



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

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

February 2026

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

Tuesday thru Friday

Website / Facebook Page

Sunday Worship Service on YouTube

www.atonementlutheran.com



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



Centering prayer in Lent

Last Lent we began our contemplative prayer group, and my hope is that for those who have been participating, it has become a space where your own spirituality has had room to grow and deepen. As we enter Lent again this year, I sense an invitation not only to continue, but to go further, and perhaps to open the door a little wider for those who are curious and ready to dip their toes into the broader stream of Christian contemplation.

This Lent we are going to try a gentle experiment in communal spiritual discernment. Our Wednesday service will expand to include two additional elements designed to support this deeper journey together.

First, we will explore several meditative disciplines within the Christian devotional tradition. These practices include Lectio Divina, Ignatian Spirituality, and others that help us encounter the living Word of Scripture in a prayerful and

attentive way. Together we will listen to a passage of Scripture, notice what it stirs within us, and allow that listening to carry us naturally toward stillness.

From there, our shared meditation will lead us into contemplative prayer, where we rest together in silence before God. Following this time of silence, there will be space for gentle sharing, as we discern what God may be speaking among us and within us.

As I write this, I am aware that language can be confusing in this area. In the Christian tradition, the words *meditation* and *contemplation* are often used differently than in the wider culture. What many people today call meditation is closer to what Christians have historically called contemplation. In our Wednesday gatherings, the meditative portion will involve engaging Scripture devotionally through listening, pondering, and responding. The contemplative portion will be the shared silence that follows, when words fall away and we simply rest in God's presence.

This is not about doing something perfectly or having prior experience. It is about making space together to listen more deeply, to be more fully present, and to allow God to shape us in ways that words alone cannot.

So if you are looking for a Lenten discipline to add this season, please consider joining our contemplative service on Wednesday afternoon. Come and see. You never know what practice will take hold of your heart, so we offer a few different ways throughout Lent with the invitation simply to come and explore.

Financial Snapshot Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman

Updates for December 2025

General Fund:	Revenues	\$ 27,912
	Expenses	\$ 22,552
	General Fund balance	\$ 54,490
Capital Fund:	Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.	
	Our mortgage balance	\$ 70,965
	Capital Fund balance	\$ 201,822
Dedicated Fund balance		\$ 17,328
Undedicated Fund balance		\$ 6,300
Restricted/Endowment balance		\$ 165,501



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 fourth quarter of 2025 (October - December) we received \$45.10!

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 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. People should feel free to drop in for as long or as little as they would want.



Pastor John Smithies

**Devotion**

This is one of those years when Lent seems to arrive early in the life of our community. Some years Epiphany stretches on, lingering with light and revelation; other years, like this one, everything feels compressed, almost blurred together. I confess that I don't always understand why Lent comes when it does. But perhaps that confusion is already an invitation.

On February 18, Ash Wednesday will be here, and we will begin the forty-day journey of Lent: forty days not counting Sundays. That detail matters. Sundays technically fall outside of Lent because every Sunday, without exception, is a celebration of the resurrection. Even in our penitence, the joy of Easter keeps interrupting us.

You can hear this in the language of the church. We speak of the Sundays *in* Lent, not the Sundays *of* Lent. It may seem like a small distinction, but it carries deep meaning. Lent is not a straight line or a grim march forward. It is a dance, one that keeps getting interrupted by grace.

In this way, Lent invites us into a different experience of time. It asks us to slow down, to step out of the relentless rhythm of achievement and productivity, and to reflect not only on who we are, but more importantly, whose we are.

This is the great invitation of Lent: to take forty days and ask questions about our identity.

When we listen to the story of Jesus in the wilderness, we can hear our own story echoed back to us. Jesus spends forty days wrestling with questions that revolve around three deep centers of human life: need, desire, and esteem. Am I only what I need to survive? Am I defined by what I want? Am I the sum total of what others think of me, or what I think of myself?

These are not abstract questions. They touch our food and our habits, our ambitions and our fears, our hopes and our self-image. In the wilderness, Jesus faces each of these temptations and emerges with a simple, grounding truth: I am a child of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer captures this beautifully in his poem "Who Am I?" After wrestling with the many roles and identities imposed upon him, he ends with this confession: "Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine. Whoever I am, you know me, O God. You know I am yours."

Lent gives us space to ask these same questions and to listen for the same answer. Our Lenten disciplines, rightly understood, are not about punishment or self-improvement. They are tools for truth-telling. If I wonder whether I am someone who must have chocolate, perhaps I give it up for a time: not to prove strength, but to learn who I am not. If I long to grow deeper in prayer, perhaps I set something else aside to make room for silence and devotion.

All along the way, the question gently returns: Who am I, truly?

Lent ends at Easter, when we are reminded that our deepest identity has already been given to us. We are children of the resurrection. Here is the quiet secret of the season: God already knows who we are. God knows that we belong. The work of Lent is not for God's sake but for ours, that we might finally come to know what God has known all along.

Pastor John

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.



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.



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 Take-It-Home table by the office. We would love to have your help!

Coffee Hour by Sandy Cramer

The sign up sheet for bringing goodies has been moved to a clip board on the snack table. Snacks and goodies are always appreciated, but if you have not signed up to bring snacks that week your snack may be set aside for serving on a week that it is more needed. Preference will be given to those who have signed up.

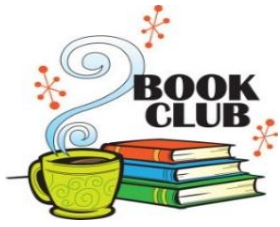


We could sure use some help with set up before Worship! Talk to Sandy about ways to help!

Lights of Christmas planning meeting

by Robert Bayley

We are exploring the idea of brightening the church grounds and the community this coming Christmas with an outdoor lights display and associated events. We will hold an introductory exploratory meeting on this topic on Sunday, March 1, at noon here at Atonement. Please consider attending and bringing ideas, desires, concerns, and questions.



ALC Book Club by Pastor John Smithies

Orbital by Samantha Harvey

Join us February 24th at 11:00 am and/or February 26th at 5:00 pm in person in the Narthex, or on Zoom.

This month our book club will be reading *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey, a fascinating and quietly powerful novel that follows a group of astronauts living together aboard a space station as they orbit the Earth.

As the novel unfolds, we are given glimpses into the astronauts' inner lives and thoughts. What makes *Orbital* such a compelling read is not only its setting, but the way it invites us to consider perspective. Sometimes it takes distance for us to see what is most true.

In many ways, this is a deeply spiritual book. It asks quiet questions about what it means to belong, to care for one another, and to live on this fragile Earth together. It gently invites us to step back, to see our lives from a wider horizon, and to listen for what really matters.

I hope you will join us as we read and discuss *Orbital* on the fourth Tuesday and Thursday of the month. Whether you are a regular participant or new to the group, you are warmly welcome. Come ready to share your thoughts, your questions, and your wonder as we reflect together on this remarkable story.

Our Book Club schedule for the next 7 months:

February:	<i>Orbital</i> by Samantha Harvey
March:	<i>Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus</i> (Part 1) by Elaine Pagels
April:	<i>Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus</i> (Part 2) 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 will meet on February 11 for the monthly scripture study – Now Let Us Pray session 2 in the Gather Magazine.



Men's Breakfast Group by Pastor John Smithies

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

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.

Camp Lutherwood

Registration for 2026 Summer Camp is open now! Don't wait!

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+) (*Atonement is sending a group!*)

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

*Confirmation is reserved for youth coming with church leaders

**Compass is reserved for youth who need extra support in developing skills and building resilience for navigating adverse life events.

This year the theme for the summer will be CREATE! Campers will explore the ways in which they can create inclusion, belonging, community, leadership, and service this summer!

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10

Visit our website at lutherwoodoregon.org/camp

Blessing,
Heidi Knebel, Office Manager
Camp Lutherwood Oregon



Women's Weekend at Camp Lutherwood

Join other women of the church for a special weekend in Cheshire Oregon Friday July 31st starting at 4pm until Sunday August 2nd at 11 am. It will be a time away to reflect, rest and renew. Enjoy quiet time by the creek or pool, have coffee & conversation on the patio or challenge yourself physically with hiking or on the climbing tower. Daily study and worship round out this weekend designed just for you. Cost of \$200 includes lodging, meals and programming. Let Brenda Grall or the church office know of your interest so that you can be included in our group.

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.

Holden evening prayer and Soup Suppers in Lent

Sometimes, when we make changes to how we live together as a community, we try our best to explain the reasons behind them. Even so, there are moments when no amount of explanation quite captures what is really happening beneath the surface. Our experience with meals before Holden Evening Prayer has been one of those moments.

As a congregation, we easily recognize the discipline of a soup supper during Lent. Soup is simple. It is modest and unadorned. Choosing soup and bread is a small but meaningful way of saying that for a season we are toning things down. We let go of the effort and energy required for a larger meal in order to make more room for prayer, reflection, and presence. It is a familiar Lenten practice, and one deeply rooted in the life of the church.

When we continued meeting for a meal outside of Lent, we initially kept calling it a soup supper, even when it was not always soup. Eventually we began to use the phrase "simple supper" instead. That change mattered, because the heart of the practice was never really about the menu. The true discipline is not what we eat, but that we eat together. Sharing a simple meal prepares us to gather more fully for prayer, turning our attention toward community and devotion rather than toward food itself.

During Advent we leaned even further into this simplicity, keeping meals lighter so that there would be more space for fellowship and for quiet preparation of the heart. Now, as we return to the season of Lent, we are intentionally reclaiming the tradition of soup and bread. This year we want to embrace that simplicity fully, allowing the meal to be what it is meant to be: a humble gathering at the table that leads us naturally into prayer.

Soup and bread remind us that we do not live by abundance alone, but by presence. We come as we are, we receive what is given, and we turn together toward each other to practice community and we turn towards God in prayer. Please sign up to bring soup or bread; or to help with set up and clean up. The sign up sheet is on a clipboard on the snack table in the Narthex. In this small and ordinary practice of sharing soup and bread, we are gently formed for the deeper work of Lent.



HOPE Team by Brenda Grall

I'm excited for us to get started supporting a foster family, and will pass along information as I receive it. The following is from Mindy at EveryChild:

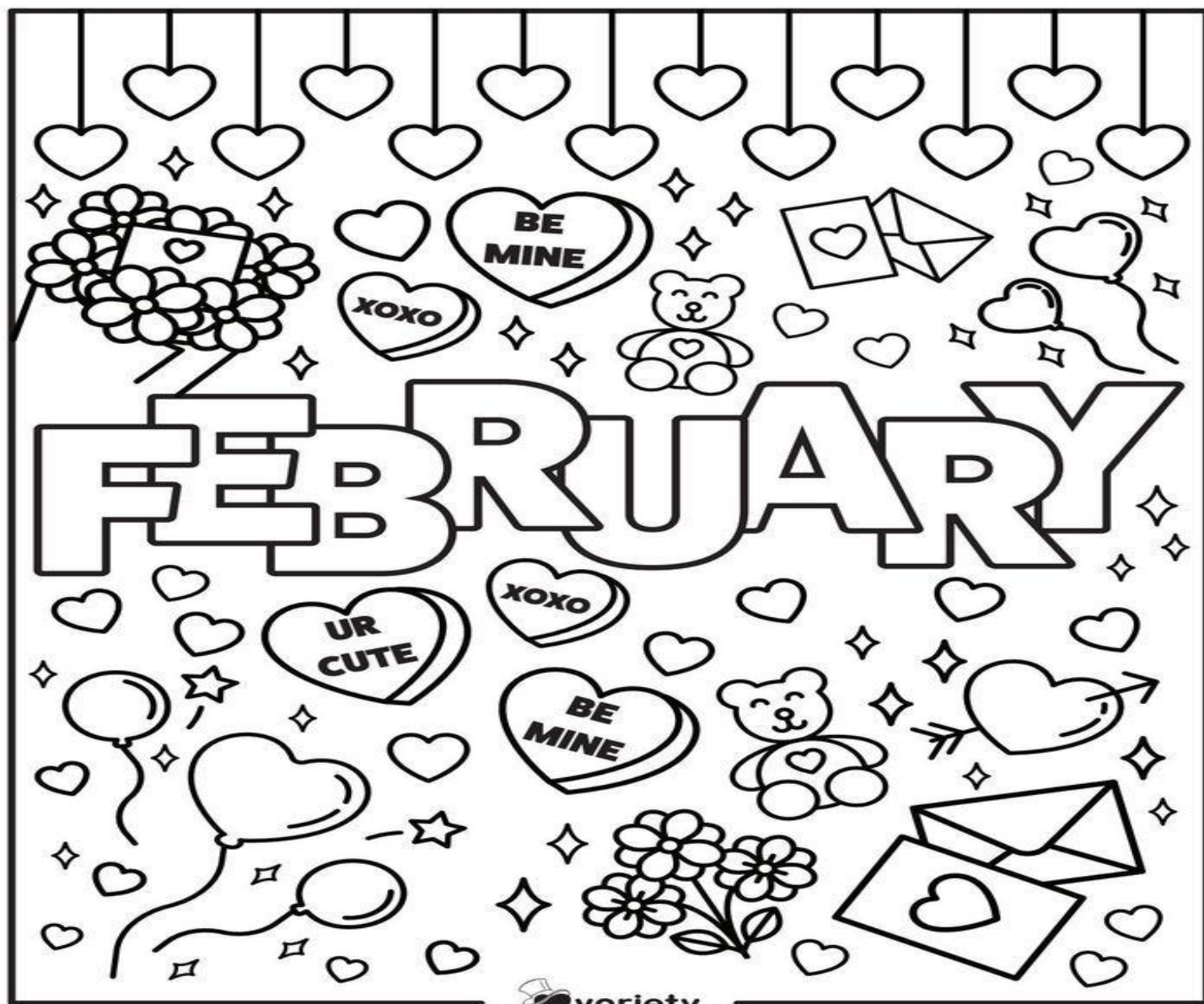
Good morning Brenda! I've contacted a foster family in Newport twice but still no reply. I'll try again now and if she doesn't respond, I'm moving on to the next one. Stay tuned!

I've also emailed Mary Kate at the courthouse regarding helping with children who need to appear in court; but she was out of the office. So I should have a response from her as well very soon.



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!

February

February 2026

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 10:00am Sunday School 11:30am Choir 12:00pm Worship & Music Mtg	2	3	4 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer	5 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun	6 10:45am Library Meeting	7
8 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:15 LIBRARY SUNDAY 11:30 Choir	9	10	11 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 12:45pm WELCA	12 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun 2:15pm Social Ministry Mtg	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Outreach 11:30am Choir	16 Presidents Day	17	18 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 3:30pm Finance Mtg 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	19 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun	20	21
22 9:00am Adult Forum 9:00am Choir Warm up 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 12:00pm Council Mtg	23 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen	24 WAVES Deadline 11:00am ALC Book Club	25 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 6:00pm Simple Supper 7:00pm Holden Prayer	26 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun 5:00pm ALC Book Club	27	28

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.

Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
1 10:00 am	Lynn Moody	Darcy de la Rosa	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
8 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Bill Innis	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
15 10:00 am	Gary Thompson	Sally Woodward	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
22 10:00 am	Brenda Grall	Emily Johnston	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
1 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore & Patty Fox	Sally Woodward & Travis Fox	Travis Fox
8 10:00 am	_____	Barb Ward & Karen Johnson	Travis Fox & Sally Woodward	Susan Painter
15 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy & Jeannie Innis	Peggy Gilman & Pete Kraack	Travis Fox
22 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore & Maryellen Murphy	Vo Newell & Cliff Woodward	Barb Ward



Lucy Milliken 2/1
 Jeanne Innis 2/6
 Travis Fox 2/7
 Fantasia McCue 2/12
 Peggy Gilman 2/16
 Paul Amundson 2/21
 Brian Johnson 2/22



Flowers for Worship

1 Jean Alden
 8 Cathy & Rhonda
 15 Bonnie Powell
 22 ALC Lent Display

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.

Social Ministry by Sally Jennings

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, February 23rd 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 February 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 February they are requesting: Coffee, water, body wash and wash cloths. 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.

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.

Social Ministry (continued)

Winter Overnight Shelter Desperately Needs Donations

The Winter Overnight Shelter is a different organization than the Agape Respite Center. 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 may 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.



Some pictures of the church at Christmas for you to enjoy:



Thank you to photographer Patty Fox.