

2025

Atonement Lutheran Church

WEEKLY WORSHIP:

Wednesdays: 6:30pm

Sundays: 9am

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm

Welcome, Worship, and Serve in the name of Christ

WELCOME TO NEW CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS!

Please keep these people in your prayers as they guide our congregation. Installation will be Wednesday, February 5th and Sunday, February 9th.

President: Bruce Broman

Vice President: Debbie Niemeyer

Treasurer: Jill Abrahamson

Secretary:

Past President: Linda Schreiber

Evangelism Co-chairs: Pat Flicker, Nancy Sokoloski

Mission Chair: Kay Defries

Adult Ministry Chair: Jean Klosowski

Children/Youth Ministry Representative: Pat Pflipsen

Property Co-chairs: Bob Defries, Thor Larson

Fellowship Chair: Jon Molden

Worship Representative: Yvonne Carriere

Stewardship Chair:

Executive Council meets at 6:30pm and the full Council at 7pm on the 4th Thursday of each month. Minutes of council meetings and monthly financial reports are posted on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall.

Committees generally meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The following committees will meet on February 13th at 7pm at church: Children/Youth Ministry, Evangelism, Adult Education. Property Committee will meet on the 13th at 2pm. Mission Committee will meet on February 11th at 11am. Finance Committee meets by zoom. You do not need to be a member of a committee to join the conversation of any committee.

NEW MINISTRY

A communion service is being offered at The Sanctuary in southeastern St Cloud on the 3rd Monday of the month at 11am. Pastors Tim and John, Sheila Molde, and Galen and Marcia Sylvester have been involved in planning and leading the service. We hope to expand this ministry to other long-term facilities that Atonement members reside at. If interested in assisting with this ministry, please contact any of the people listed.

Welcome New Members!
Yvonne Carriere
Pat and Gus Ziemer

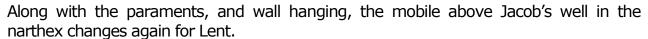
** WORSHIP NEWS **

Lenten services, including Ash Wednesday, will be at 12 noon (with soup served afterwards) and 6:30pm (with pizza etc served prior) starting March 5th.

Thank you, Worship Enhancement Team...our worship space and hallways looked so beautiful during the Christmas season. We know it takes lots of time and energy to make that happen. The poinsettia plants were particularly beautiful and long-lasting - thank you Diane and Tim for tending to them so faithfully.

It is time to "Think Spring" and get ready for the Lent/Easter season. Ash Wednesday is March 5th and Easter Sunday is April 20th. As in the past, we will be enhancing the worship space with flowers for this season. There will be an opportunity to purchase spring flowers - to be used in the sanctuary - in honor of or in memory of special people in your lives. Look for the forms to help with the flowers in early March. They will be on the usher's table and in the office.

DID YOU KNOW...





Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday focuses the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

The Lenten season culminates with Holy Week, which includes Palm Sunday and the joyous celebration of Easter. Resource:

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Why and how do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday.pdf

FAITH FORMATION ** YOUTH HAPPENINGS **

FEBRUARY FORMATION CONTENT:

Grades 1-5:

Topics covered will be Jesus the teacher, Valentine's Day, Jesus and the little children, and Lent.

Confirmation Class:

February 5 – Wrap up orientation to the New Testament, Luke through Acts

February 12 - Packing: Lunch bags for unsheltered folks February 19, 26 - Epistles

PRAYER PILLOW MILESTONE

Kids 5 years old, and parents, are invited to learn more about prayer at this milestone. Join Shela Molde in room 3-4 on Wednesday, February 19th at 5:30pm and receive your pillow. Older children are welcome if they haven't received a pillow. Please RSVP to the church office 252-6203 or Mata Carlson to ensure we have enough pillows.

FIRST COMMUNION



Children in 1st grade and older are invited to join our First Communion class on Saturday, April 12th, 9–11:30am. We will learn about this gift from God and why it is important to receive. Parents are encouraged to come at 10:30 to help make communion bread. Students will receive their first communion at the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30pm on April 17th. Please RSVP by April 4th to the church office 252-6203 or Mata Carlson.

STUDENT RETREATS

Luther Crest is holding youth retreats on **February 7**th-**9**th **for K-12**th **grades**. Registration and volunteer sign up is online now; deadline is January 31st. Cost is \$205/camper (\$50 Non-Refundable Deposit). If the fee is an issue, please talk to Pastor John or Pastor Tim. Lodging will be in a winterized cabin with bunk-style beds, each with its own bathroom and shower. Youth campers will also be with a Luther Crest counselor and approximately 8-9 other sameaged campers.

For the <u>EARLY BIRD</u> discount for Luther Crest **SUMMER CAMPS**, registration needs to happen before February 14th. There is a \$50 to \$100.00 (depending on age) nonrefundable deposit upon registering. If the overall cost is a concern, please talk with Pastor John or Pastor Tim. There is no fee for high school students! The summer camps fill up fast so to have more date options, plan NOW! Online: https://luthercrest.org or call 320-846-2431.

Senior High Youth Gathering will be held April 4-5, 2025 at Gloria Dei in Redwood Falls. See pastors for registration. More information will be posted at https://swmnelca.org/event/sryg/.

SENIOR QUILTS

Attention all High School seniors and parents! We would like to give you a quilt made by quilters at Atonement. Please contact Mata if you would like to receive one.

FEB. 1, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 2, SUNDAY 9am Worship

10am Coffee & Conversation 10am Adult Ed: Lynching Memorial 8am Bible Online-Men 10am Unity Spiritual Center 3:30pm Casa de Oracion Wshp 5pm NA Anonymous 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

FEB. 3, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

FEB. 4, TUESDAY

10am Men's Group 11:30am TOPS 12-6pm Blood Drive 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm NA Anonymous 6:30pm Stamp Club

FEB. 5, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men 9am Quilters Noon Al Anon 5:15pm Pizza 5:45pm 3 yr old-5th grade 6:30pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Class 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

FEB. 6, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men 12pm Bible Study-Women 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters

FEB. 7, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.) Youth Retreat

FEB. 8, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous 6:30pm NA Anonymous Youth Retreat

FEB. 9, SUNDAY

Youth Retreat

9am Worship

10am Coffee & Conversation 10am Adult Ed: Volunteering 10am Unity Spiritual Center 3:30pm Casa de Oracion Wshp 5pm NA Anonymous 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

FEB. 10, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

FEB. 11, TUESDAY

9:30am Men's Group 11:30am TOPS 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 12, WEDNESDAY

9am Quilters Noon Al Anon 2pm Knitters, etc 5:15pm Pizza 5:45pm 3 yr old-5th grade 6:30pm Worship 7pm Packing Project

FEB. 13, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men 12pm Bible Study-Women 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters 2pm Worship Committee 7pm Council Committees

FEB. 14, FRIDAY

1pm Prayer Beads 6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.)

FEB. 15, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 16, SUNDAY 9am Worship

10am Coffee & Conversation 10am Adult Ed: Aging 10am Unity Spiritual Center 3:30pm Casa de Oracion Wshp 5pm NA Anonymous 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

FEB. 17, MONDAY

11am Service at The Sanctuary 1pm Bible Study with Pastors 5:30pm Book Club

FEB. 18, TUESDAY

10am Men's Group 11:30am TOPS 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm NA Anonymous 6:30pm Stamp Club

FEB. 19, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men 9am Quilters 9:30am Elizabeth Circle Noon Al Anon 5:15pm Pizza 5:45pm 3 yr old-5th grade 6:30pm Worship

FEB. 19, WEDNESDAY (cont)

7pm Confirmation Class 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

FEB. 20, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men 11am Youth Card Ministry 12pm Bible Study-Women 1pm Birthday Card Ministry 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters

FEB. 21, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.) 7:30pm Symphony Concert

FEB. 22, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 23, SUNDAY

9am Worship

10am Coffee & Conversation 10am Adult Ed: Harriet Tubman 10am Unity Spiritual Center 3:30pm Casa de Oracion Wshp 5pm NA Anonymous 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

FEB. 24, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

FEB. 25, TUESDAY

9:30am Naomi Circle 10am Men's Group 11:30am TOPS 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm NA Anonymous

8am Bread Makers

FEB. 26, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men 9am Quilters Noon Al Anon 2pm Knitters, etc 5:15pm Pizza 5:45pm 3 yr old-5th grade 6:30pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Class 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

FEB. 27, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men 12pm Bible Study-Women 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters 6:30pm Executive Committee 7pm Council Meeting

FEB. 28, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.)

ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION: Following 9 am Sunday Worship

February is Black History month. Dr. Colleen Carpenter, Visiting Associate Professor of Theology at CSB/SJU, will present twice. On February 2nd she will tell us about The National Memorial to Victims of Lynching in Montgomery, Alabama and on February 23rd Colleen will share about Harriet Tubman.

On February 9th Kevin LaNave, a long time St. Cloud area educator, will invite us to reflect upon our experiences of "service" -- to consider the insights, the questions, the challenges, and the authentic joy service can contain.

On February 16th Janette Ditlefsen, Good Shepherd Community Volunteer Coordinator, and Tauna Quimby, Program Coordinator, Americorp Senior RSVP, will invite us to consider retirement from a new perspective.

Join us in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall after worship. Coffee and treats will be waiting for you at the session so please come right in. Please join us!

February 2nd The National Memorial to Victims of Lynching

Colleen Carpenter will tell us about the memorial itself, and its originator, Bryan Stevenson. She will connect Stevenson's Christian faith with the message of the memorial. Stevenson's goal of the memorial is to start a national conversation about race—and faith and we will have an opportunity to talk and learn.

February 9th Growing Through Volunteering into Faithful Service

Kevin LaNave will explore the process of responding to the Gospel call to "service" -- rooted in the meaning and power of "love" -- is not just an action, but an encounter. It's not just about "doing something for . . . ", but, at its core, about "accompaniment with . . . ".

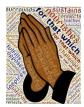
February 16th Aging with Flourish

Are you contemplating retirement or enriching the retirement you have now? Discover the options and tools to make this exciting new phase of your life successful and enjoyable. Just as you once embarked on career training and employment, it's time to 'begin again' and embrace this new journey. Learn to explore new possibilities, sample different experiences, and set your priorities to become the author of your retirement story. Craft a fulfilling future by investing in yourself and your community. Join Janette Ditlefsen, Good Shepherd Community and Tauna Quimby, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for this enlightening session.

February 23rd Harriet Tubman

Colleen Carpenter will help us "see" Harriet Tubman, the remarkable woman who made freedom from slavery a reality for more than 70 enslaved African Americans. After her own escape to freedom Tubman returned to the slave states 13 times to guide friends and family to freedom traveling the Underground Railroad. Tubman's long and eventful life included being an armed scout and spy during the Civil War and guiding a <u>raid at</u> Combahee Ferry, which liberated more than 700 enslaved people.

PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT



Diane Wisniewski-Grzybowski Family of Jim Josephs Carly and Jesse J. HELPS Volunteers in Guatemala Angie Faundeen Barbara Downing Mark Allen Dale/Donna Thompson Keshun White Gregg Bob Lainey Matuska Patsy Mader Jean R. Christopher

LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

Your pastors often feel surprised. One would think - with more than a century of life, decades of marriage, parenting, and ministry, and a stack of credentials between us - that we'd know a thing or two. One would think, but one would be wrong. We don't, or at least we feel like we don't. But we've learned that keeping a spirit of curiosity can make a surprise an opportunity for learning and growth, even transformation.



One of the things we're curious about is how members of this congregation have learned to make peace with the past. We've heard some remarkable stories in our years at Atonement about mistakes, hurts, and disappointments that people have decided to learn from and/or lay to rest. Forgiveness and hope flow through this congregation like the blood in our veins, carrying life to each member. We'd like to hear more of these stories, and we have a hunch that you would be glad to hear them, too.

Hurt and disappointment is an unavoidable part of life on this earth. Your pastors consider pain the price we pay for the privilege of loving and being loved, but that doesn't make the hurt less painful when it comes, or healing the hurts of love less hard. If anything, healing the hurts of heart and soul is a minor miracle, which is why we think stories some of you have shared with us about times you have made peace with the past are proof of the Holy Spirit at work among us.

Do you have a story of making peace with a person or group of people, or with an event or series of events, that unsettled your life, that hurt or disappointed you that you'd be willing to share, confidentially or in public? Your pastors would love to hear your story, and if you are willing, help you prepare to share it with our faith community during Lent. In fact, our hope is that we will have enough storytellers come forward that our Lenten theme will be, in fact as well as in name: "Making Peace with the Past"

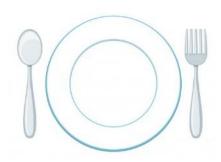


OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE: Be the one to say yes!

If you are not currently volunteering at Atonement, please think of your interests and the gifts you have and choose the committee or activity that is a good fit. If you want to explore options and learn more, please contact Linda Schreiber, 320-293-3894 or LTJSchreiber@hotmail.com or contact the committee chair(s).

FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY MEALS



During the school year, there is pizza, fruit, veggies, etc provided on **Wednesday nights at 5:15pm**. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME!

During the **Wednesdays in Lent**, we offer soups at noon following the service. Soups are provided by individuals or groups. Usually there are a variety of soups offered each week. Below are the groups that have committed to a week. Please contact any of them if you would like to assist.

March 5: Property Committee March 12: Elizabeth Circle

March 19: Choir

March 26: Evangelism and Mission Committees

April 2: Pieces of Love Quilters

April 9: Book Club

GIVING

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mortgage was \$363.405.92 Now \$130,990.66 (as of 1/1/2025)

Total pledged: over \$353,000 Cash received so far: \$232,415.26



WANT TO CHANGE THE AMOUNT OF YOUR GIVING?

If you are on the Simply Giving Program (the "older" system), request an authorization form from the office, OR you can switch to the newer Realm system which is more secure and allows you to have more control to change or add donations. If changing over to Realm, please email office to close the Simply Given.



If you signed up online in Realm, on the Atonement website, click on "Electronic Giving" and follow directions.

For a one time donation, text **Atonement50** to73256 or donate online in Realm.

For giving directly from your investments, contact your investment company and they will assist with the process. By having contributions sent directly to Atonement, you avoid having to pay tax on the amount. You can designate amounts, frequency, and how they should be used: General Fund, Capital Campaign, Mission of the Month, etc.

ATONEMENT'S



February Mission of the Month: Luther Crest Camperships

We will continue the tradition of collecting funds for Luther Crest Camperships. Last summer, we sent 11 campers to camp for a week. Let's continue to support our youth in this valuable experience!



Luther Crest has shown to make a profound difference in the faith life of campers. They offer a camp experience for children, leadership training for high school students, and retreats for adults and families.

The current cost of one week of camp for 6-9th graders is \$825.00. To make this affordable for families, Atonement depends on this collection and donations to the Legacy Fund. Atonement supports that this opportunity is available to all who want to attend and will assist in covering the costs.

Call Pastors for more information. We currently have 5 Atonement members serving on their board: Marcus/Marilyn Anderson, Talleiv/Karen Vollen, and Presley Grzybowski.

2025 DONATION CENTER UPDATE

At this time, we ask that you DO NOT donate any items unless the Mission Committee has specifically requested it. We will continue to collect food for McKinley Area Learning Center and the Salvation Army. We have been getting items that are best donated to Wacosa, Treasure Chest, Goodwill or Savers and ask that you find a way to donate directly to one of these thrift stores. If you have spoken to someone from the Mission Team and they have ok'd the drop off of an item in the Donation Center, please label it with a sticky note. Thanks from the Mission Committee: Kay Defries, Kris Boyle, Jan Keaveny, Nancy Wilson-Hagen, Kathy Mathies, Jerome Sanchez.

MISSION AND YOUTH

The once-a-month Youth Packing Projects have been a huge success in educating the youth and participating adults about needs in our community. Financial support for these projects would be greatly appreciated.

- February 12th Prepared lunch bags for Homeless Helping Homeless.
- March 19th Cookie delivery to front line workers.
- April 23rd Pockets of Hope backpacks for children ages 12 to 18 at the Child Advocacy Group.
- Summer break projects will resume in September.

THANK YOU!

Atonement members make a difference with their donations and volunteer work. God's Global Barnyard was the December Mission of the Month. A significant total of \$2,943.60 was collected. We will send an order to the ELCA for 4 family farms, 1 goat and a flock of chicks and 1 honey bee request. Once again, Atonement's generosity goes a long way! Thank you!



OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

MISSION TRIP

HELPS International Surgery/Stoves Mission trip to Santa Lucia, Guatemala was January 18th-29th with Atonement members/family volunteers, Larry Asplin and four of the Boyle family. If interested in this program, reach out to them.

CARD MINISTRY

PLEASE HELP! Join us at **11am, February 20**th to send cards to Youth of Atonement and at **1pm,** we will be sending cards to members who will have birthdays in March.

BLOOD DRIVE: URGENT NEED

Atonement continues to host the community drive on the first Tuesday of every even month. **February 4**th is the next date to give here. The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be available at Atonement 12-6pm. For easy appointment scheduling, go to redcrossblood.org which will enable you to schedule your blood donation. **Each donor is greatly appreciated! There is an urgent need for donations.** Questions: Contact Nancy Johnson, 320-223-9979 or Joyce Raetz, 320-248-7771.



HANDBELL MUSIC MINISTRY: A Fun and Rewarding Opportunity!

Greg Kaler is looking for a duet partner to resume "Handbells in Harmony". This is an opportunity to play at churches, retirement villages, for holiday parties, and more. If you or someone you know would be interested in playing beautiful worship music and at fun, entertaining venues, please text or call Greg at 901-628-2368.

NEWSLETTER

Volunteer is needed to create the monthly newsletter in Word. Contact Linda Schreiber if interested: newsletter@atonementlutheran.org or 320-293-3894.

MEN OF ATONEMENT

The Men of Atonement are sponsoring the remodel of a room at the Place of Hope west location. They are painting, installing flooring, bathroom fixtures and vanity, beds, linens, etc. Your donations would be so appreciated! Checks can be made payable to Atonement. Please indicate this is for POH West Remodel. Thanks for considering this! Questions - contact Mark Huseth or Bob Defries.

BIBLE STUDY

The Monday 1pm Bible Study with the Pastors is a great way to learn about the Bible and what its relevance is for you today. You will also get to know your pastors and make new friends!

SOMETHING NEW TO DO!!!

Many people enjoy jigsaw puzzles.... especially on cold winter days. Well, here is something for you. A Puzzle Exchange has been started at Atonement. You will find it in the library at the church...look for the shelf labeled – "Puzzle Exchange". Clean out your cupboards and bring unwanted puzzles to the church. Then feel free to take a puzzle. Keep swapping until you have completed them all!



WINTER CONCERT

Amadeus Chamber Symphony: Friday, February 21st, 7:30pm at Atonement!

WHAT TO SAVE

Because of recent evacuation emergencies, this list was generated. This would also be helpful to have for your family members or your estate administrator.

Stored	Scanned	Cloud	Documents
			Birth Certificates
			Passports/Visas
			Home insurance documents
			Car insurance documents and registration
			Health insurance documents/Medical Cards/
			Medical Records/glass prescriptions
			Employment records
			Tax returns
			Drivers licenses
			Social Security Card
			Back-up ID (student ID, military, DD214,VA, etc.)
			Credit Cards
			Medical history
			Power of attorney
			Wills
			Concealed carry license
			Important phone numbers
			Titles/Deeds/etc
			Marriage License
			At least one statement from all financial accounts
			with account #, phone number, address, etc.
			All military and VA records
			Thumb drive with video of house and all contents
			Video of everything in house, all rooms, all drawers
			open, all closet contents, basement, garage, attic,
			including art work
			Vet records for your pets, including rabies and
			other information; would be needed for boarding

ENJOY THIS WORD FIND

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PRESIDENTS
VACATION
FEBRUARY
RED
SNOW
HUGS
ARROW
WARM
PINK
LOVE
DINNER
VALENTINE
CANDY
HEART
FLOWERS

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

My young son asked me how old I was. I answered, "39 & holding." He thought for a moment & then asked, "And how old would you be if you let go?"

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. "Momma, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"

My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog.

Atonement Lutheran Church 1144 29th Avenue North St. Cloud, MN 56303 Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID St. Cloud, Minnesota Permit No. 382

Atonement Lutheran Church

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Handbell Choir Director	Jordan Goodwater	Bells@atonementlutheran.org	218-270-7074
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