

ATONEMENT IN ACTION



Guiding Principles:

Jesus is Lord.

Everyone is welcome.

Love changes people.

Everyone has something to offer.

The world needs what we have.

from Reclaiming the "L" Word



A Place at the Table: Communion Class Participants January 24, 2024

Top row: Liam Martin, Elijah Hershey, Eliana Rowe, Raven Mikucki, Cameryn Huber

Bottom row: Lynn Garipoli, Evangelina Loos, Ainsley Marrella, Storm



Use the sign-up genius to enter a chili or provide a donation, or to volunteer to help with the event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445AFAA22AAF85-47472445-atonement#/>

If you prefer to be a taster, just bring your appetite and \$5 for a spoon, bowl and ballot.

All proceeds go to our teens attending the ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Congregational Meetings

Annual Meeting: February 11 after 10:00 am worship

Special Meeting to amend Constitution: March 17 after 10:00 am worship

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

12:00 noon—"Ashes to Go" outside in front of the main church doors, weather permitting (indoors in case of inclement weather)

7:00 pm—Ash Wednesday worship in Lundin Hall with Common Ground.



God has freed us for the Journey of Discipleship with Jesus:

Worship
that leads to
Formation
that leads to
Fellowship
that leads to
Servanthood.



All are Welcome!



Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, Feb. 21 - March 20

7pm in Lundin Hall

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, March 24, 10am

Easter Services

Sunday, March 31 | 9:30am & 11am

Atonement Lutheran Church

5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610

Phone: 610-375-3512 | www.atonementwyo.org



From Pastor Katie

Last year we held Common Ground Sunday in January after many years of not doing so. This January we held another one and it was amazing to see the growth from last year’s service. More members of Common Ground have been attending our Sunday morning worship services so they already felt comfortable in the space. April Mulvey, a longtime member of Common Ground, is our Seminary field education student for the school year. More Atonement members shared during the time of sharing. Others talked afterwards about how inspiring the service was to them. A newcomer said it was the first time in her life she felt like she was supposed to feel in church. How else might

we continue to make people feel welcome and safe here on Sunday mornings? What are ways that we can carry this message of welcome into the rest of our lives so that Sunday mornings are just the beginning?

Join us this Lenten season as we worship together as Common Ground and Atonement. We will begin with Ash Wednesday service at 7pm in Lundin Hall. (“Ashes to go” will also happen at 12pm for those unable to attend the evening service.) Lenten midweek services will continue each Wednesday of Lent in Lundin Hall with a simple supper at 6pm followed by worship at 7pm. Together let us journey to the cross and witness Christ’s resurrection.

Peace and love,
Pastor Katie

Pastoral Acts

December

December 20—Funeral for George Allmendinger

December 21—Interment for Joanne Koch

January

January 4—Funeral for Robert Adams

January 7—Baptism for Emily Garl

January 9—Funeral for Carl Trettin

January 14—Baptism for Indiana Aiken Lord

January 20—Memorial Service for Daniel Phelps

January 20—Memorial Service for Patrick VanderVeen

January 28—Communion celebration for “A Place at the Table”



Worship for Sundays in February

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ♦ February 4
10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

the Transfiguration of our Lord ♦ February 11
10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

First Sunday in Lent ♦ February 18
10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. John Richter

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Third Sunday in Lent ♦ February 25
10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

lectionary readings for the Sundays of February

February 4

Isaiah 40:21-3
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38



Above: the three kings of Atonement, Dami Johnson-Agiri, Anthony Arana, Bill Laubach

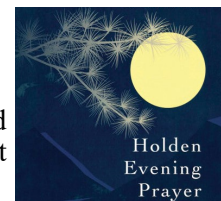
Left: Common Ground Sunday

Below: Praise Band leading worship for Common Ground Sunday



Midweek Lenten Services

Once again, Common Ground and Atonement are joining together for Lenten Wednesday meals and worship in Lundin Hall. Join us February 21 & 28, March 6, 13, & 20 for a simple soup supper at 6pm, then stay for **Holden Evening Prayer** at 7pm.



From Deacon Tom

Children’s choir is coming back to Atonement!



I am very pleased to announce that after four long years, we are going to restart Children’s Choir at Atonement! Our initial experiment will be for two months – February and March.

We will rehearse for 7 weeks on Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the choir room. Here are the rehearsal dates:

- February 7, 14, 21, 28
- March 6, 13, 20

We will sing in worship twice:

- Sunday, February 25 (the second Sunday of Lent)
- Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion)

On Sundays when the children sing, we will warm up in the choir room at 9:40 a.m. Children will miss the last 5 minutes of their Faith Formation class. We will NOT wear choir robes for now.

Children will mostly be in Kindergarten through Grade 6, but I will be flexible, especially with siblings.

If you have children or grandchildren in this age group, please consider enrolling them in our Children’s Choir program. Rehearsals will include lots of singing, as well as fun activities that teach children about music, worship, and our lives as followers of Jesus! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to sign up your child(ren) for choir. I look forward to hearing from you!



Peace,
Deacon Tom



Welcome, Rev. Jayme Babczak

Greetings! My name is Rev. Jayme Babczak (she/her), and it is a privilege to come alongside the leadership and faithful people of Common Ground Recovery Community. Over the last 6 weeks, CGRC has extended Christ-like hospitality to me, quickly making me feel at home in their presence. It is obvious to me that the gifts of CGRC are abundant, and I am grateful for the vulnerability, compassion, generosity and connectedness I’ve experienced in ministry with Common Ground thus far.

A bit about me... I am an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and currently serve as Associate Pastor at Immanuel UCC in Shillington. I graduated in May 2020 with a dual degree – Master of Divinity and MA in Christian Education – from Union Presbyterian Seminary. My undergraduate work was completed at Messiah College where I graduated from the Honors Program with a BA in Psychology. My faith has been nurtured by interfaith & ecumenical relationships, and I find myself drawn consistently to ministry on the margins. I am “dog mom” to a sweet rescue pup named Darby, and I memorize Broadway showtunes for fun!

I look forward to learning and growing in faith alongside Common Ground in the season ahead.

With peace and gratitude,
Jayme

February Usher Schedule

- February 4, 10:00 am Team 9—Bryan
- February 11, 10:00 am Youth Team 1 (Debbie Gentry, head usher)
- February 18, 10:00 am Youth Team 2 (Karl Allmendinger, head usher)
- February 25, 10:00 am Team 1—Long

Interested in joining an usher team?

Contact Crystal at
cshirk@atonementwyo.org

Financial Report

as of December 31, 2023

December Unrestricted Income	\$150,601
December Expenses	\$ 80,209
YTD Unrestricted Income	\$940,715
YTD Unrestricted Expenses	\$877,618
Mission Investment Fund Loan	\$425,318.81
Principal Payments to Date (08/31/2023)	\$232,326.01
Remaining Loan Balance	\$192,992.80

**Thank you so much, Atonement,
for your incredible generosity!**

Please contact Amy Rogers with any questions.

Gifts of Stocks or Securities

Gifts of stocks or securities are always welcome donations. If you plan to give stock or securities, please notify the office of the pending donation to Atonement’s Schwab Account at Weik Investments (the office will provide account number, etc.), along with the purpose for which you are donating it, the name of the stock, its value, where it is coming from, and who the donor is. Don’t forget that your offering can be given by **credit card** on our website, by **texting** 610-624-8412, and by scanning the **QR code** to the right with your smart phone.



ELCA Youth Gathering Matching Funds Campaign

We are very excited to have 11 Atonement members and friends traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer (8 teenagers and 3 chaperones). In order to help families with the costs of this life-changing event, we are holding a matching funds campaign this winter. Thanks to an anonymous donor and some “leftover” youth funds, we will be able to match up to \$6000 in donations toward the gathering costs – our goal is to reach \$12,000 in donations. Please help us with this fundraiser – every gift, no matter how large or small, will help us toward our goal. Checks can be made payable to Atonement Lutheran Church with “Youth Gathering Matching Funds” written in the memo line. Thanks in advance for your help!

Gifts and Memorials

Music Fund

In memory of Doris Leslie
 Atonement Prayer Shawl Group
 Diane L. Gaul
 Patricia Bressler
 Marian E. Pounder
 Faith Ann Jones

Building Fund

In Memory of Phillip Brumbach
 Maureen Brumbach

Common Ground Ministry

In honor of the birthday of Elizabeth Rothermel
 Nancy Hemmerich
 Dr. and Mrs. Vincent J. Moffitt

In honor of the birthday of Sue Harenza
 Nancy Hemmerich

Sunday Attendance—December

	10:00 am	Online Views*
1st Sunday in December	178	66
2nd Sunday in December	191	62
3rd Sunday in December	250	89
4th Sunday in December	see Christmas Attendance	
5th Sunday in December	<u>127</u>	<u>56</u>
Total	746	273

Sunday Attendance—January

	10:00 am	Online Views*
1st Sunday in January	132	97
2nd Sunday in January	237	73
3rd Sunday in January	212	99
4th Sunday in January	<u>240</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	821	273

Christmas Attendance

		Online Views
Christmas Eve, 11:00am	271	108
Christmas Eve, 6:00pm	174	N/A
Christmas Eve, 7:30pm	256	N/A
Christmas Day, 10:00am	<u>37</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total	738	108

*Online attendance as of January 28. Online services are always available to watch the day after they are live streamed, and remain available for re-watching! Online readers use this link to go directly to Atonement’s YouTube page, which is also available at [atonementwyo.org](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg1TXf607Z5yGtNI2d0e_qQ), https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg1TXf607Z5yGtNI2d0e_qQ



Preschool News

From Jen Dauber, Preschool Director

Happy New Year from the staff and students of Atonement Christian Preschool!!

January Recap

- Themes: Winter, winter animals, numbers & counting
- Chapel lesson: With my FEET, I can walk with Jesus. Jesus calls the first disciples. (Mark 1:16-19)
- Student assessments for Parent-Teacher Conferences 1/31-2/2
- Mighty Kicks Soccer started Thursdays & Fridays in the gym, sessions run 8-weeks

February Happenings

- Themes: Valentine’s Day, presidents, community helpers, transportation, space
- Chapel lesson: With my HANDS, I can help Jesus. The Good Samaritan story (Luke 10:30-37)
- Mardi Gras Party for preschool and church, Friday, February 9, 6-8pm in Lundin Hall
- 2024-25 Registration opens Feb. 5 for current preschool and church families and Feb. 20 for the community
- Field trip to the Planetarium & Museum for PreK and Fours classes 2/28



MARDI GRAS PARTY
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024
 6-8PM IN LUNDIN HALL
 DINNER & DANCING




Scan to RSVP

FREE EVENT
ALL ARE WELCOME!

ATONEMENT DAY AT THE READING ROYALS!



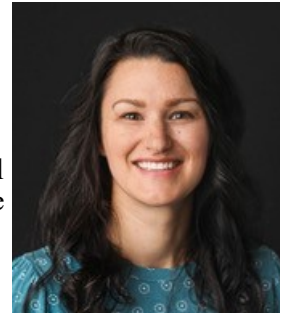

MAR 24TH | 3PM | SANTANDER ARENA

JOIN ATONEMENT FOR A DAY WITH THE READING ROYALS! KIDS TICKETS ARE JUST \$1

To Purchase Tickets, Visit
fevo-enterprise.com/event/Atonementchristian
 FOR MORE INFORMATION- CONTACT CHRIS
 Call: 610-898-7293 Email: CHAZEL@ROYALSHOCKEY.COM Or Scan Here



From Caitlyn Marrella, Directory of Christian Formation



Children of all ages are welcome at Atonement! We have many programs to accommodate all ages. All teachers have clearances and are excited for the opportunity to teach about God. We can't wait for you to join us!

Faith Formation:

Classes were canceled on January 7th due to inclement weather but resumed on January 14th.

Chapel Time:

During the 10 a.m. service children ages 3 to 2nd grade have an opportunity to experience worship geared just for them. After the children's message, the children are supervised in the privacy room for a story, craft, and activity based on the gospel story of the day.

Nursery:

During the 10 a.m. service, children preschool age and younger are supervised in F126.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation will study Dietrich Bonhoeffer during Lent starting on Sunday, February 18th at 8:45am in Room F122. A 40-day devotional is available, \$10 suggested donation. See Crystal or Pastor Katie for more info and to obtain the devotional.

Lenten Event

Mark your calendars! On March 24, Palm Sunday, from 8:45-9:45am, please join us in Lundin Hall for a Lent Workshop. Everyone is invited to make a Resurrection Garden and participate in additional service projects. Further details coming in March newsletter.

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

June 17-21, 9am—11:30am
VBS Sunday, June 24

High School Seniors

Just a note that if you are graduating from high school this year and did not receive a letter from us concerning your graduation gift, please contact the church office. For those who did, a reminder that your post-cards should be returned as soon as possible, preferably by Feb. 28th. Thanks to those who have already sent them back.

Creator of the Midnight Mom Devotional

Peace

Hope and Healing
for the Anxious
Momma's Heart

BECKY THOMPSON
Foreword by Dr. Tim Clinton

Book Group

Sundays
March 3, 10 & 17
8:45-9:45
in the Parlor

Contact Jen Nauber for more info
jlnauber@atonementwyo.org

Are you receiving emails from the church?

If you have access to a computer, make sure you are getting our weekly emails with worship information, announcements, links to the weekly prayers, live stream information, and more! We use Mailchimp to send those messages, so you may have to check your spam folder the first time you are expecting to receive a message.

Contact Crystal at cshirk@atonementwyo.org if you don't currently receive the emails and would like to be added to the database.

Online Directory

Thanks to everyone who sent pictures for the online church directory. If you would like your picture to be included, please send electronic version to cshirk@atonementwyo.org. Online users can obtain the directory by clicking here: <https://servantkeeper.com/directory/atonement/login>

Email crystal or call the office at 610-375-3512 if you need the password.

Softball Anyone?

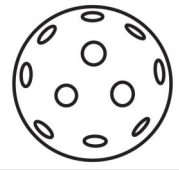
Atonement has been invited to participate in the inaugural season of the Christian Recreational Softball League! A new, non-competitive slow-pitch league, promoting a laid-back, fun atmosphere that will offer an opportunity for everyone to play—men, women, and youth over 13 of ALL abilities!

If you are interested in additional details, playing, or heading up our Atonement team, please contact Crystal in the office at 610-375-3512 or cshirk@atonementwyo.org.

Yoga

All-levels Vinyasa yoga with Amy Sharkey continues Tuesday mornings in Lundin Hall, 9:15-10:15am. Give yourself one hour a week to breath, stretch, and strengthen your mind, body, and soul.

February 4-week session is \$48, drop-in price is \$15 per class.



Pickleball

Weekly pickleball in the Atonement gym continues Sunday afternoons, 3-5 pm. We continue to welcome new players of all ages and abilities. Pickle curious? Join us at 3:00 pm for instructional and beginner play, we have extra paddles so you don't have to bring anything, but please wear non-marking athletic sneakers. If you just want to start by watching, the fellowship on the bleachers is delightful! More experienced players are invited to play competitively at 4:00 pm.

Family Promise Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For 2024, Atonement and Trinity Lutheran of Reading will partner together to host Family Promise 4 weeks:

- April 8
- April 15
- July 8
- July 15.

There are currently 3 shelter houses, for which we will provide the following:

- Groceries for two weeks worth of food, diapers, cleaning supplies, etc. There is money in the Family Promise dedicated fund to cover this if the volunteer shopper doesn't want to donate groceries (many shoppers have donated the groceries).
- Grocery gift cards for whatever we forget and special needs, for the case manager to distribute as needed.
- A prepared meal on Monday nights.

Additional information and sign-up links are available at atonementwyo.org. Online readers click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E49A9A822A4F94-47414684-family#/>



Atonement Business Directory

Health Services

Penn State Community Medical Group, All About Children
655 Walnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611
Phone: 610-372-9222
Fax: 610-372-0232

Stephen Fehnel, MD, Gynecology and Urogynecology
740 Penn Ave, West Reading PA 19611
610-376-3700
Stephenfehnelmd.com

Legal Services

Jill M. Scheidt, Esquire
Masano Bradley
Concentrations in wills, powers of attorney and living wills, estate administration and divorce.
1100 Berkshire Boulevard, Suite 201, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-372-7700
Masanobradley.com
Jscheidt@masanobradley.com

Financial/Insurance

Fred Kofke, Principle
Kofke Associates
Business key man insurance, estate planning, disability insurance with a 43 year history of serving clients in Berks and beyond.
kofkeassoc@comcast.net
Cell: 610-207-7124

Ray Melcher, President
Marathon Capital Advisors
Offers business succession services to company owners who wish to sell their business and to business persons who wish to buy a business. Also assist business owners and executives with obtaining business financing. Also serves as interim, part time, transitional business leadership and management as CEO, COO, or other executive level role.
4 Park Plaza, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-898-8086 x22

HVAC

Raymond Stocker, Vice President
Alltemp Enterprise, Inc.
Alltemp Enterprise, Inc. is a HVAC Contractor. Residential, commercial, and industrial heating and air conditioning. We service any make, sell and install Carrier brand.
2 Front Street Plaza, Mohnton, PA 19540
Phone: 610-796-1233
jeff@alltempenterprise.com

TUTORING

Karen Sandloop, Retired Reading Specialist
kloop13@comcast.net
610-659-4630

Real Estate

Barry Ciabattoni, Realtor, CSP, GRI
Re/Max of Reading
Representing both buyers and sellers in Berks county for 30 years.
1290 Broadcasting Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
Cell: 610-698-2623
Office: 610-670-2770 x3242
Website: BarryCsells.com

Pat Kofke, CRS, GRI, Hall of Fame
RE/MAX of Reading
Specializing in the purchase and sale of all homes in Berks County with 35 years of real estate experience.
pat@patkofke.com
Cell: 610-207-5601

Sue Colon, Realtor
Coldwell Banker Realty
975 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 100, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Office: 610-373-9900
Cell: 610-223-2456
sue.colon@cbhomes.com

Dave and Mel Mattes
RE/MAX of Reading
We have a team of 4 experienced Realtors and we assist people to sell and purchase residential real estate in Berks and surrounding counties.
1290 Broadcasting Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-334-0294
davidmattes@remax.net
www.DaveMattesTeam.com

Eva Eisenbrown, Associate Broker/Broker Appraiser
Coldwell Banker Realty
Phone: 610-334-3496
evae3018@gmail.com & eva.eisenbrown@cbrealty.com.

Bob Wertz, Realtor-Associate Broker
REMAX of Reading
Representing buyers and sellers in Berks for over 36 years.
1290 Broadcasting Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-413-1346
bwertz@goberkscounty.com.

Custom Home Design and Construction

Marc J. Geddio, President
Residential Designs by Geddio
Engineer stamped blueprints for custom homes and additions, since 1992.
Phone: 610-587-7273
MarcJ905@msn.com
CDsbyGeddio.com

Marc and Michelle Geddio,
President and Project Coordinator
Iron Gate Builders Inc.
Custom Home Builder in Berks and surrounding counties, with more than 25 years experience.
Phone: 610-587-7273
Marc@IronGateBuildersInc.com
Michelle@IronGateBuildersInc.com
IronGateBuildersInc.com
Facebook: Iron Gate Builders Inc.