

Atonement's News

A Monthly Publication of Atonement Lutheran Church February 2014

This month I would like to focus on an important truth as God's people who are in Christ. That truth is this: *"Everything we say, think, and do communicates something about our God to everyone else."* So what is it that we communicate and tell others about God and his parish, Atonement Lutheran Church?

When we greet our fellow parishioners warmly and give them a friendly handshake or hug on Sunday morning, we communicate something about our fellowship with that person. We communicate something about our care for one another as fellow members of Atonement Lutheran and the body of Christ. When we donate to a local food pantry we communicate that we are a people that have received great mercy and compassion from our God and so, in return, we give it to all who have need. When we come together for a Bible Study we communicate that we are about knowing Christ and his love more and more. When we come together as a parish to organize and present a vacation bible school curriculum, a car show, or a living nativity event for the community, we communicate that we are about helping others to know and share Christ and his love. When



we come together in the Divine Service on Sunday morning to worship with an order of service out of the *Lutheran Service Book* and receive the grace of God through the pronouncement of the forgiveness of sins, the reading of the Holy Scriptures, the preaching of a sermon, the singing of hymns, the praying of prayers, and the reception of the body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper, we communicate to others that we are a community of believers that is about receiving what we *need* from our God and then living in and giving that much needed grace, mercy, and forgiveness to others.

"Everything we say, think, and do communicates something about our God to everyone else." This important truth helps shape my decisions as your Pastor and leader here at Atonement. "How can we communicate better who we are as the people of God in Christ? How can we communicate better through our Divine Service, the aesthetics of our church property and sanctuary, our education activities, our fellowship events, and our evangelism and outreach attempts, that *we are about caring for the whole person with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?*"

As we continue in this new year, let us each consider this question for ourselves as well as for our parish: "How can I/our parish communicate better our care for the whole person with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?" This coming year will be the **celebration of Atonement's 50th anniversary**. This coming year we will also decide together as a parish our **vision for ministry** in the next one to three years. It is my prayer that God, through the work of his Spirit, will use such a question to prepare us to approach these two big events together as a congregation.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh



***The Mission of
Atonement
Lutheran Church
is to be a vibrant,
intimate Christian
community;
nurtured by word
and sacrament,
meeting the
physical and
spiritual needs of
the people with
Christ-like care,
encouraging a life
full of hope with
an eternal future.***

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP



Scrolls

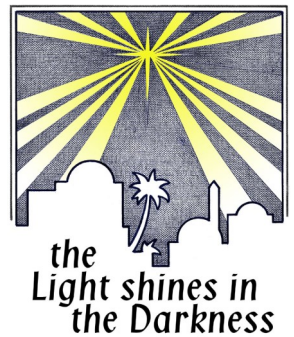
When you see the word book in the Bible, it means “scroll”. These were made of either papyrus or parchment, glued together to form long continuous rolls that were wound on a pair of rods. The beginning of a scroll was on the right and the end of the left (since Hebrews wrote from right to left.) Scrolls are still used in synagogues.

Our modern form of book, with pages attached at one side, was first called a *codex*, and did not come into use till around A.D. 100. They were an improvement, obviously, and for the first time it was possible to have the whole Bible together, which was never possible with scrolls. The Bible on one scroll would have been far too bulky.

“God’s poor Greek”, Koine

Rome was the chief political power in the New Testament age, but language wise, Greek ruled. The common (Koine) Greek used throughout the Roman Empire was a convenient language allowing communication between merchants, officials-and preachers of the gospel. Koine was not the beautiful (but difficult) “classical” Greek of Homer and Plato, but a more flexible, easily mastered Greek. The entire New Testament was written in Greek, mostly by authors for whom it was a second language. It was sometimes referred to as “God’s poor Greek,” but it was a perfect language for spreading a new faith across an empire.

The four Sundays in February are in the Epiphany season of the Church Year calendar. Epiphany is a word that means “showing forth” or “manifesting.” The Epiphany season begins on January 6 with the visit of the Wise Men to worship the Baby Jesus as the newborn King of the Jews. The season continues with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, the calling of His first disciples, His preaching the good news of salvation and the opening of His famous Sermon on the Mount. In the four Gospel readings for February we find Jesus teaching that we are lights in this spiritually dark world who give evidence of our new birth as Christians as we love even our enemies and seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. To live that way is truly an “epiphany experience” to show that we really belong to our Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit live renewed lives.



That’s what Christian stewardship is all about! Wise Christian stewards manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes and do it freely and joyfully! We practice the kind of stewardship that is pleasing to our Lord when we give freely and generously of our time to serve in special ways that bless the mission of the church and the people living in our communities. This kind of stewardship is also shown when we freely and joyfully offer our talents and skills to help the church prosper and make life sweeter for those around us. This kind of stewardship continues when we give freely and

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

	2012	2013		2012	2013
1st Quarter	59.5	69.42	Lent	40	41.6
2nd Quarter	62.5	71.08	Easter	103	142
3rd Quarter	62.27	68.7	Advent	-0-	20.3
4th Quarter	68.6	74.4	Christmas Eve	130	122
			New Year’s Eve	34	42

joyfully of our financial resources to support the work of the church in nurturing believers and reaching out to invite others to know Jesus.

Many people view Christian stewardship as something that we have to do [a command] in order to be true followers of Jesus. That simply is not true! Real Christian stewardship is the privilege of offering all that we are and have to make a difference in this world of spiritual darkness. Just as Jesus came on that first Christmas to bring light to a darkened world, so we are called to follow His example. Will we follow in His footsteps perfectly, use all that we are and have in truly unselfish ways and be willing to make sacrifices so the mission of Christ's church on earth may prosper and become a home for many more redeemed people? No, of course not! We are sinners and will fall short of the glory of God. But, in Christ, God has declared us to be saints because our sins and shortcomings have been forgiven and the Holy Spirit empowers us to let our lights shine so that people will see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.

The bottom line for Christian stewards is to hear and obey our Lord's words when he taught: ***"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [material blessings] will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."*** (Matthew 6:33-34 NIV)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT



For the month of December we received offerings in the amount of \$18,135.25

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The board of Evangelism has been meeting regularly and will be having a new member dinner this month. Look for more news next month!



The winter quarter of the Growing in Christ Sunday School Program focuses on New Testament Stories.

Our February stories and Bible verses include:

Lesson 10—February 2nd

The Sermon on the Mount:

Blessed—Jesus Blesses Zacchaeus

Reading: Matthew 5:1–12

Bible Words:

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

Lesson 11—February 9th

The Sermon on the Mount:

Salt and Light—Dorcas Glorifies God

Reading: Matthew 5:13–20; Acts 9:36–43

Bible Words:

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Lesson 12—February 16th

The Sermon on the Mount:

Anger—Onesimus and Philemon

Reading: Matthew 5:21–26; Philemon

Bible Words:

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Lesson 13—February 23rd

The Sermon on the Mount:

Enemies—Ananias Cares for Saul

Reading: Matthew 5:38–48; Acts 9:10–19

Bible Words:

God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son. John 3:16

ATONEMENT'S LWML

Sunday, February 2nd

Super Bowl Sunday Junk Food Sale

Stock up on goodies for Super Bowl Sunday. Proceeds will help send ladies of our congregation to the LWML District Convention in June.

Sunday, February 9th

Undies Sunday

We will be collecting NEW underwear and socks for kids and adults beginning on February 9th. The collection will continue through February and will benefit Orphan Grain Train. Please place donations in the basket in the narthex.

ATONEMENT'S HIKING CLUB

We will hike on Saturday, February 22nd. Stay tuned for more information!



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Evenings (6:00 pm—7:00 pm)

Church Library

Study of the Book of Acts

Newcomers Welcome!

Contact Person—Don Geisinger (619) 698-6045



PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Sandee Boelter if you would like a prayer on the Prayer Chain. Sandee can be contacted by phone at (619) 589-6466 or by e-mail at dave_sandee@cox.net. If you can't get a hold of her by phone, you can call Joanne Luther at (619) 461-6366 or Jennie Green at (619) 465-6051.

FEBRUARY LAY MINISTERS

- 2 Don Geisinger
- 9 Manny Cruz
- 16 Jim Dysart
- 23 Manny Cruz

FEBRUARY USHER

Rob Bryant

FEBRUARY FLOWERS

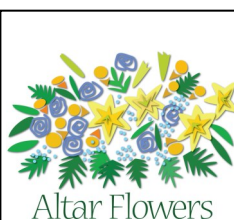
- 2 Fred and Guida Rueger's 60th Anniversary
- 9 Vandewalker's 58th Anniversary
- 16 Sandee Boelter
- 23 Geneva Mello's Birthday

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Katie Duggan
- 10 Shirley Ferguson
- 17 Andrew Jay
- 18 Fred Rueger
- 19 Nancy Riley
- Christian Betancourt
- 20 Jared Weber
- 28 Geneva Mello

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Fred and Guida Rueger
- 14 Mark and Lynn Chiaravalle
- 17 Todd and Kathy Martens
- 23 Manfred and Joanne Luther
- 25 Larry and Teresa Steele



Don't forget to sign up for flowers for 2014. The suggested donation is \$30 and the new flower chart is hung in the narthex.

2013—2014

Officers and Board/Committee Members

Executive Board

President	Todd Martens
Secretary	Carol Hernandez
Financial Secretary	Ann Duggan
Treasurer	Nancy Riley

Board of Lay Ministry

Chairperson	Manny Cruz
Member	Don Geisinger
Member	Jim Dysart

Board of Stewardship

Chairperson	Judy Dysart
Member	Lynn Chiaravalle
Member	Sue Pollock
Member	Kathy Martens

Board of Properties

Chairperson	Art and Beth Puls
Member	Manfred Luther
Member	Bobby Riess
Member	Bob Imig

Board of Fellowship

Chairperson	Jennie Green
Member	Donna Hurd

Board of Education

Chairperson	Gloria Ollhoff
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Board of Outreach

Chairperson	Sandee Boelter
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Flowers	Carol Hernandez
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ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

10245 Loma Rancho Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91978
(619) 670-7174

Rev. Joshua LaFeve, Pastor
atonementspringvalley.org
atonement.sv@gmail.com

Weekly Service

Sunday at 9:00 am

Bible Study

Sunday at 10:30 am
Tuesday at 6:00 pm (Men's)
Wednesday at 10:00 am

Sunday School

Sunday at 10:30 am

Confirmation

Tuesday at 5:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Atoner's Bell Ringers

Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Ladies Group

Lutheran Women Missionary League
Third Monday of most months at 6:30 pm.

Hiking Club

Last Saturday of each month. Location and times to be announced

FEBRUARY

March 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:15 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Divine Service 10:00 am Junk Food Sale 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	3	4 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	5 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	6 11:30 am Better Life Together	7	8
9 8:15 am Handbell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	10 6:00 pm Church Council	11 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	12 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	13 11:00 am Lay Ministers 11:30 am Better Life Together	14	15
16 8:15 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	17	18 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	19 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	20 11:30 am Better Life Together	21 7:00 pm Game Night	22 9:00 am Hiking Club 10:00 am AI Anon Business Meeting
23 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	24	25 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	26 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	27 11:30 am Better Life Together	28	