



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

#### **And also with you.**

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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**Annual Meeting Agenda  
January 28, 2024  
Atonement Lutheran Church  
St. Cloud, Minnesota**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Devotions**
- 3. Approval of Quorum**
- 4. Approval of Agenda**
- 5. Approval of 2023 Congregational Meeting minutes**
- 6. Pastors' reports**
- 7. President's report**
- 8. Treasurer's report**
- 9. Approval of 2024 budget**
- 10. Presentation and election of 2024 Church Council members**
- 11. Old business**
- 12. New business**
- 13. New president's comments**
- 14. Adjournment**

Note: Any member who has a specific issue for the 2024 Annual Meeting is asked to submit a written request to Linda Schreiber for review by the Executive Council.  
Please email Linda at: [ltjschreiber@hotmail.com](mailto:ltjschreiber@hotmail.com).

# **Atonement Lutheran Church**

## **2023 Atonement Annual Meeting**

### **January 29, 2023**

**Members present:** 55

**Call to Order:** President Karen Vann

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor John

**Approval of quorum:** 55 members present

**Approval of agenda:** Motion was made by Kay Defries to adopt the agenda as presented. Ralph Carpenter seconded and the motion carried.

**Approval of 2022 Congregational Meeting minutes:** With no additions or corrections, the minutes stand approved as printed.

#### **Pastors' Report**

Pastor Tim- He is happy at Atonement and the relationship between pastors. The congregation has shown outstanding generosity. Going forward, how do we use some of the gifts we have (e.g., our building) with the community?

Pastor John- He thanked the congregation for his sabbatical leave. It came at a time when it was needed and he feels it extended his ministry. Can we be as kind with those we don't know as we are with those we do know?

**President's Report:** Karen Vann It has been a good year. Turnover in the Office Administrator's position the past few years has resulted in making some changes in procedures. Laura Hillmer was hired and these changes have helped her to be successful. Recognized for their volunteer work during the vacancy in the administrator's position were Jill Abrahamson, Willis Jokela and Linda Schreiber. The Staff Support Committee was thanked for their involvement in the hiring process. This committee will also serve as an Internship Committee meeting with Molly Wills during her internship at Atonement. Thanked for planning the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary were Larry Hanson, Sue Schmidt, Anne First and Nancy Johnson. Three members leaving the council were recognized for their contributions and include Angie Faundeen, Ray Dennis and Adam Bauer. In an effort to discern Atonement's future, a Visioning Task Force has been established and will begin meeting in March. Their charge will be to create a vision of our future and offer suggestions on how to make that vision a reality.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stuart Perry Expenses were lower than budgeted. Checking account balance is healthy. Questions were asked and answered regarding musical equipment, property expenses and building use funds, legacy report information and the meaning of restricted versus unrestricted assets. The increase in 2023 payroll budget is due to now having a full time office administrator, the addition of Mata Carlson on staff and the synod's recommendation of a 5% increase for staff. A motion to accept the 2023 budget was made by Chris Wills, seconded by Randy Niemeyer and carried by vote.

**Presentation and election of 2023 Church Council members:** Children's and Youth Ministries will be combined in 2023. Names in bold print are nominees for open positions and voting was for those individuals. The President will appoint positions left open until the next annual meeting.

**President: Sheila Molde (1 year term)**

**Vice-President: Linda Schreiber (1 year term followed by 1 year as president)**

**Secretary: Susan Plahn (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2 year term)**

Treasurer: Stuart Parry (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term)

Fellowship Ministry: Ralph Carpenter (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term)

Evangelism: \_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2 year term)

**Worship Ministry: Sally Reichert (2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2 year term) appointed in 2022**

Children's & Youth Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2 year term)

**Adult Ministry: Jean Klosowski (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2<sup>nd</sup> two year term)**

Property Ministry: Don Stello (2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2 year term)  
Arlene Omlid, co-chairman

**Stewardship Ministry: Steve Gabrielson (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2 year term)**

Mission Ministry: Kris Boyle (2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2 year term)  
Kay Defries, co-chairman

**Nominating Committee: Debbie Grzybowski (1 year term)**

**Don Stello (1 year term)**

Four additional people needed for a 1 year term

Appointed Positions:

Legacy Committee: Patrick Mastin, Jon-Scott Johnson, Joyce Raetz, and Kay Josephs.

Luther Crest Board: Marcus and Marilyn Anderson, Talliev and Karen Vollen

Gustavus Adolphus Representatives: Jeanne and Dave Erickson

Synod Representatives: 2 people needed

A motion to elect the slate from the Nominating Committee was carried by vote.

**Old Business:** none brought forward

**New Business:** After a request to correct a spelling error on page 2 of the by-law revisions, a decision was made to vote on the revisions as a whole. The motion to accept the revisions was carried. They do not need to be ratified.

**New President's Comments:** Sheila Molde Be open to hearing what God is asking us to do. She is looking forward to the next year.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Tim

**Adjournment:** by President Sheila Molde

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Plahn  
Secretary

# Co-Pastors Annual Report

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”* Hebrews 11: 1  
As we worship together and share a ministry vision and purpose this verse suggests that *“faithfulness means living now by the vision of things hoped for, living out the conviction that there is more to life than just what we can see with our eyes.”*

The articles that will follow in this Annual Report provide a moving but incomplete record of what God has done in and through us in the past year. We won't have a chance to review them all before submitting our report, but we have felt personally blessed by participating directly in Atonement's efforts to serve God and neighbor by:

- Worshipping regularly, eating together, and celebrating the goodness of God;
- Studying scripture with youth and adults through Wednesday School, Confirmation, Wednesday men's Bible Study, Tuesday Bible study, many Women's Bible studies, Vacation Bible School (in English and Spanish), and an ecumenical group of pastors'
- Supporting local mission partners, including but not limited to food shelves, Pathways for Youth, Catholic Charities, Homeless Helping Homeless, Anna Marie's Shelter, CentraCare Home Delivered Meals & Pockets of Hope, with prayer, labor, and both in-kind and monetary gifts;
- Providing space in our building for two other congregations, no fewer than six recovery groups, Coats for Kids, a counseling service, and many other community and congregational groups;
- Giving youth and adults immersive faith-formation experiences through Boundary Waters Canoeing, Bible Camp, and wider-church Gatherings

We hope you read all of the committee reports, appreciating what our congregation has done and discerning how you might want to join in or increase your support of those ministries. Read and see how the Holy Spirit is alive and working in our individual lives and our congregation, but also in our wider community. Read and see how our faithfulness shows in the joy, mutual support, and trust with which we work and have fun together.

We also invite you to read between the lines, so to speak, to see not just what our congregation is *doing*, but what we are *becoming*, with the Holy Spirit's help and guidance. We are more than what we do. Christ has promised to add to us, to grow us - both in number and in spiritual power - and has done so this year (numbers aren't everything, but we can't deny that it feels good to see more people returning to worship, or starting to worship with us for the first time!) but your pastors feel, and we hear from many of you, a hunger and hope for more. More people to share our joy and good work, more opportunities to proclaim the saving love of God made real in Jesus Christ, more connections with friends, family, and neighbors for the sake of the gospel.

Some of our hopes are not yet realized. That's ok. It's not always easy, but it is possible to live and experiment (and even fail) in the "not-yet" time, because we have *the assurance of things hoped for*, and the quality of community we have developed reflects Christ in us and faith in our *conviction of things not seen*.

Your pastors are excited about the coming year. It will challenge us, and you. We can predict some of those challenges, but only God knows everything that will come. As we think about the future a few questions come to mind:

- How will Christ shine through us?
- What new relationships will be built with people and mission organizations?
- How will we grow in our relationship with God and with each other?
- What can we do together to share the good news of Christ?

Regardless of what comes, we believe in God's care and God's mercy – God's steadfast love. We believe that, together, we can discern God's will for us. Any one of us alone could get it wrong: that's why we need each other as parts of a vibrant worshipping community. Together, we grow, we share, and we reach out with the gospel.

Peace,  
Pastors Tim & John

## Pastoral Acts

### Baptisms

Eli Mark Schwinghammer  
Sophia Grace Schleicher  
Violet Elizabeth Boekermann  
Raiden Mateo Richter

### Weddings

Sarah Schmitz & Justin Robertson  
Jessica Krause & Charles Lombard

### Funerals

Beverly From	Jan Peterson
Linda Raine	Karen Pederson
Robert Nairn	Maeverine Wohlers
Raymond Dennis	Donald Anderson
Nancy Anderson	Hayden Edstrom
Dorothy Sommer	John C. "Chris" McDermid
Arleen Boyd	

### Confirmations

Mylie Parker

## Attendance

Average Program Yr. Sunday Attendance:	103
Average Program Yr. Wednesday Attendance:	47
Average Summer Sunday Attendance:	91
Average Summer Wednesday Attendance:	21
Average Weekly Attendance Live Stream (36 x 1.7*)	62
Average Weekly view duration of Live Stream	11 minutes
Easter Sunday Attendance:	289
Christmas Eve Attendance:	364

*\*Average household size*

# Music Director's Annual Report

As I begin my 26th year at Atonement, I reflect on how grateful I am to have such a great staff to work with!

Laura has done an amazing job in the office juggling countless tasks to keep everything in line!! How fortunate we are to have her as the "face" of Atonement when people come into the office!

Pastor Tim & Pastor John are collaborative, imaginative, appreciative, flexible, humorous, enjoy & embrace change and even ask my opinion on different topics! This has NOT been the norm in the past. I so appreciate the opportunity to work with them!

Music is such an integral part of worship! It touches our hearts, evokes memories and brings a message to us that the spoken word may not convey. Atonement is fortunate to have Eric Vollen and Jordan Goodwater on the music staff and I certainly am grateful to have these two guys to work with. Again, their flexibility and willingness to change things up (even at the last minute) is refreshing! They both do a marvelous job in recruiting new members, being visible in our community and making their respective choirs fun! They are thoughtful in selecting music that is within the scope of what each choir can master with rehearsals just once a week, which translates to members of each choir feeling accomplished when singing during the service. Please consider joining a choir, as it provides wonderful fellowship!

The Handbell Choir has been at Atonement for over 20 years now. This choir uses some very special instruments which have to be refurbished and tuned every so often at quite an expense. The tables & pads the choir uses are the originals(!), and are showing wear and are very unreliable. As with all "things", the Handbell Choir is in need of replacing and rejuvenating these necessary items previously mentioned, even though Jordan has taken a cautious and conservative approach to keep our handbells in top shape.

This year has brought a new style of music to our Wednesday services and once per month Sunday with the addition of Jason Ploof. Jason is a fine musician, a talented guitarist and has stepped into his position with a goal of guiding people in learning a new genre of music. His flexibility in seeking music that is easy to learn has been greatly appreciated and I see members of our congregation even enjoying singing on a Sunday morning now. Change is hard, but I appreciate your willingness to be patient as we explore this new style.

Last but not least, it is the people of Atonement who make it such a joy to continue in my music ministry with you! THANK YOU for your support of me, the music department at Atonement, and my family in prayer! I feel richly blessed and I look forward to seeing you each week!

In His Service,  
Marcia Handahl  
Organist/Director of Music Ministries



# President's Annual Meeting Report

Welcome to a New Year at Atonement. In the first full year of recovery after Covid we have a great opportunity to view that communal forced experience as a reset. While everything in our lives stopped or needed to be done differently during the pandemic we are now free to return to “life as usual”, but should we? I challenge Atonement to ask if we want to return to how things were done three years ago. What are we called to return to, and how can some things be done differently? Instead of returning to the past, how do we build a new future?

The first thing we need to do is invite God to lead us. In the Sowing Circles I facilitate we talk about how we see the Holy Spirit at work around us. God is in EVERYTHING EVERY DAY, so how do we recognize and join this? What God asks us to do is not hard. Share and Spread God’s love with all. We can view this as an overwhelming task to add to our to-do list, or we can view it as a theme we carry with us as we experience life. The Adult Ed. Committee has embraced this idea for their focus this year, “Vocation-carrying out ministry through our work.” In whatever kind of activity fills your days how can you share your story?

I thank the congregation for allowing me to serve as President this past year and for the support I received. I look forward to continuing serving in this family of God with all of you.

# Finance Committee Report

## Atonement Lutheran Church

### Finance Committee Report

	2022		2023
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$482,207.43	\$558,700.00	\$544,821.38
<b>Expenses</b>			
	<u>Cash Outlay</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Administrative	\$47,691.93	\$45,000.00	\$58,261.86
Adult Ministry	\$697.45	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Children's Ministry*	\$146.99	\$3,000.00	\$5,858.62
Debt Service	\$48,264.00	\$48,264.00	\$48,264.00
Fellowship	-\$331.47	\$1,500.00	\$714.23
Mission Ministry	\$27,681.16	\$38,500.00	\$37,235.45
Payroll	\$265,976.64	\$340,000.00	\$326,930.89
Property Expense	\$95,962.10	\$80,000.00	\$81,511.02
Stewardship Ministry	\$3,369.79	\$3,500.00	\$1,793.77
Worship	\$9,188.31	\$10,000.00	\$7,671.06
Youth Ministry*	\$4,114.53	\$7,000.00	\$10,649.76
Evangelism	<u>\$1,150.00</u>	<u>\$1,150.00</u>	<u>\$720.87</u>
	\$503,911.43	\$579,914.00	\$579,611.53
Mission of the Month	\$33,898.28	\$0	\$35,000.00

*\*Includes portion of youth community projects during 2023.*

## Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2023

### Current Assets

Bremer Checking (Unrestricted)	\$ 86,879.11
Bremer Checking (Restricted)	\$128,818.76
CD (6 month) - Stearns Bank	\$ 50,000
CD (12 month) - Stearns Bank	\$ 50,000
Family Assistance	\$ 2,463.62
ELCA Endowment Fund	\$ 55,233.39

Total Current Assets \$373,394.88

### Fixed Assets

Building and Property \$4,418,956.17

**Total Assets \$4,792,351.76**

### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	\$0.00
State Payroll Taxes Payable	\$0.00
Total Credit Cards	2,354.43
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-594.87</u>

Total Current Liabilities \$1,759.56

### Long Term Liabilities

Thrivent Mortgage Note \$363,405.92

**Total Liabilities \$365,165.48**

**Total Equity \$4,472,186.28**

**Atonement Lutheran Church**  
**2024 Budget**

	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Proposed Budget*</u>	Change +/-
Total Income	\$558,700	\$605,858	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Administrative	\$45,000	\$50,000	5,000
Adult Ministry	\$2,000	\$2,000	0
Children's Ministry	\$3,000	\$3,000	0
Debt Service	\$48,264	NA	NA
Bank fees & Mortgage Interest**		\$23,100	NA
Mortgage Principal		\$25,000	NA
Fellowship	\$1,500	\$3,500	2,000
Mission Ministry	\$38,500	NA	NA
Mission Committee-Discretionary		\$11,200	NA
MM-SWMN			
Synod		\$26,496	NA
MM-Great River Conf		\$544	NA
Payroll	\$340,000	\$365,000	25,000
Property Expense	\$80,000	\$82,400	2,400
Stewardship Ministry	\$3,500	\$3,500	0
Worship	\$10,000	\$10,000	0
Youth Ministry	\$7,000	\$7,000	0
Evangelism	<u>\$1,150</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	-150
Total	\$579,914	\$613,740	

*\*Approved by church council on Jan 11, 2024*

*\*\*New accounting firm tracks mortgage interest and principal separately*

**Pledge Information**

As of January 8:

	Number	Amount
2023	98	\$357,676
2024	110	\$365,806

# Presentation of Nominating Committee

Names in bold print are nominees for open positions.

Other names are mid-term in their positions.

**President: Linda Schreiber (one year term)**

**Vice President: Bruce Broman (one year term followed by one year as president)**

Secretary: Susan Plahn (2<sup>nd</sup> year of two-year term)

**Treasurer: Jill Abrahamson (1<sup>st</sup> year of two-year term)**

**Fellowship Ministry: Ralph Carpenter (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2<sup>nd</sup> two year term)**

**Worship Ministry: Sally Reichert (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2<sup>nd</sup> two year term)**

**Evangelism Ministry: Nancy Sokoloski (1<sup>st</sup> year of two-year term)**

**Pat Flicker**

**Children's & Youth Ministry: Ella Anderson (2<sup>nd</sup> year of two-year term) appt in 2023**

Adult Ministry: Jean Klosowski (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term)

**Property Ministry: Bob Defries (1<sup>st</sup> year of two-year term)**

**Thor Larson, co-chairman**

Stewardship Ministry: Steve Gabrielson (2<sup>nd</sup> year of two-year term)

**Mission Ministry: Kris Boyle (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term)**

Kay Defries

**Nominating Committee: Sheila Molde (one year term)**

**Angie Janni (one year term)**

**Christopher Wills (one year term)**

**Jon Molden (one year term)**

**(one year term)**

Appointed Positions:

Legacy Committee: **Patrick Mastin (3<sup>rd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> three year term)**

**Jon-Scott Johnson (3<sup>rd</sup> year of three year term)**

Joyce Raetz (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> three year term)

Kay Josephs (3<sup>rd</sup> year of three year term)

\_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> year of three year term)

\_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> year of three year term)

Luther Crest Board: Marcus and Marilyn Anderson

Talliev and Karen Vollen

Larry Hanson

Gustavus Adolphus Representatives: Jeanne & Dave Erickson

Synod Representatives: **Tim & Linda Schreiber (one year term)**

**Gabin Gitangwa & Astrid Namona (one year term)**

# Committee Reports:

## Adult Education Committee

The Committee members are Jean Klosowski, Jan Nairn, and Ken Swanson.

Adult Education meets in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays following the 9 am service. People from elsewhere may join the sessions on Zoom.

2023

### January – February

- 1/8 Review Church Bylaws led by Karen Vann
- 1/15 Revelation – A six-part series led by retired Pastor Jan Nairn
- 1/22 Revelation
- 2/5 Revelation
- 2/12 Revelation
- 2/26 Revelation

### March

- 3/5 Hunger in Central Minnesota, Eric Vollen, Catholic Charities
- 3/12 Revelation – The sixth of a six-part series
- 3/19 It's Normal to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit, Pastor John
- 3/26 Seminary Experience, Vicar Molly Wills

### April

- 4/2 ISAIAH, Susan Holman, Community Organizer
- 4/9 Easter (No Adult Ed)
- 4/23 Homeless Helping Homeless in Central Minnesota, Harry Flegel
- 4/30 On the Sixth Day ... God Created Animals, Ken Swanson

### October – November

- 10/1 Sunbeam Mission Update, Jeff Anderson, Mel Harmon
- 10/8 The Five Solas, Grace alone, Pastor Tim
- 10/15 The Five Solas, Faith alone, Pastor John
- 10/22 The Five Solas, Christ alone, Pastor Tim
- 10/29 HELPS International, Mission Trip to Guatemala, Larry Asplin, Larry Hanson, Phil Boyle, Marcia Handahl
- 11/5 The Five Solas, Scripture alone, Pastor Tim
- 11/12 The Five Solas, Glory of God alone, Pastor Tim
- 11/19 Consecration Sunday, No Adult Ed
- 11/26 Thanksgiving weekend, No Adult Ed

### December

No Adult Ed Sessions were held.

Jean Klosowski  
Chair, Adult Education Committee

# Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee consists of Bob and Donna Salmonson, Herb and Sally Reichert, Irene Oberman, Randy Finn, and Ralph and Sandra Carpenter. This committee organized and/or helped with the following:

Easter Brunch - Served 105 in attendance with Cinnamon rolls, fruit, juice, and coffee

Lenten Lunches - Helped to set up Lenten lunches which were provided by various church groups each week during Lent

A Fun and Games Afternoon - Saturday afternoon on February 25th

May 3rd had a potluck luncheon with bingo after lunch 15 attended

ROX Game June 29th - 37 attendees June 29th \$16 tickets included hot dog and drink at the game

October 11 - Potluck luncheon invited, Salem and United to join - bingo and games after lunch  
October birthdays recognized

November 8th - Wednesday potluck luncheon, with speaker from Anna Marie's, 24 people in attendance, November birthdays recognized, Salem and United invited to join

December 13 - Wednesday potluck lunch with speaker - SCSU Basketball Coach Quincy Henderson 26 in attendance December birthdays recognized

Ralph Carpenter

# Mission Committee

The Mission Committee has had a very productive year. Our primary activity involved the Mission of the Month initiative. In summary, we received \$35,000 from the generosity of our congregation. We were able to make donations to the following organizations and projects:

Camperships for Atonement kids  
Place of Hope Ministries  
Minnesota Food Share  
Habitat For Humanity  
Homeless Helping Homeless/Lincoln Center  
Madison Elementary School & North Junior High  
Lutheran Social Services ELCA Disaster Relief  
Catholic Charities  
Sunbeam Boys Home  
Anna Marie's Alliance  
Pathways for Youth

An ongoing goal of the Mission Committee has been to work in collaboration with other committees, projects, and churches to support their goals when we have resources to share. The reflection of that work includes:

- Increasing our support of the community wide work of Catholic Charities by hosting the Senior drive thru meal distribution monthly.
- Working with the Adult Ed Committee to coordinate our monthly Mission Minute and the adult ed topics to expand the exposure to selected issues and organizations.
- Hosting the students and parents of North Junior High's Mandarin Breakfast Clubs monthly gathering.
- Providing space, volunteers, and a welcoming environment for the family coat distribution project. Working with our partners from the Together As One Catholic cluster of churches, we have been able to distribute more than 2000 coats to local Individuals and families in need.

Members of this committee are Jan Keaveny, Marcus Anderson, Linda Schreiber, Kris Lehman, Karen Vollen, Marilyn Lisbon. We are very grateful for the work of each of them!

Thank you to the Atonement congregation for the enthusiastic support of the important work of sharing our gifts and resources with the local and global community.

Co-chairs Kay DeFries  
Kris Boyle



# Property Committee

One of the Property Committees main focus in 2023 was safety and security for members, staff, visitors, and renters. All interior and exterior doors were rekeyed, a new and improved fire alarm system was installed to replace the 30 plus year old system, and another security camera was installed.

Another major concern of the committee was controlling maintenance costs. We were able to save over \$2000.00 by lowering the thermostat evening settings in the winter and raising them during the summer months. The committee was able to do the vast majority of repairs and maintenance such as painting, changing light bulbs, cleaning chairs and the fellowship hall carpet, bathroom repairs and church ground maintenance. Unfortunately, the cost of snow plowing last winter was extremely expensive and it really hurt our budget. We also made improvements to the church with only material costs by running cables to improve office internet service and installing new electrical wiring and a TV in the choir room to meet the needs of one of our renters.

We would like to thank our extremely dedicated and hard working committee members Bob Defries, Gary Heltemes, Tim Holbrook, Thor Larson, Greg Lingl, Jim Page, Beth Schram, and Tim Schreiber for their hundreds of hours of work during the year. We would also like to thank our Office Administrator, Laura Hillmer for keeping us informed of work needed to be done and assisting us with materials needed. Finally, we would like to thank other church members who volunteered their time and the Pastors for advising the committee.

Arlene Omlid Co Chair  
Don Stello Co Chair

# Stewardship Committee

In 2023, the Atonement Stewardship committee continued the Consecration Sunday program that we started in 2021. This year, the stewardship theme was based on Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." We provided temple talks on three questions, based upon much appreciated input from our pastors starting early in the summer. Those questions were:

1. If you want to know where your treasure is, where do you spend your money?
2. If you want to know where your treasure is, how do you spend your time?
3. If you want to know where your treasure is, what do you love?

As we have done in the past, we provided notices of the upcoming stewardship campaign. We provided successive letters to congregation members as Consecration Sunday approached, including Estimate of Giving Cards and Commitment Cards. Following Consecration Sunday's service, we held a birthday party for a charter member of the congregation, LouAnn Garner, and provided special treats to celebrate our congregation's delivery of their Estimates of Giving at the altar.

We have modified our Consecration Sunday program each year. The most significant modification this year was that our pastors delivered meaningful and related sermons for each of the three weeks of the program, and we thank them very much for doing so.

Our committee is also very thankful to the congregation for their support of the mission of the church.

Angie Faundeen, Barb Borth, and Steve Gabrielson

# Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is responsible for the planning, development, and evaluation of our shared worship life. The team is responsible for worship scheduling, worship environment and worship technology. This team will rely on the theological leadership and guidance of our Pastor(s) and the professional advisement of our Minister of Music.

Our committee had a full year of planning worship service times, types of worship and what was best for our congregation. The congregation was involved in choosing their favorite hymns and Marcia has used the results in the planning of music for worship services. We are blessed to have so many talented musicians as part of our services. We are thankful for their commitment to Atonement and for sharing their time and talents with us.

Our worship environment team did a wonderful job of decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex for the different seasons of the Church year. We are thankful for the many worship volunteers who read lessons, usher, prepare and clean up communion, serve communion, and the home communion team. We are currently working on having new communion ware made for our use in the near future.

The worship technology has been updated throughout the year to help with sound quality for both in-person and online church services. We are grateful for those that have helped to run the sound booth at all of the services. We are always open to adding new members to this group.

I look forward to working with this committee for another term. If you have any thoughts about worship or if you would like to join this committee, please contact me or another member of our group.

I would like to thank the members of this committee for their support in helping with the tasks we are asked to do. Worship Committee members are; Julie Lingl, Tim Schreiber, Diana Vaverek, Marcia Handahl, Pastor John, Pastor Tim.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Reichert

# Staff Support Committee

Through the year, the committee was able to meet with the following: Molly Wills, Mata Carlson, Laura Hilmer, Pastor John Gabrielson, Pastor Tim Lindquist, and Marcia Handahl. We indicated to Marcia that she had the option of us meeting with Eric Vollen and Jordan Goodwater, which we are trying to schedule in December, 2023. Next year, Jason Ploof should be included. For Molly, we met several times to complete the necessary forms for the seminary and the synod. For all the others, we met only once but indicated that if they would like to meet again, to contact any of us. A summary of each meeting was submitted to the Executive Council.

For each, we focused our discussion on job contentment, use of their skills, frustrations, communication and feedback/recognition from other staff and congregation members, work load, balance of work and personal life, and any safety issues.

Overall, all staff indicated that their skills are being used and are happy to be at Atonement. We found that as a congregation we need to provide recognition for their work and to address a few issues: too heavy of a workload for Mata, more office volunteers so Laura can take time off when needed or for vacation, and to find others to do the media tasks (operate sound board and screen for services, social media, and assist Mata with computer issues). This last issue still needs to be addressed in greater detail.

For 2024, new appointees are needed to serve on this committee. Currently, active members have been Don Stello, Susan Ukaonu, Larry Asplin and the Vice President who serves as the chair. As is, the committee is two members short and several of the current members would like to rotate off.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Schreiber, Vice President

# Children and Youth Committee

Committee Members Ella Anderson, Kyle Janni, Kathryn Kjolhaug, Jessica Parker, Pat Pflipsen, Kelsi Single and Stacy Tamm.

With Sunday/Wednesday School we had projects for the students.

January collected diapers for Lutheran Social Services Crisis Nursery.

February valentines were made for shut ins and other members of Atonement.

April cards and gift bags to shut ins.

May cards and gifts for Mothers and Fathers.

December made Christmas bags for shut-ins and those who lost a spouse this last year.

Bibles were given to third and sixth graders in September. First Communion was given to students in April.

In April an Easter Egg Hunt was held.

October was Trunk or Treat.

December was Gingerbread Bash.

June was VBS with Saints Peter and Paul's churches. There were around 50 students that attended. There was also a Spanish VBS held at Atonement.

Youth were encouraged to attend Luther Crest during the summer.

Faith Formation students grade sixth – ninth have monthly community projects, the following

January 100 bags of personal needs, socks, hats, and gloves for Homeless Helping Homeless,

February 100 bag lunches for Homeless Helping Homeless,

April cookies for law enforcement, fire departments, emergency room staff and EMT's,

May 20 backpacks for Pockets of Hope

September 100 bags for Pathways for Youth, cleaning, and personal care items,

October 100 Birthday bags,

November 100 Blizzard bags for Home Delivered Meals and McKinley School,

In December we rang bells for the Salvation Army at 4 locations.

Sunday/Wednesday School students and members during November and December raised enough money to purchase 3 Global Farms for ELCA plus additional money to purchase other animals.

# Legacy Fund Committee Report

The Atonement Legacy Committee was able to disperse funds to four Atonement members for 2023. These funds were made possible due to the Legacy Fund contributions by many of our members over the past few years.

The 2023 distributions:

1. Dispersed two post high school education scholarships at \$650 per student for a total of \$1,300.00. (The Legacy Committee sent letters to all Atonement high school graduates inviting them to submit a scholarship application. Two students submitted an application and both students met the criteria.)
  2. Completed payment to Luther Crest Bible Camp for a student for a total of \$334.00
  3. Helped with the Pathways For Youth program for a total of \$1,150.00
- Total Dispersements= \$2,784.00

The current value of the Atonement Legacy Fund:

1. \$56,770.78, as of 12-31, 2023.
2. A deposit of \$8,000.00 was made on 9-30-2023 from gifts given by Atonement members.  
(If members wish to have their gift go to the Legacy Committee, please indicate this when the gift is made.)
3. Earnings during the year were \$2,639.63

As a reminder, the Legacy Fund was created to provide support for three main avenues:

1. Education and Scholarships
2. New Ministries
3. Capital Improvements

Contributions to the Fund are invested with the ELCA Foundation and it is suggested that 3-8% of the earned interest and escalated value is distributed annually. None of the money is used for normal operation expenses as itemized in the budget. Please note: The ability of the Legacy Fund Committee to disperse funds is based upon the requests and applications the Committee receives.

For those of you who have contributed to the Atonement Legacy Fund, our committee says "thank you". Your contributions continue to make a difference in the lives of many people and are appreciated. Some Atonement members have designated money to the Legacy Fund to honor their family such as when celebrating a special event (wedding, anniversary, etc.). Some members have designated funds in honorarium to someone dear to them. When making a designation, please list the Legacy Fund if that is your intention.

If you would like to learn more about the Atonement Legacy Fund and contributing to its mission of making a meaningful difference in the lives of our Atonement and community members, please contact a member of the Legacy Team and/or pick up the brochure, Atonement Legacy Fund, at the Welcome Table.

Thank you from the Legacy Team,

Red Mastin, Karen Vollen, Kay Josephs, Joyce Raetz

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America