



Makin'

Waves



Atonement Lutheran Church

2315 N Coast Hwy—Newport, OR 97365
office@atonementlutheran.com
541-265-2554



Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am
Pastor John Smithies
pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com
425-923-8558

August 2025

Inside this issue:

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

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

Tuesday thru Friday

Website / Facebook Page

**Sunday Worship Service on
YouTube**

www.atonementlutheran.com



From a Bump to a Wave: The Spirit and the Future of Randy's and Feed

When I first arrived here, I heard so many stories and hopes about a beloved ministry this church once offered—**Randy's Read and Feed**. It was a program that combined literacy and community, offering books and a meal to local families. Like many good things, it was one of the ministries that didn't survive the COVID pandemic. While the pandemic has passed, the partnerships and infrastructure that supported the program did not return with it.

So what do we do with the mission? What about the funds, the books, the spirit behind it? That's a question our committee has wrestled with more than once: **how do we honor the legacy of Read and Feed in a way that fits who we are now?**

That's what discernment is. It's the holy art of watching, waiting, listening, and noticing when the Spirit is beginning to stir. Surely the swell is out there. We just need to be ready to paddle toward it.

Well, one of those small "bumps in the water" came recently through a few conversations and meetings. We began supporting **ODHS's work with foster families**, offering gift cards for pizza and some books to new foster parents—or to those simply needing a little extra support. And I couldn't help but wonder: *Is this just a bump, or the start of a wave worth riding?* My spiritual instincts said: *let's paddle toward it and see what happens.*

Since then, it's grown.

Next month, on **August 19**, we're helping to host a **Back-to-School event** for foster families. There will be food, books, games, and support. *Project Lemonade* will be there, offering new clothes for foster youth, and *Every Child Oregon* will be present as well. Maybe this is what **Randy's Read and Feed** is becoming—not a monthly dinner at church, but an annual gathering of welcome and care for foster families. If you'd like to help with this event, please reach

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



out to someone in Social Ministry—**Sally Jennings or myself**. But wait—there's more!

In our planning for the event, we've begun dreaming with ODHS and Every Child about another new possibility: **Hope Teams**. A Hope Team is a small group of 8–10 people who come alongside a foster family to provide relational and practical support. Two meals a month. Occasional help with yardwork or errands. Maybe just check-ins and encouragement. Maybe just being present.

Because here's the truth: Being a foster family is hard. The need is great. The burnout is real. But what if a small team of people could make it just a bit more sustainable? What if they knew they weren't alone? Personally, I can imagine members of this congregation wrapping around a family in that kind of love. So I ask: *Are there 8 to 10 of you who would be interested in forming our own little Hope Team?* My discerning heart says yes, but I can't speak for everyone, we would need members and friends who would want to step into ministry. I would ask us all to pray and discern together this possibility. Is this bump growing into a wave that we want to try to catch together?

We'll be sharing more about this in the fall. We'll also be inviting representatives from Every Child to speak with anyone who wants to learn more. Here's what excites me: through these three efforts—the **gift cards and books**, the **Back-to-School event**, and the potential of a **Hope Team**—we may be seeing the next chapter of **Randy's Read and Feed** begin to unfold. No, it may not look exactly the same, but the spirit of care, nourishment, and literacy is still there.

So I leave you with this: Is this the wave God is sending us? Or are we still watching the water? What does the congregation think? And if you think this all sounds exciting, do you want to paddle out a little bit deeper into the water and check it out? Let me know what you think.

Grace and peace,

Pastor John

Financial Snapshot ... Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman

Updates for June 2025

General Fund:	Revenues	\$ 17,928
	Expenses	\$ 16,981
	General Fund balance	\$ 46,108
Capital Fund:	Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.	
	Our mortgage balance	\$105,190
	Capital Fund balance	\$191,849
Dedicated Fund balance		\$ 18,980
Restricted/Endowment balance		\$154,895

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 the transaction. There is a *How to Use Vanco Direction Sheet* in the office.





Pastor John Smithies



Paddling Out into Grace: August Reflections

When August rolls around, I always find myself pausing to reflect on how quickly the year is passing. I remember when I was in school, August came with a kind of warning: *your summer is almost over, better get on with those plans!*

This year, though, it's been a bit hard to tell what season it even is. In the three summers I've served here, this has been the coldest, windiest, and gloomiest I can remember. I'm not sure if that's officially true, but based on the online surf groups I follow, I'm not the only one wondering if summer hit the snooze button this year. Maybe we'll get a surprise second summer in October... maybe not. Either way, we're clearly rounding the corner. We're now closer to Christmas than we are to New Year's Day. That halfway point has come and gone.

So, here's my gentle encouragement to you in this strange season: find a little peace and rest. If you spot the sun, take a moment to soak it in. Enjoy the views, even the foggy one. It's drizzling outside my window as I write this, a small reminder that while summer is shifting, it hasn't disappeared. Not yet.

Speaking of halfway points, I recently realized I'm over halfway through my training to become a spiritual director. That's something I haven't talked a lot about, so I wanted to share a little about what that means—and why it matters.

Spiritual direction is an ancient practice in our Christian tradition. It goes back to the Desert Mothers and Fathers, those early seekers who left behind the distractions of daily life to explore a deeper relationship with God in solitude. But though they wanted to be alone people eventually began coming to them, not for answers, but to ask the kinds of questions that only arise when you're trying to pay attention to God. And so, the role of the spiritual director was born, someone who walks with another person on their journey of faith, listening, reflecting, and helping them notice where God is already showing up.

As a pastor, this deeply resonates with me. I have had (and still have) my own spiritual director. And my hope has always been that my ministry would be more than just preaching and teaching—it would also include the kind of sacred listening that helps people grow in their awareness of God.

It all starts with a simple, profound truth: Christ is already in you. You don't need to go searching for God, God has already found you. What most of us lack is awareness of that presence. And let's be honest: sometimes it's hard to spot divine grace through the fog of daily life, let alone coastal marine layers. It is hard in the daily task of life to stop and listen and see that God is right by your side and Spirit is right there making waves for you to surf in.

This is where spiritual direction can be helpful. A spiritual director doesn't give advice or tell you what to do. They simply listen, really listen to your life, and the hallmark of a good Spiritual Director is that they ask the hard questions for you to ponder and answer for yourself.

In fact in clergy circles you can spot a Spiritual Director a mile away by the questions they ask. The hard questions have but one aim, "Where is God in all this?" And maybe secondly "What do you feel called to do about this?" They are there to encourage accompany and sometimes offer some direction. The goal is to notice those holy moments you might otherwise miss. The closer we come to that awareness, the closer we come to our own healing and wholeness. As Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Now, a quick word of reassurance: I'm not bringing this up to sign anyone up. In fact, there are good reasons why your pastor may *not* be right to be your spiritual director—questions about roles, comfort, and whether you feel safe bringing your doubts and struggles. That's why my own spiritual director isn't even Lutheran. I'm not trying to create a sign-up list or a hidden agenda. I just want you to know it's an option. With me—or someone else.

If this idea stirs something in you, let it sit for a while. Pray about it. Talk to someone. I won't push. But I will say this: the invitation to deepen your awareness of God is always open.

It's a little like when I take someone surfing. I'm not a surf instructor, and I can't promise you'll ride a perfect wave. But I *can* paddle with you. I can help you notice the movement of the ocean, the rhythm of the waves, and maybe—just maybe—catch a glimpse of grace together. The ocean is deep and wide, in its waves mystery abounds, maybe we can glimpse a holy moment together.

So whether this summer ever truly shows up or not, know this: God already has. My prayer for each of you is that, in these remaining weeks of summer and beyond, you might feel that presence more clearly, trust it more deeply, and live more fully into the peace of Christ—the peace that passes all understanding.

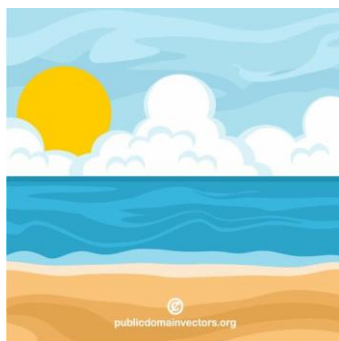
With grace,
Pastor John

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

We would like to invite everyone to Adult Forum before worship service on Sundays. This is a time to go deeper into the text, ask questions, enjoy fellowship and ponder mysteries. We are meeting upstairs too, so if you show up early for service feel free to pop on in for the conversation. We strive for honest conversation where multiple views are honored and respected. Come with open hearts and minds and join the journey.

Girl Scouts and Letters to the Editor

On July 9, 2025 there was a Letter to the Editor from Girl Scout Troop 10143 in the Lincoln County Leader. They had been meeting at St Peter the Fisherman Lutheran Church in Lincoln City, and had chosen to leave that relationship due to hurtful policy changes by St. Peter the Fisherman. We were compelled to reply to that letter, our letter was printed in the July 23, 2025 edition. The letters are posted on the board across from the restrooms.



Beach Walks ... by Pastor John Smithies

One thing I love about summer here at Atonement is our beach walks. What a great joy to join fellow walkers for a summer stroll on the beach. I am always amazed at the people who show up, it is always different, sometimes it is small and intimate and sometimes it feels like a small army of walkers. We leave Atonement at 11 and drive to Don Davis Park to walk for about 45 minutes enjoying the company and conversation. Please be invited to come - bring a friend or just come by yourself and enjoy the company and conversation.



Coffee Hour... by Sandy Cramer

Our Fellowship time after worship is a favorite part of the weekend for many of us! We are a community, and spending time together and sharing a cup of coffee and a snack brings us closer together. Many hands make light work. We could use help setting up, cleaning up, and bringing snacks. Your help and generosity is greatly appreciated!



Men's Breakfast Group by Pastor John Smithies

We meet weekly on Thursday morning for breakfast meal at Pig 'N Pancake at 8am.

If you are looking for an invitation to join deeper into our community, there is no 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.

Room Rental

Our church facilities/rooms on the lower level are available for rent. We offer space for one time events such as parties, meetings or weddings; or long term rentals for weekly or monthly events.

Contact the office for available dates and times.

Phone# [541 265-2554](tel:5412652554) email address:

office@atonementlutheran.com



Lincoln County Alerts

Are you signed up to receive Lincoln County Alerts? During an emergency (such as the recent Tsunami event) they send email and text messages to keep you updated. Sign up at <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736721689/new>



Hello from the Library Committee

by Bonnie Powell

Notes this month:

* We are looking forward to new crafting books and a book about Caregiving. They will be on the shelves soon.

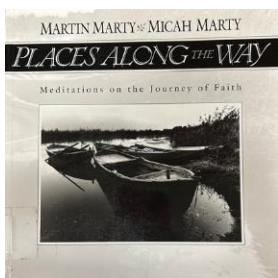
*Please check your shelves at home to see if you have items to return.

*We thank those who gave us donations; however, at this point we are no longer seeking donations.

Thanks, and Happy Reading!

Book Review ... by Bonnie Powell

Title: Places Along the Way Meditations on the Journey of Faith



Author: Martin and Micah Marty

Have you ever felt like sitting down to read an uplifting book? This small book is very uplifting to read as each page lists a location from the Bible, a verse, a paragraph about the location and a short prayer along with an artistic photograph. It's truly an inspiring book to read! It can be found on the Devotions shelf in the library.

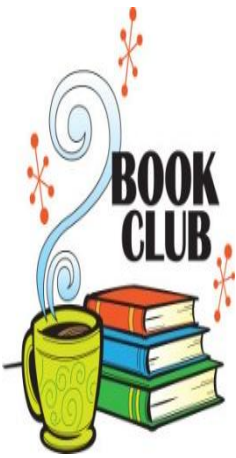
Flowers for Sunday Worship



Help make our Sanctuary beautiful for Sunday Worship—sign up to bring Altar Flowers! Flowers may be dedicated for birthdays, anniversaries, in remembrance, etc. Or you can bring flowers just because. The sign up sheet is located on the Bulletin Board next to the Upper Meeting Room. Thank You!

GriefShare

GriefShare is a 13-week program that helps you cope with the loss of a loved one. A new group will be starting at 1st Baptist Church, 208 NW 6th St, Newport on Monday, August 18 from 6:30-8:00pm. Watch videos, discuss with others, and get a helpful book. For more information call Rick Kimbrell at 775-233-8919, or visit <https://www.griefshare.org>.



ALC Book Club ... by Pastor John Smithies

Our next and last book in this cycle of book club is the work by Mitch Albom *"The Five People You Meet in Heaven"*. Despite the book's description the work is more about finding meaning in life, told through the story of someone who meets five people in heaven who lived him into an exploration of what his life meant. Please be invited and please get your recommendations for next year's list sent to Pastor John.

Tuesday, August 26th @ 11:00am and Thursday August 28th @ 5:00pm.

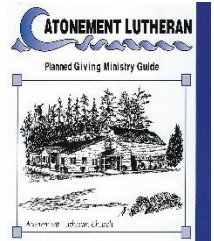


WELCA is on break for the summer and will resume in the Fall.

A generous donor would like all of the women to have access to Gather Magazine. Magazines will be on the table by the kitchen for you to pick up, if you don't have your own subscription already.

Estate Planning

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



Worship & Music: A Call for Musical Gifts

Calling all church musicians! One of the gaps we're feeling since Marian's departure is in our music ministry—we are now short one gifted musician. That loss will be felt in worship, especially as we head into Holden Evening Prayer season, where one of our singers will now need to step in on piano. Things will look and sound a bit different.

But maybe... this is also a moment of invitation. A time for others to share their musical gifts. Do you sing? Play piano? Guitar? Are you someone who's been quietly holding a musical gift—and might be willing to share it?

We're exploring how to build a small rotation of musicians or singers—people who could help out once a month, once a quarter, even just once or twice a year. Maybe you're someone who wants to learn an instrument. Is there something the church could do to support you in that?

These are all questions we're holding in prayer. And we'd love to have a conversation. If you have a musical gift—or a desire to grow in one—please speak with a member of the **Worship and Music Committee**. We'll find a place for you, and we'd be thrilled to have you in the rotation, however often you're available.



Kid's Page

Color me



Sunday School is finished for the school year. See you all in the fall!

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!



August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom 4:00pm Celebration of Life for Rudy de la Rosa followed by Reception	4 Office closed	5	6 12:00pm Contemplative Prayer	7 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk	8	9
10 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:15am Outreach Mtg	11 Office closed	12 3:30pm S/M Mtg	13 12:00pm Contemplative Prayer	14 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 5:00pm OCQG Mtg (F/H)	15	16
17 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom	18 Office closed	19 6:00pm Foster Family Picnic	20 12:00pm Contemplative Prayer 3:30pm Finance Mtg 4:30pm Endowment Mtg	21 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk	22	23
24 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 12:00pm Council ----- 31 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom	25 Office closed 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen WAVES Deadline	26 11:00am ALC Book Club Mtg	27 12:00pm Contemplative Prayer 6:00pm Summer Barbecue	28 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk 5:00pm ALC Book Club Mtg	29	30

Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
3 10:00 am	Rhonda Harman	Emily Johnston / Sally Woodward	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
10 10:00 am	Pete Kraack	Bill Innis	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
17 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Darcy de la Rosa	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
24 10:00 am	Brenda Grall	Darcy de la Rosa	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
31 10:00 am	Darcy de la Rosa	Emily Johnston	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	Peggy Gilman / Bob Olson	Travis Fox
10 10:00 am	_____	Jeanne Innis / Patty Fox	Bob Olson / Travis Fox	Barb Ward
17 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy / Barb Ward	Travis Fox / Pete Kraack	Travis Fox
24 10:00 am	_____	Karen Johnson / Jerryann Olson	Pete Kraack / Cathy Devereaux	Susan Painter
31 10:00 am	_____	Karen Johnson / Rhonda Harman	Cathy Devereaux / Peggy Gilman	Travis Fox

AUGUST



Dee Waldo August 1
 Olga Buswell August 4
 Graham Mann August 10
 Peter Mann August 20
 Mariam Kimberly August 21
 Rick Letherer August 27
 Braulio Escobar August 29
 Katie Maguire August 31

Walt and Carol Duvall August 3
 Sarah and Wil Black August 12
 Ed and Lucy Milliken August 12
 Sally and Herb Jennings August 13
 Bob and Jerryann Olson August 21
 Paul and Jean Amundson August 31

Flowers for Worship

3 Bill & Jeanne Innis
 10 _____
 17 Susan Painter
 24 Kathy Marker
 31 Bob & Jerryann Olson

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 Ramen, 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, August 25 at 5:00pm.

If you would like to help: please call Sally Jennings @541 444-2687

It is much easier to plan how everyone can help.



Dog and Cat Food Needed for August Stone Soup

Please help feed our furry friends by donating dry dog and cat food for our crew to take along to Stone Soup. Each month, we make 15 gallon bags of dog food and 15 quart bags of cat food. They are much appreciated. We have no pet food, at this time, for our August Stone Soup. Donations can be left on the table by the office.



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 July they could use paper products (plates, bowls and paper towels), individual bottled waters, and instant food items like instant oatmeal or soft energy bars.

Please leave any donated items on the table 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 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...

Social Ministry ... Continued by Sally Jennings



Diapers for Samaritan House Day Care Center

We will continue purchasing diapers for the Yellow Submarine Day Care Center as the need arises and when funds are available. If you would like to donate funds, please note "Diapers" on your check.



Help Samaritan House Children Buy Back-to-School Clothes & Shoes

Please help the children at Samaritan House go back to school with new clothes and shoes. For several years now, Atonement has donated funds to help these families in need to get ready for the new school year. We will use your donations to purchase \$25 Walmart gift cards. If you would like to help, indicate Samaritan House School on the memo line of your check. We will take the gift cards to Samaritan House on August 20th.

Come Join our Service Programs!



Are you interested in Social Ministry? Or Parish Life, Outreach, Library, Property, Altar Guild or more? Please pick up committee program information on the table next to Kitchen. We would love to have your help!

Yaquina Cab rides to Atonement

Do you need a ride to Worship or other activities at Atonement? We have partnered with Yaquina Cab to provide rides for our friends and members. To receive a ride, please contact Pastor John at 425-923-8558. He will walk you through the process to get a ride here and back home again at no cost to you.

Do you need a Notary?

Sandy Cramer is able to notarize documents during regular office hours, Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There is no charge for registered members or friends.