

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

1285 North New Florissant Road, Florissant, Missouri 63031 Church: (314) 837-1224 School/Child Care: (314) 837-1252 www.alcs-web.com

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship at Atonement

> We are delighted to have you worship at Atonement today. Wherever you are on your journey of faith and life, we extend to you a warm welcome. May the Holy Spirit richly

bless your worship.

➤ We invite you to fill out the attendance form in the bulletin and hand it to the ushers when coming forward for Holy Communion. If you are a guest with us this morning, please

leave some contact information so we can get in touch with you about how to connect with

what's going on in this faith community.

> Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing-impaired and those with hearing aids are available. Large print worship folders are also available. Please ask an usher prior to the

service.

> We welcome to the Lord's Table all Baptized Christians who commune in their home

parish and who wish to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Those with questions about the meaning of Holy Communion or who wish a

private confession and absolution should contact a pastor during the week prior to

communing.

➤ Both individual cups and the chalice (common cup) are now offered to communicants.

The chalice is available only for intinction (dipping the host into the wine). The darker wine in the center of the tray is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking

the pastor. Those desiring a blessing may fold their arms across their chests.

> The congregation responds with those portions in **bold** print.

> Please turn off all cell phones and pagers and refrain from flash photography.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Will meet today.

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSONS:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

ELW, Setting 4 (Second Sunday of Advent) Dec. 7, 2025

PRELUDE: Wake, Awake For Night is Flying - J.G. Walther

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

+++GATHERING+++

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE Setting 4 page 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



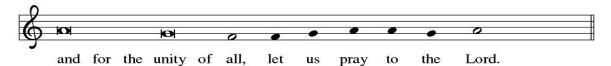


For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,





Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

The assembly is seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen

The congregation sings together as the first two candles are lit.

ELW 240 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" vs 2

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for the Lift King of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He shin - ing! be

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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+ + + WORD + + +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

- A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor

and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;

the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together,

and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

R The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 *The psalm is spoken responsively.*

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

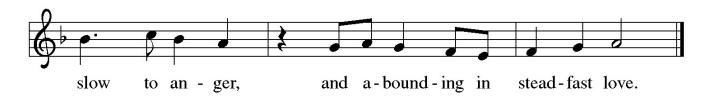
R The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW SETTING 4





GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." P The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Parish Ministry Associate Richard Schademann

Meditation: Time to reflect on the message.

After meditation, the assembly stands for the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes: God of Grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people may greet each other with a sign of peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words. Then the assembly is seated.

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING: "Song of Advent" - Eugene Butler

+++MEAL+++

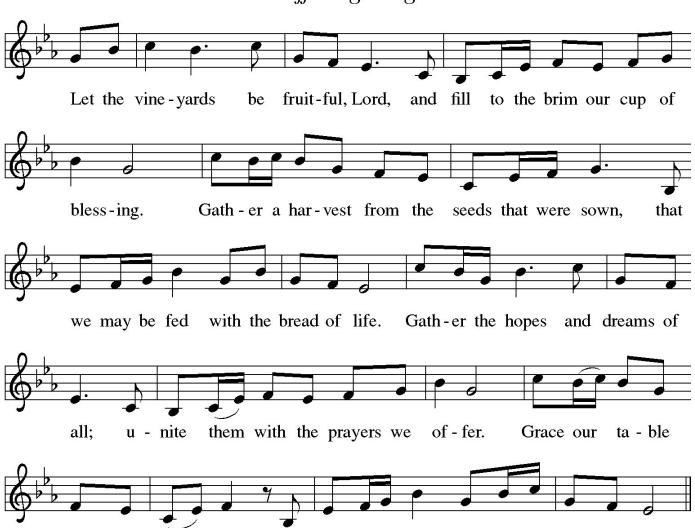
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The gifts of our tithes and offerings are presented and the altar is prepared for the Lord's Supper.

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERTORY: ELW 184

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

with your

Text and music @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

pres - ence,

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Merciful God.

C God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW pg. 153 (spoken)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Please join me in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray.

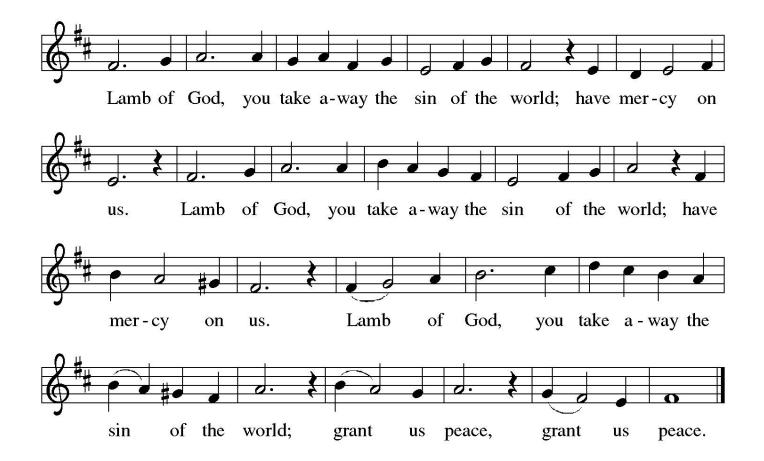
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: LAMB OF GOD ELW pg. 154

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

The assembly is seated.

The ushers invite the assembly forward, where they receive bread and either wine or grape juice. If you need to receive communion in your pew, please let the usher(s) know.



HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 264 "Prepare the Royal Highway" (see next page)

Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Let Justice Flow like Streams



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

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ELW 715 "Christ, Be Our Light" (see next page)

Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The assembly stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P May this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

中 Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

+++**SENDING**+++

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING

P May the Lord bless you and keep you.

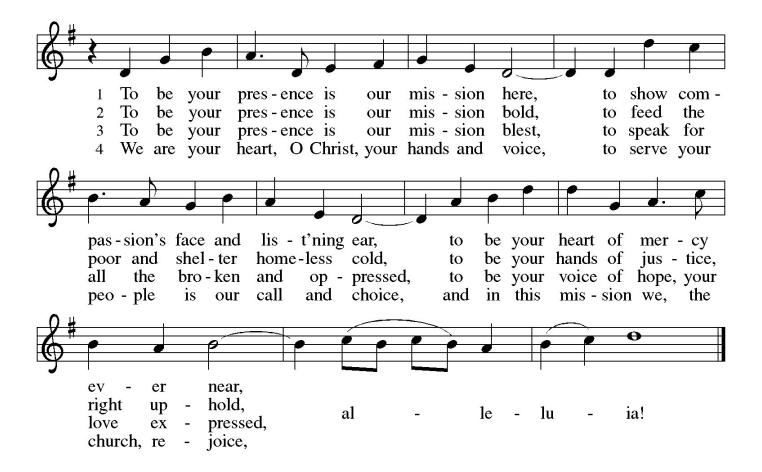
May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 546 "To Be Your Presence" (see next page)

To Be Your Presence



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

"Partita on "People Look East" **POSTLUDE:** - Jospeh Bertolozzi

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher	Parish Ministry Associate Richard Schademann
Assisting Ministers	Don Posey, Cathy Hohl
Communion Assistants	Lisa Hackmeister, Diane Ritchey, Verina Ruiz
Cantor	Ron Grames
	Sharon Carter Eichenberger
Organist	Cindy Vantine
Choir Director	Dr. Bruce Vantine
	Jim Baumgartner
Altar Guild	Jack & Bonnie David
Greeters	Barb Wishon, Rick & Claire Brown
	Bill Meyerkord
Counters	Jeff Moravec, Greg Viehman, Wendy Gehner
	Tom Blight
Advent Wreath Lighting	Vickie & Nelson Minter

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hospitalized or III: Ann Behrens, Jill Floyd, Ginny Groves, Shirl Henke, Jim Hickerson, Delores Johanningmeier, Don Kuethe, Sharon Love, Jane Mark, Scott Negwer, Carolyn Nimmons, Steve Rosenfeld, June Schmidt, Glenda Warren, Barb Wishon

Our Loved Ones/Friends: Jason Behrens, Becky Cole (Dave Cole's sister), Ian Hawkins (Faith Brooks's son), Jeannette Higginbotham (Jaimy Suydam's friends), Marilee Viehman (Greg Viehman's mother), Dennis Whittington (Mary Beth Sandcork's father), Richard Wishon

Our chronically-ill and homebound loved ones and friends: Jacki Bickel, Teri Branhof, Thelma Carlson, Nancy Marxkors, John Meyer, Vivian Meyer, Maxine Pabst, Jim Temps, Joan Torbeck, Wayne & Joyce Winter

Names will be removed from the prayer list after two weeks unless the church office is notified on Monday of the preceding week.

^{**}Copies of Taking Faith Home are available at the usher stand or on the table in the narthex.

OUR CONGREGATION

Atonement is a family of professing Christians who are in ministry to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been in ministry since September 30, 1951. Atonement School has begun its 69th academic year with the mission statement "Teaching children of God the skills needed for a lifetime of learning, worshipping, and caring, so that the world see Jesus in them."

OUR AFFILIATIONS

We are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and support local ministries including Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Humanitri, Lutheran High Schools, LuMin Campus Ministry, PAKT, and The Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM).

OUR TEAM

Interim Senior Pastor and Pastoral Care Rev. Larry Lemke, (314) 307-4363 lalemke@sbcglobal.net

Bruce and Cindy Vantine Ministers of Music

Sharon Carter-Eichenberger Bell Choir Director

Jim Baumgartner, Worship, Too! jimstrat@aol.com, (314) 488-6903

Cathy Mifflin Parish Administrator, (314) 837-1224 cathy.mifflin@alcs-web.com

Theodore Jander Principal, (314) 837-1252 tjander@alcs-web.com

Angie Kemper School Secretary, (314) 837-1252

Parish Nurses: Joyce Pingel, L.P.N., (314) 740-2137 Cathie Lehr, R.N., (314) 809-4477

OUR CALENDAR

This Weekend – Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot Open All Week!

Monday, Dec. 8 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 10:00 a.m. Oasis - "Ask A Techie" 6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

<u>Tuesday, Dec. 9</u> 4:30 p.m. Properties Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 10 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship

Thursday, Dec. 11 9:30 a.m. Bible & Breakfast

Friday, Dec. 12

Saturday, Dec. 13 9:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, held off-site

Giving is now easier than ever!

Simply use the QR code on the bottom. It will take you directly to Atonement's giving through Tithe.ly. This can be a one-time option, or you can set up a recurring transaction



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