



Makin'

Waves



Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com

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Atonement Lutheran Church

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541-265-2554



January 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



Congregational Meeting



Please mark your calendar and plan on attending Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28th right after 10:00am service in the Sanctuary.

Items on the agenda include:

Reports from committees

Financial report of 2023

Budget for 2024

Elections

Potluck in the downstairs

Fellowship Hall

after Meeting

Please bring a dish to share

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.





Financial Snapshot ... ALC ~ November 2023



Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman

General Fund: *Revenues* during November'23 were \$ 9,497
Expenses during November '23 were \$ 18,593
 Our Net cash flow YTD is \$ (1,012)
General Fund balance is \$ 21,691.83

Capital Fund: Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.
 Our mortgage balance fell below \$ 341,814.13
Capital Fund balance is \$ 93,410

Dedicated Fund balance is \$ 16,273

Restricted/Endowment balance is \$ 131,059

A \$16,044 increase this year with YTD earnings of 13.40%



Vanco Online Donation/Offering

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



Some Good Humor



A man goes out ice fishing one morning. He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above: "There are no fish here."

The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he's about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, "There are no fish here either."

He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he's even finished walking, the voice says, "I'm telling you, there are no fish here."

The fisherman says, "God, how can you be so sure there aren't any fish here?"

The voice replies, "This is the ice rink manager."



Pastor John Smithies

Happy New Year!!

It's hard to believe that the new year is upon us! I hope that as the turning of this segment of time, that we mark it as a year we might be aware of how the Spirit is actively moving in our midst as a community and in our own lives.

This new year will bring challenges, on a national level we will face a contentious election, polarizing times for sure. But, it is also a reminder for us all to be gracious to each other. Unity in Christ is not predicated on agreement in everything and to seek truth beyond the polarizing topics of the day. Truth is rarely, if ever, found in dualistic thinking, yet dualistic thinking and language is what drives the ever-increasing polarized divide in our country. This I am sure will be a challenge for us all in this coming year, as we seek to maintain the rights and freedoms for those oppressed in our communities, while maintaining a spirit of love, forgiveness, and grace. This year will undoubtedly also bring some new changes to our lives as AI continues to expand and influence the way we live. There most surely will be disruptions like there were last year, and we will grapple with these together, and ask how is the Spirit moving us forward and calling us to be.

Our First Sunday in January will start the Epiphany season of the church, as we read stories where the people of scripture get a glimpse of who Christ truly is. Epiphany is the "I got it now moment." To kick off Epiphany, we are going to start a new tradition for us, but a tradition that is practiced and growing in many of the "Mainline" churches. The tradition is a simple "Star Gift". It is a star to remember that it is on Epiphany that the church marks the traveling of the magi to Bethlehem. The Star guides us to Christ. On this star will be a simple word, you might find it a generic word, or it might be one that immediately has resonance with you, but either way, the discipline is to ponder this word for the rest of the year and open yourselves to how the Spirit might be leading you through it. This is not magic or fortune telling, this is an intentional invitation to prayer and discernment that might lead us to further growth in our Spiritual lives. On the first Sunday of Epiphany, you all will be given the opportunity to reach into a bowl and pull out a star word at random. No cheating by picking out the word, and no exchanges! Then may it be a centering tool for our prayer life a possibility to ponder the meaning while in silence or in words. You are invited to keep your Star gift in any way that is meaningful to you. I often kept it in my Uniform in my vertical coat pocket closest to my heart. I hope this practice brings us joy in the coming year, and may it be a tool to deepen our spiritual journey in the world.



Adult Forum ... by Pastor John

Sundays @ 9:00am—9:45am

We are still in a deep dive of the Gospel of Mark before returning to our practice of studying the lectionary reading for the coming Sunday. If you ever wanted to ask a question about the Gospels and or the Sunday readings, please feel invited to come on Sunday morning at 9am.



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!**

From the Pastor ... Continue from page 3

On the last Sunday of the month, we will have our congregational meeting where we will have a chance to reflect on the way God has led the church this last year and will lead the church in the coming year. Please come hungry for our potluck, enjoy the fellowship. I am really excited for the coming year and looking ahead for the ways that God is moving in our midst and in our lives.

But before I conclude, a final exciting piece of news. I have maybe kept quiet, but I have a big heart of ecumenical work and fellowship and been praying for ways to connect with the other traditions out there. And THEN, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, called a few weeks ago and asked if Atonement would be willing to be a coastal hub for their annual Earth Summit that will be on Sunday February the 4th. Part of that event will be a zoom presentation with all the hubs in the state, but then we will have a breakout session, where in person, we will concentrate on some local issues with local speakers and or presentation. I don't have any details beyond this, but our Council was also excited to be a part of this. I will be meeting with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in the first part of January so will have more information after that! But please keep this opportunity in your prayers and if you feel called to help in any way with this, please contact me.

God is alive and moving in and around us. May this new year be an opportunity for us to connect and ride the wave of grace and truth, may we be together amidst the storms that will come, frolic in the sunshine of God's love, and be a safe harbor for those needing rest. In the name of our Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit be with us all!

Amen *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



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 3rd Wednesday of the month. This month is January 17th 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 Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. The book is a metaphor for the Spiritual Journey and one that has brought a lot of great comfort and insight to me. As we begin to journey in this next year, may we read of the journey of a young shepherd in search of a great treasure and may it shed light on our own journey together. We will be discussing it in person or Zoom on January 23rd at 11am and January 25th at 5pm.



Hello from the Library Committee

by Bonnie Powell

We will be celebrating our Library here at Atonement the 2nd Sunday in February. After the service, we gather in the narthex for a fun time with a Bingo game with lots of fun prizes! There will be plenty of good tasting treats and coffee as well.

Please join us for a great time of fun and fellowship!

Thanks from your Library Committee!



Book Review ... by Dan Moore

Title: The Jesus I Know by Kathie Lee Gifford

This delightful 193 page book by Kathie Lee Gifford was a series of interviews with friends and colleagues she had known throughout her career.

An avowed Christian supporter, who is a four time Emmy Award Winner, best known for her TV collaboration with Regis Philbin is also a five time New York Times bestseller of books.

This book is an easy read about people's reasons why they chose to believe. I highly recommend this book.



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.



Come Join our ALC Committees

Choirs

Tami Johnson—Directors

- ◆ Participate in the musical offering for Worship Services.

Education

Sara Black—Chair

- ◆ Provides a program of Christian education that will enable members of all ages to learn the Scriptures and Lutheran teachings & apply them in their daily lives.

Library

Jerryann Olson—Chair

- ◆ Provide year-round care of our Carton Olson Library. Purchasing new books and providing the displays to enhance the library area.

Musicians

Marian Brown

- ◆ Provide the instrumental participation in worship.

Outreach/Hospitality

Rhonda Harman-Chair

- ◆ Support the faith development of members, publicize congregational events, and seek ways to enhance the hospitality towards visitors.

Parish Life

Sue Fowler—Chair

- ◆ To tend to the care and enrichment of the member of the congregation such as: assimilate new members; support ministries for food preparation and kitchen use; provide resources for the physical and emotional needs, oversight to Health Ministry in care and nurture the sick and shut-in members; work with Outreach in communicating with congregation about church events.

Ties that Bind—Quilt Group

Marian Brown

- ◆ Sub group of Parish Life. Tie quilts for Atonement's High School graduating seniors and to folks in need in the community.

Property

Randy Gilman—Chair

- ◆ Provide for the maintenance, repairs, safety, efficiency and improvement of all the real and personal property of the congregation.

Social Ministry

Sally Jennings—Chair

- ◆ To lead congregation's efforts to address the social and economic needs of people both within the congregation and in the community at large.

Stewardship

Dan Moore—Chair

- ◆ Provide year-round program of stewardship education; to invite all members to participate according to their means in the financial support of the congregation and of the ELCA; encourage and facilitate planned giving and challenge members to offer their time and talent in support of the work of the church.

Worship/Music

Tami Johnson—Chair

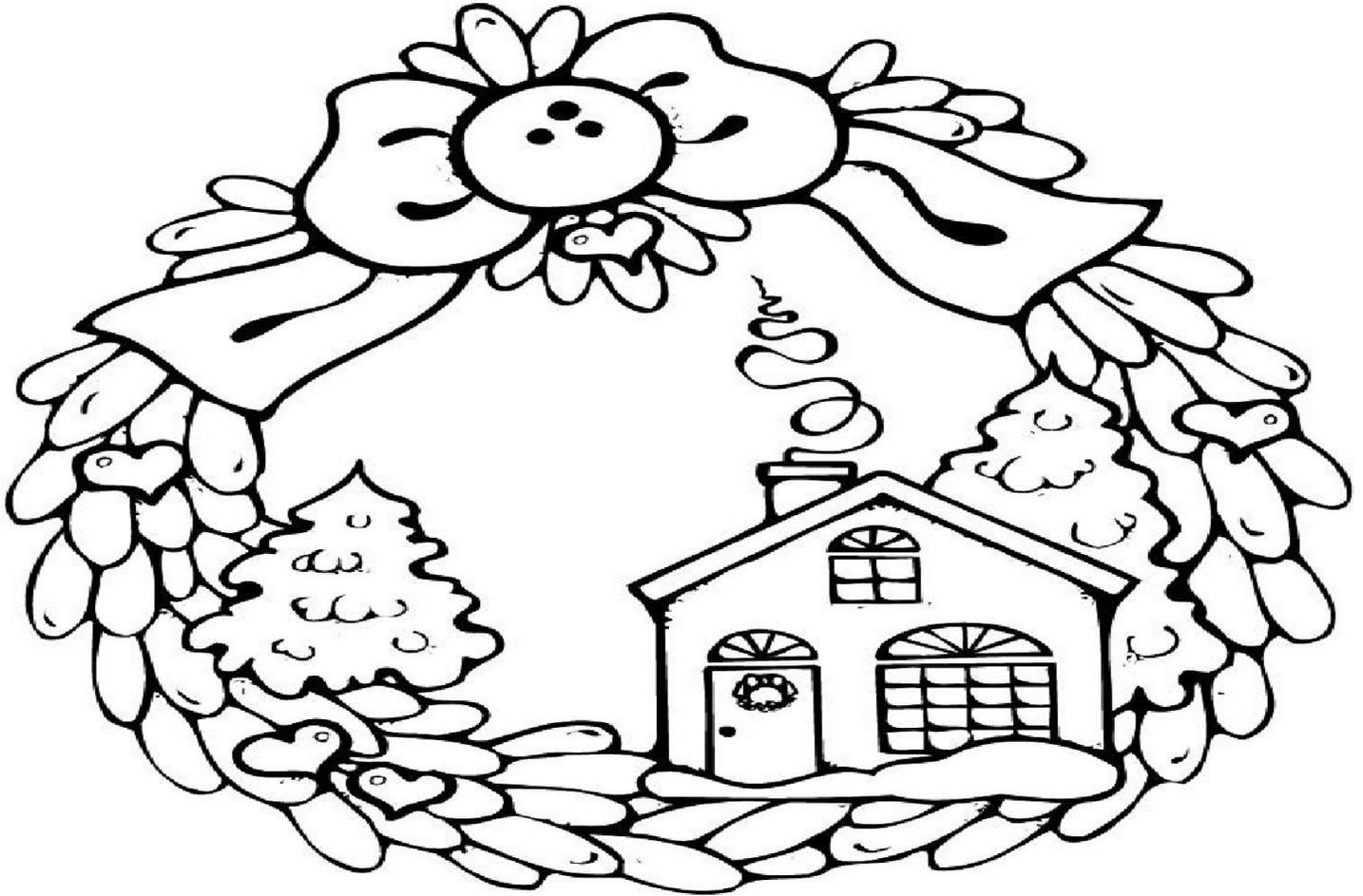
- ◆ Assist Pastor in planning worship services; recruit and provide training of worship assistants, lectors, users, acolytes, altar guild and other volunteers who participate in worship service; work with music directors to develop ways music is used; new worship materials and give special attention to using the artistic gifts of our members.



Kid's Page



Color me



January 7th and 21st



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!



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Nat'l Mentoring Month</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom Sunday School 11:45am Choir 12:30pm Music & Worship Mtg</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Office closed 9:30am Library Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am Property Mtg 11:00am Parish Life Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:00pm Finance Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake 11am OCQG F/H 4:00pm S/M Mtg</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:00pm Outreach 11:45am Choir Youth Symphony In the Sanctuary</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Religious Freedom Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:30pm WELCA Mtg</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Nat'l Pop Corn Day</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom Sunday School 12:30pm Council Nat'l Hug Day</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Office closed 5:30pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Int'l day of Education</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00am Men's Brft @ Pig N Pancake</p>	<p>26</p> <p>WAVES Deadline</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Commemoration Victims of the Holocaust</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:00am Annual Meeting/Potluck</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Nat'l Hot Chocolate Day</p>	<p>Glaucoma awareness</p>	<p>NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH</p>	<p>CERVICAL Cancer Support Advocacy</p>



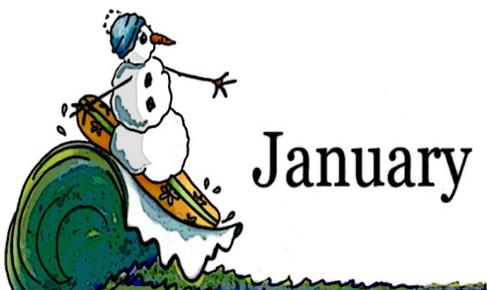
Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
7 10:00 am	Darcy dela Rosa	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson
14 10:00 am	Brenda Grall	Marian Brown	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
21 10:00 am	Rhonda Harman	Marian Brown	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
28 10:00 am	David Cramer	Marian Brown	Marian Brown	Arnie Anderson

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
7 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore/ Maryellen Murphy	Cathy Devereaux/ Pete Kraack	Susan Painter
14 10:00 am	_____	Patty Fox/ Rhonda Harman	Pete Kraack/ Bob Olson	Barb Ward
21 10:00 am	_____	Jerryann Olson/ Brenda Grall	Bob Olson/ Peggy Gilman	Travis Fox
28 10:00 am	_____	Barb Ward/ Barry Baker	Peggy Gilman/ Dan Moore	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



- 7 _____
- 14 _____
- 21 _____
- 28 _____



Social Ministry ...

Food Pantry Program



for all the wonderful donations we received for this program in December using the Reverse Advent Calendar that we printed in November newsletter. The Newport Food Pantry were very happy to see the donations and expressed their thanks to our congregation in helping them. There is a report on the bulletin board with their program update.

Below 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 22rd at 5:30pm.

We are asking for Pet Food donations to give out at Stone Soup.

Please leave next to wall across from upstairs kitchen.

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

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.



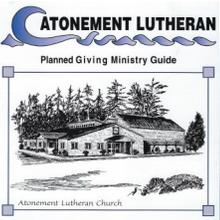
Support for Ukraine's Refugees ... funds collected and sent to our sister churches in Poland for Ukraine refugee relief every six months... June and December.



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.



Estate Planning

*H*ave you remembered Atonement Lutheran Church in your Will or Estate Plan?

For you convenience and interest, we have pamphlets available on table near mailbox area .



Fred Meyers Community Rewards 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)**.