



# Makin' Waves



## Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

[pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com](mailto: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](http://www.atonementluthern.com)



*Potluck in the downstairs Fellowship Hall after  
Congregational Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.*

*Please bring a dish to share*

## Congregational Meeting

by Pastor John Smithies



Please mark your calendar and plan on attending the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2025, right after the 10:00am service in the Sanctuary. We are looking forward to this meeting as there are a lot of exciting things occurring this year! I also wanted to take the time to talk briefly and ask each of you to consider serving on the council. As you know, we are a small church, so in many ways, it is an "all hands-on deck" sort of a ship. Also, we have constitutional requirements for a set number of council members and how long they can hold positions. So, in short, we find ourselves in need of new members and I know that this might seem scary to step up. We are accustomed in our world to think that boards like this are cutthroat and stressful, but in truth you are just part of the leadership team that makes everything work here. Talk to one of our current council members,

*Continue on page 2*

**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 ~ November 2024

Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman



**General Fund:** Revenues during November '24 were \$ 15,009  
Expenses during November '24 were \$ 17,648  
General Fund balance is \$ 42,955

**Capital Fund:** Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.  
Our mortgage balance is \$ 144,286  
Capital Fund balance is \$ 173,025

**Dedicated Fund** balance is \$ 17,088

**Restricted/Endowment** balance is \$ 146,267



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, sign up 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.

## Congregational Meeting ... Continue from page 1

I think they all feel enriched and rewarded for the work that they have done. The invitation is always open to come and be apart of this great work, and if you are looking for ways to deepen your participation then may I encourage you to prayerfully consider this. I am always happy to have conversations with anyone who has questions and or wants to prayerfully discern these things.

Items on the agenda include: Reports from committees, Solar Energy, Financial report of 2024, Budget for 2025 and Elections.



## 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.



Pastor John Smithies



## Happy New Year to Everyone!

I write this today on a threshold of a new year, and thresholds are always ambiguous symbols, sometimes we use the term liminal spaces to define them. But think of your own home or say our church narthex, at what point are people actually in your home? And we might think it occurs say at the moment when they step through the door, we might think of our outer wall as the dividing line. But think of it deeper. Is the space immediately within the door well truly your inner home? If it is anything like my house the flooring is different, the space feels different. I have coat racks and spaces for shoes, and yes those spaces are ferret secured, otherwise our guests would lose their insoles. Then we cross over another threshold into the carpeted living room. Now maybe you are like me, because I don't spend much time with family and guests by my front door. We have an intuitive sense that they are not in the home yet until they are ushered further deeper into the house. The new year is much like this, there is a transition, but it is mostly ambiguous. And in some respect this seems silly because we "know" at 12:01 we are in the new year, we watched the ball drop heard the fireworks, but maybe you see where I am going with this. In what way is 12:01 a new year? What has really changed? Will tomorrow be any different than today simply because the calendar says it will be? When does the new year really start? Do we not grow into the new year slowly? Slight change followed by its own transition, its own ambiguity.

I raise this all as it is a symbol of our new life in Christ, and again we have thresholds and rites, and ambiguity. Did I become a Christian the day I was baptized? That would be strange since during the baptismal rite we confess Christian faith, this would imply that God's faith is already in us. Some traditions might say it comes with a prayer and accepting Jesus into your heart. Or is it at the moment of one's first communion? But then again what really changed in that moment? And I think that the answer to all of this is at the same time both, everything and nothing.

Nothing has changed, and yet with grace we have become aware that everything has changed. What changes in our life when we know that God is love, that God is with us, that we are the sacred meeting place of heaven and earth? Again on the one hand, nothing, you are still you, life is the same a few minutes ago then it is now, and yet on the other hand, everything has just changed. You are faced with a new world of possibilities and potentialities, meaning opens us to what was once thought to be meaningless spaces, and we open ourselves up to a life filled with the adventure of knowing deeply. But again these are but thresholds of unfolding. This is not a moment of time but an unfolding. And therein lies the adventure of our new life in Christ. The world is opened before us inviting us into the mystery of life all around us, and this life carries the promise of God's love into all of eternity.



## 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!**



## Fred Meyers Community Program

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just be a part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. If you would like to participate and support our church, please contact Fred Meyers and link your rewards card to:

**Atonement Lutheran Church (VB494).**



## From the Pastor

*Continue from page 3*

As we pause on this threshold of a new year, may we be invited into the mystery of resurrection that all things are being made new in Christ. May we find rest in the ambiguity of these moments, and may this free us to live into the opportunity that God's grace provides. May this new year be a blessing to you all, and may we be a blessing to each other. We know this year will be many things, and they will not all be blessings, so in those moments may we especially be a blessing to each other. We might all need to double down on our blessings, may we be a community resilient enough in blessings to be able to bless.

*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



## Epiphany Sunday January 5th ... by Pastor John Smithies



**L**ast year we introduced the concept of "Star Words" at Epiphany. This year we are going to journey deeper into these symbols and their meanings in what I hope will be an enriching and deeply meaning for service. Epiphany marks that point of the story when we start to realize who Jesus is. To have an Epiphany is to have the light bulb go off in your head, it is the moment of realization. In our lectionary readings we will have stories that are light bulb moments for the characters. And this all begins with the story of the Magi as he ponders the signs in the heavens and are lead by a star to the Child in the manger. It is meant to lead us to understand that this child in the manger is truly God with us, and that God is all around us. The Spirit of God is blowing all around us and in us. It is not a question of is God's Spirit moving, the only question is am I able to see it.

The process of seeing is often described in the Christian tradition as discernment, and I will most likely say a lot about this on Epiphany Sunday, but in short, the question is where do I experience God. For each of us that might be different, but for each of those different answers comes an invitation to walk deeper into that moment. For many of us we find the sacred encounter in nature, and I suppose our wisemen are no different. They encountered God through the mysteries of the stars. They discerned, they followed, and find God most deeply in the child Jesus.

Star words are an aid for our discerning, the discipline is to mediate on the word given for the year and ask how the spirit might be using the word in guiding you through prayer, meditation, and contemplation to what the work of the Spirit is in your life. For some this will be immediately apparent, for others the words correlation to you might remain a mystery for the next 365 days. This is not magic, it is discernment. The discipline is to use the word to focus on identifying where the Spirit is moving.

May the Spirit lead us to Jesus, and may we learn to see and realize that movement of the Spirit all around us and in us. Amen

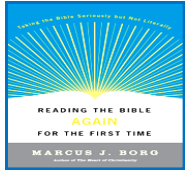


# Hello from the Library Committee

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 Bonnie Powell

Title: Reading the Bible for the First Time by Manaes J Borg

*A*ccording to the main review of this book, it states that Mr. Borg offers this thought - "Provides a much needed solution to the problem of how to have a fully authentic yet contemporary understanding of the scripture."

This maybe beneficial on helping to understand the Bible. You will find this book next to the check-out area of the Library.



## Red Cross Blood Drive ... by Terri McCully

*W*e will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on January 31<sup>st</sup>. We did not have as many donors as usual last time, but they said we did better than the other ones that had been in this area. Plus all the donors enjoyed the treats that were donated by our members.



by Marian Brown

*D*id 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

For this month, we are reading *Cast of Characters* by Max Lucado. Lucado, a beloved pastor and writer, invites us to reflect on the lives of Biblical characters who, like us, were imperfect and flawed. Through their stories, we discover how God works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things—and how He can do the same in our lives. Please feel free to join the discussion on the fourth Tuesday or Thursday of the month. Feel free to join even if you have not finished the book. All are always welcome. This month is Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am and Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.

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

### Book Club 2025

- 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,



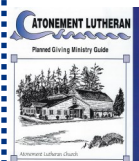
WELCA will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This month is January 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm. Join us in person or Zoom in the Church Narthex for a time of fellowship and discussion.

All are welcome to participate.



## 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.



## 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.



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!





# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Nat'l Mentoring Month</p> 	<p><b>CERVICAL</b> Cancer Screening Month Support Advocacy -&gt;Get Checked - It Matters</p>	<p>NATIONAL Florida <b>BLOOD DONOR</b> MONTH JANUARY</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year 2025!</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-Person &amp; Zoom Sunday School 11:30am Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:30pm WELCA 3:30pm Finance Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake 11:00am OCQG Mtg (F/H) 3:30pm S/M Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8-4pm OCQG Workshop (F/H)</p> 	<p>11</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person &amp; Zoom 11:30am Choir 11:15 Outreach Mtg 12:15am Worship &amp; Music Mtg</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Property Mtg 11:00am Parish Life Mtg</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person &amp; Zoom Sunday School 12:00pm Council</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Nat'l Hug Day</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Int'l day of Education</p> 	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person &amp; Zoom 11:15pm Congregational Annual Mtg 12:00pm Potluck</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office closed <b>Commemoration Victims of the Holocaust</b></p>  <p>5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00am ALC Book Club Mtg</p> <p><b>WAVES</b> Deadline</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake 5:00am ALC Book Club Mtg</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00am-5pm Red Cross Drive (F/H)</p> <p>Nat'l Hot Chocolate Day</p> 	



# Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
5 10:00 am	Darcy de la Rosa	Marian Brown/ Darcy de la Rosa	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
12 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Marian Brown	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
19 10:00 am	_____	Marian Brown	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
26 10:00 am	Brenda Grall	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
5 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy/ Dan Moore/Jeanne Innis	Cathy Devereaux/ Pete Kraack	Susan Painter
12 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy	Pete Kraack / Dan Moore	Travis Fox
19 10:00 am	_____	Patty Fox/ Bonnie Powell	Peggy Gilman/ Cathy Devereaux	Barb Ward
26 10:00 am	_____	_____	Bob Olson/ Peggy Gilman	Travis Fox



- Beverly Kraack 1/7
- Barry Baker 1/12
- Linda Goebel 1/13
- Gary Thompson 1/13
- John Smithies 1/19
- Clara Mann 1/20
- Charles Mann 1/22
- Russ Alden 1/24
- Roy Hill Jr 1/27
- Juliann Johnson 1/28
- Sally Jennings 1/30



Dan Moore & Melodie McKenzie  
1/28

- 5 Poinsettias
- 12 Susan Painter
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_



# 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, January 27<sup>th</sup> 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

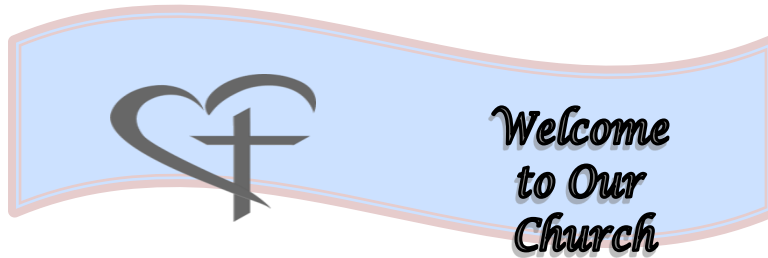
Agape is a nonprofit organization in Newport that provides basic needs & offers a range of vital services to support individuals experiencing homelessness or facing transitional challenges. For the month of December they are requesting sweat pants and shirts size small-XL, knit caps, socks, underwear, 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 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.



**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](http://LincolnCountyShelter.com)