



Makin'

Waves



Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com

425-923-8558

Atonement Lutheran Church

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September 2025



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

Tuesday thru Friday

Website / Facebook Page

Sunday Worship Service on

YouTube

www.atonementlutheran.com



Planned Giving Campaign

I have to admit, when it comes to stewardship, I am much like many of my colleagues in ministry: hesitant to talk about money. Why? Probably because of the "golden rule"—I don't particularly like it when someone else asks me for money. My defenses go up, I get suspicious, and I wait for the "pitch." And I certainly don't want to be that person for others.

The result is that we often avoid talking about money altogether. But in doing so, I realize I do you a disservice. Money is an important part of our lives, and like all areas of life, it belongs in the conversation of faith. Stewardship isn't really about money—it is about the heart. It is about our values. As Jesus said, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

With that in mind, we have two upcoming opportunities for reflection and conversation:

1. Book Club (September 9th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall)

This month's book club will be a little different. We will read the very short work *Reflections on Faith and Finances* by Charles Lane (copies available for everyone). On the 9th, we'll gather for food, fellowship, and a discussion led by Lisa Higginbotham from the ELCA Foundation, who works with individuals and congregations on stewardship and finances. Even if you haven't read the book, please come for the refreshments and conversation!

2. Estate Planning Basic Rundown

David Cramer, who is a retired trusts and estates attorney, will be available after Worship on September 21st to discuss estate planning and answer your questions.

3. Legacy Giving Workshop (September 28th & 29th)

On Sunday, September 28th, Lisa will be with us in person to lead a discussion on planned legacy giving. Again, this is not really about money—it's about values. The real question is: *Can the things I care about now continue to be cared for after I am gone?* That's a profound question of faith and legacy, one we should all consider. With thoughtful planning, we can help ensure that the ministries we love will continue for generations to come.

Lisa will also be available all day Monday, September 29th, for anyone who would like a personal conversation. And yes, there will be food and good company on the 28th—if nothing else, come for that!

Let me be clear: these conversations are not intended to pressure anyone into leaving a gift. Rather, it would be a disservice to our congregation not to create space for this kind of reflection with an expert.

Peace,
Pastor John

Financial Snapshot ... Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman

Updates for July 2025

General Fund:	Revenues	\$ 12,962
	Expenses	\$ 25,046
	General Fund balance	\$ 35,525
Capital Fund:	Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.	
	Our mortgage balance	\$ 99,532
	Capital Fund balance	\$197,556
Dedicated Fund balance		\$ 18,431
Restricted/Endowment balance		\$156,582

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



September turns, and we hold our breath. Will summer last, or will winter come early? Change always comes—it is an inevitable part of the year. It's hard to watch the seasons shift without also noticing how much our community has changed over the summer. Some of our members have moved away, and others we grieve because the sting of death is still fresh. Yet in the midst of sorrow, there has also been joy: new members, new leadership, new opportunities.

I once attended a training on change. I don't remember much of the material, but one phrase stayed with me: *with every change, even good change, there is loss*. It is okay to mourn a loss and celebrate a gain at the same time. That feels true in our church. We can hold joy and grief together, just as we hold one another. We live in that delicate balance: life is both beautiful and painful, and community is a place where we can be okay and deeply hurting at the same time.

This balance is also where we find ourselves in the Gospel of Luke. As I mentioned recently, we are in the "journey" section of Luke—a section that makes up nearly a third of the Gospel. Here we see Jesus walking the way toward Jerusalem. One of Luke's central themes is that following Jesus means walking the way of the Lord. May it be, that in watching Jesus walk his way, we may learn how to walk our own.

On this journey, Jesus and his first followers faced constant change. Did the human Jesus know everything that was to come? Scholars have spilled much ink over this question, but in the end, no one can know what Jesus fully understood. What we *do* know is that change came to him and to his community, and they had to ask: *How do we live out the Gospel in a changing world?* That is still our question today. Each generation has to reinterpret the eternal truth of the Gospel in its own context. That is the mystery and beauty of Scripture—it continues to speak anew.

God has come to us in Christ Jesus. He has set us free, destroyed sin and death in our flesh, and now, here in Newport, Oregon, at Atonement Lutheran Church, we ask: *What does that mean for our lives, right now?*

In our community, much has changed, and we are renegotiating our shared identity as a church. We find ourselves in need of musicians and singers, new ministry opportunities are opening before us, and we continue to ask what it means to love our neighbors in a polarized world.

Let me highlight a few of these changes.

First, now that fall is here, I would like us to return to our monthly prayer service with a simple meal at 5:00. I believe this service is important—not just as a reflection of who we are (a community that eats and prays together, rich with sacramental meaning), but also as a witness to the wider world. In an age of machines and AI, the world desperately needs true spaces for human encounter. Atonement, we have that gift. Let's strengthen it, let's expand, let us make room so that as the need increases for true human encounter we have a place where people can come.

But this also creates needs. We miss Marian, who has moved, and we could use additional musicians and singers to help. Singing is one of those things that terrifies me, but I am going to step up and lead some myself. The beauty of resilience is that no one person has to do everything. If you can lead just once or twice a year, that is enough! Together, we will have what we need. If you've been considering this, please talk with me or one of the musicians.

Finally, a new ministry opportunity: Hope Teams. I've written and spoken about this already, but the idea comes from Every Child Oregon. A Hope Team supports a foster family through acts of love and encouragement. The focus is on the whole family unit, so even if you don't feel called to work directly with children, there are many ways to help. People often say that young families are missing from church—but perhaps the deeper question is: *How are we caring for young families?* A Hope Team is one way we can put care into action. As the old wisdom goes: "People don't care what you know until they know how much you care." If this ministry speaks to your heart, I invite you into the conversation as we discern this next step together.

September brings change, as it always does. Our community is changing, too. Above all, we pray that, as individuals and as a church, we are being transformed into the image of Christ. Every day is part of that transformation. May it be so.

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.



Beach Walks ... by Pastor John Smithies

Well folks, the farmer's Almanac is predicting an early winter. I shed a tear, actually quite a few tears, when I read this. But we will keep walking as long as people show up. But my point in all this is to encourage people that if you want to join in a beach walk, the time of the good weather is limited. Please feel free to join us on Thursdays at 11:00 am at the church while we stroll the sandy beaches of the our town and have some fellowship. I never know where the discussion is going to go!!!!



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, or cleaning up, or 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:541-265-2554) 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 now have puzzles for member's enjoyment on the bottom shelf near the check out section. They don't need to be checked out, just borrow one and return it to the shelf when you are finished. They are for your enjoyment!
- * Reminder to the Library Committee: Next meeting is Monday, September 8th, at 10:45.

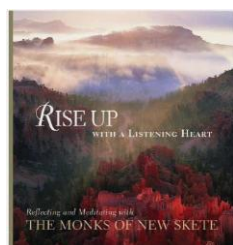
Thanks, and Happy Reading!

Book Review ... by Bonnie Powell

Title: Rise Up With A Listening Heart,

Reflecting and Meditating with the Monks of New Skete

(An Eastern Orthodox monastic community in Cambridge New York.)



What a beautifully and inspiring book this is—with wonderful photos to accompany each inspiring thoughtful section entitled: Rise Up.

If you might be looking for a peaceful and interesting book, this could be it. Here is a quote from the Introduction: " Our hope is that these reflections

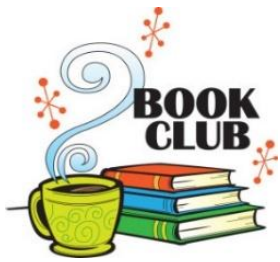
can become windows into daily life, an invitation to take a second look at the experiences all of us take for granted. By deliberately taking time to look at our lives more carefully, more meditatively, we allow a sense of spiritual vitality to arise, often in surprising and delightful ways, and this too, becomes both a daily wellspring of gratitude and an ongoing call: Rise Up!"



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!



ALC Book Club ... by Pastor John Smithies

Reflections on Faith and Finances by Charles Lane, discussion led by Lisa Higginbotham from the ELCA Foundation.

September 9th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Refreshments will be served.

Our Book Club schedule for the next 12 months:

October:	<i>Where God Meets Man</i> by Gerhard O. Forde
November:	<i>Radical Amazement</i> by Judy Cannato
December:	<i>Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas</i> by Adam Hamilton
January:	<i>The Tears of Things</i> by Richard Rohr
February:	<i>Orbital</i> by Samantha Harvey
March:	<i>Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus (Part 1)</i> by Elaine Pagels
April:	<i>Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus (Part 2)</i> by Elaine Pagels
May :	<i>Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms</i> by Gerard Russell
June:	<i>Braiding Sweet Grass</i> by Robin Wall Kimmerer
July	<i>Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeons Journey into the Afterlife</i> by Eben Alexander, M.D.
August:	<i>Soul Surfer</i> by Bethany Hamilton



WELCA resumes Wednesday, September 10 from 12:45 – 2:30 pm. Enjoy time with other women discussing scripture and our Lutheran faith. Coffee and refreshments will be served.



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 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 go to the Fred Meyers website: www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link your rewards card to **Atonement Lutheran Church (VB494)**.

Insurance Notes

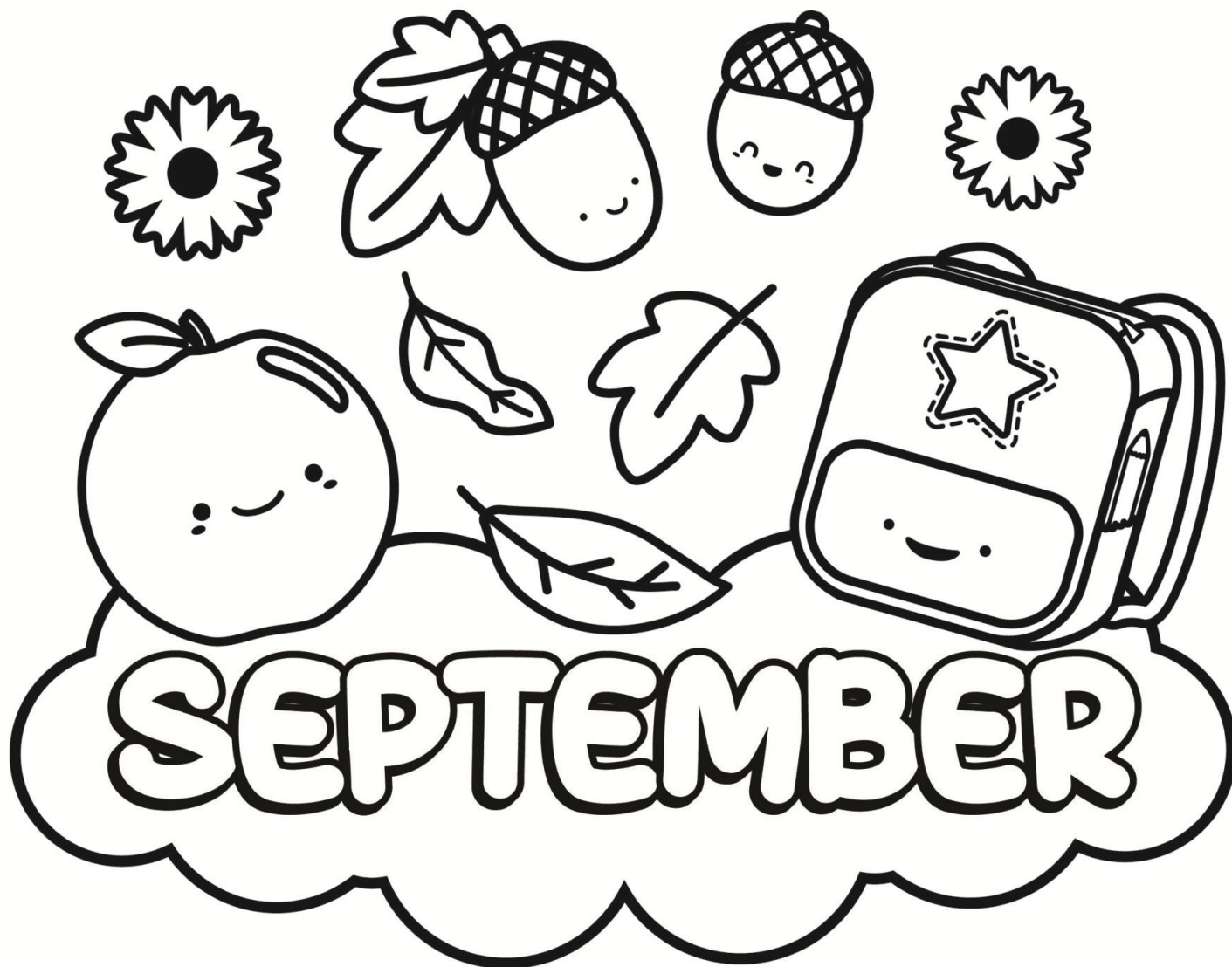
Mark Collson has very generously reviewed our insurance policies and advised us about several points. As a result of his suggestions, Council approved a policy at the July 27 meeting which states as follows:

Atonement will indemnify [agree to defend] all employees, volunteers and church members working on behalf of Atonement in the case of any claims or allegations of misconduct arising during such efforts on behalf of the church.



Kid's Page

Color me



www.cutecoloringpagesforkids.com



Sunday School will be starting up again shortly. Keep an eye on the WOW for more information.

Youth in Worship

We love to encourage our children and teens to assist in various ways on Sunday morning! Our ushers are more than happy to assist you in everything! Our youth are a part of our service!



September 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office closed Labor Day	2	3 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer	4 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk 12:00noon Organ Recital	5 11:00am Red Cross Blood Drive	6
7 10:00am Worship In-Person & Zoom	8 Office closed 10:45am Library Meeting	9 9:00am Property Meeting 11:00am ELCA Book Discussion	10 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 12:45pm WELCA	11 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk 3:30pm S/M Mtg	12	13
14 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:15am Outreach Mtg 12:15pm Worship & Music Mtg	15 Office closed	16	17 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 3:30pm Finance Mtg	18 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk	19	20
21 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 12:00pm Council	22 Office closed 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen	23	24 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer WAVES Deadline	25 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk	26	27
28 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:30am Planned Giving Presentation 1:30pm – 5:00pm Lisa Higginbotham available to discuss Planned Giving.	29 9:00am – 5:30pm Lisa Higginbotham available to discuss Planned Giving.	30				

Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
7 10:00 am	Alder (David Cramer)	Darcy de la Rosa	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
14 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Bill Innis	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
21 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Sally Woodward	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
28 10:00 am	Rhonda Harman	Emily Johnston / Cathy Devereaux	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
7 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore / Maryellen Murphy	Peggy Gilman / Bob Olson	_____
14 10:00 am	_____	Jeanne Innis / Patty Fox	Bob Olson / Travis Fox	_____
21 10:00 am	_____	Karen Johnson / Jerryann Olson	Travis Fox / Pete Kraack	_____
28 10:00 am	_____	Rhonda Harman / Emily Johnston	Pete Kraack / Cathy Devereaux	_____



Joy Johnson	9/1
Raynette Rawles	9/5
Ocean McCue	9/6
Karen Johnson	9/7
Dawn Donato	9/9
Jen Smithies	9/11
Sharleen Harvey	9/15
Melodie McKenzie	9/17
Paul Kimberly	9/17



Bill & Jeanne Innis	9/11
Gary & Lori Painter	9/28



Flowers for Worship

7	Ruth Shelly
14	Jeanne & Bill Innis
21	Bonnie Powell
28	Susan Painter

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, September 22nd 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 September 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. 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 September they are requesting: ground coffee, plastic forks, full bottles of shampoo (not travel size) and hand sanitizer.

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 – Make your check out to Atonement Lutheran Church, and indicate 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.



Thank you for Helping Samaritan House Families Buy Back-to-School Clothes & Shoes

We were able to give 10 families a \$25 gift card to help with back to school shopping. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

Notary Services

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.

Lost Key!

The key to the downstairs storage room has wandered away! It was on a keyring with a red, white and blue star. If it somehow found its way to you could you drop it off at the church please?