

News & Notes

Lutheran Church of the Atonement

March 22, 2026



Grant Update

Atonement Church and School has successfully secured three grants totaling **\$89,000**, along with one in-kind grant supporting the community garden. These funds enable initiatives that would not have been feasible within our existing budget.

The largest award, from the Lutheran Foundation, will support the purchase of two new curricula and fund a significant portion of a LASE teacher's salary for the 2026–2027 school year. In addition, a Lutheran Foundation mini-grant will help underwrite community events during our 75th Anniversary Celebration Year. A third grant, awarded by ELEA, will be used to purchase equipment for select after-school clubs. The in-kind grant from SEEDS STL will replace aging planting beds in the community garden.

One additional grant application has already been submitted, and two more are under consideration to address both immediate needs and priorities for the upcoming school year.

All grant funds are restricted to specific, approved purposes and will be carefully tracked and reported to each funding organization. Use of funds outside the approved scope could jeopardize current relationships and future funding opportunities.

We are grateful for this support, which allows us to advance important initiatives that would otherwise be difficult to achieve. Please join us in thanking the Third Party Funding Team—Linda Lemke, Jane Meyerkord, Norm Koch, and Paula Viehman—for their dedication and hard work.

- - Norm Koch

MEMBER CARE TEAM



We are setting up a Member Care Team to improve communication with Atonement members. The purpose of the team is to regularly contact church members to see how they are doing, discuss issues/concerns about Atonement, membership status, etc. If you are interested in helping, please fill out the attendance form.



I'm a collector of sayings. They pop into my head randomly, and this one has been in my mind lately: "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And what I can do, I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I shall do." (Everett Edward Hale)

Isn't that the story of Atonement right now? Many of us are doing lots of "somethings." Others may still be looking for the thing they "can, ought, and, by the grace of God, shall" do. To that end, the Stewardship Team has placed buds under the Celebration of Growth logo on the kiosk in the narthex. Each bud describes a way you can contribute to our congregational life and mission. I invite you to prayerfully consider those options and to contact Angie Kemper or me about next steps.

We all have a part to play in this joint walk of faith. What are you being called to do?
- - Cathy Hohl, Congregation President



Seniors (age 50 and over) are invited to monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 23 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The guest will be Lamar Pilsing with musical entertainment featuring songs made famous by Sinatra, Dean Martin and others. Lamar has pleased a wide spectrum of audiences over the years - come and enjoy!

<https://www.alcs-web.com/seniors-alive>

Wednesdays through March 25, 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.



Upcoming Events:

TODAY: Heritage Sunday w/Pastor Dan Johnson, Reception after Worship (see flyer on back page)

March 25, Last Mid-Week Lent worship, 7:00 p.m.

March 29—Last Sunday for prayer vigil. Held in Small Chapel at 8:30 - 9:20 a.m.

Men's Club BBQ Coming Soon!!!! Watch for dates. *(Spoiler Alert-!the first one is April 11 & 12)*



Bethel Lutheran, U. City Looking for renewed energy and practical strategies to help your faith community heal creation? **Join us on April 18** for the 2026 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest! Doors open at 8:30 am for refreshments, prayer, and meditation led by Pastor Scott Benolkin of Bethel and Eden Seminary Professor Clint McCann, followed by livestream of the Summit from Duluth, MN. At 11:45 we turn to our call to action

here in St. Louis, followed by lunch and a focus on faithful action in the Central States Synod with speakers including Bishop Donna Simon and the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago who will join us via Zoom. Sending Worship is at 4:00 p.m. Come for the full day or join us at 11:45 for local programming and lunch. TO REGISTER: Email brendalight3@gmail.com (\$10 donation at door; students free)



"It's time to mother Earth"

When your fridge (or AC) shuffles off its mortal coils, dispose of it properly. Research shows that one of the key solutions to climate change is managing refrigerants, which accelerate the warming of the atmosphere. To find your closest refrigerant-reclaiming facility, check out the EPA's list.**

**taken from The Oprah Magazine, "The Love the Planet Issue", April 2019, Vol. 20, No. 4, P. 99.*

Attendance— Week of 3/15/26

9:30 a.m. = 88

Giving

Sunday 3/15/26 in-person = \$3917

\$10,225.45 giving from 3/9-3/13. This includes church income received by all methods (ex./ online, mail) and all funds (missions, memorials, etc.)

Shop RaiseRight

Don't forget to stop by the Welcome Desk or scan the code below to order your gift cards. Proceeds benefit Atonement School. Contact the school office with questions.



You're Invited

Unity, Bel-Nor, invites you to the following worship opportunities during Holy Week:

- Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.: The Seven Last Words of Christ. The Arianna String Quartet will present Joseph Haydn's musical masterpiece with word reflections by the Rev. Fred Niedner.
- Saturday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m.: The Vigil of Easter

Unity is located at 8454 Glen Echo Dr., 63121



If you would like to serve as an usher during select Sunday's, please contact Bill Meyerkord. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

ATONEMENT LINKS

March seems to be flying along! We are in our 4th Quarter of school, and we are conducting tours, consulting with parents for next year, and getting a recruitment team ready to "get the word out" about our school.

Looking into next month, you can come to the Fine Arts Fair on April 19, beginning at 2 pm. We have students who will be participating in the Concert. You can then walk down to view the exhibits in the gym from many of our local fine artists. Make sure you also get your ticket for a free ice cream from the Ice Cream Truck! Then, on April 25, beginning at 6:30 pm (doors will open at 6 pm), come have some fun, play some BINGO, and (hopefully) win some prizes! BINGO nights are always fun. It is \$20 per person to play, and you receive 3 BINGO cards. Feel free to bring family & friends along!

Spring Break is coming up also. We are off on April 3, for Good Friday. The week following Easter, April 6 – 10, we are on spring break. Plan now for some down time and some relaxation.

April also kicks off our wonderful Men's Club BBQ season. If you haven't tried them yet, I highly recommend it!

Have a blessed and wonderful week!

Go Fund Me:
gofund.me/580b1615f

PayPal.com
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=AY5JSU5UWCVS6

Scan to donate



gofundme



A Celebration of Growth... A Widow's Mite Collection

This "little" contribution is growing! Thank you to everyone who is contributing to our Widow's Mite basket. We currently have \$44.40. You can find the basket on the table in the Narthex as you enter the center double doors into the Sanctuary.

Financial Position Summary July 2025 thru February 2026

Balances thru February Status: Good		Bank Accounts Status: Danger	
Mortgage Balance Due	\$ 2,105,463	Balance on Feb 28	\$315,825
Bank Accounts	\$ 315,825	+/-Forecast Through 06/30/2026	-\$185,658
Restricted Funds	\$ 193,192	Forecasted Balance on 06/30/2026	\$130,167
Operating Cash	\$ 122,633		
Endowment Fund in Thrivent Account	\$ 159,869		
<p>Restricted Funds includes money that was given and set aside for specific purposes such as Capital Improvements, Youth Impact Fund, Memorials, etc. Due to outstanding giving in Dec, Our Operating Cash is stable.</p> <p>Operating Cash is the money available for daily operation of the church and school such as paying salaries, utilities, insurance, etc. The desired minimum needed to operate Atonement is \$100,000. When Operating Cash is negative, it means we have used all operating cash and borrowed from our restricted funds to pay operating expenses. We will repay the Restricted Funds when cash is available</p>		<p>The checking and savings account balances as of the last day in the reporting period and the forecasted balance at the end of fiscal year (June 30), based on the Actual and Forecasted Surplus/Deficit thru June 30.</p> <p>Revenue generation campaigns are starting to show positive returns. December giving was so significant, previous forecasted deficits have been eliminated, however this trend must continue to ensure we replenish Restricted and Operating Funds.</p>	



The Celebration Committee presents the third in our series of **HERITAGE** Sundays—
Sunday, March 22

Pastor Dan Johnson will be returning to preach. Pastor Dan calls himself a “third career Pastor” who chose to go to seminary in his late 40s. He followed a career in technical sales with a move to youth ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran in Creve Coeur when he felt called to youth ministry. During his time at Holy Cross, he met his wife Jackie and their children, Emily, Nick and Sam.



He enrolled in Wartburg Theological Seminary and served as “Vicar Dan” at Atonement. The same day he graduated in May of 2018, he was called as Associate Pastor at Atonement. He served here for two years and then answered God’s call to serve the Oglala Lakota people at Pine Ridge Reservation.

You can see Pastor Dan’s full note about his work and his return to Atonement on March 22 in next week’s News & Notes and at the link in the Tuesday email.

Please join us for Worship and a Reception to follow in the Family Room where you will have the opportunity to visit with Pastor Dan and view a display of historical items. In worship, watch for a HERITAGE talk about the decade of the 70s when Atonement and the Lutheran Church were weathering some challenging times.

We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd. Invite friends and family who would like to catch up on what God is making new at Atonement.



We're raising dough!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

April 14, 2026
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
2375 Lindbergh Blvd, Florissant, MO

Use code **FUND4U** at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

25%
OF NET SALES
WILL BE
DONATED*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your organization gets a portion of the net sales.

Panera
FUNDRAISING

*20% fundraiser: Up to 20% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$100 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 20% donation. 25% fundraiser: Up to 25% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$100 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 25% donation. General terms: Details on percentage of net sales to be donated and the minimum sales requirement will be provided during the event registration process. Fundraising events available only at participating US bakery-cafes. Fundraising event details and available dates and times for fundraising events will vary by bakery-cafe. Gift card purchases, catering orders, and orders placed on third party delivery sites are excluded and will not count towards the total net sales from your designated fundraising event. This offer will be void if flyer is distributed in or near the participating bakery-cafe on the night of the event. Fundraising events may be cancelled without notice due to abuse, error, fraud, computer error, electronic or technical malfunctions, or other unforeseen or unintended circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. For more information on how our fundraising events work, please visit: <https://fundraising.panerabread.com/fac>. © 2024 Panera Bread. All Rights Reserved.