

# ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Meeting February 13, 2011

## AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
- B. Opening Prayer
- C. 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes
- D. Pastor's Report
- E. Election of Board of Directors Members and Representatives
- F. Reports by Committees and Others
- G. Financial Reports for 2010
- H. Budget for 2011
- I. Old Business
- J. New Business
- K. Closing Prayer

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## Atonement Lutheran Congregational Fund Financial Report 2010

### Perpetual Fund

\$43,788.32	Beginning Balance as of 1/1/10
\$ 4,992.80	Gifts Received through 20 X 5 Club
\$ 4,364.62	Earnings, dividends, stock appreciation -T Rowe Price Capital Appreciation Fund
\$1,918.56	Money Market Account (Federated Municipal Obligation Fund)
(\$ 356.76)	Trust Department Fees Paid to Ramsey Bank

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**\$54,707.54      Balance of Perpetual Fund as of 12/31/09**

These figures include the funds held in the money market savings account having been invested in Federated Municipal Obligation Fund #852. The primary investment account is in T Rowe Price Capital Appreciation Fund in order to earn a better return on any monies in that flexible account.

### Congregational Memorial (general) Fund

\$31,200.29	Beginning Balance as of 1/1/10
\$2,500.00	Gifts Received through 20 X 5 Club
(\$ 3,000.00)	Distribution –Church in Peru
(\$1,000.00)	Distribution—Well in Mozambique
(\$276.21)	Trust Department Fees Paid to Ramsey Bank

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**\$32,124.60      Book Value (cost basis of stock purchases)**

\$29,994.88	Market Value of Harbor Bond Fund
\$2,163.78	Money Market Account in Federated Municipal Obligation Fund #852

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**\$32,158.66      Current Market Value**

The monies that had been received through the 20 X 5 Club had been in an interest bearing money market account until July of 2009 when it was invested in the Harbor Bond Fund. Currently we have 2,478.916 shares at 12.100. This fund is available for distributions, as the Congregational Fund Committee deems appropriate.

Brenda Carlson  
Financial Secretary

# **ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **A Vision for the future!**

**Atonement's Mission Statement** To offer Jesus Christ, a life of discipleship and a faith community to all people.

### **Atonement's Vision Statement**

Atonement will strive to be a church family with a heart and passion for all people, with a particular passion for those who don't know Jesus. We will boldly proclaim the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ and teach what it means to be a follower of Jesus in daily life. As a community of faith we will minister to people in all stages of life, caring for their body, mind and spirit.

### **We Will be A Congregation That:**

- 1.** Stands boldly on and faithfully teaches God's Word as revealed in scripture.
- 2.** Believes in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives and shape the hearts and lives of followers of Jesus.
- 3.** Is evangelical in the Lutheran heritage.
- 4.** Worships God with praise, celebration, reverence and enthusiasm..
- 5.** Teaches and challenges people in every stage of life to be fully devoted followers of Jesus.
- 6.** Cares deeply about the poor, the disadvantaged, the disabled and people in need.
- 7.** Creates life-giving community through small groups and fellowship opportunities.
- 8.** Cares for, prays for and loves each other in our smallest and biggest human needs.
- 9.** Grows larger and yet where anyone can find community and be connected.
- 10.** Trains and equips followers of Jesus to share the gospel and witness to others.
- 11.** Trains and equips followers of Jesus to serve both in the church as well as being the Body of Christ in our community and world.
- 12.** Helps families raise their children and youth to be fully devoted followers of Jesus.

## **Board of Directors President's Report**

Greetings Fellow Members of Atonement,

I am proud to say this has been an amazing year for Atonement, not only have the leaders and staff seen the congregation grow in numbers, we have witnessed the individual spiritual growth of members as well.

In 2010, the Lord gave us the opportunity to come together as a community and fight the waters of the valley successfully. I hope we are getting pretty good at it because it looks like we will have another opportunity in a few months! We have struggled through a sluggish economy and it feels like it is finally turning around, praise the Lord!

We have had the opportunity to open our church home to many guests and new members this year. I can feel the excitement as I walk down the hall on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights. Thank you to all the current members and staff for your welcoming spirit to the large amount of new members joining in 2010.

The Atonement staff has also been hard at work implementing the various stages of the strategic plan. I have seen incredible work being done on life stages, evangelism, missions, small groups and leadership training. There is continued discussion about the appropriate facilities needed to carry out this plan. It will be exciting to see how God leads Atonement next!

The 2010 budget was an aggressive one again, an 8% increase over 2009, and we not only met this goal, we surpassed it! Our church also raised money for missions, including building a well in Africa. The year in front of us looks to be an exciting one with lots of opportunities for everyone to roll up their shirt sleeves and help God use Atonement to do His work.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you,

Shannon Olson

Board of Directors President

# ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 21, 2010 @12:15 p.m. -meeting held in the sanctuary of Atonement Lutheran Church.

President Shannon Olson called the meeting to order. Everyone is thanked for coming to this meeting; this day is important as it is a formal way of closing out 2009 and focusing all of our energy to the year ahead of us. We need 10% of the eligible voters or 67 voting members to establish a quorum, this number has been exceeded. There are three necessary requirements to vote:

1. You must be 18 years of age or older
2. You must have attended at least one church service at Atonement during the past 6 months according to Atonement's attendance records
3. You must have contributed financially during the past 12 months according to Atonement's financial records

Pres. Shannon led the opening prayer.

Minutes from 1-25-09 as printed are motioned for approval by Mary Gillespie, seconded by Wade Sperry, motion carried unanimously.

## **Pastors' Report**

Pastor Dale's Report is printed on page 6. 2009 was a good year and a tough year- we had a flood, road construction, slow economy and still we were blessed to finish the year in the black financially. A personal word of thanks to the outgoing board members: Darnell Lundstrom, Jason Huck and Katie Hasbargen. Also a word of thanks to the Executive board members: Shannon-Pres., Jason-VP, Blake-Sec. and Gerry-Financial Liaison. He asks the staff that is present to stand and be recognized and thanked with a round of applause. The staff is very hard working and dedicated. The quality and variety of ministries that happen here at Atonement do so thru the effort of the staff along with many volunteers- thank you. Thanks given to the congregation for all of their support and to his wife, Beth, for her support and also for the work she does here with the children's education programs.

Pastor Becky's report is printed on page 7. Pastor Dale is thanked for his consistent strong leadership. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor here at Atonement Lutheran Church- it is a great place to be! It is exciting to think of all the things involved in the strategic plan for Atonement over the next five years!

**Reports of Committees**—please read these in the annual report- there is a lot happening here at Atonement.

## **Election of Board Members and Committee Representatives**

Current board of directors members are: President-Shannon Olson, Vice President-Jason Huck, Secretary - Blake Strehlow, Gerry Skindeliien-Financial Liaison, Darnell Lundstrom, Erin Elliott, Joe Wright, Katie Hasbargen, Rona Pfund, Jim Dunkel and Michele Lovehaug. All board members are thanked for their service. Thank you to Katie and Darnell who have chosen to leave the Board of Directors after one three year term and special thanks to Jason Huck who has served for six years. The Board of Directors and the congregation has greatly benefited from their experience and their skills. The candidates for Council: Blake Strehlow is renewing for another three year term; Jennifer Narum, Diane Nelson and Darrel Olson are nominees for a three year term. There are no other nominations from the floor.

## Congregational Fund Committee:

The congregational fund committee is a group of members who are responsible for overseeing the investment and disbursement of funds within the Congregational Fund. Current members of the committee are: Jon Norstog (Chairperson), Brenda Carlson (Financial Secretary), Sandy Stai (Sec.), Dan Hull, Lyle Erickson, Karla Wilson, Kirk Dean, Cheryl Thompson, and Bruce Johnson. Special thanks to Lyle Erickson and Bruce Johnson who are outgoing members of this committee. The following members are nominated for their first 3 year terms: Darrel Hestdalen and John Machacek; Jon Norstog is renewing for another three year term. There are no other nominations from the floor.

## The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for auditing the financial records of Atonement. Current members of the committee are: Kate Frederick, Brad DeJong and Todd Hennum. Special thanks to Kate who served as chair and to Todd for filling in this year. Jeff Paulson has been nominated for a 3 year term; and Eric Winge is nominated for a one year term. There are no other nominations from the floor. Lisa Carlson makes the motion to approve all of the nominees for these 3 groups as listed on the ballot; motion is seconded by Michelle Skindelein, carried unanimously.

## **Financial Reports for 2009 and Budget for 2010 presented by Gerry Skindelein, Financial Liaison**

The 2009 financial reports can be found in the separately printed info on the table at the entrance. 2009 was an amazing year! In spite of a flood, road construction and a bad economy, the general fund ended \$10,000+ in the black and CWM only finished \$5000 behind in spite of being forced out of our building for 6 weeks. Thank you to God and to all of you for your faithfulness. As in past years, we are not making staff compensation information public, but all financial information is open and available to any member on an individual basis. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dale, Gayle Carlson or myself.

2009 summary:

*Report 1.* Consolidated cash balances on hand--Total assets are \$3,472,576 made up mainly of our property and buildings; total cash on hand = \$231,625; mortgage balance = \$1,171,357- we did refinance a balloon this past year resulting in a lower interest rate on our mortgage loan.

*Report 2.* Consolidated statement of income and expense—general fund ended \$10,000 income over expenses or in the black, ended behind budget in both income and expenses- shows that a budget is really a spending plan tool and is not entirely predictable; CWM (Children’s Weekday Ministries) had challenges in 2009 - flood, new director and road construction. Used reserves to cover their loss; Building fund-loss is misleading as it is not really a loss - very little income comes into this fund as the Chapter Next campaign ended a year ago and there is a plan in place to continue to spend the remaining fund balance; Dedicated fund is a collection of things given for specific uses that will vary from year to year, there was a special one time gift that came in at the end of 2009 for \$50,000.

*Report 3.* –General fund recap of 2009—increase in general offerings from 2008 to 2009 was an incredible 7.8%, overall increase in revenue is 3.2%, a lower amount of funds was transferred from Chapter Next/ capital fund monies to the general fund due to the lower mortgage payment which took effect after the refinance.

*Report 4.* CWM fund recap of 2009—this fund is a fee for services business (tuition payments for preschool, daycare, infant care and after school care). The Board of Directors reviews the financials for this fund monthly and has already approved the 2010 budget for CWM. As you see in the footnote, they received a grant from the Spirit of Fargo flood fund from DMF (Dakota Medical Foundation) to help offset their losses.

*Report 5.* Dedicated fund—this is new format for this report- all of the individual line items have been categorized into 5 large categories that correspond to the Strategic plan components. The properties category contains the special end of year gift that was received that was mentioned earlier.

*Report 6.* Capital fund recap of 2009—as was stated previously, very little income was received to this fund- there is a plan to use up the fund balance in 2010 through support for the mortgage payment and the salary for a new position “executive pastor”.

Cash balances-in report 1. the decrease in cash on hand from 2009 from 2008 is mostly due to decrease in monies in the building/capital fund.; ½ of total cash on hand is in the dedicated fund; cash reserve balances, particularly in the general fund, are necessary in the summer months when attendance/ donations dip down and keeps us out of having to use a line of credit.

*Report 7.* 2010 proposed budget—budget is presented as a balanced budget \$1,087,158 total revenue and expense. The general offerings in the 2010 budget were increased by 10%, Board feels comfortable using this percentage due to the number of new members coming in and the better economy. Over 70% of the budget is for salaries, wages and benefits. 10% is for mortgage payments and 10% is for insurance, special assessments and maintenance. The new position in the budget is called “executive or administrative pastor”, may or may not be looking for an ordained pastor to fill this role, has been talked about for some time at the board meetings- instrumental now with the strategic plan that the timing is right to move forward and hire, plan to have this person also work with the congregational fund and also supervise some ministry staff—easing the workload that Pastor Dale has. The funding of the salary for this new position will be split amongst: the general fund, capital/Chapter Next monies, monies from the congregational fund and monies from the special year end gift.

There are 29 total positions on the staff of the church. 11 of these are fulltime positions, 18 others are part time- some people working very few hours in a week, part time people would be the equivalent of 5.67 full time people, so total Full time equivalents is 16.67.

The CWM budget for 2010 that has been approved by the Board of Directors has an increase in revenue of 20%. This is due to the addition of all day preschool program and increased enrollment in this new program. The CWM budget shows a projected net of \$10,000 income over expenses. The dedicated fund, congregation fund and Capital/building/Chapter Next fund do not have budgets. If anyone has any questions about any of the financial reports they may contact: Gerry, Gayle Carlson or Pastor Dale.

Motion to approve the 2010 proposed budget is made by Mary Gillespie, seconded by Jim Dunkel, motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

A resolution (listed below) to endorse the strategic plan and support it as a congregation is distributed.

*Whereas; Atonement is a congregation that strives to be the Body of Christ in our community and world, and*

*Whereas; we believe that God has a plan for this body as He seeks to work through us to build His kingdom, and*

*Whereas; the leadership and people of Atonement have prayerfully and thoughtfully developed a strategic plan for these future years, confident that God is leading us*

*Therefore; be it resolved that we, the members of Atonement Lutheran Church endorse the strategic plan and commit ourselves to work diligently to carry it out and support it as we are able to the glory of God.*

Blake Strehlow motions for approval of the above resolution, seconded by Rick Burgess, motion carries unanimously.

Closing prayer, led by Pastor Dale, is the singing of "Seek Ye First".

Motion to adjourn made by Mary Gillespie, seconded by Josh Svaleson, carried unanimously.

Gayle Carlson

Blake Strehlow

Church Administrator,  
Recording Secretary

Board of Directors,  
Secretary

## **Pastor Dale Wolf's Report**

2010 was a great year for Atonement. As you will see in this annual report, our membership grew by over 12%. We ended the year financially in the black by approximately \$35,000 and raised tens of thousands of dollars for missions. Truth be told, what I'm most proud of is the growth in faith that I see in people of all ages. One of my greatest joys is hearing about what God is doing in people's lives. God is doing good things here.

In 2010 we also introduced to you a five year strategic plan with emphasis on life-stages, evangelism, small groups, leadership development and missions. The plan is moving forward in all areas and I believe we will accomplish much of this very ambitious vision. When the plan was introduced I shared with you that there is a sixth component to the plan which is yet to be developed, that is resources and facilities. Specifically, as the plan unfolds and we grow, what kind of facility will we need, how will we solve our problem of limited land and what resources will be necessary to provide what is needed? Initially I thought that we would start to tackle that in year 3 or 4. Because of our growth I realize we need to start addressing it now.

In 2011 this will be an issue you will hear much about. Scripturally it is not our business to decide how large are church will be. That is God's business. Our job is to be prepared for whatever he has in mind. Obviously God desires to use our ministry to reach new people and to provide a solidly Biblical Lutheran congregation for people who are looking for such a church.

As I look at the year ahead, this will be a priority. How many new families will come in 2011? What will this mean for us? Where will we park all the cars? Where will we put the people? I'm realizing we need to address these issues now.

In addition, what will it mean for our staff? Churches can staff for decline, maintenance or growth. I believe we have staffed for growth in the past and as God grows our church and ministry we will need to ensure that we continue to do so.

As we move through this new year I ask that you

continue to invest your time, talents, tithes and offerings into our ministry. Our ministry is only as strong as our member's commitment. God desires to use us, every one of us to make a difference in this community and world. God desires to see His kingdom grow, for lost people to be saved and for people less fortunate than us to be helped.

Finally, I want to thank our staff. One of the most important parts of my job is to assemble the right team. We have many good staff members who work very hard for this church. I also want to thank my wonderful wife Beth. We are a team here and she not only fully supports me but our ministry as well. Praise God, for He is very good.

Pastor Dale Wolf

## **Pastor Becky's Report**

Jesus Christ is the same **yesterday** and **today** and **forever**. Hebrews 13:8

I think that this is one of my favorite verses in all of the Bible. Because this life that God has given us is forever changing, it is so good to have the assurance that the one who is our God and Savior is the same forever. He is the one who provides our stability in the middle of change.

I say this because this has been a year of change for all of us at Atonement. We see new faces each week and continue to grow as a family of God. Change is not always easy. Those of us who are new are wondering, "How will I fit in?". Those of us who have been here for a longer time wonder, "What has happened to my comfortable little church?". I believe that God is saying, "Just follow me and see what I have in store for all of you. I am doing a great thing here at Atonement."

For me it has been a year of change professionally and personally. I continue to serve on the Board of Trustees of LCMC and this year, with the blessing of Atonement's Board of Directors, I accepted the position of chair on the LCMC board. This takes more time out of my week, but clearly follows Atonement's commitment to participate in leadership in LCMC. In the past year LCMC has more than tripled in size. Like Atonement, LCMC is at a critical juncture in its young life and the coming months and years are ones that will determine our direction for many years to come. This task that God has put before us is at once daunting, humbling, and exciting.

I continue to be blessed by our ministry here at

Atonement. This past year it has been a joy to work with the mission team in our strategic planning endeavors. In the months to come you will continue to hear how Atonement is striving to reach out in mission here in our community and around the world. Watch for a regular mission newsletter and mission page on the website.

Personally, my life changed this year when my mom, Helen Lee, passed away in September. I want to thank Atonement for the special love that you always showed mom as she worshipped here. I also want to thank you for the love, concern, and care you have shown me since mom's passing to the Father's mansion that Jesus has prepared for her. You are indeed my most beloved family.

Change... it is good, it is sometimes difficult, it is a certainty in life, we can survive it because we have a God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Pastor Becky Lee

## **Executive Minister**

On August 11, 2010 I joined the staff of Atonement. This is a new position to help with staff leadership and strategic planning of the church. It is a privilege to work with a talented and committed staff.

I coach the ministry staff of Youth, Children, Young Adults, Small Groups and Health. The coaching involves refining and defining their responsibilities and to keep them accountable in the performance of their duties.

The Children, Youth and Young Adult programs have seen strong growth with a very solid curriculum focused on biblical literacy and Christ centered application. We are moving to enhance the education of the children and youth so as to have continuity through all levels.

The numbers of youth involved in our programs indicate that they are working well. Our Youth Minister has received many contacts from other churches about confirmation programs. We are working to develop a program to teach other church staffs to develop their own curriculum.

Our Small Group Ministry is planning new methods to use in the development of small groups. We will be using video presentations for education in several areas. This will support small group ministry and the discipleship and outreach of Atonement.

We are enhancing our website to make availability of the information you need and want easier and more

dynamic.

Our plan is to have videos of the sermons online along with other video presentations for many of our ministries.

Our communication system will be enhanced to more readily share information and announcements by email, texting and Facebook. We will be better able to communicate with you in the manner that you prefer. Paper and phone calls will still be there for those that prefer those options.

Strategic planning is progressing to the next phase of each of the 5 Strategic areas. Those areas are: Life Stages, Small Groups, Leadership, Evangelism, and Mission.

The activity level is high and it is productive. We are growing in application of our mission statement-“To offer Jesus Christ, a life of discipleship, and a faith community to all people.”

It is interesting to reflect on my many experiences in over 30 years of developing a productive chiropractic practice, 12 years of church council experience, president of a large church council and overseeing a multi-million dollar building project.

I find this position exciting in applying many principles of business and marketing and my personal faith growth to our evangelism and outreach. I feel that God has led me to a good place.

For faithful and fruitful discipleship,  
Darrel Hestdalen, Executive Minister.

## Health Ministry

Dear Friends,

*The Atonement Health Ministry team prays that each of you may enjoy good health and that all may be well with your soul. (Adapted from 3 John 2)*

Our goal is to minister to you as individuals, families, a congregation and a community, promoting wellness of body, mind and spirit, keeping the Word, the teachings of Jesus Christ central to our ministry.

### Health Ministry has offered:

- **Health education and promotion** through the utilization of bulletin boards, Atonement website, Atonement Alive Weekly, weekly health tips sent via text, email in collaboration with Darrel Hestdalen, Executive Pastor. Health education and promotion have also been done by offering monthly blood pressure screenings, CPR and first aid classes, Far Above Rubies, Wonderful You,

Princess Tea, a babysitting clinic, a flu shot immunization blitz and various offerings to Children’s Weekday Ministry. Small group offerings have included: Healing Is A Choice, Lose It For Life, Balance, Land Between, Great Expectations, Forever Faithfully Fit and Prayer Shawl Ministry.

- **Appropriate referrals** to pastoral staff, Atonement’s Christian counselor, appropriate community health care providers, church and community resources. The health ministry team has the privilege to work with all Atonement staff to promote holistic health and prevent and minimize all aspects of illness in our faith community.

### Health Ministry has served by:

- **Visiting individuals, both members and non members** in the hospital, their homes, church office, and long term care settings. Visits are also done via email, phone and written correspondence. Visits are offered through all life stages; birth to death and all life circumstances. This is one of the greatest joys of this ministry; it is a way to see Jesus’ healing ministry at work in all of your lives.
- **Integrating faith and health** through previous mentioned small group offerings, and educational offerings. Being part of worship planning and the worship experience is another way we have done this in the past year. Health ministry along with Sara Solhjem offered “Grief through the Holidays” to the Atonement and Fargo-Moorhead Community. Health ministry served on the Life Stages Strategic Planning Committee and worked with our Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) small group. Our faith and health are so interconnected and Jesus cares about all aspects of our health.
- **Coordinating volunteers** for various aspects of ministry. Atonement hosted a very successful benefit for Eric Saylor and his family as Eric was going through a surgery to preserve his eyesight. BeFriender Ministry was started this year at Atonement. Five members attended the leadership training for BeFriender Ministry, a lay visitation ministry. Our leadership team consists of: Marlys Ambuehl, Polly Kloster, Nancy Lunder, Barb Sherburne and Barb Hanson. Training for lay leaders was held in the fall and internships were begun. Those who are interning are: Anne Buchanan, Lyle Erickson, Linda Hinton, Sue Kressin, Lisa Lipari, Cheryl Thompson and Leslie Witte.

- **Having a presence in the community promoting health ministry.** Atonement health ministry is part of the Valley Parish Nurse Network, Sanford Network of Parish Nurses and Sanford Faith Community Advisory Group. Atonement was a preceptor site for Concordia's nursing program as part of community health nursing and Forever Faithfully Fit, presented during the Parish Nurse Preparatory course at Concordia College and presented to the Church Professions course at Concordia. Atonement was picked to be a faith community sight for the Cass Clay Healthy Initiative. We have a task force that is working on this; beginning with doing a survey to see the health needs and wants of Atonement members.

One thing that you will see as a change in the coming year is the use of the term faith community nursing. The American Nurses Association recommends the use of this term instead of parish nursing and defines the specialty as "...the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community." (American Nurses Association, 2005, Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, Silver Springs, MD: Author, p1)

Our hope is that the health ministry team of Atonement does intentionally care for your body, mind and most importantly your spirit as we keep in mind our mission statement: ***"To lead and develop a comprehensive health and caring ministry, in accordance with the vision and mission of Atonement through a belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, teach and model a life of discipleship and provide a healing and caring community for all ages."***

Barb Hanson RN  
 Faith Community Nurse, Minister of Healing and Pastoral Care  
 Atonement Faith Community Nurses & Health Ministry Team: Jami Dean, Jennifer DeJong, Connie Hoffman, Polly Kloster, Michelle Richardson, Kristen Schultz, Linda Scott, Denise Thiner

## Music Report

The makeup of our church has changed a lot over the past year. It is most noticeable in our worship services. I must say that it made things very exciting. God is richly blessing us with people that love him, want to express their love of him, and want to know

him more. That means that we who lead services are being pushed by God through the influx of people, to feed our brothers and sisters in the love and knowledge of our dear Lord. THAT is exciting.

Having 5 services each Sunday morning has divided the time of Jarl and Josh fairly completely between Traditions (Jarl) and Aflame (Josh). We continue to look for ways to add variety and creativity to our Sunday worship at both worship locations.

The Traditions worship continues to maintain some of the Traditional elements that have been part of the Lutheran tradition, while looking for fresh expressions in worship. Jarl is continuing to write arrangements for the hymns that take advantage of the wide variety of musical talent that is helping with the music in these services.

The Aflame services have kept the same format as they previously have (20 minutes or so of opening exaltation of the Lord, announcements, message, and a closing). The opening exaltation used music, mostly. There has recently been a slight influx in other means of exalting the Lord and bringing us to his throne, though. This is partly because God is pushing us to feed our brothers and sisters more. This trend of using other means to display truths of God is sure to continue this upcoming year, Lord willing.

This past year, we have had a number of people join us in leading our brothers and sisters. We find this very exciting.

It shows us that others are giving of their talents for the common good and for the glory of God. That is what being a/the church is all about! More and more interest is being generated, as well. It seems to us like God is up to something at Atonement. (Of course He is!)

Kristi Maucort continues as our choir director and Katie Wiebye as accompanist. The choir is growing and is adding a variety to our worship. Kristi is also directing the JUBILATION! Bell choir. We thank all who are involved with these groups—they add so much to our worship!

Kristen Schultz continues with the 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade hand chimes group. It is great to have this opportunity to introduce "bell playing" to these students—and they have fun and add their good music to our worship.

As we move into 2011, our technical needs continue to grow. Besides the screen presentation operators (we use Easy Worship) and the lighting and Mary Tesch as our sound person, we are starting a "video team"—which will be making videos of worship, with the plan of having video on our web site, instead of just audio of our worship.

We ended this year on a high note with the musical production, "The Christmas Shoes". Performances were presented on Dec. 19, 22, 23, and 2 services on Dec 24. We are so appreciative of all the time that people put into rehearsals, technical details, and construction for this musical. We also had 3 Traditional services on Dec 24.

Overall, the many expressions of music at Atonement are inspiring us to worship our great God. This is just an echo from many people that have been worshiping with us. We are excited to see where God takes us this year. We are excited to see how He is going to reveal himself to us. We are excited to see how we will change this year. We are humbled to be a part of what God is doing in this church, and even more humbled to watch what he is doing through others. God is *so* good.

Jarl Iverson and Josh Svaleson

### **Children's Weekday Ministries (Atonement Christian Childcare & Preschool)**

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" Mark 10:14*

2010 was an exciting year for Children's Weekday Ministry programs. Through the hard work, dedication and patience of our teachers and families, we have changed the programming in many areas of our center and welcomed many new children into our classrooms. Here is a recap of our year.

**Spring 2010** – Last spring, we wanted to be as prepared as possible for a potential flood. I was part of a committee of area directors who visited with many city officials on the importance of maintaining childcare services during emergencies such as a flood. Through the meetings, we developed an emergency plan for our center and also were able to identify potential back-up sites if we needed to relocate. We were fortunate that we did not have to utilize the plans in place, but are prepared for future emergencies.

**March 2010** – CWM was one of 20 centers in North Dakota chosen to participate in the Child Care Enhancement Project Grant. This grant is funded by ND HB 1418 and provided by Child Care Resource and Referral. We have three teachers attaining their Child Development Associates (CDA) credential and I am attaining my director's credential. Our CDA candidates are working to complete their course work and are set to apply for their credential in March 2011.

We also received \$9,500 to be used toward improvements throughout the center. Some of the money has been utilized to purchase curriculum materials, build shade structures for our playgrounds, and provided First Aid and CPR certification training for teachers. With the help of consultants from Child Care Resource and Referral, a purchase plan will be developed for the rest of the grant dollars.

**Summer 2010** – In June, Atonement hosted a very successful VBS program for preschool – school age children. With the help of Miss Cindy, as well as many church staff and volunteers, our teachers worked to create a great week at "Saddle Ridge Ranch". The week was a great opportunity to share God's word with the children at our center, the Atonement congregation, and many children from the community.

In July, Jarl and Beth wrote and directed another excellent musical in which our school age children played a huge part. Along with Mr. Seth, Miss Jill, and Miss Tessa, they performed "Build up the Body" and spread the word about each important part of our body and how we are all part of the body of Christ.

**August 2010** – In August, one of our preschool classrooms was adjusted to become an "early preschool" classroom and serves children ages 30 months to turning three after our July 31<sup>st</sup> preschool cut-off date. The classroom is licensed for 10 children and has been a very successful room for transitioning our older toddlers and allowing new families to take part in our program.

With the addition of this classroom, CWM now operates one early preschool classroom, one three-year-old preschool classroom, and two four- and five-year-old preschool classrooms year round. We continue to also care for infants, toddlers, and school age children. Our morning preschool program, which runs September – May, continues as well from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Monday – Friday. We are licensed by the state of North Dakota to care for 150 children all day and 60 children during our preschool hours.

**September 2010** – One of the most anticipated and ambitious changes to our program started in September in our preschool area. We opened up 20 additional extended day spots for children ages 3-5 who need care all day. The reason for this change was our anticipation of families needing more full-day services as opposed to just a three hour preschool program.

Although the growth has been slower than anticipated, the projected extended day enrollment outlook for

summer 2011 and into fall 2011 is expected to be at budgeted numbers.

**October 2010** – In October, CWM added a foreign language component to our school age program. Eighteen children registered for our after-school Spanish class that was held twice a week for four weeks. We added an additional three weeks after the original completion date as many of the children and families were interested in continuing. Starting in February 2011, we hope to add an additional language for families to choose. We are very excited to provide foreign language opportunities for children in our after-school program and are looking to expand those opportunities to different age groups.

In October, CWM also unveiled our new center logo. It has been very exciting to have a logo that symbolizes our ministry program within Atonement.

**December 2010** – With the slow growth of our new preschool programming, unexpected staffing needs, and increases in operating expenses, CWM did not finish the year as planned. Adjustments have been made to our operating budget and staff schedule to better align with our enrollment numbers as we move forward in 2011.

**Our Commitment to Excellence** – It has always been our goal to provide the best quality care for the children and families served by Children's Weekday Ministries. As we move forward into 2011, we will continue to provide quality early childhood experiences for all children in a safe and nurturing, Christian environment. The qualified and dedicated teachers will continue to provide environments in which children will learn about the good news of Jesus Christ as well as develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. We are committed to maintaining small class sizes and building strong relationships between families and teachers. We are also eager to participate in quality improvement programs such as: North Dakota Growing Futures, Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) and Growing Child Care in North Dakota.

Thank you for your continued support of CWM programs. We are fortunate to have such amazing families, teachers, and congregation members.

In His Name,

Anna Lichtsinn  
CWM Center Director

## Atonement Counseling Center

As I reflect on the last year of ministry at Atonement I am humbled and honored to be a part of this amazing congregation. One only has to step inside the building to feel the warmth of the love of Jesus emanating from the people of God here. Small groups, missions outreach including hosting Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, passionate youth taking on the needs of the hungry and homeless, launching BeFriends ministry, the list goes on and on.

In the midst of all that God is doing, there are also many here who are wounded and hurting. I count it a great privilege to work alongside of Barb Hanson, who often finds new and creative ways for me to serve. I enjoy the opportunities to meet with various groups of people including being a part of the Land Between Small Group with Barb, speaking at MOPS on relationship issues and also co-facilitating Premarital classes with Pastor Dale and Pastor Becky each spring.

I think the aspect of ministry that right now is the most exciting to me is the way He is blessing our Marriage Mentor Program. Not only have we trained and employed four couples as mentors, we have also produced a short video which is available on our website. We were invited to train six couples in Elbow Lake and four others will be trained by their new mentor couples. Most recently, God has opened an incredible door to strengthen marriages across the state of North Dakota as Shelle Moran, wife of Colin, was named Mrs. North Dakota. She told me she ran because she felt God asking her to step out in faith. If He wanted to get the message out she would be available and she won! (Be careful what you pray for God has an amazing way of making things happen!) Her platform highlights the potential of having marriage mentors to strengthening marriages across the lifespan.

My life verse is Colossians 1:10, "So that I may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every respect, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." When you think about it, those are great goals for the counseling center in 2011: authenticity, fruitfulness, increasingly becoming more like Jesus.

One note of gratitude to God; In October, I passed the North Dakota oral examination and am now fully licensed in this great state.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Sue Ellingson, LMFT, BCPC

## Boy Scout Troop 276

During 2010, Troop 276 continued to be active and providing opportunities for the boys to enjoy being a member of Troop 276. Our program, infused with a mix of outdoor adventure and traditional values, provides youth with the tools necessary to successfully navigate their adolescent years and beyond. The values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law are the compass that guides young people along the path to responsible adulthood. Our mission is to teach our youth about values while preparing them to become the leaders of tomorrow. The boys and parents would like to express their thanks to the support provided by the Church as our charter partner provided through the use of the facility for a meeting place as well as the financial support from fund raising such as our Sunday French Toast breakfasts.

During 2010, the Troop participated in the National and Local celebrations for the BSA 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Troop had numerous camping and outdoor activities including: Winter camp at Camp Wilderness, The Centennial celebration with camping at the Capital in Bismarck, a canoe trip on the Crow Wing River, summer camp at Camp Wilderness, a fall camp at Fort Ransom, and shorter camps in the grasslands area. Three boys attended the National Jamboree at Fort AP Hill in Virginia. The boys also participated in several community service projects such as: the Scouting for Food drive, time at the Dorothy Day House, the Great Plains food bank, Flood preparations, and the spring community cleanup.

The boys continued to work on their personal advancement through meeting the requirements for each scouting rank and through merit badges. As we enter 2011, we have several boys approaching the completion of the requirements for the Eagle rank. You can follow the progress and activities of the Troop in our display case in the main hallway. Look for pictures of the Troop in action. If there are events or activities you would like to see the Troop involved in, please contact the Troop.

As we look forward in 2011, we will be Continuing the Journey as we enter the second Century of Scouting. We encourage every family to consider scouting for a young boy, Cub Scouts for grades 1 – 5, or Boy Scouts after grade 5. Please contact the Troop for any assistance we can give to getting your son involved in scouting.

Boy Scout Troop 276

## Piecemakers (Quilters Report)

Once again, the Piecemakers quilting group had a most successful year. Thank you to members and friends who donated so generously to our supplies of fabrics and for purchasing our quilts to help cover expenses at the fall Day of Bread.

The goal of this group is to supply quilts worldwide wherever they are needed. We meet Wednesday mornings to meet this goal. We donated 228 large quilts and 65 small quilts in 2010 for a total of 293.

In addition to these donated quilts, 278 Layette kits and 50 Health/school kits were assembled by Gale Larson and sent to LWR. A new project this year was sewing pillowcase dresses and pants for our mission groups to bring to children in Africa and Peru. Over 110 garments were provided.

Your donations are always welcome! And we always welcome new members. Quilt tying lessons are free. Coffee time included. Join us on Wednesday mornings!

*Mayvis, Margaret, Carol, Frances, Barb, Judi,  
Marion, Marcy, Cheryl & Pat*

*Katherine Iverson retired after many, many dedicated years of sewing. We miss her and her sewing skills.*

Quilt Recipients include:

### Small Quilts

13	Cass County Baby Care
4	YWCA Shelter
3	Benefit auctions
4	New Life Center Shelter
15	Perry House
3	Churches United for the Homeless
13	Atonement Cribs for Christ
<u>10</u>	Atonement Christmas Project
65	Total Small Quilts

### Large Quilts

105	Lutheran World Relief
3	Community Requests
3	Bethany Homes
14	Perry House
16	Clay County Juvenile Center
22	YWCA Shelter
25	New Life Center Shelter
29	Churches United/Homeless
2	Cass County Baby Care
<u>9</u>	Atonement Christmas Project
228	Total Large Quilts

## Atonement Gardeners

The flower beds around Atonement are cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers. Each chooses one or two of the 16 areas to plant, weed, water and develop throughout the summer. Each also chooses the best time to tend the bed, based on individual schedules. Funds are available for purchases, although most volunteers provide flowers as needed. Thank you to all the gardeners who helped keep the flowers growing beautifully around the church property this past summer. Those contributing this year include: Nancy McKinnon, Judi Lundstrom, Mary Jo Wagar, Barb Sherburne, Jan Zaeske, Marjo Lysne and the CWM children. It looked so nice all season. If you would like to help next summer, watch for the spring sign-up or contact me.

Submitted by Pat Westgard, coordinator.

## Children's Ministry (Faith Factory)

Atonement's Children's Ministry is continuing to grow both in size and the children's understanding of God's love and grace. The year 2010 was the start of full Faith Factory classes (all ages) for both 9:15 and 10:50 sessions. This was needed to keep the small class sizes and also to have enough space to accommodate the 31 small groups we have this year.

Faith Factory is broken down into age levels: Little Lights, PreK, K- 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Each of these levels consists of small group leaders for each class and a team of large group leaders for each level. At their large group lesson, the children are learning of God's love and grace through Biblical stories that are presented in skits, dramas, and even puppets! As children enter a large group room, they will have a scene set for them to help visualize the Biblical teaching they are about to hear. When children return to their small groups, they will learn how to apply what they have heard in large group into their lives today through games, activities, and discussions.

Faith Factory would not be where it is at today without the wonderful volunteers helping oversee the Sunday morning hour. This year we have 51 small group leaders, 12 parent helpers, 19 teen helpers, and 17 large group leaders on a regular basis. We also have 4 dedicated musicians, 1 assistant, and 2 volunteers that help by cutting out projects for the children and decorating. Without these wonderful volunteers we could not do what we do on Sunday Mornings.

**Thank you, you are all greatly appreciated and admired! You go above and beyond to help our children have a deeper understanding of God's love for all of us.**

Some of the Highlights of 2010 since I accepted this position were: the Fall Festival, Operation Christmas Child, and the Christmas program. This year the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders have also started working on mission projects to send with the groups going to Peru. This is a project that will continue into 2011 through either mission projects or community service.

2010 also brought changes to Faith Factory. In September, Cindy Wieland resigned as Director of Children's Ministry. She took Faith Factory and grew it to the level we are at today. I am very thankful for her staying on an extra week to help me learn the ropes. She also did an amazing job organizing and planning 2010 so when I came on there was a clear path laid before me. She also still continues to be a part of Faith Factory through volunteering her time as a large group leader. **Thank you Cindy for all you have done for Faith Factory!**

I cannot find the words on how thankful I am for this opportunity to serve God and his children. This has been a blessing to me and my family and I am truly grateful. I do not feel like this is just a job, this is a family and I am honored to be part of it. **Thank you to ALL Atonement members who have welcomed us with open arms and made us feel at home.**

Tamara Bartz  
Director of Children's Ministry

## Youth Ministry

*“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16*

In January 2009, the Youth Ministry staff set to work developing our mission and vision for youth ministry. One aspect of that vision was a vibrant ministry with youth who are sure in their faith and bold in their testimony. Throughout 2010 we were encouraged that God has blessed our youth and we are seeing this vision come to fruition. God is so good! Josh, Brandon and I, along with 33 adults and 2 teen mentors are blessed to do God’s work. The prayers and support of the Atonement family do not go unnoticed as we press forward in this ministry.

We expanded on ministries already in place and added new opportunities. We also spent much of 2010 discerning where God is leading us in Youth Ministry and continued to pursue ministry opportunities that teach our youth about Jesus.

In February, 30 youth participated in the 30 Hour Famine. It was a small, but meaningful event, as the youth were given much time to reflect, pray and consider what it means to be hungry. The “Cross Project” was especially poignant, as the youth placed over 300 handmade wooden crosses around Atonement. This was a powerful exercise in faith and also a great visual for Atonement members on Sunday morning.

In March, we again had the opportunity to serve our community by making sandbags. Thankfully, we didn’t need as many of them as in 2009, but it was a great community service event. During this time the Youth Mission Group continued our Lenten Suppers for the church, providing a great meal for families during Lent as well as helping us fundraise for our mission trips.

We ended the confirmation year with Confirmania, hosted by Gene and Stefanie Anderson. The Youth Band, *State of Grace*, performed. It was a great end of the year event, allowing us an opportunity to keep the fire burning throughout the summer.

Summer of 2010 was an exciting time for the youth as we offered two new fellowship opportunities. On June 23, we traveled to ValleyFair with 75 youth. While designed to be a fun, fellowship event, it was also a great evangelism opportunity as only 40 of the kids were from Atonement. Lots of friends came on this one day excursion, giving us an opportunity to meet and reach many kids!

We also had the opportunity in 2010 to begin our BWCA ministry. Andrea and Jeff Paulson traveled to the great north woods of Minnesota twice during the summer, with a total of 18 kids and 3 adults. This fellowship event afforded the youth and adults an opportunity to test their physical strength and see first-hand how glorious God’s creation really is. We also were blessed that the BWCA creates long lasting friendships, which has impacted the youth’s commitment to our ministry and connection to one another.

In August, 43 youth and adults traveled to Thunder Bay, Canada for our first Jr./Sr. High Mission trip. This mission was an excellent ministry opportunity, as it combined our Jr. and Sr. high kids, giving each group a chance to learn, grow and thrive. The Sr. High youth who attended the mission stepped up to the plate and showed that God is working in their lives and through them. They were excellent models of faith and life to the younger kids who traveled. We were also encouraged that 30+ Jr. High youth attended this mission. The work God is doing in our Jr. High kids on mission is exciting to watch and has a trickle-down effect to all of our kids.

In September, we kicked off another year of Confirmation. Wednesday nights are hopping, as we work with over 150 kids in grades 6 – 12. **Torch** (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade) are studying the Old Testament, **Ignite** (8<sup>th</sup> grade) is focusing on life application, and **Shine** (9<sup>th</sup> Grade) is focusing on what it means to be a Christian. Our requirement for Sermon Notes has proven to be fruitful, as Josh, Brandon and I are amazed at the questions, comments and depth of faith our youth have. Also, during 2010, we continued our Sr. High Youth Mentor program, with two youth mentoring small groups.

Elevate, our program for Sr. High on Wednesday nights, is also thriving. The youth participated in the church-wide book study “Crazy Love.” The book provided an exciting challenge for the group. In Fall, we kicked off the year with a 6 week series on Testimony, hearing stories of struggle and found faith from different guest speakers. It was an awesome series and impacted the youth greatly. We are excited to see our Sr. High Ministry growing and active, full of kids who are not ashamed of the Gospel because they KNOW it’s the power of Jesus.

In October of 2010, 67 youth and adults participated in Homeless and Hungry. Atonement was one of the top three sites for participation and we are excited that

Atonement Youth Ministry will be helping to plan and carry out Homeless and Hungry in 2011. Our Salvation Army Kettle Campaign continued in 2010, with youth ringing at 26 locations in Fargo-Moorhead. We received a few notes and emails from the community praising the kids, their energy and their greetings of “Merry Christmas” and “God Bless.”

We are so very blessed to have an active and vibrant ministry. With all the events of Wednesday nights, Girls Coffee, ‘BDubs,’ Guys Night, and *State of Grace*, our kids are connected. As a staff, we continue to develop events, book studies, and experiences that allow youth to support and be supported by this fellowship of believers. More than anything, we give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior for working in and transforming so many lives.

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*  
~ 1 Timothy 4:12

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the Youth Ministry Team:

Andrea Paulson

## Small Group Ministry

As I look back on the ministry I have been involved with this year I have been surprised and stretched by what I have experienced. If I could characterize in one word what this year was like for me, the word would be **unexpected**. There were unexpected challenges, unexpected successes, and unexpected growth.

Our unexpected growth comes in the form of many new people joining our church from all over the area. People who have been heavily invested in their congregations have sought new membership with us and brought their great sense of commitment and connectedness with them. Many are already involved in various ministries here. This growth has brought with it the unexpected challenge to help new members connect with their new church family in a brief amount of time.

We have seen great and, for my part, unexpected success in groups like our summer Beth Moore study where 45 people spent most of the summer meeting weekly to study the scriptures together. I was also unexpectedly surprised by the success of Ryan Graff’s

“Render Unto Caesar” group who for half the year studied and discussed the relationship between faith and politics; not a topic to approach lightly!

Not so unexpected is the success we have seen with our New Community studies. As we have weekly studied the basics of the New Testament, the small groups that have met for discussion have formed new friendships which continue to grow weekly.

As we begin a new year I am working hard to set new goals for small group ministry that will make us ready for the unexpected twists and turns that are ahead of us. More than ever before I am committed to create an environment where the members of Atonement and the Fargo community can find a place to become deeply connected with each other and with Jesus. This is and will be a place where in the words of Hebrews 10:24, “we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

David L. Jondahl, Director of Small Group Ministry

## Young Adults

2010 was an ambitious, fun, and exciting year for the young adult ministry of Atonement! It has been a year marked with growth, service, and deep fellowship. God has indeed been good to us and He is doing incredible things in the young adults at Atonement.

In January, I began my second full year here at Atonement, and we continued on with Bible Study in the AIM (Adults in Motion) group. With a little revamping and a new location, the AIM started to see steady growth in size. With a total of four committed individuals starting the study, we grew to a size of sixteen by the end of May. Over that time, we studied “The Beatitudes” and “The Lord’s Prayer” and enjoyed great fellowship. We also included some fellowship nights in the spring, and these were great opportunities to invite friends to join us.

Over the summer, we continued and improved on the F.E.E.D. ministry started in 2009. Instead of mixing senior high youth and young adults, we focused this ministry, very successfully, at young adults. The ministry combined fellowship, sharing meals, and teaching bi-weekly. We listened to podcasts from Andy Stanley in the home of one of our group members, and had an excellent time learning together.

In September, we maintained sixteen devoted members to this ministry, and are seeing it continue to

grow. We also studied our “Freedom in Christ” in the fall in the home of Kalin and Colleen Kurtti, a family from the church. This study was also well attended and was a lot of fun.

Along with studying the Bible, the young adult group continued to participate in ministry with the Salvation Army, including a personal care drive in February. We also had group members join in Habitat for Humanity efforts with the church, participate in the community of the church through drama, and had seven members participate in mission work. We also organized a prayer night with First Assembly Young Adult ministry in May, and we are making other connections with people of other church communities in Fargo – Moorhead. We are enjoying growth and excitement, but still are learning and discerning what works and what does not with this age group.

Looking forward to 2011, I see such expectant things for the young adults of Atonement. I see expansion and even more growth in small group and faith development among young adults. I also plan on seeing our partnership continue to grow with organizations in the community. One opportunity for us that we are seeing interest in is partnership with “The Pink House,” a ministry of InterVarsity of NDSU. Also, we plan to have continued partnership with the Salvation Army. AIM will continue as well, studying the parables of Jesus throughout the spring months. F.E.E.D. is also planned to continue its summer ministry.

I am continually praying that God would bless this ministry more and see more people catch the vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ. I am also praying that God would move mightily, as He already is, in those devoted to the church and its ministry. God is up to great things and I am confident of His power to continue to change lives! 2011 is going to be unlike anything we’ve ever seen!

Faithfully submitted,

Brandon Foster

Director of Young Adult Ministry

## **Women’s Ministry**

The Women’s Ministry continues to hang on with some changes taking place. We continue with our two (2) money making events.

The first is the West Acres Bazaar that was held on

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. We had a booth at the Mall and, again, did relatively well. The numbers of tables were down again, and with the economy, the purchases were also down across the board. We also had a few items left over to put up for sale at our Day of Bread. This year, in total, we took in \$844.80. I would like to thank everyone who assisted at the Bazaar and everyone who stopped by to visit and/or buy.

Our November Day of Bread was another huge success and thank you to everyone who made the soups and furnished the bread/bars for the meal. Thank you also to everyone who came and enjoyed the offerings of the Day of Bread. Tell all your friends and come back again next year. We took in over \$2,336.00 This year we distributed \$2,336.00 to 6 local charities in the Fargo-Moorhead area. These local charities include: Salvation Army, Dorothy Day House, Great Plains Food Bank, YWCA, Churches United, & the New Life Center. This is what our Day of Bread is all about.

It has been another good year for the Women’s Ministry at Atonement. Again, I invited all the Women of Atonement to join in our activities, help create some new ones and make our Ministry an even more important one than it is now.

Yours in Christ

Judy M. Steinhouse, Chair

## **Folding Friends**

Each week a group of Atonement members and friends faithfully give of their time to prepare bulletins for Sunday morning worship. They also help prepare periodical mailings. Let us not forget the fellowship that is so meaningful to all of us. Along with all of this comes coffee & treats! Thank you to all: Lorraine Thompson, Loretta Hall, Wade & Margaret Sperry, Ken & Maxine Rostad, JoAnn Hennem, Milt & Pearl Anderson, Stephanie Dean, Carol Jodock, Gladys Luptak, Pat & Chuck Swanson, Becky Burgess, Chet & Karen Larson, James & Bev Kroshus, Barb Ness, Marcy Berglund, Julie Schulz, Jeanine Machacek, Wiley & Hermelle Wilson & Avis Dolan. Also, thanks to Marissa Svaeson for preparing all the information for me. My apologies if I left your name out of this list.

God’s Blessings, Ann Peterson.

## **Nursery**

*“And Jesus took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.” (Mark 9:36-37)*

The church nursery is one of the first contacts families will have with our church. A friendly greeting and exceptional care for their children can make a great first impression for our church. If they don't feel like their children are safe, they will not return – and rightly so.

Our role is to provide safe, secure, nurturing, clean and efficient care to our children. This past fall we mailed out an evaluation to all Atonement families who have children who could utilize the nursery. We asked various questions on staffing, structure, and the safety of the nursery. Based on our feedback, we have hired more staffing and made some changes to meet the needs of our members.

Our nursery is open for all church services and most weekly bible studies. We strongly encourage members to utilize our nursery to make their worship experience and those around them more enjoyable.

If you have questions or suggestions about the nursery, please contact Lisa Hanson at [lhanson@atonementfargo.org](mailto:lhanson@atonementfargo.org)

Lisa Hanson  
Nursery Coordinator

## **Volunteer Scheduler**

Each week a team of volunteers help to make the Atonement family and visitors welcome and make the services run smoothly. Our volunteer ministries are made up of many willing Atonement members.

### **Connection Center**

Our Connection Center offers information to visitors and Atonement members following each service. We maintain a list of 43 volunteers who staff the Connection Center on a rotating basis throughout the year. Thank you so much for being a personal connection to the Atonement family.

## **Bread Delivery**

A team of 13 volunteers bring a loaf of bread to first-time visitors in order to welcome them and give them a chance to ask questions about Atonement. The visits are usually made on Monday evenings and get a positive response from visitors. Thank you, bread deliverers for your willingness to serve in this important ministry

## **Van Service**

Each Sunday one of 8 volunteer van drivers go to Riverview Place and Waterford to pick up residents and bring them to worship. Many faithful worshippers are able to attend services due to this ministry. Thank you to all the van drivers for your faithfulness to this ministry.

## **Coffee House**

Atonement's Coffee House is located in the Fireside room. Each Sunday, it is staffed by volunteers who serve coffee and rolls. It is a gathering place for people to enjoy fellowship with other members of the Atonement family. Twenty two volunteers make up the Coffee House Staff. Thank you to all the volunteers who give our Atonement family a place to gather.

## **Lectors**

Each week one lector is needed at each of the 5 services to read the week's scripture. There are 86 volunteers who fill this role on a rotating basis. Thanks so much lectors for sharing the Word each week.

## **Easy Worship**

Easy Worship is the computer program used to display songs, responses, prayers and other information on the screens for the worship services held in the ARK and the Sanctuary. Currently, 19 volunteers run the program, one each week. Your willingness to serve in this way is greatly appreciated.

## **Wine and Design**

Wine and Design is made up of 13 volunteers. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, these volunteers set up communion on Saturdays and also work Sunday mornings refilling trays and setting up communion for 5 services. They also meet different times during the year to decorate the ARK and Sanctuary. Our Wine and Design team puts in many volunteer hours and I am very grateful to all of them for their time and commitment to this ministry, Thank You.

God's Blessings, Lisa Hanson  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Family Ministry

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”~Deuteronomy 6:5 7*

This past year Family Ministry has changed our focus. We are trying to encourage parents to be their child’s primary spiritual leader at home. We want parents to understand the important role they have in nurturing and modeling their faith to their children. In order to help parents do this we focused on God’s priority in the family... your marriage. We hosted a “Focus on Marriage” simulcast last February in which we had 75 people attend. We had such positive feedback, that we decided to have an encore presentation in the fall in which we had another 30 attendees.

Last year we had a few new events which included: Curling, Thunder Road, and a Veggie Tales movie. All of these events were very well attended and had great feedback. We plan on having these again this year.

This year we had a new service project in which families cleaned new construction homes for Habitat for Humanity. Six families volunteered to help out, and the kids really enjoyed cleaning a home for someone who doesn’t have one. Two families had the opportunity to meet one of the families who were receiving the home. It was special to make that connection and be a part of God’s plan for these families and most of all set an example for our children in how we should be serving others.

Our Operation Christmas Child event was a huge success. We had our biggest turn out of volunteers, so much so that we had to move our event to the ARK. We put together 125 shoeboxes this year, which was 30 more than last year.

Our other events included: a Wahpeton Zoo trip, Easter Egg Hunt and our Fall Festival. These were all well attended and grow in numbers every year.

Looking ahead in 2011, our focus is going to be on the vital role of Fatherhood. The release of the movie “Courageous” is going to hit theaters September 30th, and we want to join in on the promotion of this movie and try to create a movement of Championship Fathering! We want dads to understand that they are

the most influential person in their child’s life, and that it is crucial that they understand how important their role is in their children’s lives.

As we look ahead for 2011, we have some exciting new events planned and are praying God will help us to see all the new opportunities He has planned for Family Ministry.

As always, I have so enjoyed connecting with so many families, and pray that as the Atonement family grows, so will Family Ministry.

God’s Blessing!

Lisa Hanson

Director of Family Ministry

## MOPS

Stands for Mothers of Preschoolers - an outreach ministry for mothers of children from birth through Kindergarten. This group meets every other Tuesday morning, September thru May, and it’s aim is to encourage, empower, equip, and support mothers during this life stage. This is accomplished through prayer and devotions, discussions in small and large groups, participation in crafts or service projects, and speakers to educate women on topics relevant to their role as a mother, friend, spouse, woman, and community leader. At this time, MOPS has 25 active members, and 28 children attend our MOPPETS program. For more information, please contact Missy Wenstrom at [info@atonementmops.org](mailto:info@atonementmops.org) or call 730-4316.

## JC's Clubhouse & Challenge

JC's Challenge is Atonement's Wednesday night program for kids in grades 2-5. This age group needed to be challenged more in the Bible, in their relationships, and in working together as a team. The group starts out in a "kid's only" worship time, hangs out in the gym, enjoys a snack together, and finishes up the night in a combination of large and small groups, with Jarl Iverson, Lisa Larson, Lisa Ronning, and Beth Wolf leading this creative teaching time. The Challenge kids also have a weekly "challenge" that they work to complete together in small groups, with prizes for all.

JC's Clubhouse is Atonement's Wednesday night club for kids ages 3 through grade 1. The kids get to hang out with the wonderful and wacky Clubhouse Gang. The Gang includes **Jake** – a down-to-earth, creative, musical guy, **Kami** – an ever-changing, up-to-date, hip kind of gal, **Violet** – a colorful (if you like purple), smart, up-beat gal, and **Sparkles** – a friend everyone would love to have!! This group also participates in "kid's only" worship, a large group teaching time, small group activities, gym time and snack.

Both JC's groups meet Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:45 p.m. The creative teaching time includes such learning tools as: puppets, music, talk shows, game shows, skits, special visitors, and our very own "Super Screen" and "Imagination Station!" The curriculum this year has the kids following Jesus' footsteps, to all of the places where He lived, or taught, or performed miracles. So far we have visited: Bethlehem, Jordan, Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum and Galilee. We have many more places to visit before the year is over!!

During this third year of the JC's groups, over 80 children are registered with an average range of 50-60 attending the weekly meetings. This represents a significant increase from the past couple of years. Word is getting out about these two educational, relationship building, and fun groups!

I can't express enough thanks to the 13 volunteers who help keep everything running smoothly. I am also so appreciative of the creative team (which also happens to be the "Clubhouse Gang" and "Challenge teaching team") for all of their time, extreme talent, humor, and endless energy. Please stop by some Wednesday night to check out our JC's groups.

Submitted by Beth Wolf

## Atonement Alive Weekly

The *Atonement Alive Weekly* is published weekly with activities, educational opportunities, small group activities and other events occurring here at Atonement. This weekly publication is handed out at all Sunday services, and is also available on our website!

## Membership Activity

As of 12-31-2010 the membership at Atonement is 1,928. A voting member according to the constitution of Atonement Lutheran Church is:

1. You must be 18 years of age or older
2. You must have attended at least one church service at Atonement during the past 6 months according to Atonement's attendance records
3. You must have contributed financially during the past 12 months according to Atonement's financial records

We define an active member as one who has participated in any way in the life and ministry of Atonement during the year.

### Average Weekly Sunday Worship Service Attendance is as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>2001</b>	573	593	536	757	421	309	274	293	609	584	535	512
<b>2002</b>	618	585	763	567	487	317	317	343	616	791	749	641
<b>2003</b>	711	703	997	1318	587	513	413	336	752	827	767	973
<b>2004</b>	625	762	1159	1258	591	571	366	371	677	1075	802	1114
<b>2005</b>	650	989	1481	656	599	562	396	481	662	1980	773	906
<b>2006</b>	530	559	585	678	498	353	291	390	629	607	581	599
<b>2007</b>	554	520	543	697	484	364	364	357	624	635	580	520
<b>2008</b>	536	527	585	575	564	387	340	364	636	642	639	692
<b>2009</b>	542	635	562	688	499	394	288	355	588	684	694	644
<b>2011</b>	602	670	681	847	594	485	484	453	683	846	886	985

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 There were no services due to truck traffic & flood concerns

	Lent	Easter	Thanksgiving	Confirmation	Christmas	Children's Christmas Program
<b>2001</b>	401	1382	197	348	1193	630
<b>2002</b>	412	1301	202	298	1071	550
<b>2003</b>	548	1437	220	324	1337	875
<b>2004</b>	579	1414	237	308	1270	771
<b>2005</b>	682	1003	241	332	1125	1002
<b>2006</b>	522	1128	185	375	2247	1075
<b>2007</b>	410	1193	233	384	1620	961
<b>2008</b>	414	996	289	383	1679	450
<b>2009</b>	335	1040	237	389	945	518 (Held during 9:35 a.m. service)
<b>2010</b>	430	1344	366	411	2927	509

## Ministerial Acts 2010

### Baptisms:

Jakob Matthew Lindemann	January 24
James David Henderson	February 28
Braxton Scott Deutsch	February 28
Ryker James Birnbaum	March 7
Bryce Anthony Gylland	March 7
Bella Grayce Severson	March 7
Landon Chase Frize	March 14
Paisley Jayne Triepke	April 18
Hannah Elise Huck	May 9
Sarah Elizabeth Huck	May 9
Zacharias Isaiah Huck	May 9
Savannah Grace Swanson	May 23
Ayla Joy Wright	June 20
Faith Marie Wright	June 20
Lilyanna Grace Wright	June 20
Ainsley Jayne Moseng	July 11
Cortland Thomas Hallaway	July 18
Braelyn Mae Janz	July 25
Tayla Lorraine Janz	July 25
Kenley Gail Allen	November 28
Laiken Mae Allen	November 28
Elin Mary Baker	August 1
Mia Marie Marum	August 1
Gregory Paul Meidinger	August 22
Taylor Aimee Okeson	August 22
Jack Thomas Larkin	August 29
Brandon Allen Staloch	September 5
Priscilla Mae Lucht	September 19
Taycee Ann Paape	September 19
Elijah Robert Olson	September 26
Ashley Iris Jamerson	September 26
Vincent Ramone Jamerson	September 26
Devin Miles Kempel	September 26
Noah John Stout	October 3
Riley Jackson Carpenter	October 9
Myana Star Bjelkengren	October 10
Kasey Elisabeth Hemingway	October 10
Ada Elise Ekholm	October 17
Madilyn Grace Dahl	October 17
Ella Rae Wagner	October 31
Kendall Frances Durgin	November 14
Eden Grace Guy	November 14
Gavin Thane Moseng	November 14
Micah James Nordby	November 28
Samuel Xavier Bohmer	November 28
Anders James Huesman	December 12
Brooklyn MacElsie Knudson	December 12
Elizabeth Evelyn Hatlestad Norstog	December 26

## Funerals/Memorials 2010

Helen Barden	January 2
O.G. (ODEan Gerald) Askland	March 11
Delphine Lehfeldt	March 13
Richard David Knutson	March 23
Gary Olson	May 3
Curtis Ronning	July 1
Beryl Gilbertson	August 18
Helen Lee	September 9
Minnie Graff	September 9

## Marriages 2010

Matt Hjelseth & Angela Bosch	May 8
Ryan Nelson & Christine Venette	May 29
Curtiss Burnham & Kristina Gunderson	June 5
Darl Morkassel Jr. & Flavia Ember	July 9
Brady Huebsch & Marissa Erlandson	July 17
Jay Westra & Mari Beth Chambers	July 24
Dane Holo & Cassandra Jorud	July 31
Jason Boerger & Jenna Sorensen	August 6
Andrew Wolf & Rachel Hanson	August 27
Leonard Zahradka & Shelly Arndt	September 4
Aaron Fjeld & Kristen Mestery	October 16
Luke Erickson & Katie Anderson	November 13
Mark Knutson & Susan Carlson	December 18

## Confirmation Class 2010 October 31st, 2010

Jordan Adams	Juanita Hoeger	Harry Schulz
Katie Anderson	Emily Honl	Jesse Schweitzer
Cayden Barta	Joshua Klemen	Nicholas Skindelian
Abby Berger	Mariah Kringle	Ryan Smith
Andrew Beyer	Tana Kurtti	Amili Spaeth
Ashley Blatchford	Joey Ness	Adam Sufficool
Ian Bullis	Ethan Norstog	David Sufficool
Jacob Eddy	Zach Olson	Evan Sullivan
Britney Gerhold	Eric Peterson	Grant Tosterud
Alana Grabarkewitz	Brandon Quibell	Tyler Verlinden
Nicholas Gray	Meghan Retzlaff	Elizabeth Wagar
Signe Gylland	Adam Saylor	Rebekah Wagar
Jamie Hanson	Jill Schneibel	Nathan Winge

## Transferred out or Removed by Request in 2010

Brian, Sara & Jonathan Bielke  
Katherine, Connor & Zachary Kvalvog  
Luke & Sandi Lillehaugen  
LaVon Malusky  
Stephen & Taryn Sveet

## New Member By Letter of Transfer or Affirmation of Faith

### March 28

Curtiss Burnham  
Samantha Dramstad  
David & Kayla Goebel  
Robert & Linda Gylland  
Kelly & Kristi Larson  
Daniel Lund  
David & Marjo Lysne  
*Rachel*  
Chase & Nicole Frize  
*Landon*

Jane Johnson  
*Victoria Okoye*  
Brad & Jean Johnson  
*Marissa & Matt*  
Paul & Carol Krabbenhoft  
Jerry & Nancy Mykleseth  
*Olivia*  
Ralph & Carolyn Nilles  
Richard & Leslie Witte  
Paul & Judy Shogren

Loren & Linda Bailey  
Brock & LuAnn Baker  
Roy & Lillian Bredholt  
Matt Hjelseth & Angela Bosch  
*Jordan Hjelseth*  
*Austin Hjelseth*  
*Michaela Hjelseth*

### October 31

Ryan & Sheri Triepke  
*Hudson & Paisley*  
Paul & Tamara Bartz  
*Greg, Zachary & Grant*  
Tyler & Kayla Gylland  
*Bryce*  
Scott & Mary Mahar  
*Boone, Colby, Tate & Sawyer*  
Dan Dillon  
Jason & Calie Larkin  
*Hailey & Jack*  
Joe Austin  
Joe Laverdure  
Coleen Mundal  
Paul Gilbertson  
Dorlan & Rhonda Lybeck  
Ruth Johnson  
Rob & Cherie Mastel  
*Jordyn*

Brian & Erica Blizil  
Rick & Linda Hinton  
Donna Palmer  
David Mathson  
John & Jean Irby  
Mark & Jacki Meyer  
Mark & Karen Ostgarden  
*Joseph*  
Mike & Michelle Wagner  
Nancy Frid  
Nate Hendrickson  
Pat Schenck  
Jason & Hannah Allen  
*Kenley, Laiken & Ava Stassne*  
Chad & Amy Campbell  
*Olivia, Reese*  
Eileen Kelm  
Lee Kelm  
Gladys Birch

Ed & Sharon Albrecht  
Elissa Albrecht  
Eleanore DeMers  
Claudia Solberg  
Jason & Andrea Schlepp  
*Jennifer, Kara & T.J.*  
Bob & Brenda Young  
*Nate & Luke*  
Brent & Jessica Torgerson  
*Brody*  
David & Amy Johnson  
*Ashley, Adam & Abby*  
Jim & Cassie Huesman  
*Jack, Olivia & Anders*  
Keith & Maren Moseng

### December 12

Ryan & Miranda Dietrich  
*Addisyn & Ainsley*  
Glenn Mastel & Marie Hordvik  
*Maia, Malena, Ingri & Signy*  
Kirsten & Josh Buchholz  
*Cora*  
Carol Griffey  
James & Chris Shaffer  
*Megan & Matthew*  
Dan & Kate Bohmer  
*Kennadi & Samuel*

Chris & Jackie Reyerson  
Dwayne & Cheryl Presler  
Eric & Jenny Vangstad  
*MaKenzie*  
Jason & Kristin Phillips  
*Janae & Karson*  
Seth & Laura Udem  
Monique Moser  
Terry & Carol Wastweet  
*Cassie, Andrew, Kayla & Camille*

## Gifts to Atonement Lutheran In Memory Of:

**Karin Hubbard by:**

Karrie & Vince Segal

**Helen Barden by:**

Pat & Neil Doty

Scott & Gayle Carlson

Carell & Bonnie Foss

Ruby Danielson

Jessica Westgard

Ralph & Naida Feland

Jeff & Barb Hanson

Barbara Aschenbrenner

Ron & Karen Peterson

Marlene Olson

Her family & friends

David & Dorothy Green

Warren & Roxanne Lundberg

Iver & Jane Solhjem

Les & Pat Westgard

Jeff & Joyce Wold

Dave & Jan Zaeske

Mark & Lavonne Woods

Chuck & Mary Lura

**Warren Rust by:**

Joanne Hagemeister

**Lois Sexton by:**

Iver & Jane Solhjem

**Steven Lee by:**

Mark & Nancy Granberg

**Orlan Kragerud by:**

Ron & Dianna Kragerud

**Marjorie Warner by:**

Joanne Hagemeister

**Gail & Kim Ronning by:**

Lori & Helmut Schmidt

**DuWayne Muth by:**

Ron & Karen Peterson

**Mrs. Maucort by:**

Darnell & Judy Lundstrom

Jeff & Joyce Wold

Connie Nokken

**Orvis Bjerke by:**

David & Julie Blehm

**Dean Askland by:**

Connie Nokken

Warren & Roxanne Lundberg

Mayvis Solberg

Ron & Karen Peterson

Jeff & Joyce Wold

Jeff & Barb Hanson

Esther Bohnsack

Les & Pat Westgard

Doris Ohe

Katherine Iverson

Carell & Bonnie Foss

Connie Nokken

**Lois Thornton by:**

Ron & Karen Peterson

Dave & Jan Zaeske

**Linda Buchanan by:**

James & Katie Nitschke

**Boone by:**

James & Katie Nitschke

**Bernice Sather by:**

Ron & Karen Peterson

Iver & Jane Solhjem

Les & Pat Westgard

**Jake Bakke by:**

Joanne Hagemeister

**Dick Knutson by:**

Dave & Jan Zaeske

Iver & Jane Solhjem

Jeff & Kristie Hensel

Pat & Chuck Swanson

Beth & Dale Wolf

**Debi Veen by:**

Delores Pfau

**Elsie Olson by:**

Arline Hudson

**Edwin Anderson by:**

Chuck & Pat Swanson

**Gary Olson by:**

Les & Pat Westgard

Beth & Dale Wolf

Iver & Jane Solhjem

Milt & Armored Arneson

Ernie & Beryl Gilbertson

Connie Olson

Erin Elliott

Virginia Iverson

Darrel & Phyllis Olson

**Renolla Ellig by:**

Les & Pat Westgard

**Florence Grabinger by:**

Beth & Dale Wolf

**Steven O. by:**

Lowell & Beverly Simenson

**Elaine Jeglum by:**

Esther Bohnsack

Sharon & David Tranby

**Mae Holmes by:**

Robert & Linda Gylland

**Jon Pfund Sr. by:**

Dave & Connie Hoffman

**Curt Ronning by:**

Gene & Ann Peterson

Doris Ohe

Iver & Jane Solhjem

Jeff & Joyce Wold

Marius & Lisa Rygg

Milton & Armored Arneson

Marjo & David Lysne

Avis Dolan

Selma Black

Helen Shirley

**Beryl Gilbertson by:**

Mayvis Solberg

Gene & Ann Peterson

Doris Ohe

Scott & Gayle Carlson

JoAnn Hennum

Robert Hanson

Linda Scott

Carol Jodock

Penny Crowder

Ken & Maxine Rostad

Ron & Roxanne Samuelson

Esther Bohnsack

Katherine Iverson

**Helen Lee by:**

Katherine Iverson

Ron & Karen Peterson

Gene & Ann Peterson

Judy Steinhouse

Scott & Gayle Carlson

JoAnn Hennum

Dave & Connie Hoffman

Roy & Lillian Bredholt

Lowell & Beverly Simenson

Lori & Helmut Schmidt

Iver & Jane Solhjem

Ray & Joyce Brown

Jeff & Kristie Hensel

Mayvis Solberg

Pat & Les Westgard

Virginia Iverson

Carol Jodock

Roger & Cherie Jaeger

Darrel & Phyllis Olson

Penny Crowder

Marius & Lisa Rygg

Bruce & Peggy Stordahl

Milton & Armored Arneson

David & Jan Zaeske

Drue & Deb Haarsager

Paul & Jan Johnson

Kristi Maucort

David & Marjo Lysne

Julie & Colin Kloster

Donald & Joy Plath

Blake & Kathie Strehlow

Polly Kloster

Chuck & Pat Swanson

**Harry Huddleston by:**

Joanne Hagemeister

**Minnie Graff by:**

Mark & Nancy Granberg

**Lee Pfund by:**

Dave Hoffman

**Ted Schlepp & Dan Jaeger by:**

Gene & Ann Peterson

### In Honor Of:

**Jan Grabinger & Joanne Wolf by:**

Dale & Beth Wolf

**Their kid's anniversary by:**

Dallas & Joyce Monson