



# Makin' Waves



## Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

[pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com](mailto:pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com)

425-923-8558

## Atonement Lutheran Church

2315 N Coast Hwy—Newport, OR 97365

[office@atonementlutheran.com](mailto:office@atonementlutheran.com)

541-265-2554



February 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](http://www.atonementluthern.com)



## Holden Meal and Prayer

by Pastor John



Nothing embodies togetherness more than a shared meal and prayer. As we step into February, we joyfully return to our Third Wednesday communal soup and bread meal, followed by the Holden Evening Prayer service. And as we move toward Lent, we will embrace this rhythm weekly—breaking bread, sharing in fellowship, and drawing near to God.

But why is this so important? Why set aside time for something as simple as a meal?

Think of the significance of a family dinner. When my children were growing up, our evening meal was sacred. It didn't matter whether we were sharing an elaborate feast or just heating up frozen pizza—we were together. It was a time to reconnect, to belong, to listen, and to be nourished in more ways than one.

The church, too, is a family. And there is no symbol quite as meaningful as a shared table. This is why our worship each Sunday centers around **a meal—the meal**—where Christ meets us in bread and wine. But communion doesn't end at the altar. Every time we sit down to eat with one another, we practice the presence of Christ. And maybe, just maybe, something as simple as eating together is part of the answer to the deeper struggles of our world. Jesus' central act was a meal—one that revealed love, grace, and the very heart of God. When we share food, we participate in that same mystery.

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**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 ~ December 2024

Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman



**General Fund:** Revenues during December '24 were \$ 25,072  
Expenses during December '24 were \$ 12,094  
General Fund balance is \$ 58,069

**Capital Fund:** Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.  
Our mortgage balance is \$ 138,755  
Capital Fund balance is \$ 170,194

**Dedicated Fund** balance is \$ 18,788

**Restricted/Endowment** balance is \$ 143,476



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.



## Fred Meyers Community Program

Our supporters (22 households) who shopped at Fred Meyers between October 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024 have contributed to our \$37.67 total donation.

If you would like to participate and support our church, please contact Fred Meyers and link your rewards card to **Atonement Lutheran Church (VB494)**.



**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!

## Holden Meal and Prayer

*Continue from page 1*

So I invite you—come, take a seat at the table. Share in conversation, in laughter, in prayer. Come for the meal, stay for the prayer—or simply come for one or the other. As we often say about communion, the fullness of God's presence is there either way. Bring a friend. Bring your hunger—physical and spiritual. And may we grow together as a community that knows the power of a simple meal shared in love.



Pastor John Smithies



Ecclesiastes 4:9-12:

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

At Epiphany, we received our star words—gifts to guide us in prayer and discernment throughout the year. When my turn came, the word chosen for me was *togetherness*. At first, I smiled at how fitting it seemed for a pastor. Togetherness is at the heart of our calling as a church, a reminder that we are not meant to walk this journey alone. I speak often that the goal of the Spiritual journey is Union with God. That speaks ultimately of togetherness.

But as I have prayed with this word, it seems that this word is ever more important now than ever. Togetherness is not just a value we uphold—it is a need woven into the fabric of our being. In a world that often isolates, divides, and scatters, we are called back to one another. If you are feeling alone, I invite you to step into the life of our community. There is a place for you here. Whether through book clubs, shared meals, Bible studies, service opportunities, or simply a quiet conversation with me. I remind everyone that I have an open-door policy, and I love to talk about where you are on your Spiritual journey. As I have shared before, I am in training to become a Spiritual Director, so if you are looking for deeper conversations, the door is wide open. Our church is a space where no one has to walk alone. The world may tempt us to self-sufficiency, but none of us is an island. Too often the church is seen as an event that you go to, instead we want to make church a community you belong to. And there is a place here for deeper connections. I hope that this year we may all learn to lean more fully into our shared life together.

Togetherness also calls us beyond our own walls. It invites us to see how God is working not just in *our* church, but in the broader family of faith. What might be possible if we, across different traditions, truly came together? Last year, our church had the joy of hosting the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Earth Summit, and this March, we will do so again. But we are not hosting it alone. This year, we will gather alongside our Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Unitarian neighbors, and for the in-person portion of this event we will dedicate the time to relationship building and discussion on what we can do together. Because together we can be more than in any individual member. Together we can support each other. I invite you all to come and participate in this event.



## 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!**



### Oregon Synod Assembly and Bishop's Election

by Pastor John

We talked about this last week in our annual meeting, but the Oregon Synod is holding their Synod convention this year in Portland May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> and we will also be electing a new bishop or reflecting our current. At the moment of this writing, we only have 1 delegate besides me, and we have space for a second. This is an event paid for by the church, this is at no cost to our members. Specifically, we are looking for a male member who want to attend as our church bylaws state the 45% of the lay voting members are female and 45% male. The Synod Assembly is a rewarding thing to attend filled with worship and business affairs. Registration will be opening soon and we have a small window to get our people registered and rooms reserved. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this.

### From the Pastor

*Continue from page 3*

Registration unlike last year is free with options for financial support. Please be invited to come.

I am often asked, "What can we do?" The answer begins here. In one another. In building relationships. In strengthening the bonds of love and service. Togetherness is not just a word for the year, it is the way forward. May we embrace it fully, knowing that God meets us in the spaces where we come together. With every challenge and we have many challenges we are given the opportunity to be the ones called to actions of Love for a world that God loves. May we embrace it fully, knowing that God meets us in the spaces where we come together. When the night is cold, we light candles together because we know that more candles disperse the cold more than a solitary one. Amen.

*Pastor John Smithies*



## Room Rental



**O**ur 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



## Agape Street Ministry ... by Pastor John Smithies

**W**e may have heard us talking about Agape Street Ministry a lot recently, and we just want to give you an update on that. Agape has taken over the ministry gap left when Grace wins Haven closed. And they are now up and running providing lunch 6 days a week for our unhoused community.

We are trying to help gather items that they need and monthly we have been updating what specific donations they are most in need of. But I also wanted to share that we are also transferring the money we spent on food gift certificates to them, because they can do more with that money than we can. Our gift card program gave 30 individuals one meal a month. They are capable of feeding the same person 6 days a week. It makes sense that we can maximize our blessing of food through them. However, if you wish to donate a gift card to the office, we will continue to hand those out in moments of need, as we do encounter people in moments of crisis. Those gifts are always welcome and will be utilized. We try to help whenever we can. We wanted our membership and friends to be aware of the transition and the reason why we think this is the best thing we can do for our community.



## Youth Symphony Concerts

**M**ission: The Festival's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Oregon's youth by providing the opportunity to learn and perform orchestra music together in a non-competitive and collaborative environment.

Youth Groups will be performing here in the Sanctuary @ 2:00pm on the following dates:

Sundays:      March 16th              April 13th



# Hello from the Library Committee

by Bonnie Powell


A note here to say the Library Celebration will be held after Worship Service around 11:15am on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to fun and fellowship.

We are planning to order some new books in the near future.

## Book Reviews ... by Graham Mann

Title: Go It On the Mountain Author: John Work Jr

This book is great because it takes a classic song and gives it pictures so that young kids can learn it.



### 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.

## Some Humor for the Month

**The 10 Commandments:** A Sunday School teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five and six year olds, After explaining the commandments to "honor" ty father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted "Thou shall not kill."

**When I grow up:** After a church service on Sunday morning, a young man suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "that's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy. "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figured it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."



## ALC Book Club ... by Pastor John Smithies

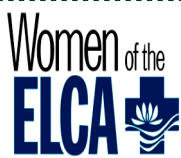
This month for the book club, we will be reading another beautiful gem by Rob Bell entitled Love Wins. Last year we read, What we talk about when we talk about God. And some people say this book is even better. It asks the basic question, "Does God get what God wants." If God wants love to win and the world to be reconciled to him, does God get this or not? If you are wrestle with the topics of heaven, hell and salvation, then this book will be a great read for you. As always you are invited to participate together in the discussion on the 4th Tuesday and or Thursday of the month.

Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am and Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.

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

### **Book Club 2025**

- 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,



WELCA will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This month is February 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



## BEJEWELED ... by Sally Jennings

We will be collecting costume jewelry, broken jewelry, watches, jewelry boxes, buttons, and jewelry making supplies at Atonement through the end of March.

We will donate what we collect to Food Share of Lincoln County for their Bejeweled fundraiser. Money from this major fundraiser is used to purchase food for those in need. Please put your donations in the basket in the Narthex.

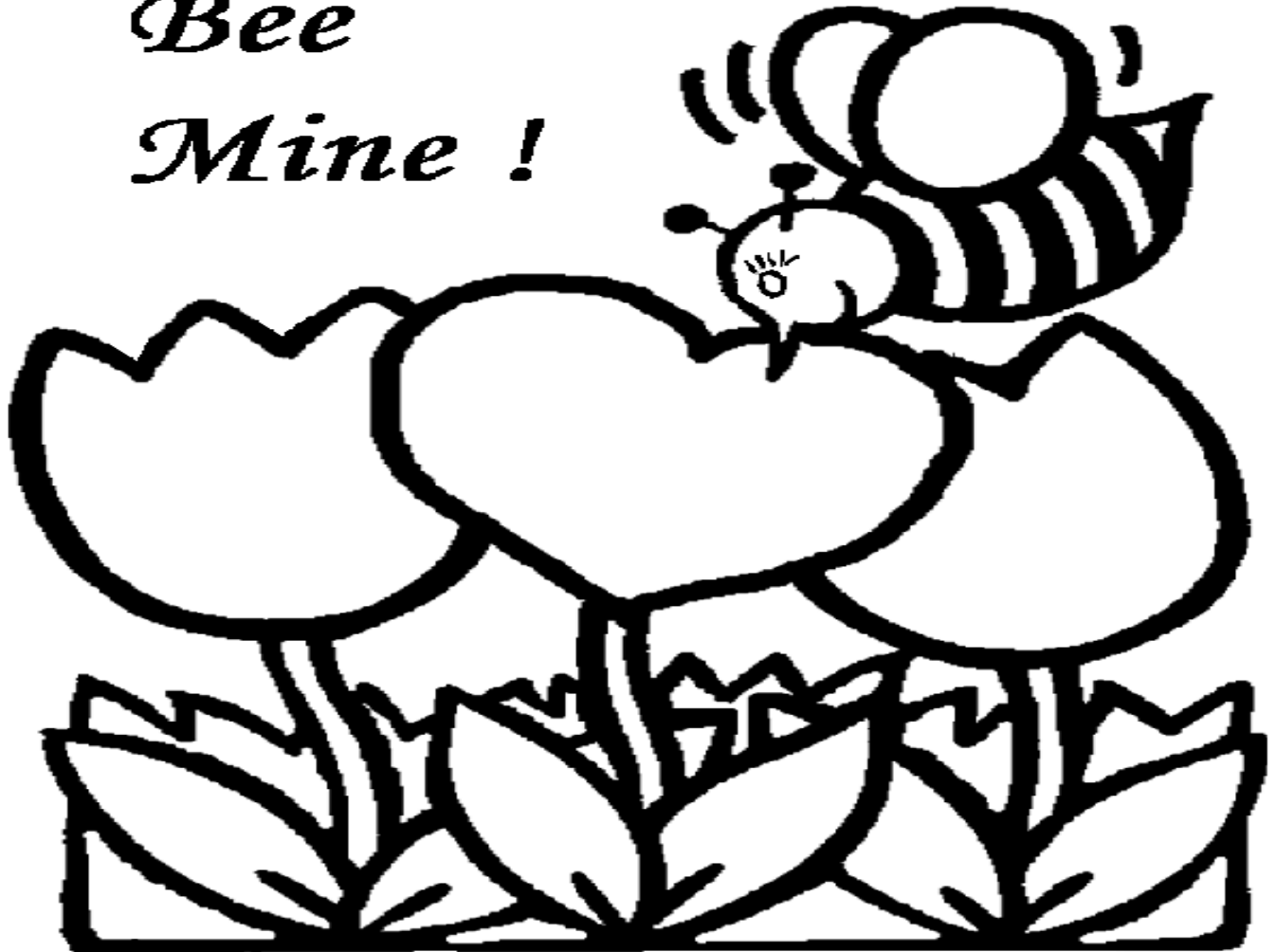


Kid's Page



# Color me

*Bee  
Mine!*



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!





# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 NATIONAL HEART MONTH February		 BLACK HISTORY Month		1
2 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom Sunday School 11:30am Choir 	3 Office closed	 World Cancer Day	5	6 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake  	7	8
9 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:30am Choir 11:15 Outreach Mtg 12:15am Worship & Music Mtg	10 Office closed 9:30am Library Mtg 10:00am setup 	11 9:00am Property Mtg 11:00am Parish Life Mtg	12 12:30pm WELCA  3:30pm Finance Mtg	13 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake 11:00am OCQG Mtg (F/H) 3:30pm S/M Mtg	14 8-12pm OCQG Workshop (F/H)  	15
16 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom Sunday School 11:00am Library Sunday Celebration	17 Office closed  	18	19	20 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake  	21  <b>WAVES Deadline</b>	22
23 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom  12:00pm Council	24 Office closed  5:00pm Stone Soup@ St Stephen	25 11:00am ALC Book Club Mtg	26	27 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake  5:00am ALC Book Club Mtg	28	



# Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
2 10:00 am	Rhonda Harman	Marian Brown/ Darcy de la Rosa	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
9 10:00 am	Jean Alden	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
16 10:00 am	Mike Rawles	Marian Brown	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
23 10:00 am	Brenda Grall	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
2 10:00 am	_____	Sabine Maresco/ Bonnie Powell	Tavis Fox/ Bob Olson	Barb Ward
9 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy/ Barb Ward	Pete Kraack / Dan Moore	Susan Painter
16 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy/ Patty Fox	Travis Fox/ Dan Moore	Travis Fox
23 10:00 am	_____	Karen Johnson/ Jerryann Olson	Cathy Devereaux Peggy Gilman	Travis Fox



Lucy Milliken 2/1  
 Jeanne Innis 2/6  
 Fantasia McCue 2/12  
 Peggy Gilman 2/16  
 Paul Amundson 2/21  
 Brian Johnson 2/22



2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 23 \_\_\_\_\_



# 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, February 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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

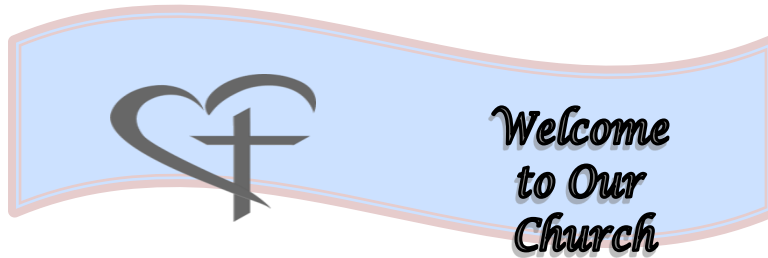
Agape is a nonprofit organization in Newport that provides basic needs & offers a range of vital services to support individuals experiencing homelessness or facing transitional challenges. For the month of February, they are requesting Liquid laundry soap for front loader and canned meats. See page 5 for current update.

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



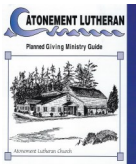
## Reaching Out with God's Love

Website ... [www.atonementlutheran.com](http://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.



### 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.



### 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.



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.