



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2026

WEEKLY WORSHIP:

Wednesdays: 6:30pm

Sundays: 9am

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm

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

ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The council installation will be on Wednesday, February 4th and Sunday, February 8th.

At our annual meeting in January, the following officers were elected: Debbie Niemeyer, President; open position, Vice President; Fred Sandal, Secretary; Jill Abrahamson, Treasurer (and chair of Finance Committee). The following committee chairs will serve on the council: Kay Defries, Mission; Jean Kosloski, Adult Ed; Pat Pflipsen, Children/Youth; Bob Defries and Thor Larson, Property; open position, Evangelism; Larry Asplin, Stewardship; Tim Schreiber, Worship. If you are interested in serving in these open positions, or on a committee, contact Debbie Niemeyer or Pastors.

News of the new Memorial Fund Policy was shared. There are now 4 ways to designate gifts: General Fund, any line item in the budget, Legacy Fund and the new Operating Endowment. Adult Ed session on February 15th will be a deep dive into the street assessment of approximately \$371,000 because of street and sidewalk construction that will be done this summer on both 28th and 29th Streets.

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.



Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, **February 12th at 10am.**

Worship Committee will meet **February 12th at 2pm.**

Property Committee will meet next on **February 12th at 2pm.**

The following committees will meet **February 12th at 7pm:**
Children/Youth Ministry, Evangelism, Adult Ed, Stewardship Committees.

PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT



Patsy M.
Pat and Brian R.
Family of Gene Van Hauen
Family of Denton P.
Bob E.
Stacey R.
Debbie G.

Mark A.
Rev. Sandra L.
Jane A.
Mindy
Eric P.
Angie F.
Tom K.

Lainey M.
Kitty R.
Deon C.
Wanda J.
Angie L
Tony V.
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YOUTH PROGRAMS

Wednesday School and Confirmation Students

- + Pizza will be served 5:15 to 6:15pm for all.
- + Class for 3-year-olds – 5th grade at 5:45pm
- + Worship at 6:30pm
- + Class for Confirmation at 7:15pm; during Lent students are to meet with mentors

Cost \$1 per slice of pizza; also, at no cost there is fruit, vegetables, salad and cookies. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAYS, 5:45PM

We welcome any adults to join 3-year-olds - 5th grade students as they learn Bible Stories. You can read the story, help students with projects. You are welcome to share stories. Please let Mata know if you would like to do this. For the 3-year-olds through 5th graders, we will have lessons from the New Testament for the rest of this year:

February 4th Jesus Calms the Storm.

February 11th Jesus Walks on Water

February 18th Why Ashes,

February 25th What Is Lent.

BLANKET MAKING PROJECT

Please join us February 21st, 10am to 12 noon, to make tie blankets that will be sent to Guatemala for children having surgery. This is a family event. register by February 18th by calling the church office 252 6203, online or Mata Carlson.



PREPARATION FOR 1ST COMMUNION

Anyone from 1st grade and up are welcome to learn about Communion, classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm on March 11th, 18th, and 25th. You will receive your 1st Communion on April 2nd.

Please RSVP by March 4th to the church office 252-6203 or Mata Carlson.

STUDENT RETREATS

Luther Crest is holding youth retreat on **February 6th-8th for Grades 3-9**. Registration and volunteer sign up is online now. Cost is \$210/camper of which we ask families to pay the \$50 deposit. If the fee is an issue, parents or grandparents should contact the pastors. Lodging will be in a winterized cabin with bunk-style beds, each with its own bathroom and shower. Youth campers will also be with a Luther Crest counselor and approximately 8-9 other same-aged campers. Please note: this year Pastor John cannot attend the retreat with the kids, so we may need to arrange carpools.



For the EARLY BIRD discount for Luther Crest **SUMMER CAMPS**, registration needs to happen before February 14th. 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 overall cost is a concern, please talk with Pastor John or Pastor Tim. The summer camps fill up fast so to have more date options, plan NOW! Online: <https://luthercrest.org> or call 320-846-2431.

COINS FOR GLOBAL FARMS

The Wednesday School students are continuing to collect coins for Global Farms. If you have coins, you can bring them to Mata's office and students will put them in the bank. We hope to fill the bank by May. We have over \$67 as of January 21st.



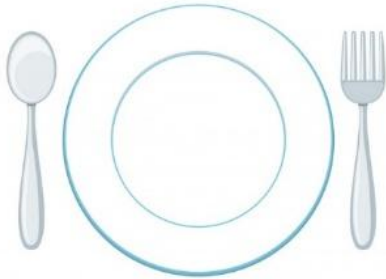
SENIOR QUILTS

Attention all High School seniors and parents! We would like to give you a quilt made by quilters at Atonement. Please contact Mata if you would like to receive one.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM LEGACY FUND

The Legacy Committee is preparing scholarship applications. Those will be mailed out in March to members attending college for their first year in the fall of 2026. Last year, we awarded scholarships to Cadaan Miller and Mylie Parker. The application deadline is April 30th, 2026. Please reach out to any Legacy committee member with questions. Applications will be mailed or can be picked up at the church office.

FELLOWSHIP



WILD GAME POTLUCK

On Saturday, March 21st at 2pm, Atonement will host the annual wild game feed which is a potluck event with speaker(s). At this time, we need to know who is interested in this event, those who will provide food (what game), and suggestions for speakers. Please contact Jon Molden, 320-250-0694, bigbuckadventuresmn@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY MEALS

During the school year, there is pizza, fruit, veggies, etc provided on **Wednesday nights at 5:15pm**. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME!

During the **Wednesdays in Lent**, we offer soups at noon following the service. Soups are provided by individuals or groups. Usually there are a variety of soups offered each week. Below are the groups that have committed to a week. Please contact Linda Schreiber to take a day.

February 18: Elizabeth Circle and Book Club

February 25/March 4/March 11: Open – Need Volunteers

March 18: Evangelism and Adult Ed Committees

March 25: Mission and POL Quilters

MESSAGE FROM EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Are you interested in helping Atonement grow by letting our neighbors and others know what Atonement believes in and how our church differs from others making it a good choice to check out? If so, you would be a great addition to the Evangelism Committee. If you are not sure, we meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall and we welcome people to just see what we do and who we are. Our next meeting will be February 12th.

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. This support group had its start at Dr. Patrick Zook's clinic, D-CAN, but due to a lack of funding the clinic had to close. This support group is now through Vivie. 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



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Atonement Prayer Shawl Ministry started a little over a year ago. Since our ministry began, there have been 14 prayer shawls given out. The shawls were given to an adult celebrating their baptism, folks going through an illness and to others grieving the loss of a loved one. This is exactly what we hoped would happen and we are so grateful to the Atonement family for helping us share "...God's gift of love and grace" by ensuring that the shawls reach those who need them.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in the church library at 2pm. We work on our projects, have a cup of coffee and enjoy conversation and fellowship with each other. Each finished shawl has a small cross sewn on it as well as a short message of comfort, hope and blessing. The prayer shawls, baby blankets and lap robes are kept in totes in the church library. Please help us continue spreading God's love where it is needed.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

LETTER FROM MINNESOTA ELCA BISHOPS

To the congregations, members, and friends of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Minnesota:

We, the six ELCA bishops in the state of Minnesota, are writing today with a word we hope will anchor and sustain all of us in the days to come.

In recent weeks, several thousand ICE and Border Patrol agents have been sent to our state. Their tactics of stopping and questioning our neighbors and their aggressive interactions with the communities where we live have caused fear and anxiety. We grieve the killing of Renee Good on January 7.

All of this comes after other experiences of devastating violence in recent months and years.

We are tired, and our hearts are broken. Yet we are not deterred.

At every act of violence, we have seen you respond with compassion and resilience. This has been a season marked by profound grief. It is also a season in which we have refused to be defined by what the baptismal liturgy names as "the forces that defy God."

To our pastors, deacons, chaplains and ministry leaders, we say this: we are with you. We give thanks for your faithful leadership, for your courage and discernment, and for all the

ways you live into the vocation we share. Dear friends, we believe you have been called and anointed for ministry in this time and place. It is our honor to serve with you.

To all members of our congregations, and our neighbors throughout Minnesota, we say this: we commit ourselves to continue to pray, to advocate and act alongside you, and to use the resources and gifts we have to work toward the fulfillment of the reign of God, so that all may know the abundance of life Jesus comes to give (John 10:10). We encourage you to remain connected to one another and actively support the efforts in your communities to meet the needs of those directly impacted in this time of fear and intimidation.

This past Sunday, congregations across our state marked the Baptism of our Lord. It is a celebration and remembrance of the moment when Jesus himself was baptized, and the voice of God broke through the heavens to declare, "This is my Son, the beloved, with him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

We believe the voice of God still speaks. We know that all our neighbors bear the image of God. Through the waters of baptism, we have been named and claimed as beloved children of God.

It is our sure confidence in this truth that sustains us. We know we are God's children, and we know that you are, too. We pray that this truth will continue to anchor, guide and compel all of us as we work for justice for all people in every place.



We also know there are voices around us that challenge the truth of who we are and who our neighbors are. It is our fervent hope that every one of us would remain deeply rooted in our identity as God's beloved.

To that end, we write with a word of encouragement: go to church or your place of worship, ground yourselves in Scripture, and surround yourselves with those who will echo the voice of God for you. This is the nourishment that will sustain us.

Along with Presiding Bishop Curry, we "join calls for a thorough investigation into this case, accountability for the shooting and a de-escalation of ICE enforcement across the United States."

When the challenges that surround us are overwhelming, we cling to what is true. We serve a God who sees us and who enters into the beauty and messiness of human life in the person of Jesus the Christ. Because of what God in Christ has done, we know that God is with us and we are not alone (Romans 8:38-39).

Until the day the reign of God arrives in full, we continue to work for justice and peace, grounded in prayer, rooted in Scripture, and compelled by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In sure and confident hope,
Bishop Regina Hassanally, Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Bishop Patricia Lull, Saint Paul Area Synod
Bishop Jen Nagel, Minneapolis Area Synod
Bishop Amy Odgren, Northeastern Minnesota Synod
Bishop Dee Pederson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Bishop Bill Tesch, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

WORSHIP NEWS

Lenten services, including Ash Wednesday, will be at 12 noon starting February 18th (with soup served afterwards) and 6:30pm (with pizza etc served prior).

Along with the paraments, and wall hanging, the mobile in the narthex changes again for Lent. The Lenten theme this year is "Making Peace with Ourselves". Wednesday services will include the Holden Prayer, speakers, and temple talks.



Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday focuses the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

The Lenten season culminates with Holy Week, which includes Palm Sunday and the joyous celebration of Easter. Resource:

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Why_and_how_do_we_use_ashes_on_Ash_Wednesday.pdf



It is time to "Think Spring" and get ready for the Lent/Easter season. Ash Wednesday is February 18th and Easter Sunday is April 5th. As in the past, we will be enhancing the worship space with flowers for this season. There will be an opportunity to purchase spring flowers - to be used in the sanctuary - in honor of or in memory of special people in your lives. Look for the forms to help with the flowers in early March. They will be on the usher's table and in the office.

FEB. 1, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Adult Ed: V-REC
 10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous
 7pm Habitat for Humanity Concert

FEB. 2, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

FEB. 3, TUESDAY

9:30am Men's Group
 11:30am TOPS
 12-6pm Blood Drive
 6:30pm Bells Practice
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 4, 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

FEB. 5, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men
 10am Mission Committee
 12pm Bible Study-Women
 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters

FEB. 6, FRIDAY

Youth Retreat
 6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

FEB. 7, SATURDAY

Youth Retreat
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 8, SUNDAY

Youth Retreat

9am Worship

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

FEB. 9, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

FEB. 10, TUESDAY

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

FEB. 11, 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 Packing Project
 7:15pm Choir Practice

FEB. 12, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men
 10am Mission Committee
 12pm Bible Study-Women
 1pm Birthday Card Ministry
 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
 2pm Property/Worship Committees
 3:30-5:30pm Fare For All
 7pm Council Committees

FEB. 13, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

FEB. 14, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 15, SUNDAY

9am Worship: Transfiguration
 10am Adult Ed: Assessments
 10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

FEB. 16, MONDAY

11am Service at The Sanctuary
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

FEB. 17, TUESDAY

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

FEB. 18, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
Noon Ash Wed. Services
 Noon Al Anon
 5:15pm Pizza etc
 5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Lenten Services

FEB. 19, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men
 11am Youth Card Ministry
 12pm Bible Study-Women
 1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
 5-9pm Amadeus Rehearsal

FEB. 20, FRIDAY

8am -6pm Foster Care/Adoption
 6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)
 7pm Amadeus Orchestra Concert

FEB. 21, SATURDAY

8am -6pm Foster Care/Adoption
 10am Packing Project
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

FEB. 22, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Adult Ed: Peace
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

FEB. 23, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

FEB. 24, TUESDAY

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

FEB. 25, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters

Noon Lenten Services

Noon Al Anon
 2pm Prayer Shawls Group
 5:15pm Pizza etc
 5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Lenten Services
 7:15pm Choir Practice

FEB. 26, THURSDAY

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

FEB. 27, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

FEB. 28, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous



ATONEMENT'S OF THE MONTH

February Mission: Salvation Army. The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The St. Cloud Salvation Army believes in faith put into action and making life better for others. Their services meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs to rebuild lives and create lasting change. Help is given freely, while preserving the individual's dignity.



The Salvation Army care for homeless and needy families, but also helps serve over 27 million people through other services all year long. These include: Disaster Response Services, Social Service programs, Casework and Counseling, Youth Services, Senior Centers, Christmas Programs, Human and Sexual Trafficking Advocacy, Veterans Services, Prison Services, Religious Services.

FARE FOR ALL CHANGES FOR 2026



The Food Group has shifted the site at Atonement to the **second Thursday** of the month. The time has also changed to **3:30 – 5:30**. The next date will be February 12th. 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 Keavney. Website: <https://www.thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/fare-for-all/>

COLD NIGHTS, WARM HEARTS WINTER SHELTER 2026

To address shelter and the upcoming winter, Faith in Housing, a local group working on homelessness and housing, is recruiting volunteers and financial assistance for sheltering people from the cold this winter.

Last winter there were close to 40 people on the streets each night. To accommodate those on the streets this year, Place of Hope and Salvation Army will again be hosting guests from 6pm-8am each night. In order to provide this service, Faith in Housing is calling upon our area community to offer assistance.

Recruiting Volunteers . . .

Volunteers are needed for things such as transportation, serving meals, handing out breakfast bags, supervision and preparation of the sites. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Younger volunteers must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact: faithinhousing@gmail.com or Place of Hope at 320-203-7881.

Financial Assistance . . .

It costs about \$40 for a mat and \$25 per night to house a guest. If you'd like to donate you can send a check directly to one of the three shelters: Place of Hope, Homeless Helping Homeless or Salvation Army. Please designate Cold Nights, Warm Hearts Winter Shelter in the memo line on your check.

Together we can help to ensure our neighbors are protected from the harsh realities of our winter weather. Questions? Text Kris Boyle at kkb72mom@aol.com

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR CENTRAL MN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Concert will be presented by the **CABRINI FLUTE CHOIR** on **Sunday, February 1st, at 7pm!** This is a benefit for Habitat. Kris Boyle of Amadeus Chamber Symphony will be playing with the Cabrini Flute Choir. Please come listen and share in this joyful celebration of music for a great cause! Free will donation for Habitat requested.



BLOOD DRIVE

at Atonement
Tuesday, February 3rd
12pm to 6pm

FINANCIAL GIVING

IF YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED YOUR PLEDGE CARD, please do so soon. **Be sure to check the authorization box on your signed pledge card.** Without signed authorization, Atonement cannot make changes to your automatic withdrawal amount.

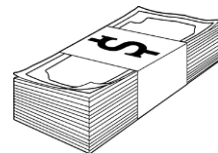
Reminder: Please make checks payable to Atonement and write on the memo line what it's for (Mission of the Month, packing projects, VBS, memorials, flowers, etc).

Total pledged: over \$353,000

Capital campaign received through 12/31/2025 - \$316,982.31

Capital campaign remaining to apply to assessments - \$30,695.23

Mortgage is paid in full.



THANK YOU!

The December Mission of the Month, God's Global Barnyard, received **\$1,305.43**.

LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

By now, most of us have seen those "classic" scam emails or texts. You know the ones—you get a message that looks like it's from one of your pastors, asking you to quietly buy gift cards for an "emergency."

We hate to bring this up again, but the threat is hitting closer to home than ever.

Pastor Tim writes:

Last night, I returned home from Wednesday worship to find my wife, Paula, in tears. Her parents live in Michigan just north of Sylvania, Ohio, near her twin sister, Priscilla. Her mom is 88 years old and cares for her dad, who has dementia. They still live on their own in a patio home.

While her mom was using the computer, a message popped up claiming the device was infected and required her to call a number to “fix” it. She called. In the confusion, she shared her driver's license number and was talked into revealing information about her checking account to the scammers. It was a devastating violation for vulnerable people trying to live independently, and it just fills Paula and me with sadness.



I share this personal pain because Pastor John and I want you to know how high the stakes are. Scams are already dangerous, but criminals are evolving. We want to make everyone at Atonement aware of these “run-of-the-mill” scams and a new, even more sophisticated threat: **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

We used to say, “seeing is believing.” If we saw a video of someone speaking, or heard their voice on the phone, we knew it was them. Unfortunately, that’s just not true anymore.

Recently, Father Mike Schmitz, a Catholic priest and podcaster in Duluth, had to issue a warning to his 1.2 million followers. Scammers used AI to create videos that looked and sounded frighteningly real to swindle people. In one fake video, the “**AI** Father Mike” warned that “*spots for sending prayers are already running out,*” urging them to click a link and pay money to secure a blessing before it was too late!

Father Mike laughed it off, saying, “*I would never say that.*” But the problem is, people who don’t know him personally might not realize it’s a fake. The voice sounded slightly robotic, but the image was wearing a similar clergy shirt and speaking with his cadence and usual enthusiasm.



Here is the part that worries us: It isn't just famous priests who are targeted. Cybersecurity experts warn that local pastors are becoming popular targets for these scams simply because there is so much footage of us online. *Here is what is truly mind boggling:* Scammers can feed our sermon audio into a computer, and after editing out all the gospel, great jokes, and amazing stories, they can generate a phone call that sounds exactly like our voices, asking you to “transfer funds.”

So, how do we spot the fakes?

- **Be suspicious.** If you see a video or get a voicemail from one of us that seems “off” or incredibly urgent, take a breath. Does the mouth match the words perfectly? Does the voice sound a little robotic? Is the picture not quite as handsome as your pastor?
- **Verify before you act.** If you receive a request for money, gift cards, or personal info that sounds like us, hang up and call the church office directly. Don’t reply to the text or click the link. Your pastors are relatively easy to get ahold of, and our amazing Office Manager Laura knows what’s going on.
- **Know our hearts.** We will never ask you to click a mysterious link to “secure a blessing” or ask you to buy cryptocurrency. If the request involves secrecy or extreme urgency, it’s almost certainly a scam.

Technology can be a wonderful tool for ministry, but we have to keep our guard up. If you are ever in doubt, please reach out to the church office immediately.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Tim and Pastor John

ADULT EDUCATION

February will feature an Adult Education session each Sunday. We meet in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall after worship where coffee and treats will be waiting for you. Please join us!

February 1st V-REC Veteran's Resource and Enrichment Center

The V-REC offers a unique experience by providing dedicated kind-hearted advocacy transition management to enhance the well-being of Veterans and their families. It offers resources on lifestyle enhancements, recovery, housing, jobs, veteran's benefits, county/state/federal benefits and more.

The programs aim to boost self-esteem and confidence, reduce anxiety, and empower Veterans and their families. Come join us to learn about this valuable resource.



February 8th A Message of Hope from Jane Goodall

We will view one of the many excellent films released since Jane Goodall's recent death, exploring the meaning and message revealed in her remarkable life. From her life's work emerges a playful, joyous, and always surprising vision of the mystery and wonder of creation. In her later years she brought a testimony of hope for the world in our times, leading practical educational experiences for young people speaking widely to diverse audiences. In this film we will become part of that audience.

February 15th Q & A on the Street Repair Assessment

Join Debbie Niemeyer and our pastors for an informational session about the scheduled street repair by the City of St. Cloud and the preliminary assessment of \$371,000 to cover the costs. The project will begin this May and is expected to be completed before the snow flies.

February 22nd - March 22nd Making Peace with Ourselves: Resting in the Promises of Baptism, Lenten Series Led by Pastors Tim & John

St. Paul writes that *"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1). Yet, while our peace with God is secured at the Cross, peace with ourselves often remains elusive. As both saint and sinner, we frequently ignore the promise of the Gospel, struggling to offer ourselves the same forgiveness Christ has already given.

Join your pastors for a five-week series following worship during Lent as we explore the theme "Making Peace with Ourselves." We will look to the "great cloud of witnesses"—from early church fathers to contemporary voices—to see how they navigated the tension between their own brokenness and their identity in Christ. We won't be looking at them as heroes of moral virtue, but as fellow beggars showing us where to find the Bread of Life. Come ready to listen and learn as we seek to silence the internal critic with the external Word of Christ's mercy.



AMADEUS CHAMBER SYMPHONY

at Atonement

Friday, February 20th, 7:30pm

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

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
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Pastor	Tim Lindhorst	Pastor@atonementlutheran.org	320-252-6203
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