

ATONEMENT IN ACTION

New Beginnings in NOLA Sofia Arana Lyon, Council Youth Representative

This July, 12 members of Atonement- 9 of us youth- including myself, got to attend the life-changing experience of the ELCA 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. We traveled from the Philadelphia Airport to the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, and almost immediately after stepping onto the streets of NOLA we were met with the vibrant sounds of street jazz. As we walked into our hotel on Bourbon Street for the first time, none of us had any idea just how incredible the youth gathering would be.

Each day we had designated activities assigned to us by the gathering leadership. Whether we were in the convention center contributing to a prayer weaving, getting glitter blessings from drag queens, playing soccer, or listening to a New Orleans middle school jazz band perform and hearing their story, or going on a wild goose chase throughout the city and stopping to eat some beignets along the way, our days were action packed and full of fun. However there was one constant built into each of our days in New Orleans, and that was the Mass Gathering. This was where all attendees of the Youth Gathering joined for an assembly in the Smoothie King Stadium, and had a nightly worship based on our theme: Created to Be. There were over 16,000 youth gathered in the stadium every night. It was the largest worship service any of us had ever attended. Each night there would be incredible speakers, moving music selections, and beautiful dancing to close the day with a connection to why we were all there.

Every night at Mass Gathering, we would hear from the hosts of the night about the ELCA World Hunger campaign that was running throughout the duration of the Youth Gathering. As the gathering progressed, we would watch the numbers soar, and by the end of the gathering, we raised nearly \$100,000 dollars towards ELCA World Hunger.

This month, the ELCA was called to continue this movement towards ending world hunger and sent that message to congregations across the country. In our pancake breakfast this month, we were collecting donations to go towards World Hunger thanks to the motivation of an anonymous member here who donated \$25,000 towards the collection. In our pancake breakfast alone, I am proud to say we raised \$935 towards ending world hunger.

I am proud to have been a part of the Youth Gathering, and even more so to be able to bring back the motivation that was stirred up at the gathering to our own congregation and to see the real-time effect it is having in our greater church. Not only was the 5-day long experience incredible, but so is the butterfly effect it is having on congregations across the country.

And it's not too late to give to this campaign. Make checks payable to Atonement with ELCA World Hunger in the memo line. To date we have raised \$27,620.



September 15 Pancake breakfast raised \$935 for ELCA World Hunger

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

Worship for Sundays in October

Time After Pentecost ♦ October 6

10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well.

What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

Time After Pentecost ♦ October 13

10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. Rick Summy

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him.

Out of love, not as judgement, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of others.

Time After Pentecost ♦ October 20

10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading to Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praying for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross, a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.

Reformation Sunday ♦ October 27

Confirmation Sunday

10:00 AM ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Ten young people affirm their baptismal vows and join us in this work of love and service.

Lectionary Readings for the Sundays of October

October 6

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

October 13

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

October 20

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 27

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Romans

3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Save the Dates

Please plan to join us after worship on **Sunday, October 20**, for an informational meeting regarding the future of the Atonement Community Center.

All Saints Sunday will be **November 3**. If you have a loved one who died since All Saints Day in 2023, please call the office to have their name(s) added to our list of saints.

Stewardship Sunday will be **November 17**.

Sunday Attendance—August & September

	In Person	Online Views**		In Person	Online Views**
1st Sunday in August	132	N/A	1st Sunday in September	153	N/A
2nd Sunday in August	131	57	2nd Sunday in September	196	67
3rd Sunday in August	184	45	3rd Sunday in September	182	46
4th Sunday in August	<u>223</u>	<u>52</u>	4th Sunday in September	136	63
Total	670	154	5th Sunday in September	<u>176</u>	<u>39</u>
			Total	843	215

** Online attendance as of September 30. 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 atonementwo.org.

Financial Report

as of August 31, 2024

August Unrestricted Income	\$ 63,425
August Expenses	\$ 73,615
YTD Unrestricted Income	\$806,316
YTD Unrestricted Expenses	\$692,387
Mission Investment Fund Loan	\$425,318.81
Principal Payments to Date	\$264,819.98
Remaining Loan Balance	\$160,498.83

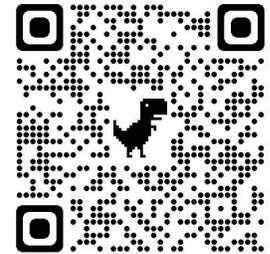
Thank you, Atonement, for your generosity!

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** to the right with your smart phone.



Here’s Pastor Katie showing off her sneakers after someone said they liked that she wore sneakers to church.

From Pastor Katie

Thank you for celebrating my 20th anniversary of ordination on Sunday, September 8th. What a wonderful surprise! From the praise band singing my favorite song: Alabaré, to the kids listing 20 things they like about me and gifting me roses, to a blessing with a laying on of hands, and a cake at the pancake breakfast, I felt the love and appreciation that day! Reading through all of your cards made me realize what a blessing it is to be on this journey with you! I look forward to seeing how God will continue to call us to be God’s people, sharing Christ’s love in this community and the world.



Peace and love, Pastor Katie

Pastoral Acts

August 25—Blessing of the Backpacks

August 26—Blessing of the Preschool Staff

September 1

Baptism for Brookelyn Price

Wedding for Donna Mae Uy Frondozo & Kerry Hartman Solsky

September 14—Funeral for Mary C. “Kate” Hoh

September 15—Blessing of the Sunday School Teachers

September 29—Blessing of Quilts



Frondozo—Solsky wedding



Pastoral Care—Health Advocate



Many thanks, many blessings. The last several months have been very productive and busy at Atonement.

First off, Lois Hein has stepped down as the coordinator of the pastoral care team. Pastor Ryan originally asked Lois to lead the pastoral care team for six months. That six months actually lasted five years. During these last five years Lois led the pastoral care team with dedication and superior organizational and communication skills. **Thank you so much for your wonderful service!** The good news is that Lois and husband Ed will remain members of the pastoral care team. The other good news is that Ellen Bryan has agreed to be our new coordinator. She has already expertly led our meetings, and like her predecessor, she is a skilled, dedicated, organized leader. We are so blessed.

This past spring, we presented a seven part series on End of Life Preparedness. Thank you to the many who attended these presentations. There was an average of more than 50 individuals who attended each week. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the follow individuals who made this series such a huge success:

- Dr. Dan Kimball, Introduction and Conversation Project
- Christine Summy, Hospice Presentation
- George Holmes from Berks County coroner’s office
- Daral Woerle, Legal Aspects
- Adam Lord, Financial Concerns
- Mike Kuhn and Tom Endy, Funeral Home Preparation
- Rachael Gambone, Document Organization
- Pastor Katie, Funeral and Spiritual Preparation

Also, thank you to Kerry Lord for the advertising graphics and Crystal Shirk and Deacon Tom for the sound and video production. I hope many of our attendees started to complete the tasks associated with End of Life.

In August Atonement hosted a blood drive. The results were somewhat disappointing; only 13 individuals signed up and only 10 units of blood were obtained. Our next blood drive is scheduled for November. I hope there will be more participants because I think we can certainly do better.

On September 29, Kristin Lord, DPT gave a presentation about fall risks and prevention. Thank you, Kristin for this important and informative talk. There have been too many Atonement members who have sustained falls during the past 6 months. Falls are a major cause of injuries, some which are severe and sometimes life threatening. Please pay attention to and follow the strategies presented and be safe.

Finally, we have a new “resident” in the hall outside of the gym. We have purchased a new AED (automated external defibrillator) using resources from our memorial funds. The gym is used more frequently and by more individuals, so it is important that there is an AED available there. Atonement is so blessed to now have three AED’s located within our building.

We should be proud of our Atonement family, and we should all give thanks for all of the talent, service and dedication that is given to our church community.

So many thanks and so many blessings.
Ken Lord M.D.

October Usher Schedule

October 6	Youth Team	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.
October 13	Team 1—Long	
October 20	Team 2—Kofke	
October 27	Team 3—Lubitz	

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 Caitlyn Marrella, Director of Children's Ministry

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

On September 15th we kicked off Faith Formation hour with Rally Day. We had 60 people of all ages participate in a family friendly, interactive performance led by the amazing Fotis & Fotis.



On September 22nd we resumed our whole group gathering and small group classes. This year, during our whole group gathering, we will be focusing on the parts of the Church Year as well as God moments.

If you haven't already registered, please check the website for a link to do so (online users click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFKxCTga8ZuH4Wcynvz7FDRaJR0Xw2mRY8WhxuWkKz3hOEw/vi ewform>) or come pick up a paper copy during office hours.

Worship (Sunday at 10am)

This month we blessed our Faith Formation Teachers and Nursery Volunteers as well as celebrated Pastor Katie's 20th year of being ordained.



Nursery and Children's Chapel are back in session. And as always, we have a Children's Message.

Preschool Chapel

Beginning in October, preschool classes will visit the Nave for Preschool Chapel. This year we will be focusing on the colors of the Bible. Deacon Tom will lead us in song, we'll read and talk about a story of the Bible, and finish up with a prayer.

Stewardship
Corner

Stewardship News from Cara Pepper

Our recent Pancake breakfast raised almost \$900 for Lutheran World Hunger. We were happy to see so many of you enjoying time together and celebrating Pastor Katie's ordination anniversary.

On September 21 members of Atonement volunteered to help Reading City Church with their fall fest location. We gave away bibles, popcorn, iced coffee, hot dogs, and cider. The church allowed festival goers a place to cool off and use of the facilities. Children enjoyed a variety of bounce houses—the laughter and excitement were proof. Reading City Church welcomed our volunteers and were grateful for our assistance. It was a wonderful way to show our community that we could work together for the benefit of God's people. Thank you to our volunteers!

Our next event will be our Trick or Treat program partnering again with Atonement Preschool. It will be held on Saturday October 26 from 10-12. We are looking for people to decorate and host tables, and donations of candy, juice boxes etc. to give away to our young guests. Please contact Jen Dauber or Cara Pepper if you are interested or have any questions.

Thank you Atonement, for your increasing participation in reaching out to both our local community and God's larger community.



New Members Welcome

We invite everyone interested in becoming a member of Atonement to join us for new member classes during the Faith Formation hour, 8:45—9:45 am, the Sundays of October 6 (room F122), October 13 (privacy room), and October 20 (privacy room). New members will officially be received during 10:00 am worship on October 20.

Call the office or email Crystal at cshirk@atonementwyo.org if you would like to attend or if you have any questions.

Alaskan Soundscapes Music & Video created by Jill Haley

Jill spent several weeks in Alaska as an Artist in Residence writing music about this beautiful place. She will be sharing this music with video of the images that inspired compositions. Joined by pianist, Sue McDevitt and guitarist, David Cullen.

Please visit www.millercenter.racc.edu/alaskan-soundscapes for ticket information.
Sunday, November 3 at 3 pm
Miller Center, RACC, PA



Preschool News

From Jen Dauber, Preschool Director

September flew by as the children made new friends and learned school routines. The staff focused on teaching the children to be kind to one another, share and take turns, and to use “please” and “thank you.” They taught the children developmentally appropriate prayers that they use daily, especially at snack time. Photographer Meghan White returned to capture the personalities of the children during picture week. We ended September with music sing-a-longs with Mrs. Egan.

As the weather becomes cooler and the leaves begin to change colors, we look forward to fall and all that the month of October brings. Classes will learn about fire safety with visits by the fire truck and to the fire station, autumn, and the harvest season of apples and pumpkins. The fours and PreK students will visit Weaver’s Orchard for apple and pumpkin picking. Classes will have our first chapel service with Deacon Tom, Pastor Katie, and Miss Caitlyn. The fours and PreK classes will have fine art instruction with Mrs. Brossman. New this year, Mrs. Karen Tripolitis will share her M.Y. (Mindfulness & Yoga) program with our three-year-old classes. We will end the month with Halloween celebrations. October is a busy but fun-filled month!

The preschool will cohost Community Trick or Treating with Atonement’s Stewardship committee on Saturday, October 26 from 10:00am-noon. We need volunteers to host tables and donations of treats. Contact Jen Dauber (jdauber@atonementwyo.org) if you want to help at this fun, family-friendly event. We look forward to seeing all the Trick or Treaters on the front lawn! All are Welcome!

Atonement Christian Preschool is a busy, vibrant ministry of the church and our community. We have 158 students registered, with many students enrolled in multiple classes for a total of 220 filled spaces. We use nine classrooms throughout the week for our programs. Our staff includes 22 teachers and assistant teachers who are dedicated to our students and their early childhood education. We appreciate our preschool families for entrusting us with their children. Thank you to the church for your continued support of the preschool’s ministry. We are truly blessed!



Hunger CROP Walk

43rd Annual CROP hunger walk has grown to more than feeding the hungry, it is about taking care of our neighbors. This year there are some new ways to help our neighbors at CROP Hunger Walk PLUS, October 13, 2024.

- **Join “Atonement Team”** by registering at www.crophungerwalk.org/ReadingPA; scroll down to the high-lighted blue words: “the list of teams” & choose Atonement Team to hop on board for this year's event. Meet at Gring's Mill & kick-off walking at **1:15PM**.
- Come early (between 12:30 - 1:15PM) to pack **CWS Hygiene Kits** before walking.
- Bring a non-perishable food item for **Helping Harvest**.
- Enjoy a sweet treat from **Stroopies!** (<https://www.stroopies.com/shop> to take a peek).

Another option is to **write advocacy letters** for Congress to renew the Farm Bill (explained a little bit below by the ELCA website & on the Bread for the World website).



Michelle Endy will be in the Narthex to answer any questions you may have about anything, or reach out to her at 610-396-5055 or calendar@atonementwyo.org.

Farm Bill

[Strengthen International Food Aid Programs in the Farm Bill - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](http://www.elca.org)

The farm bill is legislation that is critical to ending hunger in the U.S. and internationally. It doesn't just affect farmers. It also impacts every person in the U.S. who eats and buys food, as well as those facing hunger internationally.

The farm bill sets national policies for nutrition, agriculture, conservation, and forestry. It provides nutrition assistance to millions of Americans through programs such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), which typically gets the largest funding share of any program in the farm bill.

The farm bill is due to be reauthorized by Congress every five years; the most recent farm bill was enacted into law in 2018, and it expired in 2023. When Congress delays reauthorization, the existing farm bill has to be extended until the next one is completed. Programs included in the farm bill provide lifesaving assistance to millions of people facing dangerous levels of hunger and malnutrition, both in the U.S. and around the world.

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A HALLOWEEN TABLE?
CONTACT CARA PEPPER OR JEN DAUBER
TRICK OR TREAT
SAT. OCT. 26, 10AM-NOON

HALLOWEEN CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OUR TRICK OR TREAT
SAT. OCT. 26, 10AM-NOON

New Partnership with Community Aid Thrift Shop

One more way Atonement wants to help "Reach Out" is by helping a newly created partnership that began in July 2024 between Common Ground Ministry and Community Aid Thrift shop and donation center. Here's how you can help:

- Continue to bring in toiletry items to Atonement closet.
 - Continue to bring in clothing items to Atonement closet.
 - New way to help while decluttering your house, or downsizing or moving? Why not help by dropping off directly to Community Aid Donation Center
- Click here for a donation guide: <https://communityaid.org/donate-goods>

Our partner number is: 50244

Community Aid Thrift shop and
 Donation Center
 5370 Allentown Pike
 Temple, PA 19560



There are additional locations where out-of-town friends and family can donate and use the code. Visit www.communityaid.org for locations and details.

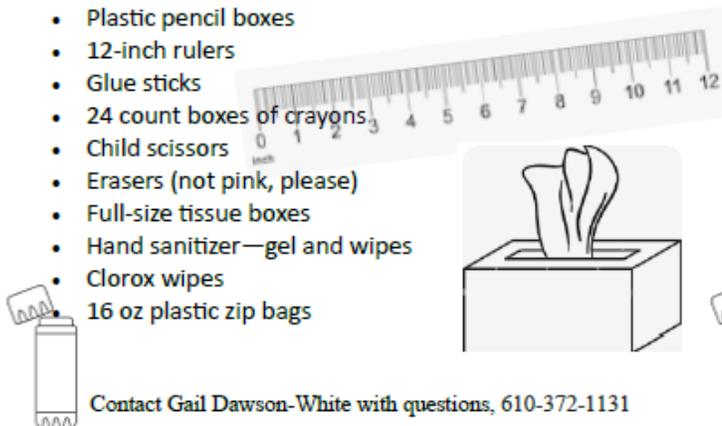


Reach Out to Lauer's Park Knight's Closet

The Knight's Closet was created to meet basic needs for homeless and at risk students in the Reading School District, and includes items such as food, clothing, hygiene products, and school supplies. We are hopeful that by fulfilling these needs, students will be able to focus on their education.

Atonement will be collecting the following items for the Knight's Closet at Lauer's Park Elementary School now through Thanksgiving:

- New or gently used stretchy pants sizes 5/6 to 14/16 for boys and girls
- New or gently used sweat pants sizes 5/6 to 14/16 for boys and girls
- New underwear sizes 5/6 to 14/16 for boys and girls
- Plastic pencil boxes
- 12-inch rulers
- Glue sticks
- 24 count boxes of crayons
- Child scissors
- Erasers (not pink, please)
- Full-size tissue boxes
- Hand sanitizer—gel and wipes
- Clorox wipes
- 16 oz plastic zip bags



Contact Gail Dawson-White with questions, 610-372-1131

Pickleball

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

Pickle curious? Join us at 3:00 pm for instructional and beginner play, we have extra paddles so you don't have to bring anything, but please wear non-marking athletic sneakers. If you just want to start by watching, the fellowship on the bleachers is delightful!

More experienced players are invited to play competitively at 4:00 pm.

Pilates

- Improve balance, coordination, circulation
- Increase flexibility, mobility, endurance
- Build muscle tone and bone strength with less bulk
- Improve postural problems, imbalances, & core strength
- Rescue aching feet

Join us for chair Pilates at 9:30 or mat Pilates at 10:30 Tuesday mornings. Classes are led by certified instructor and a member of the Authentic Pilates Union (APU), Martha Connolly. Cost is \$5 per session. Contact Martha at 610-401-1180 if interested.

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
Representing both buyers and sellers in Berks county for 30 years.
1290 Broadcasting Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
Cell: 610-698-2623
Office: 610-670-2770 x3242
Website: BarryCsells.com

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

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

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

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

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

Custom Home Design and Construction

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

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