



Makin' Waves



Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com

425-923-8558

Atonement Lutheran Church

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541-265-2554



December 2024

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Office Hours - 10:00am ~ 3:00pm

Tuesday thru Friday

Website / Facebook Page

Sunday Worship Service on YouTube

www.atonementluthern.com



Christmas Tree Trimming & Treats



Join us for the tree decorating on Sunday, December 8th after 10:00am Worship Service.

Please bring holiday treats to share.



To celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas, we would like to request help in decorating the sanctuary and narthex with poinsettias. It would be greatly appreciated and add to the wonderful Christmas service. Please bring your poinsettias to the church and place them on the table near the office. We will move them to the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service@ 7:00pm. You can take your poinsettias home after the service on December 25th.

Thank You!

Advent and Christmas Services

by Pastor John Smithies

Please join us in Advent Season for any or all of the following services times. Wednesdays in Advent:

@12pm to 1 for a silent reflection and prayer in our sanctuary.

@6pm for Holden evening prayer service

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm

Christmas Day Service at 10:00am



We at Atonement Lutheran Church reach out with the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

Christ's ministry includes everyone, we, too, welcome persons of any ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, race, sexual orientation, marital status, age, economic situation, and physical or mental ability. And we are committed to a vision of racial equity.

All are welcome to join us for any and all activities held at Atonement Lutheran Church





Financial Snapshot ... ALC ~ October 2024

Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman



General Fund: Revenues during October '24 were \$ 14,211
Expenses during October '24 were \$ 14,970
General Fund balance is \$ 45,593

Capital Fund: Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.
Our mortgage balance is \$ 149,800
Capital Fund balance is \$ 165,708

Dedicated Fund balance is \$ 16,854

Restricted/Endowment balance is \$ 142,017



Our Vanco online Donation option is located on our website home & contact pages at: <https://www.atonementlutheran.com>.

If you are using this for the first time, signup is necessary to have your information on hand. Once you are in the system, it will bring up your information to complete transaction. There is a *How to Use Direction Sheet* in the office.



Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group meets at 8:00am on Thursdays at Pig N Pancake. If you would like to join us, just stop by. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor John at the office.



Midweek Service in Advent ... by Pastor John Smithies

During this advent season, we would like to experiment a bit with our worship space and normal practices. First, for this Advent, we will be holding our evening prayer service at 6:00pm instead of 7:00pm. We would like to do this both to ensure the safety of our members so they can drive home before it gets too late and also see if this is a helpful change.

Secondly, for those wishing to have time for reflection and prayer we are going to open the sanctuary on Wednesday from 12:00pm to 1:00pm., This is a time for anyone to come and have space for prayer and reflection. We will provide votive candles and have some optional devotional material available for anyone wishing to come and rest.



Pastor John Smithies



During Advent, we enter the long, cold nights of December, descending into the deepest darkness of the year. It will be night when we go to bed and night when we wake up. In view of our Advent symbolism to work properly this must be true. I write this knowing that our friends in the southern hemisphere are celebrating summer. It would be worth while someday looking at the symbols they use, but that is an idea for a different day. But, for us and our ancestors what they did on these long cold nights was light a candle in the hope and trust that the sun would rise again. On the day the night was longest hearth, and home would be illuminated with light, hence our tradition of Christmas lights is an echo of this. An act of hope, an act of defiance against the night, an act of celebration that light would come.

Now I don't know if Jesus was born in December, and truth be told none can be certain. But, while we may not know the exact date of Jesus' birth, celebrating it during the longest nights of the year beautifully symbolizes the light of Christ entering our world's deepest nights. The Incarnation—the light of God born among us—resonates most powerfully in this season, when the cold and night are most keenly felt.

Is it not amazing that it is light that is the central symbol of this season. Light itself, which is both a particle and wave, the Incarnation defies comprehension: the divine light becomes human, dwelling among us. light which is surrounded by mystery. One could easily say that scientific adventure, at least in the quantum realm, is dedicated to understanding the mystery of light. Light is also the central symbol for the divine, maybe we are entering a period when we will understand that both science and religion are pursuing to understand the same mystery and that we both have a contribution and something to say. As science reveals more about the universe, it uncovers even deeper mysteries, mirroring the journey of faith: the more we learn about God, the more we encounter the infinite mystery of divine love.

Imagine a conversation between the top quantum scientist and the top theologian on what it would mean for light to be incarnated as a Child in a manger? What might it reveal about the nature of light, God, and reality itself? I raise all this with the hope that this year may be filled with awe and amazement at this deep mystery that speaks to the heart of us all. May we resist the urge to have a comfortable domesticated Christmas and feel the full weight of wonder and astonishment. Light has become us and is so doing reveals a truth about the nature of what light is. The mystery here is that in looking on this baby we can see the nature of who God is, which reflects the nature of what reality is and that reality is love.

Advent is that period in our church year where we try to prepare our hearts for the



Adult Forum @9:00am ... Pastor John Smithies

Adult Forum is focusing on lectionary readings for that Sunday and engaging in some wonderful conversations. All are welcome to come in person or on zoom or watch the recording the following week.

Adult Forum Brewmasters needed!

If you are willing to come in at 8:30am to set up and brew the coffee please sign up on the board upstairs across from the coffee station. **Thank you!**



WELCA will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. This month is December 11th at 12:30pm. Join us in person or Zoom in the Church Narthex in community for a time of fellowship and discussion.

All are welcome to participate.

Come Join our Service Programs

If you are interested and want to participate in community service, (they would love to have you) please pick up a copy of committee program information on table next to Kitchen.



From the Pastor

Continue from page 3

mystery of Christmas. It is a time that challenges us to slow down, enter into deep prayer, light candles in hope, and connect ourselves back to this story of a God who comes to us. One way to do this is through silent prayer. Start small: set a timer for one or two minutes, read a short passage of Scripture, say the Lord's Prayer, and then sit quietly, resting in God's presence. When your mind wanders, gently refocus. Each week, try adding a minute to your silence, letting this practice draw you deeper into the mystery of the season.

May these long nights remind us that the Son of God has come, is here, and will come again to bring the fullness of God's light and love. This mystery begins now, illuminating the darkness with the promise of a light so radiant that, in the new creation, there will be no need for the sun.

Pastor John Smithies



Room Rental



Our church facilities/rooms on the lower level are open for rent...short term events (parties, meetings, weddings) or long term (weekly/monthly) if needed.

contact our office for available dates and time.



Phone# 541 265-2554 email address: office@atonementlutheran.com



Atonement Reverse Advent Calendar



Each day of Advent, add a food item to a box. Use the suggestions on the calendar, or add in any shelf stable item. After Advent, put your box of food by the food pantry barrel in the Narthex

1 <i>Applesauce</i>	2 <i>Canned Beans</i>	3 <i>Canned Chicken</i>	4 <i>Canned Tuna</i>	5 <i>Canned SPAM</i>	6 <i>Canned Veggies</i>	7 <i>Cooking Oils</i>	
8 <i>Crackers</i>	9 <i>Jams or Jelly</i>	10 <i>Canned Fruit</i>	11 <i>Granola Bars</i>	12 <i>Instant Potatoes</i>	13 <i>Nuts</i>	14 <i>Pasta</i>	
15 <i>Peanut Butter</i>	16 <i>Rice</i>	17 <i>Cake Mix</i>	18 <i>Canned Soup</i>	19 <i>Cereal</i>	20 <i>Oatmeal</i>	21 <i>Pasta Sauce</i>	
22 <i>Dried Fruit</i>	23 <i>Tea & Coffee</i>	24 <i>Pudding Or fruit Cups</i>					



Hello from the Library Committee

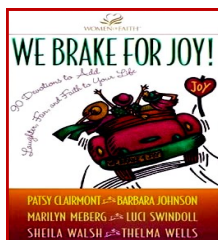
by Bonnie Powell

December brings so much cheer, candy and fellowship for all of us. A note here to remind all that our Library Celebration and Fund Raiser will be held early February. This is a tradition that began in the 70' to raise funds to purchase new books for our library. As you may see, the cost of books has increased over the years, but we are trying to replenish some books and modestly purchase new ones.

The Celebration is also a wonderful time of fellowship as it's held after service with many delicious treats to enjoy! We usually have a donation basket on the table for those who may wish to make a donation which will go towards purchasing new books. We thank you all the helping us maintain our Library! This year we added eight new wonderful children books to the shelves. Appreciation to all of you who use and enjoy our Church Library.

Book Reviews ... by Bonnie Powell

Title: We Brake For Joy



This is an uplifting book of short stories each using a Bible verse as inspiration. Six different authors write on a variety of topics.

In a quote from the cover it states: "90 Devotions to add laughter, fun and faith to your life." You can find it in the Devotional Section of our Library but I will place it by the check out shelf for now. I found it uplifting to read and hope others will, too.



by Marian Brown

Did you know ... **Altar Guild** is looking for some additional members. What is Altar Guild? Altar Guild is a sub-committee of Worship and Music and meets quarterly.

The following is a list of the committee responsibilities: Communion preparation for services as well as all special church services, flowers, care of candles, communion bread, baptismal napkins and candles, changing of banners and paraments, Advent wreath, Christmas poinsettias, Easter lilies, linen care and special needs for funerals and weddings.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have and look forward to working with you.



ALC Book Club ... by Pastor John Smithies

Book Club will meet on the December 17th @ 11:00am and 19th @ 5:00pm

This month we are reading a short work called "A Time to Keep Silence" by Patrick Leigh Fermor. Fermor's work is about his traveling experience visiting monasteries throughout Europe, he is also considered one of the greatest travel writers. This work is a thought-provoking look at the mystery of silence, which is itself a prayer. I hope that as we journey through Advent amidst the hopes and expectations of the season, we may also learn to cultivate the silence of awareness, and may this work foster a glimpse of that mystery. Book Club will meet a week earlier this month due to the Christmas Schedule.

For the rest of the year these will be the books we will be reading.

Book Club 2025

- January: Cast of Characters by Max Lucado
- February: Love wins by Rob Bell
- March: Can you Drink the Cup by Henri Nouwen
- April: The Seven last words of Christ by Judith Marrison
- May: The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr.
- June: The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery
- July: Fire of Grace by Richard W Rouse, explores the healing power of forgiveness,
- August: The Five people you meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom,

There's More to Christmas ... Author Unknown



There's more, much more to Christmas
 Than candlelight and cheer;
 It's the spirit of sweet friendship
 That brightens all the year;
 It's thoughtfulness and kindness,
 It's hope reborn again,
 For peace, for understanding,
 For goodwill to men!



Kid's Page



Color me



The *first* Sunday will be a teaching Sunday and the *third* will be a project Sunday for the youth led by our committees. If you would like to participate in this program, please talk to us.

Youth in Worship

 by Pastor John Smithies

We are encouraging our youth to assist in various ways on Sunday morning! We invite parents and youth to sign up on our sign up board and or show up early and let us know that you would like to assist. Our ushers are more than happy to assist you in everything! Our youth are a part of our service!



December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom Sunday School 11:30am Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p><i>National Cookie Day!</i>  12-2pm Open Chapel 6:00pm Holden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom Christmas Tree Decorating/Treats 11:15 Outreach Mtg 12:15am Worship & Music Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>Office closed</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>9:00am Property Mtg 11:00am Parish Life Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>12:30pm WELCA 12-2pm Open Chapel 3:30pm Finance Mtg 6:00pm Holden Evening Prayer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake 11:00am OCQG F/H 3:30pm S/M Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>Nat'l Cocoa Day </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom Sunday School 11:30am Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>Office closed</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>11:00am ALC Book Club Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>  <p>12-2pm Open Chapel 6:00pm Holden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake 5:00am ALC Book Club Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 12:00pm Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>Office closed</p> <p>5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>  <p>7:00pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>WAVES Deadline</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Safe Toys and gifts Month</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">AIDS WORLD DAY</p> 		



Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
1 10:00 am	Susan Painter	Marian Brown/ Darcy de la Rosa	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
8 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Marian Brown	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
15 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Marian Brown	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
22 10:00 am	Darcy de la Rosa	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
24 7:00 pm	_____	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
25 10:00am	Rhonda Harman	Marian Brown	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
29 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Marian Brown	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
1 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy/ Dan Moore	Cathy Devereaux/ Pete Kraack	Barb Ward
8 10:00 am	_____	Barb Ward/ Maryellen Murphy	Bob Olson / Peggy Gilman	Susan Painter
15 10:00 am	_____	Patty Fox/ Dan Moore	Pete Kraack/ Dan Moore	Barb Ward
22 10:00 am	_____	Jerryann Olson/ Bonnie Powell	Dan Moore/ Travis Fox	Susan Painter
24 7:00 pm	_____	Patty Fox/ _____		Travis Fox
25 10:00 am	_____			Travis Fox
29 10:00 am	_____	Brenda Grall/ Rhonda Harman	Bob Olson/ Travis Fox	Travis fox



Taylor Johnson	12/4
Susan Painter	12/11
Rick Gutknecht	12/15
Penny Hathaway	12/18
David Cramer	12/21
Kathryn Marker	12/22
Ruth Shelly	12/23
Meredith Mann	12/25



Paul & Laura Kimberly 12/23



1	Terry McCully
8	Jeannie & Bill Innis
15	_____
22	_____
24	Congregation
29	_____



Social Ministry ...

Food Pantry Program - Black Barrel



Here is a list of the typical items that the Pantry would really appreciate receiving as food items: Canned Tuna, Chicken, Vegetables, Fruit. Ready to eat items: Spaghetti o's/Ravioli, Chili, Baked Beans, Soups (Vegetable, Tomato, Mushroom, Chicken Noodle). Almond Milk, Individual Juices, Peanut Butter, Jam in plastic containers, Crackers, Cereals, Fruit Bars, Dry Pasta (Spaghetti, Egg Noodle, Macaroni), Top Ramens, Mac & Cheese, Rice, Dried Beans (Pinto) & Tortillas (Corn & Flour).



Stone Soup ... Team Atonement will be serving Stone Soup at St.

Stephens Episcopal Church on Monday, December 23rd at 5:00pm. We are asking for *Pet Dog Food donations* to give out. Please leave in container under Office window.

Donations of Pet food (Dog & Cat) for Stone Soup, would be greatly appreciated. Please bring into church leave next to wall across from upstairs kitchen.



If you would like to help: please call Sally Jennings @541 444-2687
It is much easier to plan how everyone can help.



Agape Respite Center ... by Patty Fox

Agape is a nonprofit organization in Newport that provides basic needs & offers a range of vital services to support individuals experiencing homelessness or facing transitional challenges. For the month of December they are requesting sweat pants and shirts size small-XL, knit caps, socks, underwear, sample size hygiene items, wash clothes, bath towels, trash bags all sizes, bottles water and shelf stable foods items.

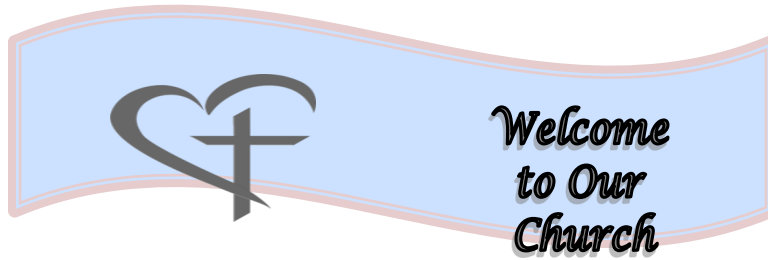
Please leave any donated items in the cart under the Office window.



Donating to Dedicated Funds



If you would like to contribute to the following programs and be part of Atonement's efforts and receive a tax deduction for your money – please make a donation to Atonement Lutheran Church. You can do this simply by indicating it on the "memo" portion of your check what fund you would like to support such as food cards for people who need a meal, pet food and Ukraine Refugees etc...



Reaching Out with God's Love

Website ... www.atonementlutheran.com

Check out our website. It includes newsletter, service information, events, activities on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. It is updated to include all changes & new events.



Flower Chart... signup for Sunday Altar Flowers—Birthdays, anniversaries, in remembrance or just because you want to. Located on the Bulletin Board next to the upper meeting room. Thank You!



Saving lives, one night at a time **COMMUNITY SHELTER & RESOURCE CENTER**

Donations Wish List

Clothing for Men and Women in All Sizes:

Waterproof Jackets | Waterproof Boots | Shower Flip-Flops
Hoodies | Underwear | T-Shirts | Sweats | Socks | Belts

Personal Use Items:

Sample Sized Shave Cream, Toothpaste, Shampoo, etc.

Hair Ties | Toothbrushes | Cleansing Wipes

Disposable Razors | Washcloths | Towels

Toilet Paper | Trash Bags (s/m/l) | Pillows



How to Donate:

Scan to learn more or sign up to volunteer:



Call Andrea at 541-272-9647 to arrange for pick up or drop off of your items. Thank you!

Community Shelter & Resource Center is a safe, affirming space for all, including pets.

LincolnCountyShelter.com