

News & Notes

Lutheran Church of the Atonement

March 15, 2026



Grant Update

Atonement Church and School has successfully secured three grants totaling \$89,000, along with one in-kind grant supporting the community garden. These funds enable initiatives that would not have been feasible within our existing budget.

The largest award, from the Lutheran Foundation, will support the purchase of two new curricula and fund a significant portion of a LASE teacher's salary for the 2026–2027 school year. In addition, a Lutheran Foundation mini-grant will help underwrite community events during our 75th Anniversary Celebration Year. A third grant, awarded by ELEA, will be used to purchase equipment for select after-school clubs. The in-kind grant from SEEDS STL will replace aging planting beds in the community garden.

One additional grant application has already been submitted, and two more are under consideration to address both immediate needs and priorities for the upcoming school year.

All grant funds are restricted to specific, approved purposes and will be carefully tracked and reported to each funding organization. Use of funds outside the approved scope could jeopardize current relationships and future funding opportunities.

We are grateful for this support, which allows us to advance important initiatives that would otherwise be difficult to achieve. Please join us in thanking the Third Party Funding Team—Linda Lemke, Jane Meyerkord, and Paula Viehman—for their dedication and hard work.

- - Cathy Hohl, Congregation President

MEMBER CARE TEAM



We are setting up a Member Care Team to improve communion with Atonement members. The purpose of the team is to regularly contact church members to see how they are doing, discuss issues/concerns about Atonement, membership status, etc. If you are interested in helping, please fill out the attendance form.



Bethel Lutheran, U. City Looking for renewed energy and practical strategies to help your faith community heal creation? Join us for the 2026 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest! Doors open at 8:30 am for refreshments, prayer, and meditation led by Pastor Scott Benolkin of Bethel and Eden Seminary Professor Clint McCann, followed by livestream of the Summit from Duluth, MN. At 11:45 we turn to our call to action here in St. Louis, followed by lunch and a focus on faithful action in the Central States Synod with speakers including Bishop Donna Simon and the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rosings of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago who will join us via Zoom. Sending Worship is at 4:00 p.m. Come for the full day or join us at 11:45 for local programming and lunch. TO REGISTER: Email brendalight3@gmail.com (\$10 donation at door; students free)



Seniors (age 50 and over) are invited to monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 23 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The guest will be Lamar Pilsing with musical entertainment featuring songs made famous by Sinatra, Dean Martin and others. Lamar has pleased a wide spectrum of audiences over the years - come and enjoy!

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

Wednesdays through March 25, 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.



We are blessed to have a janitorial service that helps keep our school clean and ready for learning each day. However, maintaining a clean and welcoming environment is not solely their responsibility—it belongs to all of us.

As members of this school community, we must take ownership of our facility. Our lunch staff faithfully encourages students to clean up after themselves and work hard to leave Fellowship Hall neat at the end of each lunch period. It is discouraging to return the following day and find crumbs on the tables and floor, trash left behind, or full trashcans that were not emptied after the space was used later in the day.

If you use Fellowship Hall after school hours, please leave it as you found it—or better. There is a stack of brooms and dustpans available in the corner of the cafeteria. You have full permission to use them. A few extra minutes of sweeping and emptying trashcans makes a significant difference.

The same expectation applies to the gym. After practices or games, someone must take responsibility for running a push broom or dust mop across the floor and emptying any full trashcans.

Taking ownership of our shared spaces reflects our respect for one another, our students, and the mission of our school. Let's work together to care for the facility we've been entrusted with. Respectfully, Paula Viehman

"It's time to mother Earth"



When your fridge (or AC) shuffles off its mortal coils, dispose of it properly. Research shows that one of the key solutions to climate change is managing refrigerants, which accelerate the warming of the atmosphere. To find your closest refrigerant-reclaiming facility, check out the EPA's list.**

*taken from *The Oprah Magazine*, "The Love the Planet Issue", April 2019, Vol. 20, No. 4, P. 99.

Attendance— Week of 3/8/26

9:30 a.m. = 84

Giving

Sunday 3/8/26 in-person = \$3988.02

\$4398.29 giving from 3/2-3/6. This includes church income received by all methods (ex./ online, mail) and all funds (missions, memorials, etc.)

Shop 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.



You're Invited

Unity, Bel-Nor, invites you to the following worship opportunities during Holy Week:

- Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.: The Seven Last Words of Christ. The Arianna String Quartet will present Joseph Haydn's musical masterpiece with word reflections by the Rev. Fred Niedner.
- Saturday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m.: The Vigil of Easter

Unity is located at 8454 Glen Echo Dr., 63121



If you would like to serve as an usher during select Sunday's, please contact Bill Meyerkord. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

ATONEMENT LINKS

School is moving quickly! We are about to enter the 4th quarter of school on March 16! This first year of our rebuild has accomplished so much to prepare for the next two years. Feel free to read the letter from Principal Jander, which was sent out via email on Friday, March 6, from the church office. If you haven't seen it, you can request a copy.

Highlights for March 9-13 are: Parent/Teacher Conferences and a Professional Development Day for staff.

Have a blessed week!



A Celebration of Growth... A Widow's Mite Collection

This "little" contribution is growing! Thank you to everyone who is contributing to our Widow's Mite basket. We currently have \$41.70. You can find the basket on the table in the Narthex as you enter the center double doors into the Sanctuary.

Go Fund Me:
[-ofund.me/580b1615f](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=AY5JSU5UWCVS6)

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

Scan to donate



gofundme

Financial Position Summary July 2025 thru February 2026

Balances thru February Status: Good		Bank Accounts Status: Danger	
Mortgage Balance Due	\$ 2,105,463	Balance on Feb 28	\$315,825
Bank Accounts	\$ 315,825	+/-Forecast Through 06/30/2026	-\$185,658
Restricted Funds	\$ 193,192	Forecasted Balance on 06/30/2026	\$130,167
Operating Cash	\$ 122,633		
Endowment Fund in Thrivent Account	\$ 159,869		
<p>Restricted Funds includes money that was given and set aside for specific purposes such as Capital Improvements, Youth Impact Fund, Memorials, etc. Due to outstanding giving in Dec, Our Operating Cash is stable.</p> <p>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. When Operating Cash is negative, it means we have used all operating cash and borrowed from our restricted funds to pay operating expenses. We will repay the Restricted Funds when cash is available</p>		<p>The checking and savings account balances 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.</p> <p>Revenue generation campaigns are starting to show positive returns. December giving was so significant, previous forecasted deficits have been eliminated, however this trend must continue to ensure we replenish Restricted and Operating Funds.</p>	

Heritage Sunday - Next week!!!



The Celebration Committee
presents the third in our series
of **HERITAGE** Sundays—
Sunday, March 22

Pastor Dan Johnson will be returning to preach. Pastor Dan calls himself a “third career Pastor” who chose to go to seminary in his late 40s. He followed a career in technical sales with a move to youth ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran in Creve Coeur when he felt called to youth ministry. During his time at Holy Cross, he met his wife Jackie and their children, Emily, Nick and Sam.



He enrolled in Wartburg Theological Seminary and served as “Vicar Dan” at Atonement. The same day he graduated in May of 2018, he was called as Associate Pastor at Atonement. He served here for two years and then answered God’s call to serve the Oglala Lakota people at Pine Ridge Reservation.

You can see Pastor Dan’s full note about his work and his return to Atonement on March 22 in next week’s News & Notes and at the link in the Tuesday email.

Please join us for Worship and a Reception to follow in the Family Room where you will have the opportunity to visit with Pastor Dan and view a display of historical items. In worship, watch for a HERITAGE talk about the decade of the 70s when Atonement and the Lutheran Church were weathering some challenging times.

We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd. Invite friends and family who would like to catch up on what God is making new at Atonement.