ATONEMENT IN ACTION

From Pastor Katie

This is the fourth Lenten journey we are on together with Common Ground on Wednesday evenings. What a joy it is to gather and be reminded of our interconnectedness. We are ALL recovering from something, even if we are too afraid or embarrassed to admit it! There are still a few more Wednesdays left to come and join us. Mal and Gloria make amazing soup for us at 6pm. Then at 7pm we gather for worship where parts of Holden Evening Prayer are woven into the traditional Common Ground liturgy that includes a time of sharing as well as communion. Even after Lent ends and the great and holy Easter season begins, we are encouraged to attend Common Ground services at 7pm each Wednesday to give ourselves a midweek jolt of honesty and Jesus!





I pray that your Lenten journeys have been filled this year with some moments of love and joy. I pray you will come and hear the Easter resurrection promise. This year **we will worship at 9am & 10:30am on Easter morning**. The 10:30am service is the one that will be livestreamed. Invite a friend, invite a neighbor. Remind one another that everyone is welcome and Jesus comes for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Peace and love, Pastor Katie

Holy Week Schedule

Journey with us through the events during the last week of Jesus' life—from the gates of Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, to the foot of the cross, to the empty tomb!



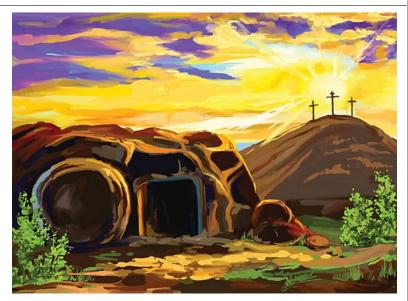
Maundy Thursday—April 17 ♦ 7:00 PM



Good Friday—April 18 ♦ 7:00 PM Easter Vigil—April 19 ♦ 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday April 20

NEW TIMES 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM Everyone is welcome!



Atonement Lutheran Church 5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610 Phone: 610-375-3512 | www.atonementwyo.org

Worship for Sundays in April

Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday & April 13 & 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Resurrection of our Lord: Easter + April 20 + 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Second Sunday of Easter + April 27 + 10:00 AM the Rev. Tom Scornavacchi

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

Lectionary Readings

April 6 Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8

April 13 Luke 19:28-40 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56

April 20 Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians: 15:19-26 Luke 24:1-12

> April 27 Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31





Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, April 2 & 9

Common Ground and Atonement are joining together for Lenten Wednesday meals and worship in Lundin Hall. Join us at 6pm for a simple soup supper, then stay for LentenWorship at 7pm.

Sunday Attendance in March

In	Online
Person	Views**
272	111
198	81
180	58
225	48
204	N/A
1079	298
	Person 272 198 180 225 <u>204</u>

** Online attendance as of March 30, 2025. Online services are always available to watch the day after they are live streamed, and remain available for re-watching. You can find the link on the home page of atonementwyo.org.

Pastoral Acts—March

March 5, 2025 Ashes to Go

March 9, 2025 Baptism for Jacqueline Espinoza

March 21, 2025 Memorial Service for Mary Jane Schofer

March 28, 2025 Memorial Service for Dawn Neeb

Atonement Festival Easter Choir

All teens and adults are invited to participate in this year's Festival Easter Choir! There will be three rehearsals for this event – you are encouraged to attend as many as you are able:

Thursday, April 3, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the choir room Thursday, April 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the choir room Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. refreshments in the narthex, 9:30-11:00 a.m. rehearsal in the nave with brass

We will sing at both Easter morning services, but if you can only make one of the two services, you are still invited to join us. Here is the Easter morning schedule on Sunday, April 20:

8:30 a.m. warm up in the choir room 9:00 a.m. Easter worship in the nave 10:30 a.m. Easter worship in the nave

Please prayerfully consider joining us this year – the music is not difficult and should be a lot of fun to sing. If you are interested in participating or if you have questions, please contact Deacon Tom at tyenser@atonementwyo.org or 610-301-2190.





Council Update from Emmett Borelli Hoh, Youth Representative

The new church council has begun to meet and already it is brimming with new ideas on how we can improve our outreach into the community and further our mission. In our February meeting, we examined the mission of our council and the core values of this church. One of our most important goals is to create a welcoming environment for all to worship. In accordance with that, the council is

currently working on a welcome statement for the church website. This statement will serve to outline the supportive community we strive to create within our congregation, and offer reassurance to those who may have felt unwelcome in previous churches. Council is also working to update our current directory and

include member photos. Be on the lookout for the next opportunity to get your picture taken, or you can submit a photograph to Crystal at cshirk@atonementwyo.org.

We thank you, yes you, for your support because none of the work our church does is possible without the community that makes up our congregation. We on the council look forward to the coming year and discovering where God calls us as we move forward together.

2024 Congregational Council and Officers *Class of 2023:* Tyler Good & Jennifer Nied & Shannon Nowotarski & Cara Pepper

Class of 2024: Robin Border
 Scott Boyer
 John Lehr

Class of 2025: Robert Bailey • Emily Garl • Jeff Good • Kate Harenza • Henry Turner • Emmett Borelli Hoh, youth representative

Usher Schedule

Sunday, April 6, 10:00am	Team 8—Woerle
Palm Sunday Sunday, April 13, 10:00am	Team 9—Bryan
Maundy Thursday Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm	Team 1—Long
Easter Sunday Sunday, April 20, 9:00am Sunday, April 20, 10:30am	Team 4—Mehos & Team 5—Eisenbrown Team 2—Kofke & Team 3—Lubitz
Sunday, April 27, 10:00am	Youth Team

New ushers are always welcomed! The commitment is about once every two months, and is a great way to meet new people! We are also seeking a new usher coordinator. Contact Crystal at cshirk@atonementwyo.org if you would like to be added to an usher team are interested in finding out more about scheduling the ushers.



From Caitlyn Marrella, Director of Children's Ministries

<u>Bible Study</u>: Be sure to come to the 10am worship on April 6th as our 3rd grade Bible Study group will be showcasing their learning in an exciting new way.

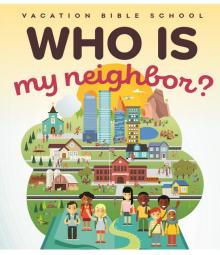
Lenten Event: The Lenten Event, held on March 23rd was a success!

About 60 participants gathered in Lundin for fun crafts, fellowship and yummy treats. It was fun to have so many generations participate and work together. Some of the crafts will be used to make gift bags for some of our homebound friends.



Important dates:

May 11th - No Faith Formation, Happy Mother's Day May 18th - Last Day of Faith Formation - Again, we welcome Fotis & Fotis for a fun, interactive event for all ages.



Vacation Bible School:

Registration is open! Join us June 16th-20th from 9:00-11:30am. This year in vacation Bible school we will explore the theme of "Who is My Neighbor?" Participants will learn about some of the people around the world who are our neighbors in the kingdom of God. Register at atonementwyo.org or use the QR code below.



from the Pastoral Care Coordinator

Our church family is made up of many circles. I'm sure that you are a part of at least one of these circles. Is your circle Faith Formation? or Choir? Perhaps, you join a group for coffee in the narthex before service on Sunday. Or - is your circle that group of familiar faces you count on seeing when you're in your favorite pew on a Sunday morning?

You know when someone is missing from your circle.

You see when they reach for a tissue after a hymn or reading.

And, you **act** – you reach out. You call. You hug. You pray.

Atonement's Pastoral Care Team is an extension of these many circles – Here are some of the ways we reach out, call, visit, listen, and pray:

Card and Prayer Shawl Ministry Visitation Ministry Prayer Team Eucharistic Ministers Stephen Ministers Health Advocacy Grief Ministry

The Pastoral Care team meets twice a month to consider who in our church family is in need of prayer or spiritual support. Our goal is to support our pastors so that no one in the congregation slips through the cracks under our watch. Our mission is to keep strong connections to Atonement when our members are most vulnerable.

Let us know when someone in your circle is in need. Reach out to me at <u>ebryan@atonementwyo.org</u> or any of our members: Ken Lord, Sharon Calder, Ray Warmkessel, Lois Hein, Ed Hein, Pastor Katie, and Pastor Art.

Wishing you peace and comfort, Ellen Bryan



Financial Report

as of February 28,	2025
February Unrestricted Income	\$117,880
February Expenses	\$101,145
YTD Unrestricted Income	\$323,208
YTD Unrestricted Expenses	\$191,206
Mission Investment Fund Loan	\$425,318.81
Principal Payments to Date	\$323,256.51
Remaining Loan Balance	\$102,062.30
Thank vou. Atonement. for v	our generositv!

Thank you, Atonement, for your generosity!

Please contact Amy Rogers with any questions.

Memorials

Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

In memory of Rev. John Aurand by Marian E. Pounder

In memory of Robert R. Sharetts by Marian E. Pounder Atonement Prayer Team Ministry

In memory of Faith Ann Jones by Atonement Prayer Team Ministry

In memory of Richard Sweigart by Mark Kerstetter and Yanmin Liu Shirley Becker and Kody's Crew

Common Ground In memory of Doris Zache by Linda and Ken Lord

Bear Creek Camp

Bear Creek Camp's overnight program is centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living, and small group development for all children who have completed grades 1-12. Each age group experiences a mix of small-group and all-camp activities throughout the week to meet their group's spiritual, social, and developmental needs.

This summer is about the connections that unite us - at camp and beyond. Like intertwined roots, together we grow stronger through love and service, gracefilled faith, and belonging and community. Registration is now open.

Use the code ATW200 when registering to receive \$200 off the registration fee.

Visit bearcreekcamp.org for details.

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 or by scanning the **QR code**.



Atonement Bach Scholarship Awards

Reading Musical Foundation has announced the winners of this year's Atonement Bach Scholarships. Each year, we sponsor this award for Berks County's brightest and best high school musicians. Each student will come to Atonement this spring to play for us in worship. Please welcome these talented young people and encourage them in their future endeavors.

Reagan Connell, Voice PA Leadership Charter School, Grade 12 Parents: John & Laura Connell ♦ Teacher: Joanne Abrom

Jillian Crotty, French Horn Exeter Township Sr. High School, Grade 10 Parents: Melissa & Brian Crotty ♦ Teacher: Dana Cullen

Reid Justeson, Tenor Saxophone Kutztown Area High School, Grade 11 Parents: Jeremy & Kim Justeson ♦ Teacher: Dan Wilkins

Ariel Metzger, Percussion Conrad Weiser High School, Grade 12 Parents: Matthew & Kedri Metzger ♦ Teacher: Brent Behrenshausen

Gabriel Perry, Organ Schuylkill Valley High School, Grade 11 Parent: Marie Perry ♦ Teacher: Linda Hartman

Cole Peticca, Guitar Classical Berks Catholic High School, Grade 11 Parents: Karen & Chris Peticca ♦ Teacher: William Peters & Ken Gehret

Olivia Szor, Violin Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School, Grade 12 Parents: Jessica Kostival & Terry Szor ♦ Teacher: Dara Morales

Lawrence Zeng, Piano Wilson High School, Grade 12 Parents: Qi Zeng & Ming Jin ♦ Teacher: Maria Asteriadou



April 2025

Preschool News From Jen Dauber, Preschool Director

March Recap

- Preschool Sunday & Family Bingo were well attended.
- PreK & 4's classes visited the Reading Public Museum & Planetarium.
- Dads visited the 3's, 4's & PreK classes for Dad's Day.
- The 4's & PreK classes painted the old church during fine arts with Mrs. Brossman.

April Happenings

- The 3's classes will participate in Mindfulness & Yoga classes with Karen Tripolitis of Mindful Roots children.
- We will host Trike-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital during gym class.
- The students will hunt Easter Eggs before heading on Spring Break April 16-21.

2025-26 Registration Update

We have 138 students enrolled with many registered in more than one class for a total of 188 filled spaces. Morning Availability:

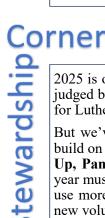
- Together Time 2 (18-30 months with a caregiver)
- Tues/Thurs Toddlers (2 yrs. by 9/1)
- Tues/Thurs 3's (3 yrs. by 9/1 and potty trained)
- Afternoon Availability:
- Tues/Thurs Naturalist (4 & 5 yrs. by 9/1)
- Mon & Wed Stay n Play (3-5 yrs. by 9/1 and potty trained)
- Contact Jen Dauber jdauber@atonementwyo.org to schedule a tour.

Summer Camp 2025 – ALL 6 Camps are full for the summer!









From the Stewardship Team Keepin' it Alive In 2025

2025 is off to a great start! The chili cookoff in February was a huge success with 28 delicious variations judged by around 100 attendees. The event was a lot of fun, but the best part was that we raised over \$700 for Lutheran Disaster Relief! And we couldn't have done this without your help. Thank you!

But we've only just begun and we're not resting on our laurels. This year we're looking to continue to build on our success with some old favorites like Humane's Walk for the Animals, Blue Marsh Clean-Up, Pancake breakfasts, Opportunity House, and Safe Trick or Treat. And the enthusiasm from last year must be catching as we're adding, based on suggestions from you, some ongoing programs that could use more volunteers including Family Promise, Pastoral Care, and Groundskeeping, along with two new volunteer opportunities, a Stewardship skit and a Christmas Cookie event.

As we continue to build on reaching up, reaching in, and reaching out, we've also taken some time to reflect on what Stewardship at Atonement is all about. Yes, it's everything we do after we say, "We believe", but what then? With that in mind it feels like Stewardship here at our church is really about **caring** as Jesus would have us do (reach up), **commitment** to doing the best we can (reach in), and **community** to make this world a better place (reach out). So going forward, you'll see this tagline (**caring, commitment, community**), added to everything we communicate to you and everything we do. We hope you find this helpful.

So watch this newsletter, the Sunday morning slide announcements, and the bulletin for ongoing details as we navigate this exciting time together, because as we've said before, without God's help and your dedication none of this would be possible. We are so grateful for all of you.

Let's keep the momentum going! Volunteer for the events of your choice today!

Please contact any member of your Stewardship team: Cara Pepper, Bob Eisenbrown, Jill Scheidt, or Virginia Rush with questions or suggestions!

God bless us all!

Family Promise

Too many families experience homelessness. We have a great resource in Berks County called Family Promise of Berks County which helps families experiencing homelessness with a place to stay, vocational and interview skills training, job hunting, and much more, all while keeping the family together.

Family Promise is using three rental properties that shelter 3-6 families (up to 20 people). The families move on to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Staying in one place during their time with Family Promise allows families to have bedtime routines for the children and more flexible work schedules. Since the families are in houses, they have access to a kitchen. Providing grocery gift cards instills self-sufficiency and empowers the client to oversee something when much of their current situation leads them to feel powerless, while cooked meals once a week provides a welcome break during this stressful time.

Atonement plans to provide prepared meals on Mondays, and donate grocery gift cards to cover groceries for the rest of the week. For the families staying in April, we are also collecting items for Easter baskets! Online users can use the links below to sign up to help serve our Family Promise guests with delicious food, groceries and hope!

April 14 & 21, 2025 sign up <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E49A9A822A4F94-54551912-family#/</u> July 14 & 21, 2025 sign up <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E49A9A822A4F94-54552883-family#/</u>

You can also sign up at atonement wyo.org, but selecting GIVE/VOLUNTEER from the top menu, then clicking Volunteer. Scroll down to the Family Promise section for the links to the sign-up genius.



Easter Plants and World Hunger
Donors are needed for the Easter plants which will decorate our worship space for Easter. We are requesting \$10 per plant, but any amount is welcome. If you wish to order one or more plants, please use this form and return to the office no later than Palm Sunday, April 13.
As an alternate to (or in addition to) donating a plant, you are invited to make a donation to the World Hunger Appeal.
Donations will be listed in the Easter bulletin and may be made in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones. Please clearly list the names as you would like them to appear in the bulletin.
I wish to provide plants for Easter (suggested donation, \$10 each)
in loving memory of
thanksgiving for
I wish to provide a donation of \$ to the World Hunger Appeal
in loving memory of
thanksgiving for
Donation made by:
Two easy ways to pay:Check payable to Atonement with Easter Plants or World Hunger on the memo line
Scan the QR code
Atonement Book Awards for High School Seniors

Atonement is pleased once again to offer two \$1000 book awards to high school seniors who are going on to higher education. Interested seniors can find the application and filing instructions at atonementwyo.org, online readers click here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGRaw74mPWQrerBheSL6e_hgWV2jp8lkkW5y8_pjHjcM4Apg/viewform

Many thanks to Bob Hoch for his donation for these awards in memory of his wife, Gail I. Hoch.

The deadline for applications is May 1.

Pickleball

Weekly pickleball in the Atonement gym continues Sunday afternoons, 3-5 pm. We continue to welcome new players of all ages and abilities.

Join us at 3:00 pm for instructional and beginner play, more experienced players are invited to play competitively at 4:00 pm.



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

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

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 <u>MarcJ905@msn.com</u> <u>CDsbyGeddio.com</u>

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.

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. <u>pat@patkofke.com</u> 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 <u>davidmattes@remax.net</u> www.DaveMattesTeam.com

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

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.