

# ATONEMENT IN ACTION



## From Pastor Katie

We started off our school year strong with a Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, Pancake Breakfast and assembling shower kits on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Then we had Rally Day and Common Ground Sunday combined, with hot dogs and hamburgers and the shower trailer from Refresh Berks parked out front. Confirmation and faith formation classes have also resumed, along with nursery and children's chapel. What a joy to have so many people returning after a long summer, ready to respond to God's call to worship, learn, and serve.

We have also been keeping up with our commitment to read the entire Bible this year and will **start the New Testament on October 1**. If you've wanted to join, but haven't been able to or have fallen behind, dust off your Bible and read Matthew 1 and Luke 1 on October 1 and call or email the office for the full schedule. Thanks be to God that God's Word is still speaking to us and through us!

October will also bring with it cooler weather and more family friendly events including CROP walk, our annual Trick or Treat event with the preschool, and confirming 11 youth on Reformation Sunday. We continue to look for ways to reach up, reach in, and reach out! It's an exciting time to be the church!

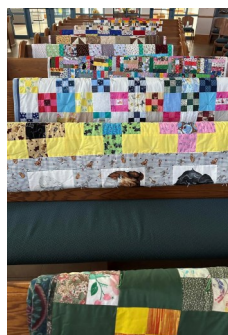
Peace and love,  
Pastor Katie

## Pastoral Acts— September

September 7—Blessing for Atonement  
Volunteer Grounds Crew

September 20—memorial service for  
Arthur White

September 28—Blessing of the Quilts



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Reading Berks*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 12, 2025

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

## Reading Berks 44<sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Hunger Walk

Join Team Atonement by using the link from the home page of [atonementwyo.org](https://atonementwyo.org), or online users can click here: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/team-atonement>

You can also donate to our team now through October 31. Government funding cuts have affected our local food bank, Helping Harvest; let us be good neighbors by reaching out! The steps we take - and the funds we raise together - will provide life-saving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.

Contact Michelle Endy at 610-375-3512 or [calendar@atonementwyo.org](mailto:calendar@atonementwyo.org) with questions.



## Atonement Lutheran Church

5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610

Phone: 610-375-3512 | [www.atonementwyo.org](http://www.atonementwyo.org)

# Worship for Sundays in October

**Time after Pentecost ♦ October 5 ♦ 10:00 AM**  
**the Rev. Tom Scornavacchi**

*A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.*

**Time after Pentecost ♦ October 12 ♦ 10:00 AM**  
**the Rev. Katie Lyon**

*It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.*

**Time after Pentecost ♦ October 19 ♦ 10:00 AM**  
**the Rev. Katie Lyon**

*Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.*

**Reformation/Confirmation Sunday ♦ October 26 ♦ 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. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

## Lectionary Readings

### October 5

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
 Psalm 37:1-9  
 2 Timothy 1:1-14  
 Luke 17:5-10

### October 12

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  
 Psalm 111  
 2 Timothy 2:8-15  
 Luke 17:11-19

### October 19

Genesis 32:22-31  
 Psalm 121  
 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
 Luke 18:1-8

### October 26

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Psalm 46  
 Romans 3:19-28  
 John 8:31-36

## Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, October 26, eleven of our youth will affirm their baptisms during worship. Please pray for the following teens, as they continue to live out their baptismal calling as members of the Body of Christ: Tim Biltcliff, Maria Bowman, Sophia Bowman, Elsa Bowman, Junia Hershey, Precious Johnson-Agiri, Jack Neiswender, Quinn Orzechowski, Hannah Raifsnider, Max Romig, and Gwenyth Wetzel.

## 2025 Congregational Council

*Class of 2023:*

Tyler Good ♦ Jennifer Nied  
 Shannon Nowotarski ♦ Cara Pepper

*Class of 2024:*

Robin Border ♦ Scott Boyer ♦ John Lehr

*Class of 2025:*

Robert Bailey ♦ Emily Garl ♦ Jeff Good ♦ Kate Harenza  
 Henry Turner ♦ Emmett Borelli Hoh, youth representative

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

*The next council meeting will be Monday, October 20*

## Sunday Attendance in September

|                         | In Person | Online Views** |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1st Sunday in September | 127       | 78             |
| 2nd Sunday in September | 202       | 77             |
| 3rd Sunday in September | 199       | 60             |
| 4th Sunday in September | 150       | 57             |
| Total                   | 678       | 272            |

\*\* Online attendance as of September 29, 2025. Online services are always available to watch the day after they are live streamed, and remain available for re-watching. You can find the link on the home page of [atonementwyo.org](http://atonementwyo.org).

## College Students

Keep in touch with Atonement by sending your college address to the church office. We want to make sure you are remembered while away from home!

## Music at Atonement this Fall

### Atonement Choir

All teens and adults are invited to join us!

Rehearsals on Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., in the choir room.

Look for more information about the Festival Christmas Choir in December.

### Children's Choir

For all children from Kindergarten through Grade 6

Rehearsals on Sundays, 11:00-11:45 a.m., in the choir room

First rehearsal: October 19

Singing in worship: November 16 at 10:00 a.m. and December 24 at 11:00 a.m.

### Atonement Ringers

If you are interested in playing in bell choir this fall and/or for Christmas, please contact Deacon Tom at 610-301-2190 or [tyenser@atonementwyo.org](mailto:tyenser@atonementwyo.org).

## From Ellen Bryan, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Let us know if you are in the hospital!

Pastor Katie and Pastor Art, as well as our Pastoral Care Team are committed to visiting Atonement members when they are in the hospital. In addition to visits, our members who are in the hospital are remembered in private prayer. And, only with your permission, we include your name in the Weekly online prayers.

### *How does the hospital know that I'm a member of Atonement Lutheran Church?*

Our 2 local hospitals have different approaches to this question.

- When you are admitted for care *at the Reading Hospital you should be asked* if you would like to share your church affiliation during the intake process. Please let them know – even if they miss this important question.
- When you are admitted for care *at St. Joseph's Hospital the patient is responsible for volunteering this information*. The patient should share this at the time of intake for admission, or when visited by a member of the Chaplain's office.

### *Who lets Atonement staff know that a member is in the hospital?*

- Reading Hospital's Department of Spiritual Care sends our office a list each day of those members who are admitted. -- but, only if you have shared that you are a member of Atonement!
- St. Joseph's Hospital will not contact us but encourages the patient or the patient's family member to contact our church office. Call the church office at 610/375-3512 and follow the prompts to speak with Crystal or leave a message. Or email Crystal at [cshirk@atonementwyo.org](mailto:cshirk@atonementwyo.org).

Both hospitals are valuable partners with us when you are hospitalized. Please keep your Atonement church family in mind when admitted, so that we can visit you and remember you in prayer.



## October Usher Schedule

October 5 Team 5—Eisenbrown

October 12 Team 8—Woerle

October 19 Team 9—Bryan

October 26 Youth Team

### **New ushers are always welcomed!**

The commitment is about once every two months, and is a great way to meet new people!

We are also seeking a new usher coordinator. Contact Crystal at [cshirk@atonementwyo.org](mailto:cshirk@atonementwyo.org) if you would like to be added to an usher team or if you are interested in finding out more about scheduling the ushers.

## 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.



# Stewardship Corner

## What do pancakes, shower kits, a shower trailer, bagels, hot dogs, popcorn, apple cider, candy, and cookies have in common? The answer is You!

That's right it's you! You, the Atonement congregation, together with your stewardship team, have been busy again this fall, as well as all year, **welcoming, serving, and caring as a Christ centered community** and we're not about to stop! Thanks be to God for your gifts of volunteering. Check out some of our September events and those coming up October through December! Stay tuned for one or two surprises yet to be named this year, and look to future issues of this newsletter for what's coming in 2026!

**September:** Our biannual pancake breakfast served over 100 attendees. The Refresh Berks shower trailer visited Atonement and we packaged 1,000 shower kits! Atonement partnered once again with Reading City Church along with over 35 volunteers from Trinity Lutheran and West Lawn United Methodist churches as well as Alvernia University at West Reading's annual Fall Fest where we gave out over 550 free hot dogs, 20 gallons of cider, over 13 gallons of iced coffee, 5 crates of apples, and over 1,200 bags

of popcorn to many of the over 10,000 attendees. We are also currently partnering weekly with donations from NY Bagelry in West Lawn, delivering over 1,500 bagels to various organizations to distribute to those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Coming in October:** Watch for details about our annual Safe Trick-or-Treat community event (a huge hit with the kids and the community).

**Coming in December:** Our first (but not last) cookie extravaganza with many of you baking cookies for us to distribute again to those less fortunate than ourselves.



*Pancake Breakfast—September 2025*



*Shower Kit Assembly—September 2025*



*Shower Trailer/Refresh Berks—September 2025*



*New York Bagelry—Weekly Donation*



*West Reading Fall Fest—September 2025*



← Community  
Trick-or-Treat—  
coming in December

Cookie Extravaganza—  
coming in December →



And this is just a snapshot of September through December! On top of all this you've also been devoted throughout the year to Family Promise, Opportunity House, Common Ground, quilting, Blue Marsh cleanup, Humane's Animal Walk, chili cookoff, New Journeys, Hope Rescue, choir, Praise Band, ushering, greeting, preaching, teaching, lecturing, running the church office, and on and on and on. Remember the wheel of Reach in, Reach up, Reach out? It's all there and growing!

If you'd like to get more involved or have any questions or suggestions, please contact any member of your Stewardship team: Cara Pepper, Bob Eisenbrown, Jill Scheidt, or Virginia Rush!

God bless us all!

## 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 Lauryn. The fours and PreK classes will have fine art instruction with Mrs. Brossman. 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 25 from 10:00am-noon. We need volunteers to host tables and donations of treats. Contact Jen Dauber ([jdauber@atonementwyo.org](mailto: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! Everyone is Welcome!



## From Lauryn Lacis, Director of Children’s Ministries

Thank you everyone for the warm welcome as the new Director of Children’s Ministries. I look forward to making more connections here and building more on those relationships.

**Faith Formation:** Faith Formation has begun! We begin with a brief gathering every Sunday at 8:45am in the choir room, followed by classroom time from 9-9:45am. We have a wonderful group of volunteers, and we are always looking to add more. If you are interested in teaching a Faith Formation Class, or being a helper, please reach out to me directly at [llacis@atonementwyo.org](mailto:llacis@atonementwyo.org).

**Nursery:** During the 10am service children preschool age and younger are supervised in F126.

**Chapel:** Children are welcome to join us in the privacy room for a story, craft, and activity based on the gospel story of the day. This takes place immediately after the children’s message. Children are supervised during this time.

**Save the Date for Advent Workshop:  
Sunday, November 30 during Faith Formation hour, 8:45-9:45 am.**





# Financial Corner

As of August 31, 2025

## **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:           | \$748,920        | \$774,275        | \$88,801          | \$1,160,800          |
| Expenses:         | <u>\$739,052</u> | <u>\$756,872</u> | <u>(\$39,212)</u> | <u>\$1,160,800</u>   |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ 9,868         | \$17,403         | \$49,589          | \$0                  |

- The church's income is in a favorable position due primarily to pledges and preschool tuition paid in advance at the beginning of the year or school year.
- The church's expenses are being negatively impacted by recent major repairs to the church building.

### **Mortgage Balance:** (\$67,957)

Over the years, some very generous donations have been made to reduce our mortgage debt. Going forward, we want to recognize, with permission, such donations. Donations made this month:

- Bill and Cindy Laubauch

## **Mission Endowment Fund – “Reach OUT”**

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

**Fund Balance:** \$1,878,838 (only 4% of this balance can be used each year by the church)

### **Memorials:**

- Paul and Lynn Ott in memory of our parents and brother, Richard and Helen Ott, Albert and Vera Verbontiz, Mark Verbonitz

## **This Month's Financial Spotlight**

### **Donation Opportunities:**

Donations to Atonement can be made to our two different funds – the “General Fund” and the “Mission Endowment Fund”:

- The **General Fund** donations are considered unrestricted gifts that are to be used for the ongoing operating and mission-based expenditures and functions of the church. The annual pledge and plate offerings are the main source of income for the General Fund.
- The **Mission Endowment Fund** donations are considered restricted gifts that are meant to enhance the mission outreach of the church apart from the routine operation of the congregation and deposited in the Mission Endowment investment fund maintained at Charles Schwab & Co. and managed by Weik Capital Management. Four (4%) of the average fund balance over the last three years is transferred each year to the General Fund to support strategic mission initiatives. Some examples of these mission initiatives are funding Common Ground, supporting our seminarians, representing our church at the West Reading Fall Fest, and partially funding the Western Berks Mission District shower trailer.

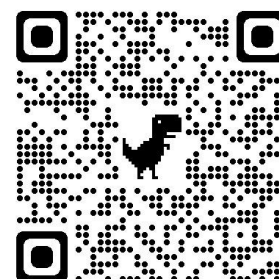
### **Types of Gifts and Assets Accepted:**

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.

## 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.



# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:kloop13@comcast.net)  
610-659-4630

## Custom Home Design and Construction

**Marc J. Geddio**, President  
*Residential Designs by Geddio*  
Engineer stamped blueprints for custom homes and additions, since 1992.  
Phone: 610-587-7273  
[MarcJ905@msn.com](mailto:MarcJ905@msn.com)  
[CDsbyGeddio.com](http://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  
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[Michelle@IronGateBuildersInc.com](mailto:Michelle@IronGateBuildersInc.com)  
[IronGateBuildersInc.com](http://IronGateBuildersInc.com)  
Facebook: Iron Gate Builders Inc.

## Attorneys

**Daral A. Woerle, Esquire**  
I am a general practice attorney focusing primarily on Estate Planning, Estate Administration, and Business and Real Estate law. I also help clients find great attorneys for all their other legal needs.  
Cell phone: 610-914-0699  
Office phone: 610-779-0950  
[woerlelaw@gmail.com](mailto:woerlelaw@gmail.com)

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sue.colon@cbhomes.com)

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*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  
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