

Through Zion's Window

AUGUST 2017

ATONEMENT - SPIRIT STEPS



Christianity attempts to understand the meaning of life especially as it relates to the Divine. The Bible is the sacred text on which Christianity is built. The Old Testament chronicles the history of the Children of Israel in their relationship to their God. It is not a history per se, rather a history told from a perspective of their faith in the God who delivered them from slavery in Egypt and “led” them to the promised land. It is a faith history told in poetry, song, pagan

myths, parables, etc. intertwined with historical detail. The New Testament begins with the four Gospels, each reporting from their vantage points the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; the remainder of the book describes the spread of Christianity and the followers attempts to understand and put into practice the teachings of Jesus. It is out of this that the Christian Church attempts to understand and talk about God and the relationship between God and our universe.

I write this oversimplified and inadequate summery to remind ourselves that many of the teachings of our church are interpretations or “theories” based on understandings that predate the coming of Jesus and were revised by Jesus (“you have heard it said, but I say unto you”). As the church has struggled to understand and communicate the life and teachings of Jesus as well as an understanding of the Divine it has developed various sets of understandings that we call ‘doctrine’. Church doctrine developed over long periods of time with the input of many scholars. Doctrine is also something that evolves and changes as new information and understanding becomes available. Most of the time these changes in understanding are fairly minor and do not affect much of our basic understanding. There are doctrines, however, that form the basis for a much broader understanding of God and our relationship to God. One such doctrine is the Doctrine of Atonement.

I was taught in my confirmation class, as I suspect were many of you, that Jesus was sent by the Father to suffer and die in my stead so that I might have eternal life. That Jesus died so that our sin might be laid upon him and he would atone for our sins. This Doctrine of Atonement seems to be a doctrine that underlies much of what we say and do in our worship, but is there another way to understand the Christ taking on human form and suffering and dying?

Richard Rohr in a recent blog published an article that addresses the “Substitutionary Atonement” theory and I am including the entire article rather than summarizing or attempting to restate it. I believe that at the very least it is thought provoking.

May you have peace in your day.

Pastor Bob

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation

Salvation as - At-One-Ment

Substitutionary Atonement - Sunday, July 23, 2017

This week we will look more closely at some Christian beliefs that have caused a great deal of damage, namely substitutionary atonement “theories.” These views have dominated Christianity over the past century, but it wasn’t always that way. Theologian Marcus Borg (1942-2015) points out that the substitutionary understanding of Jesus’ death “was not central in the first thousand years of Christianity.” [1] Borg explains:

[The] first systematic articulation of the cross as “payment for sin” happened just over nine hundred years ago in 1098 in St. Anselm’s treatise *Cur Deus Homo?* [Why Did God Become Human?] Anselm’s purpose was to provide a rational argument for the necessity of the incarnation and death of Jesus.

He did so with a cultural model drawn from his time and place: the relationship of a medieval lord to his peasants. If a peasant disobeyed the lord, could the lord simply forgive if he wanted to? No. Because that might imply that disobedience didn’t matter that much. Instead, compensation must be made. Nothing less than the honor and order of the lord were at stake.

Anselm then applied that model to our relationship with God. We have been disobedient and deserve to be punished. And yet God loves us and wants to forgive us. But the price of sin must be paid. Jesus as a human being who was also divine and thus perfect and without sin did that. [2]

Unfortunately, this became the primary lens through which the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament were read. The substitutionary atonement “theory” (and that’s all it is) implies that the Eternal Christ’s epiphany in Jesus is a mere afterthought when the first plan did not work out.

While animals were sacrificed in the Judaic temple, Marcus Borg argues that this “was not about payment for sin” but “making something sacred by giving it as a gift to God”; sacrifices were about “thanksgiving, petition, purification, and reconciliation,” not substitution. [3] The temple metaphors of atonement, satisfaction, ransom, “paying the price,” and “opening the gates,” are just that—metaphors of transformation and transitioning. Too many theologians understood these in a transactional way instead of a transformational way.

Why would God need a “blood sacrifice” before God could love what God had created? Is God that needy, unloving, rule-bound, and unforgiving? Once you say it, you see it creates a nonsensical theological notion that is very hard to defend. What would God ask of me if God demands violent blood sacrifice from God’s only Son? A violent theory of redemption legitimated punitive and violent problem solving all the way down—from papacy to parenting. If God uses and needs violence to attain God’s purposes, maybe Jesus did not really mean what he said in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5): “Blessed are the gentle, the merciful, the peacemakers.”



On Sunday, June 4th, 2017, Zion's middle school students received their Rite of Confirmation. We pray that, as they continue to learn they will grow in joy and faith, and receive strength to live among God's people as a sign of Christ's love for the world.

Andrew Paul Balmer, son of Paul & Danielle. He was baptized on February 29, 2004, and received his First Communion on April 17, 2014. His godparents are James Miklich & LuAnn Meyers.

Ashlyn Ellen Schlieve, daughter of Brian & Sara. She was baptized on March 28, 2004, and received her First Communion on April 17, 2014. Her godparents are Scott Peirick, Dawn Fredrick & Amanda Louden.

Cayden Robert Fredrick, son of Keith & Dawn. He was baptized on January 19, 2003, and received his First Communion on April 17, 2014. His godparents are Kevin Fredrick, Robert Buske, Tim May & Cathy Fredrick.

Morgan Taylor Reed, daughter of Matt & Ashley. She was baptized on June 12, 2005, and received her First Communion on July 19, 2015. Her godparents are Lee & Brandon Ziebell, Peggy Liesener and Jared Matteson

Nathan Kenneth Petersen, son of Bruce & Carrie. He was baptized on June 6, 2004, and received his First Communion on April 17, 2014. His godparents are Kevin Petersen & Dawn Deitelhoff.

From Erla Newbecker: I would like to thank the Confirmation Families for the beautiful plant I received from them. It has been an honor and privilege to teach their children. Thank You!

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On August 6th, we will observe "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. Pastor Bob will be riding in the MS bike tour as a part of his contribution. He leaves on Saturday and bikes 75 miles to Whitewater.



After an overnight in Whitewater he leaves again for a 75-mile ride to Madison. This 150-mile bike tour raises money for MS research and treatment. Each rider pays an entry fee and then is asked to get pledges for the ride. This year Pastor Bob has set a goal of \$1500. Your support in helping him reach that goal is greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to MS and given to Pastor Bob.

**Looking for rest stop volunteers for at the Best Dam Bike Ride the ride is Saturday, August 5th. It is so much fun to help with, even if you only have a couple hours to spare? Please see Carrie Wendorf if you can help. **

****We will worship with Fr. Dave and Holy Name of Jesus the second Sunday of August and September. Service time will start at 8:30 am on August 13 and September 10.****

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

01 – Nathan Egholm
 04 – Emma Brittenham
 05 – Bud Newbecker
 06 – Larry Rather
 06 – Mike Johnson
 07 – Dave Jaeger
 11 – Heidi Tunak
 12 – Ruth Peirick
 13 – John Seidschlag
 15 – Shauna Clemans
 16 – Scott Schultz
 23 – Linda Schmidt
 26 – Sally Schoenike
 31 – Greta Altreuter
 31 – Jim Schmidt

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

06 – Jerry & Peggy Liesener
 07 – Jim & Shari Franke
 22 – Paul & Danielle Balmer
 24 – Scott & Carmen Schultz
 28 – Bruce & Carrie Petersen

ACOYLTES

06 – "God's Work, Our Hands"
 13 – Kyle Schlieve
 20 – Kristofer Schultz
 27 – Nolan Altreuter

GREETERS

06 – "God's Work, Our Hands"
 13 – Dave & Sandy Jaeger
 20 – Shorty & Carol Schuett
 27 – Franklin & Karen Wolter

ASS'T MIN

06 – "God's Work, Our Hands"
 13 – Carrie Wendorf
 20 – John Seidschlag
 27 – Jerry Liesener

USHERS

***Franklin Wolter Team**
 The Siedschlag Family
 Jim Franke
 Allen & Mary Lee Petersen

ALTAR GUILD

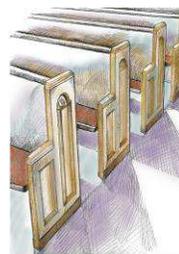
Wendy Egholm
 Ruth Peirick

LAY READER

Bill Jaeger

PROJECTION OPERATOR

06 – "God's Work"
 13 – John Seidschlag
 20 – Jerry Liesener
 27 – Heidi Tunak



View from the Pews

Sunday, June 25	39
Sunday, July 2	Firemen's Parade
Sunday, July 9	35
Sunday, July 16	42
Sunday, July 23	49

THANK YOU!! Thanks to all that came out and helped plan, build, decorate, drive, represent Zion on the Oktoberfest float and walk the parade route. We were blessed with a beautiful day and were honored to be a part of the 100-year celebration of the Ashippun Fire Department. Special thanks to Shorty and Carol for allowing us to use the wagon and to Franklin for pulling the float with his Ford Tractor. We truly are a "little church doing big things".

Zion Oktoberfest Committee

Evangelism News...

August 2017 Newsletter

God's Work, Our Hands/Day of Service

The first weekend of August is dedicated to serving the community in which we live.

Once again the MS Bike Tour will roll down the road. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Carrie Wendorf.

Explore other opportunities to serve. Here are a few ideas to consider.

- ❖ Visiting with the elderly
- ❖ Helping a neighbor
- ❖ Delivering a meal or cookies to someone under the weather
- ❖ Picking up litter

Love your neighbors and make your community a better place. Now is the time for you to take action!

Zion Artisan & Vendor Sale

Zion will host another Artisan and Vendor Sale! Spread the word...Vendors can pick up registration forms at church or from Doreen. Space rental is only \$20 for an 8 x 10 booth. A real bargain! Contact Doreen Schultz for more information.



Zion Artisan
&
Vendor Sale

November 11, 2017
10 to 3

Free
Admission

Featuring a bistro luncheon:
Soup/Salad/Sandwich

Bake Sale - Raffle Drawings

To reserve your seller's booth,
contact Doreen at 920-474-7416



God's Vacation

God never takes a vacation from protecting us. When Jesus was on earth, He never took a two-week vacation from the mission God had given Him. We read in the Bible that Jesus would go away by Himself, but that was only to pray.

There is nothing wrong with taking a vacation. All of us need to get away from the stress of our daily life. However, that does not mean that we are to take a vacation from spreading the Love of Jesus. No matter where we go, there is someone who desperately needs to hear that Jesus loves him or her.

You may feel uncomfortable about going up to a stranger and telling him or her that Jesus Loves you. There are many ways to spread the Love of Jesus. You can smile at someone, or compliment that person on something.

No matter how uncomfortable we may feel, that person may be lonely, going through family problems, or perhaps a member of his or her family just died, and he or she is longing to know someone cares.

Are you on vacation from spreading the Love of Jesus to others? If so, I urge you to get back to serving Jesus no matter where you go on vacation.

Evangelism Committee

Doreen Schultz

OKTOBERFEST

Oktoberfest 2017

Plans are under way for our Annual Oktoberfest polka worship service. Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 1.

The Good Time Dutchmen Band will lead the music and singing at an 8:45 a.m. service. Following the service, worshippers are invited to "Gemütlichkeit Under the Tent" until 11 a.m. when dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall. This year, Zion members will again prepare the delicious meal which will include: Baked Ham and Oven Baked Chicken, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut stuffing, vegetable, dinner rolls, dessert, and beverages. Tickets are available from Heidi Tunak- \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children ages 4 through 10,

At 1 p.m., the festivities move to Maple Inn in Old Ashippun for a polka dance, complete with door prizes and raffles. Tickets for the dance are \$5 at the door.

The Zion ladies' quilt raffle has become a tradition at Oktoberfest, and this year is no exception. The winner will be drawn at 5 p.m. at the dance.

Oktoberfest is one of Zion's annual fundraisers. ALL members are encouraged to support this effort by selling and buying raffle tickets and participating in the worship service, dinner, and dance. Pick up your raffle tickets from the Siedschlag's before or after church services. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Simply put, here are some of the ways YOU can make Oktoberfest a success:

1. Attend
2. Volunteer to help with the meal-see Debbie Guenther
3. Attend
4. Sell raffle tickets-See an Oktoberfest Committee Member
5. Attend
6. Bake desserts to be served with the meal
7. Attend
8. Donate prizes for the small raffles-Homemade items are nice and so enjoyed by the winners
9. Attend
10. Help with set up/clean up

If you have questions about how you can help, see any Oktoberfest Committee member below and sign up on the sheets posted in the Narthex. You can help make this our annual event a huge success!

German Flavor at Coffee Hour

Quilt on Display

This year's quilt will soon be on display in the Narthex. Doreen Schultz has tickets for the machine quilted, Double Pinwheel pattern queen size quilt in color shades of Blues and Beiges. Be sure to get your ticket supply from Sandy and Doreen so you can start selling. Ticket prices are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Thank-you to Ele and Sandy for the beautiful quilt!

The Phone is Ringing

If it's someone from Zion, please answer and say, "Yes!" Since we are doing our own meal preparation again this year, we need to add more helping hands to the list of faithful workers.

There are lots more jobs that need volunteers. Here's a sample:

- Meal preparation and serving
- Beverage servers
- Cut desserts, plate, refill cake plates on each table
- Ticket takers
- Clean up crew
- Weigh, wrap, or sell leftovers



Don't be shy! You have the talent and expertise to do any number of things, just say, "Yes." Please let Debbie Guenther know your availability.

September Coffee Hours

Oktoberfest committee members are planning coffee hours leading up to Oktoberfest by providing a variety of ethnic treats following worship services. Come to worship; stay for a taste of the Old World. If there is anyone that would like to assist with hosting or serving on one of the Sundays, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex.

The next planning committee meeting will be
Tuesday August 8th at 6:30 p.m.
Please attend to bring your ideas! Everyone welcome!

Planning Committee Members: Lester/Carol Schuett, Erla Newbecker, Courtney Liesener, Heidi Tunak, Doreen Schultz, Debbie Guenther, John/Christine & Natalie Siedschlag, Carrie Wendorf

Zion Account Balances

Checking account current balance: \$6340.39

- Building fund savings: \$11,004.67
- Memorial fund savings: \$5429.59
- Youth savings: \$8268.14
- Oktoberfest savings (new): \$250.01