



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
office@atonementlutheran.com
541-265-2554




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

June 2026

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



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

Tuesday thru Friday

Website / Facebook Page

Sunday Worship Service on YouTube

www.atonementlutheran.com



Summer BBQs and Fellowship

You are invited to join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for our summer BBQ series starting in June. This is a time to enjoy fellowship and the warm weather, get to know one another better, and of course eat! On June 17 we will serve burgers and hot dogs, July 15 will feature chicken, and we look forward to seafood on August 19. You're invited to bring a side dish, dessert or salad if you so choose, but above all just come! We hope to see you all there, and bring a friend!

Adult Forum - Sundays @ 9:00am

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.

Prayer Requests

Is there someone you would like us to pray for? Please call the office at 541-265-2554 or email us at office@atonementlutheran.com. We are happy to pray with and for you! If you would like to request prayers without our announcing your name we can do that too. Sometimes people aren't ready to share, but still need prayers.

Financial Snapshot Report by Treasurer - Peggy Gilman

Updates for April 2026

General Fund:	Revenues	\$ 10,547
	Expenses	\$ 19,684
	General Fund balance	\$ 37,565
Capital Fund:	Our capital fund revenues from leases are current.	
	Our mortgage balance	\$ 47,775
	Capital Fund balance	\$ 169,124
Dedicated Fund balance		\$ 18,004
Undedicated Fund balance		\$ 5,115
Restricted/Endowment balance		\$ 172,928



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 Meyer 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 first quarter of 2026 (January-March) we received \$49.99!

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.



Pastor John Smithies



We enter June together, the last of our great feast days are behind us, and we settle into the time after Pentecost. Our banners turn to green and we settle into a simpler service for summer. We give a **big** thank you to our musicians who have done such a wonderful job accompanying us through all the liturgical moments, now they get to take a little bit of a break for the summer. They are the unsung heroes of our service so if you see one, make sure to thank them! They do not get enough recognition for all the hard work they do. This might be the untold truth about musicians, and keeping my own musical endeavors quiet, when I was younger trained on the classical guitar, and have tried to play multiple instruments throughout my life, and what you don't see when you hear a musician is all the hours upon hours that they spend practicing. You can spend literally hours on just one musical phrase. It looks easy when you see them, and it is easy to think it is just talent, but the truth is - talent is overrated, there are only a few people per generation who have natural born talent. For the rest of us it is just a lot of hard work, and endless hours of practice. The challenge is to not take this for granted when you hear good music. So, I challenge us all to reach out to our musicians more, and thank them for the dedication and all those endless hours they spend on the art that we don't see.

But all that is a side note to my own point here, welcome to the green season! For a symbol of what green means liturgically, I suggest you wander around the church property and see all the green things that are growing: we have peas, potatoes, and an assortment of plants, trees, and berries on the walkway to my office. I have said this before but gardening is a mystery to me. I grew up with my grandfather and grandmother who were gifted gardeners, but none of that skill stuck with me. I do however understand the value of food and what it means to grow your own food, a skill many of us have lost, and maybe it is time, possibly past the time, we re-learn it. One thing the current conflict in the Middle East has taught me is that the world is far more fragile than we thought, the illusion of security is but an illusion, it could all fall apart at any moment, so why not go back to sustaining life by trying to grow food?

This is what the green season is supposed to mean, we just had Pentecost and we talked at length about how the Spirit is here poured out for us. During the rest of the church year we can learn to incorporate the lessons from Christmas to Easter to Pentecost in our lives. May these lessons, and the truth of God's presence as Emmanuel - God with us, nurture us as the water does the soil, so that we can sprout good fruits. I know we are a bit out of step in our modern world with the cycle of nature, where spring and summer were the busy times of the year. But this is why our school year has a summer break, because the children needed to return to the farm for planting and harvesting. We have turned that into vacation season, a time for breaks and relaxation. I do hope you all find time to do just that. Rest is important, we all need to recharge. But even in our rest, the question remains are we growing in love? Are we growing in the peace that Paul talks about, the peace that passes all understanding? (Philippians 4:7). Does this peace motivate us for more actions or less?

We are all at different stages of life, of work, of hardships, we all need rest and a time to grow, we all need the peace the word and sacrament offer us, we all need the loving grace of a God who is here for us. May this season be especially a blessed one for us, as we take the time we need to connect with ourselves and with God. May we find what we need at this time to work the soil of our souls, tend to it, rest when we need it, work when we need to, but always may we "return to the Lord for he is faithful and just, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

Amen Pastor John

Women's Weekend at Camp Lutherwood

JULY 31-AUGUST 2, 2026

Time away to reflect, rest, and renew is what this weekend is all about. The Camp Lutherwood staff will provide leadership for a variety of camp activities, such as archery, the climbing tower, and hiking if you seek some personal challenge. Or enjoy time in the pool, a quiet moment by the creek, or coffee and conversation on the patio. Daily study and worship round out this weekend designed just for you. Bring a friend or come on your own; it is a weekend you won't want to miss. Cost of \$200 includes lodging, meals, and programming. Scholarships are available through the church if cost is at all a barrier. Let Brenda Grall or the church office know of your interest so that you can be included in our group.

<https://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/camp#womensweekend>



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!



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.



HOPE Team by Brenda Grall

I received this through Every Child Oregon. It is written by our team's foster mom. What we are doing is making a difference. It's a longer read but well worth it.

"I can't thank you enough. We were a very broken and hurting family. We kept doing foster care because it wasn't the children's fault or choice to be in the place they were in, our biological children wouldn't let us stop, but we found ourselves in a very hard place and very alone. This simple connection has brought so much hope back into our lives through simple actions and check-ins. It's not daily so it doesn't feel like we are working with another agency demanding attention beyond our limits. If that makes sense. Often, we've found that utilizing programs is more of a hindrance than just taking care of things on our own."

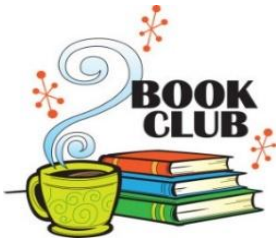
"My kids, biological and "found loves" have struggled with feeling like they are seen by the people around them. So when they receive books they like or when a card in the mail comes they feel the love."

"Our Hope team has been amazing, the letters and words of support come at just the right time. They have connected with our family on a level that makes us feel more at home in our own community — something we haven't felt in a long time. They know just about the right amount of support so it's not overwhelming but we don't feel forgotten. They ask about our kids and what they like or are interested in, then send along little things they find while going about their day letting us know they are thinking of my sweet littles. They want feedback so they can make adjustments. Even though they seem so in tune with what we need it's amazing to know they care enough to support us, not just be charitable. They want to be a part of our tribe and that speaks volumes to my kids and myself." – Signed, Hope Family Mom

Please consider providing a meal (frozen, ready to cook, hot or delivery) or making a donation to the Hope Team. Reimbursement is available from our Hope Team donations for those who would like to make a meal and turn in a receipt for the supplies. I can pass along notes and cards to the family. Helping with yard work or laundry are also possibilities. If you have suggestions for other acts of kindness, please let me know.

Family Support Court Volunteers

Thank you to our Hope Team members (Robert, Dan & Patty) who've been entertaining the young ones while parents are attending Family Support Court on Mondays 3:45-5:00. Others are welcome to take a shift with another volunteer once they've completed the background check. See Brenda Grall for more info.



ALC Book Club by Pastor John Smithies

Braiding Sweet Grass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Join us June 23rd at 11:00 am and/or June 25th at 5:00 pm in person in the Narthex, or on Zoom.

This month we are reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Robin is a botanist and Indigenous member of the Potawatomi Nation. She uses her experience with plants to make the same point with a different metaphor than authors like Richard Rhor make with theology. May we read this work with open hearts to hopefully hear that they are both making the same point. Book club is on the 4th Tuesday and Thursday of June. And please if you are interested in a small volunteering opportunity, we are in need of someone to manage the obtaining and returning of books. Please talk to us if this something you could do.

Our Book Club schedule for the next 4 months:

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 (Women of the ELCA) will meet on Wednesday, June 10 at 12:45. In addition to our annual salad luncheon we will begin a new Bible study by the Rev. Sara Olson Smith "I am worthy". June's study: "I am created in God's image. No matter what anyone else says." will be led by Sandy Cramer. Everyone is invited to bring a favorite salad to share. Pick up a copy of the GATHER magazine which includes the bible study or access it on the web: Summer 2026: "I am worthy," by the Rev. Sara Olson Smith - Gather Magazine. All are invited. You are also invited to join via ZOOM if that better meets your needs.



Men's Breakfast Group

We meet 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.



A Corner Of Hope by Susan Painter, Council Vice President

"The greatest tool in my spiritual arsenal is hope."

Reverend Raphael Warnock, US Senator

A spring field trip with 5th graders to the magical Yakona Nature Preserve *was full of delight. Nine young men took one set of trails while their female classmates took another. I trekked along as a lucky observer. Anna, our teacher, outlined simple rules: take nothing, honor the beings in the forest, and "leave no trace." This is also, she added, a device-free zone. There were no objections.

The youngsters, whom Anna respectfully addressed as "gentlemen," came to hike, to learn, and to record their thoughts and experiences in Nature Journals they had made earlier in class. The exquisite land is the ancestral home of the gentle Yaqo'n people who lived there peacefully more than four centuries ago. This misty spring morning, our first stop was the greenhouse at Rocky Top to chart different insects. The boys were interested, absorbed and curious. They watched spiders cavort from their sleeves to their open journals, protecting them with remarkable gentleness. No one teased, no one threatened, no one harmed.

At Yakona Slough Loop, we sat on the spongy moss of forest floor, pondering a stump of spruce whose broken top sprouted wisps of new growth on top while its side featured a mysterious cut part way into its lower trunk. One student suggested the cut had been made by a human, "but maybe a beaver?" Anna encouraged him as he explored possibilities beyond his first impression. "That's what scientists do," she noted gently, "look for evidence and facts to support what you might think."

The area had been logged over a century ago to provide spruce for World War I aircraft, we learned. The strange cut likely supported a platform used to harvest timber from the tree. "Why had the tree not decomposed like others? How long will it live?" the boys asked as we walked along. They stepped carefully over each banana slug, guessing at its length, observing changes in coloration.

At a collection of bones from a deer or an elk, the boys drew each piece, then exchanged journals and took turns identifying the parts by characteristics in their drawings. Another grassy knoll offered a chance for "soundscape mapping" – sitting in silence for birdsong, trying to identify each chirp or tweet.

Finally, at the pollinator garden, the students marked progress of the species they planted earlier – some successes, some disappointments. They were encouraged to write or draw in their journals, then in a closing circle to share a few words defining the day. I heard "perfection," "peace," "exploration," "wonder" and "learning". One vowed to return as a summer intern.

The boys were not all the same skin color. Some had unusual names. They were courteous, respectful, caring toward each other. They were attentive and curious, bantering and playful. They were born into the world of the last decade just as hate and anger began to overtake our discourse. They have not known our country without institutions under attack. They have not known a world when democracy was taken for granted. They have not known a time before climate change threatens our existence. There was an innocence to their questions and a purity to their joy. In another decade, theirs will be the task of preserving, protecting and promoting the wonders of this natural world.

In this moment, on this day, they seem up to the challenge. They are the hope of our future.

* The 450 acre preserve is private property but open to the public through escorted access which can be arranged through me or at www.yakonaoregon.org

What's Happening in the Garden? By Barb Ward

Great news from the garden! The Endowment Committee and Atonement Council have approved our request for \$8410 to fund 10 raised garden beds. The goal of this project is to allow members to actively participate in gardening, help our community learn the benefits of gardening, and help with community food insecurity.

The garden beds, soil, woodchips and other items for our new gardens have arrived. Now the fun begins. To get our gardens up and growing, there will be many Garden Parties (volunteer opportunities). The beds need to be assembled, filled with soil, planted, watered, and weeded.

We invite you to join us in the garden as your time allows...a half an hour, an hour, once or weekly. If you have no gardening experience join us, see if gardening is something you may be interested in. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. All means all means All! No sign up needed! Check in the WOW, or talk to Emily, Patty or Barb for more information. Also, check out the bulletin board in the hallway for the most current information.

Garden (work) Parties

Friday June 5th 11:30 – 1:30

Sunday June 7th after church and coffee hour

Wednesday June 10th 2:15 – 3:15 Thursday June 11th 12:30 -2:30

More will be offered, see the bulletin board!

If you are interested in supporting the garden, but not able to physically help, a donation of snacks such as granola bars or chips for our volunteers would be great. Also, just stop by and check out the progress.

Additionally, the potatoes are growing, the pea plants have pods, and ABC School children will be over to harvest some of the peas they planted. The ABC School and our Sunday School class will be soon learning about mason bees and building homes for them.



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.



Christmas in July!

A Fundraiser for the Lights of Christmas event by Sandy Cramer

In anticipation of The Lights of Christmas event, we are planning a Christmas in July Fundraiser on Sunday, July 19 at 2:00 pm.

Entertainment! We are working on arranging a Christmas concert for us to enjoy.

1. Food! Homemade Christmas cookies and hot cocoa! We need someone to coordinate this ASAP! Please talk to Robert or Sandy for details.

Silent Auction! Sandy is looking for Christmas or arts and crafts type items to auction off. Please talk to Sandy if you have an item to donate.

Stay tuned for more details on the Lights of Christmas December event!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: A Creation Care Initiative

by Marcia McKean and Sandy Cramer



YES WE CAN!

A NEW LOOK AT AN ONGOING CHALLENGE

Coming Soon! A convenient, free way to recycle things that can't go in your blue recycle bin. There will be bins in the hallway, an informational bulletin board and a trifold brochure to answer questions.

We will be looking at ways to maximize efficient recycling and reduce our waste.

Watch for details in upcoming WOWs.



Kid's Page



Sunday School Our final Sunday School of the school year will be on June 7, we will resume in the fall. Enjoy the summer!

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!



June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>tentative</i> 10:00am – 1:00:pm Quilt Tying	2	3 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer	4 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun	5	6
7 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom	8	9	10 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer 12:45pm WELCA	11 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun 2:15pm Social Ministry Mtg	12	13
14 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 11:15am Outreach	15	16	17 12:00noon Contemp. Prayer 6:00pm Summer Barbecue	18 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun 6:30pm Finance Mtg via Zoom	19	20
21 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom	22 1:00pm Stone Soup Prep 5:00pm Stone Soup @ St Stephen	23 11:00am ALC Book Club	24 12:00noon Contemplative Prayer	25 8:00am Men's Bfst @ Pig 'N Pancake 11:00am Beach wk. / Fellowship & Fun 5:00pm ALC Book Club	26 WAVES Deadline	27
28 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Worship In-person & Zoom 12:00pm Council Mtg	29	30				



Worship Page

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
7 10:00 am	Sandy Cramer	Susan Painter	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
14 10:00 am	Alder	Bill Innis	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
21 10:00 am		Sally Woodward	Melodie McKenzie	Arnie Anderson
28 10:00 am	Brenda Grall	Karen Johnson	Tami Johnson	Arnie Anderson
	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Zoom Host</u>
7 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore & Barb Ward	Peggy Gilman & Vo Newell	Travis Fox
14 10:00 am	_____	Jeanne Innis & Karen Johnson	Pete Kraack & Peggy Gilman	Susan Painter
21 10:00 am	_____	Maryellen Murphy & Patty Fox	Sally Woodward & Travis Fox	Travis Fox
28 10:00 am	_____	Dan Moore & Maryellen Murphy	Vo Newell & Travis Fox	Barb Ward



J U N E



- Peter Kraack 6/1
- Patty Fox 6/5
- John Knudson 6/5
- Pat Lewis 6/5
- Hallie Ezzell 6/11
- Randy Gilman 6/11
- Dan McCue 6/11
- Bonnie Powell 6/17
- Jean Alden 6/24
- Colin Kimberly 6/25
- Paul Stangeland 6/29



- Mike & Raynette Rawles 6/1
- David & Sandy Cramer 6/20
- Rick & Joy Gutknecht 6/21
- Travis & Patty Fox 6/30
- Dan & Penny McCue 6/30

Flowers for Worship

- 7
- 14 Susie Budeau
- 21
- 28

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, June 22nd at 5:00pm. If you would like to help prepare and/or serve food please call Sally Jennings @541 444-2687. It is much easier to plan how everyone can help.



Dog Food Needed for June Stone Soup



Please donate dry dog food. We give out 15 one gallon bags of dog food and 15 smaller bags of dry cat food each month at Stone Soup. Thanks to your generosity, we have enough cat food to use for several months. Donations may 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. They are serving approx. 50 warm meals a day and giving out sack lunches. Starting June 1st they will be open from 7:00am - 3:00pm everyday but Sundays.

Clothing wish list: men's jeans, women's small underwear and small bras.

The food items that they need most are: bottled waters, and soft granola bars.

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.

(Continued on next page)



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.



Summer Fun Bags for Samaritan House Children

Our Sunday School children will be shopping for summer fun items and put together bags of fun for the children living at Samaritan House.

It's not too late to help fund this project. Last year, we gave Summer Fun Bags to 19 children. Please donate funds to help us with this giving project. Please write Samaritan House in the memo line on your check. Our acts of caring and community are so important to these families.

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.

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.



Coffee Hour by Sandy Cramer

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

Snacks and goodies are always appreciated, either for the current week or to store in the pantry for later!



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.

Praying the Rosary with the Gnostics

Atonement Lutheran is providing space for Queen of Heaven Gnostic Church to hold a rosary prayer service on Wednesday nights from 8:30 to 9:15 pm. The prayer service will be held in Atonement's Narthex and over zoom. Please feel free to join us online or in-person! Extra rosaries are available to those who need one. If you have any questions, would like to be added to the email list (and emailed the zoom link), or would like a tutorial on praying the rosary, please reach out! I can be contacted at ej363707@gmail.com or 740-856-8239. And from my church to Atonement, thank you!

Pax et lux, Emily Johnston

Gnostics vs. Agnostics

by Sandy Cramer

The following is gleaned from AI about the general difference between Gnostics and Agnostics. Emily may give more specific information about Queen of Heaven Gnostic Church at a later date.

A gnostic claims knowledge, especially of spiritual matters, while an agnostic acknowledges uncertainty, asserting that the existence or nature of the divine is unknown or unknowable.

Gnostic

The term gnostic comes from the Greek word gnōsis, meaning "knowledge". Historically, Gnosticism was a religious and philosophical movement emphasizing personal, intuitive knowledge of the divine rather than faith or empirical evidence. Gnostics believe in a divine spark within each person that can be awakened through spiritual insight, mystical practices, or esoteric teachings. They often view the material world as flawed or illusory, and true understanding comes from direct, experiential knowledge of the spiritual realm. In modern usage, a gnostic is someone who claims certainty or deep understanding about a subject, particularly spiritual or metaphysical matters.

Agnostic

The term agnostic derives from the Greek agnostos, meaning "unknown" or "unknowable". Popularized by Thomas Huxley in the 19th century, agnosticism is a philosophical stance of uncertainty regarding the existence or nature of God or ultimate reality. Agnostics do not claim belief or disbelief; instead, they acknowledge the limits of human knowledge and maintain that certain metaphysical truths may be beyond comprehension. Agnosticism emphasizes skepticism, inquiry, and intellectual honesty, often leaving room for the possibility of a higher power while refraining from asserting certainty.



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH