

The Spirit

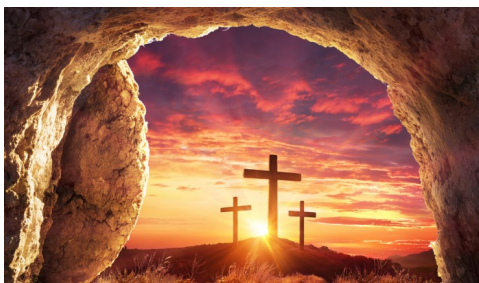
of Atonement

APRIL 2024

—*Pastor's Note*

When I was in seminary, I had the opportunity to work about 10 hours each week at Jacob's Porch, a campus ministry at The Ohio State University. I led worship alongside the students, took them on retreats, accompanied them in Bible study, and played piano with the worship team. Working with the students at Jacob's Porch was an incredibly formative experience for me as a seminarian; it was there I learned what it looks like for faith and doubt to go hand in hand. The students and I went deep into the intersections between faith and life, and my understanding of God was deepened through my experience with the community.

I always think about Jacob's Porch when Easter rolls around, and I take a moment to remember the students' testimonies that were shared on Easter night. With the story of the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35) as a backdrop, our community would get together for evening worship on Easter and people would share their resurrection stories. I was amazed at the way these faithful folks had experienced the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives; there were so many stories of new life and hope in the face of despair. As I get to know you all here at Atonement, I hope there will be opportunities to hear your resurrection stories as well. Where do you notice God's activity? When have you experienced the power of new life? This month, as the earth bursts into bloom, perhaps you will draw inspiration from the natural world, as it awakens with joy. Wherever you experience the resurrection this year, it is my prayer that you will feel God's promise of new life deep in your bones. Christ is risen! This is good news for you, for me, and for all that exists.



-*Pastor Delaney*



Seniors Alive

(subject to change or cancellation)

Monthly Meetings

Seniors (age 50 and over) are invited to monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 22, at 1:30 p.m. Our entertainment will be the 120th Anniversary of the World's Fair in St Louis, Karl Kindt presents a tour of the fair including views inside the exhibits.

The bus leaves at 10:00 a.m. and returns by 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$100 per person.

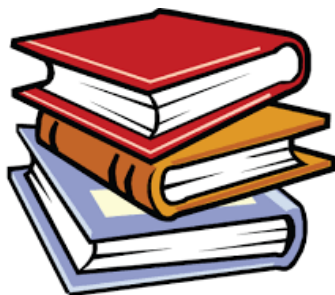
- May 29, Holocaust Museum/ Butterfly House– Guided tour of the newly remodeled Holocaust Museum followed by lunch at Spiro's Greek Restaurant. Then visit the Butterfly House. The bus leaves at 9:15 a.m. and returns by 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$100 per person.

Tours

- April 25, Kimmswick - After touring the Anheuser Estate, savor lunch at the Blue Owl (known for their Mile-High Pies). Browse in the town's famous shops. On the way home, visit Mastodon State Park.

For more information on future tours, contact Pat Furlong at (636) 447-5040.

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



Atonement Book Club

Atonement Book Club meets in the Family Room on the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Please enter through the back door.

The next meeting will be Sunday, April 14. We will be discussing *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett. A collection of personal essays and reflections from popular author, Ann Patchett. These essays explore home, family and fathers, marriage, friendships, meaning and purpose, love and death, life decisions and writing. "...find joy...and make good use of the days we have."

We welcome new members. Our meetings are simple and welcoming; there are no requirements. If you enjoy reading a variety of books and like to hear what others are thinking about them, this might be the group for you!

To let us know that you will be coming or for more information, contact Jane Meyerkord at jmeyerkord@aol.com or Jan Koch at njkoch@aol.com.



**From the Parish Nurse
"Change"
Taffy Perryman, R.N.**

Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with saying, "The only constant in life is change." Life and everything in it is subject to transformation. Learning how to adapt is the key to overall well being. As we navigate the road to improved physical and mental health, we sometimes need to make changes in eating habits, exercise, medications, etc. in order to take better care of ourselves.

Why, then, are we often afraid of changes? Uncertainty and fear of the unknown make us feel apprehensive and anxious. We humans naturally prefer stability and predictability. Change introduces unsettling feelings which may hinder us in making those necessary changes in all areas of our lives including health, work, and personal relationships.

Embracing change drives growth. Because we have no control over changes, we must learn and do new things. This enables us to grow and exposes capabilities, skills, and expertise we didn't realize we possessed, but had within us all along!

What does the Bible say about change?

"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new"

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:18-19)

How did Jesus handle change? He faced the uncertainties of life and the reality of change with deep and abiding character. Another way of saying this is that Jesus had a sense of mission and priority. God tells us not to dwell on the past. He is doing a new thing in each of us every day. With each new experience, we can learn from the past and grow into our full potential.

How should Christians handle change?

Accept the fact that changes in life are natural and inevitable. Don't be surprised or panicked...because change is normal.

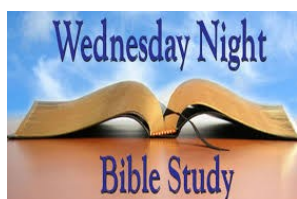
Try to keep the changes in your life in proper perspective. Don't overreact or overestimate the impact of the changes you face.

Put your trust in God.

For the believers, we relinquish the role of deciding what should and should not change and hand over that role to God. When we follow His lead, we are reminded that God is making all things new, including us!

The Story That Always Happens: Exploring Genesis From Creation Through Abraham

Join Matt Schlake-Kruse on Wednesday nights April 3-May 29 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for a new Bible study opportunity! We will explore the book of Genesis together with the help of theologian Robert Alter. Please purchase Robert Alter's *Genesis: Translation and Commentary*, and join us Wednesday April 3! Please contact the church office if you need help purchasing the book.



ATONEMENT LINKS

April has arrived! Easter has been celebrated; Christ Has Risen! Now we watch as Jesus appears to various people. First, to Mary Magdalene outside His tomb. After Mary Magdalene meets Jesus post-resurrection, Jesus meets with several others. He appears to some of His disciples several times. He actually meets a second time with all His disciples and shows Thomas His scars.

Thomas has become known as doubting Thomas. He did not first believe the other disciples had been visited by Jesus. However, is that fair to Thomas? The other disciples saw Jesus, they did not have to doubt. Is Thomas so different from us? We do not know what Jesus actually looks like. The pictures of Jesus we are used to seeing are probably inaccurate considering Jesus was Jewish. If you met someone on the street who introduced himself as Jesus, would you believe him? Would you need proof? What questions would you ask?

As we follow the story of Jesus from Resurrection to Ascension, let's put ourselves in the shoes of those He meets? Maybe we need to look on them a little kinder than before. We've not been in their shoes ... yet. "Be the Light."



“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7

Paula said to Jaimy, “I want to put new padding in the kneelers.” Jaimy responded, “Can I help?” (instead of asking, “Are you NUTS?”) Did either of them have a clue? Barely! But with a prayer, a plan (and alternate plans B, and C, and...) and the willingness to ask others for help, it got done. The last of the refurbished kneelers has been installed. The foam padding was replaced, the covers washed, stretched and the color revitalized. The day the last kneelers were put into place was a sunny, glorious day, and it was good.

Is there a moral to this story? Of course, and it is that a need called out and people responded, not with

expertise or experience, but with a willingness to try, learn, redo, and persevere, and a willingness to ask for help, and the willingness of other to say “yes”.

Those who responded to this need are Paula Viehman, Jaimy Suydam, Verina Ruiz, Sharon Love, Karen

Meyer, and Rachel Moore.

Now that we have the G.I.F.T. inventory, maybe you see a need that you would like to respond to, and you would like to know who might help. Contact Jaimy Suydam (314-497-9110) for help with the inventory.



**News from
Atonement
Lutheran
School, Principal
Kim Kern**



**Creation Care Tips
-By Jaimy Suydam**

“Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light!” Romans 13:12

April has arrived! Here’s what is happening at school:

Monday, April 1 - No School or Extended Care (Easter Monday)

Friday, April 5 - Backwards Day

Tuesday, April 9 - Sports Picture Day

Wednesday, April 10 - Deadline to apply for FACTS Scholarships

Friday, April 12 - Pancakes with Parents Breakfast

Monday, April 15 through Friday, April 19 - Spring Break

Tuesday, April 30 - FACTS complete/Verification deadline



Above is from our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063516852557>

Feel free to join our Page and see what’s happening at school!

“Got Electronics?”

The City of Florissant and Midwest Recycling Center (MRC) will host an electronics recycling collection event on Saturday April 6, 2024 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (or until trucks reach their capacity) in St. Ferdinand Park.

Check the following website for full details.

<https://www.facebook.com/Florissant.mo.us/>

Then scroll down to the green item with the heading “got electronics?”



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

Return Service Requested

March 2024

Newsletter

Deadline for the

May 2024. issue

12:00 Noon

Monday, April 8



Please mark you calendar for some important health events:

May 9, Blood Drive hosted by
ImpactLife

May 18 CPR Day

Watch for more details or contact Joyce Pingel if you are interested (314) 740-2137.