

WEDNESDAYS, 5:45PM

Bible stories from the New Testament for the 3-year-olds - 5th grade students will be the focus for the last two classes of this school year: May 6th, May 13th (last class!).

COMMUNITY PACKING EVENT

The last packing event for this school year will be May 6th, starting at 7pm. Pockets of Hope backpacks with items needed for middle school and high school kids involved with Stearns and Benton County Social Services and Child Advocacy.

Thank you to all who helped deliver cookies to First Responders in April.

CANOE TRIPS



There will be 3 canoe trips to the Boundary Water's Canoe Area this summer: July 23rd – July 26th, July 30th - August 2nd, August 6th – August 9th. Check with Pastor Tim or Pastor John for details.

LUTHER CREST CAMPS

The summer camps at Luther Crest fill up fast so to have more date options, plan NOW! You can go online to see complete schedule and register. Online: <https://luthercrest.org> or call 320-846-2431. There is no fee for high school students for 2 of the 3 camps! For others, there is a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit upon registering. If the fee is a problem there are scholarships available talk with the pastors. They will also be hiring staff for the summer.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be four days, June 8th-11th, 8:30am—12:30pm. Please sign up to provide snacks and other needed items which are so appreciated by the kids and volunteers. Donations of food and volunteer time will be requested. Sign-up sheets will be available in May. We need volunteers to help in the kitchen, read stories, or do activities. Your giving is greatly appreciated.



SENIOR QUILTS

Quilts will be given to four high school seniors (Grace Carlson, Jacob Larson, Aiden Abrahamson and Connor Frederiksen) at the May 17th service. Please contact Mata if you haven't already to be able to receive one.

SERVING GROUP COORDINATORS/ORGANIZERS NEEDED

Seven (7) Serving Groups have been providing our coffee hour treats. Usually, two from each group act as coordinators. The coordinators for Group 5 (just served in March) and Group 7 (serving in May) are retiring after many years of being in this role. We are grateful to Sue Schmidt, Dorothy Paulson, Nancy Johnson and Paulette Nathe.

THANK YOU to Julie Lewandoswki and Vonnie Ottem for signing up to coordinate group 7!

However, without new organizers, for group 5, the reality will be no coffee or treats in October. If you are willing to be a coordinator, please let Laura in the office know. The schedule is every 7 months. Thank you!

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Come to any of the committee meetings to see what is going on and check if it is something you are interested in. More hands, lighter work.

Committees generally meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Finance Committee meets by zoom.



Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, **May 14th at 10am.**

Worship Committee will meet **May 14th at 2pm.**

Property Committee will meet next on **May 14th at 2pm.**

The following committees will meet **May 14th at 7pm:** Children/Youth Ministry, Evangelism, Adult Ed, Committees.

Stewardship Committee will meet on **May 14th at 2:30pm.**

We still have a Vice President opening and chair of evangelism committee/council member. Contact President Debbie Niemeyer or one of the pastors.

COMMITTEE/GROUP HIGHLIGHT

For May the Evangelism Committee wants to highlight two special volunteer service groups at Atonement.

The ministry of the Funeral Serving Groups supports the families, friends and those gathered with them. The group has two components.

- One group plan, sets up the worship area as needed for the service and offers hospitality to the grieving family and guests.
- The other group plans, sets up and cleans up the fellowship hall for serving the meal after the service.



The ministry of the monthly Serving Groups is to provide treats and workers on Sunday mornings following the worship service. This provides the opportunity to meet people, build friendships and enjoy a time of fellowship.

Thank you!



LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

From Pastor John...

Most of the time, I feel pretty great. A fair bit of effort goes into that—I make sure to get a lot of exercise and, although I'm not one to turn down a cookie or four, I pay attention to what I eat—but there are times I get smacked in the nose by the realization that my good health is mostly a matter of luck. For example, as I write this, I'm sitting with a sinus infection so bad that it makes my ears feel like a chimp jammed baby carrots into them. I couldn't even tell how loud I was talking at worship last night.



Oh, and I'm writing not from my office, but from my couch, sitting next to my little girl who just had a minor surgery to repair a displaced ankle fracture. It will prevent her from walking for a few weeks and playing any of her usual spring and summer sports. Sara stayed home with her yesterday, helping her navigate showering on crutches, despite Sara still being limited after a pretty major foot surgery this winter. Arlo, at least, seems relatively healthy, but even he had to come home from school sick earlier this week.

In the midst of that, I feel incredibly lucky—blessed, even. Not because God has protected me and mine (He has), or because I have it better than other people (I do), but because God is with me and my family and we are well-cared for by people who love us. Just today, for example, my mother spent the morning with Hanne so Sara and I could both attend to tasks at the office; this afternoon, a member of the congregation brought Hanne a McFlurry and a care package.

So, thank you. Thank you for your prayers and for the love you show to me and my family. Thank you for sharing in the ministry of care that all Christians hold in common (see Matthew 25:40, Phil. 2:1-4, Gal. 6:2, and 1 John 3:17-18). And may God bless you!

ATONEMENT VAN STORAGE



Do you have an enclosed space to store the church van? The Property Committee is looking at inside storage options for our newly refurbished van. If you have space and/or comments regarding this, contact Bob Defries at 320-492-9691.

BOOK NOOK

We are looking for one or two people who would be willing to fill the shelves in the Book Nook with cards and napkins. You would also need to order new supplies. If interested please talk with Donna Purinton, Penny Gorman, or Mata Carlson.



ROX GAME

Save the date: June 23rd, 6:30pm game time. \$22 per person includes game ticket, hat, hot dog meal plus fun with other Atonement folks. Batter up!

MAY 1, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MAY 2, SATURDAY10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 3, SUNDAY****9am Worship**10am Adult Ed:
10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous**MAY 4, MONDAY**

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

MAY 5, TUESDAY9:30am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 6, WED**8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
5:15pm Pizza etc
5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Worship
7:15pm Community Packing
7:15pm Choir Practice**MAY 7, THURSDAY**9:45am Bible Online-Men
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters**MAY 8, FRIDAY**

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MAY 9, SATURDAY10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 10, SUNDAY****9am Worship**10am Adult Ed:
10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous**MAY 11, MONDAY**

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

MAY 12, TUESDAY9:30am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous
7pm Stamp Club**MAY 13, WED**8am Bible Online-Men
Noon Al Anon
2pm Prayer Shawls Group
5:15pm Pizza etc
5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Worship
7:15pm Confirmation Class**MAY 14, THURSDAY**9:45am Bible Online-Men
10am Mission Committee
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
2pm Property/Worship Committees
2:30pm Stewardship Committee
3:30-5:30pm Fare For All
7pm Council Committees**MAY 15, FRIDAY**

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MAY 16, SATURDAY10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 17, SUNDAY****9am Worship**
10am Adult Ed:
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous**MAY 18, MONDAY**

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

MAY 19, TUESDAY9am Faith in Housing
9:30am Men's Group
10am Dementia Support Group
11:30am TOPS
6pm Garden Club
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 20, WED**8am Bible Online-Men
9:30am Elizabeth Circle
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
6:30pm Worship
7:15pm Choir Practice**MAY 21, THURSDAY**9:45am Bible Online-Men
11am Youth Card Ministry
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
1pm Birthday Card Ministry**MAY 22, FRIDAY**

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MAY 23, SATURDAY10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 24, SUNDAY****9am Worship**10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous**MAY 25, MONDAY**

MEMORIAL DAY-Office closed

MAY 26, TUESDAY9:30am Naomi Circle
9:30am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 27, WED**8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
2pm Prayer Shawls Group
6pm Worship
7:15pm Choir Practice**MAY 28, THURSDAY**9:45am Bible Online-Men
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
6:30pm Executive Committee
7pm Church Council Meeting**MAY 29, FRIDAY**

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MAY 30, SATURDAY10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous**MAY 31, SUNDAY****9am Worship**10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

**In May,
we celebrate
Pastor John's
birthday.**

ATONEMENT'S

MISSION

OF THE MONTH

May Mission of the Month: HELPS International

The HELPS community is addressing the root causes of poverty in Guatemala with a unique integrated approach focused on four key areas: agriculture, community development, education and health care. Intensive training and microloans help smallholder farmers build the capacity to boost crop production. The ONIL cook stove and water filter create safe homes, sustainable communities and a clean environment. The HELPS primary school equips rural students with the skills to succeed. Volunteer medical teams provide life-saving preventive health care, surgery and education in rural areas. There are a number of Atonement members who are volunteers.



LINCOLN CENTER NEEDS

Belts, shoes, men and women's underwear, men's jeans size 32, 36 and 38.

SUMMER MISSIONS

Please remember our summer Mission of the Months if you are away from church.

June – Area Youth,

July – Madison & North,

August – Heroes K9 Academy

Amy Schwinghammer from Heroes K9 will present a program in Adult Education on May 3rd.

FARE FOR ALL

The Food Group is at Atonement on the **second Thursday** of the month, **3:30 – 5:30pm**. The next date will be May 14th. Spread the word! You do not need to "qualify", there is no registration and there is no limit to purchases. Questions can be addressed to Kathy Matthies and Jan Keaveny. Website: <https://www.thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/fare-for-all/>



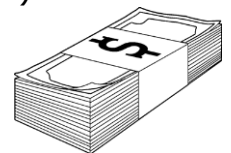
FINANCIAL GIVING

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).

Mortgage is paid in full.

Amount received to apply to assessments: \$38,709.66

Estimated street assessments: \$371,000



THANK YOU!

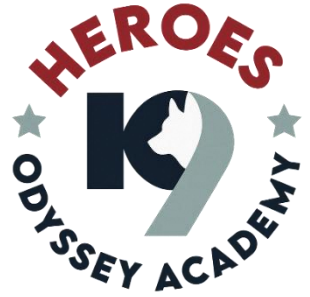
Catholic Charities reports Pack-the-Porch/MN Food Share in March collected 6,615 pounds of food and as of March 27, had donations of \$24,665. Our Mission of the Month donation of \$4,483.41 can be added to that total. Thank you for your support be it financially and/or food!

ADULT EDUCATION

May 3rd

Heroes K9 Odyssey Academy

The Mission Committee will feature **Heroes K9 Odyssey Academy** (HK9OA) as their August Mission of the Month. HK9OA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving second chances and to training/educating veterans, first responders, and rescue dogs. The academy provides professional training in dog handling, grooming, and veterinary assistance while preparing K9s for service, therapy, or companionship. Our own Amie Schwinghammer started this nonprofit venture and will share with us the organization's successes and hopes. Please come and bring your questions!




The session will be in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall after worship. Coffee and treats will be waiting for you there so please come right in. Please join us!

CPR AND AED TRAINING

The St. Cloud Wolves Special Olympics is hosting a CPR and AED training at Atonement in the corner room of the Fellowship Hall on May 9th at 9am. Training should last about three hours and certification will be through the American Heart Association.

Class limited to 20 individuals and must pre-register by contacting Linda Schreiber, 320-293-3894. Cost is \$30 and payable by check or cash at the training.

AARP SAFE DRIVING

 Debbie Grzybowski will offer the AARP safe driving course at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 9th, 9am to 1pm. Cost which is payable at the session: \$20.00 check or cash for AARP members; \$25.00 for non- AARP members. Please register directly with Debbie at nyla4@msn.com or call 320-203-7643.

DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

This group will be meeting at Atonement once a month on the 3rd Tuesday, from 10-11:30am. When needed, they also provide respite care for loved ones. Vivie has an integrated set of services and specialized programs. Whether the need is for skilled home health care, vibrant senior living, or meaningful hospice support, they surround the people they serve with whatever kind of care they need. To learn more about Vivie go to: Vivie.org



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Much thanks to all who made the Holy Week services so prayerful and thought provoking: Pastors, all musicians, readers, ushers, communion servers, sound booth people who enable so many more to participate, environment committee who enhances the worship space and narthex, and Laura for creating worship bulletins and slides so people can actively participate.

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

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

President	Debra Niemeyer	President@atonementlutheran.org	
Vice President		VicePres@atonementlutheran.org	
Secretary	Fred Sandal	Secretary@atonementlutheran.org	
Treasurer	Jill Abrahamson	Treasurer@atonementlutheran.org	320-290-0972
Pastor	John Gabrielson	Pastor@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Pastor	Tim Lindhorst	Pastor@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Office Administrator	Laura Hillmer	Office@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Program Administrator	Mata Carlson	Program@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
Director of Music/Organist	Marcia Handahl	Music@atonementlutheran.org	320-761-2779
Associate Director of Music	Eric Vollen	Choir@atonementlutheran.org	
Handbell Choir Director	Jordan Goodwater	Bells@atonementlutheran.org	218-270-7074
Worship Leader	Jason Ploof		
Newsletter Editor	Linda Schreiber	Newsletter@atonementlutheran.org	320-293-3894

www.atonementlutheran.org