



Makin'

# Waves



## Atonement Lutheran Church

2315 N Coast Hwy—Newport, OR 97365

office@atonementlutheran.com

541-265-2554

## Office Hours

10:00am ~ 3:00pm

Tuesday thru Friday

## Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com

425-923-8558

December 2023

### Inside this issue:

Income & Expense	2
From the Pastor	3
Adult Forum	4
Room Rental	5
Library	6
Altar Guild	7
Kid's Page	8
Calendar	9
Worship Page	10
Social Ministry	11

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

As Christ's ministry includes everyone, we, too, welcome persons of any ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, marital status, age, economic situation, and physical or mental ability.

We celebrate the gifts each one brings to the life and ministry of this community of faith.



## Our Website — Facebook Page Sunday Worship Service on YouTube

www.atonementluthern.com



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. You can take your poinsettias home after the service on December 25<sup>th</sup>.



## Christmas Tree Trimming & Holiday Treats

Join us for the tree decorating on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> after 10:00am Worship Service.

*Please bring holiday treats to share.*



## Foster Children Giving Tree

by Sally Jennings

Help bring joy to a child in foster placement this Christmas. Select a gift tag from the Giving Tree in the Narthex. Each tag has a number.. Please record your name next to the corresponding number on the notepad next to the tree. Purchase some or all of the items the child is wishing for. You may want to share the requests on your gift tag with someone else in our congregation, and each purchase some of the gift items. Attach the gift tag to your gift bag or box of unwrapped gifts and place your donation under the Christmas tree in the Narthex by mid December.



# Financial Snapshot ... ALC ~ October 2023

Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman



**General Fund:** *Revenues* during October '23 were \$ 13,178  
*Expenses* during October '23 were \$ 18,083  
*General Fund* balance is \$ 24,406

**Capital Fund:** Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.  
*Capital Fund* balance is \$ 72,117

**Dedicated Fund** balance is \$ 20,437

**Restricted/Endowment** balance is \$ 112,554



## Vanco Online Donation/Offering

**O**ur 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. If you need it, there is a *How to Use Direction Sheet* in the office.



## The Ties That Bind ... by Marian Brown

**T**he Atonement "Ties That Bind" Quilters next meeting will restart in February 2024. We will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the lower meeting room. Everyone is invited. It's a great way to get to know each other as we tie the quilts and share stories.



Pastor John Smithies

Dear Church,

Welcome to Advent. This is a season of preparation and waiting. No church season is more counter cultural than Advent. I invite you into this wisdom and mystery and slow down a bit this year. I say this knowing that Advent in our culture is one of the busiest times of year. There is so much we want to and need to do between Thanksgiving and Christmas that the season becomes just a blur of activity. So much so by the time the 25<sup>th</sup> rolls around, we want the whole Christmas thing to be over. I do get this, and in some real ways this is inevitable, and we are all going to be busy with the bustle of life. But I also invite you to listen to the wisdom of our tradition that says, slow down, wait, prepare. Christmas starts on the 25<sup>th</sup> but then runs for 12 whole days, there is plenty of time, so enjoy the moment, and wait in hope!

And what are we waiting for? Or what is the Christmas Mystery? It is that the powerful divine presence has come near. This presence is most often described in Scripture as a blindingly great light, much like the sun. A light so strong and powerful that we cannot approach it without fear of being burnt up. I think of this fear especially at this time of the year, when I want to go out surfing, but that massive 15-foot wave and the powerful current remind me that at my skill level and ability, to paddle out into that wave would be truly terrifying. The sun is no different. We live lives separated by nature, so we are removed from the analogy, but think of being in the desert without the convenience of the modern world. The sun becomes a great enemy, its heat overwhelming, its rays capable of burning skin. These are images capable of creating a lot of fear of the awesome power that is capable of engulfing and swallowing us whole. We read often in the Old Testament that no one can see God and live. God's glory is too all powerful for our mortal bodies to handle. With this backdrop we hear that the light of God has come and come down to rest in a baby. And we can all look on a child. There is nothing frightening about a child. We can all look upon, hold, and adore a child. And this child is the image for us to see the otherwise unseeable God.

That is the paradox of our faith, the all-powerful God is known in the helplessness of a child. The wisdom of God in-fleshed in the foolishness of becoming us. Richard Rohr once famously said it this way, "When God loves, God becomes that which God loves." And Christ did not just come once into the form of foolishness but always coming to us in the sacrament of the Church and in the living presence of the divine in each of us, which we encounter every time we encounter each other. This is the great mystery of this season, The brightness of God's love comes to us, dispelling the ignorance of our hearts and minds.

Blessings, *Pastor John*



## Adult Forum ... by Pastor John

Sundays @ 9:00am—9:45am

For the month of December, we will be looking deeply at the Gospel of Mark. This most likely will become a December tradition that we look at the Gospel that we will be reading for the coming year. I hope that this time will prepare our hearts to hear what specifically Mark is trying to tell us and how he says it. Please be invited for this time discussion and deep dive into the mystery which is our first Gospel.

### 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!**

## Advent Holden Evening Service ... by Pastor John

Advent mid-week Holden Evening Prayer Service

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>

@ 7:00pm. Attend in person or by Zoom.

Please be invited to join us for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday at 7pm as we gather for prayer both in songs and words and in silence. Christmas Eve Service will be at 7pm, and Christmas day service will be at 10am. Please feel free to join for any or all of it. May the season be a blessing for us.



## Celebrating Christmas

Celebration of the birth of Christ

He who is the Savior

Resting in a manger, in a bed of hay

In the light of the Christmas star shining  
above, showing the way

Shepherds and kings all followed the light to  
pay tribute to Him

To leave gifts at his feet and acknowledge their King

Mary's son, and the Son of God

A man, too, and mortal, able to die for our sins, and so

Save us from ourselves, and grant us eternal [life](#) and light





## 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. Mask are welcome, but not required. Contact our office for available dates and time.

Phone# 541 265-2554 email address: [office@atonementlutheran.com](mailto:office@atonementlutheran.com)



## 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, the office.



WELCA will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This month is bring a salad meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm. The meetings can be attended by zoom. All are welcome to participate.



## ALC Book Club by Pastor John Smithies

This month, we will be reading the Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and we will be discussing it on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am and the 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. This is a Christmas classic so needs no introduction by me.

However, one reason I chose this book to be read immediately after Richard Rohr's work "Falling upward", is because this is a tale of such a falling upwards. Please be invited to this discussion whether you read Rohr's book or not. There are many great gems in this book for Christian reflection, and I pray that it may help us journey in Advent Together.

January: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

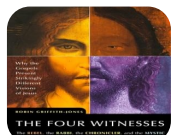
February: *Break this bread* by Sara Miles





## The Library Committee by Bonnie Powell

Hello from the Library ... December choices of books are many as there will be ample ones on our shelves. We have a variety of children's books for all ages and many of our adult books are on display. We will focus the adult books by the checkout window.



### Book Review ... by Dan Moore

#### The Four Witnesses by Robin Griffith-Jones

A very detailed, difficult treatise discussing the Four Gospels. It contrasts each of the writers of the Gospel's styles, the similarities between the Gospels and the audience they were writing for, as well as the similarities of each Gospel.

Unless you have a lot of time and reference materials to utilize, this book is not one for the average Christian.



**Communion Assistants ...** As we return to the new patterns of receiving communion at the front, we need an extra person to assist. We have created space on the bulletin board for people to sign up to assist with communion. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Thank you!

## 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.



**Gift Cards** This program provides an emergency meal card for people who stop by the church and need help. We have been having a great number of people requesting food cards in the last two months. We are setting up food card limit per month because of restraint of funds. Raynette will be purchasing \$10 food cards from Food vendors as funds are available.



**Support for Ukraine's Refugees ...** funds collected and sent to our sister churches in Poland for Ukraine refugee relief every six months... June and December.



## For Your Information ... by Rick Letherer

On Sunday, November 5th, the Trio sang the song "Beatitudes" for our anthem. (you can access and listen to this from our website page). This beautiful rendition was written and composed by Philip Bayles, one of our own. He is a member of the same Eugene, Oregon ELCA Lutheran church from which Pastor Dodd( recently retired) was our substitute Pastor during the time between Pastor Ed and Pastor Jane. It is a blessing and treasure to have a member of our own synod provide glorious music for our worship here in Newport.

Thank You Philip! ... your TrinAtone Trio



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 lillies, 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.

## Reminders ... by Raynette Rawles

Please let me know

- 1) If I have missed anyone's birthday or wedding anniversary.
- 2) Any changes in your address, phone numbers or email address.
- 3) If you are not receiving church emails.



December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

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

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!



<div>  <h1>December 2023</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Safe Toys and gifts Month</b> 					<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom Simulcast 10:00am Sunday School 11:45am Choir practice	<b>4</b> Office closed  	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Advent Service @ 7:00pm	<b>7</b> 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake  	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 
<b>10</b> 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom Simulcast 11:30pm Outreach Mtg 11:45am Choir practice	<b>11</b> Office closed  9:30am Library Mtg	<b>12</b> 9:00am Property Mtg 11:00am Parish Life Mtg	<b>13</b>  <b>Nat'l Cocoa Day</b> 12:30pm WELCA Mtg 4:00pm Finance Mtg Advent Service @ 7:00pm	<b>14</b> 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake  11-3pm OCQG F/H 3:30am Social Ministry Mtg	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom Simulcast 10:00am Sunday School 11:45am Choir practice 12:30pm Council Mtg	<b>18</b> Office closed  	<b>19</b> 11:00am ALC Book Club	<b>20</b>  Advent Service @ 7:00pm	<b>21</b> 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake   <b>Winter Solstice</b> 5:00pm ALC Book Club	<b>22</b> <b>WAVES Deadline</b>	<b>23</b>
 <b>24</b> 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Office closed 10:00am Christmas Day Service 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom Simulcast 11:45 am Worship & Music Mtg						



# Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
3 10:00 am	David Cramer	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
10 10:00 am	Susan Painter	Karen Grams	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
17 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
24 10:00 am	Sabine Maresco	Karen Grams	Marian Brow	Arnie Anderson
7:00 pm	Pete Kraack	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	
25 10:00 am	Pete Kraack	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
31 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Marian Brown	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>	
3 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore/ Maryellen Murphy	Bob Olson/ Pete Kraack	Sylvia Pauly
10 10:00 am	_____	Patty Fox/ Barry Baker	Cathy Devereaux/ Pete Kraack	Barb Ward
17 10:00 am	_____	Barb Ward/ Jerryann Olson	Dan Moore/ Bob Olson	Susan Painter
24 10:00 am	_____	Karen Grams/ Rhonda Harman	Peggy Gilman/ Dan Moore	Travis Fox
7:00 pm	_____	_____		Travis Fox
25 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy/ Rhonda Harman		Travis Fox
31 10:00 am	_____	Jeanette Agre/ Brenda Grall	Peggy Gilman Bob Olsen	Travis Fox



Taylor Johnson	12/4		
Tanja Holliday-Price	12/6	Penny Hathaway	12/18
Shannon White	12/9	David Cramer	12/21
Meredith Gilbert	12/10	Kathryn Marker	12/22
Susan Painter	12/11	Ruth Shelly	12/23
Rick Gutknecht	12/15	Meredith Mann	12/25



Paul & Laura Kimberly  
12/23

3	Teri McCully
10	Susan Painter
17	_____
24	_____
31	_____

# Social Ministry ...



## Stone Soup

**T**eam Atonement will not be serving Stone Soup at St. Stephens Episcopal church on Monday, December 25th at 5:00pm.

**We are asking for Pet Food (Dog and Cat) donations to give out at Stone Soup.**

*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



## Food Pantry Program

**I**n the spirit of giving, here's a way to help the Newport Food Pantry fill its shelves. The Newport Food Pantry relies completely on donations from our community.

Set aside a box. Starting December 1<sup>st</sup> through Christmas Eve put one shelf stable food item in the box each day. You may want to wrap the outside of the box in festive paper. On Christmas Eve, or later, bring your box of donations to Church and place it by the blue barrel in the Narthex. We've attached a Reverse Advent Calendar with some sample giving ideas. These are just possibilities. Please feel free to donate any shelf stable food or beverages you have on hand. Your gift of food will feed those in need in our community.







## Reaching Out with God's Love



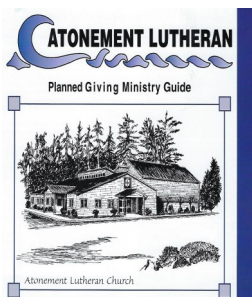
**Website ... [www.atonementlutheran.com](http://www.atonementlutheran.com)**

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.



**Come Join our ALC Committees**

If you are interested and want to participate in community service, (they would love to have you) please pick up a copy of our committee information sheet on table below window in mailbox area.



## 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 mailbox area .