

ATONEMENT IN ACTION



from Pastor Katie



Jesus is not here! He has left the building! That's what we heard on Easter Sunday.

Of course Jesus still shows up here at Atonement and all of those who worshipped on Easter definitely felt that. Yet Jesus challenges us to find him in other places and share his love with the whole world. At the late service, the children were given a little Jesus to take with them. Perhaps we all need a little Jesus in our pockets to remind us that we've got this and God's got us. A new supply of them is now in my office. Come say hello and grab one (or two so you can share one with someone who might need a little extra Jesus in their lives)! Pastor Molly will be right next door, as she is sharing Dr. Ken Lord's office. Introduce yourself to her and tell her what you're most excited about here at Atonement. And look for times this summer to meet up with her at church or a friend's house for food and conversation. Exciting things continue to happen in and around Atonement! Thank you, Jesus!

Peace and love,
Pastor Katie

Vacation Bible School

June 15—June 19 ♦ 9-11:30am

VBS signups are open for ages 3 through 5th grade. You may find them at atonementwyo.org (select MINISTRIES ▼ then Children/Youth from the top menu), or email Miss Lauryn at llacis@atonementwyo.org. Online readers can click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5Dr1dIXkyLNoLCHopiTMOmOlQXE8p4oTJeEzRLCt-Oj2J6g/viewform>

This year's program is *At the Table*, from ELCA World Hunger.



Participants in Good Friday Youth Drama

5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610
610-375-3512

Worship for Upcoming Sundays

Day of Pentecost ♦ May 24 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ the Rev. Molly Haggerty
High School Senior Afghan Presentation

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

The Holy Trinity ♦ May 31 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Time after Pentecost ♦ June 7 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ the Rev. Molly Haggerty

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

Time after Pentecost ♦ June 14 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world.

From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

VBS Sunday ♦ June 21 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ the Rev. Molly Haggerty

This year our Vacation Bible School comes from our companion ministry, ELCA World Hunger, with the theme "At the Table." The phrase "at the table" comes from a story in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35), in which the resurrected Jesus appears to two followers traveling on a road to the town Emmaus. They don't recognize him at first, but after sharing stories together, the two disciples invite him to share a meal together, and they finally recognize him as he breaks bread with them. So much of this story—from the vulnerability shown to others, to the willingness to listen and tell one's own story, to revelation of God around a meal—resonates with ELCA World Hunger's dedication to advocacy for hungry people around the world.

Time after Pentecost ♦ June 28 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Lectionary Readings

May 24

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 John 20:19-23

May 31

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
 Psalm 8
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
 Matthew 28:16-20

June 7

Hosea 5:15-6:6
 Psalm 50:7-15
 Romans 4:13-25
 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14

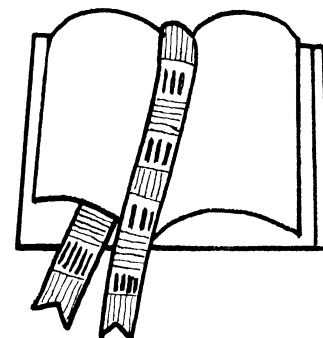
Exodus 19:2-8a
 Psalm 100
 Romans 5:1-8
 Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23]

June 21

Jeremiah 20:7-13
 Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
 Romans 6:1b-11
 Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Jeremiah 28:5-9
 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
 Romans 6:12-23
 Matthew 10:40-42



Welcome, Pastor Molly Haggerty, Transition Pastor of Community Engagement



Molly Haggerty has served as a Pastor and Deacon in the ELCA in PA and WI since 2009. She has worked in children, youth, and family ministries for 30 years along with Disability Advocacy. She brings with her years of experience in small group ministries, focusing on healing, grief/loss, and trauma issues.

“I am so excited to join the Atonement community! There is such a sense of peace when entering the building - it is such an invitation to be a part of the ministries. It really feels like come as you are, share Christ’s story, and be community together. We can listen and dream together on ways the Spirit is moving us into community engagement.”

Molly is a self-taught artist who enjoys camping, reading, and going on adventures with her adult children and their partners. We heal through laughter, learning, and loving deeply.

Financial Corner As of March 31, 2026

General Fund – “Reach IN”

The General Fund provides funding for all of the on-going routine activities of the church.

Year-to-Date Results:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$124,144	\$108,053	\$16,091	\$1,241,900
Expenses	(\$102,328)	(\$110,410)	\$8,082	\$1,241,900
Net Income (Loss)	\$21,816	(\$2,357)	\$24,173	\$0

Timing of preschool tuition, as well as no major capital, preschool playground or snow removal expenses recorded yet for the year.

Mortgage Balance: \$0

Mission Endowment Fund – “Reach OUT”

The Mission Endowment Fund provides funding to support mission outreach to the congregation and the broader community.

Endowment Fund Balance:

Schwab	\$1,862,855
Mission Investment Fund CD	\$126,481
Total	\$1,989,336

Types of Gifts and Assets Accepted:

There are many different ways to give to Atonement and we would be glad to provide guidance on what types of gifts and assets are accepted. Please reach out to the church office if you have any questions.



The burning of the mortgage during worship Sunday, April 26

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** to the right.



Memorials

Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

In memory of Dorothy Leas by
Mike & Patti Brown

In memory of Barbara Fischer by
Margaret Brass

In memory of Art White by
Jo Sturgis

In memory of Rodger Krause by
Jo Sturgis
Robert & Susan Heidenreich
Linda L. Reedy
Timothy R. Luigard

In memory of Shirley Becker by
Atonement Prayer Team

In memory of Diane Norris by
Neal & Kerry Noris

Music Fund

In memory of Diane Norris by
Neal & Kerry Noris

Endowment Fund

In memory of Shirley Becker by
Jo Sturgis

Mission Endowment Fund

In memory of Dorothy (Dottie) Hill by
Steve and Mary Ging
Daniel Kimball
Edna Yates
Heidi Herron
Linda L. Reedy
Linda and Ken Lord
Beth and Gary Sova
David & Jan Knudsen
Raymond Stocker
John Stephenson
Robert & Nancy Blackson
Diana Mitchell
Jean Valerio
Dawn Reiter
Marian E. Pounder
Vicki L. Espinoza
Jeffrey S. Gumpert
Kristina H. Smith
Judy & Mike Wentzel
Suzanne Romig
Bruce & MaryAnn Hoffman

Mission Endowment Fund

In memory of Vivian Smith by
Deborah Marziano
Barbara Bahr
Dr. Linda J. Lemmon
Dick and Janice Keifer
Joanne M. Wagner
Don & Barbie Brandt
Barbara & Steven Hollar
Susan Conrad
Margaret & Gary Daniel
Sheldon Langsam & Karen
Chasen
Nan and Alan Krichinsky

Thank You from Sharon Stoner

Dear Congregation,
Thank you for the beautiful get well cards and flowers. I miss all of you. Can't wait to see you again! Blessings,
Sharon

Afghans for High School Seniors

Senior afghans will be distributed during worship Sunday, May 24. We look forward to this long-standing Atonement tradition, and pray for all students as they begin new chapters in their lives.

Sunday Attendance in April

	In Person	Online Views**
1st Sunday in April [‡] , 9am	220	67
1st Sunday in April [‡] , 10:30am	318	94
2nd Sunday in April [↗]	383	103
4th Sunday in April	164	92
5th Sunday in April	209	83
Total	1,294	439

[‡] April 5, Easter Sunday
[↗] April 11, Preschool Sunday

** Online attendance as of May 17, 2026. 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.

Please help us to keep our records accurate by signing the attendance sheet found in the pews every week that you are here!

Usher Schedule

May 24	Team 8—Woerle
May 31	Team 9—Bryan
June 7	Youth Team
June 14	Team 2—Kofke
June 21	Team 3—Lubitz
June 28	Team 4—Mehos

New ushers are always welcomed!

All adults and youth in 7th grade and older can be part of our teams! This is a great way for younger youth to volunteer and gain leadership experience!

Email cshirk@atonementwyo.org if you would like to be added to an usher team or have any questions.

Preschool News from Jen Dauber, Preschool Director



During the month of April, the classes learned about farm animals, ecology, insects, and flowers. We held our annual Trike-a-Thon for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the children brought in coins for our “Coins for Kids” collection. The Naturalist class learned about the water cycle with a hands-on presentation by Berks Conservation. Mrs. Dauber started a small group for families with autistic children to help build connections and support one another in their journey. April ended with the arrival of baby chicks.

In May, we focused on our mommies, sea animals in the ocean, and summer fun! The classes spent time making special gifts and learning songs for their moms. We hosted Mother’s Day Celebrations the week of May 4. Naturalists explored Rock Hollow Woods Environmental Center for their end of year field trip. The preschool classes end on May 20 and 21. We will hold graduation in the church for the fours and PreK classes on the morning of May 22. The staff will be recognized for their hard work and dedication with a luncheon catered by Crave Café before the Memorial Day weekend. I can’t believe how quickly the school year has flown by!

Playground Surfacing Project Update

As I shared in previous correspondences, during the DHS licensing process, we were made aware that the mulch currently on the playground is a choking hazard for our students under three. We have decided to replace the mulch with pour-in-place rubber which will be installed before the 2026-27 school year. The project will cost around \$38,000. To help with the cost of the project, we have been fundraising in various ways. We have received monetary donations from preschool families, past and present, and church members. We have held basket raffles, pretzel sale, and Chick-fil-A Day. As of May 12, we have raised about \$26,000. Our fundraiser efforts continue in May with more pretzel sales and Yogo Crazy day on May 20. We greatly appreciate everyone’s support as we fundraise and install a new playground surface, so our playground is accessible for all students.

Enrollment Update for 2026-27

We have 146 students enrolled with some students enrolled in multiple classes for a total of 194 spaces filled. We still have availability in:

- Together Time for children 18-30 months by Sept. 1 and a caregiver on Wednesdays 9:00-10:15
- Younger Toddlers for children 2 yrs. old by Sept. 1 on Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:15-11:30



Preschool Sunday, April 12



from Lauryn Lacy, Director of Children's Ministry

Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation classes have ended and will resume in the fall. We are continuing to add more adult leaders and teen helpers for instruction. If you are interested in volunteering 1-2 hours per month, please contact me directly at llacy@atonementwyo.org.

Collin Grooms with Bear Creek Camp lead Faith Formation on April 19. Kids and adults participated in games and talked about the importance of connection, faith, and creation in nature. We can't wait to have him back again next year!

Nursery

During the 10am service preschool age children and younger are supervised in F126. The last day for nursery is June 14, and will resume in the fall.

Chapel Time:

During 10am service, children aged 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

Vacation Bible School

VBS will take place Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19 from 9-11:30am. Signups are open for ages 3 through 5th grade. You may find them online or you may reach out to me directly for the link. This year's program is "At the Table", from ELCA World Hunger.

Looking for Summer Camp for your Preschooler?

We have openings for 3-5-year-olds!

Contact Jen Dauber
for more information.

jdauber@atonementwyo.org or

610-375-8049

**PRESCHOOL
SUMMER
CAMPS**



CAMP DATES & THEMES

JUNE 22-26 - SPORTS WEEK

JULY 6-10 - WILD WILD WEST

JULY 20-24 - AROUND THE WORLD

AUGUST 3-7 - DOWN ON THE FARM

AUGUST 3-7 KINDERGARTEN KICKSTART

REGISTER ONLINE!

WWW.ATONEMENTWYO.ORG

These Arms

We hold children with the same arms
We reach out offering peace, hope, food and warm compassion
We choose what we hold dear
What we hold close
When we're sincere

There are so many opportunities
to be bitter and cold
To create foundations for regrets
Never forget
The same arms that build can easily destroy
When they embrace emptiness
Selfish indifference

We hold our dreams with the same arms
We reach out offering
weakness and strength
Willingness to share every ounce
Every inch of humanity
To live joyously content free to be
Heart mind and soul
Appreciating Mercy and Grace
And the greatest wealth they allow and represent

There is plenty of room at the table
All are welcome to participate
There is no need to feel desperate deluded excluded
Superior inferior unworthy denied
All are welcome inside
Forget your shame and pride and enter
Hope, Love, Joy and Peace are at the center

Naimon Lyons

Community Center Update from Council Member Kate Harenza

As you know, over the past two years, Council has been working hard to discern what good stewardship of the Community Center property looks like. As we have shared in prior newsletter articles and congregation meetings, the building is in need of significant and costly improvements. Council has unanimously agreed that it would not be good stewardship of our assets to invest further in the building. It was after great prayer and collective discernment that we made the difficult decision to ask the recovery groups who were using the building to relocate last year. We have been unable to identify any use of the building that would support our mission which would be remotely affordable for us. Therefore, Council decided to investigate the possibility of subdividing the property and listing it for sale.

When we requested approval of the subdivision, that approval was denied, as the borough (like our Congregation Council) is interested in knowing what the ultimate use of the property might be. We can only determine that by searching for an interested buyer and understanding their proposed use for the building. If an appropriate buyer comes forward, we would need to accompany that buyer in seeking the necessary approvals from the borough. Therefore, Council unanimously agreed to list the property for sale. If a buyer is identified, we would not be obligated to sell the property until we had an acceptable agreement of sale. This sale would also need to be approved by the congregation at a congregational meeting.

If our subdivision request is successful, the boundary for the new parcel would be drawn at the top of the existing bank that borders our back parking lot. With the help of engineers, a commercial realtor, and an attorney, we have had the property rezoned from residential to what is called TC-1. That allows the property to be used for limited residential/office purposes by a new owner. The property could be used for a single-family dwelling or put to municipal use. Other uses allowed with borough approval would be: a financial institution; a business, professional or governmental office; two dwellings above an office; or a two-family dwelling.

Please know that your Congregation Council has given this matter careful consideration and prayer over several years. We are trying hard to be good stewards of what God has provided for us, and we trust that God is with us and guiding us as we move forward in the future and adapt to changes and decisions over which we sometimes have little control. We have carefully considered the various points of view raised in our latest congregation meeting on this topic and continue to be available to receive any concerns or questions. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact any member of Council or Pastor Katie.

2026 Congregational Council

Class of 2024:

Robin Border ♦ Scott Boyer ♦ John Lehr

Class of 2025:

Robert Bailey ♦ Emily Garl ♦ Jeff Good ♦ Kate Harenza ♦ Henry Turner

Class of 2026:

Amelia Eastman, youth representative ♦ Tyler Good ♦ Dave Hershey ♦ Jacqueline Lepera ♦ Jennifer Nied

Tyler Good, *president* ♦ Jeff Good, *vice president* ♦ Kate Harenza, *treasurer* ♦ Henry Turner, *secretary*

The council meets the third Monday each month.

Pastoral Acts— March & April 2026

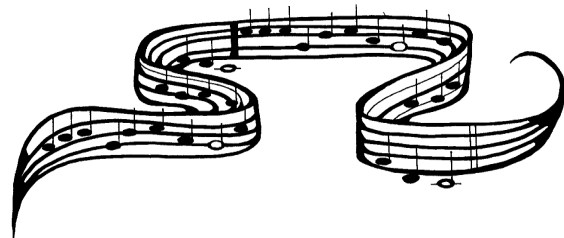
Funeral for Vivian Smith
March 21

Funeral for Annamae Shirk
April 24

Pray at Family Promise Breakfast
April 25

Staff Update

Beginning January 1, 2027, Deacon Tom will be going part-time here at Atonement. All Sunday morning duties will remain the same. What a blessing he continues to feel called to serve us!



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

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.
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MarcJ905@msn.com
CDsbyGeddio.com

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Facebook: Iron Gate Builders Inc.

Attorneys

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Re/Max of Reading
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Office: 610-670-2770 x3242
Website: BarryCsells.com

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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.
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www.DaveMattesTeam.com

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