

## Atonement Lutheran Church



# APRIL

2025

### WEEKLY WORSHIP:

Wednesdays: 6:30pm

Sundays: 9am

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm

**Welcome, Worship, and Serve  
in the name of Christ**

Lenten services continue on Wednesdays at 12 noon (with soup served afterwards) and 6:30pm (with pizza etc served prior, except Holy Week.

**Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>: 9am worship**

**Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: 6:30pm**

(will include 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and Washing of Feet)

**Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>: Noon, 6:30pm**

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: 9am, 11am**

(Coffee and treats will not be served after services.)

## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The Stripping of the altar at the end of the Maundy Thursday worship service is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers during his trial before Pontius Pilot and at the cross. The altar remains bare until Easter morning.

The Eternal Candle is always lighted in the sanctuary. The candle is removed from the sanctuary at the end of the Good Friday service after the death of Jesus is read in the gospel story. The darkness is symbolic of Jesus Christ's three days in the tomb. The eternal candle is returned to the sanctuary after the Lord's Prayer is said in anticipation of the resurrection. For like God's love for us, the light is never entirely out.

## MESSAGE FROM THE WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT TEAM

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to Christian history, Jesus was crucified on a Friday and rose three days later on Sunday. Back in 325AD, the "church council of Nicaea" decided that Easter should be made a true holiday. They also stated that it should be held on the first Sunday after the full moon, after the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, which is the Equinox. This means that Easter can land anywhere between the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.



This year, at Atonement, we celebrate Easter on April 20<sup>th</sup> and will be enhancing our narthex and sanctuary with an array of Easter flowers. For each \$15, members will give flowers "in memory of" or "in honor" special people in their lives.

Order forms will be on the usher's table in the narthex or in the office. Please enclose payment with your form.

# FAITH FORMATION

## \*\* YOUTH HAPPENINGS \*\*

### APRIL FORMATION CONTENT:

#### Grades 1-5:

- April 2 – Palm Sunday, Judas Betrayal, Maundy Thursday
- April 9 – Good Friday, Easter
- April 16 – No class; Holy Week
- April 23, 30 – Jesus appears after His resurrection



#### Confirmation Class:

Confirmation students will meet with mentors April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. No class on April 16<sup>th</sup>. April 23<sup>rd</sup> is a packing event.

After Easter the confirmation class will meet three times before we wrap up the teaching year. We will be considering the Acts of the Apostles using four videos from the Bible Project. These videos are excellent and can be watched by anyone with access to YouTube. You can also find them on the Bible Project Website.

- **Pentecost: Acts 1-7**

Explore the fascinating story of Pentecost, where the Spirit arrived in Jesus' followers and prepared them to spread the Gospel to the nations.

- **The Apostle Paul: Acts 8-12**

Take a look at Acts 8-12, where we meet the apostle Paul and see the rapid expansion of the Jesus movement across the ancient world.

- **Paul's Missionary Journeys: Acts 13-20**

Paul spread the good news of Jesus throughout the ancient world. It wasn't always an easy journey, but Paul was determined. Let's look at why.

- **Bound for Rome: Acts 21-28**

Trace Paul's journey into the heart of the Roman empire, where he gets to announce God's Kingdom to the nations.

### FIRST COMMUNION



First Communion class for children 1<sup>st</sup> grade and older are invited to attend a class talking about Communion. Communion is a gift from God, and we will learn why it is important. Class is April 12<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 11:30am. Parents are welcome to join us at 10:30am to help make Communion bread. Students will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the 6:30pm service. Please RSVP by April 4<sup>th</sup> to the church office 320-252-6203 ext 115 or talk with Mata Carlson.

### HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR QUILTS

Attention all High School seniors and parents! We would like to give you a quilt on either May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am service or May 7<sup>th</sup> at the 6:30pm service. Quilts are made by the Atonement Wednesday quilters. Please contact Mata if you would like to receive a quilt.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A summer kids' event call True North will be hosted at Atonement Lutheran Church June 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 9am to noon each day. At True North we will point kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust. Kids will be guided on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing then toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North. This is for students from age 3 (by September 1, 2024) and older. For more information call or text Lisa at 320 281 9541 or Mata at 320 252 6203x115. There will be a van that will pick up and return students. Also, a noon meal will be served.



We need volunteers for:

Coordination Team, Song leaders, Bible Stories, Craft leaders, Games/crafts preparation, Technology, Photographer, Environment, cleanup crew, Snack/lunch Servers, Infant/Toddler care, Van driver, Van Assistant.

## SUMMER CAMPS AT LUTHER CREST

Register NOW for Luther Crest Summer Camps. There is a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit upon registering. If the overall cost is a concern, please talk with Pastor John or Pastor Tim. The summer camps fill up fast so to have more date options, plan NOW! Online: <https://luthercrest.org> or call 320 846 2431.



## WHY IS THERE A CANOE IN THE NARTHEX?

Atonement owns multiple canoes that are 25 – 30 years old, and they have served Atonement well - providing a safe adventure for many adults and youth in the beautiful Boundary Waters. Unfortunately, the material the canoes are made of breaks down and becomes brittle over time. All of the canoes have had multiple repairs, there is an example now in the Narthex at church. This raises concerns for their continued durability and safe use.



Again, this summer Atonement pastors and youth are planning multiple Boundary Waters Canoe trips. Before they leave in late July, Atonement would like to purchase 4 new canoes that are large, durable, lightweight, and reliable. Then, everyone can feel safe, confident, and comfortable when they hit the Boundary waters this summer.

Atonement can purchase discounted canoes, but they are costly, between \$2,700 - \$3,300 a piece. If you are willing to donate towards the replacement of the canoes, please, make your check out to Atonement Lutheran and in the memo line write BWCA Canoes. We appreciate whatever you can give. Please pray for continued successful Boundary Waters trips, there are two planned this summer July 30-August 3 and August 8-11.

**APRIL 1, 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

**APRIL 2, WEDNESDAY**

8am Bible Online-Men  
 9am Quilters  
**Noon Worship**  
 12:30pm Soup Lunch  
 Noon Al Anon  
 5:15pm Pizza  
 5:45pm 3 yr old-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
**6:30pm Worship**  
 7pm Meet with Mentors  
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**APRIL 3, THURSDAY**

9:45am Bible Online-Men  
 12pm Bible Study-Women  
 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters  
 3-5pm Fare for All

**APRIL 4, FRIDAY**

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

**APRIL 5, SATURDAY**

10am NA Anonymous  
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

**APRIL 6, SUNDAY**

**9am Worship**  
 10am Coffee & Conversation  
 10am Adult Ed: I love you  
 10am Unity Spiritual Center  
 3:30pm Por Su Gracia Worship  
 5pm NA Anonymous  
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

**APRIL 7, MONDAY**

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

**APRIL 8, TUESDAY**

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



Begins April 13

**APRIL 9, WEDNESDAY**

8am Bible Online-Men  
 9am Quilters  
**Noon Worship**  
 12:30pm Soup Lunch  
 Noon Al Anon  
 2pm Knitters, etc  
 5:15pm Pizza  
 5:45pm 3 yr old-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
**6:30pm Worship**  
 7pm Meet with Mentors  
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**APRIL 10, THURSDAY**

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

**APRIL 11, FRIDAY**

1pm Prayer Beads  
 6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

**APRIL 12, SATURDAY**

9-11:30am First Comm Class  
 10am NA Anonymous  
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

**APRIL 13, SUNDAY**

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**9am Worship**  
 10am Coffee & Conversation  
 10am Adult Ed: Goodbye  
 10am Unity Spiritual Center  
 3:30pm Por Su Gracia Worship  
 5pm NA Anonymous  
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

**APRIL 14, MONDAY**

1pm Bible Study with Pastors  
 5:30pm Book Club

**APRIL 15, TUESDAY**

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

**APRIL 16, WED**

8am Bible Online-Men  
 9am Quilters  
 9:30am Elizabeth Circle  
 Noon Al Anon  
**6:30pm Worship**  
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**APRIL 17, THURSDAY**

**MAUNDY 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 Worship**

**APRIL 18, FRIDAY**

GOOD FRIDAY  
**Noon/6:30pm Worship**  
 6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

**APRIL 19, SATURDAY**

10am NA Anonymous  
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

**APRIL 20, SUNDAY**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**9am/11am Worship**  
 10am Unity Spiritual Center  
 3:30pm Por Su Gracia Worship  
 5pm NA Anonymous  
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

**APRIL 21, MONDAY**

OFFICE CLOSED  
 11am Service at The Sanctuary

**APRIL 22, TUESDAY**

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

**APRIL 23, WED**

8am Bread Makers  
 8am Bible Online-Men  
 9am Quilters  
 Noon Al Anon  
 2pm Knitters, etc  
 5:15pm Pizza  
 5:45pm 3 yr old-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
**6:30pm Worship**  
 7pm Packing Event

**APRIL 24, THURSDAY**

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

**APRIL 25, FRIDAY**

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

**APRIL 26, SATURDAY**

10am NA Anonymous  
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

## **APRIL 27, SUNDAY**

### **9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation  
10am Adult Ed: Council Update  
10am Unity Spiritual Center  
3:30pm Por Su Gracia Worship  
5pm NA Anonymous  
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

## **APRIL 28, MONDAY**

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

## **APRIL 29, TUESDAY**

10am Men's Group  
11:30am TOPS  
12:30pm Lunch at Jimmy's  
6:30pm Bell Choir Practice  
6:30pm NA Anonymous  
6:30pm Stamp Club

## **APRIL 30, WED**

8am Bible Online-Men  
9am Quilters  
Noon Al Anon  
5:15pm Pizza  
5:45pm 3 yr old-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
**6:30pm Worship**  
7pm Confirmation class

# **ADULT EDUCATION**

## **ADULT EDUCATION: Following 9am Sunday Worship**

For the first two Sundays in April, join Pastors Tim and John for the remaining "Five Conversations toward making and finding Peace," a Lenten series that has complemented our mid-week worship series, "Making Peace with the Past".

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!

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** "I love you." Do you remember the first time your spouse said these words to you? Do you remember the last time you said these words to a loved one who has died? How does it feel to say these words to someone else, versus hearing them addressed to you? And what's the big deal, anyway? They're just words, right?

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** "Goodbye." We close by taking a look at closure, with reference to Jesus' own extended "Goodbye" to his disciples, as we wrap up Lent and enter Holy Week.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** Easter Sunday: Adult Ed will not meet, nor will there be treats after services.

## **April 27<sup>th</sup> Update from the Council**

From Finance to Mission the Atonement Lutheran Church Council meets monthly with the Executive Council, Pastors Tim, and John to keep Atonement the vibrant congregation that it is. Committee Chairs including Finance, Evangelism, Property, Mission, Adult Education, and more will be available to give updates on their work and thoughts for the future.

## **BELL CONCERTS**



Great River Resonance invites you to their upcoming "Let's Dance" concerts featuring handbell classics, original works, and arrangements from movies and pop songs. Performances will be held Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm at the Great River Regional Library - St. Cloud and Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm at the Sartell Community Center. No tickets or registration are required; a free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, please visit [www.greatriverresonance.org](http://www.greatriverresonance.org).

# LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

Your pastors try hard to stay curious. It's easy to be curious about some things, especially things that are useful, or beautiful, or unfamiliar. Would that this were true of everything and everyone! Unfortunately, it can grow easy to give up on curiosity when things (and people) grow familiar, unappealing, or unhelpful.



Every sunrise is a gift, but how often do we wonder at and carefully ponder the countless pieces of God's work that give us a cascade of color and gentle warming each dawn? More to the point, how often do we turn off our brains while listening to someone repeat the same half-baked (so we think!) justification of their politics or diet or whatever for the 10th (100th) time?

Come to think of it, you might already be bored and incurious about a second pastors' letter about curiosity in the first 3 months of 2025. But if you've hung in reading this for the first 2 paragraphs, perhaps you're able to practice the imitation of Christ that writer Zadie Smith described in a long ago (pre-covid) interview in the *Toronto Star*:

*"I think the hardest thing for anyone is accepting that other people are real as you are. That's it. Not using them as tools not using them as examples or things to make yourself feel better or things to get over or under...And it's so difficult that basically the only person that ever did it was Christ. The rest of us are very, very far behind." - The Toronto Star, Entertainment section interview of Zadie Smith by Deborah Dundas, pub. Nov. 8, 2019*

Our national and local conversations are, as far as we can tell, getting harder and less productive. The fights we keep having just get more entrenched and predictable, and the consequences worse: we lose friends; we quit talking to neighbors; we cut off from family; people quit their churches over squabbles that are, frankly, nonsense.

If we are supposed to be about the business of sharing the Good News that Jesus defeated sin, death, and the devil, what is wrong with us that churches all over the world have regular and repeated blow-ups about furniture, printing overages, how strong to brew the coffee (or tea, depending on your locality), or because we prefer one party or politician to another? (Your pastors have a guess. It starts with the letter "S" and rhymes with "din").

All these arguments pale in comparison to the mission to which we have been called: *to proclaim the salvation of the world accomplished by God in Jesus Christ*. And to whom, you ask, are we called to proclaim? We are called to proclaim this good news to people who are just as lost and broken as we are, who are our sisters and brothers, and who hurt in all the ways we do. If only we could find it in ourselves to not only to speak, but also to listen.



Jesus gave a straight answer to only a handful of questions in the 4 versions of his life story that we regularly read. He asked more than 300 questions. Perhaps this tells us a little something about the value of curiosity? Yet, as Ms. Smith noted, Jesus is about the only person who can keep up that level of patience and interest.

So, we ask you to join us in thanking God for Jesus. And for his example. And we ask that you join us in praying for the Holy Spirit to rest heavy on all of us, like a finger on our lips, inviting us to hear and listen when our friend, our neighbor, our opponent, our enemy, repeats their tired old story or argument. We pray for the capacity to be curious enough about them to respond with a good-faith question, rather than fire back our same old retort. Perhaps that will lead to a true conversation, or maybe not. But, whether or not our curiosity bears fruit, we will have practiced the imitation of Christ, which is never an effort wasted.

## PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT



Diane Wisniewski-Grzybowski  
Pat and Brian Robinson  
Family of Barbara Kjolhaug  
Dale and Donna Thompson  
Angie Faundeen  
Family of Loretta Anderson

Barbara Downing  
Mark Allen  
Keshun White  
Gregg  
Loren Krueger  
Kendall M.

Lainey Matuska  
Patsy Mader  
Joan M.  
Christopher  
Josef F.  
Deon C.

## CONGRATULATIONS

- **Baptism of Macklan Michael Zimmer**
- **Confirmation of Kallie Single**

## THANK YOU

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank all the members of the team who work to provide Atonement's ministry of providing meals for families after their loved one's Celebration of Life or funerals. It takes many people to do this, and the families we serve are so appreciative. Again, thank you for giving your time and energy for this ministry.

## CARD MINISTRY

PLEASE HELP! Join us at **11am, April 17<sup>th</sup>** to send cards to Youth of Atonement and at **1pm**, we will be sending cards to members who will have birthdays in May.

## KITCHEN STORAGE ROOM CHANGE

The kitchen storage room, previously located in the choir room, is now located on the same side of the south hall 1 door down from the kitchen.

## FLAG RAISING AND LOWERING

We're looking for volunteers to lower and raise the flag. It's easy to do! We'd like to set volunteers up on a monthly schedule. If interested, contact Bob Defries at 492-9691.

**PLEASE NEVER PURCHASE GIFT CARDS AT THE REQUEST OF SOMEONE CALLING, TEXTING OR EMAILING YOU. THIS IS A SCAM!**

**Our Pastors and staff will not ever request this.**

**Come for lunch at Jimmy's in Sauk Rapids on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm** in private room to hear Catholic Charities speakers address senior fraud and scams. Each person will pay for their own lunch, ordering from their menu. Call Linda at 320-293-3894 to indicate your attendance.

## **OPPORTUNITY: OFFICE PHONE VOLUNTEER**

Many thanks to the volunteers who have answered phones on Tuesdays 12-3 and Thursdays 9-12. It's been a great way to help Laura, do small tasks for Mata and get to know the pastors. **We need more people.** You would be scheduled only once-a-month and one can always trade with someone else if there is a need. Several of the current roster of volunteers are "snow birds" and are gone January - March, April or May, so we are in need of additional volunteers. If interested, please contact Kay Defries (320-309-6988) or let Laura know.

## **WEBSITE WIZ**

Please check with your adult children or grandchildren if they are familiar with the web building software of WIX. If they are willing to help out just an hour each month, please contact Laura in the office. Much appreciated!!

## **BLOOD DRIVE: URGENT NEED**

Atonement continues to host the community drive on the first Tuesday of every even month. **April 1<sup>st</sup>** 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](http://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.



## **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

New council members appointed since the annual meeting include Grant Grzybowski (chair of Stewardship), Tim Schreiber (chair of Worship Committee), and Fred Sandal (Secretary of the Council). Committees generally meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. The following committees will meet on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at church: Children/Youth Ministry, Evangelism, Adult Education. Property and Worship Committees will meet on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Mission Committee will meet on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Finance Committee meets by zoom. You do not need to be a member of a committee to join the conversation of any committee.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Spanish speaking congregation sharing Atonement's space was using the name of their parent church, Casa De Oracion. They have now taken their own Por Su Gracia-UPCI which translates to For His Grace.

## **THANK YOU!!!**



**National Volunteer Week is April 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.**  
We appreciate each and every one of you.

**National Administrator Week is April 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.**  
We appreciate you!!!!



# 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! Thank you to Patti Gabrielson for providing and preparing everything but the pizza.

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. Thank you to Delores Dengerud for providing bread from Backwards Bread and butter for the lunches. Below are the groups that have committed to a week. Please contact any of them if you would like to assist.

April 2: Pieces of Love Quilters

April 9: Book Club

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS SCHEDULED

Lunch with fraud/scam prevention speaker: **Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm** at Jimmy's, Sauk Rapids.

Trip to St. John's to view bible: Date in May yet to be determined.

ROX GAME: **Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm** game.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Here at Atonement, we have many opportunities for fellowship: worship, bible studies, Wednesday meals, women's circles, committees, Sunday adult education, Sunday conversations over coffee and treats, book club, choir and bell choir. Participate in what is calling you.

## THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to our Atonement family for your kindness and support at the time of our mother's passing. Your gifts of affection for Mom, participation at her Celebration of Life, hospitality toward our family and guests at Mom's funeral, patience for our MANY little ones, and a lovely lunch meal that made it possible for us to enjoy the time with our friends and relatives.

What we experienced from our Atonement friends is a wonderful example of the warmth and welcome that our congregation offers to guests in our midst. We are so grateful to be part of this faith family.

Thanks so much!

Kathy, Kris and our Kjolhaug family

## AARP SAFE DRIVERS' CLASS

Class will be held at Trinity Lutheran in Sauk Rapids on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am-1pm. Cost: \$20.00 AARP members; \$25.00 non-AARP members. Registration with Trinity Church, 320-252-3670. Pay at class, cash or check.



# ATONEMENT'S



# OF THE MONTH

## April Mission of the Month: Habitat for Humanity



Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity (CMHFH) works to build safe, decent, and affordable houses with and for low-income families and individuals. Affordable homeownership helps to create stable home environments by lessening the stress and fear that comes from unstable, unsecure, and unaffordable homes. It also allows families to save for the future and invest in more educational opportunities.

1 out of 4 Minnesota households pay too much for housing and are housing cost-burdened, paying 30% or more of their income for housing. (Minnesota Compass, 2021)

CMHFH was founded in 1989 in response to concerns about the lack of safe, decent, and affordable housing in the St. Cloud area. Construction began that same year on the first CMHFH Habitat home and, in 1990, that home was purchased by their first partner homebuyer. Since then, CMHFH has sold homes to 111 households in this service area. While CMHFH organization was founded in St. Cloud, they serve four counties—Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, and Wright.

## 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.

- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pockets of Hope – backpacks for children ages 12 to 18 at the Child Advocacy Group.
- Summer break – projects will resume in September.

## MISSION OF THE MONTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your generosity of \$2,023 in January for Mission of the Month. That total will pay for the wages of the 2 staff accompanying those needing for overnight sheltering. Our church van transports individuals from Lincoln Center to the overnight location in the evening and returns them in the morning. Drivers are needed and can sign up on the Lincoln Center website. A brief training on driving the van will be needed and can be scheduled through the church office. <https://homelesshelpinghomeless.org/lincoln-center/>

February Mission of the Month, Luther Crest Camperships, received \$7,668 from Atonement.

## 2025 MISSION OF THE MONTH (MOM)

April - Habitat for Humanity

May - HELPS International

June & July - Madison and North schools

August - To be determined

September - Place of Hope

October - Anna Marie's Alliance

November - Homeless Youth Agencies (SHY, 180, Pathways4Youth)

December - God's Global Barnyard (ELCA)

## FARE FOR ALL

The first north side Fare for All went smoothly on Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>. A friendly group of elders and sisters from Latter Day Saints (LDS) arrived around 1:30 to move furniture and prepare for the set up. The truck from the Food Group arrived at 2:00. They quickly set up the food pallets (on cardboard to protect the floor), the check in area with posters and order forms and the check out area.



In addition to set up, volunteers were needed as a Greeter at the door, at Check-in, a Number-caller, Item-Caller, Cart-runners, and Food-loaders. Many thanks to the volunteers from all 4 faith communities (LDS, Together as One, Unity & Atonement). Everyone was friendly and helpful.

We served 100 households; an excellent turn out for the first time. Clean-up and take down went smoothly. Everything was done by 5:45. **The next sale will be Thursday, April 3rd, from 3:00 - 5:00.** As you spread the word, remind others that this is open to anyone - you do not need to "qualify", there is no registration and there is no limit to purchases. Questions can be addressed to Kathy Matthies and Jan Keavney. Website: <https://www.thefoodgrouponmn.org/groceries/fare-for-all/>



## DONATION CENTER

Please donate only items requested. Otherwise, talk to someone on the Mission Committee if you have any questions. Thank you!

## SERVANT OF CHRIST AWARDED TO ATONEMENT

Atonement has been chosen by Lutheran Social Service of MN to receive the 2025 Servant of Christ Award from our Southwestern MN Synod. This is a great honor as we are among 227 congregations in the SW Synod. Atonement will receive a plaque and be featured at the SW MN Synod Assembly June 6-7 at Gustavus Adolfus College in St. Peter, MN.

## 2025 BIKE BUILD HOME 500 - JULY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Central MN Habitat for Humanity is hosting a **5 day**, 500 km fundraiser, July 8-13 for the purpose of raising money for CMHH. Last year the bikers raised \$177,000 in the Winona area. Bikers register at <https://bikebuildhome500.org/> in which 65-85 riders are expected. Volunteers from area churches and businesses are needed for the following: 1) Breakfast or Supper, 2) Rest stops along the routes 3) Support along the routes (flagging turns, intersection awareness) and 4) Food donations. More details will be coming in May, but please be supportive of this unique fundraiser in any way you are able.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mortgage was \$363,405.92; **Now \$106,626.94** as of 02/28/2025.

Total pledged: over \$353,000

Cash received through 2/28/2025: \$242,872.31



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LAURA.**

Atonement Lutheran Church  
1144 29th Avenue North  
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Non-Profit Organization  
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## **Atonement Lutheran Church**

**1144 29th Avenue North, St. Cloud, MN 56303**

**Church Office: 320-252-6203**

President	Bruce Broman	President@atonementlutheran.org	320-293-3894
Vice President	Debra Niemeyer	VicePres@atonementlutheran.org	
Secretary		Secretary@atonementlutheran.org	
Treasurer	Jill Abrahamson	Treasurer@atonemtnlutheran.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
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		
Newsletter Editor	Linda Schreiber	Newsletter@atonementlutheran.org	320-293-3894

**[www.atonementlutheran.org](http://www.atonementlutheran.org)**