



**ATONEMENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

September 2025

WEEKLY WORSHIP:

Wednesdays: 6:30pm

Sundays: 9am

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

PARENT KICKOFF NIGHT

For Wednesday School and Confirmation Students

Wednesday, September 3rd

+ Pizza will be served at 5:15 pm.

+ Parent Meetings: 5:45pm for 3 year olds – 5th grade.

7:15pm for Confirmation

+ Worship at 6:30pm

Registration for Confirmation and Wednesday School is now open. As in the past, please, login to your [Realm account](#) and register your child(ren). Please, complete the necessary forms and return them to the church. Questions or new to Atonement: Contact either pastors or Mata.

Teachers for the 3 year olds – kindergarten are Hanne Gabrielson and Elsa Janni; teachers for 1st – 5th are Presley Grzybowski and Owen Janni. If anyone would like to come and read the Bible story to the students, just let Mata know. The classes start at 5:45pm.

For the 3 year old through 5th graders, we will have lessons from the Old and New Testament this year:

September 10th God Creates the World,

September 17th God Creates People,

September 24th Adam and Eve's Sin

Starting Wednesday, September 3rd, we will be serving pizza for \$1 per slice, plus salad, fruit, vegetables, and cookies. Serving starts at 5:15; students and all adults are welcome.

Church services on Wednesday evening, starting September 3rd are at 6:30pm. Sunday services are at 9am.

PLANNING AHEAD:

Children and Youth Committee will meet **September 11th at 7pm**. If anyone is interested in joining contact Mata for more information.

Please put on your calendar **October 30th** for Trunk N Treat. We need people to have trunks to give out treats, volunteers to help with keeping the parking lot safe, also volunteers to help with games.

ADULT EDUCATION

The 2025 – 2026 Adult Education season begins Sunday, September 21st. Over the years we have explored a range of topics allowing us to learn about our world and to delve deeper into our faith.

Adult Ed sessions follow the 9am Sunday service and are in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall. Coffee, water, and treats are in the room. All you need to bring is curiosity! Sessions are accessible remotely by following the link posted in the weekly email.

Learn what's coming up by checking the newsletter, weekly email, and the bulletin.

September 21: Treasurer and Committee Update

The ALC Church Council, including the Executive Council, Pastors Tim and John, and Committee Chairs, meets monthly to keep our church home healthy and vibrant. Jill Abrahamson, Treasurer, will guide us through Atonement's financial status and Committee Chairs will update us on their committee work and what is coming up.

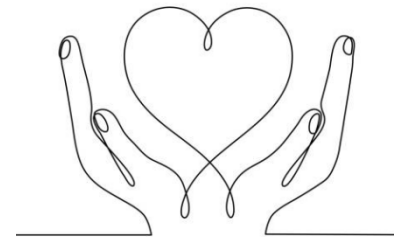
September 28: We are Church Together!

We are excited to have Pastor Dee Pederson, Bishop of our Southwestern Minnesota Synod, here to speak about the work of the Synod and the greater church. Bishop Dee will share how the SWMN Synod walks with congregations in the call process, provides resources, and strengthens ministries. The Synod also provides support to our pastors and congregational leaders who work with children, youth, and families. Join us to hear how the SWMN Synod **is here for you!**

VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT FUNERALS

Would you like to be a member of the hospitality committee? Our major responsibility is setting tables and preparing, serving, and clean-up of funeral meals. Time involved usually is between 2 -3 hours.

If interested, please leave your name with Debbie Grzybowski, (320-203-7643), or on the sign-up sheet located in the narthex. Thanks!



PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT



Patsy M.
Patrick O.
Pat and Brian R.
Angie F.
Jeffrey A.

Mark A.
Traci N.
Alex
Jane A.

Lainey M.
Kitty R.
Deon C.
Christopher

LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

I wanted to write a companion piece to Pastor Tim's observations about traveling the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Parenting is parenting, and the BWCA is the BWCA, but paddling, portaging, and camping with 2 other dads and our 3 junior high daughters is a rather different proposition - equally edifying, but quite different - from making the trip alone with one's adult son; I find, however, that I can't stop thinking about catastrophic success.



I first came across the phrase 'catastrophic success' reading a review of Alexander B. Downes' 2021 book by that title. It's about regime change and I can't say that the subject matter is relevant to our life together as a congregation, but I think that the phrase itself, and the concept - that we can reach a goal or prevail in a conflict or contest (choose your 'winning' verb) and yet have that success prove a catastrophe - is all too relevant and absolutely devastating.

The most heartbreaking example of this dynamic currently playing out on the world stage is the war between Hamas and the Israel Defense Force. Both groups can claim some 'successes', perverse or tragic as they may be, and yet the cost to the people of Israel and Gaza can only be considered catastrophic.

Less horrific, and closer to home, consider the 'successes' of groups like Jerry Falwell, Sr.'s Moral Majority, which sought to mobilize conservative Christians as a more or less unified political force in the second half of the 20th century. In the mid- to late-20th century, there was a roughly even political split among Christians, and some of the great public theologians were left of center (an obvious example being the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.). The catastrophic result of the efforts of such groups as Dr. Falwell's to unify Christians politically is that *both major political parties in America are less Christian* than when he started his work, and many of our neighbors think that Christian identity is synonymous with or a cover for conservative politics, which all too often hardens their hearts and minds against the good news of Jesus, which is for all people regardless of their politics (or lack thereof).

This might all seem pretty remote from our life and ministry together at Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN. After all, we can't change the past 2 years, let alone 20 or 60. But I submit to you that over the life of this congregation, individuals and groups have prevailed in contests and conflicts about a host of issues - worship, children and youth ministry, staffing, whatever - and found that what was gained or preserved in victory in no way matched what was lost.

By contrast, consider that the great victory of our God came through defeat. By dying, our Lord Jesus won the great battle over sin, death, and evil and redeemed not just us, but all of creation.

So I ask you, what battles are you willing to lose, or to simply not fight? Put more gently, can we make room for our sisters and brothers in Christ to have their way some of the time, trusting that when we bear with each other, the Holy Spirit is at work, creating the conditions for us and others to hear the gospel anew and be transformed nearer to the image of Christ? I hope and do believe that we can.

CARD MINISTRY

PLEASE HELP on **September 18th**! Join us on the third Thursday each month to at **11am** to send cards to Youth of Atonement and at **1pm** to send cards to members who will have birthdays in the next month.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Committees generally meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Finance Committee meets by zoom. You do not need to be a member of a committee to join the conversation of any committee.

The following committees will meet **September 11th at 7pm**: Children/Youth Ministry, Adult Ed, Evangelism, Stewardship Committees.

Mission Committee will meet on Tuesday, **September 9th** at 10:30am.

Property and Worship committees will meet next on **September 11th** at 2pm.

Committee chairs: Be sure to send a copy of your minutes to Laura.



QUILTS FOR VETERANS AND OTHERS

The Pieces of Love quilters donated 3 quilts to the 80th annual Luther Crest Auction. You may have seen the quilts on display earlier this summer. These 3 quilts brought in \$500 at the auction. The total for the entire auction is \$77,000. That money goes for camp scholarships. Many children will benefit! Thank you to all that support this mission.

If you are a member of Atonement and a Veteran, please let the office know. The Pieces of Love quilters would like to honor you with a quilt to thank you for your service.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP



If you know someone who is going through a hard time, is in the hospital or has suffered a loss, please stop in the church office and pick out a shawl from them. A prayer shawl will let them know that you are thinking about them and it may bring them a little comfort. They are also wonderful to give someone who is celebrating a milestone Birthday or other joyous occasion.

Our group meets in the church library at 2pm every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. If you knit or crochet, no matter what your skill level we would love to have you join us in our ministry.

HOSPITALITY SIGN UP

Starting in August and through September 28th, the Hospitality Team at Atonement is refreshing the list of people who are called to help with funerals and catered events at church. Tasks may include table set up, food preparation and clean-up. See the easel in the Narthex to add your name to this new list. If you know you have been on the list in the past, please sign up again! Thanks!!

ATONEMENT PIGSKIN PICK'EM

Ready for some friendly competition? It's time to join the Atonement Pigskin Pick'em group on ESPN! It's a fun and easy way to engage with the NFL season by picking the winner of each game every week. Whether you're a seasoned football expert or just getting started, this is a great opportunity for some fun and fellowship. To join, go to ESPN Pigskin Pick'em website. Then click **Join Group**. May the best picker win!



AARP DRIVERS' COURSE

Debbie Grzybowski offers AARP classes every 6 months, alternating between Trinity Lutheran, Sauk Rapids, and Atonement Lutheran. Next class will be on Saturday, September 27th, 9am–1pm, at Trinity Lutheran in Sauk Rapids. To register, call 320-252-3670. Cost: \$20 AARP members, \$25 non-AARP member.

Anyone 55 years or older can take the course and get 10% off their insurance for 3 years. No need for the 8-hour course.



DATES TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE!

Eric Vollen's birthday is September 8th.

Jason Ploof's birthday is September 30th.

Pastor Tim's ordination anniversary is September 10th. 30 years!!!



SAVE PLASTIC BAGS ETC

We will be collecting plastic bags at church for Veteran Resource & Enrichment Center (V-REC)'s efforts in raising 1,000 pounds of bags to win a recycled bench from NexTrex. This campaign will end February, 2026. The bags collected include: grocery bags, bread sacks, newspaper sleeves, salt bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaner bags, bulk cereal bags, ice bags, case over-wrap, plastic shipping envelopes, and pallet wrap & stretch film. They must be clean and dry and free of food residue. Let's recycle and help V-REC win this bench! If you'd like more information about V-REC, visit their website at www.vrecmn.com or find them on Face Book.

ENJOY THESE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS!

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

SEPT. 1, MONDAY

LABOR DAY-Office closed

SEPT. 2, TUESDAY

9:30am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous
6:30pm Stamp Club

SEPT. 3, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
5:15pm Pizza etc
5:45pm Parent Meeting

6:30pm Worship

7:15pm Confirmation Parents

SEPT. 4, THURSDAY

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

SEPT. 5, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

SEPT. 6, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 7, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

SEPT. 8, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

SEPT. 9, TUESDAY

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

SEPT. 10, WED

8am Bread Makers
8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
2pm Prayer Shawls Group
5:15pm Pizza etc
5:45pm Wednesday School

6:30pm Worship

7:15pm Confirmation Class
7:15pm Choir Practice

SEPT. 11, THURSDAY

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

SEPT. 12, FRIDAY

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

SEPT. 13, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 14, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

SEPT. 15, MONDAY

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

SEPT. 16, TUESDAY

9:30am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous
6:30pm Stamp Club

SEPT. 17, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
5:15pm Pizza etc
5:45pm Wednesday School

6:30pm Worship

7:15pm Confirmation Class
7:15pm Choir Practice

SEPT. 18, 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 Legacy Committee

SEPT. 19, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

SEPT. 20, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 21, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Adult Ed: Council Report
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

SEPT. 22, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

SEPT. 23, TUESDAY

9:30am Naomi Circle
9:30am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous
6:30pm Stamp Club

SEPT. 24, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
2pm Prayer Shawls Group
5:15pm Pizza etc
5:45pm Wednesday School

6:30pm Worship

7:15pm Confirmation Class
7:15pm Choir Practice

SEPT. 25, THURSDAY

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

SEPT. 26, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

SEPT. 27, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 28, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Adult Ed: Bishop Dee
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

SEPT. 29, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

SEPT. 30, TUESDAY

9:30am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous
6:30pm Stamp Club

ATONEMENT'S OF THE MONTH

September Mission: Place of Hope



Place of Hope has a Hospitality Center with free food, free medical care, free clothing, and free personal care items.

For over 20 years, Living Hope Center is a very structured program and provides a place of hope, healing and restoration for the individual

and the families experiencing homelessness. When the Center shelter has been full, Place of Hope has provided overflow sheltering.

Place of Hope Ministries has developed a 31-unit Supportive Housing apartment building adjacent to the Living Hope Residential Center. H.O.P.E. (Housing Opportunities for People being Empowered) on Ninth includes 10 "supportive housing" units. These units are designated for those who have experienced long-term homelessness. There is an on-site supportive services coordinator to assist those living in the supportive housing units. This project is funded in part by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Ending Long Term Homelessness Fund, Greater Minnesota Housing Partnership and Department of Human Services.

For anyone planning to do any volunteering at POH, an application will be required. Please follow this link: <https://www.placeofhopeministries.com/volunteer>

The overnight check-in process is not one of the check boxes on the application so indicate that in the comment box. If you need help with this process, please contact Kay Defries or Kris Boyle by calling the church office.

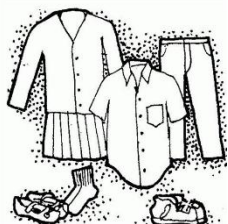
Volunteer options include screening the overnight guests, meal prep and donations, laundry, cleaning and maintenance of the downtown location. Mission Committee members are available to help if you are interested in volunteering with these tasks. If you are interested in working with the overnight sheltering, we will help you with the process.

SEPTEMBER FOOD SHELF

It is not too late to volunteer at the Food Shelf in September. This is our traditional "adopt a month" time. The sign up is now available for the different shifts on the sheet in the Narthex or through an online [Sign Up](#). In the past another church volunteered with us which they are not doing this year so we need many volunteers!

Volunteers are crucial, and help is needed now more than ever, and in their clothing & household items program as well. Many long-serving volunteers have retired, and recruiting new volunteers has been challenging, especially since COVID-19. With the growing demand for Emergency Services, your help is needed.

BACK TO SCHOOL KID'S CLOTHING



As a reminder, school days are coming up fast! When you have the opportunity to purchase kid's clothing or to donate gently used clothing, there is a bin in the Donation Center where you can drop them off. We will add to the clothing available at Catholic Charities. This is a year round need, so if you take advantage of clearance sales anytime, items will be taken to Catholic Charities.

COATS FOR KIDS

Although we still have a collection box, Coats for Kids has moved to St. Anthony's where the dedicated space allows them to keep the coat racks up at all times. This year's coat give-away dates are Saturday, October 11th and Saturday, October 18th from 10am to 2pm. **Volunteers would be appreciated.** Call Ione at 320-492-7993.

ATONEMENT & UNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR LINCOLN CENTER

In collaboration with our friends from Unity Spiritual Center, we are designating **shelves** in the Donation Center for the ongoing collection of food and other specific items needed at Lincoln Center/Homeless Helping Homeless. Daily lunch and dinner meals are provided for only 25 individuals, but that leaves many folks without a meal. They can always use breakfast foods as well as hygiene items, including laundry soap. Unity and Atonement will be helping with food donations to fill that gap. A "shopping list" can be found on the Lincoln Center shelves in the Donation Center, please take one to refer to when grocery shopping. Thank you for your commitment to helping ensure our unhoused neighbors have enough to eat. *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* **Galatians 6:2**



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY "HOME-BUILDING"

Volunteers from Atonement joined others from TAO Catholic cluster and Unity Spirituality Center providing over 136 hours of "home-building" time on August 5 and 6, through Habitat for Humanity. The home under construction was initially built through the Tech High School Build, known as Tiger 8. Students at Tech constructed the first floor of the house, gaining experience in carpentry and other construction skills.



Habitat volunteers completed several tasks on the house last week, including siding for the front of the house, front porch soffit, OSB on garage trusses, finished stairs from lower level, framed lower level walls and installed four egress windows.

The work accomplished by volunteers has the house nearly ready for subcontractors to add heating, air conditioning, and other utilities.

The house at 330 19th Avenue North, stands as an example of what can be accomplished by talented volunteers working cooperatively with experienced supervisors. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is "Gathering communities to transform lives through affordable homeownership." The non-profit's vision is of: "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live. The generous volunteer gifts of time and talent, along with financial sponsors, make the Habitat mission possible. Thank you to all the volunteer builders and financial donors for their support of this project.

To learn about other volunteer opportunities at Habitat, contact Ashley Ogaja at aogaja@cmhfh.org or Kris Boyle (320-248-8719).

FUTURE MISSION OF THE MONTH (MOM)

October - Anna Marie's Alliance

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

December - God's Global Barnyard (ELCA)

TEREBINTH REFUGE'S FUNDRAISING EVENT



Terebinth Refuge's primary fundraising event will be Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 7am (check-in) to 9am at the Park Event Center in Waite Park. Register at: terebinthrefuge.org under the "Events" tab.

FARE FOR ALL

The next sale will be Thursday, September 4th from 3-5pm. 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.

We are finding the need for more volunteers for clean up at the end of the sale at 5pm. Please consider coming to shop during the last half hour and stay for clean-up.

Questions can be addressed to Kathy Matthies and Jan Keavney.

Website: <https://www.thefoodgrouppmn.org/groceries/fare-for-all/>

FINANCIAL GIVING

General giving has been down in January through July by about **\$10,500**. We acknowledge that summer giving is usually lower as well. Please remember to continue to donate so we can continue to meet our regular expenses. We appreciate your support: time, money, and talents!

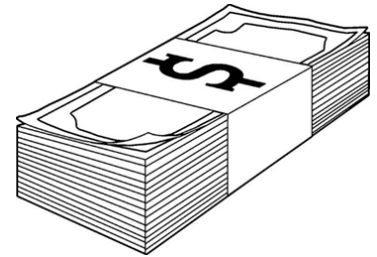
Reminder: Please make checks payable to Atonement and write on the memo line what it's for (Mission of the Month, packing projects, VBS, memorials, flowers, etc).

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mortgage was \$363,405.92 on 01/01/2024;
Now \$30,810.62 as of 07/31/2025.

Total pledged: over \$353,000

Cash received through 7/31/2025: \$280,422.31



MISSION OF THE MONTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Mission of the Month giving amounts for July, shared by North Junior High and Madison Elementary, were \$2,891 so each school will receive \$1445.50 to use as needed for their students. Thank you for supporting our neighborhood schools.

Correction: In the August Newsletter the \$2,107 MOM donations in June was reported for the schools, however, we had changed June's MOM to Lincoln Center for purchasing breakfast items.

Consecration Sunday will be November 9th.

Plan to be present for worship at 9am
with a brunch following.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE WILDERNESS: A JOURNEY OF UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

by Pastor Tim



For years, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area has been a sacred place for our church family. I've been privileged to lead three of our youth trips, in addition to one with a different church in my past. This summer, I planned my fourth trip with Atonement Lutheran, hoping to continue that tradition with a group of young men, including my son, Luke.

I admit, I was initially disappointed when we couldn't find at least two other high school-aged young men to join us. I'd envisioned a group of young men sharing in the camaraderie, the challenges, and the spiritual growth that these trips always bring. Instead, it was just Luke and me.

And what a blessing that unexpected change turned out to be.

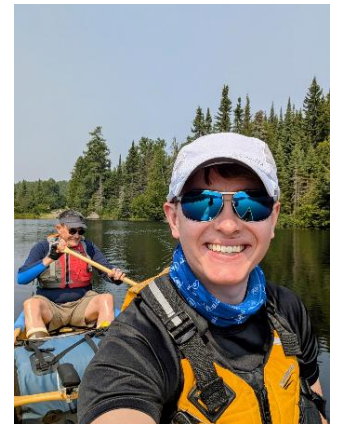
We were blessed with a beautiful campsite on a tranquil lake and weather that seemed like a gift from God. The days were warm and sunny, with fiery sunrises and sunsets that painted the sky breathtaking colors. Mercifully, the mosquitoes were few and far between. Yet, the most beautiful part of our journey wasn't found in the pristine water or the fiery sunsets. It was found in the hours we spent paddling across the glassy lakes and preparing simple meals on our small stove.

In that holy space, a new kind of conversation began. I wasn't the pastor; I was just a dad, and Luke was no longer the boy I first brought to these woods. He was a man, wrestling with the joys and challenges of his marriage and his job. As he spoke, sharing his heart with an openness I hadn't heard before, I realized a powerful truth: it's never too late, and you and your children are never too old to spend time together. The opportunity for connection is always there.

I've learned over the years that young people open up in the wilderness. It's in these settings, away from the distractions of daily life, that they feel safe to be vulnerable. This taught me something I already knew, but that this trip affirmed: these trips are a gift from God, creating space for our youth to grow in faith and in relationship with others.

I share this not just as a reflection on a wonderful trip, but as an encouragement for our church family. Next summer, Atonement will once again organize multiple BWCA trips. Your pastors are asking parents and grandparents to encourage their high school-aged sons and daughters to set aside the time to join one of the BWCA trips that Atonement sponsors each summer. It is a rare opportunity to unplug from the world and reflect with adults who care, all while using the new canoes and equipment so generously provided by our congregation!

And, if you're a parent perhaps you want to come along as well and make your own memories with your son or daughter? You never know what blessings are waiting for you in the quiet of the wilderness.



BEGINNING EXPERIENCE OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

A weekend away for a lifetime of change

The upcoming Beginning Experience weekend retreat is October 10th - 12th at Luther Crest.

The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death is one of life's most traumatic experiences. Beginning Experience is an international program that helps facilitate the grief resolution process for those who have suffered such a loss and frees them to again love themselves, others and God.



This is accomplished by offering time-tested grief resolution programs presented by trained peers. Founded by a Catholic nun

and rooted in the Christian tradition, the ministry's open, ecumenical spirit serves those of all faiths. Beginning Experience of Central Minnesota is just one of over sixty teams serving communities across the United States.

For a weekend in the spring and a weekend in the fall, the Central Minnesota Beginning Experience program is presented by a team of people who have suffered the loss of a loved one and are willing to share their own experience to help others. You choose a spring or fall session.

Team members lead participants through a program of presentations, private reflection, and small group sharing. A sense of community develops in an atmosphere of care and support that is the hallmark of each Beginning Experience weekend.

If you are divorced, widowed or separated and are still suffering from that loss, take a few minutes to explore this site and discover what this program can do for you.

*To receive an application or for more information, call **320-319-8863** or visit Beginningexperiencemn.com*

CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN!

Atonement's choir will begin their weekly practices on Wednesday, **September 10th** at 7:15pm. Not only do they provide a valuable ministry, but choir members have fun doing it.



ENJOY...

One Sunday morning, the priest noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it. The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the minister walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex." "Good morning, Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" he asked the minister. The minister said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the Wednesday, 6:30pm or the 9am on Sunday?"

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

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

Church Office: 320-252-6203

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Vice President	Debra Niemeyer	VicePres@atonementlutheran.org	
Secretary	Fred Sandal	Secretary@atonementlutheran.org	
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Director of Music/Organist	Marcia Handahl	Music@atonementlutheran.org	320-761-2779
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Handbell Choir Director	Jordan Goodwater	Bells@atonementlutheran.org	218-270-7074
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www.atonementlutheran.org