

“Knowing Christ – Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope and Love.”

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work, Our hands.

Atonement

[uh-tohn-muh nt]

I would like to introduce you to a very “churchy” word, called *atonement*. Being a complicated term tossed around by churchy teacher types for centuries upon centuries we may not hear it much. But as we contemplate Lent, we will see how different denominations, different worship services, even different people work with *the atonement*. Atonement is how God reconciled, came together with God’s people, at-one-ment, over sin, death and evil. There are several different views of this, called theories or explanations of just how the mystery of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection saved us.

In the New Testament the mystery of atonement usually comes across in three different ways... (although there are more)...

1. Jesus as ransom. That there was a debt for our sins to Satan and it was paid by Jesus’ life, suffering and death in our place.
2. Jesus as obedient servant. This understanding states that Jesus was the most obedient, to the point of death. This particular idea pushes that we owe God everything, our entire lives and Jesus was the one who could live that out fully.
3. Jesus as victor. Here it is understood that Jesus is victorious in the battle between God and the powers of evil, death, and sin. God has conquered and won and when Jesus returns we will fully see the end of evil, death, and sin.

So which one we do believe? Which one is “right”? The Church throughout the ages has had meetings to decide the books of the Bible, the words of the Creeds, and numerous other things but there was never an official decision on exactly how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus saved us. That is a mystery we cannot answer.

In the words of Dr. Rolf Jacobson, one of my professors at Luther Seminary, “In the end, perhaps it’s best to say that it matters not so much *how* Christ’s cross does what it does but rather *that* Christ’s cross does what it does for you.

The journey of Lent is for us to reflect on God wishing to be at-one with us and the promise of new life, resurrection, Easter, is for us too. May we rejoice!

United in Christ,
Pastor Jeanette

P.S. Many thanks to Dr. Jacobson and his article “Atonement” in his book, *Crazy Talk*, which helped form this article.

Our Church Calendar

March 2nd

Midweek Lenten Service
Testimony of the Black Smith

Readings:

1 John 3:11-24

March 6th

4th Sunday in Lent

Readings:

Psalms 89:1-4

Focus: Great Commandment Mark 12:28-44

March 9th

Midweek Lenten Service
Testimony of the Carpenter
John 12:44-50

March 13th

5th Sunday in Lent

Readings:

Psalms 102:12-17

Focus: End of the Age Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

March 16th

Midweek Lenten Service
Testimony of the Stone Mason

Readings:

1 Corinthians 15:12-26

March 20th

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday
Reception of New Members

Readings:

Psalms 118:25-29

Focus: Triumphant Entry (Palm Sunday) Mark 11:1-11

March 24th

Maundy Thursday
1st Communion during worship

Readings:

Psalms 116:12-19

*Focus: The Lord's Supper, Prayer in Gethsemane
Mark 14:22-42*

March 25th

Good Friday
Christ's Passion-
Youth-led Passion Play

March 27th

Resurrection of Our Lord

Readings:

Psalms 118:21-27

Mark 16:1-8

LENTEN PROPS

We are still in need of the following for props for our midweek Lenten monologues:

- **For March 2nd**
 - Nails
 - Anvil or something one can strike metal
 - Tools for a blacksmith (hammer)
- **For March 9th**
 - Tools of a carpenter
 - Plane for carpentry

Please Contact Pastor Jeanette if you can help with props!

In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson

Kristy Fyhrie

Erica Nelson

Wally Skoglund

Luella Thom

Angie Steele

Bev Kreidler

Jennifer Bidne

Marcella Braun

Wendy Kuhnau

R.C. Christensen

Robert Dobratz

Jan Gilbertson

Thomas Collum

Sister of Pastor Jeanette

Grandmother of

Pastor Jeanette

Coworker of Jewel

Townsend

Friend of the youth

Father of Steve Dobratz

Sister of Jim Arvidson

Great-Grandson of Gary &

Bev Kreidler

Eleya Willie- daughter of Mike & Mari (Mike is the nephew of Jerry & Yvonne Anderson

Family and friends of Jayne Arvidson, James Higgs,

Louisa Carlson, Nancy Carter and Oliver

Christianson –Uncle of Luella Thom.

O Lord, hear our prayers...

03/01 Kristina Kreidler

03/02 Jean Barbee

03/03 Emma Timm

03/03 Evalynn Grinager

03/08 Amanda Dobratz

03/08 Brody Lenzen

03/10 Marcia Guenther

03/12 Emma Arvidson

03/12 Harvey Peterson

03/14 Kieda Wagner

03/15 Michael Wunderlich

03/16 Kiley Peterson

03/18 Ty Lenzen

03/25 Nancy Bunde

03/28 Anya Wagner

03/30 Ken Robinson

03/30 Garret Wehking

Serving Us In March

Pastor:	Jeanette Bidne
Organist:	Marcia Guenther
Lay Reader:	Sue Ellwanger
Acolytes	Kylie Velde
Ushers:	Eugene Arvidson, Brady Arvidson
Communion Asst.	Lorrie Pomeranz
Altar Guild:	Bev Arvidson
Greeters:	Lorrie Pomeranz
Birthday Fellowship:	Dave & Nancy Bunde Wally & Bea Skoglund Cindy Skoglund



January 2016

Beginning Balance	\$ 622.65
Deposits	\$ 7,244.40
Disbursements	\$ 7,802.63
Ending Balance 1/31/2016	\$ 64.42

Contributions needed based on budget	\$ 8,783.08
Actual Contributions	\$ 4,854.50
Budget Shortfall	(\$ 3,928.58)

Highlights of the Month:

In addition to providing for worship, the office, tithes and the building your general offerings...

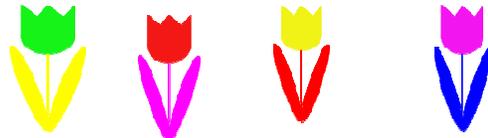
- Purchased materials for first communion students
- Helped mail Valentines from the Sunday School students
- Provided our Lenten monologues: *Artisans of the Cross* and much, much more!

Thank you for your continued support of all of Esther's ministries!



“Until we can receive with an open heart, we are never really giving with an open heart.”

— Brené Brown, taken from *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are*



DMin (Doctorate of Ministry) Diary

With the vote to support my pursuit of a Doctorate of Ministry in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary, each month I would like to keep you informed on the progress in short entries, like a journal or diary, of what I will be learning and how we will be learning together. The deadline for applications was February 15th and all of my transcripts, essays, sermon samples, and letters of recommendations are in. I should hear in mid-to-late March if I was accepted into the program.

Perhaps there will be much good news come Easter!

-Pastor Jeanette



Upcoming Events

April 10th All-Committee Meeting- Anyone wishing to brainstorm about ideas for events or actions for our church is invited after worship to join for a potluck lunch and conversation!

May 15th Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday as Megan Higgs and Megan Townsend affirm their baptism.

May 20th -21st NW MN Synod Assembly
Concordia, Moorhead

June 12th -16th - Evening Vacation Bible School 2016 at Esther! More details to come soon!



First Communion Classes-

Classes are tentatively scheduled at 5:30p.m. March 2nd, and 16th for 5th graders or anyone else interested in learning about the gift of Holy Communion. First Communicants will be recognized during our Maundy Thursday Service. Students will gather for an additional fourth class (TBD) to bake bread for Maundy Thursday. Here at Esther we hold classes for instruction about communion, however, there is no certain age or instruction required to receive this gift, please let the office know if you would like to join in learning about this sacrament.

New Members:

We are currently holding New Membership classes. If you are not officially a member and would also

like to formalize your membership please contact the church office. We will be having three sessions about discipleship, church membership, and to learn about Esther. Current members are asked to participate in the classes as well so we can continue to get to know one another. Classes will be held following worship on March 6th, and March 13th. We will welcome new members during worship on March 20th.



February 2016 Meeting

- \$1,354.00 in checking account
- \$7,556.00 in the memorial/savings account
- We made about \$750.00 on the Fall Herbergers Community Sales

We received Thank Yous from:

- United Way for the quilts
- Parkers Prairie Food Shelf
- Pastor Jeanette and Dan
- Parkers Prairie PAI
- The family of Richard Johnson

Old Business

- Circle 1 served the lunch following Kathy Carlson's funeral
- Myrtle Arvidson turns 100 on April 30th do we want to do something special to recognize it
- Motion was passed to have both a County Store and Raffle at the annual ice cream social. Margaret Wehking and Yuvonne Anderson volunteered to chair the project. We will be looking for donations to give as prizes for the raffle. Cash donations will also be accepted. Please continue working on your handmade items, produce and canned goods for the country store.

Come join us for quilting our last two dates the first, on March 10th in the forenoon prior to our regular meeting and March 24th all day. We already have some beautiful quilts made but more are needed.



Anyone interested is invited to join us to work on prayer shawls or any other creative arts crafts on Thursday, March 3rd at 1 pm. We will be meeting at the church.

Do you have the gifts to help others walk through grief?

Grief share, a support group for those who have experienced loss, is looking to expand from the Compassion Center in Alexandria into the Parkers Prairie area. Leaders are looking to have conversation with individuals who may feel called to help lead such a group in this area. Training will be provided. More information can be found at <http://www.griefshare.org/about>

Please contact Pastor Jeanette if you would be interested in learning more.

Those interested as a participant due to a loss are also encouraged to contact Pastor Jeanette to help assess the need in the area.



Faith of Miltona has invited us to a fellowship outing! Friday March 4th, beginning at 5:00 pm, we will meet at the Leaf Mercantile for their Friday fish fry. There is no agenda ... except fun and

fellowship. All are welcome to join in!



Luther Crest Prepare the Way Campaign

Exciting news! Luther Crest will begin building this spring and are looking for volunteers to assist in many ways (beginning stages involve cutting trees). More information, including ways to help will be coming soon!

In less than a year, Esther has contributed approximately \$4,185.00 of individual donations towards the Prepare the Way Campaign!

Esther Yearly Goal: \$1500/year, \$4500
Total Esther Challenge Goal: \$2,000/year, \$6,000

We are less than \$2,000 away from meeting our challenge goal of \$6,000 total for the 3-year campaign!

Thank you to all who have donated and all those who will to strengthen this great ministry! Several hundred students are already signed up for camp (much more than this time last year). It looks to be a great summer for Luther Crest!

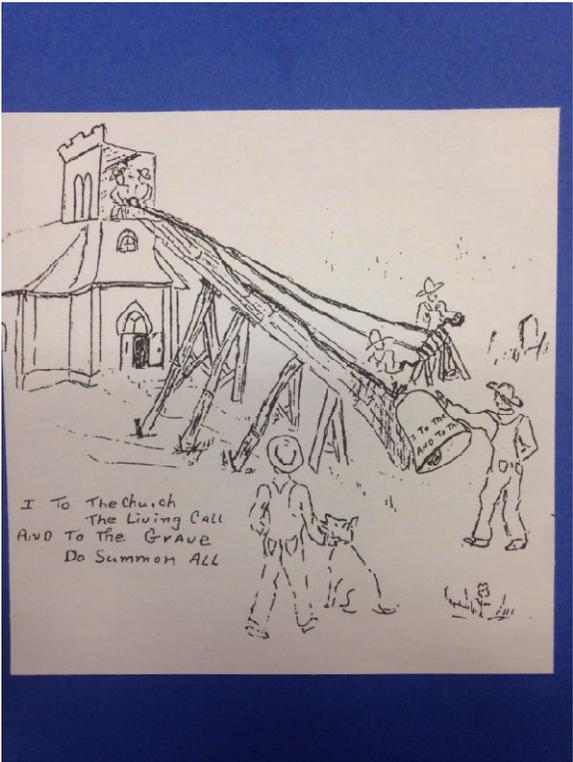
Sunday School Easter Garden

The Sunday School is asking for congregation members willing to donate their leftover Easter garden supplies from last year to bring them to the church by Sunday, Feb 28th at 9:00a.m. The Sunday school can then replant, make them, and sell the extras again as a fundraiser for VBS. Thank you for supporting the Esther Sunday School.!





Climbing up into the Bell Tower



Inscription on Bell
"I to the church the living call
and to the grave do summon all"



It's cold up here!

