

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Messenger

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL



**THE ATONEMENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*Assembly of the Upstate
New York Synod, ELCA*

This year, Atonement's "delegation" included Dan Randall, Deacon Karen Douglass, Deacon Jay Berry, Pastors Gaetz and Rodgers and Vicar Aaron Richter at the 2008 Synod Assembly in Rochester, NY on June 8, 9 & 10.

The theme: "Answering God's Call" was addressed throughout the entire assembly both in doing the business of the Synod, and in the five keynote addresses to the assembly. (Also pictured here are Merikay Harper, who is a member of the Synod staff, and Naomi Sorwar-Randall who is pastor at Prince of Peace in Fulton as well as being a past intern here at Atonement and married to Dan Randall, one of our representatives!)



This year's main business action was to elect a bishop to serve for the next six years. I am pleased to report that the Reverend Marie C. Jerge was re-elected to this position to serve another six years as our bishop.

There were several other elections held throughout this assembly:

- Synod Council members nominated by the seven Conferences of the synod were elected in a unanimous vote. Re-elected from the Central Crossroads Conference as a lay member of the council was Ms. Susan Sterner from St. Mark's Baldwinsville. Others already serving as Synod Council members from the Central Crossroads Conference are Dr. Donald Mills from Good Shepherd, Fayetteville and The Rev. Craig J. Herrick from First English, Syracuse.
- Kathy Moncrief was re-elected as Synod Council Secretary, The Rev. James Slater, (serving St. Lukes, Valatie and Emanuel Lutheran, Stuyvesant Falls) was elected to the Committee on Consultation.
- Ms. Susan Fayle of Holy Trinity, Buffalo was re-elected as the Representative to the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.
- Finally, Voting Members to the 2008 Churchwide Assembly were elected. Serving from the Central Crossroads Conference are Mark Betley from Our Savior, Utica, and The Rev. Ann Zimmerman from Trinity, Herkimer. The Rev. Nelson Gaetz and Dr. Donald Mills from Good Shepherd, Fayetteville, will serve as Alternates in the event that a clergy or lay member are unable to attend the churchwide assembly.

The highlights of this entire conference were the addresses presented throughout the assembly. Each keynote speaker discussed answering God's call. The addresses ranged from why Lutherans get excited about vocation, to listening to- and answering God's call. Each of the speakers emphasized that as baptized members of the body of Christ, we are all called (lay and ordained/rostered) to build up God's church on earth.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Jay Berry



Neil Simon's

Plaza Suite

Directed by
Bryan Allen Jones
Nora O'Dea
Pete Zalizniak

June 20 – July 5, 2008

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm • Sundays at 2pm

Tickets
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We continue with the prophet Jeremiah this week. One thing I didn't mention last week is that Jeremiah loved the theater. He was always doing a little more than just saying something. In this passage, he has put on a yoke to show that Israel wears a yoke of Babylon, or that Israel is a servant of Babylon. So, Mr. "Terror-All-Around" (20:10) is walking around, and Hananiah, another prophet appears and tells everyone not to listen to Jeremiah but all will be well. It will all turn out fine. Don't worry. He later in the story breaks the yoke that Jeremiah wears in order to prove his point (v.10).

Now, Jeremiah has no problem with Hananiah's proclamation that all will be well. But he is skeptical and reminds all present that true prophets rarely bring good news. The real danger in Hananiah is that he presumes to know what God will do and how God will behave, which only God can do.

There is a joke that says: How do you make God laugh? Tell God your plans. We can plan hard, we can try to make our future, but in the end, God leads us along paths that we could never have guessed. And while there will be people like Hananiah that tell us where our path will lead, it is only God who truly knows.

Let us pray, ever-seeing God, you know our beginnings, our middles, and our endings. Guide us in the journeys of our lives, and help us to realize the path you set before us. In your name we pray, Amen.

RENOVATIONS UPDATE

A special congregational meeting was held on June 1. Two outcomes from that meeting were:

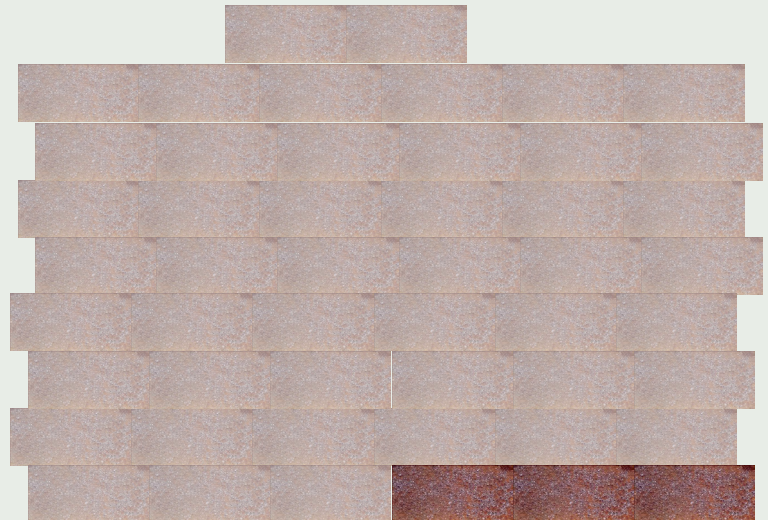
- approval of a renovations package and refinancing of the mortgage on the Kiesewetter Building (to eliminate a balloon payment due in 2016).
- requirement that the Church Council review detailed budgets before signing any contracts related to the renovation.

Since that meeting a number of things have been happening:

- Detailed contracts are being prepared with an eye to maximum work for minimum cost. These will provide more detailed budgets than those already received.
- Formal Loan documents with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are being prepared.
- Detailed budget options are being prepared that will be shared with the congregation via a special mailing that will be sent out this summer. This mailing will also solicit pledges in an effort to secure at least \$56,500 in commitments to be paid over three years.
- Some pledges and actual financial gifts have already been received. We already have nearly 10% of our goal!
- Comments and suggestions have been made (some at low, or no, additional cost) that we hope to be able to accommodate in the scope of the project. For example, one suggestion is to improve the ability to use some portions of the building while securing other parts not in use.

The Church Council will meet again on June 30. If all the necessary documentation is in place by then, Council can approve the project proceeding. If anything is missing the Council will meet again before giving the "go-ahead"—to make a good faith effort to comply with the will of the congregation who wanted to move ahead only with great care.

Watch this Space! ...and watch the wall grow with pledges received to support the renovation project:





7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - JUNE 29, 2008

8:30 AM Traditional Service of Holy Communion, Vicar Richter, Preaching
 9:00 AM Traditional Service of Holy Communion, Pastor Suarez, Preaching at Fabius
 10:45 AM Holy Communion Service, Pastor Gaetz, Preaching

WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY (6/29)

8:30am Traditional Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
 9:00am Traditional Service of Holy Communion (St. Paul's Fabius)
 10:45am Festival Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
 12:00pm Graumenz Reunion (Gym)
 2:00pm Plaza Suite Performance (Fellowship Hall)
 7:00pm Charlie Auditions (Coffee Shop, Chapel)

MONDAY (6/30)

7:00pm Church Council (Coffee Shop)
 7:00pm Charlie Auditions (Coffee Shop, Chapel)

TUESDAY (7/1)

8:00am Messenger Volunteers (Coffee Shop)
 6:00pm Scene One (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY (7/2)

10:00am Crafty Ladies (Coffee Shop)

THURSDAY (7/3)

6:00pm Scene One (Fellowship Hall)
 6:00pm Summer Dinner (Coffee Shop)
 7:00pm Summer Worship (Chapel)

FRIDAY (7/4)

8:00pm Plaza Suite Performance (Fellowship Hall)

SATURDAY (7/5)

8:00pm Plaza Suite Performance (Fellowship Hall)

BIBLE READINGS

Th Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
 Jeremiah 25:1-7
 Galatians 5:2-6
 F Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
 Jeremiah 25:8-14
 Galatians 5:7-12
 Sa Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
 Jeremiah 28:1-4
 Luke 17:1-4
 Su Jeremiah 28:5-9
 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
 Romans 6:12-23
 Matthew 10:40-42
 M Psalm 119:161-168
 1 Kings 21:1-16
 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
 Tu Psalm 119:161-168
 1 Kings 21:17-29
 1 John 4:1-6
 W Psalm 119:161-168
 Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Matthew 11:20-24

SUNDAY BUS/VAN SCHEDULE

9:00am Lodi
 9:15am Presidential Plaza
 9:20am Toomey Abbott
 9:30am Arrive Church
 9:45am Leave Church
 9:50am Hoeffler
 9:55am Lincoln
 10:10am Thurber
 10:15am Loretto
 10:30am Arrive Church

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

ASSISTING 8:30am Vicar Richter
 MINISTER 10:45am Gary Stensland
 COMMUNION 8:30am Ken Greig
 ASSISTANTS 10:45am Susan Scharoun
 USHERS 8:30am Joann & Paul* Claeys
 Elevator Op* 10:45am Casey Draper & Missy Wilber*
 ACOLYTES/ 8:30am Abigail Wood
 ALTAR SERVERS 10:45am Stacie Draper
 ALTAR CARE 8:30am Lynn Strumlok
 10:45am Carole Barr
 GIFT BEARERS 8:30am Ken & Jeanette Greig
 10:45am Jessica Fitzgibbon & Sue Scharoun
 READERS 8:30am Pam Haumann
 10:45am Jay Stone
 GREETERS 8:30am Roberta Mettler
 FLOWER DELIVERY Deacon Karen Douglass

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please remember the following members and friends at Atonement in your prayers.

Millard Fillmore Hospital (Buffalo)

Margaret Cowan (Pastor Rodgers' Mother)

University Hospital

Malcolm Rainbow (Walters' family friend)

At home or in a nursing home

Ella Baker (Marty Shay's mother), Richard Boynton, Joan Hughes (friend of the Greigs), Bette Rae Kennedy, Barbara Nelson, Dorothy Phillips, Heather Strong (Pat Strong's daughter), Betty Theel, Sandy Walters

Those in the armed services

Mike Breedlove (Pensacola, FL), Scott Carpenter, Travis Carpenter, Jack Fields (Ft. Bliss, TX), Trevor Martineau (Paris Island, SC), Kevin Monds (Ft. Benning, GA), Chris Nillhouse (Korea), Justin Randall (Quantico, VA), Melissa Young (Phoenix, AZ)

Note: People who are not hospitalized are listed only once per request. If you would like a person listed for additional weeks, please call the church office (492-9065) each week by 10am Thursday.

FRESH FROM THE FARM!



"Farm Fresh" a partnership with PEACE will bring a Farmer's Market to our Parking Lot each week this summer. Starting June 5, the Mobile Farmers Market will be in the Atonement parking lot Thursday afternoons from 1-3pm.

MORE GRADUATES!

Two more graduates to add to this year's list. Congratulations Michael and Justin!

High School

- Michael Pauls (Jamesville-Dewitt)

Bachelor's Degree

- Justin Tyo (SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry)