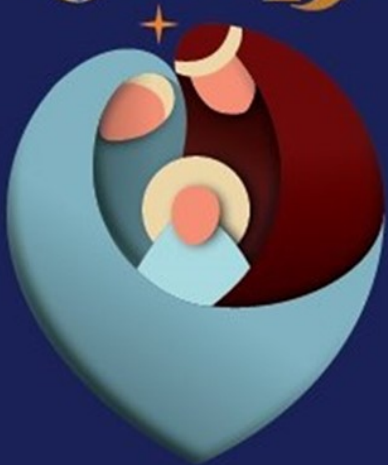


ATONEMENT IN ACTION

He Came Down



**Annual Children's
Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 22
during 10:00 am worship**

LONGEST NIGHT

Wednesday, December 18
7 pm in Lundin Hall

The Holiday season occurs in the midst of the longest, darkest, coldest time of year. In the midst of this long dark season, when all of nature seems dead and lifeless, when things are at their darkest, we look for the light of hope.



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP.

CHRISTMAS EVE:
11:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.
7:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10:00 A.M.

Service descriptions found on page 2.



Atonement Lutheran Church

5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610

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

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24 ♦ 11:00 am

Service of Holy Communion ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Children and youth participate in this family-friendly service of Holy Communion for all ages.

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24 ♦ 6:00 pm

Candlelight Service ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Family-friendly worship with children’s message, carols, and candlelight. (no communion)

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24 ♦ 7:30 pm

Candlelight Service of Holy Communion ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Traditional Christmas worship with Atonement Choir, Holy Communion, and candlelight.

The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day ♦ December 25 ♦ 10:00 am

A simple service of Word and Sacrament ♦ the Rev. John Richter

Lessons and Carols ♦ December 29 ♦ 10:00 am

Our Christmas celebration continues with a service of Lessons and Carols. (no sermon, no communion)

Worship for Remaining Sundays in December

Third Sunday of Advent ♦ December 15 ♦ 10:00 AM

the Rev. Katie Lyon

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Fourth Sunday of Advent ♦ December 22 ♦ 10:00 AM

Atonement Christmas Pageant

Children and youth lead us into the story of the first Christmas with the stable animals, the angels, the shepherds, and the Holy Family—Mary, Joseph, and the infant, Jesus. We sing the familiar carols of the season and gather around the altar to taste and see the Incarnate Christ.

First Sunday of Christmas ♦ December 29 ♦ 10:00 AM

Service of Lessons and Carols

Lectionary Readings

December 15

*Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18*

December 22

*Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45[46-55]*

December 29

*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52*



The Longest Night

Wednesday, December 18 (observed)

Lundin Hall ♦ 7:00 pm

The Holiday season occurs in the midst of the longest, darkest, coldest time of year. In the midst of this long dark season when all of nature seems dead and lifeless, when things are at their darkest, we look for the light of hope.

"A light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it."

And yet, sometimes the light of hope can seem pretty dim and the darkness very real and overwhelming.

Join us for a candlelight service designed for those who may not be feeling the happiness and joy that this season calls for. Not everyone is experiencing a holly jolly good time. For some of us, the Christmas season is more than difficult. We gather to acknowledge the pain you may be feeling, and to plead for help and hope and light from out of the darkness.

Sunday Attendance in November

	In Person	Online Views**
1st Sunday in November	204	53
2nd Sunday in November	201	78
3rd Sunday in November	216	68
4th Sunday in November	185	103
Total	806	302

** Online attendance as of December 10

Note that the church office will be closed from December 24—January 2. You may leave a message during that time, as someone will be periodically checking voicemail.

Worship for Sundays in January

Three Kings Day (observed) ♦ January 5 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Baptism of our Lord ♦ January 12 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Bear Creek Sunday ♦ January 19 ♦ 10:00 AM

Bear Creek Director Collin Grooms preaching, Pastor Tom Scornavacchi presiding
The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God’s glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan’s banks at Jesus’ baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God’s people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

Third Sunday after Epiphany ♦ January 26 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

God’s glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God’s glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

Lectionary Readings

January 5

*Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18*

January 12

*Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

January 19

*Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11*

January 26

*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21*

Annual Meeting

Please plan to join us after worship Sunday, **February 9** for a brief annual meeting.

Details will be sent out in the new year.



Usher Schedules—December & January

Sundays in December

December 15 Team 2—Kofke
December 22 Team 3—Lubitz
December 29 Team 4—Mehos

Sundays in January

January 5 Team 1—Long
January 12 Team 2—Kofke
January 19 Team 3—Lubitz
January 26 Team 4—Mehos

Christmas Eve, December 24

11:00 am Team 5—Eisenbrown
6:00 pm Youth Team
7:30 pm Team 1—Long & Team 2—Kofke

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am Team 9—Bryan

A new usher schedule for the beginning of 2025 will be emailed before the end of December. Call the office if you would like a print schedule as well as the email schedule.



Bear Creek Sunday—January 19

All ages are welcome to come for a special Bear Creek visit during the Faith Formation hour, 8:45-9:45am. This will be held in the Nave and include singing, games/activities, and information regarding camp.



From Pastor Katie

Ready or not, Jesus is coming! We have so many ways to help us slow down and remember this as we continue to make our way through Advent and greet the Christmas season. (And remember that Christmas lasts a full 12 days!)

It's never too late to begin reading our Advent devotional: Advent 2024 – Kate Bowler. You can find a link to the devotional on the homepage of atonementwyo.org, online users can click here: <https://courses.katebowler.com/courses/advent-devotional-2024/#access>

- Take time to stop and pray daily and thank God for the many blessings in our lives
- Attend the Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 22 at 10am—our children and leaders are already busy preparing to tell us their version of the Christmas story
- Christmas Eve worship at 11am, 6pm & 7:30pm
- Christmas Day worship at 10am
- A Service of Lessons & Carols—1st Sunday of Christmas, December 29 at 10am
- Three Kings Sunday—Sunday, January 5 at 10am—The Three Kings will once again be visiting and bearing gifts

And know that even if we aren't ready, Jesus will still come to us, as we are, and give us the hope that only he can bring. A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to all.

Peace and love,
Pastor Katie

Pastoral Acts

November 10

Baptism for Gabriella Rose Mercuri

November 12

Worship with Atonement residents at Phoebe Berks

November 25 & 26

Blessings for preschool Thanksgiving feasts



Adult Faith Formation

Have you ever thought about reading the entire Bible but haven't done so because it seems too overwhelming? Or perhaps you have read it in its entirety but aren't actually sure what you read or how it applies to your life. Then this is the class for you! In our Adult Faith Formation group we will be embarking on a journey of reading the entire Bible in 2025.

You can follow along online: <https://www.thebible Recap.com/start> or use to QR code to download the Bible app.



Hard copies of the readings will also be available for those in need in the narthex so you can begin your journey on January 1st as long as you have a Bible at home. If you need a Bible, we have plenty here at church... Just ask! You can also purchase: *The Bible Recap: A One-Year Guide to Reading and Understanding the Entire Bible* via Amazon to help you better understand what you are reading.

Then you are welcome to join us every Sunday morning beginning January 5 at 8:45am in room F122 to talk about what we have read the past week and how it applies to our lives.

Any questions, please see Pastor Katie.

Memorials

Music Fund

In memory of Eva Lawrence by Lyn and Martha Langkamer

Common Ground

In Memory of Faith Ann Jones by

Art and Gail Dawson-White ♦ Marian Pounder

Patricia Bressler ♦ American Legion Post 517, Phoenix, AZ



Financial Report

as of September 30, 2024

October Unrestricted Income	\$ 103,079
October Expenses	\$ 110,803
November Unrestricted Income	\$ 99,871
November Expenses	\$ 91,032
YTD Unrestricted Income	\$1,093,310
YTD Unrestricted Expenses	\$ 971,326
Mission Investment Fund Loan	\$425,318.81
Principal Payments to Date	\$269,876.33
Remaining Loan Balance	\$155,442.48

Thank you, Atonement, for your 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 or by scanning the **QR code** below with your smart phone.



If These Walls Could Talk:

A 50 Year Remembrance of Recovery at the Community Center

Friday, January 3, 6:00 pm

Help us celebrate the ways our Community Center has helped the Recovery Community. All are invited to join us on Friday, January 3 at 6pm at the Community Center. It will be a simple time of remembrance in room 4 followed by pizza in room 3.

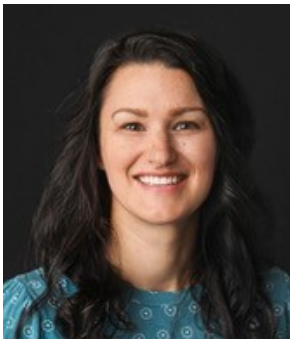
Festival Christmas Choir

- Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in choir room
- Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in choir room
- Saturday, Dec. 21 – 9:00 a.m. donuts and coffee in the narthex, 9:30-11:00 a.m. rehearsal in the nave
- Sunday, Dec. 24 – 7:00 p.m. warm up in choir room

Please come to as many rehearsals as possible, but even if you can only make one rehearsal, please fee free to join us!



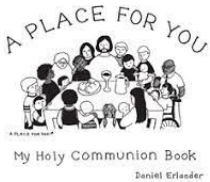
Atonement members of all ages Christmas caroling at The Highlands, Phoebe Berks, and some homebound members' homes.



From Caitlyn Marrella, Director of Children's Ministries

Advent Workshop:

On December 1st we held our Advent Workshop. We had 65 participants, who made 20 wreaths and 32 gift bags for our homebound members. Thank you to all those who donated time before, during, and after as well as those who donated greens or yummy treats. It was a fun and heart-warming event. We even had a visit from St. Nicholas!

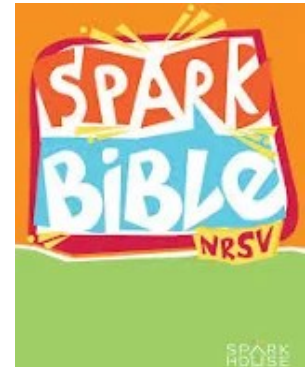


A Place at the Table:

This January, all children 2nd grade and above who would like to receive communion instruction are encouraged to participate in A Place at the Table classes. Children will learn about Jesus and his special meal, Holy Communion. We will gather Sunday, January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. On Sunday, January 26th, students will receive communion in worship at 10 a.m. Register your child by emailing me at cmarella@atonementwyo.org.

Bible Study:

This February, all children 3rd grade and above are encouraged to participate in A Bible Study. Children will read and learn to use the Bible. Bibles will be presented on February 2nd during the 10 am worship service. We will gather Sunday, February 9th, 16th, and 23rd. On Sunday, February 23rd, students will share their learning during worship. Please register your child by emailing me at cmarella@atonementwyo.org.



***Special note to mark your calendars for the Lenten Event on March 23, 8:45-9:45 am in Lundin Hall.

Attention Graduating Seniors!

Between Christmas and New Year's you will be receiving a letter from the Prayer Shawl Team here at church with information concerning a graduation gift from us. Please read it and respond with the enclosed prepaid postcard as soon as possible if you wish to receive this gift, (It takes several weeks to prepare these gifts!).

We have a deadline to return these cards by March 1st. We hope you will accept this gift and look forward to hearing from you!

Save the Date for the Annual Atonement Chili Cook-Off! February 2, 2024



Preschool News

From Jen Dauber, Preschool Director



December was a whirlwind of a month with all things Christmas! We held our annual hat and mitten collection for the Salvation Army, celebrated with family Christmas programs where the children reenacted the story of Jesus’ birth and sang songs, and ended with cookie parties and pajama days. Preschool is on Christmas break December 20-January 1.

Upon returning from the busyness of the holiday season, we look forward to quieter, calmer times where our children seem to grow and blossom in the new year. Snow, winter, and winter animals along with counting and numbers fill the month of January. Teachers will spend the month assessing our preschoolers in key areas of development including social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development in preparation for Parent-Teacher conferences at the end of the month. We look forward to sharing the students’ growth with their parents.

Registration for the 2025-26 preschool year will open February 3, 2025 for church members and current preschool families, and February 18, 2025 for the community. Preschool tours will start in January. Contact Mrs. Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org to schedule a tour and receive more information about our wonderful preschool.

The staff and students of Atonement Christian Preschool wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Let’s Right Those Bells!

This church has a wonderful music program that is missing only one thing—its Handbell Choir.

There are 5 octaves of beautiful handbells locked in a closet just waiting for someone to call them into service. We need people to ring them! All are welcome—high school through adult. If you’d like to help get these gorgeous instruments ringing again, please email Juanita Galuska (jgaluska@ptd.net) and volunteer for this exciting group. Feel free to email with any questions you may have. We need you!



Mark Your Calendars!

The Preschool Home & School Association (HSA) is planning a Family Valentine’s Day Dance for Friday, February 7, 2025, 6-8pm in Lundin Hall. All are Welcome!

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

Real Estate

Barry Ciabattoni, Realtor, CSP, GRI
Re/Max of Reading
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1290 Broadcasting Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
Cell: 610-698-2623
Office: 610-670-2770 x3242
Website: BarryCsells.com

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pat@patkofke.com
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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

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evae3018@gmail.com & eva.eisenbrown@cbrealty.com.

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MarcJ905@msn.com
CDsbyGeddio.com

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President and Project Coordinator
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Michelle@IronGateBuildersInc.com
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Facebook: Iron Gate Builders Inc.