



**ATONEMENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

March 2026

WEEKLY WORSHIP:

Wednesdays: 6:30pm

Sundays: 9am

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm

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

WORSHIP NEWS

LENTEN SERVICES:

12 noon (with soup served afterwards)

6:30pm (with pizza etc served prior)

LENT

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to Christian history, Jesus was crucified on Friday and rose three days later on Sunday.

Back in 325 AD, the "church council of Nicaea" decided that Easter should be made a true holiday. They also stated that it should be held on the first Sunday after the full moon, after the 21st of March, which is the Equinox. This means that Easter can land anywhere between the 22nd of March to the 25th of April. This year, we celebrate Easter on April 5th.

We will be enhancing our narthex and sanctuary with an array of Easter flowers. For each \$18, members will have the opportunity to give flowers "in memory of" or "in honor" special people in their lives. Order forms will be on the usher's table in the narthex or in the office. Please enclose payment with your form.



Worship Environment Team

CONFIRMATION

The congregation welcomes Liam Wills as a full member with his confirmation on February 15th, Transfiguration Day.

PLAN AHEAD FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 29 - Palm Sunday, 9am

April 2 - Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm

April 3 - Good Friday, Noon and 6:30pm

April 5 - Easter Sunday, 9am and 11am

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:

March 11th
March 18th
March 25th

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 learn about how special this gift is. Shelia Molde will be the leader. Please RSVP by March 4th to the church office 252-6203 or Mata Carlson. You will receive your 1st Communion on April 2nd.

STUDENT RETREATS

All 9th-12th students are invited to the Synod's annual **Senior High Youth Gathering on April 10th – 11th, 2026 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls.** Lodging will be at Redwood Lodge. This event is coordinated and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

Our theme this year is "Refuge in The Chaos" based on Psalm 46:1-2. We have an outstanding gathering planned for you! Including:

- Speaker: Tera Elness
- Band: SW MN Synod Youth Band
- Nightlife: Variety of activities including games, snacks, dance, large group games, relaxing space for prayer, etc.
- Small Groups: Sessions led by youth to help dig deeper into the theme
- Lively worship, dancing, singing, fun, faith and relationship-building
- Service Project: Meaningful service learning and opportunities to grow
- LYO Board Elections



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Registration: Contact Pastor John or Pastor Tim.

Registration closes March 5th at 6:00pm.

\$65 per person (Jan. 28-Feb. 28); \$80 per person (March 1-March 5)

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 \$90 as of February 17th.



SENIOR QUILTS

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



EASTER EGG HUNT

Please join us Saturday, March 28th for an Easter Egg Hunt from 10am to noon. There will be juice and pastry served. This is for those 3 years old up to 10 years old. You must register by March 20th. You can register online. Please bring a nonperishable food item to be given to McKinley School food shelves.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM LEGACY FUND

The Legacy Committee is preparing scholarship applications. These 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.

SUMMER WILL COME!!

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.

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2nd week of June!

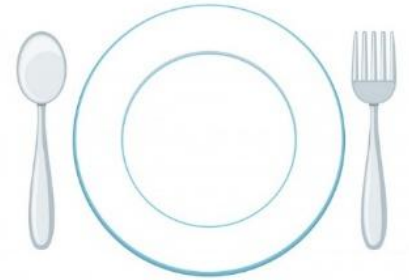
MARCH 8TH - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Don't be late for 9am service.

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. We thank all those making these meals, setting up, and doing the dishes. Below are the groups that have committed to a week. Thank you to Delores Dengerud for supplying the bread from Backwards Bakery and the groups listed below.

February 18: Elizabeth Circle and Book Club

February 25: Individuals

March 4: Choir

March 11: Property Committee

March 18: Evangelism and Adult Ed Committees

March 25: Mission Committee and Pieces of Love and Atonement Quilters

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, **March 12th at 10am**.

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

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

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

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

CELEBRATE!

Pastor John's 13th ordination anniversary is March 9th.
Marcia Handahl's birthday is March 15th.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

A weekend away for a lifetime of change

The upcoming Beginning Experience weekend retreat is March 20th – 22nd, 2026.

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.



Beginning Experience
listen.accompany.heal

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*

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

PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT



Family of Patsy Mader
Pat and Brian R.
Jerome J. and Family
Manuel P.
Bob E.
Kitty R.
Linda S.

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

Lainey M.
Tom K.
Deon C.
Wanda J.
Angie L.
Tony V.

MARCH 1, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

MARCH 2, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

MARCH 3, TUESDAY

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

MARCH 4, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters

Noon Lenten Services

Noon Al Anon
 5:15pm Pizza etc
 5:45pm Wednesday School

6:30pm Lenten Services

7:15pm Choir Practice

MARCH 5, THURSDAY

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

MARCH 6, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MARCH 7, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

MARCH 8, SUNDAY**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME****9am Worship**

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

MARCH 9, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

MARCH 10, TUESDAY

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

MARCH 11, 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

MARCH 12, THURSDAY

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

MARCH 13, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MARCH 14, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

MARCH 15, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

MARCH 16, MONDAY

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

MARCH 17, TUESDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 9:30am Men's Group
 10am Dementia Support Group
 11:30am TOPS
 6pm Garden Club
 6:30pm Bells Practice
 6:30pm NA Anonymous
 7pm Stamp Club

MARCH 18, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
 9:30am Elizabeth Circle

Noon Lenten Services

Noon Al Anon
 5:15pm Pizza etc
 5:45pm Wednesday School

6:30pm Lenten Services

7:15pm Choir Practice

MARCH 19, THURSDAY

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

MARCH 20, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MARCH 21, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

MARCH 22, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

MARCH 23, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

MARCH 24, TUESDAY

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

MARCH 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

MARCH 26, THURSDAY

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

MARCH 27, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

MARCH 28, SATURDAY

10am-12pm Easter Egg Hunt
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

MARCH 29, SUNDAY

9am Worship: Palm Sunday
 10am Adult Ed: Worship as Drama
 10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

MARCH 30, MONDAY

9am Faith in Housing
 1pm Bible Study with Pastors

MARCH 31, TUESDAY

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

ADULT EDUCATION

On the first four Sundays in March, we will continue the five-session Lenten series led by our pastors that began in February. The last Sunday in March, Pastor Tim will invite us to look at Worship from a new perspective.

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

March 1st – 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.

March 29th

Worship as Drama



As we enter the dramatic intensity of Holy Week, consider that you aren't just a spectator—you are a member of the cast stepping onto a stage. Join us this Palm Sunday to explore Worship as Drama, shifting our perspective from "watching" the Passion to actively participating in it. By viewing the liturgy as a two-act play of Word and Sacrament, we'll see how our worship serves as a vital "dress rehearsal" for the unfolding scenes of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Resurrection. Come discover your role in the greatest story ever told as we prepare to live out the Gospel script both in the sanctuary and the world.

For those interested, copies of the **Rule of Benedict** that Abbot Doug of Saint John's Abbey referred to are available on the welcome table as you come into the building.

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).

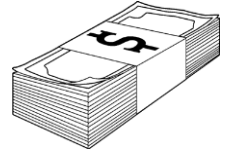
Capital campaign total pledged: over \$353,000

Capital campaign received through 01/31/2026: \$323,246.74

Capital campaign remaining to apply to assessments: \$36,959.66

Mortgage is paid in full.

Estimated street assessments: \$371,000



THANK YOU!

January Mission of the Month, Homeless Helping Homeless and Lincoln Center, received: \$1,901

LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

St Patrick is best known as the figure who brought Christianity to Ireland and – famously - drove snakes into the sea in the 5th century. There are many other stories about him, but these are the best-known.

Of course, the bit about driving out snakes strikes us today as an example of storytellers taking artistic license with a bit of real history. For one thing, we know that there has never been snake's native to Ireland since at least the last ice age. So, St Patrick's evangelism probably didn't drive out actual snakes, but his work brought an end to idol worship. In the biblical tradition, a snake is a pretty common stand in for something dangerous that most folks prefer to keep at a distance, like idols or the false gods they represent.



What is less well known is that St Patrick was not, himself, Irish. While we cannot be sure of his exact birthplace, his own accounts and those of his biographers tell us he was born and raised in Britain near the end of Roman rule. His father was a Roman official, and Patrick could probably have looked forward to a similar role in his community.

However, around the time he was 16, Patricius - as he names himself in his autobiographical writings - was captured by pirates and brought to Ireland. Once there, he was enslaved and set to work as a herdsman. After six years in captivity, he escaped, returning to the Roman world, where he became a priest and later a bishop.

And then, something even more remarkable happened to Patrick. It was more significant than being captured and enslaved (sadly common in that part of the world at that time) and more surprising than escaping and becoming a bishop. Patrick felt called to return to Ireland!

This influential, respected man chose to return to the very place where he had been treated as a piece of human property as a young man. He went back because he felt called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ among a people who did not yet know it.

That, to your pastors, is a greater miracle than any fantastic story about snakes. To choose to risk not only comfort, but safety for the sake of strangers and enemies is to imitate the Christ whom we serve.

Not many American Christians suffer in youth the way Patrick did. Not many of us will become bishops or feel called to foreign missionary work in retirement. But all of us have people we might consider, if not enemies, then certainly "opponents." It is to them that we are particularly called to extend forgiveness, love, generosity, and patience. We are called to share the promise of eternal life with the God who gave up everything in order to save us.

**EXTEND
FORGIVENESS,
LOVE,
GENEROSITY,
PATIENCE.**

As our families, congregations, communities, state, and nation move through these fractured and fracturing days, it is our hope that we can remember the example of St. Patrick – and more importantly, the example of the God who claimed, guided, and redeemed him.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT GROUP



The Evangelism Committee has been highlighting with posters of the various groups that serve our congregation, many behind the scenes. This month instead of a poster, we would like to recognize the Worship Committee and environment enhancement group. We are very thankful for the ministry of this group of faithful people

for enhancing our place of worship and bringing us meaningful worship experiences. The environment group makes changes with each church season as does the music ministry. The beauty God gives fills us with His peace as we worship His Holy Name.

ENJOY...

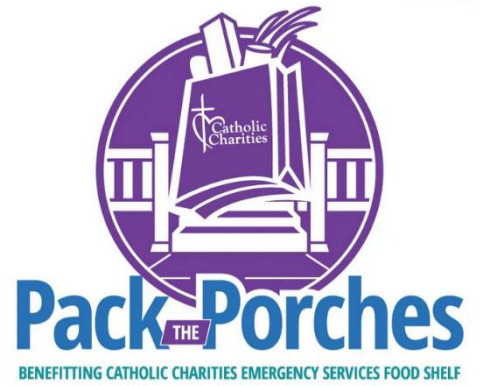
You come from dust and you will return to dust. That's why I don't dust. It could be someone I know.

A Dutchman was explaining the red, white, and blue Netherlands flag to an American. "Our flag is symbolic of our taxes. We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bills, and blue after we pay them." The American nodded. "It's the same in the USA only we see stars too!"

ATONEMENT'S **MISSION** OF THE MONTH

March Mission: Minnesota Food Share combined with Pack the Porch, all going to Catholic Charities Food Shelf. Money goes a lot farther, 3x the value.

Catholic Charities Emergency Services Food Shelf joins other food shelves, faith communities, businesses and organizations across Minnesota in acting to end hunger and food insecurity. Nonperishable items and monetary donations are gratefully accepted. Together, we can ensure food for all throughout central Minnesota.



Minnesota FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The March Campaign addresses these issues directly and we invite you to join our efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in our communities.

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 March 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 Keaveny. Website: <https://www.thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/fare-for-all/>



PLASTICS COLLECTION FOR V-REC



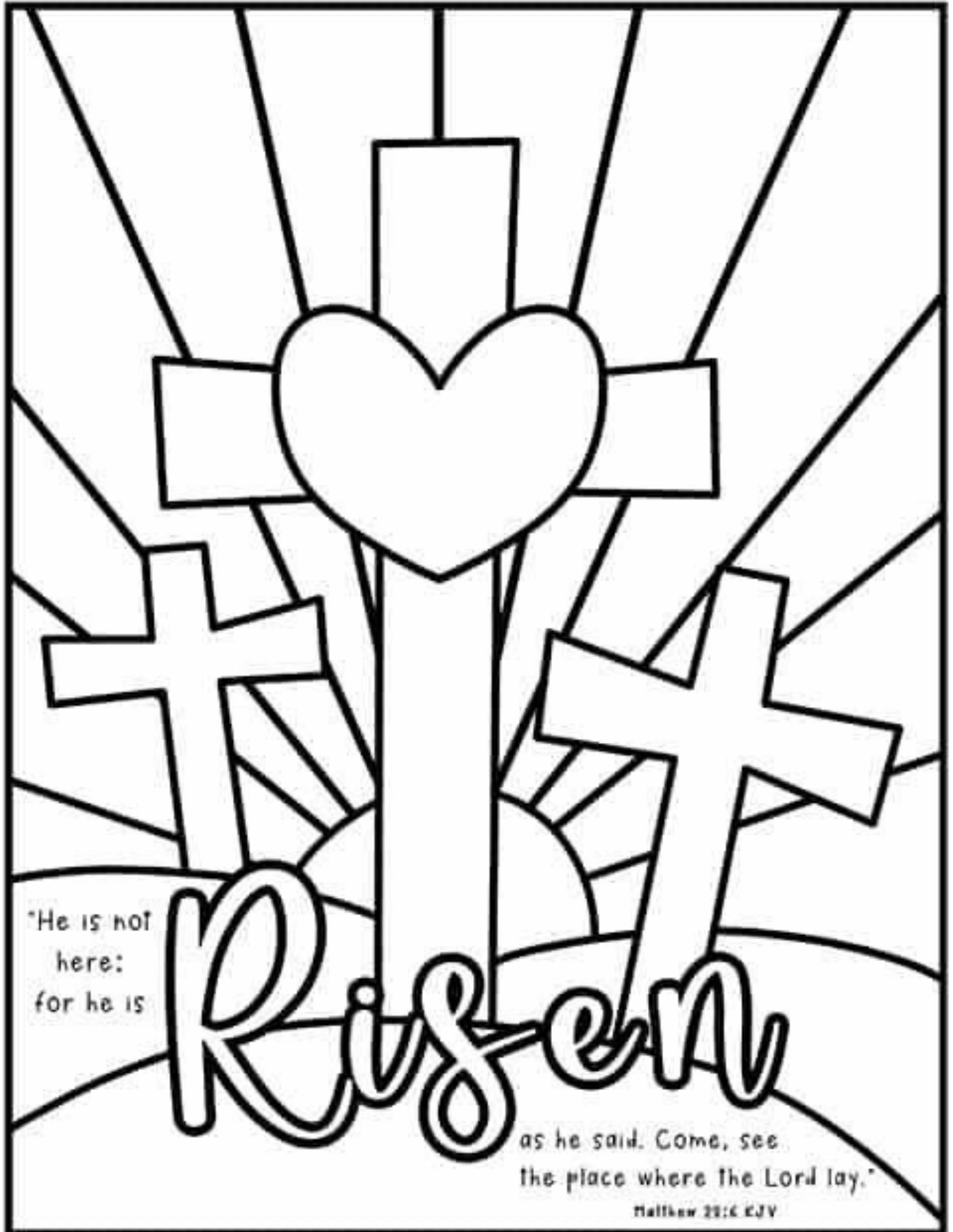
There has been a great response to this appeal! The plastic collected includes **Clean and Dry** grocery bags, bread sacks, newspaper sleeves, salt bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaner bags, bulk cereal bags, ice bags, case over-wrap, plastic shipping envelopes (like Amazon uses), pallet wrap and stretch film. Remove any labels. **Does NOT INCLUDE:** Paper envelopes with bubble wrap, items that are wet or have food residue. Please place these donations in the designated tall black container in the Donation Center. Thank you!

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.



ENJOY THIS COLORING PAGE and leave in office by Palm Sunday so we can display for Easter. Name and age are optional.



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
St. Cloud, Minnesota
Permit No. 382

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Church Office: 320-252-6203

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