

The Spirit *of Atonement*

NOVEMBER 2025

From Your Pastor...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In preparation for this writing, I always look back and see what I wrote last month, and after doing that ... I promise I will not, one more time, ask for you to volunteer for anything (I've already done that enough). But I will start and finish this message to you with same as last month.

"Heavenly Father, You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN."

Thank you so much for what you have already done as we move forward into "ventures of which we cannot see the ending" but always following Jesus. This last Sunday we had some discussion about what the three parts of Love are ... Agape, Eros, and Philo. And we spent most of our time talking about Agape Love ... God's unconditional Love for ALL people ... and how hard that is for us to understand. God's Love for you is the same as it is for me and is the same as everyone else on the planet!

That Love is also the same love that you should be seeing in yourself ... as you look at yourself ... and sometimes that is even harder because we know exactly what sins we have committed and continue to sin ... but God says, I've already forgotten what you did.

And all of this Loving one another (including ourselves) is what God is telling us when we look at unconditional love. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you! We've heard that often, haven't we? God is saying to us, please understand what all that means. It is like I said on Sunday ... we ought to be happy as can be, knowing how much God loves us, how much we should be loving ourselves, and how much we should be loving our neighbor. This should be a happy time as together we go into our future, serving Jesus in so many different ways.

We are making good progress towards what we all want to see and that is calling a new pastor. Remember, Jesus is leading us ...

"Heavenly Father, You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN."

Blessings & Peace, Pr Larry





Seniors Alive

Monthly Meeting

Seniors (age 50 and over) are invited to monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 24, at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Courtney Buxner. Courtney will discuss Consumer Fraud, Identity Theft and other crimes of which we should be aware

Tours

Watch for upcoming tours.

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



Atonement Book Club

We would like to welcome you to our group of book lovers for fun and interesting discussions of a new book each month.

We meet on the second Sunday of the month—in the Family Room beginning at 1:30 p.m. Please enter through the back parking lot door.

On Sunday, Nov. 9, we will be discussing *Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club*, by J. Ryan Stradal. A heartfelt exploration of family, legacy, and the intricacies of small town life. Set in Minnesota, the novel follows the intertwined stories of four generations—each with their own struggles and desires—across the decades.

Please join us! For more information or questions, please contact Jan Koch at njkoch@aol.com.

Rooted in Christ / Growing in Faith / Celebrating Our Journey



The 75/70 Anniversary Planning Team has begun its work. The first event was the kick-off on September 28 celebrating the beginning of the 75th/70th years of church and school. Upcoming events:

- St Louis Chamber Choir Concert, Nov. 16
- Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social, November 26
- Advent service project inviting both church and school families to participate.

Additional events are in the planning stages. If you have ideas for events or service projects you would like to see, please let one of the Planning Team members listed know.

Team members are: Pastor Larry Lemke, Betty Luebke, Principal Ted Jander, Karen Meyer, Brenda Blight, Bill Meyerkord, Ruth Blundell, Jane Meyerkord, Sharon Carter-Eichenberger, Jeri Dietz, Dolly Schroeder, Cathy Hohl, Joycelyn Pugh-Walker, Angie Kemper, Makiya Wheeler, Jan Koch, Barb Wishon, Norm Koch

**From Our Parish Nurse
Joyce Pingel, L.P.N.**

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

We hear much in the news about Alzheimer's and Dementia, yet most of us do not understand it or know much about it. Dementia is a problem in the brain that makes it hard for a person to remember, learn and communicate. After a while, this makes it hard for the person to take care of himself or herself. Dementia may also change a person's mood and personality. At first, memory loss and trouble thinking clearly may bother the person who has dementia. Later, disruptive behavior and other problems may start. The person who has dementia may not be aware of these problems. Dementia is caused by the destruction of brain cells. Once brain cells have been destroyed, they cannot be replaced. It is marked by symptoms of dementia that gradually get worse over time. Alzheimer's disease first affects the part of the brain associated with learning, so early symptoms often include changes in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. While dementia is a general term, Alzheimer's disease is a specific brain disease.

Signs of Dementia

Dementia causes many problems for the person who has it and for the person's family. Many of the problems are caused by memory loss. Some common signs of dementia are:

- * Recent memory loss-At times all of us will forget things but then remember them later. People with dementia often forget things but never remember them. They might ask the same question over and over, each time forgetting that you've already given them the answer. They won't even remember that they already asked the question.
- * Difficulty performing familiar tasks-People with dementia might cook a meal but forget to serve it. They might even forget that they cooked it in the first place.
- * Problems with language-People who have dementia may forget simple words or use the wrong words. This makes it hard to understand what they want.
- * Time and disorientation-People who suffer from dementia may get lost on their own street. They may forget how they got to a certain place and how to get back home.

(continued on page 4)



Creation Care - “Nature Isn’t a Resource—It’s a Gift” | Robin Wall Kimmerer (by Jaimy Suydam)

“Recognizing “**enoughness**” is a radical act in an economy that is always urging us to consume more.” — Robin Wall Kimmerer, [The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#)

Robin Wall Kimmerer’s short, delicious book, *The Serviceberry*—just 105 pages—is about a lot more than serviceberries. She invites readers to reflect on the generosity of the natural world, her example the serviceberry that produces an abundance of delicious fruit that it freely shares with birds and humans. Serviceberries were part of the gift economy practiced by Native Americans before the coming of European settlers.

According to Robin Kimmerer the rules for a gift economy are not written down but might be as follows:

- Know the ways of the ones who take care of you so you can take care of them.
- Introduce yourself; be accountable as the one who comes asking for a life.
- Ask permission before taking, abide by the answer.
- Never take the first one; never take the last.
- Take only what you need.
- Take only that which is given.
- Never take more than half. Leave some for others.
- Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.
- Use it respectfully.
- Never waste what is taken.
- Share.

(continued on page 5)

...Alzheimers (continued from page 3)

More Signs of Dementia

In our society of longer lifetimes, the probability of suffering from dementia increases with advancing age. The slowly progressing destruction of nerve cells in the brain leads to the following symptoms:

- * Poor judgement-Even a person who doesn’t have dementia might get distracted but people with dementia can forget simple things like forgetting to put on a coat before going out in cold weather.
- * Problems with abstract thinking-Anybody might have trouble balancing a checkbook, but people who have dementia may forget what the numbers are and what has to be done with them.
- * Misplacing things-People who have dementia may put things in wrong places. They might put an iron in the freezer or a wristwatch in the sugar bowl, they are unable to find these things later.
- * Changes in mood-Everyone is moody at times, but people with dementia may have fast mood swings, going from calm to tears to anger in a few minutes.

There is no cure for dementia, but medications can improve disease symptoms. If you or a family member have signs of dementia, get help by calling your doctor. Your doctor can do simple tests to find out if these signs are caused by dementia. or speaking with me or the Alzheimer’s Association.

May we share the confidence of St. Paul “...And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love Him...If God is for us, who can be against us. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us(Romans 8:28-37)



News from Atonement Lutheran School

“Behold, [I the LORD] make a new thing. It now springs forth. Is it not yet known to you? I will make a way in the wilderness and a river in the desert.” -Isaiah 43:19

We have completed the first quarter of the 25-26 school year. Overall, everything has been moving along splendidly and the vibe of learning, connecting, and growing absolutely keeps flowing through the halls. God’s blessings of health, energy, and forward momentum continue as we give thanks to God for every gift.

The new School (and Church) website and app are closer at hand. We have a few more elements to finalize with a hopeful launch of the new school and church websites/apps occurring by the middle of November.

To help empower our students through the Eagles Elite Initiative, consider the Bite-sized Empowerments listed below, and make your donation through PayPal via the QR Code provided.

Bite-sized Empowerments: (listed as Donation Amount/ Benefit)

\$10 Book Boost - buys one new book for the library
\$25 Art Supplies - help generate our classroom creativity
\$50 Eagle Support - making a difference by caring and sharing
\$100 Student Safety - assists with camera, communication, and door/lock maintenance
\$250 Digital Curriculum Expansion - provide digital curriculum access for eight students per year
\$500 Staff Champion - keeps the heart of our community pumping strong
\$1,000 Tuition Assistance: Level One - provide tuition assistance for a family in need
\$3,250 Tuition Assistance: Level Two - cover a student’s tuition for one semester
\$7,500 Tuition Assistance: Level Three - fund a year’s tuition for one student

More stuff-and-things progress regarding our partnership with Render’s Hope and the establishment of the Atonement Early Learning Center.

(continued above)

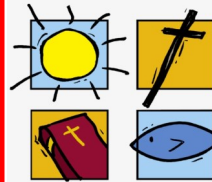
God is and will continue making all things new here at Atonement Lutheran School. We ask that you keep our students, staff, families, and church community in your prayers as we progress forward through the 25-26 school year, celebrating community, unity, and newness in Christ.

Blessings and newness in Christ, Principal J

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



Atonement Events



Mondays -Weekly Zoom Bible Study
10 a.m. -11 a.m. on the lectionary texts for the following week led by Pastor Larry Lemke.

Sunday, Nov. 16, 3 pm - St. Louis Chamber Chorus

Sunday, Nov. 23, Congregation Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Eve / Pie Social

Wed.-Fri., Nov 26 - 28 No school. All offices closed

Sunday, Dec. 7 - Advent By Candlelight



Creation Care—continued from page 4)

- Give thanks for what you have been given.
- Give a gift in reciprocity for what you have taken.
- Sustain the ones that sustain you. And the Earth will last forever.

Those rules sound like the mandate that Christ gave us to “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you...” (Matthew 7:12) in this case, by sharing the Earth fairly.

www.npr.org/2024/12/25/nx-s1-4998312-e1/a-biologist-explains-what-humanity-could-learn-from-natural-ecosystems



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 its FREE Ask a Techie sessions. Class size is limited, and registration is required. Please sign up by calling (314) 862-2933 or registering online at stloasis.org/tech. Dates at Atonement are Nov. 10 / Dec. 8 beginning at 10 am.

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

Return Service Requested

November 2025 Newsletter

***Deadline for the
December/January issue***

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, Nov. 5