



Atonement Ministries on the Move!

March 2005

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Behold, Lord,

An empty vessel than needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor....

O Lord, help me.

Strengthen my faith and trust in you....

With me, there is an abundance of sin;

In you is the fullness of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with you,

Whom I can receive,

But to whom I may not give.

Martin Luther

Holy Week Worship

March 24	7:00 PM	<i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> with 1st Communion
March 25	11:00, 12:15, 1:30 7:00 PM	<i>GOOD FRIDAY AT ATONEMENT TENEBRAE SERVICE</i>
March 27	6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 7:30—11:00	<i>EASTER WORSHIP EASTER BREAKFAST</i>

March Highlights

March 5		Mission Team leaves for Jamaica!
March 8	7:00 PM	Training for “Church of the Week” hosts/hostesses
March 12		Mission Team returns from Jamaica!
March 18-19		Men in Mission Retreat
March 19	9:00-11:00 AM	First Communion Class

Women's News

Wednesdays at 9:00 am Quilting

March 1	1:30-6:30	Bloodmobile
March 22	9:30	Naomi Circle
March 23	9:30	Elizabeth Circle
	1:15	Esther Circle
	8:00	Ruth/Martha Cir.

Bloodmobile.... Many thanks to the two couples who volunteered to work the Bloodmobile for the February drive. They are: Alice & Ken Norbie and Betty & Wayne Hayes. This is a nice way for couples to volunteer at the same time for the same event. We appreciate their willingness in this effort. We need more people to try this volunteer service! It's only once a month and takes just a few hours and is so gratifying. All the donors who come to our site enjoy our volunteers. Please consider this! The next time the Bloodmobile is at Atonement is March. Please consider donating blood at this time. Thanks!! *LouAnn Garner..*

Ministry Opportunities

“Spring” into Action for the Homeless!....Please help Paper & Plastic set the table at Place of Hope by bringing these items to church on March 20 (or drop them off any time in March): **Plastic Utensils, Paper/Plastic Hot Cups, Paper/Plastic Plates, Paper/Plastic Bowls, and Napkins.** Questions? Call Phil Sturlaugson at 259-6451.

Church of the Week.....Thanks to all of you who have so generously given your time and energy in the past to our outreach to the homeless in our area. Atonement will again be hosting guests from the Place of Hope Sunday, April 3, through Saturday, April 16. Start thinking about how you might want to be involved! Wonderfully surprising and rewarding things happen when we step out of our comfort zones!

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!.....Atonement will be participating in Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign. As a community of faith, we are called to help those who are hungry and in need all year long. During this season of Lent, let's put a special emphasis on sharing all that we have with the less fortunate. The Caritas Food Shelf needs our help to restock the shelves. Donations of non-perishable food or cash may be dropped off at church all month long.

What in the World Is GRIP up to Now!....Have you ever wondered what GRIP is up to now? We will have a speaker with us at the March 16 Lenten services to address how GRIP is working in our local community to promote justice for all. GRIP believes in God's love and Jesus' instructions that all people are sacred and meant to have access to dignity. To that end we are required to work toward elimination of factors that undermine dignity. Issues receiving particular attention this year through GRIP include promoting restoration of funds through the Minnesota legislative branch for battered women's programs and educational funding. You will have an opportunity to let your thoughts be known on these issues through a letter writing campaign, e-mail writing or even personal visits to your legislators. Following the March 13 and March 16 worship services there will be an opportunity to receive information on these campaigns. You may even complete a short letter on these dates to be included in the packet of letters sent to area legislators from Atonement. If you want to complete these at another date, but prior to the end of March, contact information will be provided.

Global Citizen Day....In conjunction with the 5th Annual Concert for Hunger, Zion Lutheran church of Litchfield will celebrate **Global Citizen Day on Saturday, April 2.** The day will feature many different opportunities to actively learn more about how we as citizens impact the greater world around us, and how we are impacted by our brothers and sisters from afar. Guest presenters include Bishop Jon Anderson, Bob Sitze and Kevin Jacobson from the ELCA and Jeff Rasmussen from Lutheran World Relief. There will be an opportunity to hear first hand how the relief efforts are going in the areas most affected by the tsunami disaster. The day will culminate with a concert by the Tim Hansen Project at 7:00. Cost for the event will be a food item for the Meeker County Emergency Food Shelf. We will also take a donation during the concert which will go toward tsunami relief. Contact Kris Lehman if you are interested in attending.

Inside Atonement

Girls' Night Out....We will meet at the Ace Café on Thursday, March 17, at 6:00 pm. Please call Donna Schotl-Smith at 229-7405 to let her know you are coming.

Adult Learning Opportunities....

March 6, 9:30 am, "My Life, My Plan".....So, what do you want to do with your life? Challenges people to think about who they are, what they are doing, and what they would like to accomplish in their life. No matter what your life has involved thus far, you have the opportunity to start living with greater meaning, satisfaction and fulfillment. It requires a plan...a personal roadmap to living life on your terms. This workshop will help you do that.

March 13, 9:30 am, "From Me to We"....A workshop designed to help couples discover how to create joint financial value out of their personal values. Exercises prompt you to evaluate and discuss financial needs, philosophies and goals. Together you develop the financial awareness to get started on your desired future.

Youth Update

Summer Programs....*Day Camp & VBS*

Now is the time to begin thinking about these two summer programs offered right here at Atonement. **Day Camp is July 25-29 from 9:00-3:00 each day.** Staff from Luther Crest Bible Camp bring great camp experiences to children kindergarten through grade 3. Registration forms are in the church office. Fee is \$35 for the week.

Vacation Bible School will be a Circus Spectacular Gospel Adventure this summer!! Children ages 3 through grade 6 are encouraged to experience Bible stories through a combination of music, art, snacks, games, and drama. **VBS will be June 20-23** and you may choose either morning or evening sessions. Watch for our registration kick-off on Sunday, April 17.



Sunday School.....The Rotational Sunday School story this month is about Peter and Cornelius. Read about them in Acts 10:1-48. There will be no Sunday School on Palm Sunday and Easter. We encourage families to worship together on those days.

First Communion...Children in first grade and older who are not receiving communion will have an opportunity to learn about the sacrament on Saturday, March 19, from 9:00-11:00 am. Parents must accompany their child to this learning experience. Children will receive their 1st Communion on Thursday, March 24, at the 7:00 pm worship service. Letters will be mailed to families the first week in March. If you do not receive one and wish to participate, please contact the church office.



Spirit Trek....Spirit Trek will resume on Wednesday, March 30 (right after Easter). Don't forget!!!! Ninth grade students will bring their mentors to this Spirit Trek workshop.



Book Nook News...

Watch for our basket sale coming this month! First Communion is on MaundyThursday. Let us help you choose that special gift for that special child!

Also, the Book Nook is looking for "a few good volunteers" who would be interested in working with the Book Nook project. If so, call Lois at 259-5525 or Barb at 251-3958.