



Makin'

Waves



Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com

425-923-8558

Atonement Lutheran Church

2315 N Coast Hwy—Newport, OR 97365

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December 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

Holden Evening Prayer for Advent

We have just three Wednesdays in Advent this year, since Christmas Eve falls on a Wednesday. We would like to attempt an experiment with our Holden meal. It has not been the practice to have a meal in Advent, and we have asked the question why not? The simplest answer and something that is in all our hearts, is that Advent is extremely busy for us all! Can we actually add one more thing to everyone's schedule? Then this idea hit me hard with some conviction. YES, indeed we are busy - even though one of our core values and disciplines I talk about is slowing down, waiting, finding silence. Let us not simply talk about those values, this is an opportunity to live them out together. Thus, the idea of what we are trying to do for our Advent meal was born. Let's meet, but upstairs in the conference room with simple paper plates, around some light finger food, think a few appetizers and maybe something surgery and sweet, and slow down together. I will prepare a simple devotion with some questions for us to talk about together to build our fellowship and deepen our faith together. Let's try it and see! Advent is only 3 weeks this year, and if you want to step into the practice of slowing down together come join us at 6:00 pm.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

We have a whole range of activities for Advent and Christmas this year, please join us for any and or all of it.

- December 7th - Decorating the Christmas tree after worship. We invite all our members to bring their favorite Christmas goodie and join us in decorating our tree in the narthex.
- Wednesdays in Advent, December 3rd, 10th and 17th - Advent Appetizers at 6:00 pm and Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm.
- December 24th - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 7:00 pm.
- December 25th - Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am.

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 Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman

Updates for October 2025

General Fund:	Revenues	\$ 12,788
	Expenses	\$ 18,939
	General Fund balance	\$ 41,675
Capital Fund:	Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.	
	Our mortgage balance	\$ 82,447
	Capital Fund balance	\$205,767
Dedicated Fund balance		\$ 21,402
Restricted/Endowment balance		\$162,886



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* on the table in the Narthex.



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

For the third quarter of 2025 (July – September) we received \$45.62!

Adult Forum Sundays @ 9:00am by 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 / Fellowship Fun by Pastor John Smithies

If you are looking for a time to informally meet at church - this is it. If it is a clear day and we want to go out for a walk we can, or if we want to sit around the table with coffee and catch up for a bit that is great too. Like the beach walk the discussion will be up to the Spirit. We could even play a favorite card game, do a puzzle, make a simple craft or even play foosball. People should feel free to drop in for as long or as little as they would want.



Pastor John Smithies



by Pastor John Smithies

Do you remember taking the SAT? There was that section testing reading comprehension with all the synonyms, different words that carried similar meanings. I sometimes think of Advent and Christmas in a similar way. Advent is to Christmas as Lent is to Easter. Our two great feasts, Christmas and Easter, are both preceded by seasons of preparation. The church is trying to teach us something important - if you really want to savor a special moment, you prepare for it.

Think of it like being offered a taste of a foreign cuisine. You could go in blindly and enjoy the surprise of new textures and flavors. Yet if you entered with even a little understanding of what you were about to encounter, the experience would feel even richer. Or imagine standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon. The view alone is breathtaking. Knowing something about its story and its grandeur only deepens the awe. Sometimes musical performances can be like when you contemplate how truly difficult the piece of music is. Knowing that you are in the presence of something truly amazing only enhances the moment.

Christmas and Easter are like that. They immerse us in the vast depths of God's hope and love. They surround us with symbols, stories, and meanings that invite wonder every time we return to them. But they also can be something we just get through without considering the true grandeur of the mystery. The wisdom of the Church has always been this: prepare yourself for the encounter so that you can be amazed.

Every year I remind us that Advent is an invitation to slow down, wait, rest, and make space for silence. Our culture offers a completely different message. It tells us to keep going, keep doing, keep filling our calendars. The very season meant for preparing our hearts becomes a non-stop marathon of tasks, events, and commercial celebrations. By the time December 25 arrives, many of us feel relieved that it is finally over. Everything gets packed away before the feast even begins.

This is far from the ancient rhythm. Historically, Advent looked more like Lent, while never adopting the level of the somberness of Lent. But it was a time of fasting, waiting, and watching. Then, when Christmas came, the feasting began. The celebration continued for twelve full days. We still sing the carol about the twelve days of Christmas, but we often forget that it reflects ancient practice. It was wait, then celebrate, not just jump to the celebration until you drop!

Now, I know I cannot change our culture. I also know that Advent will remain busy for most of us. Even so, I want to invite you into the discipline of Advent. Prepare your heart for the mystery of God-with-us. Consider taking up a devotional practice this year. Spend a few minutes with Scripture. Make room for silence. Notice the ways God is showing up in the

ordinary moments of your life. I would also like to invite you to contemplative prayer. We began a group last Lent, and we continue to gather on Wednesday afternoons. If you are curious about contemplation, or if you simply want to try it for a short time, Advent is a wonderful season to begin. It even may be an Advent discipline you can return to every year. But even if sitting in silence is not your thing, and it is not for everyone, I encourage you to find a practice that nourishes your soul. But let's not make this into something else "we have to do" or have to "get right." We don't have to find the perfect devotion to climb our way to heaven, because heaven is already in our hearts, and God meets us here in our own messy and busy lives. The Christ child is always with us. Advent is the intentional moment where we pause to remember that God is here.

This can be a joyous and wonderful time of the year. May our Advent devotions lead us to encounter it more fully! As the days grow colder and the nights grow longer, let this be a season to tend the heart. Plant seeds of hope. Make room for the presence of God. Wait in expectation for the Light that shines in every darkness. Amen.

Apple Mapping and a Grafting Workshop!

by Emily Johnston and Pastor John Smithies

By now, you've probably heard us talk about apple mapping. But what is it? We are trying to locate home owners with fruit trees that are interested in exchanging help with harvesting the fruit for donating a portion of the fruit to the community. If you, a friend or a neighbor has a fruit tree and are interested in participating, look for a display and a flier to appear in the Narthex in the coming weeks.

But what if you don't have a fruit tree? We are also looking into a potential Grafting Workshop early next year. Even if you don't have space to plant a fruit tree, but want to learn this ancient gardening technique, please sign up! You can donate your grafted fruit tree to a new ministry of the church - planting fruit trees where the community can access them. But what is grafting? Grafting is the joining of an apple rootstock with the variety of apple tree (or other species) that you're interested in growing. Grafting has, for thousands of years, allowed gardeners to reliably and inexpensively reproduce fruit bearing plants. It is even mentioned in the Bible (Romans 11), where it serves as a beautiful metaphor for how we, as the branches, are part of the vine, representing the body of Christ. This will be a fun and tangible encounter with a reality of creation and care. You will leave the workshop with your very own apple tree to plant and tend, to give to a friend, or to donate. Volunteers to help you plant your tree are also available. Again, look for a display and a flier to appear in the Narthex in the coming weeks.



To celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas, we would like to request help in decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias. It would be greatly appreciated and add to the wonderful Christmas services. 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 25th. Thank You!

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

Atonement Reverse Advent Calendar



Each day of Advent, add a food item to a box. Use the suggestions on the calendar, or add in any shelf stable item. After Advent, put your box of food by the food pantry barrel in the Narthex.



November 30 Applesauce	December 1 Canned Beans	2 Canned Chicken	3 Canned Tuna	4 Canned SPAM	5 Canned Veggies	6 Cooking Oils
7 Crackers	8 Jams or Jelly	9 Canned Fruit	10 Granola Bars	11 Instant Potatoes	12 Nuts	13 Pasta
14 Peanut Butter	15 Rice	16 Cake Mix	17 Canned Soup	18 Cereal	19 Oatmeal	20 Pasta Sauce
21 Dried Fruit	22 Tea & Coffee	23 Pudding or Fruit Cups				





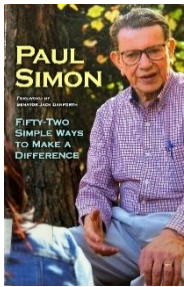
Hello from the Library Committee

by Bonnie Powell and Committee

We have been planning our Annual Library Sunday Celebration coming up this February 8th. This is a very happy , fun event held after our church service. We play Bingo and a word game with lots of food, fun and prizes as we celebrate our Library! It's always a joy to look forward to it!

Also, a note here to let you know, in January, we'll have a collection box for anyone in the congregation who may wish to donate a new inexpensive item to use for prizes. We are looking forward to a good time for all of us!

Thanks, and Happy Reading!



Book Review by Bonnie Powell

Title: Fifty-Two Simple Ways to Make A Difference

Author: Paul Simon

Do you ever wonder what you might want to do to make life more interesting and challenging for yourself? This small book is full of many ideas to make a difference in life! To feel worthwhile being challenged may be the key.

Former Senator and Professor Simon really does have fifty-two shortly written ways a person might use to consider. His suggestions are simple and yet could be empowering. Here's a quote in closing: " Opportunities are like sunrises, if you wait too long, you miss them!" by William A. Ward.



Camp Lutherwood

2026 Summer Camp Schedule

Can you believe the year is almost over? We can't either! With 2026 right around the corner, we are so excited to announce summer camp schedule! Mark your calendars now and get ready for registration to open on December 1st!

June 28- July 2: Confirmation Camp*

July 5-9: Pathfinders, Explorers, Altitude, LIT week 1 of 2 (grades 3-12)

July 12-16: Pathfinders, Explorers, Crew, LIT week 2 (grades 3-12)

July 17-19: Family Camp (all ages)

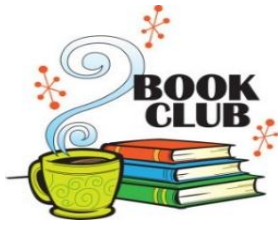
July 26-28, 28-30: Mini Camp (grades 1-2)

July 26-30: Pathfinders, Explorers, Altitude (grades 3-12)

July 31- August 2: Women's Weekend (ages 18+)

August 2-6: Compass Camp** (grades 5-9)

Blessing,
Heidi Knebel, Office Manager
Camp Lutherwood Oregon



ALC Book Club by Pastor John Smithies

Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas
by Adam Hamilton

Join us December 16th at 11:00 am and/or December 18th at 5:00 pm in person in the Narthex, or on Zoom.

Our Advent Devotionals are on the "take it home" table in the Narthex this year. Please come and pick them up! Also, our Book Club choice for the month is also picked to be a devotional for Advent. Incarnation by Adam Hamilton, a reflection of what the meaning of the Christ Child is for us. Book Club will be held a week earlier on December 16th and 18th. Please always feel free to come for the discussion even if you have not read or finished the work.

Our Book Club schedule for the next 9 months:

December: *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton

January: *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr

February: *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey

March: *Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus* (Part 1) by Elaine Pagels

April: *Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus* (Part 2) by Elaine Pagels

May : *Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms* by Gerard Russell

June: *Braiding Sweet Grass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

July: *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeons Journey into the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander, M.D.

August: *Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton



WELCA will meet on December 10 for the monthly scripture study. This is the "salad luncheon", bring a salad or a side to share.



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.

Coffee Hour by Sandy Cramer

There are several ways you can help out with our fellowship hour after worship! You can sign up to be the host for the week on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the coffee counter. Hosts provide the snacks for that week. We could also use snacks that we can save for a day that a host is not available, things like packaged crackers, pretzels, nuts, or cookies. Or talk to Sandy and learn how to do set up or clean up!





Kid's Page

Color me



Sunday School We will have classes on the first and third Sundays of the month. We are excited for their Advent play on December 7 during worship! Teachers and assistants are needed, see Darcy de la Rosa or Sarah Black 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! We enjoy seeing our youth assist with worship!



December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00am Property Meeting	3 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 6:00pm Advent Appetizers 7:00pm Holden Prayer	4 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk/ Fellowship & Fun	5	6
7 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Tree Decor. 11:30am Choir	8	9	10 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 12:45pm WELCA 6:00pm Advent Appetizers 7:00pm Holden Prayer	11 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk/ Fellowship & Fun 2:15pm S/M Mtg	12	13
14 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:15am Outreach 11:30 Choir 12:00pm Worship & Music Mtg	15	16 11:00am ALC Book Club	17 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 3:30 Finance Mtg 6:00pm Advent Appetizers 7:00pm Holden Prayer	18 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach Walk/ Fellowship & Fun 5:00pm ALC Book Club	19	20
21 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 10:00am Sunday School 11:30 Choir	22 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen	23 WAVES Deadline	24 Christmas Eve 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 7:00pm Worship	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Worship	26	27
28 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 12:00pm Council	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer			

Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
7 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Darcy de la Rosa	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
14 10:00 am	Darcy de la Rosa	Bill Innis	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
21 10:00 am	Alder (David Cramer)	Sally Woodward	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
24 7:00 pm	Darcy de la Rosa	Emily Johnston	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
25 10:00 am		Emily Johnston	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
28 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Emily Johnson	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
7 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore / Patty Fox	Peggy Gilman/ Vo Newell	Barb Ward
14 10:00 am	_____	Barb Ward / Karen Johnson	Vo Newell / Cliff & Sally Woodward	Susan Painter
21 10:00 am	_____	Emily Johnston / Maryellen Murphy	Pete Kraack / Travis Fox	Travis Fox
24 10:00 am	_____	Emily Johnston / Rhonda Harman	n/a	Travis Fox
25 10:00 am	_____	Emily Johnston/ Dan Moore	n/a	Travis Fox
28 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore / Maryellen Murphy	Peggy Gilman / Travis Fox	Travis Fox



Taylor Johnson	12/4
Susan Painter	12/11
Rick Gutknecht	12/15
Penny Hathaway	12/18
David Cramer	12/21
Kathryn Marker	12/22
Ruth Shelly	12/23
Meredith Mann	12/25



Paul & Laura Kimberly	12/23
Doug and Heather Wiggins	12/31



Flowers for Worship

7	Terri McCulley
14	Susan Painter
21	_____
24 / 25	Poinsettias
28	_____

Social Ministry by Sally Jennings

Food Pantry Program - Black Barrel Reverse Advent Calendar

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, December 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.



Cookies Needed for December Stone Soup

For our December Christmas meal we would like to include homemade Christmas cookies. This means we will need almost 300 cookies! Drop some by any time and we will put them in the freezer until December 22nd.



Dog and Cat Food Needed for December 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 one-gallon bags of dog food and 15 one-quart bags of cat food. They are much appreciated. Donations can be left under the Donation Station table in the Narthex.



Agape Respite Center

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: Coffee, socks and *new* men's and women's underwear. They also now accept new and gently used men's and women's clothing.

Please leave any donated items on or under the Donation Station Table in the Narthex.



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, Diapers, Pet food for Stone Soup, Ukraine Refugees etc.

Social Ministry (continued)

So Much Gratitude For Our Thanksgiving Donations!

This year, we provided \$50 gift cards for each of the nine families who live at Samaritan House. We also provided \$25 gift cards to fifteen foster families who requested assistance with food for Thanksgiving. The folks we assisted want you to know how much they appreciate our help. We used funds from our Food Baskets dedicated fund. Huge thanks to everyone who donates to this fund.



Diapers for Samaritan House Day Care Center

We've used up most of the money in the fund, so donations are needed. Diapers are an ongoing need at Samaritan House's Yellow Submarine Childcare Center. If you would like to donate funds, please note "Diapers" on your check.



Giving Tree

Tags on our Giving Tree have the Christmas wishes of two families who live at Samaritan House. Please take one or more tags and record your choices on the paper next to our Giving Tree. Put your unwrapped gifts in a box or gift bag, attach your tag(s) and put them under the Christmas tree in our Narthex any time **before** December 18th.



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.

Request to limit fragrances

All are joyfully welcome in our church! To help everyone worship and fellowship in comfort, we invite attendees to abstain from strong perfumes and colognes, in order to care for those with allergies and sensitivities. Thank you for sharing this spirit of care.