



PELICAN NEWSLETTER

Visitation Invitation:

If you would like Pastor John to see you for a pastoral visit, please feel free to fill out the following card and either mail it to the church or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Your Name: _____

Suggested Time(s): _____

Contact Number: _____

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT
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MISSION STATEMENT

**TO WORSHIP, MINISTER AND CARE,
WITH ONE VOICE**

BY GOD'S GRACE

From Pastor John...



PASTOR JOHN

2 Corinthians 2:14

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

Discipleship by Presence

Did you ever notice just how easy it can be at times to know what someone has been doing just by being around them and smelling the fragrances that come off of them and their clothing? Sure, you might immediately be thinking of situations that you wouldn't quite describe as fragrant – like when I come home from a walk and Cara tells me to hit the shower before giving her a hug. But there are some pleasant smells, too. For example, I enjoy the smell of grass on shoes that have been used when mowing the lawn with a push mower (although not too much or the allergies kick in!). I enjoy the smell of dirt on my hands from digging in the yard and working with the flower beds. I enjoy the smell of dinner wafting through the air when Cara or I am cooking in the kitchen. There are plenty of smells that we can use to identify where we have been or what we have been doing.

I think the same thing can be said about the spirit, too. Yes, I know. We can't really smell the spirit. But we can identify where a person has been or what they have been doing by listening to their spirit. I know that on the days where I have gotten nothing done well (or just nothing done at all!) I tend to be frustrated. That frustration occasionally slips out in a sharper tone when I speak or in a face that is clearly unhappy. There are occasionally days where something happens that upsets me as a person. That anger inside boils out in similar observable ways. On the other hand, days where everything has gone well can usually be seen in a person by them being in a pleasant and patient mood. Days that are productive can often be recognized when a person is very content or at peace. The reality is that our presence can tell just as much about where we have been and what we have been doing as the smells and fragrances can tell.

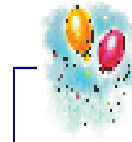
So where am I going with all of this? I'd encourage you to take a good long look at Mark 3:14. In it, Mark tells us that Jesus appointed the twelve so that they might be in His presence and that they might be trained to go into the world to preach. Isn't Jesus using the same principle here? Jesus wants the disciples to be recognizable in the world, so He invites them into His presence to teach them and to train them. Isn't that a wonderful thought? Wouldn't it be great to know that just being in the presence of Jesus Christ would cause us to be recognizable in the world?

In fact, I'm willing to assert that this is precisely one of the benefits from Christian activities and Christian community. Sure, anyone can sit at home in isolation and read their Bible and spend time with God – and there can be some good outcomes to that activity. In fact, I as your pastor encourage you to spend time alone reading the Bible and praying to God. But when we gather for worship, when we gather for community study, when we gather for community meals, when we gather for community meetings, or when we gather for any other community reason we have an opportunity to be in the presence of Jesus Christ revealed through each other. We have the ability to sense God in others around us and to learn from that. But we also have the opportunity to show others what God is doing for us. Then – hopefully filled with the Holy Spirit – we can go back into the world and let the world recognize that our faith is alive and active within us.

I know that it's just an analogy, but let's return to the idea of identifying where a person has been by the smells around them. Wouldn't it be awesome if we as Christians were as easily identifiable to the world by our actions and words as a person who just got done mowing the grass can be identified? What would it take for each of us to create a community in which every experience within that community made such a dynamic change within us that people could see God working through us? I pray for all of us, that who we are as individuals and as community gives off the sweet identifiable fragrance of God with whomever we should meet.

Pastor John <><

MARCH Birthday's & Anniversaries



2	W. C. SCROGGS	18	MATTHEW ADAMS	30	DAVID & SUE MIELKE
3	MICHAEL & MOLLY ADAMS		JOYCE MILLER ADAM WEST		
5	JORDON HAYES	21	DON HOLLIMAN		
9	BRENDA MORETZ	22	MICHAEL ADAMS		
12	SIERRA GUENTHER		JOEY & CHASTITY COMBS		
15	JIMMIE & SANDIE CLINE	23	DON & MARIBETH HOLLIMAN		

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We pray that sickness may be turned to health as we remember:

- Carl Richardson ●Lynn Underwood
- Carolyn Hamilton ●Bud and Jane Connor
- Keith Watts ●Jerry Michaud (Sadie Schneider's father)
- Wayne Greer ●Clinton Gardner ●Josh, Jean and Doug Glenn
- Ray and Bonnie Donta ●Bob Smith ●Coach Jerry Moore
- Dr. Jo Hendrix ●Chuck Parker ●W. C. Scroggs
- Gayle Greer ●Jesse Walsh ●Manuel Garza ●June Scroggs
- Dr. Steve Jackson ●Jason Kern

We pray for those serving in the military:

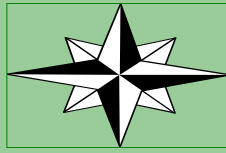
- Ian Miller ●Jeremy Williams ●Jason Taylor
- Ryan Blosser ●Kelly Duerk's husband ●Geoff Steffe
- Robby Bessette ●Jeffrey Dancy

We pray for our shut-ins:

- Esther Allen (Britthaven) ●Myrtle Williams (Senior Village)
- Naoma Choate (Britthaven) ●Retha Greene (Senior Village)
- Becky Stokes (Senior Village) ●Villa Miller (Senior Village)

We pray for parents and their unborn children:

- Sarah and David, Mike and Linda Chapman's daughter
- Nathaniel Staley and wife



MARCH'S SCHEDULED STEWARDS

GREETERS: LISA LAUFENBERG
 USHERS: JIMMIE CLINE & DOUG TETZLAFF
 LECTOR: LISA ARNEY
 CHALICIST: DANNY STALEY
 ACOLYTE: BRANDI BRUTON & CELESTE SCIABARASI
 CRUCIFER: LEANDRA STALEY
 ALTAR GULID: LORAE NORRIS, LINDA BENSON, BRANDI & WAYNE BRUTON
 TELLERS: DEAN LEDBETTER & DANNY STALEY

MARCH 2010 Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, MARCH 2: FAITH MEETING—DETAILS WIL LBE ANNOUNCED
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3: LENTEN MEAL AND DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY—6:00 PM
MONDAY, MARCH 8: WELCA MEETING—CRISMON WORKSHOP IN CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM AT 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 9: GOD AND THE GRILL MEN'S GROUP—7:00 PM AT PA PAW'S BBQ
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10: LENTEN MEAL AND DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY—6:00 PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 14: COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17: LENTEN MEAL AND DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY—6:00 PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 21: WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM MEETING FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
MONDAY MARCH 22: PROPERTY TEAM MEETING—6:00 PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 23: GOD AND THE GRILL MEN'S GROUP—7:00 PM AT PA PAW'S BBQ
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24: LENTEN MEAL AND DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY—6:00 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 27: ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING-INTERIOR OF CHURCH 9:00AM—12 NOON
SUNDAY, MARCH 28: PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31: LENTEN MEAL AND DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY—6:00 PM
THURSDAY, APRIL 1 SEDER MEAL— 7:00PM INSTEAD OF REGULAR MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

From Your Council...

Your Church Council took the following action during its annual retreat held on Saturday, February 13, 2010:

- Worked under Pastor Fraser's leadership in envisioning future direction(s) of Atonement's mission in our community
- Approved the monthly reports of the financial secretary and treasurer
- Approved a \$1,000 contribution from Atonement to the Isaiah 58:7 Program of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews to be used as a gift of warmth for elderly Israelis in the former Soviet Union who are who are struggling to heat their homes and to survive a brutal Asian winter
- Approved new team procedures for making Sunday afternoon Church Council meetings shorter, more efficient and more productive
- Reviewed important church calendar activities for Lent and Easter

Financial Update...

Regular Offering for 2010
\$12,034.30

2010 Budget
\$20,650.91

First Citizens Bank — Mortgage Loan
Balance As of February 1, 2010
\$112,414.26

Monthly Payment
\$1,531.78

SERVING (WITHIN & OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH)

John 12:26 "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my **servant** also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

As you can see the Christian is represented as a **servant** of Christ in John 12:26. It is part of the Christians task to serve.

- Christ is the model for Christian life and **service** because He thought first of others, not of Himself. Do you look out for the interests of others, or do you think only of yourself? Do you have the **servant** attitude of Jesus Christ, willing to sacrifice for others?
- Jesus taught in Philippians that true happiness comes from **humble service**. Jesus gave an example that we must follow today.

Imitating Christ's Humility — Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)

2 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

⁷ but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a **servant**,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING WORKDAY Saturday, March 27, 2010



The Property Team and the Worship & Music Team will co-ordinate our Annual Spring Cleaning Workday on **Saturday, March 27**. The interior of the sanctuary, narthex and education building needs to be cleaned prior to Easter Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this project which will begin at 9:00am and end around noon. Breakfast items will be available in the conference room for everyone. Come and enjoy time preparing God's house for the Easter Season along with lots of fun-filled fellowship together as we work!

Another date will be announced later for working on the grounds and other exterior needs for the church facility.

March Chrismon Workshop



The WELCA ladies group will be hosting the first **Chrismon Workshop** this year on **Monday, March 8** in the conference room from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. Come enjoy Irish Christmas music & light refreshments while making new Chrismons to be placed on our trees for Advent and Christmas.