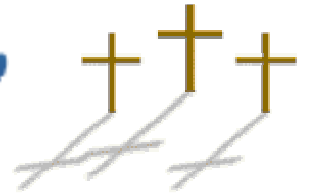


# The Messenger



Quarterly Newsletter of Atonement Lutheran Church  
*Lent – The Three Days – Easter – 2011*

**We are Called to:**

**Celebrate** God's Love and Grace • **Trust** in the Holy Spirit for Guidance  
**Serve** as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the World



*New Life*

*Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,  
in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of hist'ry,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn.  
-Marty Haugen*

Atonement Lutheran Church  
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## Dear Friends in Christ,

What do you remember about Lent from your childhood? Was it somber and penitential? Did you see adults trying to practice stern disciplines and self-denial? Maybe you didn't grow up in a churchy household, but you remember that during Lent the public schools served fish sticks for lunch on Fridays.

Talking with a few folks at a theological conference that was held here in Boulder a few weeks ago, we discovered that we bring to Lent a wide variety of traditions and memories. I remember practicing somber hymns in minor keys (*Ah, Holy Jesus* was my favorite) and Lenten folders that we kept on the kitchen table next to the napkin holder and into which we placed a dime or a quarter every day.

These are not wrong practices, but imagine my surprise over the past few years to discover the early churches' emphasis on Lent as a journey from death to life and, as such, a time of renewal:

- We begin on **Ash Wednesday** (March 9 this year) by marking our bodies with earth while words are spoken over us, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday is a small-scale, ritualized, near-death experience. It's in this way that we take stock of the reality of our situation and begin to prepare for the 40-day journey through Lent, and the 50 days of Easter rejoicing.
- "The church invented **Lent** with Easter and baptism in mind." What a great sentence! It's from the *Worship Guidebook for Lent and The Three Days*. Lent is not about small stuff. Lent aims to lead us into the heart of Christianity. In Lent, we come to life!
- And here is the heart of Christianity: the living waters of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ, our core identity in baptism. It takes three whole days, **The Three Days**, to unpack the story in one continuing service of worship:
  - **Maundy Thursday** (April 21) begins "the hour" that holds the universe and widens to eternity: the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - **Good Friday** (April 22) invites us more deeply into the mystery of faith and how it is that from a despicable death as a criminal, the Creator of the universe grants the world new life.
  - And then, "This is the night." The central event of the Lent and Easter seasons, the **Vigil of Easter** (April 23). St. Augustine described it as the greatest feast of the year, a storied night of the wonders of God. You might not remember the Vigil from your childhood, but it is the ancient practice. Following the old way of counting days, when a day begins at sundown, Easter begins Saturday evening at sundown. Don't the best parties happen at night? We celebrate New Year's on New Year's Eve, Christmas on Christmas Eve, All Saints Day on All Hallows Eve. (OK, that last one may be a stretch.)

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?* (Rom. 6:3) We are being raised with him to newness of life. We begin celebrating the Easter news on the Vigil of Easter, then into **Easter morning** (April 24) and continuing for 50 days!

You will find the worship schedule for Lent, The Three Days, and Easter on the next pages. I invite you to join Pastor Chad and me in reflection and discipleship in the way of the cross and the power of the resurrection. God Bless You!

Pastor Debra

## *Lent, Holy Week and Easter*

### Wednesdays in Lent: “By Faith”

#### **5:00 – 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Suppers**

*Hungry for soup? Chef Scott will provide a wide variety for us and, through Lutheran World Hunger, we'll provide support for those who truly are hungry!*

#### **6:00 – 6:30 pm Wednesday Lenten Evening Prayer: Holden Evening Prayer - “By Faith”**

*Lenten Evening Prayer will be earlier this year. We might even get home before dark!*

- Mar. 9 Ash Wednesday; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- Mar. 16 The Faith of Noah; Hebrews 11:1-7
- Mar. 23 The Faith of Abraham; Hebrews 11:1, 8-22
- Mar. 30 The Faith of Moses; Hebrews 11:1, 23-28
- Apr. 6 The Faith of the Israelites; Hebrews 11:1, 29-40
- Apr. 13 Jesus, the Perfecter of our Faith; Hebrews 12:1-2

#### **6:30 - 7:15 pm Wednesday Bible Study for Lent: *The Last Week***

*What does the Bible say about the last week of Jesus' life? We'll read the passion narratives from the Bible to find out. Some of the conversation will refer to the book “The Last Week,” by M. Borg and J. Crossan. Reading the book is not required.*

- Feb. 23 Palm Sunday (6:00–7:00 pm)
- Mar. 2 Monday (6:00-7:00 pm)
- Mar. 9 Tuesday
- Mar. 16 Wednesday
- Mar. 23 Thursday
- Mar. 30 Friday
- Apr. 6 Saturday
- Apr. 13 Easter Sunday

**Carillon Bell Choir Practice**  
**SpiritSong Choir Practice**

#### **7:15 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Practice**

### Sundays in Lent: “Coming to Life”

#### ***Worship at 9:00 and 11:15 am***

- Mar. 13 Jesus in the wilderness
- Mar. 20 Nicodemus in the night
- Mar. 27 Samaritan woman at the well
- Apr. 3 A blind man stands before the Pharisees
- Apr. 10 A dead man stands before Jesus
- Apr. 17 Palm/Passion Sunday – Jesus on parade



*For several years now, Atonement has shared in Holy Week worship with Grace Lutheran and Lutheran Campus Ministry.*

**Mid-week Holy Week services at Grace Lutheran, 13<sup>th</sup> and Euclid, Boulder:**

M, T (April 18, 19)	12:15 – 12:45 pm	Midday Eucharist
W (April 20)	Noon – 12:30 pm	Organ concert by Dr. Joyce Kull
	12:30 – 1:00 pm	Midday Eucharist
Th (April 21)	12:15 – 12:45 pm	Midday Eucharist

## The Three Days: Into the Heart of Christianity

*Atonement shares in The Three Days worship with Grace Lutheran and Lutheran Campus Ministry.*

**Maundy Thursday, April 21**

11:30 am	Worship at Atonement
12:15 pm	Lunch at Atonement
7:00 pm	Worship at Grace Lutheran, 13 <sup>th</sup> and Euclid, Boulder

**Good Friday, April 22**

7:00 pm	Worship at Atonement
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**Vigil of Easter, April 23**

4:00 pm	Worship at Atonement – <i>Stories for all ages of God’s renewal of creation</i>
7:00 pm	Worship at Grace – <b>More</b> <i>stories of the Christian Passover from death to life</i>

## Easter Sunday: Resurrection of Our Lord

*On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness to light. On this, the ‘eighth day’ of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory.*

**Easter Sunday, April 24**

9:00 am	Feast of the Resurrection
10:00 am	Easter Breakfast
11:15 am	Feast of the Resurrection

# Annual Congregational Meeting ~ January 23, 2011

Official minutes will be available soon. A few highlights:

- We enjoyed pancakes and raised almost \$1,000 for our Guatemalan mission!
- Virgil and Audrey Schlack gave the congregation a gift in memory of their son, Greg – a piece of mountain property on Boulder Creek up Sugarloaf Road. A task group headed by Clem Meas has been researching possible uses for the property. It will be a long-term project.
- ALC ended 2010 comfortably in the ‘black,’ with income exceeding expenses.
- Outgoing Council members were thanked: Wayne Tatro, John Drexler, Deborah Kelly, Dave Lindholm, Marilyn Morris, Lori Prater, Andrea Vahl, Steve Vahl and Linda Wisler.
- 2011 Council: Carol Winston (President), John Cumalat (President-Elect), Kathy Twaddell (Treasurer), Sandy Ramsey (Secretary), Jeanne Nijhowne (Adult Ed), Mary Jenson (Building/Grounds), Mara Wiwchar (Childhood Ed), Carol Hunziker (Financial Secretary), Sue Carter (Parish Life), John Erickson (Stewardship), Brian Cadena (Worship & Music) and Candace Cadena (Youth & Family).



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## Pizza and Game Night!

Join us for Pizza and Game Night, **Sat., Feb. 12 at 5:00 pm at the church.** Bring your games; we'll bring pizza (donations will be gratefully accepted). This has been a wonderful time of intergenerational playtime!



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## Boulder Chorale ~ Season Concert

*COLLABORATE: Universal Odes of Joy*

**Saturday, March 12 - 7:30 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church, Boulder**

**Sunday, March 13 - 2:00 pm**

**First United Methodist Church, Boulder**

Tickets: [www.boulderchorale.org](http://www.boulderchorale.org) or (303) 554-7692.

## Spring Clean-Up

April Showers bring May Flowers! It's time for our annual **Spring Clean-Up!** Bring your work gloves and tools if you have them, and help clean up the church grounds. There will be indoor chores if you'd rather work inside. **Come SATURDAY, APRIL 16, from 9:00 am to Noon! Call Mary Jenson at 303-554-9253 if you have questions.**



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In 2011!

## The Messenger

At Atonement, we try to keep the stewardship of our natural and financial resources at the forefront of our thinking when it comes to spending. If you haven't already, please help us by choosing one of the options below for delivery of our newsletter to you:

**E-mail?** If you're able to receive our newsletter via email, send your email address to [secretary@atonement-lutheran.org](mailto:secretary@atonement-lutheran.org) and tell us to 'Please send my *Messenger* to this address.'

**Pick It up at Church?** Please inform us by calling the church office (303-499-4567 x 0). We'll print and label a newsletter for you and place it in the "Messenger Pick-Up" file on the sign-up table in the Fellowship Area. Our endeavors are always to have it available on the last Sunday of the month.

**U.S. Mail?** If you'd like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, but are not able to pick it up at church, please inform the church office.

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## What You'll Find on our Kiosk

### Welcome To Atonement

Our *Welcome to Atonement* pamphlets, our *Guiding Principles Statement*, information about the ELCA, including our Synod's latest *Landscape* and *Faith Advocacy* flyers, *Welcome Packets* and copies of this newsletter for visitors to pick up.

### Parish Life

Flyers of *Anniversaries*, *Birthdays*, *My Story!!*, *OWs (Older Wiser Lutherans)* and *Game Night* events, *Worship Leaders* and *Community Events* calendars, *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* articles and any other congregational events for the current month. Use these for inviting friends and family!

## Youth and Family

Our Y & F ministries pamphlets, *Taking Faith Home* sheets, Rainbow Trail and Sky Ranch Camp information, to name a few.

## Worship and Arts

Bulletins and Announcements for the week and upcoming Arts Events at the church.

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## ALC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Like to party? Here's a ministry for you! **March 25, 2012** will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Atonement's charter. Help us party! To begin planning now, join a 'party force' by contacting Carol Winston, Sue Carter or Pastor Debra.



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## First Friday Fellowship

First Friday Fellowship meets the first Friday of each month from 6-9 pm. Adults of all ages are welcome! Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Soft drinks will be provided, but you may bring wine or beer if you prefer. Call the hosts if you know you're coming or have questions. If you find at the last minute you can come, don't call....just come! For more information or offers to host in the future, contact Jan Bundy (303-604-0869) or Jan Ydstie-Roy (303-554-0311).

**Friday, February 4:** Hosts Ester & Bob Matheson, 6087 Marshall Drive, Boulder (303-494-7590)

**Friday, March 4:** Hosts Kathy & Dave Lindholm, 2452 Ginny Way, Lafayette (303-494-0449)

**Friday, April 1:** Hosts Carol & Scott Winston, 380 Erie Drive, Boulder (303-839-8910)



## Moment For Moms

Our winter line-up provides some great opportunities to be nurtured, inspired and blessed! You are invited to catch a sneak peek of our upcoming gatherings:

### Thursday, February 17 - Remembering Romance

Remembering romance is not always easy when you have loads of laundry, a sink full of dishes, baths to give, homework to check, finances to manage, meals to prepare and newsletters to read. But, remembering romance in our marriages is crucial to the health and growth of our relationships with our spouses. We'll inspire and encourage one another in ways to not lose sight of nurturing our marriages. Please bring a snack and your ideas to share. Childcare will be provided. *(cont'd)*

### **Friday and Saturday, March 4-5 – “Telling My Story” Retreat**

We will not have a regular March meeting. Instead, we'll head up to the mountains for our annual *Moment For Moms* retreat. This year, our theme is "Telling My Story." We spend a lot of time telling stories about the funny and memorable things our children do and say. This retreat will encourage us to find ways to tell and preserve stories from our family history, personal stories and writings about ourselves to pass along to our children. For our past retreats, we've tried to stay within an hour of Boulder. We divide up lodging costs for our vacation rental home and take turns preparing meals. We try to incorporate large-group time, one-on-one time, solitude and free time. Specific details are still in the works. For more information, please contact Aly Kohlmeyer.

### **Thursday, April 14 – *Moment for Moms* Book Club Meeting at Atonement**

Due to Maundy Thursday falling on our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meeting date, we are meeting the second Thursday. We will select a book at our February meeting to discuss at our April meeting. Childcare will be provided. Even if you are not able to read the book, we invite you to join us for conversation. Please bring a snack to share.

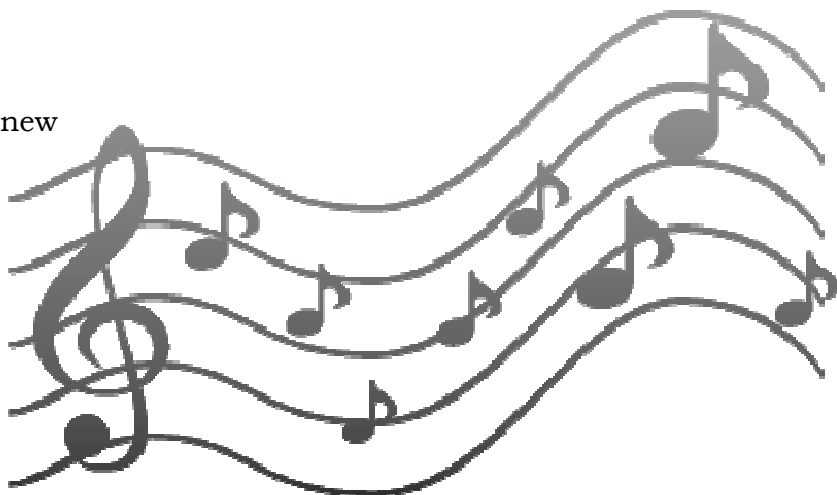
*Moment for Moms* is a group formed in 2009 to support mothers in a variety of ways. We typically meet on the third Thursday of each month. Mothers who have participated in our group have children ranging in age from Birth to Junior High school. We've discussed such topics as: recipes, self-care, nutrition, helping our children through transitions and organizational tips. We enjoy reaching out to new mothers by providing meals and sponsoring ministry support to families at Atonement. *Moment for Moms* is not limited to mothers from ALC, but looks to support any mother interested in attending. We welcome visiting moms and love to have new members join our group.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Aly Kohlmeyer at 720-862-7644 or [alyehrenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:alyehrenberg@hotmail.com)

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## *New Organ!*

**Thank you** Herm and Joan Schempp! A new digital organ has been purchased by the Schempps to the glory of God. More information about the organ will be in the next *Messenger*, but it's never too early (or late) to express gratitude for this wonderful gift!



## *Adult CFD (Christian Faith Development)*

**Sundays at 10:20 am**

Adult CFD (Christian Faith Development) will offer two tracks during February. We also encourage anyone and everyone to suggest topics that make you want to "grab that cup of coffee and head to the classroom!" Feel free to propose subjects you want to either learn about or teach. Our goal is to make CFD relevant and interesting to as many congregants as possible. You may give your ideas to any member of the committee: Jeanne Nijhowne, Chair, Bob Matheson, Jackie Glover, John Cumalat and Pastor Deb. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Combined Life Issues/World Issues Track: Jan. 30 – Feb. 27**

**“Genetics, Ethics and Christianity,” led by Jackie Glover, PhD and Bob Matheson**

**Theology Track: Jan. 30 – Feb. 27**

**Bringing the Bible to Life, led by Mira Canon**

**March 6: Presentation by the Boulder Bach Festival**

Please check weekly e-connect and posters for titles of individual sessions.

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## *The Lutheran Magazine*

### **Time to Renew Your Subscriptions**

Current subscribers should have received a renewal letter in mid-January. Why subscribe to ***The Lutheran***? It's the official magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

#### ***The Lutheran:***

- Nurtures awareness of Christ's presence in our lives and the world
- Shares stories of God's people living their faith
- Connects us with the global Christian community
- Provides an open forum for discussion
- Challenges us to bring God's grace and care to all

If you are interested in renewing your subscription, just return the form you get in the mail (or find on the sign-up table in the Fellowship Area) to the church office or place it in the box marked "Lutheran Subscriptions" in the Fellowship Area with your payment of \$10 as appropriate, or give it directly to Jackie Glover.

**DO NOT PUT SUBSCRIPTION MONEY AND FORMS IN THE OFFERING PLATE.** If you have questions or concerns, contact Jackie Glover at 303/664-1432.



## Adult Bible Study

Opportunities abound! These groups are 'open' groups – open to you to join them at any time, open to the Spirit's leading, open to what God is doing in your life.

### **Every Tuesday, 7:00 am**

'Early Bird' Breakfast and Bible Study. A look at the texts for the coming Sunday. Meets in the Fellowship Area at church. Usually led by one of the Pastors.

### **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 6:30 pm**

Women's In-Home Bible Study, usually using study materials by Beth Moore. Led by Mira Canion.

### **Last Tuesday of the Month, 6:30 pm**

Young Adult Bible Study. Studying Thessalonians and Corinthians this year. Meets at the Cadena home. Led by Pastor Chad. (Dates this quarter are **February 22** and **March 29**.)

### **Every Wednesday, 6:00 pm**

Pastor's Bible Study. In-depth look at one of the texts (usually the Gospel) for the coming Sunday. Often using a 10-minute *Nooma* video as a thought-jogger. Usually led by Pastor Debra.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays, 11:30 am**

Women's Bible Study at church. Usually uses the study series from the *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine. Shared leadership.

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## Young Adult Bible Study



We continue our study of 1 and 2 Corinthians the next several months and we invite you to join us:

**February Bible Study:** Tuesday, February 22 at 6:30 pm at the home of Brian & Candace Cadena: 5598 Pennsylvania Ave., Boulder.

**March Bible Study:** Tuesday, March 29, also at the Cadena's.

**April Bible Study:** Date TBD.

We're looking forward to time together in the upcoming months! Invite a friend and contact Pastor Chad at church or [chad@atonement-lutheran.org](mailto:chad@atonement-lutheran.org) to be placed on the e-mail list for either event.

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## Sunday School Spotlight

As we enter into the second half of our Sunday School year, we continue our Sunday School teacher highlight by shining our spotlight on our remaining three teachers. There are also some schedule changes and parent reminders to note. We also continue to focus on our Sunday School 'Pennies for Peace' outreach. Please read on to learn more!

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Our largest class this year is our Pre-K/Kindergarten class. Atonement is incredibly blessed to have two talented and caring individuals teaching this class:

**Sandy Ramsey** was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a wife, mother and Occupational Therapist. Sandy and her husband, Jeff, have a 13-year old son, Ben, who is part of our Confirmation program. They have a 19-year old cat, named Jazz. Sandy's favorite book is *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. A special and memorable place that Sandy has traveled to is the Abel Tasman Track in New Zealand. Someone who has made a difference in Sandy's faith journey is Pastor Debra. When asked what her favorite restaurant is, Sandy said she would choose a home cooked meal by Jeff. Sandy brings a strong dedication and great intentionality to our Sunday School ministry. We are richly blessed to have such a wise and caring woman sharing the teaching role for this class.

**Kristen Lindholm** was born and raised in Boulder. She has been a pre-school teacher. She currently serves as an office assistant in Denver, but hopes to soon have a position as an elementary school teacher. Kristin received her degree in Elementary Education from Luther College. Kristin's favorite book: *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch. A special place that she has traveled to is Buenos Aires, Argentina. Liz Larson, a best friend from college has made a difference in Kristin's faith journey. When asked what her favorite restaurant is, Kristin mentioned that she loves any food prepared at Whole Foods. Kristin has a wonderful gift, to work well with children. When in large group settings, it is not uncommon to see one of her students crawl in her lap. She will be an amazing elementary teacher and we feel so honored and blessed to have her creativity and care as part of our Sunday School ministry.

**Kathy Stith** leads our youngest class, the Birth through 3-year olds, in a music and faith-building class each week. Kathy has been a part of the Sunday School ministry at Atonement for over nine years. She was born in Seattle, Washington and has held a variety of jobs, including Credit Investigator, Dispatcher for two flight schools, and Dietician for the WIC program, as well as for nursing homes. She has done AR/bookkeeping work and most recently, has been an early childhood music teacher. Kathy and her husband, Jeff, have two children, Eric and Laura. Kathy enjoys children's literature and one of her favorite series is *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. A special place that Kathy has traveled to is Hurricane Ridge in Washington. Two people that have made a difference in Kathy's faith journey are Tom Horton, who heads up a program called Rural Church Youth Ministries, and a professor from her Bible college, Dr. John Mitchell, who taught spirituality. One of her favorite restaurants is Colterra in Niwot. Kathy has a deep love for the children at Atonement and, in turn, the children hold her in high esteem as their first Sunday School teacher. Kathy has a passion for children to learn and enjoy church music and we are incredibly blessed for the ways she offers her time and talent to deepen and further our ministry at Atonement.

Please take a moment to thank Sandy, Kristen and Kathy for the commitment and care they give to our Sunday School ministry.

## SCHEDULE

There are a few upcoming schedule changes to note. Pastor Chad will lead the Birth through 5th Grade students through activities from the *Together In Faith* curriculum. This curriculum is designed to have parents participate with their children in the lesson. The Birth through Kindergarten students will participate in a Sanctuary Crawl, in which they will take two Sundays to crawl around the Sanctuary and learn the various parts of worship and about worship objects in the Sanctuary. The 1st- 5th Grade class will also take two weeks to focus on a special *Together In Faith* activity.

The schedule is as follows:

February 13 and 27: Birth-Kindergarten Students **and Parents** - Sanctuary Crawl

March 6 and 13: 1st-5th Grade Students **and Parents** with Pastor Chad for *Together in Faith Activity*.

**We WILL have classes during Spring Break.**

We encourage you to bring your children to class if you are in town.

During the month of April, we will not have regular classes, as Atonement will again offer Intergenerational Activities during the last three weeks of Lent. These activities will allow students to participate in fun, faith-growing activities with others from the congregation. We encourage your participation. Please note there will be **no class on Easter**.

Mark your calendars for our last day of regular classes: May 8. On Sunday, May 15, we will have an end of the year celebration activity. Watch for more information to come!

**GRAND- AND PARENTAL REMINDERS**

We remind parents and grandparents to make sure you sign your children in and out of class each week. Atonement has been blessed to be a safe place for our children, but to keep up with our Safe Haven Policies and Practices, we encourage you (and remind you) to support us in this effort.

Parents with students in the Birth-Age 3 class are expected to attend class with your children. There are so many great opportunities to learn and grow, alongside your children in faith and music through this class. We encourage your participation.

**PENNIES FOR PEACE**

For the remaining months of our school year, we are collecting pennies for our 'Pennies For Peace' project each week. We would like to reach our goal of filling our water jug! Please encourage your children to remember their pennies! To learn more about 'Pennies for Peace,' please check out this website: <http://www.penniesforpeace.org/>

If you would like to enroll your child in Sunday School, have questions or would like to learn more, please contact Aly Kohlmeyer at 720-862-7644 or at [alyehrenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:alyehrenberg@hotmail.com)



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## *Children's Area Update*

In an effort to update our children's area in the Narthex, our Atonement *Moment For Moms* group is sponsoring projects, including updating and creating new church bags, offering new books and new containers with toy items for the shelves. Some needed support is sewing of bags, donation of books, donation of toy items and containers. We hope these efforts will continue to support the families who both regularly attend Atonement and those who visit. If you desire to partner with us in this effort, please contact Aly Kohlmeyer at [alyehrenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:alyehrenberg@hotmail.com) or 720-862-7644.

## High School Gatherings

High School students are invited to go out for brunch/lunch with Pastor Chad at 12:10 on Sundays, February 13, March 6, and April 3 following the 'eleven-fifteen' worship service. High School students from Grace Lutheran Church will be joining us as well! Location TBD.

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## Women's Bible Study and Lunch

**Please come join us! Thursdays, Feb. 3, Mar. 3 and Apr. 7 from 11:30 am to 1:00pm**

Women of Atonement coordinate a Bible Study and Lunch on the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome! Our February and March studies will be a continuation of a series on "A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus," a video with Biblical scholar, Dr. Kenneth Bailey from the Research Institute in Jerusalem. Lunch is at 11:30 and Bible Study is from 12:00-1:00 pm. For more information or questions, contact Jan Bundy (303-0869) or Karen Shepard (303-516-9669).

### **Thursday, February 3:**

Co-hosts: Dorothy Weaver and Ethel (Dee) Soppeland. Bring a salad ingredient to add to greens provided by hosts.

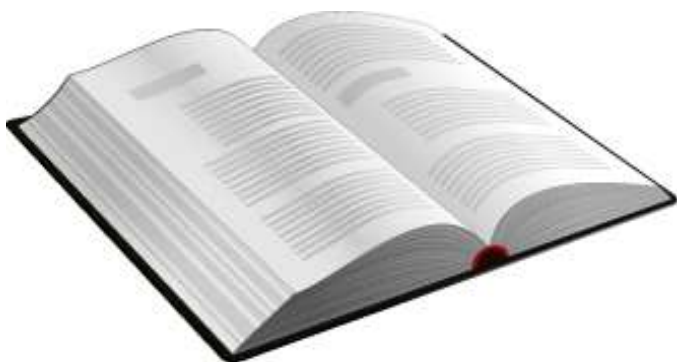
Bible Study: "Salvation and the Wisemen," facilitated by Pauline Farrow.

### **Thursday, March 3:**

Co-hosts: Peg Gorce and Karen Shepard. Bring a salad ingredient to add to greens provided by hosts.

Bible Study: "Herod's Atrocities and Simeon's Welcome," facilitated by Pauline Farrow.

**Thursday, April 7:** Hosts and Bible Study to be announced.



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## Greetings from Laura . . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the one who was, is, and always will be Lord! First, let me extend my heartfelt thanks to the women of the ELCA, who generously sent the gifts of encouragement, support and prayer to me during this holiday season. Thank you ladies! Your gift has gone to support a recent opportunity that opened up for me with church-wide domestic mission.

We, here at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, are working with church-wide to develop a way to train and prepare students to do mission development for evangelism and justice as soon as their first call. I'm really excited to be part of this wonderful renewal in our church. Because of your gift, I am able to offset some of the cost of traveling to Atlanta this January to study congregational community organizing for justice with folks who are in the field, at church-wide and other seminarians. Thank You!

Second, I am encouraged by the good news found in scripture. This last semester I took a class on the apostle Paul. It was particularly fun to learn all the ways Christ was expressed in the early and to people he hoped to encourage in the early church. Together these congregations were struggling with economic and justice issues as they tried to maintain membership and grow. Sound familiar? God is with us as we seek a deep spirituality, struggle in life, and grow together in community during worship. This New Year, I invite you to engage even more in the church and with those issues in the world that capture your heart. Each person has a gift that God can well use. Do not hide your gifts in the hustle of life, but share them with the community and the larger society.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now...And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." (Paul's letter to Christians in Philippi 1:3, 9-10)

In Peace,  
Laura Stephenson

*SERVE as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the World*

## *Social Ministry / Love Offerings*

### **February ~ Energy Outreach**

Energy Outreach Colorado is dedicated to keeping Colorado homes warm, healthy and safe by raising money for energy assistance. They assist people in emergency situations by helping pay the balances on their utility bills. They also help limited income families to be more self-sufficient by funding energy efficiency measures that lower energy costs in affordable housing across Colorado. More information at: <http://www.energyoutreach.org/>

### **March ~ Flatirons Habitat for Humanity**

Flatirons Habitat for Humanity serves the communities within the Boulder Valley School District and the County of Broomfield. To date they have built 57 homes for deserving families in our community.

### **April ~ Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA)**

Since 1918, EFAA has been the community safety net for families who have nowhere else to turn when they can't meet their basic needs. In Boulder and Broomfield Counties, they provide support to families, people with disabilities and seniors by providing assistance with basic needs and shelter. More info at <http://efaa.org>



## Church “Grand” parents

A new opportunity is available for you! (“you” means those with time and hands during worship services). We have a lot of parents who end up by themselves in worship and would love the attention of caring volunteers to sit with them in worship. Helpful assistance would include: remaining in worship with an older child while a parent leaves briefly with a younger child; helping children engage more fully in worship; assisting with using supplies out of the provided worship bags.

You are invited to be the “grand” parent for one month at a time. You would make yourself available in the Narthex before worship and offer assistance to families as they arrive, or be sought out by families with a need for extra help. We hope to kick off this “grand” opportunity in March or April.

Please let Pastor Chad know if you would like to assist Atonement families in worship with navigating life in worship with children. This will be a rewarding experience for all involved. There will be an interest sign-up sheet available in the Fellowship Area. Contact Pastor Chad if you have questions as well.

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## Spring Break 2011 – March 23-27 in Green River, UT

- Who: 2011 High School Trip and Cross-Generational group of people from ALC  
What: Mission Trip to give the Community Center a make-over and volunteer at community organizations  
Where: Green River, UT  
When: March 23-27, 2011  
Why: We have a grassroots opportunity to make a difference in a really cool town that has a lot of need!  
Cost: Approximately \$125 for the 5-day trip (food, housing, transportation and supplies included)

**Registration Deadline is February 17, with the \$125 fee due at time of registration.**



Join a crew from Atonement and area Boulder County churches on a mission trip to Green River, Utah. We will spend Wednesday and Sunday traveling, and Thursday - Saturday working in Green River. Pastor Chad and the High School group visited Green River last June and fell in love with the community. They appreciated the vision for housing and caring for the community that the volunteers there had. This is a great opportunity to make a difference!

The trip will be the Senior High youth trip for 2011 (we will also do a camping trip in June), but the planning team was very interested in making this a cross-generational trip. Some examples of potential volunteers: A high school student (and parent); middle school student and parent; retiree wanting to volunteer some time and have some fun; working professional up for taking three days off of work to make a difference! The list goes on...

The volunteer needs, as they stand in Green River now (i.e., what in the world would I be doing?): Giving the Green River Community Center a make-over, painting the entire building and prepping the ground and planting grass around the Center. They also operate a thrift store that benefits the community that requires organizational help. The Community Center

serves 20 kids daily—options include reading books, playing games and sports, arts and crafts, simply hanging out, as well as the possibility of running a soccer camp for three days. It's an active place in the late afternoons. They have also requested help cooking meals at the Center for seniors.

There is so much to do and the opportunity is there for you to make a difference! Join Pastor Chad for the informational meeting on Dec. 12, and don't hesitate to call with questions beforehand.

### **Donations for Green River, UT**

Even if you cannot go, there is an opportunity for you to participate in this experience. At the beginning of March, a 'Needs List' will be available for you to help purchase supplies for the make-over the crew will be doing on the Green River Community Center. We will need to borrow a

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## *Office Volunteers in December and January*

Sincere thanks to **Mary Bidinger, Kate Crawford, Sandy Droeger, Edith Hanson, Barton & Kris Kiburz, Jody R., Jeff Ramsey, Don & Lucille Ritchart, Richard & Peggy Simpson, Ailie Swanson,** and **Mary Weisbach.**

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**ONE** THE CAMPAIGN  
TO MAKE  
POVERTY HISTORY  
Become a ONE Lutheran!

The ELCA and Bread for the World support the ONE Campaign. You can join by

- 1 Signing the declaration
- 2 Telling a friend
- 3 Wearing a wristband



## *Atonement's ONE Lutheran Information Corner*

Information about how we as a ONE Lutheran church can raise awareness and take action to end poverty.

**Verse of the Month:** "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" — James 2:15-16

### **Flatirons Habitat for Humanity**

#### **Putting Faith into Action**

Habitat's ministry is fueled by the belief that God provides for our needs when we step out in faith. Habitat is founded on the economics of Jesus as manifested in the feeding of the multitudes. Here it is. You take what you have – (even if it's one dollar) – and you give thanks for it and then give it to the Lord to be blessed. Then you step out in faith and watch God provide, sometimes in ways we never imagined.



## **The Economics of Jesus**

The original vision for the ministry of Habitat for Humanity is rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and its source is the Bible. We realize that all people have value because God created all people to live in relationship with one another and to care for each other, particularly the poor.

Jesus advocated a spirit of sharing with one another. Early Christians sold their possessions to help one another, living by a “theology of enough.” Augustine took this concept one step further by saying, “He who possesses a surplus possesses the goods of others.” We, too, are called to bridge this gap between poverty and affluence by sharing our resources.

## **Theology of the Hammer**

Habitat created the concept known as the “theology of the hammer.” It is based upon the fact that Habitat has an open-door policy: all who desire to be a part of this work are welcome, regardless of religious preference or background. People may disagree on all sorts of things... but we can agree on the idea of building homes with God’s people in need, and in doing so without profit or interest.

Habit for Humanity welcomes all people to build with us in partnership. God’s love leaves no one out, and neither do we. This understanding brings people of many faiths and no faith from all over the world together in building more houses in more countries all the time.

## **What Can We Do?**

### An Introduction to Habitat: Tour and Presentation

Fridays from 11:45 am - 12:30pm at Habitat Northfield Village build site at 47th and Jay Road in north Boulder.

Come see Flatirons Habitat in action! You'll have a chance to come out to the current build site for four permanently affordable Habitat homes, and see volunteers in action. At 12:00 pm, you will have an opportunity to hear our presentation called habitat 101 which gives an overview of the affiliate's work in Boulder Valley and Broomfield for more than 15 years. Space is limited. To register, Call Jenny Phillips at 303-447-3787 ext: 224 or email [jphillips@flatironshabitat.org](mailto:jphillips@flatironshabitat.org).

### Join the next build day!

Talk to Pastor Chad or Scott McCormick for more information.

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## *Free Tax Preparation Services for People of All Ages*

Trained and certified volunteers interested in reaching out to their communities provide free tax counseling and preparation services to low- and middle-income taxpayers (generally \$55,000 and below) throughout Boulder County and the Front Range. Tax preparation sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools and other convenient locations. Boulder, Louisville and Lafayette Rec centers are popular sites. One way to find a site near you is to visit the [AARP Tax-Aide site locator](#), where you can enter your zip code and receive addresses, schedules and other contact information.



In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, most sites also offer free electronic filing (e-filing). Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – even faster when tax refunds are deposited directly into one's bank account.

Most sites have limits on the type of income they will allow volunteers to handle. Complex returns, complex K1 investments and rental income are three things we are not trained to handle.

To get started, contact the tax prep site and schedule a time that works for you. Expect to meet with the tax preparer for about an hour or less, and then you will spend about 15 to 30 minutes in the quality review process. Bring a book or laptop and plan some extra time in case things run behind. There can be a wait if things start to lag behind; however, if you schedule first thing in the morning you should get in at your scheduled time without much delay. Services are provided Monday through Friday from 8 to 5, and there may be a Saturday site here or there. Each site is open for at least a half day, once a week.

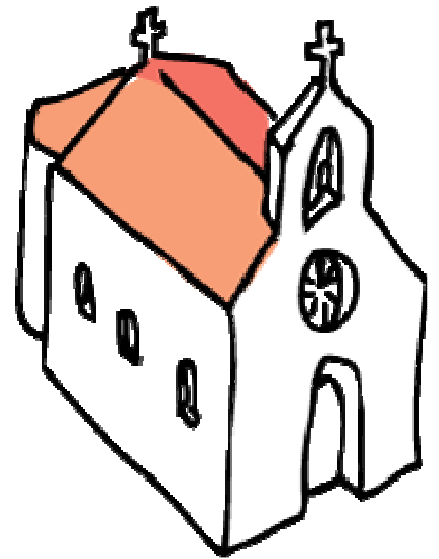
If you have any questions about this service or locations in the area, talk with Jody R. who works as a volunteer with the program.

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## *Lutheran Campus Ministry*

Opportunity to participate: This is an exciting time for Lutheran Campus Ministry, as well as a time of change. The long-time campus minister has retired. The LCM Board has decided to craft a vision statement in conjunction with calling a new pastor. If you are interested in shaping the ministry at CU-Boulder, please contact either of our pastors or Jeanne Nijhowne at 720-389-0519.

Lutheran Campus Ministry, ELCA at CU - Boulder has weekly worship at 5:00 pm on Sunday evenings at Grace Lutheran Church, "On The Hill." Following worship, dinner and a fellowship time are provided. Needed are volunteers to shop and prepare for the dinners. The expenses will be reimbursed by a student offering. Grace Lutheran has a kitchen and dining room available, with a microwave, ovens, dishes, glasses, silverware, etc. We are asking for volunteers to come participate in the worship, then serve and join in the meal afterwards. You get time to know our students who are supported by your giving! There are, on average, 15 students. If you may be interested in helping, please call 303-786-7137 or email their office at [liz.gonzales@colorado.edu](mailto:liz.gonzales@colorado.edu) to reserve a Sunday and receive more information.



# *Lutheran Family Services of Colorado*

**Lutheran Family Services of Colorado (LFS)** would welcome a contribution of the following items to be used to repair, clean up and make furniture usable that is broken: belt and electric sanders, pliers, tape measure, screw drivers, crow bar, power drill, chisels, utility knife, saw, c-clamps, rubber mallet, hammer, carpenter's square, miscellaneous hardware (screw, nails, washers, etc.), miscellaneous adhesives (wood glue, duct tape, etc.) and miscellaneous paints. For more information or to donate these items, contact Chad Skupien at [chad.skupien@lfsco.org](mailto:chad.skupien@lfsco.org) or 303-389-2348.

Also needed for the LFS Colorado Women's Employment Project are sewing and knitting supplies, including sewing machines, material, thread, yarn, scissors and needles. To get more information about this project or to donate items, contact Susan Gershwin at [susan.gershwin@lfsco.org](mailto:susan.gershwin@lfsco.org) or 303-389-2341.

***Want a unique place to celebrate Valentines Day?  
Looking for a way to explore your artistic side, but don't know  
where to start?***

Lutheran Family Services is hosting a fundraiser at Canvas and Cocktails, one of the newest, trendiest ways to learn the basics of acrylic painting while enjoying the company of friends. The class, which is for both the artistic and not so artistic, will be held on Monday, February 14 at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$40 per person with \$10 being given to LFS. For more information or to register, go to [www.canvasandcocktails.com](http://www.canvasandcocktails.com) or contact Erica at 303-217-5859.



- **A Big Thank You** to everyone who supported Lutheran Family Services on Colorado Gives Day! It was a great success for the entire state, raising over \$8 million dollars and over \$71,000 specifically for LFS. Thank you also to everyone who helped us promote this day

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*Hi,*

My name is Casey, the service dog that you sometimes see with Janet and Jerry Gilland. I need your help! You probably remember my step-brother, Cody, who is now an alert dog for a little girl with a severe peanut allergy. He is helping her lead a safer and more normal life. I know that, with Jerry's help, I could learn to do that, but I have higher aspirations. I know that some of my cousins alert diabetics when their blood sugar is low (Jerry says that is called hypoglycemia). I would like to find a child aged 8 to 12 with that problem, so I could work with them to prove to Jerry that I have the nose for it. If all goes well, when I grow up, I might go to live with that child permanently. If you know of anyone who can help me, call me (or Jerry) at 303-494-8009.

Thank you!

Casey

