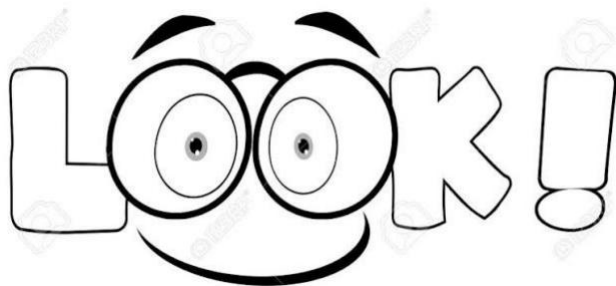


**WEEKLY WORSHIP:****Wednesdays: 6:30pm**(starting September 9th)**Sundays: 9am****OFFICE HOURS:****Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm**

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

**REGISTRATION OPEN ONLINE**

Parent/child meetings are September 9th: 5:30pm for Wednesday School, and 7:15pm, following 6:30 services, for the Confirmation students. Classes will start September 16th.

Bibles will be given to students in grades 3rd and 6th. If your child is not in these grades and you would like for them to receive a Bible, please contact Mata Carlson.

Again, this year Wednesday School students will be collecting coins to purchase animals for ELCA Global Barnyard. Last year we collected \$384. Thank you for your support.

Pizza and other foods will be served starting September 9th at 5:15pm. Cost will be \$1 per slice of pizza. All are welcome.



This year we will be doing five Community Packing Projects with Adult Education Classes Sunday mornings following church services. Our first project will be September 20th; we will be packing bags with cleaning supplies for youth 18-24-year-olds as they go into housing for the first time on their own. This is a Lutheran Social Services program.

thrivent**Charitable**

If anyone has Thrivent Dollars and would like to donate the \$250 for one of the Community Packing Projects, please contact Mata Carlson. The projects are Pathways for Youth, Birthday Bags, Blizzard Bags, Cancer Center, Homeless Kit, Lunch Bags for Homeless, Cookies for 1st Responders, and Pockets of Hope. If you would like information about what the projects include and about the organizations, please contact Mata Carlson.

NEW DIRECTORY!!

We still have a few members who need to confirm their contact information and submit or have a photo taken. You can take care of these details and have a casual picture taken before or after worship on: Sundays: September 6, 13; Wednesdays: September 9, 16 OR on Sunday, September 20, 5-7pm. If these dates do not work for you, or if you have questions, please contact Linda Schreiber. We want to include you!



WORSHIP NEWS

September 9th and 16th: Student/Teacher blessings

September 30th and October 4th: Blessing for a safe hunting season

During this summer the attendance at Sunday worship has been steady at 100 plus in person; 60 plus for online. Wednesday worship has been low with 7-20 people attending.

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

The Worship Committee is looking for some new faces to join our worship assistants' teams: readers, ushers, tech booth assistants and communion aides. All are very important jobs in our ministry. Please consider serving; training is available. Signup sheets are available on the bulletin board by the usher table for readers and ushers; contact the office for the others. To those who are involved: please check to see each Sunday if there is a need by checking the signup area.

ATONEMENT CHOIR RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER



After a summer break, Atonement Choir resumes rehearsals this fall with a new rehearsal time: Wednesdays at 5:30pm, beginning September 23rd. This is a change from our previous 7:15pm rehearsal time.

Interested in joining the choir? We'd love to have you! For more information, contact Eric Vollen, Associate Director of Music, at eric.vollen@gmail.com.

JOIN THE BELL CHOIR

The bell choir rehearses on Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, start date for this fall is September 15th.

The choir welcomes new ringers, and anyone interested should come to give it a try with minimal commitment.



PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT



Family of Audrey Waggoner
Family of JoAnn Weiland
Family of Jim G.
Becca S.
Sheila H.
Becky K.
Ben M.

Mark A.
Pat and Brian R.
Mimi and DJ.
Angie F.
Jan and Eric C.
Rita T.
Jack S.

Lainey M.
Tom K.
Angie L.
Karen C.
Kaye J.
Gayle K.

ADULT EDUCATION

Our 2026 – 2027 Adult Education season begins Sunday, September 27th. The sessions follow the 9am Sunday service and are in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall. Over the season, guest speakers teach and inspire on topics that help us understand our neighbors, our church, and our faith. The setting often lends to great discussion! We also will be doing five Community Packing Projects during the year with the first project this month.

Coffee, water, and treats will be waiting for you. Just bring your curiosity! Learn what's coming up by checking the newsletter, weekly email, and the bulletin.

To join by zoom:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85280174496?pwd=54eTbqalR0hI5VyKNgomuZJj2LnZyL1>

Meeting ID: 852 8017 4496

Passcode: AdultEd

September 20th Community Packing Project

Lutheran Social Services distributes the bags we pack with cleaning supplies for youth 18 through 24-year-olds as they go into housing for the first time on their own.

September 27th Stewardship Facts & Opportunities

Joe Sullivan, Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation, is assisting Atonement with the ongoing sustainment and increase of our General Fund Giving, our Legacy Fund, and our recently established Operating Endowment. He and members of our Church Council will educate, answer questions, and provide written information for further consideration. Learn what it means to be a faithful giver, the importance of General Fund giving (keeping the lights on), and about our Legacy Fund, established in 2016. See how contributing to an Operating Endowment provides tax benefits, contributes to the growth and outreach of the congregation, and supplies funding during challenging times when attendance drops, e.g., during Covid. This session is a great opportunity! Please join us!

GENERAL FUND

LEGACY FUND

**OPERATING
ENDOWMENT**

Let anyone on the committee know if you have any topic suggestions: Jean Klosowski, Jan Nairn, Ken Swanson, Kris Lehman.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:



Held at Atonement

Mission Committee: September 17th, 10am

Property Committee: September 10th, 1pm

Worship Committee: September 10th, 2pm

Children and Youth Committee: September 10th, 7pm

Evangelism Committee: September 10th, 7pm.

Join any of the meetings to see if it would interest you and use your talents. Attendance is not a commitment.

ATONEMENT'S OF THE MONTH

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

September: Place of Hope

Place of Hope is a multi-faceted outreach program serving the Central Minnesota community. Many people in our community are in great need for support and services because of homelessness, poverty, drug addiction, alcoholism and other crisis. We provide HOPE in the form of a Hospitality Center with free food, free medical care, free clothing, & free personal care items.

Living Hope Center is a shelter program for those coming off the street, looking for help with drugs and alcohol, or wanting a place to "recover" their stability and peace of mind. This is a very structured program and provides a place of hope, healing and restoration for the individual and the families experiencing homelessness.



Place of Hope Ministries has developed a 31-unit Supportive Housing apartment building adjacent to our 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.

ATONEMENT'S DONATION CENTER CHANGES

INTRODUCING DONATION OF THE MONTH (DOM)

As referenced in the August newsletter, the Mission Committee will be designating a Donation of the Month starting this month. Therefore, we will NOT be collecting anything else in the Donation Center as we have traditionally done. Unless we have an additional request going forward, we will focus on **one specific donation a month**. September's DOM is for Catholic Charities Food Shelf; the specific request is for feminine hygiene products. The goal will be to provide targeted items most needed by the agency that month.

COLLECTING PLASTIC HAS ENDED

Thank you for being recyclers! This program came to an end in **August**. Please continue to recycle individually!! There are receptacles at every grocery store and Catholic Charities Food Shelf is happy to accept grocery bags.



PLACE OF HOPE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thanks to all who donated to POH in their request for school supplies.

THINGS TO KNOW

FARE FOR ALL



The Food Group is at Atonement on **September 17th, 3–5pm**. 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/>

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

This group meets at Atonement once a month on the 3rd Tuesday, from 10–11:30am. When needed, they also provide respite care for loved ones. To learn more about Vivie go to: Vivie.org

AARP SAFE DRIVING

Debbie Grzybowski will offer the AARP safe driving course at Atonement on Saturday, **September 12th**, 9am to 1pm. Cost 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, call 320-203-7643, or call church office.



CAMPBILL VILLAGE MN
INVITES YOU TO OUR
FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 13th, 2026
12:00PM-4:00PM

—◆—

15136 Celtic Drive
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

- Local Food and Handmade Crafts
- Live Music
- Hay Rides, Farm and House Tour
- Fun Activities for the Whole Family

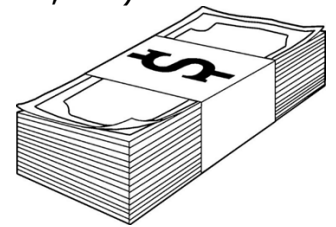
For more than 46 years, Camphill Village MN has been a home and workplace for adults with special needs. Together, we cultivate meaningful lives through shared work, lasting relationships, and a deep connection to the land.

FINANCIAL GIVING

The Finance Committee reports that church giving as a whole has fallen behind over the summer. Your contributions through general fund giving help ensure continuing church operations, staff support and essential ministries. Prayerfully consider what you are able to give either with a check or by signing up for convenient electronic giving options. For assistance in setting up electronic giving, please contact Laura at the church office --- 320-252-6203. It will only take a few minutes!

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 Goal: \$ 350,000.00
Capital Campaign Pledged: \$353,115.01
Capital Campaign Received: \$351,446.74 as of 7/31/2026
Remaining to be Paid: \$1,668.27



Estimated street assessments: \$371,000
Amount received to apply to assessments: \$65,159.66 as of July 31st.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your donations in July for Madison Elementary School and North Junior High! We collected \$1,940.61.



ROAD WORK

Please take 12th Street and enter the parking lot from 28th Avenue or it might be 29th depending on the work they are doing (curbs, paving, sidewalks, landscaping).

Drive carefully!

Street project should be done by November. 😊

LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

One of the questions your pastors hear most often from parishioners is a version of: "Where are the young families?" It comes up often around Vacation Bible School and the beginning of the school/church program year, and it's hard to respond to, because there are many answers.

There *are* young families at worship most Sundays and Wednesdays - particularly during the school year - but not as many as our older members remember seeing in years past. The families people remember seeing have grown older, and some are still with us, but others have moved out of town or transferred to another congregation.



Yet, people still ask, "Where are the young families?" Instead of an answer, we'd like to share a pair of stories and ask a few questions of our own. These are true stories, that happened at Atonement, but the names of the people involved have been withheld.

First story:

This month, a young woman came to the office to introduce us to her new baby. She also has a preschooler. She was a regular worshiper with us but hasn't been for some time and is nervous about coming back. She worries that her preschooler won't be able to sit still while she's also caring for an infant who is likely to do what infants do when they aren't sleeping—cry. She doesn't want to disturb worship for other people, and she worries that she will be judged if she can't keep her very small children still and quiet.

Second story:

A few years ago, one of your pastors was standing in the "enjoyed it" line after Sunday worship when a couple came through the line looking grim. When their turn came, the husband said, in full voice, that people who can't control their children shouldn't bring them to church. Standing directly behind this couple in the receiving line was a family of five - mother, father, and three young children.

You can probably guess why we think these stories are related. We may have "Let the little children come to me" painted over the entrance to our sanctuary, but young parents fear that they will only be welcome if their children behave just right.

We are all part of the Body of Christ, and bodies are messy, noisy, fragile and... wonderful! A crying baby or restless toddler in worship may be a distraction, but no more than a senior citizen having a medical emergency. In worship, we come together as The Body of Christ to receive nourishment in Word and Sacrament and offer to God and each other the gifts of presence, song, and support. This is quite literally a foretaste of the feast to come.

The question, 'Where are the young families?' is really a question about who is missing from our worshipping community and who belongs. It matches the concern your pastors have that fewer families are connected to any church in meaningful ways.

That is a problem worth solving, but how? It might help if we struggle with a few questions together:

Part 1: Feelings & Memories Questions:

- How did these stories make you feel when you first read them?
- With whom do you most identify in these stories?
- Can you remember times in your life at church when you felt like each of the characters (a toddler, a young parent, a frustrated congregation member)?
- What do these stories reveal about the expectations we have for one another in worship?

Part 2 - Actions & Facts Questions:

- Do you know any young families who don't have a church home?
- Have you invited them to worship with you? Or offered to go with them to adult education, fellowship, confirmation, or Sunday school?
- What would it take for you to offer an invitation?
- Have you asked the young people in your life - your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, co-workers, etc. - questions about their faith and worship? For example:
 - o What has helped them feel connected to God?
 - o What experiences have they had in churches—both positive and negative?
 - o What would encourage them to try church, or even participate in meaningful ways?



Your pastors don't expect you to have immediate or easy answers - we sure don't have them! We are all in this together, Christ is already gathering his Body. Our task is to participate faithfully in what God is doing - gathering us into one Body and giving us opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

So, when you feel the question "Where are the young families?" bubbling up from that place in your heart that wants to share the good news with a child and hear them share it back to you, ask:

- What young family do I know?
- How can I invite them to and make them feel welcome in worship?
- What kind of congregation will they find when they get here?

Then, trusting in God's grace, we can work on answering these questions together.

ATONEMENT NFL PICK'EM LEAGUE

Yes! The NFL is back! Pastor Tim loves football and challenges you to prove you can pick winners. The league is free to join and free to play. If you'd like to join, send Pastor Tim (TimL@AtonementLutheran.org) an email and he'll send you an invite.

The objective is simple: select the winner of each NFL game throughout the 18-week season. Each week for each game pick a winner. Make your picks 5 minutes before every game or get locked out!

Share your tips each week before or after church, but don't feel bad if your teams don't win, just find a Vikings Fan and they'll teach you how to cope. The most correct picks over the course of the season will have bragging rights at church for a year - which is priceless!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS SOME VOLUNTEER ROLES

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS



Presently, the office is staffed by a volunteer on Tuesday afternoon from Noon to 3:00pm and Thursday morning from 9:00am to Noon. Some tasks include answering phones, taking messages, preparing Wednesday school materials, attaching address labels, printing the bulletin, greeting visitors and possibly other small jobs. Since the office staff meets on Tuesdays from 1:00 - 2:30, a volunteer is there in the office. It's a fun way to connect with the office staff and pastors.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES (CC) FOOD SHELF VOLUNTEERS



In past years, Atonement Volunteers signed up for shifts for the month of September. This year, CC has opened the days to volunteer for **ANY MONTH**. They need aisle attendants, food sorters, and assistants in the clothing/household area. We encourage you to consider volunteering. Thank you, Kay Defries & Karen Vollen

<https://ccstcloud.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/EmergencyServices>

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Carol McCall and others volunteer for hosting the Caregivers Support Group and Respite, welcoming both caregivers and the persons needing care usually because of dementia or other illnesses. Hosting includes providing each group with coffee and clean-up. These groups meet once a month on the third Tuesday. Specialists who are trained in the areas of caregiver needs and in the various stages of dementia-related illness, lead each group.



EVENTS TO CELEBRATE

September 10: 31st anniversary of Pastor Tim's ordination
September 30: Jason Ploof's birthday

SOMETHING NEW

I have added a cross hidden somewhere in the newsletter ... and it is not the heading on page 1 or the cross in Place of Hope's and Catholic Charities logos. If you find it, call or email me where it is located and your name will be entered in a drawing – for what is yet to be determined.

SEPT. 1, TUESDAY

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

SEPT. 2, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 Noon Al Anon

6pm Worship**SEPT. 3, THURSDAY**

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

SEPT. 4, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

SEPT. 5, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 6, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

SEPT. 7, MONDAY

LABOR DAY – Office closed

SEPT. 8, TUESDAY

9:30am Men's Group
 11:30am TOPS
 6:30pm NA Anonymous
 7pm Stamp Club

SEPT. 9, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 Noon Al Anon
 2pm Prayer Shawls Group
 5:15pm Pizza etc

5:30pm Parent Mtg for Gr P-5

6:30pm Worship

Directory Pictures/Info
 7:15pm Parent Mtg for Gr 6+

SEPT. 10, THURSDAY

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

SEPT. 11, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

SEPT. 12, SATURDAY

9am-1pm AARP Drivers Class
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 13, SUNDAY

Directory Pictures/Info

9am Worship

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

SEPT. 14, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

SEPT. 15, TUESDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 9:30am Men's Group
 10am Caregiver Support Group
 11:30am TOPS
 6:30pm Bell Choir Practice
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 16, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 9:30am Elizabeth Circle
 9am Quilters
 Noon Al Anon
 5:15pm Pizza etc
 5:30pm Grades P-5 Classes
6:30pm Worship
 Directory Pictures/Info
 7:15pm Grades 6+ Classes

SEPT. 17, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men
 10am Mission Committee
 11am Youth Cards
 12pm Bible Study-Women
 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
 1pm Birthday Card Ministry
 3-5pm Fare For All
 7pm Evangelism Committee

SEPT. 18, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

SEPT. 19, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 20, SUNDAY**9am Worship****10am Packing Project**

10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous
 5-7pm Directory Pictures/Info

SEPT. 21, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

SEPT. 22, TUESDAY

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

SEPT. 23, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 Noon Al Anon
 2pm Prayer Shawls Group
 5:15pm Pizza etc
 5:30pm Grades P-5 Classes
 5:30pm Choir Practice
6:30pm Worship
 7:15pm Grades 6+ Classes

SEPT. 24, THURSDAY

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

SEPT. 25, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

SEPT. 26, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

SEPT. 27, SUNDAY

Directory Pictures/Info

9am Worship

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

SEPT. 28, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

SEPT. 29, TUESDAY

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

SEPT. 30, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 Noon Al Anon
 2pm Prayer Shawls Group
 5:15pm Pizza etc
 5:30pm Grades P-5 Classes
 5:30pm Choir Practice
6:30pm Worship
 7:15pm Grades 6+ Classes

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ATONEMENT CABIN EXCURSION

When nearby wildfires forced us to cancel our planned Boundary Waters canoe trip, we pivoted—and it turned out to be a blessing in disguise, especially since several of the kids were a bit younger than our typical BWCA paddlers! So instead, we took three adults and six high-energy kids to a beautiful lake cabin for four days in God's great outdoors for a weekend full of laughter, new adventures, and making memories!

From Thursday arrival through Sunday morning clean-up,



our group made the most of every hour. We went out twice on a boat, with tubing highlighting both times. Several in our group had never been boating or tubing, but the kids took to the water with huge smiles!

On the windy days, we played in the canoes and kayaks, getting kids into both who had never before tried kayaking or canoeing. One relatively calm day, we loaded up the canoes for an

excursion across the lake to explore an island. Several young people shared an epic water gun fight on shore with Pastor Tim. When people weren't on the water, the lawn stayed busy with cornhole contests and slackline challenges.

Mealtime was a team effort—everyone pitched in on prep and cleanup, making taco bars, grilled meals, and hearty breakfasts feel effortless. Before eating, we kept the camp spirit alive by singing table graces (Superman poses included!).



Evenings brought everyone together for nights of fireside s'mores, daily devotions, and plenty of competitive games of checkers, Settlers of Catan, and Clue around the cabin tables. We are grateful for the congregational member who shared her family cabin, for safe travels, wonderful fellowship, and the chance to rest and play together in God's creation!



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

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Church Office: 320-252-6203

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