

Atonement Lutheran Church

2023 Annual Report

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2023 Report from the President of the Congregation Council

There are some days that the world gets very loud and busy for me and I find myself debating if it really makes a difference if a person participates in a community of faith. That internal debates ends for me when I walk through the doors of Atonement Lutheran Church.

Every. Single. Time.

I see all sorts of signs of the amazing, meaningful ways that we are making a difference for each other and for our community. I hear beautiful, uplifting music. I participate in meaningful worship. I see children and families enjoying preschool and faith formation. I interact with our amazing staff. I see the hope and healing at Common Ground. I watch us love and care for the sick and the lonely. I feel gratitude for our beautiful facilities.

But what tells me that it certainly does matter if one belongs to a faith community is the people of Atonement. Every single time I am there, I find myself in absolute awe of the character and spirit of the people of our faith community. One after another. Day after day. Interaction after interaction. People who care about each other. People who really, truly love each other. People who are longing for opportunities to love and understand their neighbors. People who know that the world needs God and faith communities now more than ever. People who smile and cry together and understand their brokenness and their need for God. People, like me, who are a little befuddled as to why the rest of the world doesn't understand that belonging to a faith community is a foundational part of leading a good and meaningful life.

So, it is with profound gratitude that I thank each and every one of you for showing up each and every time and for doing all the big and little things that you do to make our mighty, little faith community a place where all I need to do to see the hands and face of God is to look at the person next to me.

And because of faithful people like you, good things are happening at Atonement. We have a spunky new Senior Pastor, a creative new Director of Christian Formation and an amazing staff. Worship attendance is up. Giving is up. The parking lot is often full! About 800 people a week attend a 12-step meeting in our Community Center and our Pastoral Care Team provides capable, tender care for the sick and lonely. Our fiscal prudence has put us in a safe position operating within our means. Thanks to your generosity, we have made more than \$1.3 million in much needed deferred maintenance to our facilities over the past several years.

At the annual meeting, we will be recommending that you approve a conservative budget that allows us to continue as we are presently operating. We based this budget on the pledges that we have actually received because we are not comfortable budgeting much beyond promised revenue. However, this budget will not allow us to make an additional \$35,000 of capital improvements that we would like to make and does not allow us to staff for the growth that we would like to see without using some of our savings. If giving increases above what is expected, we will proceed with additional actions we would like to take. Look for some additional giving opportunities throughout the year where we can all express our gratitude for the work of our community.

In addition to approving the budget at the annual meeting, we will ask you to elect new members to the Congregation Council. We have compiled a fantastic group of nominees: Kate Aurentz, Robin Border, Scott Boyer, John Lehr and Sofia Arana Lyon (Youth Representative). We are excited to serve with these folks and are grateful for their willingness to say yes to the call.

First, however, we will thank the outgoing members of Council: George Fulton, Gary Mishler, Katie Sensenig and Bryan Wang. This amazing group of leaders was instrumental in faithfully leading Atonement through the pandemic, the departure of an Associate Pastor and Senior Pastor, a search for an interim pastor and ultimately the call of our new Senior Pastor. I can't begin to tell you the debt that we owe to these folks who, with others on Council, tirelessly, faithfully and with great trust in the Lord did more than just persevere. They capably, ably, and admirably set our congregation on a path of financial stability and positioned us to grow and thrive. Well done, you good and faithful servants!

In conclusion, I must thank the remaining members of Council, our staff and lay volunteers, all of whom do God’s work every day with joy and faith and love.

Thanks be to God,
 Kate Harenza, President
 on behalf of the other members of the Congregation Council

Class of 2021

George Fulton
 Gary Mishler (Secretary)
 Katie Sensenig (Asst. Treasurer)
 Bryan Wang

Class of 2022

C. Louise Fair
 Debbie Gentry
 Kate Harenza (President)
 Tim McGuirk

Class of 2023

Tyler Good
 Jen Nied
 Shannon Nowotarski
 Cara Pepper (Treasurer)

2023 Report from Staff

2023 was filled with God moments and nudges by the Holy Spirit here at Atonement church.

Here are some of the highlights:

Staff changes/updates:

- Pastor Katie Lyon was called as the Senior Pastor in May and officially began her new role in September
- Caitlyn Marrella began as our Director of Faith Formation in August
- Tom Gresh celebrated 25 years as our Building Manager and continues to serve in this role

Reaching up, in and out:

- Common Ground relationship continues to be strengthened - Common Ground Sunday in January, worshipping together during Lent and Thanksgiving Eve in Lundin Hall
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
- A Place at the Table Communion Instruction
- Thriving Preschool
- Community Center offers space for numerous 12 step meetings throughout the week - EDI continues to make use of some of the space and offer services to the community
- Faith Formation on Sunday mornings for adults and children
- Vibrant worship with dynamic preaching, children’s messages, children’s chapel, Atonement Choir, Atonement Praise Band, youth participation in worship, weekly communion, and nursery
- Vacation Bible School
- Confirmation classes and Confirmation on Reformation Sunday
- Community events with preschool and church - Trick or treat event in October, Kids’ night out in December
- Small groups pilots to identify our top values
- Volunteering at Hope’s Table, Opportunity House and Family Promise continues
- Stephen Ministry, Eucharistic Ministers, Pastoral Care Team, Prayer Team, Prayer Shawl, Quilting and Archive Group all continue to serve

We are so grateful to be given the opportunity to serve Atonement as your staff. We look forward to all that 2024 will bring.

With love and thankful hearts,

Pastor Katie Lyon, Pastor Tom Scornavacchi, Pastor Art Wyse, Deacon Tom Yenser, Jen Dauber, Michelle Endy, Tom Gresh, Lois Hein, Ken Lord, Caitlyn Marrella, Amy Rogers, and Crystal Shirk

AGENDA

Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, February 11, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting on February 5, 2023
5. Adoption of 2024 Budget
6. Election of New Council Members
7. Election of Representatives to 2024 Synod Assembly
8. Adjournment
9. Closing Prayer

Atonement Annual Congregation Meeting

February 5, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by Council President Tim McGuirk. There were 68 voting members of the congregation present.
2. Pastor Katie Lyon led us in an opening prayer.
3. Adoption of Agenda (Tim McGuirk)
There were no concerns about the agenda, and it was adopted by acclamation.
4. Approval of the Minutes (Tim McGuirk)
The minutes from the annual meeting of the congregation held on February 6, 2022 were approved by acclamation.
5. Adoption of 2023 Budget (Katie Sensenig)
Katie Sensenig provided an overview of Atonement's financial position as of December 31, 2022 which, from an operating standpoint, remains secure. The Lynne Avenue property was sold in 2022 for \$173,870 with the funds placed in savings. Sharon Calder questioned how the building repair money was spent in 2022. Katie Sensenig listed the specific repairs completed. There were no additional questions regarding the 2023 proposed budget, which is very conservative. ***Motion** (made by Katie Sensenig on behalf of Council): That the proposed budget be adopted.* The motion does not require a second; the proposed budget has been recommended by the full Council.
The motion passed, and the budget was adopted.
6. Tim McGuirk recognized Jen Dauber as our Atonement Preschool director. Jen thanked the congregation for our support of the preschool.
7. Election of New Council Members (Tim McGuirk)
Tyler Good, Jennifer Nied, and Shannon Nowotarski have agreed to serve three-year terms and Kate Harenza a two-year term on Atonement Church Council. Cara Pepper will continue to serve an additional three-year term. There were no additional nominees from the floor.
The nominees were elected by acclamation and were recognized by the congregation.
8. Election of Representatives to the 2023 Synod Assembly (Tim McGuirk)
Tim presented three nominees to be lay representatives from Atonement at the NEPA 2023 Synod Assembly that is being held June 1-3, 2023 at Kalahari in Pocono Manor, PA: Sharon Calder, Tyler Good, and Ken Lord. These nominees have agreed to serve at the assembly.
There were no additional nominees, and the nominees were elected by acclamation.

Tim McGuirk proposed appointment of alternates who would be open to being asked to attend the assembly if any of the nominees were unable to attend. The following individuals volunteered to serve as alternates: Dan Kimball and Louise Fair.
9. Bryan Wang asked that we recognize Tim McGuirk for his faithful service to Atonement as Council president the past 2 years. The congregation recognized Tim for his exemplary service.
10. Tim McGuirk responded to a question about the progress of the Call Committee by informing the congregation that the process is ongoing.
11. Pastor Katie Lyon closed the meeting in prayer.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Mishler

2023 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Dedicated Funds

Atonement Lutheran Church - Detail Schedules
December 31, 2023

Endowment Fund Transfers for 2024

Purpose	Amounts
Comon Ground Donation	36,000
Opportunity House Donation	2,400
Seminary student Support	7,600
CG / Trinity Shower Trailer donation	10,000
	56,000

Dedicated Funds Reconciliation	Contributed				
	Beg. Bal. 01/01/2023	New Dedicated Income	Funds from Atonement Operating Funds	Dedicated Expense	Total 12/31/2023
30110 · Memorial- Joe Lewis	853	3,000			3,853
30115 · Family Promise	2,635	100		(623)	2,112
30120 · Thanksgiving & Memorial	45,591	3,587		(30,291)	18,887
30126 · 100th Anniversary Fund		642	1,451		2,093
30160 · Childrens Ministries	1,719	942		(1,233)	1,428
30210 · Music Fund	5,553	700			6,253
30220 · Youth Fund	1,466	4,678		(300)	5,844
30225 · Arts Fund	1,277				1,277
30256 - Pastor Discretionary Fund	942				942
30345 · Columbarium	2,689			(800)	1,889
30348 · Chaney Memorial Book Fund	(500)	2,000		(500)	1,000
30400 · Common Ground	100	98,451	36,000	(134,551)	-
30470 · Martin Luther Service Award	(93)	2,000		(1,000)	907
30500 Pre-School Fund	5,106			(2,210)	2,896
30130 Pre-School Emergency Staff Fund	2,261			(997)	1,264
30600 Health Fund	1,028				1,028
	70,627	116,100	37,451	(172,505)	51,673

2023 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Balance Sheet

Atonement Lutheran Church

Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31,2023	Dec 31,2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
10000A · Checking Accounts	125,975	103,833
10011 · Money Market - FNB	254,931	311,701
Total Current Assets	380,906	415,534
Long Term Assets		
10045 · Operating Reserves	150,000	150,000
10041 · Endowment Accounts	1,495,999	1,538,907
Total Long Term Assets	1,645,999	1,688,907
TOTAL ASSETS	2,026,905	2,104,441
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
20000 · Accounts Payable	1,000	
Total Accounts Payable	1,000	-
Other Current Liabilities		
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	4,413	4,043
25000 · Advance Preschool Tuition	36,562	32,824
25001 · Advance Pledge	9,000	8,320
25003 · Advance Room Rentals	2,100	80
Total Current Liabilities	52,075	45,267
Long Term Liabilities		
26003 · MIF Loan Payable	192,993	264,025
Total Long Term Liabilities	192,993	264,025
Total Liabilities	246,068	309,292
Equity		
30109 · Dedicated Accounts	51,673	70,527
30400 · Common Ground	-	100
30280 · Endowment	1,472,537	1,490,053
30300 · Landscape Trust	23,462	27,362
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	233,165	207,107
Total Equity	1,780,837	1,795,149
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,026,905	2,104,441

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Atonement Lutheran Church

2024 Recommended Budget

	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2022 Variance	2024 Budget	Budget Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense					<i>Compare</i>
Income					<i>2023 to 2024</i>
42000 · Member Offerings/Pledges	642,677	629,000	13,677	675,000	46,000
42010 · Offerings-Plate	11,248	6,100	5,148	10,000	3,900
42030 · Room Donations	24,612	21,000	3,612	24,600	3,600
42070 · Interest Income	3,293	2,500	793	3,300	800
42080 · Offerings-Miscellaneous	19,383	9,000	10,383	19,000	10,000
42086 · Estate Donations/Non Pledge	110,000	21,000	89,000	0	-21,000
42100 · Preschool Tuition	336,099	277,590	58,509	336,300	58,710
Transfers from Savings	0	47,020	-47,020	0	-47,020
Transfers From Endowment		0	0	56,000	56,000
Total Income	1,147,312	1,013,210	134,102	1,124,200	110,990
Expense					
60000 · Employee Salaries & Benefits	300,956	330,268	-29,312	318,311	-11,957
Staffing for Growth		0	0		0
60050 · Sextons	25,637	26,060	-423	31,200	5,140
60200 · Social Security	22,815	21,942	873	22,889	947
60350 · Auto Allowance	2,115	1,800	315	2,200	400
60400 · Continuing Education Exp	1,215	700	515	1,200	500
60450 · Guest Preachers	1,225	5,000	-3,775	1,300	-3,700
61000 · Christian Education	2,237	1,500	737	2,000	500
61100 · Congregational Fellowship	4,759	500	4,259	4,800	4,300
61150 · Hospitality	773	600	173	600	0
61151 · Health Advocate	456	500	-44	500	0
61200 · Stewardship Supplies	3,095	1,300	1,795	1,000	-300
61250 · Worship/Music	13,690	8,500	5,190	10,000	1,500
61300 · Youth	0	3,000	-3,000	3,000	0
61350 · Preschool Expenses	24,426	12,100	12,326	27,400	15,300
61351 · Preschool Wages	275,414	244,000	31,414	303,886	59,886
61353 · Preschool Pension	4,479	4,700	-221	5,000	300
61400 · Advertising	950	1,500	-550	2,000	500
62000 · Administration	37,647	35,000	2,647	38,000	3,000
62050 · Conference/Workshops	445	500	-55	500	0
62200 · Utilities	70,330	60,000	10,330	74,600	14,600
62250 · Maintenance/Repairs	60,000	34,000	26,000	60,000	26,000
62255 · Major Capital Repairs	89,764	44,000	45,764	14,198	-29,802
62300 · Insurance	35,439	36,140	-701	37,300	1,160
62400 · Benevolence to ELCA	62,000	62,000	0	62,000	0
Use of Endowment Funds **	41,400	36,000	5,400	56,000	50,600
63400 · Debt Payments	73,716	23,000	0	23,716	716
63400 · Interest Expense	12,811	12,000	811	12,800	800
63410 · Bank Fees	6,302	5,100	1,202	6,300	1,200
66700 · Professional Fees	0	1,500	-1,500	1,500	0
Total Expense	1,174,096	1,013,210	110,170	1,124,200	141,590
Net Ordinary Income	(26,784)	0		0	
Without 60K Estate Donations (shortage)	(86,784)				

Council Nominees

Kate Aurentz

Having been baptized, confirmed, and married at Atonement, I am proud to say that I am a life-long member of Atonement and am grateful to be able to worship alongside my husband, Dave, two sons, mother, father, brother and his family.

My father, Bill Laubach, is another life-long member. While I hold dear to my heart our Lutheran theology and, in particular, our understanding of God's grace, I am also grateful that God has had me journey, worship, and pray at times with people with varying Christian traditions and understandings. I believe that we have much to learn from one another.

God has gifted me with the heart of a student and teacher. I am a reading specialist at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. I cherish the times my husband and I facilitated adult formation classes at Atonement which blessed us with a deeper relationship not only with God, but also with those in the groups. I am excited to join the other members of Council as we strive to discern how God is calling us to grow as a congregation and deepen our faith and commitment as a church family.

Robin Border

I grew up in the Oley Valley and have been a Lutheran since birth. Frieden's Lutheran Church in Oley was my family church and I was a member there through high school and college. When I moved to the Boyertown area, I transferred my membership to St. John's Lutheran Church in Boyertown and was an active member there for 46 years.

Three years ago I moved to Wyomissing and started the search for a new church. Atonement was the perfect fit! Everyone I met here was friendly, welcoming, and I immediately felt at home. For me, volunteering at Atonement was the perfect way to meet new people, make new friends, and serve my community. I especially enjoy attending Faith Formation and Common Ground.

I have two children, four grandchildren, and I spend a lot of happy hours babysitting. In my spare time I like to travel, spend time with friends, read, and spend time outdoors. I am honored by the opportunity to serve on council and I look forward to being part of Atonement's exciting future!

Scott Boyer

Scott (raised a Catholic) and his wife Karen (raised an Episcopalian) visited Atonement on Palm Sunday over 20 years ago. They met Luther Route. Scott soon became active with the Youth Group and gave skiing and snowboarding lessons when Pastor Luther ran the Youth Group ski week-ends. Scott previously served on Church Council when Pastor Summy was Senior Pastor.

In addition to Council, Scott is on the Grounds Crew, Altar Guild, usher team, and will soon become Tom Gresh's backup (along with Bob Eisenbrown) as Tom transitions to retirement.

Scott was a Process Engineer for over 36 years at Carpenter Technology before he retired in 2020. Some of his hobbies include mountain biking, fly fishing, skiing, and dabbling with his violin. He and Karen enjoy camping with their two Golden Retrievers.

Council Nominees

John Lehr

My wife Patty and I joined Atonement in 2018. As native Berks Countians, we both were raised Lutheran. We married in 1981 and attended St. John's Lutheran for thirty plus years and both served on council and taught Sunday School. We have two adult sons; Michael and Morgen live in NJ, with twin daughters, Betty and Jane. Jordan lives in Columbia, SC with man's best friend, a GSP named Lucy! When visiting, they worship with us at Atonement.

Patty was on Atonement Council and currently volunteers scheduling greeters. She is a registered nurse at Tower Health, for over 40 years. She is a master baker!

Since joining Atonement, I serve as a lector, usher, eucharistic minister, pastoral call committee member, property maintenance team member and chair the volunteer groundskeeping team. I am also a struggling chili contest participant! I enjoy attending Sunday School and participate in a weekly Zoom bible study.

In my past, I served as a little league football and wrestling coach and a Lions Club member. I am an avid DIYer. I am a coating sales manager in the greater Philadelphia market.

Patty and I enjoy the Jersey shore, Charleston SC and the Florida Keys. Our granddaughters have stolen our hearts!

It is an honor to serve the dedicated and growing members of Atonement to the glory of the Holy Trinity. Atonement offers excellence in music, Christian values, preschool and welcoming to the community. It is exciting to witness the growth we are experiencing.

Sofia Arana Lyon

I am Pastor Katie's oldest daughter. I just turned 17 in Jamaica on my school's Marine Biology program. I am an eleventh grader at Wilson High School. Some of my hobbies are reading, singing, writing my own songs, playing piano and guitar along with anything else musical. I am currently involved in our school musical, The Little Mermaid as a mersister. This July I will also be playing Janis in Mean Girls The Musical through the Sycamore Stage Theater Company in Robesonia.

I have enjoyed getting involved here at Atonement through singing, serving as Sunday morning sexton, and worshiping, especially with Common Ground. I am happy to serve as your youth representative and look forward to bringing a strong voice and new ideas.

ATTENDANCE

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
January			
First Sunday	81	37	83
Second Sunday	205	54	89
Third Sunday	173	45	137
Fourth Sunday	172	56	162
Fifth Sunday	245	43	174

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
February			
First Sunday	177	54	158
Second Sunday	182	75	174
Third Sunday	190	N/A	174
Fourth Sunday	190	17	157

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
March			
First Sunday	176	66	162
Second Sunday	176	40	159
Third Sunday	197	42	196
Fourth Sunday	195	35	161

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
April			
First Sunday	237	36	184
Second Sunday	543	101	234
Third Sunday	375	95	453
Fourth Sunday	158	N/A	179
Fifth Sunday	205	26	---

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
Holy Week			
Palm Sunday	237	36	234
Maundy Thursday	43	N/A	39
Good Friday	119	N/A	62
Easter Sunday	543	101	453
Preschool Sunday	375	95	242

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
May			
First Sunday	154	46	159
Second Sunday	232	48	164
Third Sunday	171	72	138
Fourth Sunday	183	29	242
Fifth Sunday	---	---	95

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
June			
First Sunday	138	75	170
Second Sunday	165	56	117
Third Sunday	136	61	130
Fourth Sunday	153	55	140

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
July			
First Sunday	109	N/A	125
Second Sunday	167	60	93
Third Sunday	130	38	100
Fourth Sunday	185	46	148
Fifth Sunday	148	18	105

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
August			
First Sunday	146	36	175
Second Sunday	147	53	147
Third Sunday	157	39	116
Fourth Sunday	201	41	150

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
September			
First Sunday	169	59	124
Second Sunday	185	80	115
Third Sunday	172	55	159
Fourth Sunday	162	20	151

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
October			
First Sunday	136	56	152
Second Sunday	186	61	146
Third Sunday	236	99	149
Fourth Sunday	180	63	167
Fifth Sunday	257	59	219

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
November			
First Sunday	216	46	159
Second Sunday	174	38	134
Third Sunday	200	50	183
Fourth Sunday	163	88	165

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
December			
First Sunday	178	66	158
Second Sunday	191	62	196
Third Sunday	250	89	256
Fourth Sunday	see below		42
Fifth Sunday	127	56	---

	in person		online
	2023	2023	2022
Christmas			
Longest Night	75	N/A	50
Eve 11:00 AM	271	108	220
Eve 6:00 PM	174	N/A	139
Eve 7:30 PM	256	N/A	231
Day 10:00 AM	37	N/A	42

MEMBERSHIP AND ENROLLMENT

Members received:	2022	2023
By baptism	2	13
By affirmation of faith	2	5
By transfer	22	20
Other sources and statistical adjustment	4	2
Total Accessions	30	40
Baptized members confirmed	15	11
Members removed:		
By death	19	16
By transfer	2	17
Other/Moved to Inactive	28	177
Total Losses	49	210
Total Membership	1199	1029

Atonement Christian Preschool Enrollment

2021-22: 127 students in 164 spaces
 2022-23: 145 students in 182 spaces
 2023-24: 151 students in 190 spaces