



June/July 2025

WEEKLY WORSHIP:

Wednesdays: 6pm

Sundays: 9am

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8am-4:30pm

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



A summer kids' event called True North will be hosted at Atonement Lutheran Church **June 9th – 12th 9am to noon** each day. At True North we will point kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust. Kids will be guided on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing then toward Jesus, True North VBS

shows them that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North. This is for students from age 3 (by September 1, 2024) and older. For more information call or text Lisa at 320 281 9541 or Mata at 320 252 6203 x115. A noon meal will be served.

Like last year, we would appreciate **lunch and snack donations**. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the Narthex. Please know that you can sign up for more than one thing (hint, hint).

Volunteers are also needed for VBS. Can you help with snacks and/or lunch for a day or all week? How about working with the kids? See the Volunteer sign-up in the Narthex or sign up through the link on Atonement's website. Volunteers are needed for Song leaders, Bible Stories, Craft leaders, Games/crafts preparation, Technology, Photographer, Environment, cleanup crew, Snack/lunch Servers, Infant/Toddler care, Van driver, Van Assistant. There will be a **meeting on June 1st at 6:30pm for VBS volunteers**.

LUTHER CREST

Register NOW for Luther Crest Summer Camps. There is a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit upon registering. If the overall cost is a concern, please talk with Pastor John or Pastor Tim. Online: <https://luthercrest.org> or call 320 846 2431.



The Luther Crest Summer Fest and Auction will be held **July 26, 2025**. This is the 80th year of ministry at Luther Crest. The auction contains two main pieces: an online auction and an in-person auction live at Luther Crest. All funds raised go to camper scholarships and programming.

The Pieces of Love (POL) quilters are donating 3 quilts to the auction. These quilts will be on display in the Narthex prior to the auction.

Mark your calendars!





ROX GAME

Thursday, June 26th, 6:30pm game

Cost: \$20

Includes game, hat, hot dog, soda or water.

Please register and pay before June 15th.

GREAT NEWS FOR OLDER DRIVERS IN MINNESOTA

AARP offers their Smart Driver courses (sometimes known as "55 and Alive" or defensive driving classes) at Atonement, with Debbie Grzybowski as instructor. The cost of the classes remains at \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members; payable at class, check or cash. Next class will be



Saturday, June 21st, 9am-1pm.

Register with the Atonement office.

By taking a driver refresher course every three years, drivers learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate their vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment AND keeps a 10% discount on their auto insurance premiums. No more 8-hour classes.

CARD MINISTRY

PLEASE HELP! Join us on the third Thursday each month to at **11am** to send cards to Youth of Atonement and at **1pm** to send cards to members who will have birthdays in the next month. The dates in the next few months are **June 19th** and **July 17th**.

THANK YOU



A huge thank you is extended to the teachers of the Wednesday program: Mylie Parker who taught preschool, Ella Anderson and Tim Schreiber who taught elementary, and Pastors Tim and John who taught the confirmation program. Thank you to those who served as mentors/discussion guides for the confirmation students: Dave Erickson, Steve Gabrielson, Paula and Craig Dobbertin, Kay Defries, Linda Christen, Mylie Parker, Melissa Blommel, Jill Abrahamson, Chimezie

Okaonu, Herb Reichert, Kristie Elvehjem, Sheila Molde, Manuel Pisa, John Pflipsen, Angi Janni. And thanks to Mata Carlson for coordinating the program and the community packing projects.

This fall **we will need mentors** for the Confirmation students and volunteers to work with the students who will be teaching the preschoolers and elementary students. Please pray and discern if God is calling you to this ministry of spreading the Good News to our youth. If interested please contact one of the Pastors.

LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

This year the Christian church celebrates the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed developed by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.! Sources disagree whether the boy who would become St Martin of Tours was born before or after the Council of Nicaea gave us the original version of the Nicene Creed in 325 A.D. - and they differ by quite a lot, roughly a decade in either direction. It is, on the other hand, generally agreed that he was born in a province of the Roman Empire (Pannonia) that became modern-day Hungary and grew up in northern Italy, where his father was given land after retiring from his position as tribune in the Roman military.



Martin's family were pagans. This was common at that time in the Roman Empire, especially in rural areas and among the upper and military classes. It was, therefore, much to his parents' displeasure that he snuck off to a Christian worship service at around 10 and was later baptized.

The exact date of Martin's baptism is unknown, but tradition holds it was near the end of his required military service. As the son of a tribune, Martin had been required to join the military as a cavalryman at 15. He served during the reigns of at least two emperors (they didn't often last long), in particular the emperor Julian (361-363 A.D.), often called "Julian the Apostate" by Christian writers, who was a relative of Constantine the Great (the emperor who made Christianity legal in the Roman Empire).

Emperor Julian wanted to restore what he considered the pagan greatness of Rome and to diminish the influence of Christianity (which had been growing since Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan). He set about doing so almost immediately by reinstating Greco-Roman polytheism as the state religion, among other measures. Martin, who was at that time stationed in modern-day Germany (Gaul) and close to retirement, did not believe he could accept pay from or serve as a soldier in the army of a pagan emperor and so refused to fight. He was arrested and charged with cowardice. In answer to the charges, he volunteered to go unarmed at the front of the troops.

Normally, this kind of situation would spell the end of a Roman soldier who refused to fight, but as providence would have it, the opposing army sued for peace and Martin's superiors decided to let him retire. This was a defining moment for Martin, and he dedicated his life to Christian service, and also served as a bishop in the church. He lived a life of such holiness that he was eventually venerated as a saint.

You can read about that on your own if you're interested. Wikipedia has a decent article about him, which can point you to primary sources. But what your pastors think is so interesting about St. Martin is how God gave him the strength to hold firm to his convictions of what it means to live as a Christian in the world. St. Martin of Tours

demonstrated a Christian faith that chose not to flee or to hide or to compromise when challenged. He also chose not to resort to violence in word or deed, but simply to say "No" when asked or ordered to act or speak in ways incompatible with the law of Christ. He was powerful example of steadfast faith, moral courage, and the strength of non-violent conviction in the face of pressure. His choice to live out his faith authentically, even at great personal risk, without resorting to aggression, is a message that continues to hold relevance today.



**PLEASE NEVER PURCHASE GIFT CARDS AT THE REQUEST OF SOMEONE
CALLING, TEXTING OR EMAILING YOU.
THIS IS A SCAM!**

Our Pastors and staff will not ever request this.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Committees generally meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Most committees will NOT meet in July, so if attending, please check with committee chairs. Finance Committee meets by zoom. Worship Committee will not meet again until August. You do not need to be a member of a committee to join the conversation of any committee. Committee chairs: Be sure to send a copy of your minutes to Laura.

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

Mission Committee will meet on **June 17th** at 10:30am.

Property Committee will meet next on **July 10th** at 2pm.

The Legacy Committee will meet **June 12th** at 6:30pm.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE



"That was our contemporary service. Next is the traditional service, followed by a classical service, and a casual service with a sports emphasis."

Meet Walter Barnes. All golfers should live so long as to become this kind of old man!

Toward the end of the Sunday service, the Minister asked, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?" 80% held up their hands. The Minister then repeated his question, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?" All responded this time, except one man, Walter Barnes.

"Mr. Barnes, are you not willing to forgive your enemies?" "I don't have any," he replied gruffly.

"Mr. Barnes, that is very unusual. How old are you?" "Ninety-eight," he replied. The congregation stood up and clapped their hands. "Oh, Mr. Barnes, would you please come down in front and tell us all how a person can live ninety-eight years and not have an enemy in the world?"

The old golfer tottered down the aisle, stopped in front of the pulpit, turned around, faced the congregation, and said simply, "I outlived all of them" - and he calmly returned to his seat.

JUNE 1, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous
6:30pm VBS Meeting

JUNE 2, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

JUNE 3, TUESDAY

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

JUNE 4, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
6pm Worship- Pentecost
7pm Choir Rehearsal

JUNE 5, THURSDAY

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

JUNE 6, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

JUNE 7, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

JUNE 8, SUNDAY**9am Worship - Pentecost**

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

JUNE 9, MONDAY

9am-Noon VBS
1pm Bible Study with Pastors

JUNE 10, TUESDAY

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

JUNE 11, WED

9am-Noon VBS
8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
2pm Prayer Shawls Group
6pm Worship

JUNE 12, THURSDAY

9am-Noon VBS
9:45am Bible Online-Men
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
2pm Worship/Property Committees
6:30pm Legacy Committee
7pm Council Committees

JUNE 13, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

JUNE 14, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

JUNE 15, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

JUNE 16, MONDAY

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

JUNE 17, TUESDAY

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

JUNE 18, WED

8am Bread Makers
8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
6pm Worship

JUNE 19, THURSDAY

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

JUNE 20, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

JUNE 21, SATURDAY

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

JUNE 22, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Unity Spiritual Center
1-3pm Fun Rings (Hand Bells)
2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

JUNE 23, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

JUNE 24, TUESDAY

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

JUNE 25, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon Al Anon
2pm Prayer Shawls Group
6pm Worship

JUNE 26, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Online-Men
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
6:30pm ROX Game

JUNE 27, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

JUNE 28, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

JUNE 29, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

JUNE 30, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

JULY 1, TUESDAY

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

JULY 2, WEDNESDAY

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

6pm Worship**JULY 3, THURSDAY**

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

JULY 4, FRIDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 5, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

JULY 6, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

JULY 7, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

JULY 8, TUESDAY

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

JULY 9, WED

8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 Noon AI Anon
 2pm Prayer Shawls Group

6pm Worship**JULY 10, THURSDAY**

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

JULY 11, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

JULY 12, SATURDAY

Habitat Bike Fundraiser
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

JULY 13, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

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

JULY 14, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

JULY 15, TUESDAY

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

JULY 16, WED

8am Bread Makers
 8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 Noon AI Anon

6pm Worship**JULY 17, THURSDAY**

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

JULY 18, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

JULY 19, SATURDAY

Girls/Women BWCA
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

JULY 20, SUNDAY

Girls/Women BWCA
9am Worship
 10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

JULY 21, MONDAY

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

JULY 22, TUESDAY

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

JULY 23, WED

Girls/Women BWCA
 8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 Noon AI Anon
 2pm Prayer Shawls Group
6pm Worship

JULY 24, THURSDAY

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

JULY 25, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Por Su Gracia)

JULY 26, SATURDAY

Luther Crest Auction
 10am NA Anonymous
 6:30pm NA Anonymous

JULY 27, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
 10am Unity Spiritual Center
 1-3pm Fun Rings (Hand Bells)
 2pm Por Su Gracia Worship
 5pm NA Anonymous
 5pm Gamblers Anonymous

JULY 28, MONDAY

1pm Bible Study with Pastors

JULY 29, TUESDAY

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

JULY 30, WED

Boys/Men BWCA
 8am Bible Online-Men
 9am Quilters
 Noon AI Anon
6pm Worship

JULY 31, THURSDAY

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

ATONEMENT'S



OF THE MONTH

JUNE - Change of Plans – New Opportunity

Mission of the Month for June has been changed. The focus for June will be on funding breakfast bags for the unsheltered in our community. We hope to provide nutritious items for those we can serve with this first-time endeavor. The group, Faith In Housing, is supporting this effort with other area churches and businesses.

JULY – NEIGHBORING SCHOOLS

Donations in July will be given to our neighbors, North Junior High and Madison Elementary. The students' families are often unable to provide all the necessary items needed for their school bags. Teachers, many times, used their own money for these kiddos. It will differ from child to child, so money from Atonement can be used at the teacher's discretion. Over the years we have found that giving money worked better than guessing what supplies to buy.

FUTURE MISSION OF THE MONTH (MOM)

August - To be determined

September - Place of Hope

October - Anna Marie's Alliance

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

December - God's Global Barnyard (ELCA)



FARE FOR ALL

The next sales will be Thursday, June 5th and Thursday, July 3rd from

3:00 - 5:00. As you spread the word, remind others that this is open to anyone - you do not need to "qualify", there is no registration and there is no limit to purchases.

We are finding the need for more volunteers for clean up at the end of the sale at 5:00 pm. Please consider coming to shop during the last half hour and stay for clean-up.

Questions can be addressed to Kathy Matthies and Jan Keavney.

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

2025 BIKE BUILD HOME 500 - JULY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Central MN Habitat for Humanity is hosting a **5-day**, 500 km fundraiser, July 8-13 for the purpose of raising money for CMHH.

Saturday, July 12th, is dedicated to Atonement's own Loretta Anderson in honor of her many hours of volunteering on Habitat Home builds and riding in the Bike Builds. We will need volunteers for two **rest stops** (3

people each), one at Centennial Park in Richmond and at the Lake Wobegon Trailhead in Avon. The Mission Committee will be providing the meal at St. John's Prep, and request at least 6 more people to help with **serving and clean up**. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex **after** VBS. Thank you!



SUNBEAM CHILDREN'S HOME



In 1992, Atonement's first 3-person mission team went to Sunbeam Children's Home to build a chicken coop. April 30-May 7th, Marcus Anderson and Grant Gryzbowski went to assess the current state of Sunbeam. There are currently seven 14 year old boys at Sunbeam. Their cost of care is being subsidized by their families until they can return home. All the boys are in public high schools in Old Harbour or Spanish Town. A new CEO of Child Protection Family Services Agency began last year. Shortly after, all government funding stopped at Sunbeam and they lost 70% of their operating budget.

Sunbeam is in a rebuilding process. Their goal is to produce 50-60% of their income through farm products. The remaining 40% will need to come from donors in the US and Jamaica. The farm will offer diversified production of lettuce, pigs, callaloo, bananas and beans. The biggest income producer will be chicken production with 300 chickens ready for the market after 6 weeks, thereafter in three-week cycles.

Individual donors will be able to support the salaries of the farm manager and her assistant with donations of \$125/week for each employee. \$200 per week is needed for salary support for each caregiver (house mother and house father). There are many other financial needs to build a new income base for Sunbeam.

To hear faith building stories about the committed caring staff of Sunbeam, call Marcus Anderson at 320-266-5085.

MISSION OF THE MONTH CONTRIBUTIONS

April Mission of the Month, Habitat, received \$3,371.75 from our congregation to use where needed. Habitat has many exciting new and proven ways to help their clients become homeowners. Atonement's contribution will count towards the dream of home ownership.

Reminder: Checks written for a Mission of the Month (MOM) or any other need (canoes, packing projects, VBS, memorials, flowers), please make it payable to Atonement and write on the memo line what it's for.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mortgage was \$363,405.92 on 01/01/2024;
Now \$53,819.95 as of 04/30/2025.

Total pledged: over \$353,000
Cash received through 4/30/2025:
\$265,872.31

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

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

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

GENERAL GIVING

General giving was down in March and April by about \$27,000. We acknowledge that summer giving is usually lower as well. Please remember to continue to donate so we can continue to meet our regular expenses. We appreciate your support: time, money, and talents!

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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