



VOICE OF ATONEMENT



December was truly a month to celebrate! Christmas Eve worship services were a joy, the Children's Christmas program was amazing, and the 50th Anniversary was a celebration we'll all remember. I want to thank everyone who helped make this such a joyous month!

All of this has meant good ministry and good memories. And it's worth reflecting on all the good that's been done. At Christmas we get to worship with more guests than usual, our children and their families get to share the meaning of Christmas with the congregation, and the 50th Anniversary was a unique opportunity to remember all the wonderful ministry Atonement's been a part of over the years.

And now, we get to turn our eyes to the coming year. John starts off his gospel with the familiar words, "In the beginning..." It's familiar because we hear it a lot around Christmas time. But it's also familiar because he's quoting the beginning of Genesis – the beginning of creation. John is connecting his readers with the past while inviting them to see a whole new creation. The God who has always been is still actively creating in and through the person of Jesus Christ. It's the same and new all at the same time.

I think that's the invitation for us as individuals and as a community during this season. We're invited to remember that the God who has brought us this far is still walking with us. At the same time we're invited to see that God is always creating; always doing something new. God is never static and unmoved, but God is also not erratic and doing things that are outside of God's character.

How is God calling us into the future? What new thing is God inviting you to think about? How has God been faithful to you in the past, and how does that encourage you moving forward? I'm assuming our calling will not be outside the character of this community, but I also know that God is calling us to not be static either.

As we move forward I am grateful for all the ways God has shown faithfulness to us over the years. I'm also grateful for the loving character of this community. And I look forward to seeing just where God will bring us next.

Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris

Happy New Year!

~JANUARY 2016~

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ADULT EDUCATION

"Welcome, New Year, and welcome back to the Adult Ed series with David Lose, "Making Sense of the Christian Faith". In January we offer sessions 4-8 of this series:

Jan 3 - Incarnation

Jan 10 - Atonement

Jan 17 - Church and Holy Spirit

Jan 24 - Eschatology (the theology concerned with the final events of history. This concept is commonly referred to as the "end of the world" or "end time")

Jan 31 - Speaker from Lutheran Family Services on the refugee crisis in Europe and the resettlement of displaced people from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan sponsored by FIA

Please join us for any or all sessions! The Adult Ed team

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Madeline Hebert and Kari Bland did a fantastic job of leading the children's Christmas pageant. We thank them for their hard work, and if you ask any of the children, we are certain they will tell you that they had lots of FUN with the songs and actions this year.

At our Christmas pageant rehearsal, children took a break to put together 8 personal care kits that were given to Lutheran World Relief for people experiencing difficult times.

After a holiday break, Sunday School will resume on January 10 at 10:15 am.

Our next Children's Ministry Team Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30. One of the items we will be discussing is Vacation Bible School. Please feel free to join us and share your ideas.

Amanda Whitt

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HANNAH CIRCLE

Hannah Circle meets on January 19, 2016 at 1 o'clock pm. We begin a new study based on the New Testament book of Philippians titled "Christian Citizenship 101"

The lesson is in the Jan\Feb *gather magazine* page 30. Copies of the study will be in the church narthex the week before we meet. We hope you'll join us as we learn and fellowship together.

THANK YOU

Members of Atonement,

A grateful thanks for your attendance at the service, cards and calls of sympathy after Darlene's passing. All of the family thanks you.

Jim & the Ball Family

BLANKETS & COATS

Lutheran Church of the Atonement will be collecting blankets and pillows for Lutheran Family Services, and jackets and children's clothing for Community Ministry in January. Please leave your donations in the Narthex.

A little bit about Lutheran family Services

Founded in 1948 to provide adoptive placement for babies, over time programs were added to meet new community needs: birth parent counseling, foster care, aging services, international adoptions, services to refugees, aid following disasters, and parent education. In 1995 LFS began its unique teen pregnancy prevention program that is provided to middle and high schools in Northern Colorado. LFS is now one of the largest private foster care providers in the state and the largest refugee resettlement agency in the Rocky Mountain region. With offices located in Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Greeley/Evans and Fort Morgan, CO and Albuquerque, NM, and services provided in Wyoming, Montana and Western Nebraska, LFS now responds to critical social and emotional needs of approximately 30,000 people annually.

The Atonement community is also collecting jackets and children's clothes for **Community Ministry** in January. The mission of Community Ministry is to meet the basic needs of qualified people in Southwest Denver who are experiencing economic hardships and related problems. The Food Pantry of Community Ministry serves residents living in the 80219, 80223, 80236 and 80227 (Denver County) zip codes. Clients living outside these zip codes may be served one time and will be referred to other agencies in their area. The Clothing Bank has no boundary restrictions.

FAITH IN ACTION

Adult Education on 01/31/2016: Refugee Crisis

Have you been upset by recent events in the news? Do you have questions about the refugee crisis in Europe and the resettlement of displaced people from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan?

Please join us for the Adult Education session on Sunday, January 31st when a representative from Lutheran Family Service will speak on these topics. LFS and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services have been working with refugees and asylums since 1939. You will learn about the process for vetting refugees and how we can be church together in thinking about and helping refugee families.

The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries

Book Discussions on 02/21/2016 and 03/13/2016 following the 10:30 service

FIA will continue its focus on the ELCA's most recent social statement, the criminal justice system and mass incarceration with a book discussion. We will read *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson is the executive director of the

FAITH IN ACTION CONTD.

Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, AL and tells the stories of defending poor clients in the criminal justice system. Order the book by signing up in the narthex by 01/03/2015 and paying \$10 to Laura Buhs or the church office.

“Bryan Stevenson is America’s young Nelson Mandela, a brilliant lawyer fighting with courage and conviction to guarantee justice for all. *Just Mercy* should be read by people of conscience in every civilized country in the world to discover what happens when revenge and retribution replace justice and mercy. It is as gripping to read as any legal thriller, and what hangs in the balance is nothing less than the soul of a great nation.”—

Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Peter Severson, Director of Advocacy for Rocky Mountain Synod

Peter will speak at the Adult Education session on 04/03/2015 on advocacy efforts in our synod, mass incarceration and the criminal justice system. He will also preach at both services.

Prison Ministries in the U.S. and Uganda Faith in Action has invited two colleagues, Pastors Lewis and Sabuni, of our seminarian, Richard Gianzero, to speak about their prison ministries. Watch for the date in the next newsletter.

Border Immersion Trip

Faith in Action is exploring interest in a border immersion trip in early June through Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX. The cost is \$350 for one week plus food and transportation and anyone over age 15 can participate. Contact Laura Buhs at lbuchs@msn.com or 303-561-2814 if you are interested.

FIA Picks

Confronting Racism: A Holy Yearning

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and William B. Horne II, an ELCA member from Clearwater, Fla., will continue their conversation on *racism* – a violation of God’s intention for humanity – in another live webcast **Jan. 14, 2016, at 8 p.m. (CST)**. Eaton and Horne will be joined by other ELCA members who bring various perspectives on the U.S. criminal justice system. <https://www.elca.org/webcast>

LIRS Response to ISIS attacks and Syrian refugee resettlement

<http://blog.lirs.org/lirs-response-to-isis-attacks-and-syrian-refugee-resettlement/>

The Lutheran, November 2015 Issue

Article on ELCA assistance to refugees in Europe and the Middle East

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12824

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Community Ministry - Helping Hands

Our Atonement Family partners with 26 other churches, various businesses and area schools to provide some of the basic needs of families in the Southwest Denver area who are experiencing economic hardships and related problems. Some of the services they provide are a food bank, a clothing bank for children, collect and distribute books, socks and underwear for children, winter coats, school supplies, 680 Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, 522 Christmas gifts for children, utilities assistance for 146 families, flu shots and glucose and BP screenings, nutrition and cooking classes, healthy community referrals, commodity programs, and assistance in applying for food stamps and other benefit programs.

Specifically, our Atonement family has provided some of the following over the past year:

- \$4,585.50 in cash donations
- 2,837 pounds of food valued at \$5,503.78
- 119 cans of soup on Super Bowl Sunday
- 312 packages of socks, underwear, hats, gloves, etc.
- Adopting 30 Children for the Sharing Tree Christmas Gifts
- 549 items of school supplies
- Volunteers for sorting and stacking food contributions each week
- Volunteers to interview clients each week
- Volunteers to drive to Greely twice each month to pick up eggs for food bank
- Volunteers to pick up food donations from various contributors each week

The participation and contributions of the Atonement Family make a big difference in the lives of members of our community. It truly takes a village. Thank you Atonement, for all that you do to support this vital ministry in our community.

Jeffco Action Center

School supplies are an ongoing need. They get broken, lost or used up during the school year. During the months of September thru May, we continue to collect school supplies for the Jeffco Action center. These school supplies can be placed in the box in the narthex. We deliver them as the box fills.

Angel Tree

This past year members of Atonement provided 100 gifts to needy children and adults in our community for Christmas. We provided gifts for Community Ministry children, Lutheran Family Services and the Salvation Army. Collecting these gifts for others is rewarding – and fun too. Thank you, Atonement.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Helen Pfnister
Shelly Slinkard
Michelle Healey
Elva Olson
Eric Anderson

Audrey Clausen
Carol Farr
Jenni Walcher
Elaine Litchenwalter
Euvonne Johnson

<u>2015</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$30,328		\$338,102
Income	\$43,305	\$35,315	\$388,478
Expenses	\$36,099	\$28,959	\$318,548
Net Income	\$7,206	\$6,356	\$69,930

MISSION SUPPORT (shown above)

November's giving income was ahead of the plan for the month, although we are still approximately \$28,000 behind the plan year-to-date. Total revenues for the month was very good with the Global Gift Fair being included in the total. However, this was offset with the payout to the Gift Fair vendors for their share of the proceeds out of expenses. Net income for the month was over \$7,000. Year-to-date income is almost \$70,000, but that includes \$57,000 of Mortgage Reduction Funds that was used to pay down our mortgage in addition to the regular monthly principal payment.

CAPITAL FUND

We have received an additional \$2,065 in mortgage reduction contributions in November. We currently have a balanced of \$4,962 in the Mortgage Reduction Fund.

VISIT US

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Email: churchoffice@atonement-denver.org

www.atonementdenver.org

FOOT CARE CLINIC

Join us for our Wellness Foot Care Clinic on the second Thursday of every month from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. To sign up, please call the Visiting Nurse Association at: [303.698.6496](tel:303.698.6496) This month, we will be meeting on the 14th.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

For January, Community Ministry has asked us to donate non-perishable food items. Thank you.

JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

Betty Moody
Robert Miller
Cliff & Janis Eldredge
Child of God
Barbara & John Krug
Carol Farr

POINSETTIAS

If you'd like to sponsor our Christmas poinsettia display, the cost is \$15. Please sign-up in the narthex, and indicate a dedication if you are interested.

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Chris Davis



Worship Director

Rev. Peter Hebert

Office Admin.

Linda Neslund

Communications/

Media Office Assist.

Nick Root

Choir Accompanist

Carol Ott

Organists

Carol Ott

Gayle Gunderson

Seminarian

Richard Gianzero

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