

#### Atonement Lutheran Church

WEEKLY WORSHIP: Wednesdays: 6:30pm Sundays: 9am

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

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into Atonement's family: Linda Christen, Bonnie Bush, Jerome Sanchez, Vonnie Ottem, Dayton and Barbara Herbranson, and Joyce and Walter Wilson.

# **OCTOBER 23/27: REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace: that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

#### PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT

| Juel Dragland               | Lainey Matuska | Tracy N     |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Brandon & Raelynn Robertson | Sunbeam Boys   | Mark Allen  |
| Joseph Christensen          | Jerome Sanchez | Patsy Mader |
| Pat & Brian Robinson        | Leesa Stoffers | Gina Prose  |
| Melissa Atwood Reichert     | Liz Krause     | Jodi        |
| Connie Sanchez              | Annette        | Bettye      |
| Bob Salmonson               | John Pflipsen  | Jon Vollen  |
| Christopher                 | Garv           |             |



# **NEW PART TIME STAFF**

Atonement has hired Grant Grzybowski for 5 hours per week in a temporary position to call members of our congregation in an effort to increase the involvement of all. Grant has been a member of Atonement Lutheran Church since the 4th grade which was 38 years ago. His work experience has been in different types of sales, mainly in the financial industry but also in marketing and advertising. Please respond to his calls by discerning what talents you can share with others.

# \*\* YOUTH HAPPENINGS \*\*



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

#### **REGISTER NOW**

It is not too late for students to register for Wednesday night faith formation. Children, ages 3 years old through Kindergarten and  $1^{\rm st}$  through 5th grades, have class on Wednesdays, 5:45-6:20pm. Confirmation class starts at 7:15pm following worship for our youth,  $6^{\rm th}$  grade and older. Adults are invited to be present for our youth, to share their stories or to assist the teacher with tasks. All three groups need adults present! Adults can come whenever they can, does not need to be a commitment for the year. Adults may



be asked to read a Bible passage or help with a craft or just listen. We do need to do a background check for all adults. Just call the office and Laura will assist you.

**Retreat for junior high students** (grades 6-9<sup>th</sup>) is November 22-23, sponsored by the Southwest MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization at the Willmar Convention Center. More information will be shared as it becomes available. RSVP on the Atonement website on the Youth Events page. If you have any questions talked to Pastors John or Tim.

#### TRUNK N' TREAT



Trunk or Treat will be held October 30<sup>th</sup> for children 10 years old and younger. Games and hotdogs will be 5:15–6pm in Fellowship Hall. Trunks are to be open at 6–6:15pm. Children do not need to register. Please bring a non-perishable food item to be given to the McKinley School Food Shelves. **We need volunteers to have their trunks with treats.** Please contact Mata if you will have treats available. Join us for worship at 6:30pm.

# OCTOBER FORMATION CONTENT: No class on October 16<sup>th</sup>: MEA Grades 1-5:

Topics covered will be Moses (baby) and the Bull Rushes, Ten Commandments (adult Moses), and Abraham.

#### **Confirmation Class:**

September 25 - Begin Pentateuch (Genesis)

October 2 - Continue Pentateuch (Genesis pt 2, maybe Exodus)

October 9 - Packing: Birthday Bags

October 23 - Wrap Pentateuch, possibly start Joshua-Judges

October 30 - Trunk or Treat Cleanup

#### STUDENTS RECEIVED BIBLES

6th Graders: Abigail Blommel, Aurora Boeckermann, Melaine Boeckermann, Dylan

Tamm and Mason Weah

3rd Graders: Gavin Frederiksen, Parker Haugen, Henry Tamm, Jordan Wisniewski-

Grzybowski

#### **OCT 1, TUESDAY**

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

#### **OCT 2, WEDNESDAY**

8am Bread Makers 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

#### **OCT 3, THURSDAY**

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

#### **OCT 4, FRIDAY**

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

#### **OCT 5, SATURDAY**

10am NA Anonymous 6:30pm NA Anonymous

# OCT 6, SUNDAY 9am Worship

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

#### **OCT 7, MONDAY**

# **OCT 8, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors 10am Men's Group 11:30am TOPS 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm NA Anonymous 6:30pm Stamp Club

#### **OCT 9, WEDNESDAY**

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 Project NO Choir Rehearsal

#### **OCT 10, THURSDAY**

9:45am Bible Online-Men 12pm Bible Study-Women 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters 3pm Worship Committee 7pm Council Committees

#### **OCT 11, FRIDAY**

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.)

#### **OCT 12, SATURDAY**

10am-2pm Coat Distribution 10am NA Anonymous 6:30pm NA Anonymous

# OCT 13, SUNDAY

#### 9am Worship

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

#### **OCT 14, MONDAY**

#### **OCT 15, TUESDAY**

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

#### OCT 16, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men 9am Quilters 9:30am Elizabeth Circle Noon Al Anon No class or pizza 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **OCT 17, THURSDAY**

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

# OCT 18, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.)

#### **OCT 19, SATURDAY**

10am NA Anonymous 10am-2pm Coat Distribution 6:30pm NA Anonymous 7pm Itinerant Pitcher

# OCT 20, SUNDAY

#### 9am Worship

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

#### **OCT 21, MONDAY**

5:30pm Book Club

#### **OCT 22, TUESDAY**

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

#### **OCT 23, WEDNESDAY**

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
Reformation/Confirmation
7pm Confirmation Class
7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **OCT 24, THURSDAY**

Habitat for Humanity Build 8am Lefse Making 9:45am Bible Online-Men 12pm Bible Study-Women 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters 6:30pm Executive Committee 7pm Council Meeting

#### OCT 25, FRIDAY

8am Lefse Making 6pm Bible Study (Casa de O.) 7:30pm Amadeus Chamber

#### OCT 26, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous 6:30pm NA Anonymous

# OCT 27, SUNDAY Reformation/Confirmation 9am Worship

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

#### **OCT 28, MONDAY**

#### **OCT 29, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors 10am Men's Group 11:30am TOPS 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice

6:30pm NA Anonymous

#### **OCT 30, WEDNESDAY**

8am Bread Makers 8am Bible Online-Men 9am Quilters Noon Al Anon 5:30pm Trunk n Treat 6:30pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Class 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **OCT 31, THURSDAY**

8am Lefse Making 9:45am Bible Online-Men 12pm Bible Study-Women 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters

# A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS

Things are going to get worse.

Pastor John almost always expects this to be true, of just about every situation. (The ability to transform from a normal person directly into a wet towel is one of his most charming qualities.) Sometimes, he's even correct.

Regarding our current political season, "things are going to get worse" looks like a sure bet. Our elected officials at the national, state, and even at the local level, increasingly hold each other in contempt and their attitude is infectious. All of us have stories about neighbors, coworkers, friends, or family members who have been estranged from each other by politics. Many young adults and children have never known a time when it was considered normal for political opponents to be dear friends.



There's certainly plenty of time for things to get worse. We have more than a month to go before the 2024 election. After the election, there are months before the next president is sworn in and takes office.

But there's good news, too. Things will probably get worse, at least in the short term, but history teaches us that things have already \*been\* much worse. Our nation has been torn apart by massive conflicts in multiple generations. We once went to war against ourselves. (You can learn about some of these at Adult Education this October; Wikipedia has a fun page with links to various episodes of unrest in the USA and the pre-Declaration colonies).

So what are we to do today?

Some political extremists in American politics say we must prepare for armed conflict within our borders - another civil war. Violence is the worst - and we pray that it may be the least likely - outcome. More hopeful voices invite us to get out and change minds about what is wrong (and right!) with our country, and share what we can do about it. That's a great thought, but if we don't trust our neighbors, and if they don't trust us, how can we persuade them or they us, of anything we don't already believe (and want to believe)? What your pastors often hear go unstated is that too few of us know what to do or have the energy to do anything. So, we do nothing and we say nothing. Better

silence and stillness than another fight. In effect, we give up and let what is going to happen, happen.

Neither resignation, argument, nor violence sounds all that appealing to your pastors, so we thank God that Christ offers a better path to us, the sons and daughters of the living God. Some may feel that our nation is slipping away from us, or that we are strangers in our own land. When we feel this way, it is good to remember the word God sent to the Israelites through the prophet Jeremiah when they were held captive in Babylon, urging them to pray for and seek peace for the nation where they suffered in exile:

But seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace. (Jer. 29:7 NKJV)

God's people are called to be a blessing to all, and to pray for peace even when we feel ill-used and unfairly treated. Watching your favored candidate and party lose an election is not anything close to being kidnapped and taken hostage in a foreign country. If the Israelites could pray for Babylon, we can pray for a government we don't like.



Closer to home, we have the command of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God, leaving us no question about how to engage with the crazy person who shouts at you and steals your yard sign:

But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (Luke 6:27-28 NIV)

Abraham Lincoln once claimed that persuading a person that you are their friend and wish them well is the path to reasoning with him or her. Jesus gives us no such assurance.

He gives us only an example: he loved and prayed for all, even those who were in the act of killing him (Luke 23:34), not so that he could reason with them, but because it is love, not reason, that the Holy Spirit uses to remake the mind and heart and soul. Christ commands us to pray for those who hate and curse and mistreat us not because doing so will change their minds, but because praying will change us, bringing us in nearer harmony to the image of Christ, whose Body we already are.

#### PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastors' appreciation month and also the month that both of our pastors were called: Pastor John in 2016 and Pastor Tim in 2018. We are grateful. Please keep them in prayers.



# **THANK YOU!**

**Thank you** to serving groups for the treats on Sunday mornings.

# D-CAN'S CAREGIVER FALL CONFERENCE: October 24, 2024

Please see information on the community bulletin board (outside the fellowship hall). If you have a loved one with dementia, this would be a helpful conference for you.

#### **ADULT EDUCATION**



Is the U.S. a Christian Nation? In October, Adult Education will present a four-part series on the history of the relationship between Christianity and the state. Looking at four specific time periods, we will consider whether American government has been, or was intended to be, officially Christian. (Hint: The answers aren't always simple.) Dr. Mark Jaede, a retired history professor from SCSU will present.

October 6: Contact and the first colonies

October 13: The Constitution era

October 20: Nineteenth century immigration

October 27: Twentieth century "threats." Science, communism, and feminism.

Adult Education meets in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall after the service. Coffee and treats will be waiting for you. Please join us!

#### **Bible Study**

The Tuesday morning Bible Study 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!

Bring your coffee and join us for Bible Study with a pastor on Tuesday at 9am. Everyone is welcome.

### **CHOIRS BEGIN AGAIN!**

Atonement's vocal choir began their weekly practices in September on Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm. Not only do they provide a valuable ministry, but choir members have fun doing it.



The Bell Choir will start their weekly practices on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

#### **BLOOD DRIVE**



Atonement continues to host the community drive on the first Tuesday of every even month. October 1<sup>st</sup> is the next date to give here. The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be available at Atonement 12:30-6:30pm. 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.

# **COMMUNITY PACKING PROJECT**

The project for October is birthday bags that will be given to Catholic Charities Food Shelf. Join us in assembling the bags at 7:15pm on October  $9^{th}$  in the Fellowship Hall.



# **JOIN IN SERVING**

All committees will welcome new people. Consider joining one based on your interest. This month they meet on October  $10^{\rm th}$ .

#### **CARD MINISTRY**

PLEASE HELP! Join us at **11am October 17**<sup>th</sup> to send cards to Youth of Atonement. At **1pm October 17**<sup>th</sup> we will be sending cards to members who will have birthdays in November. If you are not receiving a birthday card, we do not have that information on file. Please let us know so we can include you.

#### ATONEMENT KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS



There is a new group beginning at Atonement to create shawls, lap robes, chemo hats, etc or individuals' own projects while enjoying fellowship. They will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 2pm in the church library. October dates are **October 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

#### **ARCHIVES**

Archiving Atonement's history is an ongoing project. Donated items can still be dropped off in the library.

#### **WOMEN: MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The Women of the ELCA Southwest Synod's Fall conference is **October 5<sup>th</sup>** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with registration at 8:30am, conference 9am to 1pm.

#### FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Fellowship and the Children/Youth Committees will be serving gourmet hotdogs with all the fixins at the Trunk n Treat event on **October 30<sup>th</sup>**, **5:15-6pm**. Save the date!

If you are interested in planning opportunities for Atonement members to get together, please join the Fellowship Committee. Contact chair, Ralph Carpenter, for meeting day and time.



# **ITINERANT PITCHER IS BACK**

Join Pastor Tim and others on **October 19<sup>th</sup>**, 7-8:30pm at Bad Habit, Brewing Company, 25 College Ave N, St Joseph.

# **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

As many of you know, we are in the first year of a capital campaign to pay off our mortgage and set aside funds for the planned, but not-yet-scheduled, road, sewer, and gutter assessment from the City of St. Cloud. At the beginning of 2024, our mortgage balance exceeded \$360,000. You have already pledged almost \$300,000 towards this campaign. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity! And because many of you have already met your pledges in part or in full, our mortgage balance stood at less than \$200,000 as of September 1, 2024. This is a reduction of about 45% of the mortgage principal in just 9 months - and we continue to receive additional one-time gifts and pledges. Thank you for your investment in the future financial stability of Atonement Lutheran Church!

The church council and capital campaign committee plan to pay down the mortgage principal first, as quickly as gifts to the campaign allow. Once the mortgage is paid in full, all further gifts toward the capital campaign will be escrowed for the coming assessment from the City of St Cloud. We have not received an official estimate of this project's costs, but would like to be prepared for an assessment of \$250,000.

#### **HELP US MAKE LOTSA LEFSE!**

It's lefse time, everybody! Join us in October and November and help us make lefse to sell at the Advent Celebration. Whether it's your first or one hundredth time making lefse, we hope you'll join us in carrying on this Scandinavian and Atonement tradition. Sign up for one shift or several! Questions? Call Eric Vollen at 651-272-9132 or Jon Ness at 651-472-4628 or email nessvollen@gmail.com.

- Thursday, October 24, 8 am: Cooking and Mixing
- Friday, October 25, 8 am: Rolling
- Thursday, October 31, 8 am: Cooking and Mixing
- Friday, November 1, 8 am: Rolling
- Sunday, November 3, 10:30 am: Cooking and Mixing
- Monday, November 4, 4 pm: Rolling
- Sunday, November 10, 10:30 am: Cooking and Mixing
- Monday, November 11, 4 pm: Rolling

#### DID YOU KNOW...

The students that come for the Mandarin Breakfast Club are students at North Junior High. They started the immersion curriculum at Madison and are now at North. The gatherings are for the purpose of expanding the kids understanding of Mandarin Chinese and creating a social group to share this unique experience. The gatherings meet in our fellowship hall. The group is overseen by parents and have the cooperation of North Junior High administration. Pastor John and Kris Boyle are present in the building and also share a sense of welcome to the group. They meet once a month from October through May at 7:30 AM. Anyone would be welcome!

#### A LETTER FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Dear Members of Atonement Lutheran Church,

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign is now under way. Our posters will be displayed at the Church, and we will present additional announcements prior to Consecration Sunday on November 24, 2024.

Many of us are living in our "golden years", and the Stewardship team thanks you for your generosity and for your great personal commitment to our church. Although much divides people in our Country, we are united by God's gifts of hope, the good news (Gospel) and the communion of the saints.

Consecration Sunday is November 24, 2024. Please plan to attend worship and brunch following church services. We have great things to do at our church and in the community in 2025.

Remember, the Stewardship announcements, posters, and attendance/giving cards will be colored in yellow and green this year. That will distinguish them from the Capital Campaign documents, which will be primarily purple-colored. Both are important and will help our Church fulfill its mission in the world. Our giving helps others, and it is good for us.

Very truly yours, Stewardship Team

# **ATONEMENT'S**



# OF THE MONTH

October Mission of the Month: Anna Marie's Alliance All money collected this month will be matched by an anonymous donor.

Anna Marie's Alliance provides safety, shelter, support, and referral services to survivors of domestic violence and their children living throughout central Minnesota.

Their mission is to provide education, intervention, and advocacy to those affected by relationship abuse with a holistic approach and anti-oppression focus. Their vision is a world free of relationship abuse.

Since 1979, Anna Marie's has served more than 21,000 survivors of relationship abuse. Their team provides intervention in crisis situations and education that prevents domestic violence. Youth programming, advocacy services, and referrals for clients to partner organizations are just some examples of the work they do.

You can help. Join Anna Marie's Alliance's group of amazing, dedicated donors, whose contributions allow them to carry out their mission. Make a gift to support the work they do, or give the gift of your time and talent by volunteering to help. To get involved, call (320) 251-7203.

If you are experiencing violence in your home, call (320) 253-6900 any time, day or night. Their advocates are there to help, 24 hours a day,

The **annual fundraising breakfast** for Anna Marie's is **Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**, 8am at the Park Event Center. If interested in attending, contact Pastor Tim.

# **COATS FOR KIDS (AND ADULTS) DISTRIBUTION**

FREE winter apparel for everyone – infants to adults!

Dates: Saturday, October 12, 2024 Saturday, October 19, 2024

Time: 10am to 2pm

At Atonement Lutheran Church

If you have new or clean gently used apparel to donate, contact Ione at 320-492-7993. If you would like to volunteer to set up the day before or to assist the day of distribution, please come! Last year, 2,000 coats were distributed.

#### FROZEN MEALS AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities distributes frozen meals as part of their senior dining program from our parking lot from  $1-2:30\,\mathrm{pm}$  on the  $4^{\mathrm{th}}$  Tuesday of every month. For eligibility requirements we encourage people to reach out to Catholic Charities at <a href="https://www.ccstcloud.org/">https://www.ccstcloud.org/</a> or call (320) 229-4584.

# **CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD SHELF**

Current needs are jelly and new children's clothing for heading back to school, especially underwear and socks.

#### 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!

#### **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.

#### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Atonement is joining Catholic churches in the area to provide support for a home build on **Thursday, October 24**<sup>th</sup>, by scheduling two four hour shifts of six persons each. We have openings on the morning shift (8am to 12 noon); and afternoon shift (12:30 to 4:30pm), with lunch being provided for both groups from 12–12:30pm.

To volunteer, you can call Kris Boyle 320-248-8719 or call Kris Lehman 320-761-3477 when you have decided to offer whatever gifts you have received from God to serve others.

Habitat for Humanity is hosting a **breakfast fundraiser** on **October 9<sup>th</sup>**, 8-9am at the Regency downtown. Please contact either Kris Boyle or Kris Lehman for more information.



# ATONEMENT MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

August Mission of the Month, Pathways for Youth: \$3,506.80 September Mission of the Month, HELP International: Totals will be forthcoming.

# WREATH ETC SALES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Again this year, St. Cloud Area Special Olympics team will be selling wreaths, swags, spruce tips, and new again this year, porch pots. All orders must be received **before November 1**<sup>st</sup>. Please see the Schreibers in church or email LTJSchreiber@hotmail.com or call 320-293-3894. As a team we depend on our fundraisers to cover the rental space for practices, equipment, and competition fees. Our team offers bowling, track, swimming, powerlifting, basketball, softball, bocce, track, floor hockey, golf, snow shoeing, and corn hole; all for individuals with special needs ages 8-99. Thank you for your support and prayers.



#### LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THIS ELECTION SEASON

+Bishop Dee Pederson

Dear friends - If the news these days is giving you whiplash, you are not alone! We have entered an election season that seems more contentious and emotional than ever before. Relationship tensions across our communities and congregations, and within families are strong. In years before, it seemed like we could worship side-by-side with people who disagreed politically, but today, that's a challenge!



So how do live together as the church in these times? How do we regard one another?

#### Remember that:

The people with whom we worship are beloved children of God, each one created in the image of God. (Genesis 1)

Jesus Christ has made us one. We are *together* in Christ, not alone. It's about *unity*, not uniformity.

God gave us two ears and one mouth. Listening to others is a valued and sometimes learned practice. Olympic athletes practice their skills. We as Christians get to practice love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Galatians 5)

Things we post on social media are there forever. Be intentional about how you engage in conversations in posts. It is far easier to share memes that demonize others, rather than those that exhibit kindness.

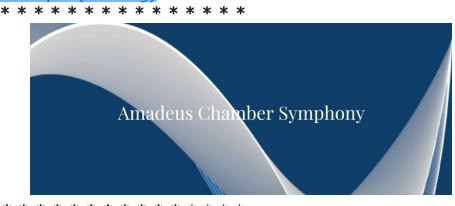
There are great resources available to you.

Being A Public Church.pdf (elca.org).
Political Activity and Tax Status.pdf (elca.org).

Friday, October 25 7:30pm

at Atonement

Free will offering.



#### BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Have you or someone you care about had a loss due to death, divorce or separation? Beginning Experience (BE) is providing a weekend for healing on **October 18-20**. Held at the retreat center at Luther Crest, Alexandria, BE is a program designed to facilitate the grief resolution process for adults enabling them to move on in hope. For more information or an application please call 320-319-8863.

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**

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| 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      |                                 |              |

# www.atonementlutheran.org