No unexpected expenses noted.

Work on Seminarian Sunday, church building security, church directory, and the Wyomissing Fall Celebration continues. Nothing new to report.

Staff and committee reports were given. Carl Botterbusch, chair of Property Committee, reviewed with Council progress on the repairs being made to the outside walls. He showed Council a sample of the aluminum caps that will be placed on top of the walls. We hope the caps will stop water from coming into the building.

Kate Harenza, chair of the Evangelism Committee, gave a report on the new Alpha Program being done this summer.

For the noteworthy achievements, it was mentioned that Alexa Bickhart, youth representative for Council, received Atonement's Chaney Book Award, which is administered by the Berks Community Foundation.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting; Monday, August 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Congregation Council
Ed Hein, MD
President

In Remembrance

I don't miss the dog hair. Especially this time of year, our two golden retrievers, Brandi and Alex, would be discarding their winter coats for their lighter summer covering. The residue would roll into tumbleweeds in the corners of the room. The residue would be clinging to my black pants as a constant reminder of our companions, our pups. From time to time I find a lingering hair, colored golden, and I remember. Our dogs accepted each of us unconditionally. They did not seem to be turned off by our human moodiness, our fatigue, or our hyperactivity. They loved us as we were, in our goodness and in our not-so-goodness. It has been six months since Alex died; Brandi died one and a half years before. From time to time, I still think I hear Alex, in the sun room where he loved to linger. I will be in a meeting and think I need to go home to feed him or let him out. Then I remember, he is no longer here. I startle at the memory. I remind myself that all living things must die, yet my heart can't take it in.

So as not to be morose, I flip the thought around to, "All dying things must live." That thought makes me chuckle. Some of the most profound moments of my learning have been found in the presence of the dying, including our dogs. Alex taught me devotion. On the day he died, he lifted his weary head in response to Ed's touch for a final picture of them together. Brandi, such a lady, on the day of her death, legs quivering as she stood in the grass relieving herself, was always aware and mindful of not having an accident in the house. A recent visit to one of our members taught me gracious hospitality. There she was in her hospital bed in her light filled living room, smiling her golden smile and welcoming me. Her gracious presence and hospitality with her in her living and in her dying. I carry that graciousness with me, a golden hair, a reminder of living until we die.

Why this talk of dying in the midst of spring and Easter resurrection? We are called to be people of remembrance. Jesus calls us to the communion table to remember his living, his dying and his coming again. Jesus accepts us as we are in our goodness and in our sinfulness, in our wholeness and in our brokenness. Jesus calls us to join together at the table in our living, in our dying, and in our resurrection, Jesus calls us into community. He calls us to remember.

Continued on page 4

In remembrance, communion takes on new life when shared with a homebound member: frail, sick, elderly, living and dying. Not so long ago they were the ones in the pews, in the hallways, in the kitchen, serving at the communion rail. We remember they were the ones who walked here before us.

In remembrance, we press into our living as we remember our need for healing and wholeness. Our eyes and heart open to see the stranger, as our self, and we welcome them in. We remember that we were once strangers in the land.

In remembrance, the walls of the church come down. The church extends into the world. The church moves into the world's living, dying, and its resurrection. In our living and in our dying, we remember who we are and who we are called to be. Most importantly, we remember Who it is that calls us...

Thanks be to God,
Lois Hein

in loving memory of Joanne Kramer by
Nancy Hemmerich
Nancy Seifert
Robert & Carol Nagler
AFTM Retirees Club
Alice's Friends at Arrow International
Ken & Mary Weaver
Louis & Adelaide Getty
Michael & Judy Wentzel
Dave & Pam DeCampi
Sue & Daniel Kramer
Exeter Community Library Board of Trustees
Margie & Terry Burton
Paula & Pete Desjardins
Eileen M. Teater

in loving memory of Roy Bilger by
William Dowling
Lois & Charles Amerino
Richard & Sandra Fritzingler
Betty & Al Spotts
Elizabeth & John Stoudt
Edith Nestro
Virginia Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. V. H. Vernon
Donna & Gary Bowers
Terry & E. M. Swanson
L. Kathryn & Ray Linn
Bobbie & Bob Hoover
Richard & Joanne Koch
Leslie & Edward Gall
Bob Bowman
Lori Tradewell

in loving memory of Janice Wolfe by
Elizabeth Gaul
Catherine Ciatto
William & Robin Eckert
William Mills
John & Marcia Schreffler
Eric & Martha Jaxheimer
Mary Ellen Mack
Janet Miller
Rheta Steiner
Mary Lee Davis
Thomas & Roberta Kohl
John Mazzo
Paul and Peg Brass
Philip and Maureen Brumbach

in loving memory of Patricia Harnly by
William and Irene Cook

Memorials

Preschool Fund

We are grateful to acknowledge the following gift to the glory of God and in loving memory of Doris Dreas by Jean and Rich Sweigart

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
Sandy and Ed Kern

in loving memory of Phyllis Bressi by
Margie and Jim Gallagher
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Welsh
U.F.C.W. Local 1776
Paul & Betty Murray
Friends at Main Street Ingredients
M. Erickson
Russell & Julia Angstadt
Mr. & Mrs. William Finch
Judy & Ron Druckenmiller
Burton & Alice Kominick
Jeanne Bloomquist
Walter Herrod
Kwik Trip, Inc.

2012 National Youth Gathering Information

What: The National Youth Gathering is a time where youth from across the United States gather to worship, to serve, to learn, and to have fellowship. The theme for this gathering is, "Citizens with the Saints," taken from Ephesians 2:14-20. Here is a paraphrase of the theme from gathering material: "Jesus is our peace. In his life and death on the cross, Jesus broke down the dividing walls so that we are no longer strangers and outsiders, but we are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. The foundation of God's house was built of apostles and prophets, and Jesus, the cornerstone, holds it all together."

Where: This gathering will once again be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. We will stay in a hotel in New Orleans, serve in the surrounding community, eat in local restaurants, and worship in the Superdome - along with 30,000+ other youth and leaders from across the country. We are going back to New Orleans to them and ourselves that Jesus calls us to stand against suffering and oppression that holds many people in poverty. Accompanying the recovery from Hurricane Katrina, and the added catastrophe of the Gulf oil spill, is an ongoing part of our call as a church, so we respond.

When: The gathering is July 18-22, 2012. While travel plans are not yet arranged, we will most likely arrive in New Orleans in the morning on the 18th and depart the afternoon of the 22nd. We will be purchasing airline tickets to get us there and back.

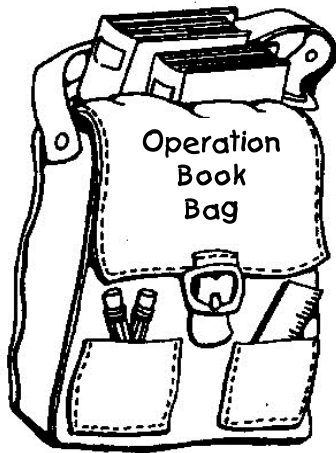
Who: The gathering is intended for any teenager in or just graduating from high school in 2012. That means, if in the fall of 2011 you are starting eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, you are eligible to go on this trip. We will also have chaperones for the trip, the number depending on how many youth plan to go.

Costs: There are many costs associated with this trip. There are plane tickets to buy, meals to be purchased, hotels to pay for, and the event registration fee. The total cost is estimated at just above \$1,000 per participant. We will be working as a youth group and as Gathering participants throughout this year to raise money so that there is as little out-of-pocket cost as possible. We will ask each youth to pay a non-refundable deposit to reserve his or her spot.

Other Info: We will have an information meeting in September to go over many more details. Be on the lookout for when that meeting will take place. We will need to register with the Gathering on October 9, 2011. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Jason at jlee@atonementwyo.org.

To learn more about the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, go to www.elca.org/gathering or join their Facebook community at www.facebook.com/youthgathering.





Atonement will again participate in the West Berks Mission District drive to collect school supplies for the elementary and middle schools in the Reading School District. Last year more than 600 filled book-bags were delivered to the Reading schools to benefit children in need. Please consider donating items for this year's drive. *All donations must be brought to the narthex by Sunday, August 8.*

For elementary students:

Backpack/book-bag, primer tablets, construction paper, rulers, crayons, pencil box or bag, pencils, erasers, safety scissors, glue sticks, small packs of tissues.

For middle school students:

Backpack/book-bag, 3 or 5 subject notebooks, notebook paper, assignment books, pens (blue or black), colored pencils, pencils, erasers, highlighters, calculators, small packs of tissues.

Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase additional backpacks and school supplies. Please make checks payable to: *West Berks Mission District – Memo Operation Book Bag.*”

VBS & Summer Day Camp

June 20-24, 8:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Children age 3 by January 2011 through those completing grade 4 are invited to join us at Vacation Bible School for *Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid*. Children will visit Mary's house where they will hear Mary tell stories about how she was chosen to be Jesus' mother and what it was like living with Jesus when he was a baby, boy, and man. In addition to these Bible stories, there will be action-packed games, amazing music, and awesome crafts to take home. Youth from Grade 5 through adults are invited to help with VBS. It requires approximately 50 volunteers to keep the week fun for everyone. On Sunday, June 26, our VBS children will come together to sing at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. VBS is open to all Atonement members, preschool families, friends and neighbors. Register today for a week of fun, fellowship and faith growth. A registration form for VBS as well as a form to volunteer to help can be found in this newsletter.

We will again offer our Atonement members who have just completed kindergarten through grade 6 the option of expanding their VBS morning to include a full-day, summer camp experience. The summer camp will be held the same week as VBS, June 20-24, 2011. Camp days will consist of VBS in the morning followed by a brown-bag lunch and summer activities like swimming, organized games, and off-site outings. We will offer early morning drop-off and late afternoon pick-up structured around the work-hours of parents. A suggested donation of \$35 per child will help cover the cost of snacks, transportation, and activities for the week. The donation can be made any time prior to or during the week of camp. Please note on the donation that it is for "Summer Camp". A camp registration form can be found in the church narthex or by calling 610-375-3512. Your child is sure to enjoy a week with Pastor Summy, Pastor Lee, and adult and teen volunteers as they engage in a variety of fun-filled summer activities. Camp is limited to 24 participants. Spots are reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

Common Ground Recovery Worship

All are welcome!
Wednesday, June 1
7:30 p.m.
Lundin Hall

Registration for Atonement's Vacation Bible School

(for children age 3 by January 2011 up to those completing grade 4 this year)

June 20 - 24, 8:45 - 11:30 a.m., & Sunday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. worship

Child's Name: _____

Child's Age: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Gender: M F

Last School Grade Completed: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Congregation (if any): _____

Person who will pick up child at 11:30 a.m. each day of VBS: _____

Relationship to Child: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency contact if parent/guardian cannot be reached: _____

Relationship to Child: _____ Phone: _____

Allergies (food, bee, etc.) or medical needs that staff should be aware of:

Any behavioral issues or strategies that will help us interact more effectively with your child? _____

Special needs/circumstances: _____

Will you help at VBS? (Adults and Youth, Grade 5 on up)

(Circle areas of interest) -Group Leader- -Crafts- -Games- -Prepare Snacks on site- -Nursery-

Name: _____ Phone: _____

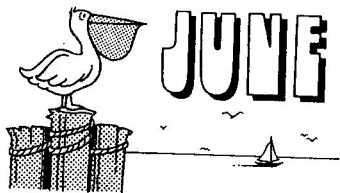
Days Available to Help: _____ All _____ Only: Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri

— Please return completed registration form to Atonement Lutheran Church Office by June 5, 2011 —

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*
Scott Gruver, *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.