

ATONEMENT IN ACTION

From Pastor Katie

We asked you, the congregation of Atonement, to tell us the top 5 values of Atonement at this time. You were to choose from a list of 20 values that various small groups had narrowed down from a deck of 52! The top five values you chose were: caring, community, music, serving and welcoming. These values are what we focus on right now in 2024.



To take it a step further we want to now ask: but what does God call us to do? God, through Scripture, tells us to love God and love our neighbor. God calls us to love like Jesus. We are to care for the orphan, the widow and the stranger. We are to be salt and light. We are to go into the world, go everywhere and announce the message of God's good news to everyone. We are to forgive as God forgives us. We are to share each other's burdens.

So based on our list of top 5 values, is anything missing now that we hear God's call? The youth who were confirmed on October 27th and those in confirmation class added in love, diversity, hospitality, discipleship and activism. God calls us to make a joyful noise yet the youth didn't feel music should be a top value. However they did recognize that music is important, because it enhances our call to love and serve others. Music keeps us grounded in our faith and reminds us of what matters.

Look for a new survey coming out where you will help us come up with our top 5 values to lean into in the coming years, taking into account what God calls us to do! Some may be the same as the top 5 that we already established. Yet we know that everything we do must be grounded in the call to love God and love neighbor.

Peace and love,
Pastor Katie

Confirmation

On Sunday, October 27, 10 young people affirmed their baptisms in worship. Please continue to pray for these teens as they continue to live out their baptismal calling as members of the Body of Christ.



*Back row: Deacon Tom, Shannon Bratton, Maya Lowell, Piper Lynch, , Kyleigh McCrae, Lauren Gentry,
Front row: Charlie Rogers, Sydney Adams, Nora Pflomm, Sierra Lowell, Ryan Baker, Pastor Katie*

Atonement Lutheran Church

5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610

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

Worship for Sundays in November

All Saints Sunday ♦ November 3 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Time After Pentecost ♦ November 10 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

Stewardship Sunday ♦ November 17 ♦ 10:00 AM the Rev. Katie Lyon

When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Christ the King ♦ November 24 ♦ 10:00 AM

the Rev. Mark Christy, presiding ♦ Seminarian April Mulvey, preaching

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

Lectionary Readings for the Sundays of November

November 3

*Revelation 21:1-6a
Psalm 24
John 11:32-44*

November 10

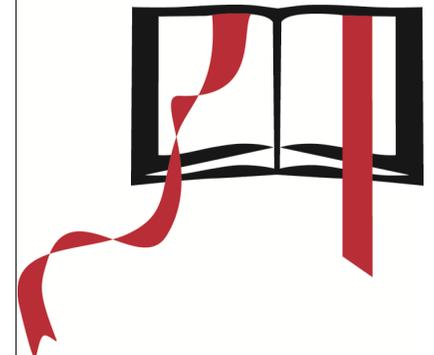
*1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 24
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44*

November 17

*Psalm 96:1-9
Mark 12:13-17*

November 24

*Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelations 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37*



Sunday Attendance in October

	In Person	Online Views**
1st Sunday in October	180	52
2nd Sunday in October	166	46
3rd Sunday in October	191	47
4th Sunday in October	291	39
Total	828	184

** Online attendance as of October 28.

Online services are always available to watch the day after they are live streamed, and remain available for re-watching! Click the LIVE STREAM button on the home page of www.atonementwoyo.org.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22, 7:00 pm

As has been our tradition for many years, Atonement will join with Common Ground Recovery Community to celebrate Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 pm in Lundin Hall. We gather together to give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received.

If you would like to participate in the service, meet in the nave at 6:30 to learn simple music to lead in the 7:00 pm worship.

All are welcome!

Note that the office will be closed Thursday, November 28 through Monday, December 2 for the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have a pastoral need during that time you may leave a message at the office.



Worship for Sundays in December

First Sunday of Advent ♦ December 1 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Second Sunday of Advent ♦ December 8 ♦ 10:00 AM
the Rev. Katie Lyon

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

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 for the
 Sundays of
 December**

December 1
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 8
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

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

Usher Schedules—November & December

Sundays in November

November 3 Team 4—Mehos
 November 10 Team 5—Eisenbrown
 November 17 Team 8—Woerle
 November 24 Team 9—Bryan

Email reminders will be sent the week prior to the scheduled Sunday, along with a request to let your head usher know your availability for that Sunday. Ushers are asked to arrive around 9:30 am for a 10:00 am service.

Sundays in December

December 1 Youth Team
 December 8 Team 1—Long
 December 15 Team 2—Kofke
 December 22 Team 3—Lubitz
 December 29 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

New ushers are always welcomed!

If you or anyone you know would like to be added to an usher team, please email Crystal at cshirk@atonementwyo.org. The commitment is about one Sunday every two months. Youth in grades 7 and older are invited to join our youth team, or to join a team with their parents.

From the Deacon



Buckle up, everyone! The next two months are going to be a wild ride at Atonement! Our worship is jam-packed with festivals, music, guests, and special events. Let's take a look:

- Nov. 3 – We celebrate All Saints Sunday, remembering especially those who have died in the past 12 months. Our newly restarted Children's Choir will help lead lively music.
- Nov. 10 – A baptism and a guest organist
- Nov. 17 – Stewardship Sunday with spirited music led by Atonement Choir
- Nov. 24 – Christ the King Sunday with liturgical dance and our seminarian April Mulvey preaching
- Dec. 1 – Advent begins with Advent Event before worship and Impromptu Choir during worship
- Dec. 8 – Advent continues with Atonement Praise Band
- Dec. 15 – Advent worship
- Dec. 22 – Christmas Pageant featuring children in our Faith Formation program
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve services at 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 25 – Christmas morning worship with John Richter preaching
- Dec. 29 – Our Christmas celebration continues with a service of Lessons and Carols (no sermon, no communion)

Whew! So many reasons to celebrate! I hope you'll be with us throughout the season!

Peace,
Deacon Tom

Two Holiday Concerts at Atonement

Sunday, November 24, 4:00 p.m.

Berks Youth Chorus

Visit www.berksyouthchorus.org for tickets and more information.

Saturday, December 14, 3:00 p.m.

Wheatland Chorale – Angels Rejoice

Visit www.wheatlandchorale.org for tickets and more information.

Impromptu Choir

We held our first "Impromptu Choir" Sunday on October 20, and 24 singers participated! With such a great response, we are inviting all singers to another "Impromptu Choir" on Sunday, December 1. Come to the choir loft at 9:00 a.m. for rehearsal and sing in Advent worship at 10:00 a.m.! (This event overlaps with the Advent Event in Lundin Hall. If you would like to make an home Advent wreath and still sing with the choir, you can pick up a kit with everything you need that morning.)

Children's Choir

A brand-new, reorganized Children's Choir is rehearsing most Sundays after worship, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the choir room. The group is open to all children from Kindergarten through Grade 6. So far we have six children attending regularly. We'd love to expand and have your child(ren) join us! We sing for the first time in worship on Sunday, November 3 for All Saints Sunday. Don't miss us processing down the aisle while singing "When the Saints Go Marching In"! We will sing again on Christmas Eve at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. For more information, contact Deacon Tom (610-310-2190).

Festival Christmas Choir

Our annual Festival Christmas Choir is open to all teens and adults, and sings in worship at 7:30 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service! Here is a rehearsal schedule:

Thursday, December 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the choir room

Thursday, December 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the choir room

Saturday, December 21, 9:30 a.m. refreshments in the narthex

The more, the merrier! For more information, contact Deacon Tom (610-301-2190).

Here We Come A-Caroling!

Sunday, December 8

3:45 p.m. - Meet in the narthex for organizing into groups and vocal warm-up

4:00-6:00 p.m. – Carol and bring some Christmas cheer to some of our oldest members

All ages are welcome – please sign up at atonementwyo.org, then click MINISTRIES—Choir/Instrumental Music

Christmas Worship Schedule

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.

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
the Rev. John Richter

A simple service of Word and Sacrament.

Lessons and Carols ♦ December 29 ♦ 10:00 am

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

Financial Report

as of September 30, 2024

September Unrestricted Income	\$ 84,044
September Expenses	\$ 77,104
YTD Unrestricted Income	\$890,360
YTD Unrestricted Expenses	\$769,491
Mission Investment Fund Loan	\$425,318.81
Principal Payments to Date	\$266,506.45
Remaining Loan Balance	\$158,812.36

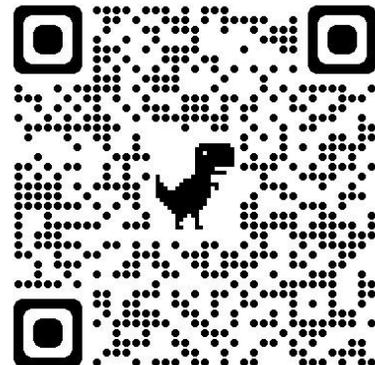
Thank you, Atonement, for your generosity!

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.



Greens Needed

We are seeking donations of greens of all kinds to be used to make Advent wreaths for our Advent Event on December 1 (see details on page 8). Collection will take place the week of November 24-29; drop off anytime convenient for you. Location for drop off will be in the back corner of church parking lot closest to church (along back of stairwell at side church doors). Boxwood, holly, pines of any type, are among the many greens we will accept, in smaller sized clippings, please.

Stewardship Corner

2024 Year-End REACH OUT! Recap

What a year it's been! From beginning to end Atonement members, YOU have answered the Reach Out call. And your stewardship team and church leaders are so grateful for all that you've done. We are truly blessed!

Among the many calls to date that you answered: Chili cookoff, Walk for the Animals, Blue Marsh clean up, Wyomissing parade, Opportunity House, pancake breakfasts (where the money raised went towards the youth gathering and Lutheran world hunger), and West Reading Fall Fest.

But we're not done reaching out. By the time you read this, the Trick or Treat program partnering with Atonement preschool will have taken place on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to noon here at Atonement with donations having come from local vendors as well as members of the congregation.

And Stewardship Sunday, November 17, is just around corner where we ask you to prayerfully reflect on your many blessings as you consider what financial support you can provide so that Atonement can continue its ministry to all of us as well as our community.

As we close out 2024, please know that your team, with God's help and your dedication, will continue to explore ways to Reach Out to our community in 2025. Let's keep the momentum going!

Please contact Cara Pepper or Bob Eisenbrown with questions or suggestions for next year!

God bless us all!



Preschool News

From Jen Dauber, Preschool Director



October Recap

- Fall Open House was well attended!
- Wyomissing Fire Department fire truck visited preschool and we visited the fire station for Fire Safety week.
- We had our first gym classes with Mrs. T and chapel with church staff.
- Community Trick or Treating was a fun family-friendly morning!
- We wrapped up the month with Halloween costume parades and in-class celebrations.

What is coming in November?

- Lessons on nutrition and being healthy, gratefulness and Thanksgiving.
- Meal PopUp Fundraiser with Vincenzo's on Thurs. Nov. 7
- PreK field trip to the Reading Public Museum (Native American, animal habitats and Dinosaur Train exhibits).
- In-class Thanksgiving Feasts.

Looking ahead to December

- Classes will hear the Nativity Story, learn carols, and make gifts for our parents.
- Naturalist class will examine poinsettias, evergreens, and reindeer.
- PreK classes will explore Christmas around the World in Explorer Enrichment.
- We will collect donations of hats and mittens to give to the Salvation Army for our December service project.
- Christmas Celebrations
 - The children will reenact the story of Jesus' birth during Family Chapel services on December 18 for MWF 3's & 4's and December 19 for TTh 3's & PreK classes
 - The PM 4's class will sing songs for their families on December 18.
 - The toddler classes will sing carols in their classrooms that teachers will record and share with parents.

Happy Holidays from the students and staff of Atonement Christian Preschool!





From Caitlyn Marrella, Director of Children's Ministries

Preschool Chapel

Starting this month, preschool classes visited the Nave for Preschool Chapel. Deacon Tom led us in three songs, we read and talked about a story from the Bible, and said a prayer.



This year we are focusing on the colors of the Bible. This month we talked about our blue and green Earth God created with the Story of Creation.

Faith Formation Hour (Sunday 8:45-9:45)

Our Faith Formation children continue to learn and grow each Sunday morning from 8:45a.m. – 9:45a.m. We all gather in the choir room for songs, a message, and prayers before heading to our classrooms. This year our Gathering is focused on learning about the Church Year as well as looking for God Moments in our present day lives.

Looking ahead...During the Advent Season the children will be creating Homeless Care Packages. These care packages will include:

- Resource list of free meals
- Homemade craft
- Bottle of water
- Socks
- Gloves
- Granola bar
- Packet of tuna
- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Small first aid kit

I have received an overwhelming response to my request for monetary donations to support this endeavor. Please check with Crystal or myself if you are still interested in donating. Thank you!

Save the date! Join us on **Sunday, December 1st** during the Faith Formation hour (8:45 – 9:45 a.m.) in Lundin Hall for our Advent Workshop. You can expect: Advent Wreath making, Service Projects for our Homebound Members, Edible Manger making and eating, fellowship, and lots of FUN!

**MEAL
POPUP do it LOCAL
FUNDRAISER**

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**Atonement Christian
Preschool Fundraiser**

**Thursday, November 7th
Pick up time: 5:30pm-5:45pm**

Orders Due by Wed 11/6 by 9:00pm

Details & easy online ordering
available at **MealPopUp.com**

Lauer's Park Elementary School Donation from Sharon Calder

I suppose that some of you were wondering about how our Angel Tree Books got to Lauer's Park Elementary this year. Usually, I give our check personally to the school librarian, but the check accidentally went out directly to the school. The principal didn't get around to OK-ing the purchases until late in the spring, so the librarian didn't get her order in until late summer. The books just arrived a couple weeks ago, and I visited her and a first grade class to take pictures last week.

Here they are - a group of extremely excited 1st graders with the 75 hard-cover library books that our \$1145 bought. The librarian, Marie Mengel, was so very thankful for our donation, especially since many of the Reading Schools have smaller funding for books than other schools in the area.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree for books. We are now in our 12th year of providing this service. Thanks, so much, Atonement!!



To the Congregation at
Atonement Lutheran Church
Lauer's Park Elementary would
like to thank you for your very generous
donation to the school library. It
takes a village and your kindness was
so appreciative. Funds are not always
easy to come by -and this was helpful
and lovely. Thank you! L.P. Library!



2024 Library donations will be for 16th and Haak Elementary. A box for checks written to Atonement with LIBRARY DONATION in the memo will be with the Angel Tree in December.

Atonement Angel Tree

Beginning December 1, we will once again collect gifts for infants and toddlers in the Berks County Teen Parent Program. Names will be available both at the tree in the narthex and online. Names will include an Atonement-assigned number, and the sex, age, and size of the child. Please wrap gifts and include a gift tag with the child's name and number. There will be a sign-in sheet to mark when you return the gift.

He Came Down!

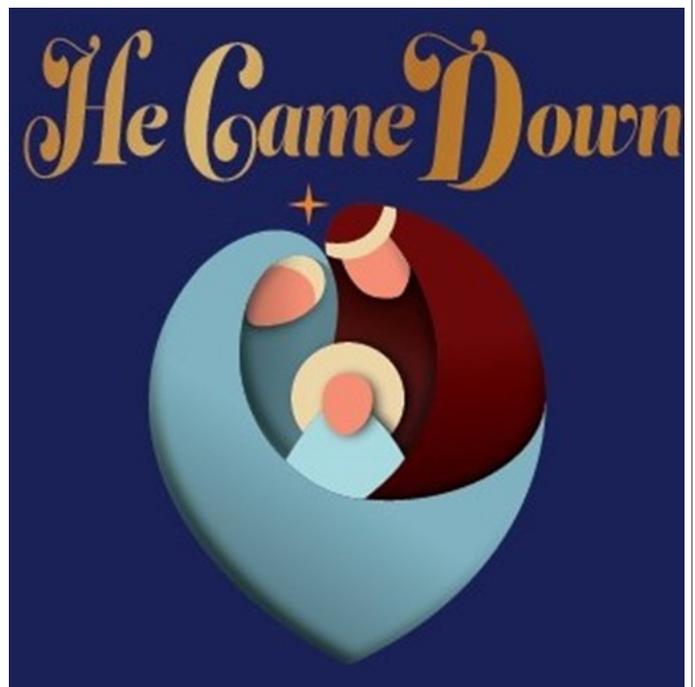
**Annual Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 22, 10:00 a.m.**

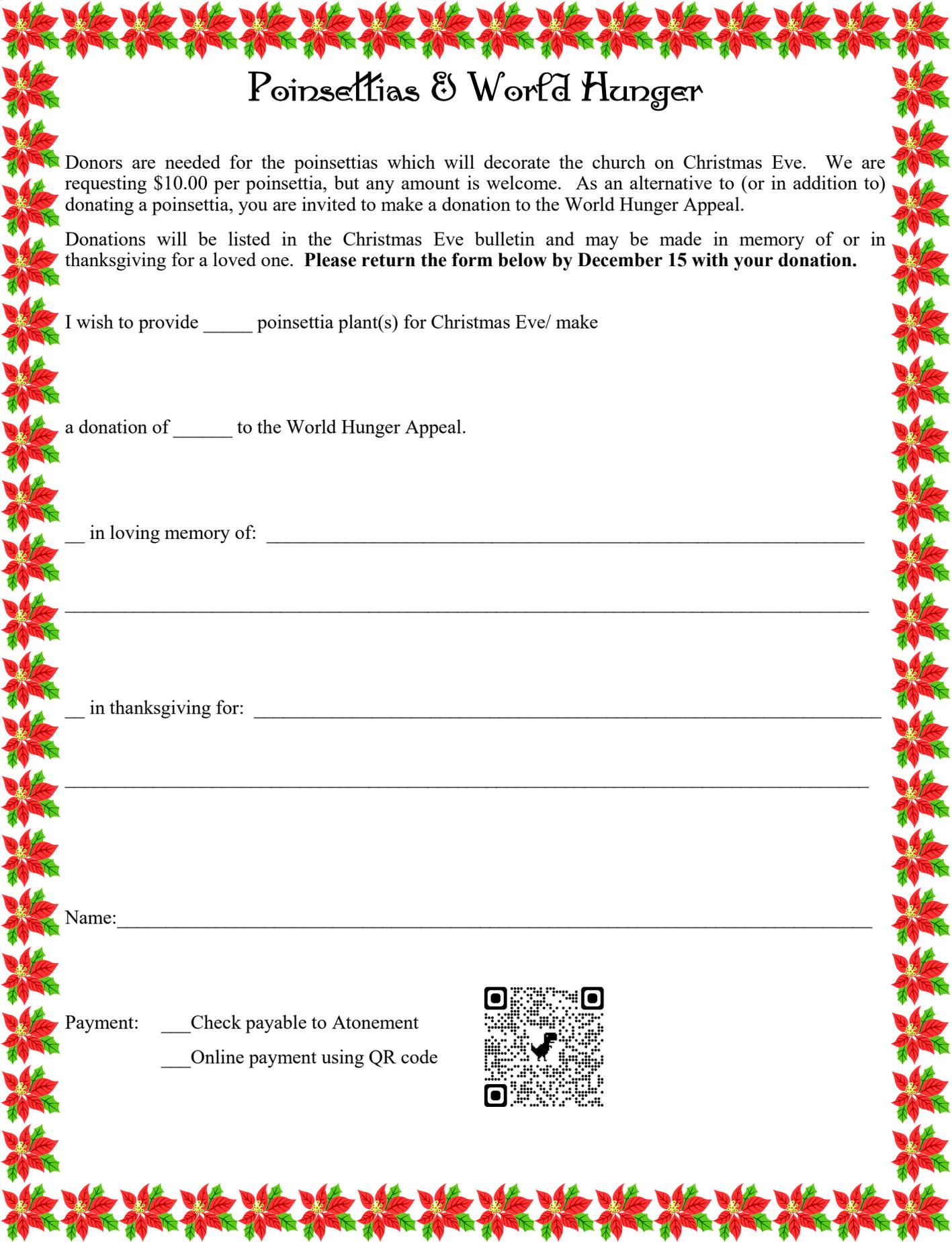
Our Faith Formation children and teens retell the familiar Christmas story with music, costumes, and a Christmas tableau.

Rehearsals: Sundays during Faith Formation,
8:45-9:45 a.m. – December 8, 15 and 22.

All children and youth
are invited to participate!

See Deacon Tom or Miss Caitlyn
for more details!





Poinsettias & World Hunger

Donors are needed for the poinsettias which will decorate the church on Christmas Eve. We are requesting \$10.00 per poinsettia, but any amount is welcome. As an alternative to (or in addition to) donating a poinsettia, you are invited to make a donation to the World Hunger Appeal.

Donations will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin and may be made in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one. **Please return the form below by December 15 with your donation.**

I wish to provide _____ poinsettia plant(s) for Christmas Eve/ make

a donation of _____ to the World Hunger Appeal.

_____ in loving memory of: _____

_____ in thanksgiving for: _____

Name: _____

Payment: _____ Check payable to Atonement
_____ Online payment using QR code



Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

Atonement Lutheran Church has been paired with Bethany Lutheran Church, on Franklin Street in West Reading, for four years now, with about a half dozen of us volunteering there at their food pantry twice a month - once for delivery of food from Helping Harvest, and then again to disperse the food to those people who frequent the pantry on a monthly basis.

The Pantry has been there for decades, in the basement of Bethany, in what used to be their fellowship hall. For the past 20 years, two women from Bethany have coordinated it, ordered food from Helping Harvest, put it on shelving, bought extra food if needed from Bethany's funds, cleaned the freezers, and checked in everyone who visits the pantry on distribution day. These two women are ready to pass the wand to another one or two people who feel "called" to do work with the people who frequent these pantries.

When I started at the Pantry, it was the start of the COVID summer. At that time, they were providing food for around 40-50 families who came to shop in a parking lot close to the church. For the past 3 months, we have seen a huge increase in our shoppers. The last 3 pantries have provided food for 70-80 families, and our food is literally cleaned out when we are done. This is a ministry that is VITAL to the lives of so many people who live in West Reading. They have depended on this community food pantry - rain or shine, summer or winter. These are families with children, some living with 2-3 "households" in the same apartment, retirees, working men and women, or the disabled. They rely on the meat, cereal, and canned goods that we provide. If the pantry shuts down because of staffing issues, they will have to travel much further to get food for their family.

Bethany will still provide the space and the money for food, but no one in their congregation can help. Their usual attendance on Sunday is around 25 people. I am asking Atonement, because of our larger congregation, if someone can take this issue to heart, and help Bethany to continue to service this vital resource to their neighborhood. The pantry will be closing its doors at the end of December, this year, if no one steps up to help.

Please call me or Pastor Katie if you feel a calling to do God's work, and be the new coordinators for this very important mission. You will not regret it.

Thank you.
Sharon Calder



Groundskeeping Team – Year End Report

2024 was another successful year, our fourth, for our volunteer grounds team. Twenty or more volunteers alternated weeks to cut grass, weedwhack, trim, weed, prune, cut and remove plants and trees, plant, trim hedges, fertilize, sweep, power blow, and this year remove acorns. We faced challenges of weather, plant disease, leaves, and equipment operation, but overcame them with the blessings of God and the help of resourceful volunteer members.

This year we mulched the playground lot, removed invasive plant species, and lost a tree. Next year we will mulch the beds early in Spring. We did hire an outside tree service for major pruning.

Our volunteer staff is well represented by experienced gardeners, young and old, female and male, and new members! Our equipment is well maintained and enables us to complete the tasks to beautify our property.

I would like to extend an invitation for new volunteers as some of the team become less physically able to dedicate the time for this ministry. Contact the church office or me if you feel called to help.

It has been estimated we save our budget over \$30,000 in expenses which can be used for helping others in need.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have participated in this groundskeeping effort. Peace!

Respectfully submitted,
John Lehr

CROP Walk

THANKS to all who came out and made this year's CROP walk fantastic by walking, by helping before walking to write advocacy letters, by bringing a non-perishable food item for Helping Harvest, or by helping financially to make CWS emergency kits for Hurricane Helene disaster relief.

Thank you for eating at Isaac's in September during that fundraiser, too.

Everyone was awesome this year!!!



This year's team of 20 Atonement walkers raised \$1,270.78 . Thank you to all who walked or donated!

Community Center Update

Atonement's Council has come to the difficult decision that we can no longer invest in the maintenance or rehabilitation of the Community Center. What makes this decision particularly painful for us is that we know that the Community Center has served as an important place of refuge, healing and community for members of Berks County's recovery community for decades. For many years, we have committed significant resources to the building in order to support the recovery community because we believe that the higher power we call God is present and at work in the 12-step recovery process. The building will close on January 5, 2025. All leaders of meetings have been notified and we have provided contact information for five local churches and EDI in Leesport that can offer alternate meeting spaces.. We held two listening sessions for the recovery community which were well attended. Several members of the recovery community expressed gratitude to Atonement for providing safe meeting space for more than fifty years.

Please note that this does not affect Common Ground. Common Ground is a separate worshiping community that meets in Lundin Hall. They will continue to meet every Wednesday for worship at 7pm, to hold their monthly coffeehouse on the third Friday of every month, to sponsor their Speaker Series in the nave, and to offer small groups and other events.

We do not have any plans yet as to what we will do with the property on which the building is located. We do not intend to renovate the building for any other purpose. A subcommittee has already been formed to discern what God might have in mind for the use of the property as we look for ways to continue to love our neighbors and support the recovery community and the wider community. We will also be planning a closing ceremony to honor the sacredness of that space. More details to follow.

Please reach out to Council President, Kate Harenza or Pastor Katie if you have any further questions. Also continue to pray for all those deeply affected by this decision. May we remember that God is with us through it all.

Pastoral Acts

October 3
Funeral for FaithAnn Jones

October 20
New Member Welcome

October 27
Affirmation of Baptism for Confirmands



Pastor Katie with new members Tammy & Ron Foreman, Kris Bashore, Yvonne Gilbert, Claire Ruth, Dave & Emily Hershey. Not pictured: Bob Hohl and Mike Kirkpatrick

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

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