

News & Notes

Lutheran Church of the Atonement

Jan. 11, 2026

Are you rested? Re-invigorated? I hope so!

Before I remind you of what's to come, let's review what we've done - because it's a LOT! We implemented a restructuring plan for our school, established the Atonement Early Learning Center, started work on our Strategic Plan, created a team to manage third-source funding efforts, proposed revisions to our Constitution, and started celebrating our two anniversaries. That's *on top of* the "business as usual" things handled by our teams and standing committees. That has all been possible because of your energy, support, and commitment to serve.

Exciting things are still to come! At our May 17, 2026, congregation meeting, we plan to approve the proposed Constitution changes and elect a Call Committee. The Call Committee can quickly begin its work if we've also completed our Strategic Plan and Ministry Site Profile. While some of that work is "behind the scenes," the substance relies on your thoughtful participation.

We'll also continue stabilizing our financial position by building long-term relationships with foundations and other funding sources. Even as this work continues, we've applied for three grants which, if approved, will positively impact this and future fiscal years. You have also been generous as, by mid-December, we received unexpected gifts totaling \$120,000, and an additional \$15,000 as part of the Matching Gift Program.

So, off we go! Let's focus our energy on this important work. Let's encourage each other, participate, and contribute our unique talents and treasure to complete the work God's calling us to do.

- Cathy Hohl, Congregation President



The Celebration Committee presents the first in a series of **HERITAGE Sundays**—

Sunday, January 18

Pastor Kristen Koch will be returning to preach. She was our Associate Pastor 2009-2012. She is also a beloved daughter of our congregation and is a graduate of Atonement Lutheran School. Since serving at Atonement, she has been the pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and most recently has served both Shepherd of the Hill and Unity. Beginning December 15, she is serving in a new role as Director of Evangelical Mission as part of the Central States Synod staff.



Please join us for Worship and a Reception to follow in the Family Room where you will have the opportunity to visit with Pastor Koch and view a display of historical items. In worship, watch for a special children's talk looking back at life in the 1950s when Atonement church and school were just forming.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18th. Invite friends and family who would like to catch up with what God is making New at Atonement.



Seniors (age 50 and over) are invited to monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 26 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Come and enjoy Lamar Pilsing as he presents hit songs made famous by Sinatra, Dean Martin and others. Lamar's styling has pleased a broad spectrum of audiences over the years. Come take a step back in time!

Atonement Men's Club exclusive Super Bowl pre-sale is BACK!



Host an EPIC Super Bowl bash with our summer's best BBQ ribs! Get ahead of the game and secure your order for the juiciest, mouthwatering, smoked ribs that will have your taste buds cheering! We're also selling our 4.5lb tray of cheesy potatoes, and \$10 Super bowl squares for those who want to play. A copy of the squares will be sent to those who play.

Order at the Welcome Desk after Sunday services or scan the QR code anytime to place your order by February 5. Pick up your food on February 7 between 11:00 - 1:00 in Fellowship Hall. Pay with cash, check, credit card, or PayPal!!



*** TAI CHI CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 26
Atonement Fellowship Hall

Classes for both beginning and returning students will resume on January 26. We will be accepting new participants in Tai Chi for Arthritis only thru February 4, so if you have friends or neighbors interested, please let them know.

No class March 30 and April 1. Classes end May 13.

TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS

Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Open to beginning and returning students and will cover both Part 1 and Part 2 of Tai Chi for Arthritis.

Yang 8/SUN 73

Monday & Wednesdays, 10-10:45 a.m.

The first 15 minutes of this class will be devoted to the Yang 8 and is open to everyone.

The second part of the class will be the Sun 73 and is open to new students but you must know Tai Chi for Arthritis, Parts 1 and 2. Although this is very long form, if you w Tai Chi for Arthritis, you already know almost a third of Sun 73.

Cost: Free will offering for church

We will require a signed waiver of liability from participants. Masks and proof of vaccinations will not be required at this time but we reserve the right to require them if conditions warrant. Please wear flat, comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle.



USHER HELP!!

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



"It's time to mother Earth"

Let's start the year with good habits; like using non-plastic carrier bags and non-plastic water bottles. Avoid single-use plastics.



Have a question about your phone, tablet, computer, or other device? Are you fifty years of age or older? If so, the Oasis Technology team can help you at one of our FREE Ask a Techie sessions. They're held weekly at 1:00 p.m. at Northwest Plaza on Mondays and the Center of Clayton on Tuesdays. Please see upcoming date scheduled at Atonement.** These sessions are led by Jordan Carr (Oasis Technology Director) and David Cole (Oasis Technology volunteer and Atonement member). Class size is limited, and registration is required. Please sign up by calling (314) 862-2933 or registering online at stloasis.org/tech.

** Jan. 12
Beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance— Week of 1/4/26

9:30 a.m. = 115

Giving

Sunday 1/4/26 in-person = \$3657

\$8575.29 form of giving from 12/29-1/2. 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.



PayPal.com

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



Go Fund Me:
gofund.me/580b1615f

Scan to donate





Financial Position Summary July 2025 thru November 2025

Balances thru November Status: Danger		Bank Accounts Status: Danger	
Mortgage Balance Due	\$ 2,116,730	Balance on Nov 30	\$188,555
Bank Accounts	\$ 188,555	+/-Forecast Through 06/30/2026	-\$251,239
Restricted Funds	\$ 188,192	Forecasted Balance on 06/30/2026	-\$62,684
Operating Cash	\$ 363		
Endowment Fund in Thrivent Account	\$ 156,664		
<p>Restricted Funds includes money that was given and set aside for specific purposes such as Capital Improvements, Youth Impact Fund, Memorials, etc. We have significantly dipped into the restricted funds in order to cover operating expenses.</p> <p>Operating Cash is the money available for daily operation of the church and school such as paying salaries, utilites, insurance, etc. The desired minimum needed to operate Atonement is \$100,000.</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>For the period Nov. 1, 2025-Jun. 30, 2026, expenses were forecasted to be \$290,000 higher than revenue. \$190,000 of the shortfall is because OneFund gifts have been trending lower, and school enrollment is less than anticipated. This period, notice the forecast deficit is now \$250K. Let's keep this going.</p> <p>Revenue generation campaigns are being launched. Details will be provided at the November 23, 2025 congregation meeting.</p>	