

News & Notes

Lutheran Church of the Atonement

Nov. 2, 2025

TODAY:

TODAY: Discussion with Pastor Michael Jones, Rendor's Hope, Atonement Early Learning Center. Meet in Fellowship Hall after service. Soup & Salad lunch. ALL WELCOME!

NOV. 16: Confirmation Renewal/New Member Class w/Pastor Larry - FOR ALL!!



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*



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 night including worship: 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 10/26/25

9:30 a.m. = 100

Giving

Sunday 10/26/25 in-person = \$3560

\$6516.41 all other form of giving from 10/20-10/24. 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.



EMAIL ISSUES!

There has been some glitch in the email program the church office uses. Many items coming from that program are being marked as spam/junk. The IT company is trying to solve this issue. Please check your spam folder. If you still don't see the office emails, please contact Cathy and she will forward you a special copy. Sorry for the inconvenience and thanks for your patience.

Go Fund Me:
gofund.me/580b1615f

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

Scan to donate



gofundme



It's time to mother Earth"

Keep your tires properly inflated and get better gas mileage. Reduce your carbon footprint 20 pounds for each gallon of gas saved. Not only does this tip help you save energy, but also \$Money\$

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

Upcoming at Atonement...

Mondays -**Weekly Zoom Bible Study** 10 a.m. -11 a.m. on the lectionary texts for the following week led by Pastor Larry Lemke.

Today - Pastor Michael Jones, Render's Hope, to discuss Atonement Early Learning Center

Sat. Nov. 1, 11 a.m. - Grief Support in the Church Workroom

Sat., Nov. 8, 9 a.m.- prepare the garden for winter!

Sun., Nov, 16, Confirmation Renewal and New Member Class w/ Pastor Larry. Open to ALL!!

Sun., Nov. 23 - Congregational Meeting

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 & Pie Social

Make plans to join us for Thanksgiving Eve worship beginning at 7 pm. Then stay for fellowship and a pie social. Bring a pie to share! Details to come!



Over the last few weeks, you have been asked to vote for the time to have the "early" Christmas Eve worship. 4:30 p.m. won by an overwhelming majority. There will also be a 10:00 p.m. service, and a 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day service. Midweek Wednesday Advent services will be at 7 p.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).



Send a pic of you & your Chipotle order to 314-749-2555 by 9pm on Nov 4th to be entered in a drawing for a \$25 Chipotle gift card! One entry per family!

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN SCHOOL
25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH | 4-8PM
2391 N HIGHWAY 67, FLORISSANT, MO, 63033

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **RDKHR94**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.