



# The Delivery Journal

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Volume 50  
Issue 1  
January 2012

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 29

Our Atonement council will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29. Check the Sunday announcements for more information. At this meeting we will vote on our 2012 ministry plan (budget).

BLESSINGS TO YOU  
IN 2012!



Hey Everyone,

When the wise men came from the East to Jerusalem, they had traveled for mile upon mile. Whether they were wise men, magi, astrologers, kings, dusty pilgrims from a distant land, or strange men on the road to nowhere does not really matter. It only matters that they had finally arrived in Jerusalem. They must have been exhausted, filthy, and ready to rest. However, the trip was not yet finished.

Who knows where it began for them. Was it simply that the star had appeared in the East? Perhaps they had been waiting for years for a sign or perhaps they simply loved a good adventure. Did they leave behind family and friends or were they loners from the beginning? What had it cost them to come so far on a wing and a prayer? Had they prayed at all? To whom did they pray? None of these things really matters much at all either. It matters only that they came. They came seeking the child who had been born king of the Jews and they would not stop searching until they found him.

King Herod knew what was at stake when the visitors came into Jerusalem asking all of their well-intentioned questions. His little piece of the pie, his tiny sphere of influence, and his ability to hold sway over the people's lives were at risk. If the Romans caught wind of a new king in Jerusalem Herod would be finished! Herod would stop at nothing to blot out the life of this usurper, even if that meant he had to further deal in treachery. Herod was well-practiced and quite able to be treacherous. He planned on using the visitors from the east to help him find the child. Herod bid them come near and indeed they came. Yet even Herod's treachery and conniving could not stop them from searching. They would not stop until they found the child and they would not be wrapped up in Herod's plans.

The storyteller tells us that when the weary travelers finally reached the place where the child was resting they were overcome with joy. In waves the joy of reaching the end of their long journey poured over them. Everything that they had been through was now worth it. They dropped to their knees and offered their gifts to the child. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh filled their treasure-chests and it was all for him. They could stop looking. Yet we want to know, what was it about



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the child that made them finally rest? What was it about the child that filled them with hope? What was it about the child that filled them with joy?

In the midst of the dark of winter these questions make complete sense. However, darkness fills our lives with a regularity that is all-too-familiar for many of us. Our daily lives can be filled with such great joy and exultation. Yet for many of us, the powers of guilt, sorrow, loneliness, fear, and anxiety seem to overwhelm us. We can find ourselves exhausted and overwhelmed by the journey that we have been on. We are in need of just a little bit of light in the darkness. We are in need of just a little hope.

During this season of Epiphany, is it possible that we can once see Jesus revealed to us as God intended? Is it possible that we could acknowledge our own long search for hope and joy? Is it possible for us to acknowledge that we have been sustained on the long journey? Is it possible for us to see how we too have overcome the Herods who would seek to keep us from overwhelming joy? Could we find ourselves laying down all of our treasures and all of our lives at the feet of the one who came to give us life? Could we find our hearts strangely warmed by the joy and hope that comes with seeing the Incarnation for what it is?

This child, the Christ-child, who came in the midst of a darkened and maddened world, promises to come to us each anew. Christ promises to dwell in our hearts and give us hope and courage to face the day. Christ promises to bring light into the darkness around us. Christ gives life. Christ gives hope. Christ gives faith to trust. Let this community be a community of faith. Let this community be a community of hope. Let this community be a community of life.

See you in worship!

Pastor Tom

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## From the Council

Happy New Year from the Church Council! December was an exciting month in the life of the church! What's coming up? Bible studies and adult education classes of course. The **Congregational meeting** is scheduled for **January 29<sup>th</sup>** and council would sincerely appreciate it if all members can attend! All this and much more, please check out the church website at [www.atonementlutheran-nb.org](http://www.atonementlutheran-nb.org) and click on the "Announcements" and the "Church Calendar" to see what else is going on!

The Finance Committee is finishing up the 2012 budget. The total amount pledged this year has proven to be very encouraging and Church Council is looking forward to some positive changes ahead. Another big thank you from Council to all those who submitted a pledge to help us plan for the future. If you haven't submitted your pledge and still wish to do so, there is still time to turn one in!

Arlene Drier has graciously chosen to step down from Church Council for family reasons. Thank you Arlene for all of your hard work and we wish you the absolute best. Council is now looking for an additional member to join us. We meet two times each month to discuss what is happening in the life of the church, to make important church related decisions, and to deliberate on ideas that will help ensure the future continues to look bright for Atonement. If you are interested in joining us on Council, please contact a current member or join us at an upcoming meeting. See you in worship!

Bryan Kleen  
Council President - Atonement Lutheran Church

Church Council Members: Bryan Kleen, Bruce Jahnke, Mary Billington, Jim Nelson and Kirsten Ellis

## Prayer Ministers Available

Prayer ministers will be available after the worship service **January 8<sup>th</sup>** for those requesting prayers for themselves or others.

## Atonement Lutheran Adult Education Forum:

**The Gospel of Mark**      **Sundays 8:45-9:30 A.M.**  
**January 8 – February 19**

Please join your fellow adult learners for an 7-week course on the Gospel of Mark. This fast-moving narrative is the earliest of the four gospels to be written and is the chosen gospel for this church year. Each week, we will move through several stories at a time in an effort to see Mark's account as a sum of its collective parts. We will finish the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This in-depth study of Mark could provide an increased appreciation for the Lenten season and the church year as a whole. Please bring your questions and willingness to learn. Hope to see you there!

**January 8 – Introduction to the Gospel of Mark**

**January 15 – Mark 1.1-3.12**

**January 22 – Mark 3.13-6.6a**

**January 29 – Mark 6.6b-8.30**

**February 5 – Mark 8.31-10.52**

**February 12 – Mark 11.1-13.37**

**February 19 – Mark 14.1-16.19**



## Bible Studies

- † **Mary Morning Circle** will meet at **9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** in Donna Carlson's home.
- † **Elizabeth Circle** will meet at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** in Carol Uecker's home.
- † **Naddy's Men's Fellowship** meets each **Thursday morning at 6:30 at R.J. Riches** in Mounds View.
- † **Monday Morning Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** will not meet until **January 9**. More details to come.



## ABCD

### Atonement Book Club Daytime

The ABCD meets the first Monday afternoon of each month.

On **January 2<sup>nd</sup>** they will meet at **1:00 p.m.** in **Nancy Jahnke's** home to discuss the book *The Necklace* by Cheryl Jarvis.. Please notify Nancy if you would like to attend, she can give you directions to her home.

**February 6<sup>th</sup>** they will be discussing *Killing Lincoln* by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard. You are welcome to come to all the discussions or only to those that interest you. The contact person for ABCD is Karen Ochu.

## ABCD 2012 Discussion Schedule

March 5	<i>The Devil's Teardrop</i> by Jeffrey Deaver
April 2	<i>Major Pettigrew's Last Stand</i> by Helen Simonson
May 7	<i>Room</i> by Emma Dohoghue
June 4	<i>Unbroken</i> by Laura Hillenbrand
Aug 6	<i>The King's Speech</i> by Mark Logue
*Sept 10	<i>Cutting for Stone</i> by Abraham Verghese
Oct 1	<i>Spoken from the Heart</i> by Laura Bush
Nov 5	<i>Hotel on the Corner of Bitter &amp; Sweet</i> by Jamie Ford
Dec 3	<i>Heaven is for Real, A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back</i> by Todd Burpo



## ABC

### Atonement Book Club

ABC meets **January 16<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 p.m.** in the home of **Dorri Olson** to discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. In February they will discuss *Devil's Teardrop* by Jeffery Deaver. The contact person for ABC is Nita Nelson.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Saturday, January 14**

**10 a.m.—noon**

We will meet **January 14** to knit, crochet and pray together. We will meet in the Green Room from 10 a.m. to noon. According to my latest count, we made many prayer shawls in 2011 and have given more than 65 prayer shawls away to members of Atonement and their friends. We have sent prayer shawls with Nellie Landrus as she ministers to people in need through St. Philip's Disaster Relief Team. We have also given several to Woodwinds, Christ the King and the Presbyterian Home. If you know someone who needs a prayer shawl, please contact Mary Billington, Nancy Jahnke, Dorri Olson, or Pastor Tom.

## Game Day

Come and join us at **1 p.m.** for some relaxing time playing games. Bring along a game you would like to play. Game Day will be **Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.**



## Hand and Foot Card Game

You are invited to play the card game "Hand and Foot" at **1 p.m.** in the fellowship hall the first and third Thursday of each month. **January 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>** are the next dates.

## Collecting Greeting Cards

Bea Lea is collecting all sorts of greeting cards – Christmas, Easter, Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well, etc. They will be used in a project for the 2012, yes, 2012 Holiday Boutique. The cards can be put in her box here at church or left on top of the mailboxes in the fellowship hall, marked for Bea Lea.

# Christmas Snapshots.... they were hot!

Thanks to all who made the Sunday School Christmas program a success. I want to personally thank Shannon Brockshus, Diane Lightbody, Peter Landrus, Bonnie Anderson, Heidi Eschenbach, Stacey Jenkins, Debbie and Jenny Benson, and all the rest of the cast, crew, and parents. With your help, the program was fun, lively, and full of joy!

Thank you, Lindsey Fabian, Education Committee co-chair



# Caramel Rolls January 8<sup>th</sup>



The Atonement Youth will be serving (one of the many ways our youth serve others) fresh hot caramel rolls just before and just after church service on **January 8<sup>th</sup>**. Please come and donate generously as the proceeds help to offset the costs of youth activities. Also, if you want to earn money for Youth activities you can help prepare the rolls on the **Saturday just before Caramel Roll Sunday from 9-11 a.m.** Any questions call, Greg Hanson at 612-669-9862.

# King's Kids Preschool



New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you happy and healthy. We have a lot of fun things planned for the month of January. We will be learning about animals that are out in the snow and what their tracks look like, bears, dinosaurs, the ocean, cooperation, sizes, shapes and snowmen.

Our Grandfriends will be taking a field trip to visit us and see a day at preschool and we will begin taking registrations for the 2012-2013 school year. Quite a busy time coming up for us at preschool!

Cindy Hanson, Director

# More Christmas Snapshots



# Hungry Mouths Will Be Fed

Thanks to everyone who contributed food in the wooden box near the kiosk. In December, 8 large bags of food were delivered to SACA food shelf in Columbia Heights and 8 large bags to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in New Brighton.

Atonement members care about their community. We deliver.  
The Hunger Group

## Pictures from the community dinner on Thanksgiving Eve.



# Thanksgiving Eve Community Dinner Serves Many

Fabulous food and comforting conversation were enjoyed on Wednesday, November 23, at Atonement. In fact, the turkey and the sweet potatoes were the best ever! The attached photos show the large number of guests and members that were present. Approximately 74 people dined here that evening. To-go dinners were brought to four people who were unable to attend.

A debt of gratitude is given to the purchaser of all the food (Dave Kellesvig) and the very capable cooks (Susanne June, Bea Laubach, Bev Johnson, and Carol Duoos) and the cheerful servers (Tom Sawyer and Gene and Kay Christenson). Welcoming the guests was done in a delightful manner by Bea Lea, Betsy and Scott Carlson, Jim and Jack and Arlene Drier, Sheri Sawyer, and Bonnie Anderson. Numerous kind members supplied the delicious pumpkin pies.

Any free-will monetary donations were given to the Southern Anoka Community Assistance food shelf.

Pastor Tom gave a spiritual reminder of our blessings. Clean-up was performed with great dedication by Roger Kvitrud (also known as Dish Pan Hands Roger) with cheerful assistance from Pastor Tom and Phyllis Kvitrud.

Thank you to all these fine folks who made Thanksgiving less lonely for our community!

The Charitable Giving Team





## Clean Up Saturday

On **Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** the property committee will be hosting a Clean Up Saturday (CUS). With your help we will be working on those little projects that never seem to get done. The time is from **9 a.m. until noon.**

Please come and join us on the 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to do any actual work, please come and share your knowledge of the building with us.

Property Committee

## Miss a Sunday?

Weekly announcements are posted on our websites at [www.deliver4jesus.org](http://www.deliver4jesus.org). and [www.atonementlutheran-nb.org](http://www.atonementlutheran-nb.org)

### The Core Values of our community

*Above all, we seek to live out*

Love for Jesus  
Mission, Respect, Family  
and Joy

*And to resist*

Apathy, Self-centeredness  
and the Myth of Scarcity

## January Birthdays



January 9 Andrew Moris  
January 10 Virginia Cahow  
January 13 Richard Larson  
January 13 Adam Vasel  
January 15 Royce King  
January 19 Annika Fabian  
January 21 Joshua Eschenbach  
January 23 Peter Landrus  
January 27 Kari Vasel  
January 28 Nancy Wilhelmi

## January Anniversary

January 9, 1959 Doug & Virginia Cahow



*I would like to thank Atonement Church for the amaryllis bulb kit and Lynn Miller for delivering it and staying for a nice visit. Lynn and many other Atonement members are so thoughtful. I am doing very well.* Irene Brandt

## Flower Deliveries:

Christmas plants were delivered to Bea Lea, Pastor Tom, and Paul Schmidt, all of whom have had surgery recently, as well as Irene Brandt, who is receiving chemotherapy, and Jean Mattson, who has recently been declared cancer free. We wish each one God's Blessings and continued good health.

## Parish Notes

### In Christian Sympathy

Please keep Carol Duoos and her family in your prayers as they mourn the death of Carol's mother .

Please keep Betsy Carlson and her family in your prayers as they mourn the death of Besty's mother.

### Hospitalized and/or Recuperating at home:

Jack Drier, Nellie Landrus, Lynn Miller & Shirley Peterson

### Lay Assisting Minister Schedule

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>10 a.m.</u>
January 1	Nellie Landrus
January 8	Ron Anderson
January 15	
January 22	Royce King
January 29	Helen Campeau

### Lector Schedule

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>10 a.m.</u>
January 1	Marilyn Nelson
January 8	Jackie Lundemo
January 15	Steve Klaers
January 22	Carol Uecker
January 29	Shirley Peterson

### Greeter Schedule

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>10 a.m.</u>
January 1	Bea Lea & Bruce Jahnke
January 8	Carol Hoiby & Carol Tilden
January 15	Dorri Olson & Fong Lee
January 22	Sheri Sawyer & Virginia Cahow
January 29	Gwen & Kevin Blomseth

### Communion Helper Schedule

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>10 a.m.</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>10 a.m.</u>
January 1	Shirley Peterson Sally Kline Marilyn Nelson Ron Evens	January 22	Carol Uecker Tami Kinney Olivia Kinney Maddie Kinney
January 8	Jackie Lundemo Sally Kline Marilyn Nelson Ron Evens	January 29	Sally Kline Bea Lea
January 15	Wayne Haselhorst Past Haselhorst Kirsten Ellis Ben Abresch		

### Coffee Fellowship

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>10 a.m.</u>
January 1	Roger & Phyllis Kvitrud
January 8	Youth
January 15	Gwen & Kevin Blomseth & Helen Campeau
January 22	Virginia Cahow & Mary Ann Nelson
January 29	Bruce & Nancy Jahnke & Irene Brandt

## Bedrock Beliefs of Atonement Lutheran Church

We believe that...

- ✠ God is present and active in our lives and in the world.
- ✠ God is generous to all people.
- ✠ God calls us to work.
- ✠ God is faithful.

### January Meals on Wheels

<u>Thursday</u>	<u>10:45am—Noon</u>
January 5	Marilyn Nelson Roger & Phyllis Kvitrud
January 12	Paul & Bonnie Anderson
January 19	Roger & Phyllis Kvitrud
January 26	Roger & Phyllis Kvitrud Kerry Shoberg