

News & Notes

Lutheran Church of the Atonement

Feb. 15, 2026



Was your Scavenger Hunt through last week's News & Notes successful? Did you find the following dates:

- February 22: The Conversation with Council (in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship) will cover at least two key things. We'll distribute the proposed text for our updated Constitution. Reviewing the text now permits us to discuss any questions you have well in advance of the first vote on these changes in April. We'll also have the second of our conversations about our strategic plan.
- March 1: The congregation and school are holding a Community Open House from 1 pm - 4 pm to celebrate our combined anniversaries. We'll offer building tours, welcome prospective students, and get to know our neighbors. Please attend, and bring a guest.

In addition, ask how you can participate in student recruitment efforts for the 2026-2027 school year. Let's continue to share God's love with a new generation as we also guide them in their early education.

Finally, many of you may be interested in serving on the Call Committee. If so, let Council know and you'll be invited to a future session on what that commitment entails. We're accomplishing so much, but our work is not yet done. Please consider how God's calling you to participate.

- *Cathy Hohl, Congregation President*

Update on Church Council



At its January meeting, Council:

- agreed to continue investigating a fund-raising golf tournament in 2026 after hearing a report on the process.
- received an update on the bookkeeper search. (An offer has since been extended and accepted.)
- identified how the congregation will participate in our March 1 Community Open House.
- identified the skill-sets needed for those serving on the Call Committee.
- asked our AELC Board members to request an AELC Board meeting to clarify roles and responsibilities relating to Before and After Care. (That meeting has since occurred, and related details are being worked out.)
- created an ad hoc Financial Sustainability team to "develop and evaluate over-arching financial model(s) for Atonement church and school that support long-term sustainability." Tom Blight and Scott Negwer are leading this effort.
- discussed how we might recognize the school during Lutheran Schools Week (March 2-6).

- *Cathy Hohl, Congregation President*



Fish Fry

Men's Club Fish Fry Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18— Followed by Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Men's Club is working on the Ash Wednesday Fish Fry. It will be on February 18 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. The menu will include fried beer battered cod, oven baked tilapia, macaroni and cheese, seasoned green beans, fried shrimp and desert. Please fill out the attendance form so we can prepare adequate food. We will accept free will donations.



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

The guest will be Dan Fuller from Bellefontaine Cemetery. Dan brings stories of commerce on the river with historical viewpoints of "Steamboat Captains, Pilots and Owners of Bellefontaine"

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



Wednesdays February 25 - 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.

**Atonement's
Lenten Prayer Vigil
Sunday mornings
Starting February 22
In the Prayer Chapel
8:30 am to 9:20 am
All are welcome**

Drop in for solemn prayer... leave at will

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find
grace to help in time of need."

-Hebrews 4:16

***FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 22
LENTEN PRAYER VIGILS***

Throughout the history of the church, Lent has been a time of recommitment to prayer. To highlight this important Lenten practice, a prayer vigil will be held in the Chapel each Sunday in Lent from 8:30-9:20 AM, starting on February 22. Come when you can—leave when you must. All are welcome!

Prayer request cards are available in the narthex. You are invited to fill them out and leave them in the basket. These requests will be included during the vigils.

CONVERSATION
with the COUNCIL

The next Conversation with Council will be February 22, 2026. We'll will review the proposed language updates to our Constitution. This provides you an opportunity to ask questions before the related votes at our April and May congregation meetings. We also anticipate an update from the Strategic Planning related to the SWOT Survey and other items.

Attendance— Week of 2/8/26

9:30 a.m. = 83

Giving

Sunday 2/8/26 in-person = \$2748

\$3954.29 giving from 2/2-2/6. This includes church income received by all methods (ex./ online, mail) and all funds (missions, memorials, etc.)



The Black Historical Series figurines, displayed for Black History Month, were created by Martha Holcombe Root in Gadsden, Alabama. They are

part of her All God's Children collection. I started collecting her figurines of black children after receiving one as a gift and loved it. When her Historical Series came out, I felt they would be a good way to educate my children on part of their heritage since my knowledge of black history was very limited. I am very happy to share these with you and hope you find them interesting and informative. There are copies available that describe each figurine. Feel free to take one. —

Faith Brooks

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.



ATONEMENT  LINKS

As you may have already heard, we are gearing up for an Atonement Community Open House. We are diligently preparing the school for guest tours, working with the church and the Men's Club so that everyone who enters the building has a chance to meet a variety of Atonement members and staff, and get a small sampling of our Men's Club delicious food.

Interested in helping? Contact the church office (314) 837-1224, the school office (314) 837-1252, or Jane Meyerkord. We would love to have you here.

Once we hit March 1, we will enter Women's History Month. There will be a display in the main school hallway, if you would like to see who is featured.

We pray for a blessed rest of February, a wonderful day for an Open House on March 1, and the joy of proclaiming the love of Christ to all who enter our doors. God's Peace to you all!



**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 \$22.60. You can find the basket on the table in the Narthex as you enter the center double doors into the Sanctuary. As we continue our Celebration of Growth, please watch for information in the bulletins, newsletters, and weekly emails. Thank you.

Go Fund Me:
[gofund.me/580b1615f](https://gofundme.com/f/580b1615f)

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

Scan to donate



gofundme





Adult Forum

Adult Forum returns on most Sundays after church at about 10:45 in the Chapel (if the chapel is too small for the crowd, we will move down the hall to the Multipurpose Room). Give Pastor Lemke or Jane Meyerkord questions you would like Pastor to address about the Bible, or questions that you would like to ask Jesus. Send them by email to church.office@alcs-web.com or text Jane at Jmeyerkord@aol.com or 314-330-2404 in order to give Pastor a chance to prepare an answer. A couple of samples—what did Jesus’ life look like for the first 30 years before he was baptized and began his ministry? We say that the soul leaves the body at death, what does that mean? How does that happen?

Please note, that because of Heritage Sunday today, there is no Adult Forum.

Financial Position Summary July 2025 thru December 2025

Balances thru December Status: Good		Bank Accounts Status: Danger	
Mortgage Balance Due	\$ 2,144,782	Balance on Dec 31	\$303,163
Bank Accounts	\$ 303,163	+/-Forecast Through 06/30/2026	-\$243,369
Restricted Funds	\$ 188,192	Forecasted Balance on 06/30/2026	\$59,794
Operating Cash	\$ 114,971		
Endowment Fund in Thrivent Account	\$ 156,686		
<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>	



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 date 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. ** March 9, 10:00 a.m.