



2024

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

PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT

Barbara Downing
Loren Krueger
Angie Faundeen
Patsy Mader
Connie & Jerome Sanchez and Les

Lainey Matuska
Bob Salmonson
Paula
Pat & Brian Robinson
Mark Allen

Gregg
Jodi
Tracy N
Christopher

ADVENT TEA CELEBRATION – DECEMBER 7

Our Advent Tea Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 10am-12pm. Please plan to come and **invite your neighbors, friends, and family**. We will serve coffee, punch and Christmas goodies in the Fellowship Hall as our gift to the community. There will be crafts and homemade goodies, white elephant items and our delicious Atonement Lefse for sale. **Please mark your calendars!**

Note: We have a limited amount of space for the white elephant sale items. Items that have not sold well in the past are books, glassware (vases and mugs). We ask that you do not donate these items. Please put items in the Youth Room when dropping off.

ADVENT SEASON 2024

Now is the time to celebrate the season of Advent. At Atonement we will be using arrangements of greenery and flowers to celebrate this wonderful season. You have the opportunity to help with the décor by donating money "in honor of" and "in memory of" the special people in your lives. Look for donation sheets on the ushers table, the welcome station and in the office. Please give your sheet and desired amount in cash or check to the person in the office. Thank you for your contribution. -Worship Environment Team

BLOOD DRIVE



Atonement continues to host the blood drive on the first Tuesday of every even month. The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be available at Atonement on December 3rd from 12:30-6:30pm. For easy appointment scheduling, go to redcrossblood.org. Each donor is appreciated! Questions: Contact Nancy Johnson, 320-223-9979 or Joyce Raetz, 320-248-7771.

** YOUTH HAPPENINGS **

Pizza is served at 5:15 every Wednesday; cost \$1.00 per slice. All ages are invited to have this meal together



BELL RINGING

December 18th, Atonement Youth will be ringing bells for Salvation Army at 6 locations. Please join us from 6pm – 8pm at one of these locations; Coborn's on Cooper, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Cash Wise Saint Cloud, Waite Park, and Byerly's Saint Cloud. There will be sign-up sheets available.

GINGERBREAD BASH

Families, please join us December 14th 9am – 11am. This is a fun, hands on Christmas event for kids and families (grandparents are welcome). You will build a gingerbread nativity and hear the Christmas story. We will provide juice and muffins. There is no charge, but we ask that you bring a non-perishable food item, all food will be given to the McKinley School food shelf. **You must register by December 6th by going to the Atonement web site.**



BETHLEHEM OLIVEWOOD CARVINGS

Olivehood carvings made by Palestinian Christians will be available for purchase December 8th and on Sundays following services. These would make great Christmas gifts. The carvings are done for financial support of Palestinian Christians. See Mata Carlson if you would like to see carvings other than Sundays.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children and Youth (grades K-12) Retreats at Luther Crest will be held January 17-19 and February 7-9, 2025. Watch for more information.

REGISTER NOW

Luther Crest is now taking reservations for 2025 summer camp.

DECEMBER FORMATION CONTENT:

Grades 1-5:

Topics covered will be Advent, Christmas and project for house bound members.

Confirmation Class:

December 4 – Psalms

December 11 - Isaiah

December 18 – Bell Ringing

December 25- No class

CARD MINISTRY

PLEASE HELP! Join us at **11am, December 19th** to send cards to Youth of Atonement and at **1pm**, we will be sending cards to members who will have birthdays in December.

DEC 1, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 3:30pm Casa de Oracion Wrshp
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

DEC 2, MONDAY**DEC 3, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors
 10am Men's Group
 11:30am TOPS: RM 19-20
 12pm Blood Drive
 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice
 6:30pm NA Anonymous
 6:30pm Stamp Club: Rm 19-20

DEC 4, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 12pm Al Anon: Rm 19-20
 5:15pm Pizza
 5:45pm 3 yr old-5th grade
6:30pm Worship
 7pm Confirmation Class
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

DEC 5, THURSDAY

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

DEC 6, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.)

DEC 7, SATURDAY

10am Advent Tea Celebration
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

DEC 8, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

DEC 9, MONDAY**DEC 10, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors
 9:30am Men's Group
 11:30am TOPS: RM 19-20

6:30pm Bell Choir Practice
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

DEC 11, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 9:30am Elizabeth Circle
 12pm Al Anon: Rm 19-20
 2pm Knitters
 5:15pm Pizza
 5:45pm 3 yr old-5th grade
6:30pm Blue Christmas
 7pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

DEC 12, THURSDAY

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

DEC 13, FRIDAY

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

DEC 14, SATURDAY

9am Gingerbread Bash
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

DEC 15, SUNDAY**9am Blue Christmas**

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

DEC 16, MONDAY**DEC 17, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors
 9:30am Naomi Circle
 10am Men's Group
 11:30am TOPS: RM 19-20
 1-2:30pm Frozen Meals
 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice
 6:30pm NA Anonymous
 6:30pm Stamp Club: Rm 19-20

DEC 18, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 12pm Al Anon: Rm 19-20

5:15pm Pizza
 5:45pm 3 yr old-5th grade
6:30pm Worship
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

DEC 19, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men
 11am Youth Card Ministry
 12pm Bible Study-Women
 1pm Birthday Card Ministry
 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
 6:30pm Executive Committee
 7pm Council Meeting

DEC 20, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.)

DEC 21, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

DEC 22, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 3:30pm Casa de Oracion Wrshp
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

DEC 23, MONDAY**DEC 24, TUESDAY**

10am Men's Group
 11:30am TOPS: RM 19-20
3:00pm Worship
6:00pm Worship
 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

DEC 25, WEDNESDAY

Office Closed

DEC 26, THURSDAY

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

DEC 27, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.)

DEC 28, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

DEC 29, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation

10am Unity Spiritual Center
3:30pm Casa de Oracion Wrshp
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

DEC 30, MONDAY

1-2:30pm Frozen Meals

DEC 31, TUESDAY

9:30am Naomi Circle

10am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS: RM 19-20
6:30pm Bell Choir Practice
6:30pm NA Anonymous
6:30pm Stamp Club: Rm 19-20

A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS

Another year in the books, and a year that your pastors expect many people will be glad to see at their backs. The world remains at war. Economic pain, particularly post-pandemic inflation in food, energy, and housing costs, still weighs on household and government budgets. Fewer people in the United States gave to charity than in the previous year. Adults, especially men, report having fewer friendships. Perhaps some of you noticed the 2024 federal election campaigns, about which it is impossible to say too little.

All in all, a bleak picture.

But we are a people of hope and joy, and we are entering that season which even secular culture calls "the most wonderful time of the year."

Because it is wonderful. When most of you receive this newsletter, we will be past Christ the King Sunday and accelerating through Advent - the season that begins the church year - towards Christmas and the new secular calendar year. All around you, you will see decorations coming up in yards and storefronts. Eventually, Christmas music will take over radio stations that normally play *anything but sacred* (or even just cheerful) music. Let your heart feel gratitude that we live in a country in which we are free to celebrate God's goodness and love, revealed in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Word of God become human.

You might hear people wishing "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas", or even something less familiar, like Hannukah, Kwanzaa or Bodhi Day. We have heard that this can irk some of our fellow Christians, but your pastors invite to you accept all such greetings in the spirit they are offered. We testify to God's goodness by offering love to our non-Christian neighbors and friends, not by lording our cultural power (for the time being) over them. We are a church *in* the United States of America, and a person doesn't have to be Christian to be American...which is just one reason among many that America is such a great place to be a Christian.

America really is a great place to be a Christian. Not only are we free to worship according to our own consciences and God's command, we are also free to share the good news of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection and to serve God by serving our neighbors. Consider how, during this time of deepening darkness and cold, we do not hoard up food and fuel and money, but instead give each other the gifts of light and music - and any number of other things, from sweets to sweaters. Take joy in giving and receiving these gifts. You don't *need* to spend money to celebrate Jesus' birth, but it is good to give, because giving sets us free. And it is especially good to give to people who cannot give you something in return. The world needs your generosity at this time of year. You have neighbors (and probably family and friends) who will be cold, hungry, and lonely.

God has given us enough: enough love and patience and hope; enough food, money, and clothing; enough of everything that is needful, and enough to share, and this most wonderful time of the year is just the time to do it.

All in all, not a bleak picture, but a hopeful one.

Merry Christmas,
Your Pastors

OFFICE TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERS

Anyone interested in volunteering to answer phones in the church office and do light office work, please let Kay Defries know. With snowbirds leaving, we would appreciate additional help. The usual schedule includes Tuesdays from noon – 3pm and Thursdays 9am to 3pm. Volunteers are scheduled only one time per month.

MUCH APPRECIATION

My family and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation of Atonement for your support after my Dad's stroke and subsequent death. We are so grateful for all the prayers, caring notes, hugs, food, generous gifts, and time spent covering the office phones so I could be there to enjoy his last days. We have decided to make a donation in Dad's memory to the stroke unit at CentraCare, with funds given to the family, to show our appreciation for all of the amazing nurses and wonderful doctors that cared for him during his 10 days in the hospital. Thank you, Laura Hillmer and the Family of Lowell Witte

THANK YOU- WEDNESDAY QUILTERS

The Wednesday Quilters would like to thank all those who have donated fabric for our mission quilts in the past year. Many of you were in attendance at the September church service when the quilts were blessed. We have delivered 66 of the quilts to local organizations so far. Those organizations include: Dream Center, VA volunteer services, Pathways for Youth, and McKinley school. If you have fabric to donate for quilt-making we are always accepting donations. We also are in need of sheets or large pieces of fabric for quilt backings. We have recently used Thrivent Action Dollars to purchase sheets to use for the quilt backs. If you are shopping at Walmart and would like to donate a sheet, the twin size flat sheets are the sheets we purchase.



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE UPDATE

Evangelism committee will be doing a monthly "spotlight" on groups within the church. This will give more information about the group; including meeting times and place, pictures of the groups, and allow members and non-members to know more about the group(s). Linda Malvin and Susan Ukaonu will be in charge of this and will start in January.

CARE NOTES

What are these? These are statements on a wide variety of topics, provided by the ELCA. Some are on display on the table outside the Sanctuary. If you see something

that interests you, help yourself to a pamphlet. We have too many to display; these are exchanged periodically.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education

In December we will take an in depth look at a holiday staple –Salvation Army Bell Ringing– and in our other session we will explore Advent and what it can be for us.

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!

December 8th The Salvation Army – Bell Ringing & Red Kettles

Laura Douvier, Volunteer, Special Events, and Red Kettle Coordinator for the Salvation Army, will give us an inside look at the Bell Ringing tradition we are all accustomed to seeing every holiday season. What does the Salvation Army do? Who benefits from Salvation Army programs and what does the organization need to continue its work and to improve the services it provides?

December 15th What About Advent?

We can understand and appreciate Christmas, Easter and *even* Lent, but what about Advent? Advent (or just the month of December) is the *Hurry Up and Wait* Season. What does this mean for us? How can taking time out for some active waiting help us find deeper meaning and joy at Christmas? Please come and explore this together with retired Pastor Jan Nairn leading our conversation.

December 1st, December 22nd and December 29th

Adult Education will not meet.

BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday 9am Bible Study is a great way to learn about the Bible and what its relevance is for you today. Starting in January Bible Study with the Pastors will move to Mondays at 1:00 pm. You will also get to know your pastors and make new friends!

ATONEMENT KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS



The Hooks and Needles Prayer Shawl Group has been busy working on prayer shawls and a few other projects. If you knit or crochet, we would love to have you join us. This is a new group at Atonement that creates shawls, lap robes, chemo hats, etc or individuals' own projects while enjoying fellowship. In December we will meet the second Tuesday only.



ATONEMENT'S

OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for December is God's Global Barnyard. Support our youth in this ELCA outreach program. A little goes a long way to establishing economic stability and providing for families. Please see the information on the Mission bulletin board for what your donations can achieve.

DONATION CORNER

- Food Shelf- Jelly
- Lincoln Center- Jeans, hoodies, high efficiency laundry soap

FROZEN MEALS AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities will distribute frozen meals on December 30th as part of their senior dining program from our parking lot from 1–2:30pm. For eligibility requirements we encourage people to reach out to Catholic Charities at <https://www.ccstcloud.org/> or call (320) 229-4584.

FACT: FEED AMERICAS KIDS TOGETHER!!

Another opportunity for us to feed our community kids! Tim Eck, a young man who grew up at Atonement has designed and built food collection boxes to be placed in churches in our community. Look for his box in our narthex area. As you are able, please bring food products that are appropriate to distribute to students to support their weekend nutrition needs when not at school. Food we collect will be going to North Junior High School Pantry.

MCKINLEY AREA LEARNING CENTER

We will again support students through the school year, so please donate food items in the shopping cart just inside the Donation Center. Ideas: Cereal, fruit bars, cereal bars, fruit cups, pop top cans with soups, pastas, etc. Can openers are needed. Shelf safe milk, individual fruit juices, crackers, chips, and cookies are also welcomed. Thanks!



ATONEMENT MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

September Mission of the Month, HELP International: \$3,057.85.

October Mission of the Month, Anna Marie's Alliance: Totals will be forthcoming.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Catholic Charities Emergency Services is in need of volunteers in our Food Shelf, Basic Everyday Essentials Clothing Program, at the Intake desk and as drivers. We would love for you to share your time and talent with us in any way you can. Email volunteer@ccstcloud.org or call 320-229-4568 for more information!

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 Executive Committee & Staff

**1144 29th Avenue North, St. Cloud, MN 56303
Church Office: 320-252-6203**

President	Linda Schreiber	President@atonementlutheran.org	320-293-3894
Vice President	Bruce Broman	VicePres@atonementlutheran.org	
Secretary	Susan Plahn	Secretary@atonementlutheran.org	
Treasurer	Jill Abrahamson	Treasurer@atonementlutheran.org	320-290-0972
Pastor	John Gabrielson	Pastor@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Pastor	Tim Lindhorst	Pastor@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Office Administrator	Laura Hillmer	Office@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Program Administrator	Mata Carlson	Program@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Volunteer Recruiter	Grant Grzybowski	Volunteer@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Communication Coordinator	Angie Janni	Newsletter@atonementlutheran.org	320-309-4586
Director of Music/Organist	Marcia Handahl	Music@atonementlutheran.org	320-761-2779
Associate Director of Music	Eric Vollen	Choir@atonementlutheran.org	
Handbell Choir Director	Jordan Goodwater	Bells@atonementlutheran.org	218-270-7074
Worship Leader	Jason Ploof		

www.atonementlutheran.org