

News & Notes

Lutheran Church of the Atonement

Nov. 9, 2025

UPCOMING:

NOV. 16: Confirmation Renewal/New Member Class with Pastor Larry - ALL WELCOME!!

NOV. 23: Congregation Meeting - **PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE AGENDA!**

MATCHING GIFTS



Over the next weeks, you'll hear a lot about finances. But, it's not really about the money. It's about faith and ministry. Acting in faith, several members and friends of Atonement are pooling together to match \$35,000 in year-end gifts. What a blessing this is! Take advantage of this opportunity by making a special gift to support our ministry through the 2025-2026 school year. Together, these financial gifts will add \$70,000 to enable our work for God's kingdom.

Similarly, our annual financial stewardship emphasis, beginning in the next few days, celebrates our growth in generosity in 2025. It encourages continued faith-filled financial support of Atonement's ministry in 2026. Financial intent cards will be distributed - to be returned by you on November 30 and December 7. These statements of intention support your growth in faith and Atonement's ability to fulfill God's mission for us.

It feels like it's about money. But, it's not. It's about faith and ministry. As God grants us "rich supply," as God "helps in time of need," as God "rules his church in love," let our lives and decisions proclaim the "joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!" (See ELW 619) Let's joyfully embrace - and support - God's call to us.



At its October 20 meeting, Council reviewed the status of the various priority items, briefly summarized below. Specific details will be provided as they are finalized.

- Upcoming fund-raising events include a Dine-to-Donate at Chipotle (Nov. 4, see back for flyer), raffle of a Christmas wall-hanging (created and donated by Sara Ruprecht), and a matching fund campaign.
- Council members will continue to be available on Sunday mornings for questions.
- The "engaging" activity of Christmas caroling (December 13 at 4:30 p.m.) was added to our calendar of events.
- The on-line directory will likely be available by year-end.
- The proposed substantive changes to the Constitution will be explained at the November congregation meeting. To comply with the Central States Synod's approval process, voting on these changes will occur in the spring.
- The first congregation-wide strategic planning session occurred Sunday, October 19. Next steps include analyzing the congregation's thoughtful responses and developing Atonement's values and principles.

Finally, Council handled three routine matters by:

- continued planning of the November congregation meeting agenda;
- approving an updated fee structure for the use of the premises; and
- approving the following holiday worship schedule:

Thanksgiving Eve: 7:00 p.m. with pie social to follow

Christmas Eve: Holy Communion services at 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: Holy Communion service at 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve: Family fun night and devotions: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please talk to any Council member if you have questions about these activities.



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 new tours to be added!

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



Ladies, you are invited to a special opportunity to relax, refresh, and re-focus before the rush of the

Christmas season at Advent by Candlelight, Sunday, December 7, at 6 p.m.

In a beautiful atmosphere, lit only by candlelight in Fellowship Hall, guests are served dessert by a table hostess and treated to a program that includes Advent reflections, Scripture readings, music, and fellowship. Attend as our guest or host a table of up to eight guests.

Table hostesses provide table decorations and dessert for eight people at a table. You may invite friends and family to sit at your table.

We will give more detailed information to hostesses as we get closer to the event. Sign up on the attendance form beginning next week to attend as a guest or to host a table. You will also have an opportunity to sign up or ask questions at a table in the narthex on November 9 and 16.

Gentlemen, you are invited to serve as Black Tie Hosts. You will be asked to wear dark slacks and a light-colored shirt (a black bow tie will be provided). Black Tie Hosts will assist with coats, help guests find their tables, and serve coffee, tea and ice water during the dessert and fellowship time. You may also sign up on the attendance form or at the table in the narthex.

Attendance— Week of 11/2/25

9:30 a.m. = 106

Giving

Sunday 11/2/25 in-person = \$10,059

\$14,649.91 all other form of giving from 10/27-10/31. This includes church income received by all methods (ex./ online, mail) and all funds (missions, memorials, etc.)

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.



Poinsettia Time!

The time has come to place your order for Christmas Poinsettias. See the box and order envelopes in the narthex. You can also mail your order to Cathy in the church office. The cost remains \$12 per plant. Please make check payable to Atonement and be sure to include who you would like to honor. The deadline is November 30. Early... yes! But it's coming fast!!

Go Fund Me:
gofund.me/580b1615f

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

Scan to donate



gofundme

Congregation Meeting Agenda - Nov. 23

Opening Prayer

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2025, Regular Congregation Meeting

July 27, 2025, Special Congregation Meeting

Reports

Pastor's Report

Principal's Report

Treasurer's Report

Atonement Early Learning Center Report

Celebration Committee Report

Constitution Update Preview

New Business

Endowment Committee Recommendation

Election of Nominating Committee

President's Remarks

Adjournment



"It's time to mother Earth"

Change your car's air filter regularly.

Not only does this tip help you save energy, but also \$Money\$

https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/?gclid=CjwKCAiAt9z-BRBCEiwA_bWv-E4z76_-4ollmbwO8yrDYfhLDF1HIhOXPuYnE_4Q6g-SOxXbkFBduBoCVkAQAvD_BwE



Stay heart healthy!! Have your blood pressure checked by the parish nurses on Sunday, Nov. 16 either before or after service!!

Financial Position Summary July 2025 thru September 2025

Balances thru September Status: Danger		Checking Account Status: Danger	
Mortgage Balance Due	\$ 2,158,453	Balance on Sep 30	\$102,313
Checking Account	\$ 102,313	+/- Forecast Through 06/30/2026	-\$289,711
Restricted Funds	\$ 134,842	Forecasted Balance on 06/30/2026	-\$187,398
Operating Cash	\$ (32,529)		
Endowment Fund in Thrivent Account	\$ 153,839		
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.		The checking account balance 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.	
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.		For the period October 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, expenses are 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. The remaining \$100,000 includes repaying the Line of Credit. The forecasts have been adjusted to reflect these changes.	
		Revenue generation campaigns are being launched. Details will be provided at or before the November 23, 2025 congregation meeting.	



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 dates 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.

** Nov. 10, Dec. 8
Beginning at 10:00 a.m.



Confirmation Renewal and New Member class: Class will be held after service on November 16.

There was a good turnout on Oct. 26, so please come join. This is for ALL!!



Thanksgiving Eve Worship (7:00 p.m.) & Pie Social -

Join us at the Pie Social!

The Pie Social is back on Thanksgiving Eve, November 26, following the service. Bring a pie (purchased or homemade) to Fellowship Hall to share and enjoy hot coffee or tea with it. Which is your favorite - pumpkin, apple, gooseberry or lemon meringue? See you there!



Midweek Wednesday Advent services will be at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4:30 and 10:00 p.m. service. Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 a.m.



SAINT LOUIS CHAMBER CHORUS

Concert at Atonement Sunday, Nov. 16

3:00 p.m., Purchase tickets now!

Help celebrate the 70th Season of the *Saint Louis Chamber Chorus*, Philip Barnes, Artistic Director as they present a program entitled "PROTEST: From Martin Luther to Bob Dylan." More information about the highly acclaimed chorus and concert information may be found online at www.chamberchorus.org. Use that link to purchase your tickets (\$41.40 each/\$10.35 student price).



Gremlins recently hit my house. The saga included an air conditioner, a washing machine, a snake, a 15-foot inflatable pumpkin, and analyses by an HVAC contractor, Ameren, my brother, and two Atonement friends (thanks Ron and Stefan!).

The anxiety over several days froze me into inaction. "What next?!", I thought. I couldn't focus on anything until realizing I had a puzzle to solve - not a burden to bear. I couldn't fix things alone, but I could do what I could do. Those realizations didn't solve anything, but I was no longer frozen.

Why do I tell you this? Because our current financial forecast is sobering. It might freeze you into inaction. But we sought God's guidance before recommitting to Atonement Lutheran School as God's mission for us. And now, God has given us a puzzle to solve.

As we celebrate 75/70 years of ministry, as we prepare to call a new pastor, as we work to get our financial house in order, let's lean into God's loving support as we continue our ministry. It will take all of us That's as it should be because we are in faithful ministry together! - - *Cathy Hohl*