



Makin'

Waves



Worship Services

Sundays @ 10:00am

Pastor John Smithies

pastorjohn@atonementlutheran.com

425-923-8558

Atonement Lutheran Church

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**Where all are welcome,
and all means all.**

January 2026

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

Tuesday thru Friday

Website / Facebook Page

Sunday Worship Service on YouTube

www.atonementlutheran.com



Congregational Meeting

Our annual Church meeting will be on January the 25th, followed by our community potluck downstairs. This is the point of the year where I point out that the perk of membership is that you get to vote at the congregational meeting! Even if you have been attending here for a while, but not yet requested to be a member, please still come, this is your church. If you wish to be a member who has a vote, please speak with me. All are welcome to attend, bring food, or just eat the food. We are also still in need of a few members who want to serve on Council, if this speaks to you please speak with us about this - we have a lot of important decisions and dreams to journey with this year.

Peace

Pastor John

Holden Evening Prayer Wednesday, January 21st.

We will return to our once-a-month Wednesday evening prayer service on January 21st. We start with a simple supper downstairs at 6 pm, as we gather around a table of fellowship and prayer together. Then we will move upstairs for Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. What a great way to start the new year together with prayer and fellowship!

*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 November 2025

General Fund:	Revenues	\$ 13,377
	Expenses	\$ 17,767
	General Fund balance	\$ 34,784
Capital Fund:	Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.	
	Our mortgage balance	\$ 76,715
	Capital Fund balance	\$210,911
Dedicated Fund balance		\$ 18,960
Restricted/Endowment balance		\$163,612



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

The marking of a new year has always felt like a strange thing to me. There is a kind of arbitrariness to the moment when we say the Earth has completed a full rotation around the sun. We could, in theory, choose any day of the year. Count 365 days, account for the extra hours, and declare that a year has passed. There is nothing inherently special about December 31 that makes it New Year's Eve.

And yet, it is also very special.

We have just passed through the longest night of the year. We have celebrated the birth of Christ, not only in story and song, but in our hearts. It seems fitting, then, that we would stand watch as a new year is born in our midst. This particular night begins to feel like the right night. Something is ending, and something new is beginning.

If even a seemingly random night can carry such meaning, perhaps that helps us understand Martin Luther's understanding of baptism. If we were to look at the dates of our baptisms, they would be scattered across the calendar. The church has tried many times to standardize baptismal dates, and it has never quite worked. Baptism, after all, is not about a date on the calendar. It is about the new life God is continually birthing within us.

In the Small Catechism, Luther writes, "It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

The emphasis, I think, is on the word daily. Baptism is something that happens once, and yet it is something that unfolds again and again. One time, and yet always.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we stand in that space between dying and rising. These things do not truly happen on December 31 alone. They are cyclical and ongoing, woven into the rhythm of our lives. And yet here we are, invited once more to notice them.

So as this year begins, may we remember that God is still at work, still bringing life where we least expect it. May we return to the waters of our baptism, not to relive a date long past, but to live more fully into the promise that we are being made new day by day. And may that daily renewal shape who we are together, as we seek to deepen our encounter with the holy and to love our community with creativity, courage, and grace.

Room Rental



Our church facilities/rooms 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.



The Gardening Club is looking for your recycling and for daffodil bulbs! by Emily Johnston

We have several gardening projects underway that you can contribute to just by looking in your recycling bin! For the pea garden, we are looking for 1L to 2L clear bottles. 1/2 and 1 gallon milk jugs will also work! If in doubt, bring it in! We are collecting these in a bin in Pastor John's office. With these containers, we will be making cloches. With the bottoms removed, these containers will be half buried around the young pea plants, protecting them from wind and slugs while providing extra warmth. We are also looking for non-shiny corrugated cardboard. Leftover shipping boxes from Christmas are perfect. We will be using these to suppress weeds around bulb plantings that we're doing in January in the Memorial Garden. The cardboard will be covered with mulch, naturally suppressing weeds and eventually decaying and contributing to the soil, much in the same way decaying leaves do. Speaking of bulbs, we will be planting daffodils in the Memorial Garden this month. If you'd like to get involved or donate some extra bulbs, please let Emily or Pastor John know.

Christian Life Community by Sandy Cramer

Saturday, January 10, in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm there will be an informational meeting about Christian Life Community (CLC). The core communal experience of CLC is Ignation Spirituality flowing from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which guides us to bring together our faith and daily living. CLC groups typically meet twice a month in a small group setting. CLC offers a place where we personally connect with a spiritual, loving, and apostolic community ... a place where everybody knows the name by which God intimately calls us. Come and see!

Email And Text Caution

Scammers target churches because we are compassionate people. They may send emails or text messages that appear to come from Pastor John or the office, asking for assistance. Don't be fooled! Please call the office if you are unsure about a message.



New Members!

On Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2025, we were pleased to welcome 6 new members! We hadn't had an official service in quite a while, so they all had technically been members for a number of months. Welcome to (left to right) Brenda Grall, Emily Johnston, Diane & John Knutson, and Sally & Cliff Woodward!



Come Join our Service Programs!

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



Camp Lutherwood

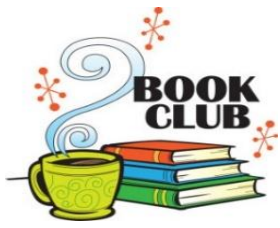
Announcing the Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association on February 7th!

With the end of the year upon us, we hope you will be able to join us for the Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association on Saturday, February 7th at 9:30am on Zoom. The Association's business is to elect the board of directors and to approve the 2026 budget. We look forward to sharing with you reports from 2025 as well as plans for 2026. Please have one representative register so your church voice is part of the Lutherwood ministry. All are welcome to attend! Association Congregations (those who have given to Camp Lutherwood) are eligible to send one voting representative. Only congregational representatives can vote during the meeting. All attendees must register to attend. Meeting materials including the proposed budget and the annual report will be sent by email to attendees the week prior.

2026 Summer Registration is Open Now!

Registration for 2026 Summer Camp is open now! Don't wait! Get your campers signed up between now and January 31st to get the Early Bird Special- \$100 off!

Blessing,
Heidi Knebel, Office Manager
Camp Lutherwood Oregon



ALC Book Club by Pastor John Smithies

The Tears of Things by Richard Rohr

Join us January 27th at 11:00 am and/or January 29th at 5:00 pm in person in the Narthex, or on Zoom.

Our book this month is from Richard Rohr - *The Tears of Things*. This book was published this year, so it is right off the press. If you know anything about Rohr he dislikes the dualistic mind, we might call this the polarization of our world. So there is plenty in this work for everyone to get offended by. But at its heart this is a work of how we as followers of Christ can live in the world. The description on the cover says it best "In his first major work since the *Universal Christ* one of our most prominent spiritual voices offers a wholehearted and hope-filled model for the world today, grounded in the timeless wisdom of the Hebrew prophets." I really hope everyone in our congregation would read this book. But whether you read it or not please join us in our book discussion on either Tuesday January 27th at 11 am or Thursday January 29th at 5 pm.

Our Book Club schedule for the next 8 months:

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 Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander, M.D.

August: *Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton



WELCA will meet on January 14 for the monthly scripture study.



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!



Atonement Lutheran History And Stories

We are putting together a scrapbook album of our artwork, and stories of Atonement Lutheran (while we still have memories of them!). This is currently a work in progress as we gather information. This month we want to feature our Christmas Angel Trio!

The Christmas Angel Trio Story

My inspiration for creating the three Angels we share at Christmas came from Marion Brown, our dedicated servant of Atonement for many years. She returned from the small German town of Bruhl after visiting her daughter and two grandchildren. She attended a Lutheran church at the edge of town during Advent and described to me the three Angels suspended from the ceiling in the tiny Narthex as you enter the sanctuary. I had the privilege of attending worship services there later, but not during Advent, and I never saw their Angels.

The beauty of this imagined scene inspired in me a desire to duplicate this for our church. During several months of planning to choose materials and methods to create our own Angels, I devised a plan to construct our own Christmas Angels. During the planning period, Mary Lou Mate volunteered to decorate the outlines with gold-colored braid and sequins. (more about that later). I had now shared my plan and received support for furthering my quest for materials. It needed to be light weight to be suspended, and create a mobile with nearly invisible supporting structures to enhance the effect of angels flying effortlessly in air.

I chose corrugated white plastic as a light weight material, modifiable by cutting and shaping, and more durable than cardboard or paper. I found the corrugated plastic rectangles in the basement of the University of Oregon bookstore. I chose three angels on Christmas cards that had different profiles to add variety. I used an opaque projector to cast the images on the plastic and created an enlarged outline of each angel that I traced in pencil. The hardest part was cutting. I thought I would be able to use scissors, but the curves and toughness of the plastic made that nearly impossible. Most of the cuts were made with a utility knife and smaller ones with a fingernail clipper, penknife, or surgical scalpel. It took approximately three full days to cut and shape each Angel.

I used solid copper wire as the support for the mobile because it was strong, low luster, and it nearly disappeared in front of the backdrop of our beautiful cedar wood walls. Nylon fishing string was used to secure the angels to the wire and then each string was carefully placed to balance the Angels so they did not touch each other when suspended. It took several hours to accurately position each string and create the exact length of each support wire to get the proper balance. This was a real test for my pernicious lack of patience...a virtue that eludes me.

I have always been a little disappointed in the final appearance. Near the end of my construction I approached Mary Lou and Marion to ask for their help in decorating the Angels with golden braid, fabric, and glitter that we had discussed earlier. They both were adamant that the plain white Angels were lovely AS IS and should not be further adorned. I reluctantly acquiesced to their fervent appreciation of the final product; it has always seemed unfinished to me. They loved them, and I relented. I think Martin Luther might have agreed with them: simplicity triumphs over ostentatious decoration. I suspect these three figures are a fitting physical metaphor for the unfinished nature of my development as a Christian.

The best surprise became apparent shortly after the first rising of the Angels in the sanctuary, They began slowly moving in the thermal currents of the heat vents on the floor below. As they gently danced and turned they reflected light from their surface and softly transmitted light through their translucent bodies. This moving spectacle of changing position and lighting creates a somewhat ethereal presence. So majestic and heavenly, yet peaceful; a delight I had not anticipated!

One of the Angels is a ballerina style dancer that reminds me of my daughter. She took dancing lessons all through her school years while living here in Newport. I haven't assigned names to these three angels: it seems selfish and arrogant; they don't belong to me. My favorite names are Gabriel, Auriel, and Celeste. Feel free to choose your own names to personalize them. They belong to each and all of us.

As a totally unexpected surprise, Pastor Ed Millican provided a blessing for the Angels when they were first presented to the congregation during worship; this was a special Christmas gift for me. I don't remember exactly when they were dedicated: approximately 2015.

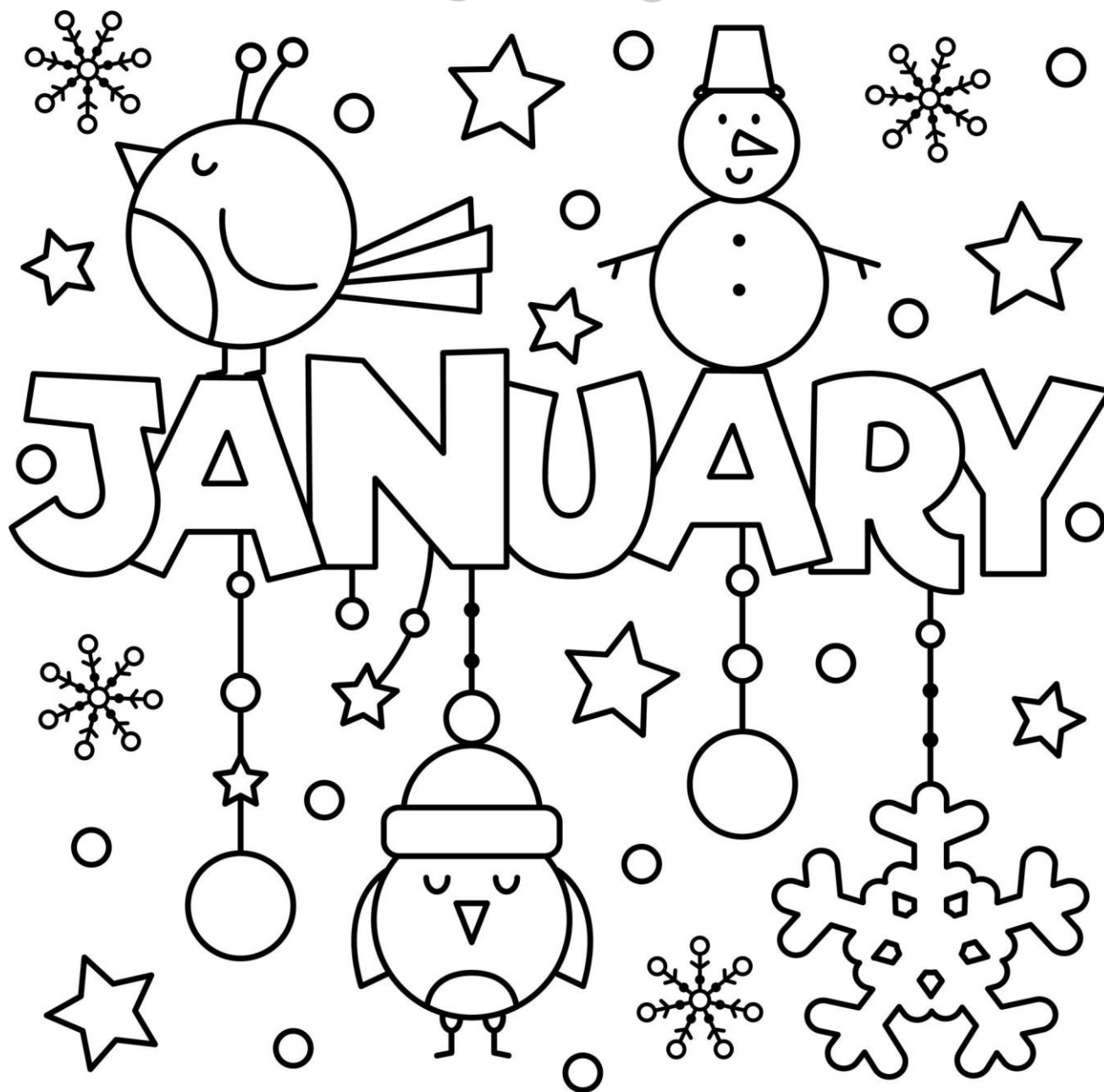
I hope as years go by, this angelic trio will inspire the congregation in worship during Advent and Christmas, and remind them of our German Lutheran heritage as well as our angelic connection to a small church in Germany...

Yours in Christ...Rick Letherer Year of our Lord, December 2025



Kid's Page

Color me



Sunday School We will have classes on the first and third Sundays of the month. 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!



January 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 10:00am Sunday School 11:30am Choir	5 10:45am Library Meeting	6	7 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer	8 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun 2:15pm S/M Mtg	9	10 1:00pm CLC Info Meeting
11 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:15am Outreach 11:30 Choir 12:00pm Worship & Music Mtg 2:00pm Youth Symph	12	13	14 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 12:45pm WELCA	15 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun	16	17
18 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 10:00am Sunday School 11:30am Choir 12:00pm Council	19 Martin Luther King JR Day	20	21 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 3:30pm Finance Mtg 6:00pm Simple Supper 7:00pm Holden Prayer	22 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun	23	24
25 9:00am Adult Forum 9:00am Choir Warm up 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:15am Cong Mtg 12:00noon Potluck	26 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen	27 WAVES Deadline 11:00am ALC Book Club	28 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer	29 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun 5:00pm ALC Book Club	30	31

Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
4 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Darcy de la Rosa	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
11 10:00 am	Brenda Grall	Bill Innis	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
18 10:00 am	Darcy de la Rosa	Sally Woodward	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
25 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Emily Johnston	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
4 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore & Patty Fox	Travis Fox & Peggy Gilman	Travis Fox
11 10:00 am	_____	Barb Ward & Rhonda Harman	Pete Kraack & Sally Woodward	Susan Painter
18 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy & Karen Johnson	Peggy Gilman & Vo Newell	Travis Fox
25 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore & Maryellen Murphy	Cliff Woodward & Pete Kraack	Barb Ward



Beverly Kraack 1/7
 Barry Baker 1/12
 Linda Goebel 1/13
 Gary Thompson 1/13
 John Smithies 1/19
 Clara Mann 1/20
 Charlie 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



**Flowers for
Worship**

4 _____
 11 _____
 18 _____
 25 _____

Social Ministry by Sally Jennings

The Gift of Christmas Giving

Thanks go out to everyone who participated in any or all of our Christmas Giving programs. Our Samaritan House Giving Tree, Reverse Advent Calendar for Newport Food Pantry, and homemade Christmas cookies for Stone Soup truly extend our gift of caring for our community.

Food Pantry Program - Black Barrel

Ongoing typical items that the Pantry would really appreciate receiving: Canned Tuna, Chicken, Vegetables, Fruit. Ready To Eat Items such as 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, January 26th 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 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 January they are requesting: Coffee, water and regular sized shampoo. 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)

Bejeweled

Bejeweled is the major fundraiser for Food Share of Lincoln County. This January through March, we have a donation basket on the Donation Station table in the Narthex.

Please donate any jewelry you no longer wear. You can also donate jewelry making equipment, beads, broken jewelry, watches, and jewelry boxes.

Winter Overnight Shelter Desperately Needs Donations

Jim Ezzell is helping to keep the overnight shelter open this winter. He wants us to know they desperately need donations. Clothes for men and women (in all sizes) are needed: waterproof jackets, waterproof boots, shower flip-flops, underwear, t-shirts, sweats, socks, and belts. They also need washcloths, towels, toilet paper, trash bags, pillows, tooth brushes, hair ties, cleansing wipes, disposable razors and sample size shave cream, toothpaste, and shampoo. You can put your donations in the tub under the table at the Donation Station in the Narthex.



Diapers for Samaritan House Day Care Center

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.



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.