

# News & Notes

Lutheran Church of the Atonement

November 19-20, 2022



## CONGREGATION MEETING ELECTS TWO, APPROVES FUNDS FOR ORGAN REPAIRS

Having achieved a quorum of 75, the Atonement Congregation Meeting on November 13 elected *Jeanine Dalton* and *Wanda Grueneberg* to the Nominating Committee.

The meeting also approved using \$2,000 from the congregation's Endowment Fund to be used for needed repairs to the organ. The balance of the necessary funding, roughly \$1,900, will come from special gifts or the operating fund.

Principal *Kim Kern* reported that Atonement Lutheran School's enrollment stood at 151 with the addition of two new students the prior week. She also noted the outstanding turnout for two recent events – Trunk or Treat and the Veterans' Day salute. She expressed appreciation for the hard work of the school staff and of the Atonement Parent-Teacher Organization (APTO).

Treasurer *David Cole* reported that all funds due to the Endowment Fund had been replenished and that the Fund now stands at approximately \$63,000. He showed one of several new videos now available at the Endowment page of the church's website.

Reporting on the congregation's finances, he noted that the church's checking account stood at a quarter of a million dollars, but that the overwhelming majority of those funds are in restricted or designated funds and unavailable for expenses such as utilities, insurance, or salaries. While a recent stock gift has improved the situation, he noted that regular offerings need to improve by the end of the year. He urged the assembly to consider some form of automated giving, such as Simply Giving.



## THE BRIDGE FAIR-TRADE MARKET THIS WEEKEND

Just in time for Christmas, The Bridge has brought its fair-trade market to Atonement this weekend before and after all three worship services.

The Bridge is a Lutheran outreach in New Town, St. Charles, and incorporates a worshipping community, a coffee shop, and a fair-trade market. The market offers products from all over the world and provides artisans, craftsmen, and farmers in developing countries the opportunity to receive fair value for their work.

As noted on The Bridge website: "Your purchase helps to provide clean water in developing countries, education supplies, uniforms and schools for young children, and job training for women and men," while also helping "to fight human trafficking, hunger, and extreme poverty."



## URGENT HELP NEEDED

Altar Guild is in desperate need of someone with a serger to be used for edging the Baptismal cloths. If you have one or know someone who does, please contact *Verina Ruiz* at (314) 750-6202.



All fully-vaccinated seniors (50+/proof of vaccination required) are invited to our next meeting on Monday, November 28, at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Channel 5 Chief Meteorologist Scott Connell will talk about the ins-and-outs of weather forecasting. There will be a brief business meeting, and dessert will be served.

2022 Tour Schedule (Tours are all-inclusive):

- Dec. 7 *Sheldon Theatre Coffee Concert - "That Time of Year"* with Tim Schall. Bus departs at 8:15 a.m. and returns at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$78 per person.
  
- Dec. 16 *St. Louis Symphony Mercy Holiday Celebration* - Bus departs at 11:00 a.m. and returns at 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$99 per person.
  
- Dec. 22 *Fox Theatre - "Elf the Musical"* - Includes lunch. Bus departs at 12:00 p.m. and returns by 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$100 per person.

Contact Don Kuethe at (314) 831-8478 or at [dthekey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dthekey@sbcglobal.net) for details.



**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN THE FOOTBALL POOL**

Your \$10 entry fee gets you into the pool and it supports the Atonement Endowment Fund – and another worthy charity chosen by the final winner.

You may leave your \$10 entry fee in the Men's Club mailbox; put *Steve Rosenfeld's* name on the envelope.

Here are our leaders at week 10:

Kurt Lahnar	79.5
Clark Cornejo	78.5
Greg Viehman	78
Eric Schafermeyer	73.5
Tom Blight	72.5
Paula Viehman	72
Steve Rosenfeld	70



**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT  
'TAKE ME TO THE MANGER'**

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 on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

In a beautiful candlelit atmosphere, guests will be 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.

Sign up on the attendance form. For information, contact *Jane Meyerkord* at (314) 731-2658 or *Betty Luebke* at (314) 630-1682. If you no longer drive at night, transportation will be provided.



**NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK  
PUBLISHED BY PASTOR LINDA  
ANDERSON-LITTLE**

Former Atonement *Pastor Linda Anderson-Little's* book has been published and is now available for sale. For details and to pre-order, please use the link [henschelhausbooks.com/product/tears-of-joy-that-changed-the-world/](http://henschelhausbooks.com/product/tears-of-joy-that-changed-the-world/)



**CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

Join in the fun and fellowship of decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 10, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Contact *David Johnson* at (314) 363-8443, or mark the attendance form.



## MANY GIFTS . . . ONE BODY

At each Baptism, the congregation promises to support the newly-baptized in their new life in Christ. Beginning January 8, 2023, we will be “Building Our Children’s Faith” by offering Bible lessons and activities from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. each Sunday for children ages 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Working together, we can make this a joyful expression of our faith as we support young ones developing their faith.

Please indicate on the attendance form if you can assist or team-teach at least one Sunday per month. In addition, please indicate whether your child(ren) will join us along with their ages. With questions, contact any member of the organization team: *Cathy Hohl, Wesley Johnson, Jane Meyerkord, Diane Ritchey, Verina Ruiz, and Kristen Thompson.*



## POINSETTIAS

Please help to beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas services. Pick up an ordering envelope from the narthex and place in the box provided along with payment, or if you are not attending regular worship and still want a flower, you can mail your check to the church office. Be sure to include whom you want to honor/memorialize. The cost is \$9 each. No orders can be placed until payment has been received. The deadline is Sunday, Nov. 28.



## MEN’S CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE LOT OPENS NOVEMBER 21...

...offering scotch pines, balsams, and fraser firs in a variety of sizes. Proceeds will benefit numerous charitable endeavors at Atonement and in our community. The lot will be open late afternoons and evenings during the week, and early afternoons and evenings on the weekends. It will remain open until December 22 or until sold out.



## THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

You, your family, your friends and neighbors, and your houseguests are all invited to join our Atonement family in a Thanksgiving Eve worship service at 7:00 p.m.

Ever since President George Washington proclaimed the last Thursday of 1789 to be a Day of National Thanksgiving, presidents, governors, and other leaders have summoned people of faith to set aside time at the end of November to be a time of praise, thanksgiving, and prayer for the many blessings provided by our God.

As President Washington wrote, “...we may then all unite in rendering upon him our sincere and humble thanks – for his kind care and protection for the People of this Country...for his signal and manifold mercies,...and for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we enjoy...”

Thanksgiving is surely a day for family gatherings, for festal meals, for football rivalries, and for frivolity and fun. But, let’s also set aside an hour to give thanks for the extraordinary blessings we all enjoy.

Please join Atonement in worship on Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 7:00 p.m.



## B.O.O.S.T. BLESSING WAS HELD NOVEMBER 6

Hundreds of knitted, crocheted, quilted, and sewn items will provide comfort and warmth to people in need this winter. The hand-crafted articles were dedicated during worship on All Saints weekend, Nov. 5-6.

BOOST stands for “Blessing Others One Stitch at a Time.”



## A TIME TO REFLECT

After several months of behind-the-scenes work, the Reflect and Revive Team has started the next phase of the congregation-wide self-study process. As team member *Cathy Hoh* explained at last Sunday’s Congregation Meeting, the team’s purpose is to lead the congregation in discerning God’s future mission to Atonement by:

- engaging and motivating members by seeking their thoughts about Atonement’s strengths and about their future aspirations for Atonement, and then
- summarizing that information for future congregational action.

This new phase started quietly in late October. It brings small groups together to discuss the themes identified through the Congregational Vitality Survey (which you completed in early spring) and through inter views several members had with our consultant, the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC).

### The themes are:

- concerns about and hopes for the future
- relationship between church and school
- style and welcome of worship programs
- relationship with our geographic community
- engaging young families and young people in general, and
- what kind of Lutheran church are we?

The team’s process is designed to hear every viewpoint. Consequently, some discussion groups may be “by invitation,” while others may be “open invitation.” In either case, the team needs you to sign up so you can get the meeting materials in advance. There are no current plans to hold discussions in an always-busy December, but the team will soon announce meeting dates for early 2023.

This is a walk of faith that we are taking together as the community of believers at Atonement, and

God has blessed with a rich variety of gifts. Let’s use our gifts to live the Gospel and eagerly seek God’s call for us.



## SCHOOL CHAPEL PROJECT

A new ministry has been designated to receive school chapel offerings for the second quarter. Offerings will go to Humanitri Kids.

The donations will be used to buy hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for 23 children. To-date, \$651.94 has been collected.



## VETERANS’ DAY SALUTE: WONDERFUL TURNOUT!

Atonement Lutheran School honored veterans from all branches of the United States Military on Friday, Nov. 11. About thirty-one veterans attended the program and were treated to a reception of pastries, fruit, and coffee afterward.

During the program, representatives from Paws Across the Midwest were in attendance to collect a check in the amount of \$1,700. The money was collected from school chapel offerings during the first quarter. The funds will be used to purchase a service dog for a veteran. The event was organized by Kindergarten teacher *Doris Eggers* and included patriotic songs and readings by students.



## TOGETHER WE’RE BETTER

There are two ways to make gift giving easy and to benefit Atonement.

Together We’re Better gift cards can be purchased at Atonement. There is a wide range of merchants from which to choose – grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, clothiers – to name a few. A Together We’re Better merchant list is available at the Welcome Desk. With questions or to purchase cards, please contact *Bill Meyer* or *Wesley Johnson*.