



Waves



Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com

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Atonement Lutheran Church

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April 2025

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

Tuesday thru Friday

Website / Facebook Page

Sunday Worship Service on YouTube

www.atonementluthern.com



Midweek Lenten Service Schedule



Contemplative Prayer @ 12:00pm



Soup/Bread Supper @ 6:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

Evening Prayer @ 7:00pm (Sanctuary) April 2nd April 9th



Palm Sunday April 13th @ 10:00am

Maundy Thursday April 17th @ 7pm

Good Friday April 18th @ 7pm

Vigil of Easter April 19th @ 7pm

Easter Sunday April 20th @ 10am

Easter Brunch after Service in Fellowship Hall



Flower/Lilies... Help us decorate the sanctuary for Easter by providing potted Spring flowers/lilies by Thursday, April 17th.



Candies ... We are collecting candy in the basket on the table near the kitchen for Easter Eggs for the kids on Easter Sunday.



Easter Brunch... Please signup to bring food for Easter Brunch on April 20th after service around 11:15-11:30am. Signup sheet is located on bulletin board by coffee kitchen.

Thank You!

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 ~ Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman


Updates for January and February 2025

General Fund: *Revenues* during January '25 were \$ 13,817
 February '25 were \$ 11,276
Expenses during January '25 were \$ 17,394
 February '25 were \$ 17,277
General Fund balance is January \$ 54,321
 February \$ 48,320

Capital Fund: Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.
 Our mortgage balance is \$ 127,639
Capital Fund balance is \$ 187,075

Dedicated Fund balance is January \$ 21,728 February \$ 22,069

Restricted/Endowment balance is January \$ 147,512
 February \$ 146,291

 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.

ELCA Foundation planned giving campaign... by Pastor John Smithies



As people of faith, stewardship is at the heart of how we manage the gifts entrusted to us. One important aspect of this is *planned giving*—ensuring that the ministry of the Church continues for generations to come.

Our congregation has begun important work with the ELCA Foundation to strengthen our endowment and legacy giving efforts. I briefly touched on this during our congregational meeting in January, but I want to bring it forward again for both awareness and, hopefully, your participation.

Over the coming months, you'll see articles and discussions on legacy giving, opportunities for a book study, and other ways to engage with this topic. All of this will lead up to an in-person presentation from Lisa Higginbotham in the fall. It has been some time since our church reviewed these opportunities, and now is the time to revisit them as we look ahead to the future.

I invite you to be part of this unfolding conversation as we consider how we can faithfully steward our resources for the life of the Church and the generations to come.



Pastor John Smithies



Easter: A Moment of Unity

"God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

—Ephesians 1:9-10

Did you know that Western and Eastern churches often celebrate Easter on different days? This difference stems from a long and complex history, primarily due to the use of different calendars: the Western Church follows the Gregorian calendar, while the Eastern Church uses the Julian calendar. If you're curious about the details, I encourage you to look it up—it's a fascinating history!

In ancient times, calendars were not fixed, and there was constant tension between solar and lunar dating systems. This same complexity appears in the Gospel accounts of Jesus' final days. Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe the Last Supper as the Passover meal, while John presents Jesus as being crucified on the day of Passover itself. While this may be a theological choice by the authors, it's also possible they were using different calendars—something common in first-century Jerusalem.

Given this ancient calendar confusion, it's no surprise that the Church never fully resolved the question of Easter's date. Over the centuries, the Western and Eastern traditions developed their own methods of calculation, leading to separate celebrations most years. However, every so often, the two calendars align, and Christians around the world celebrate Easter on the same day.

This year is one of those rare and special years. On Easter Sunday, the whole Christian world will join together in proclaiming the resurrection of our Lord!

As we reach that moment in our liturgy when we sing, *"And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn,"* may our hearts soar in knowing that this is truly happening. Not only will we be singing with the saints and the angels, but also with our earthly siblings in Christ across every tradition and time zone.

This moment serves as a beautiful symbol of what Paul describes in Ephesians: that all things in heaven and on earth are gathered up in Christ. The Greek phrase here can also be translated as *"sum up all things in him,"* pointing to a movement of unity, bringing everything together and leading it to its fullest expression. I am always struck by the phrase *"all things, in heaven and on earth."* *All* is a word of inclusion, not exclusion—it does not mean *some*. It certainly does not mean only those who assent to certain beliefs. How this aligns with other passages of Scripture that seem more exclusive is a mystery, but as Paul writes in Romans, *"Let God be true and everyone else a liar"* (Romans 3:4). My faith is that, despite the tensions and unresolvable questions, God is making all things right. God *will* gather up all things in Christ—both in heaven and on earth.

Spring itself speaks to this truth in both a literal and symbolic way. The world begins to



Holy Week ... by Pastor John Smithies

As Lent winds down and we prepare for Holy Week, I want to extend a warm invitation to everyone to experience the unique patterns and rhythms of worship that this sacred time offers. Holy Week is unlike any other time in the church year—rich with meaning, symbols, and deep theological truths.

I have long had a goal—though without a firm timeline—to write about the meaning of Holy Week worship, like my work on worship recently. For there is so much depth in its symbols and movements, and that is part of the beauty of this season. As we draw near to the most profound events of our faith, we find ourselves leaning on these symbols and stories more than ever. Holy Week, in many ways, is a dance with symbols—a kind of ballet in three parts.

Indeed, the services of the *Triduum*—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil—are not separate events but one continuous act of worship. When we gather on Maundy Thursday, the service begins, but there is no final dismissal until the Easter Vigil. It is one long, unfolding mystery, inviting us into the light and life of God. Throughout these days, the elements that the ancients believed made up the world—fire, water, air, and earth—are all present, but are woven together and united by presence of Christ and the story of resurrection. We move between contrasts: light and darkness, silence and song, fasting and feasting. All of this leads us to the great joy of Easter morning, when we break the Lenten fast and celebrate Christ's victory over death.

The best way to experience Holy Week is to walk through it fully—to participate in the whole journey. Otherwise, it is like stepping into only one act of a three-act play. That being said, I know it is not always possible to attend every service, and all are welcome to come to any combination of them. Services will be held at 7:00 PM from Thursday through Saturday, and we will gather again on Sunday morning. I invite you to step into the sacred rhythm of this week—the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord—for the life of the world.



From the Pastor

Continue from page 3

grow again—green shoots emerge, animals give birth, and the sun reclaims the sky after its long winter absence. Life is returning. And that becomes our symbol for where this whole cosmic story is headed—the great mystery that all things will reach their fullness in Christ Jesus. *Everything in heaven and on earth!*

This Easter, as we stand in the presence of that great mystery, may we rejoice in the signs of new life all around us. And may we find joy in the unity of the Body of Christ, gathered together as one. For here, in the resurrection, is God's redemptive plan unfolding—the long cold night of sin and death giving way to the brightness of God's presence, love, and life through Christ Jesus.

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



Special Immigration Presentation ... by Susan Painter

On Monday evening, April 7th, from 6p.m. to 8 p.m. attorney Kate Sinkins will offer a special presentation about immigration issues. The program is jointly sponsored by Atonement and the Lincoln County Bar Association. It will be a program provided free of charge as a conversation for immigrants, allies, lawyers and friends.

Ms. Sinkins recently moved to Lincoln County after two decades practicing immigration law in the D.C. area. She has already offered this conversation to several groups in the community; all have found it informative and helpful. Her talk will cover what ICE can and cannot do, individual rights, and non-technical explanations of the law. Because of the complexity of the area, she will be unable to address particular cases nor will she be providing legal advice.

Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to this special event.

A coffee hour will follow the presentation.



WELCA will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. This month is April 9th at 12:30pm. Join us in person or Zoom in the Church Narthex for a time of fellowship and discussion.

All are welcome to participate.

Celebration of Life for Jeanette Agre

The Family of Jeanette Agre will be holding a Celebration of Life here at Atonement on Saturday May 10th @ 12:00 noon.

Jeanette was a member of our church and held a position of Financial Secretary in our church council before her death on November 26, 2024.



If you would like to help with preparations, please call or email Lisa Mowry

Phone 541 914 3947 Email: lisan3kids@gmail.com



Hello from the Library Committee

by Bonnie Powell

We are fortunate to have such an inclusive Library here at Atonement! You are always welcome to browse through selections and see what is on the shelves. Thanks to our Library Sunday Celebration we'll be able to order some new books in the near future. The newest ordered books will be selected on the topic of Easter.

Thanks to all who have donated funds to help us improve our Library.

Book Reviews ... by Bonnie Powell

Title: A Book of Blessings Author: Helen Steiner Rice



Would you enjoy a short book of encouraging and uplifting thoughts through poems? Helen Steiner Rice has written a wonderful collection which is truly uplifting. Some were very nicely done with illustrations which makes the poetry even more inviting.



Contemplative Prayer Service

by Pastor John Smithies

I won't deny it—I have wanted to lead a contemplative prayer service for a long time. All the great mystics of the Christian tradition—and, I might add, all mystical traditions—place a discipline of silence at their center. This is echoed throughout Scripture: prayer is the place where we encounter the mystery of God.

But sitting in silence takes work! It is far easier to speak poetically about the mystery of silence, as many of the great spiritual writers do, than it is to actually practice it. And yet, during this season of Lent, we have been journeying together into this mystery.

If you've ever wanted to dip your toe into the waters of silent prayer, I invite you to come and check out one of our services. We begin with a short devotion and some practical guidance on how to sit in silence, and then, as a gathered community, we simply *do* it—we rest in silence together.

As a rule, I try to spend at least an hour a day in silent prayer (though I don't always accomplish it). But practicing it with others is a unique and rewarding experience. It's like stepping into a monastery—without actually stepping into one.

Feel free to join us. And who knows? This practice may continue beyond Lent. In fact, I should say *it will*—whether it's after this Lent or another, this journey of silence is never truly over.



ALC Book Club ... by Pastor John Smithies

For this month we will be reading the work by Judith Mattison, *The Seven Last Words of Christ: The message of the cross for Today*. Judith Mattison is one of our own, an ELCA pastor in Minneapolis, and the work focus on the seven last words of Christ from the cross and how these words are the “clearest expression of God’s redeeming love for us.” May this work help us journey together for Holy Week, and may our hearts increase with the knowledge of the love that God has for us. Book discussion will be on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 11am, and the 4th Thursday of the month at 5pm. Please always feel free to join the discussion whether you have read the work or not.

Tuesday, April 22th @ 11:00am and Thursday April 24th @ 5:00pm.

Next Month’s Selection

May: *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr.



Synod Council ... by Pastor John Smithies

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we live out our faith in three interconnected expressions: the local congregation, the synod (a regional body of churches), and the churchwide organization that unites us all. You might think of these as layers of an onion or the repeating patterns of a fractal—each part reflecting and supporting the whole. Just as our congregation has a church council made up of its members, so too does the synod, and at the national level, the ELCA Churchwide organization.

I share this with you because I have been asked to run for an at-large position on the Synod Council at the upcoming Synod Assembly. I know that in the past, pastoral leadership from our congregation has moved into larger synod roles, and I want to be clear: I have no desire or call to leave our beloved community—or the waves that grace our backdoor. My heart remains here.

Serving on Synod Council would involve a three-hour Zoom meeting every other month on a Saturday, along with an annual in-person retreat, hopefully this will not be during peak surfing season. Haha! Like our own church council, this is a volunteer position—one that allows me to serve where there is a need. I often encourage members of our congregation to step forward into leadership roles, and now, in a bit of poetic justice, I find myself in the same position. May we always have the boldness to step into the gap when we are able, trusting that God equips us for the work before us. Rest assured my beloveds I am going nowhere, simply adding a little bit more work on my plate.



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!



April 2025



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | | <p>1</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>12:00pm Con-templative Prayer</p> <p>6:00pm Soup & Bread</p> <p>7:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer</p> | <p>3</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>  | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> |
| <p>6</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum</p> <p>10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom</p> <p>Sunday School</p> <p>11:30am Choir</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Office closed</p> <p>6:00pm Immigration Forum with Bar Assn</p> | <p>8</p> <p>9:00am Property Mtg</p> | <p>9</p> <p>12:00pm Contem-plative Prayer</p> <p>12:30pm WELCA</p> <p>3:30pm Finance Mtg</p> <p>6:00pm Soup & Bread</p> <p>7:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer</p> | <p>10</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p> <p>11:00am OCQG Mtg (F/H)</p> <p>3:30pm S/M Mtg</p>  | <p>11</p>  | <p>12</p> |
|  <p>13</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum</p> <p>10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom</p> <p>11:15 Outreach Mtg</p> <p>11:30am Choir</p> <p>12:15am Worship & Music Mtg</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Office closed</p> |  <p>15</p>  | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p> <p>7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service</p> | <p>18</p> <p>7:00pm Good Friday Service</p> | <p>19</p> <p>7:00pm Easter Vigil Service</p> |
|  <p>20</p> <p>10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom</p> <p>Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am Easter Brunch</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p>22</p> <p>11:00am ALC Book Club Mtg</p> <p>Earth Day</p>  | <p>23</p>  | <p>24</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p> <p>5:00am ALC Book Club Mtg</p> | <p>25</p> <p>WAVES Deadline</p>  | <p>26</p> <p>10:00am Parish Life Mtg</p> |
| <p>27</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum</p> <p>10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom</p> <p>12:00pm Council</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Office closed</p>  <p>5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p> |  |  |



Worship Page

Worship

Readers

Altar Guild

Musicians

Recorder

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 6 | 10:00 am | Darcy de la Rosa | Marian Brown/ Darcy de la Rosa | Marian Brown | Arnie Anderson |
| 13 | 10:00 am | Brenda Grall | Marian Brown | Tami Johnson | Arnie Anderson |
| 17 | 7:00pm | _____ | Marian Brown | Marian Brown | Arnie Anderson |
| 19 | 7:00pm | 6 Readers needed | Marian Brown | Marian Brown | Arnie Anderson |
| 20 | 10:00 am | Sandy Cramer | Marian Brown | Marian Brown | Arnie Anderson |
| 27 | 10:00 am | _____ | Marian Brown | Tami Johnson | Arnie Anderson |

Ushers

Greeters

Counters

Zoom Host

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 6 | 10:00 am | _____ | Mike Rawles/ Barb Ward | Peggy Gilman/ Bob Olson | _____ |
| 13 | 10:00 am | _____ | Jeanne Innis/ Patty Fox | Bob Olson/ Pete Kraack | _____ |
| 17 | 7:00pm | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 19 | 7:00pm | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 20 | 10:00 am | _____ | Maryellen Murphy/ Barb Ward | Pete Kraack/ Travis Fox | _____ |
| 27 | 10:00 am | _____ | Karen Johnson/ Jerryann Olson | Travis Fox/ Peggy Gilman | _____ |



| | | | |
|-----------------|------|------------------------|------|
| Twyla Olson | 4/2 | Joy Gutknecht | 4/23 |
| Sylvia Pauly | 4/2 | Darcy de la Rosa | 4/27 |
| John Baker | 4/7 | Barbara Utterback | 4/29 |
| Jesse Gutknecht | 4/8 | Bette Harmon | 4/30 |
| Herb Jennings | 4/9 | | |
| JerryAnn Olson | 4/9 | | |
| David Cross | 4/9 | | |
| Rain McCue | 4/11 | | |
| Brenda Grall | 4/20 | Rudy & Darcy dela Rosa | 4/9 |



| | |
|----|---|
| 6 | Jerryann & Bob Olson—in memory of John Baker |
| 13 | Cheryl Dufrenne—in memory of Harvey Dufrenne |
| 20 | _____ |
| 27 | _____ |



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, April 28th at 5:00pm. We are asking for Dry *Pet Dog Food* donations to give out. Please leave in container under Office window.



Donations of Dry Dog food for Stone Soup, would be greatly appreciated. Please bring into church leave on table in front of office.

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



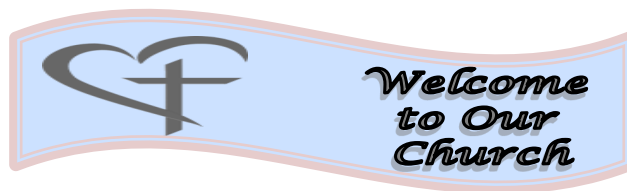
Agape Respite Center ... by Patty Fox

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 April, they are adding assorted clothing to their request of liquid laundry soap for front load washers and canned meats.



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 Agape, Samaritan House, Pet food for Stone Soup, Ukraine Refugees etc...



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

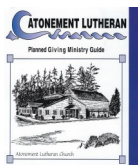
Adult Forum is focusing on lectionary readings for that Sunday and engaging in some wonderful conversations in our upper meeting room.

All are welcome to come in person or on zoom or watch the recording the following week.



Men's Breakfast Group by Pastor John Smithies

We meet weekly on Thursday morning for breakfast meal at Pig n the Pancake at 8am. If you are looking for an invitation to join deeper into our community, there is no such better way than to break bread together. The invitation is always open to grab some food, enjoy the friendly banter and participate in the community.



Estate Planning

Have you remembered Atonement Lutheran Church in your Will or Estate Plan? For your convenience and interest, we have pamphlets available on table near kitchen.



Coffee Hour... by Sandy Cramer

The fellowship we share with each other is an extension of our worship and our communion table. There will always be coffee and tea! The other snacks will depend on contributions from members of the congregation.

The signup sheet is on the bulletin board near the Kitchen.

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!