

The Spirit of Atonement

MAY 2022

Which Type of Church is Atonement?

Anglican Bishop (now retired) Tom Wright comments frequently that he observed two very different types of churches in his Diocese of Durham, a corner of England noted for its abandoned industries, high unemployment, and urban decay. Both types of churches, he realized, were striving to be faithful to the Gospel.

One type he called “Kingdom of God” churches. These were parishes which tried on a daily basis to live out Jesus’s vision of the “Kingdom of God,” the Kingdom which, Jesus said, is “among you” and “within you” and “at hand.” Thanks to that vision, these churches regularly engaged in ministries, such as feeding the hungry, offering free child care for working parents, providing job training, and transforming abandoned buildings into community centers. These churches routinely engaged with public officials to challenge them to use their offices to benefit those most in need. And, these congregations used their limited financial resources to offer assistance with rent, utilities, and medical expenses.

These churches, Wright would quip, seemed to believe Jesus died way too young. “He was just getting starting.”

A second type of parish, Wright called “Cross and Resurrection” churches. These were churches that focused their attention on proclaiming the death and Resurrection of Jesus as the centerpiece of God’s plan to rescue humanity from the twin powers of sin and death. These churches focused intently on summoning people to faith in Christ, and then on building that faith through Bible study, prayer fellowships, and small groups. In these parishes community engagement concentrated on

evangelism and on sharing the Christian faith and hope with non-believers and with those dealing with substance abuse or other forms of abuse. Such churches’ message centered on forgiveness and personal renewal.

Those churches, Wright suggests, believed that they provided the main meal, while the “social gospel” churches simply offered “chips and dips” as an appetizer.

What saddened Bishop Wright was that the second type all-too-often saw the first group as simply offering the old “social gospel,” while the first group thought the second was overlooking the ethical and social implications of Jesus’s three-fold ministry of teaching, healing, and challenging the prevailing powers.

Yet, Jesus’s proclamation and enactment of God’s Kingdom and Jesus’s suffering, death, and Resurrection are not just equally important, they are interrelated. Through His Kingdom ministry of feeding, forgiving, and healing Jesus manifested what God’s Kingdom looks like in all of its fullness, and through his death and Resurrection he manifested God’s power over sin and death, so that God’s Kingdom could ultimately become the new reality, lived out in the lives of God’s people.

So, two types of parishes! Is one more valid than the other? Not hardly! But, surely, a church is more faithful to the Gospel, when it engages in both these dimensions of ministry. So, which type of church — in your opinion — is Atonement?

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Seniors Alive

(subject to change or cancellation)

Monthly Meetings

Vaccinated seniors (age 50 and over/proof of vaccination required) are invited to monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 23, at 1:30 p.m. Harmony Duo, Steve Galati and Jim Ford combine for great harmony. There will be a brief business meeting, and dessert will be served.

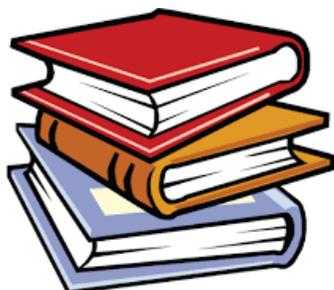
2022 Tours

- May 18, Enjoy a visit to The Hill. Bus departs at 9:30 a.m. and returns at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$85 per person

- June 22, Washington, Mo.—includes Model Train Museum, candy, art studio. Bus departs at 10:00 a.m. and returns at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$95 per person.
- July 20, Casey, Ill.—You will be “largely” surprised! See one of Lincoln homes, too. Bus departs at 7 a.m. and returns at 7:45 p.m. Cost is \$105 per person.

For more information on these tours, please contact Don Kuethe at (314) 831-8478 or at dthekey@sbcglobal.net.

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



Atonement Book Club...

Atonement Book Club normally meets in the Multi-Purpose Room on the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Current Covid safety guidelines are followed. We welcome new members.

Note: If we are unable to meet in person due to changes in Covid numbers and guidelines, we will schedule a Zoom meeting for the same time and date.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 1, beginning at 1:30. We will be discussing *Daughter of Moloka'i*, by Alan Brennert. This companion tale to *Moloka'i* tells the story of Ruth, the daughter whom Rachel Kalama—quarantined for most of her life at the isolated leprosy settlement of Kalaupapa—was forced to give up at birth. The book follows young Ruth from her arrival at the Kapi'olani Home for Girls in Honolulu, to her adoption by a Japanese couple who raise her on a strawberry and grape farm in California...and more.

Please consider joining us. For more information or questions, please contact Jan Koch at (314) 921-5434 or njkoch@aol.com.



From the Parish Nurse **High Blood Pressure, Cholesterol and Stroke Awareness** Joyce Pingel, L.P.N.

May is a beautiful time of year, and also a time to recognize high blood pressure, cholesterol, and stroke awareness. High blood pressure can harm your heart's ability to pump effectively. It speeds up the process of hardening of the arteries and increases risk of stroke. Early treatment may prevent permanent damage and death and will increase the likelihood for a quicker and more complete recovery.

What do I need to know about stroke, cholesterol, and blood pressure?

Stroke is also called brain attack and is caused when the blood supply to the brain is clogged or bursts. Therefore, part of the brain does not get enough oxygen and nutrients. This can cause death of brain cells within minutes. When a significant amount of brain cells die there is permanent damage. Some strokes are preceded by mini-strokes (also called Transient Ischemic Attacks or TIAs) when there are stroke symptoms which are not permanent. Risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, problems in the blood vessels such as atherosclerosis (the build up of fats, cholesterol, and other substances in and on the artery walls), and aneurysms (abnormal bulge in the wall of a blood vessel). An aneurysm can burst causing internal bleeding and often death. Some heart rhythm problems, such as atrial fibrillation (an irregular, often rapid heart rate that commonly causes poor blood flow) are also dangerous. Women who are obese or who have gained more than 44 pounds since age 18 have a much higher risk for stroke than women who have maintained a normal weight.

The signs of stroke can include:

- Sudden numbness on one side of the face, arm, or leg
- Difficulty speaking
- Sudden change in vision
- Dizziness, loss of balance, or difficulty walking
- Sudden severe headache

What can I do to protect myself?

The following are guidelines offered for reducing your stroke risk.

- Check your blood pressure often, since it can be elevated without causing any symptoms.
- If you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure, work at reducing them.
- Get down to a normal weight and exercise at least four days a week.
- Eat a heart healthy diet with 8-10 servings of fruits and vegetables, and three servings of low fat/ no fat dairy product. Keep total fat consumption of 27 percent of total calories.
- Take medication prescribed, even if you feel fine.
- If your total cholesterol level is over 200 or LDL is over 130, check with your doctor on available medications.

"I pray that you may enjoy good health and all may go well with you even as your soul is getting along well" (Third John 2).



*News from
Atonement
Lutheran School,
Principal Rob
Biesendorfer*

Dear Friends,

As I write this article, I put words to paper with mixed emotions. Serving the church in a variety of roles has been the main theme of my career. For the last three years I have been blessed to serve here at Atonement. Yes, the hills to climb have been steep, the challenges frequent, yet the joys have always surpassed the disappointments.

Over the course of the past few years, our enrollment increased from one year to the next. The financials are looking better, and we are fully accredited for five more years.

This is a result of a team of talented and interested people that I have been blessed to work with.

- Working side by side with a group of dedicated teachers who have been congratulated on their relationship building, instruction, and positive spirit. We are richly blessed!
- Leading with a school board that has been a delight to plan with. Honesty, coupled with care, is what makes our meetings successful. We are richly blessed!
- The parents have been wonderful. The APTO specifically has had such a positive impact on our school. They provide fun and funding and make events such special times. I also think of parents I see on a daily basis in the parking lot or wherever. A respectful group of people who appreciate the hard work of our staff. We are richly blessed!
- The best part of the job is being with the children and young adults. Greeting them at the door most every morning is a mood lifter. We are richly blessed!
- Pastor Mueller is a great teammate. He is there when needed, yet lets everyone do his or her job! We are richly blessed!

- Members of The Lutheran Church of the Atonement, I thank you for your prayers, support, and encouraging manner. Thanks for your support of our school and continued support as we reach out to the community for Christ. We are richly blessed!

I'm excited about our future! Ms. Kim Kern, our new principal, is already on board and we're working together for a seamless transition. She is passionate about continuing and improving on the great things going on at Atonement Lutheran School. She will be a blessing to the school.

So, why the mixed emotions? I'm looking forward to seeing how God works in my retirement life. Lyn, my wife, and I are retiring together. We look forward to traveling, especially Northwest to see our grandson more often. I live on a lake and look forward to fishing. I'm growing a garden and looking forward to tending it when I want to.

All while trusting God to place me with other opportunities He might have in store.

In His Service,

Rob Biesendorfer (Mr. B)

rbiesendorfer@alcs-web.com or

(314) 837-1252

Blood Drive

The parish nurses will host a blood drive in Fellowship Hall on May 12. Impact-Life will be here (formerly known as Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center) from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Blood supplies are low, so your help is needed! Please call Joyce Pingel, (314) 740-2137.





Atonement Creation Care Tip

In February, there was a promise of more recycling locations. Here are some more. Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Facilities, by appointment. Check the website for call them about items that are accepted.

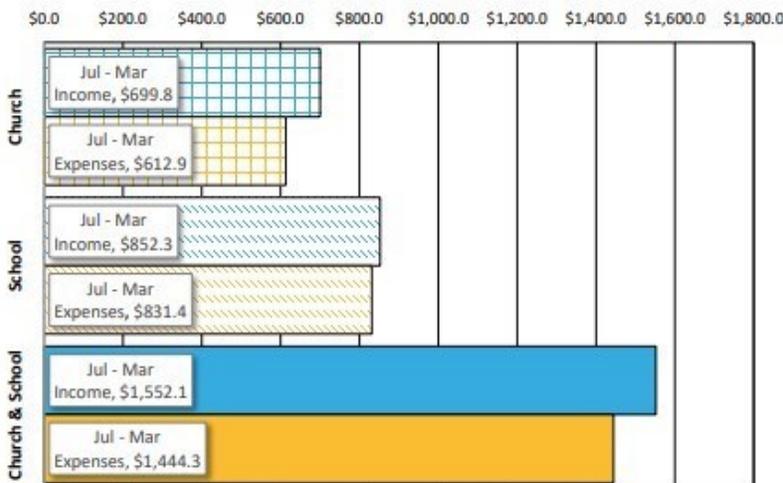
- St. Louis County Public Health, Chemicals and Paint, www.hhwstl.com (314) 615-8989
- Electronics Recycling, Spectrum E-cycle Solutions, 1521 Page Industrial Blvd. 63132, (314) 428-0777, spectrumecycle.com
- Chemicals Recycling, ECO Recycling, 6515 Page Ave., 63133, (314) 862-3335, ecorecycling.com

There are many more on the internet. Enter the item to be recycled before the word recycling.” Most recycling centers have websites and Facebook pages.

Financial Position Summary July 2021 thru March 2022

Balances thru March Status: Green		Surplus / Deficit Status: Yellow			Cash Flow Status: Green			
Mortgage Principal	\$ 2,369,255					Balance on Jul 1, 2021	\$320,674	
Checking Account	\$ 354,494	Actual	Forecast	Actl & Fcst		+/- Since July 1	\$33,820	
Restricted Cash	\$ 183,902	Jul - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Jun		Balance on Mar 31	\$354,494	
Operating Cash	\$ 170,593	Church	\$86,910	-\$119,529	-\$32,619	+/- Forecast Through Jun 30, 2022	-\$157,927	
Endowment Fund in Thrivent Account	\$ 64,707	School	\$20,937	-\$38,398	-\$15,464	Forecasted Balance on Jun 30, 2022	\$196,568	
Restricted Cash: Cash set aside for specific purposes such as Capital Improvements, Youth Impact Fund, Room at the Inn, etc.		Total			\$107,847	-\$157,927	-\$48,084	
Operating Cash: Cash available for daily operation of the church and school. The minimum needed to operate Atonement is \$100,000.		Income minus expenses equals the surplus or deficit experienced thus far, or forecasted for the remainder of the current fiscal year which runs from July to June.						
		Atonement operated at a surplus of \$107,847 through March, and the forecast anticipates a deficit of \$157,927 through June. The status remains Yellow because we are projecting a fiscal year deficit.						
		The increase or decrease in our checking account thus far in the fiscal year (Actual), and forecasted change through the end of the fiscal year (Fcst), based on the Actual and Forecasted Surplus/Deficit.						

Income & Expenses Fiscal Year-to-Date (\$1,000)



Special & Capital Projects Fund

Balance on Jul 1, 2021	\$37,996
Gifts Through Mar 31	\$57,411
Expenses Through Mar 31	-\$34,812
Gifts Forecasted Through Jun 30	\$8,000
Memorial Funds Xfer'ed for HVAC	\$31,338
Expense Forecast Through Jun 30	-\$91,605
Forecasted Balance on June 30, 2022	\$8,328

The Expense Forecast includes the Sanctuary Lighting project balance due (\$11,605) and the full amount for the Kretzmann Hall HVAC project (\$80,000). The forecasted balance as of June 30, 2022 includes an \$8,000 gift coming from the Men's Club. The anticipated June 30 balance of \$8,308 includes \$5,432 designated for specific items other than the Lighting and HVAC projects or future capital projects.

Notes: The Church's \$9,375 per month (\$112,500 annual) support for the School is included above as an expense for the Church and income for the School.

Status: Green = Good/At or Above Expectations Yellow = Caution/Slightly Under Expectations Red = Danger/Significantly Below Expectations

Lutheran Church of the Atonement
1285 North New Florissant Road
Florissant, MO 63031

Return Service Requested

May 2022

Newsletter

*Deadline for the June/July
issue*

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, May 4



**Get Ready for Summer!
Atonement Lutheran School
Summer Camp 2022!**

Are you looking for something for your kids to do this summer? Atonement is offering a fun-filled summer camp with a different theme each week. Daily activities will be based around the “theme of the week” and will add a little education with a whole lot of fun!

June 6-August 5

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

\$25 per day / per child

\$40 registration fee per family

Before and After care

7:00-8:00 a.m. \$5 per child

4:00-5:30 p.m. \$5 per child

Accepting campers (upcoming) Pre-K 4 through 7th grade. Tell your family and friends! Registration will begin soon.