

ATONEMENT IN ACTION

from Pastor Katie

Preschool is in full swing as is faith formation, confirmation, and youth group! The playground has been resurfaced and our preschoolers are thoroughly enjoying it! The 50th Anniversary Preschool Carnival was a success and I keep hearing stories from different families about how much they enjoyed it!

Each Sunday in October we have someone or something to celebrate during worship. Our choirs also begin this month. Our new small groups officially begin after Common Ground worship on Wednesday evenings. Dinner is at 5:30 in Lundin Hall, worship is at 6:30 in Lundin Hall, and small groups begin at 7:30pm.

The 1st and 4th Wednesdays are 12 Steps & Christian Faith; the 2nd Wednesdays are Faith & Justice; and the 3rd Wednesdays are Musing in Menopause. The Musing in Menopause group unofficially started in September. What a great way for those struggling in that season of their lives to gather to share complaints along with laughter and hope. Come check out the small group that speaks the most to you, or invite someone else to come and participate. Join us on Sunday mornings as we celebrate together. We continue to look for ways to make the Gospel known in our midst. It is an exciting time to be the church!

Peace and love,
Pastor Katie



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Sunday, October 11, 2026.

All are invited to walk with our team. Join us for a special blessing for walkers during 10:00am worship, stay for a light lunch in the privacy room, then meet at the Gring's Mill bridge by 1:00pm on October 11.

You can also donate to Team Atonement by making a contribution payable to "Atonement", with "CROP WALK" on the check memo or comment section of online donations. We will be accepting donations through Sunday, October 25.

Blessing of Quilts

October 4, 2026



5 Wyomissing Boulevard, Wyomissing, PA 19610
www.atonementwyo.org ♦ 610-375-3512

Worship for Sundays in October

Time after Pentecost ♦ Blessing of the Quilts ♦ October 4 ♦ 10:00AM

the Rev. Katie Lyon

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

Time after Pentecost ♦ Blessing for CROP Walk Walkers ♦ October 11 ♦ 10:00AM

the Rev. Molly Haggerty

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Time after Pentecost ♦ **Celebrating Pastor Art** ♦ October 18 ♦ 10:00AM

the Rev. Katie Lyon

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. 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.

Reformation/Confirmation Sunday ♦ October 25 ♦ 10:00AM

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 4

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9[10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

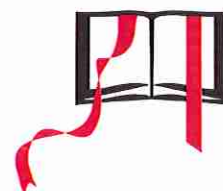
October 25

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36



Sunday Attendance In September

	In Person	Online Views*
1 st Sunday in September	170	102
2 nd Sunday in September	203	124
3 rd Sunday in September	150	115
4 th Sunday in September	193	58
Total	716	399

*Online attendance as of September 28. Online services are always available to watch following the service. 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

October 4	Team 4 – Mehos
October 11	Team 5 – Eisenbrown
October 18	Team 2 – Kofke
October 25	Team 9 – Bryan

New Ushers are always welcomed!

All adults and youth in 7th grade and older can be part of our usher 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.

Addresses for College students

Please let the office know your college student's address while away at school. We would like to keep in touch with cards and encouragement. It is important they are remembered. Email atonement@atonementwyo.org or call 610-375-3512.



Youth Events

CROP Walk – October 11

Youth will be joining Atonement on the Crop Walk! Join us for a special blessing during 10am worship, stay for a light lunch in the narthex, then meet at Gring's Mill for the walk at 12:30pm. Contact the church office or Pastor Molly if you are interested in being a part of the walk for hunger! Emily Garl, Youth Ministry Team, will be leading the youth team!



Duncan's Corn Maze in Robesonia – October 25

We will meet at church and leave promptly at 5:30 pm (we could use a few parents to volunteer to help drive). RSVP to Pastor Molly @ mhaggerty@atonementwyo.org or call the church office.

Youth Usher Team - ongoing

Serve in worship approximately once every 6 weeks. This is a great way to earn volunteer hours and gain leadership experience! Call the office if you would like to be part of the team! The next scheduled Sunday for the Youth Team is November 1

Confirmation

Confirmation has started and we are excited to have all the 7th-9th graders working on their faith statement! Each confirmand will be choosing a bible verse that represents who they are and creating a faith logo to match. Pastor Katie and Pastor Molly are busy leading the youth to create the confirmation worship and engaging in important faith conversations. We are grateful for our youth who are a part of this faith formation!

On Sunday, October 25, seven 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: Leah Boston, Hannah Liskey, Oliver Lord, Samantha Nied, Madeline Long, Veronica Rogers, Presley Wengrowski.



From Lauryn Lacis, Director of Children's Ministry

Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation classes for ages 3 through 6th grade have resumed! We are continuing to add more adult leaders and teen helpers for instruction. If you are interested in volunteering 1-2 hours per month throughout the school year, please contact me directly at llacis@atonementwyo.org. Signups for children to attend Faith Formation have been posted, or you may contact me directly.

Nursery

During the 10am service preschool age children and younger are supervised in F126. If you would like to be a volunteer for nursery, please email me at llacis@atonementwyo.org.

Chapel Time

During 10am service, children age 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.

Advent Workshop

Save the date! On November 29 we will hold our annual Advent Workshop in Lundin Hall from 8:45-9:45am. We will have wreath making, snacks and kid's crafts. All are welcome.

A Place at The Table

This January, all children 2nd grade and above who would like to receive communion instruction are encouraged to participate in A Place at the Table classes. Children will learn about Jesus and his special meal, Holy Communion. We will gather Sunday, January 10, 17, and 24. On Sunday, January 31, we will have Communion Celebration – rehearsal and light refreshments during the Faith Formation hour, followed by receiving communion in worship at 10am. Register your child by emailing me at llacis@atonementwyo.org.



Financial Corner

General Fund – “Reach IN”

The General Fund provides funding for all of the ongoing routine activities of the church.

Year-to-Date Results (8/31/2026):

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$921,015	\$801,442	\$119,573	\$1,241,900
Expenses:	<u>(\$788,870)</u>	<u>(\$811,793)</u>	<u>\$22,923</u>	<u>(\$1,241,900)</u>
Net Income:	\$132,145	(\$10,351)	\$142,496	\$0

Pledge and preschool payments received earlier in year than budgeted. Larger amount received of estate and one-time donations than expected combined with less expenses incurred during the month.

Mortgage Balance - zero

Mission Endowment Fund – “Reach OUT”

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

Schwab	\$1,924,200
Mission Investment Fund CD	\$ <u>128,737</u>
Total	\$2,052,937

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, along with the purpose for which you are donating it, the name of the stock, it's value, where it is coming from, and who the donor is. The office will provide you with any additional information necessary to make the transaction.

Don't forget that offering can be given by credit card on our website or by scanning the QR code.



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 Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center*, 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 does not regularly 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.

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.

Community Center Update

Council is delighted to report that we have secured a buyer for the Community Center and the borough has approved our requests for zoning variances that are necessary for us to subdivide and sell the property. The buyer is the Executive Director of the Reading Public Museum. He plans to substantially renovate the building, preserving its historic character, and use it as a private residence for himself. He does not plan to make any additions to the exterior of the building.

The congregation must vote to approve this sale. Accordingly, a Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **October 4, 2026, immediately following the worship service**. The contract price is \$450,000. Members will have time to ask questions and then a vote will be taken. Council has already talked about the importance of using some of the proceeds to go back into the community as we feel this is a vital part of our mission.

Should you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Katie, Kate Harenza (610-781-3207) or Jeff Good (717-917-1549).

from Jen Dauber, Preschool Director



September was a busy month with Preschool Parent Nights, Meet the Teacher sessions, and the first days of classes. We celebrated the preschool's 50th Anniversary in collaboration with the church's Rally Day by hosting a Carnival Celebration. Even though we moved it indoors due to misty, sticky weather, we had so much fun playing games, painting faces, eating cotton candy from Bop Hop Cotton Candy Co., and dancing to upbeat music with DJ Leif Levering. At noon we had a groundbreaking and playground dedication ceremony for retired teacher Debra Hoffman who taught at the preschool for 27 years. Thank you to everyone you helped plan, host, and attended the carnival. The week of September 14, we saw the playground surface installed and now all our students can play on our playground! Stop by and take a look at the pour-in-place rubber surface that you all helped fund. Thank you for your support!

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 firefighters and firetruck, 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, and first gym class with Mrs. Spayd. The fours and PreK classes will have fine art instruction with Mrs. Brossman and music sing-a-longs with Mrs. Egan. We will end the month with Halloween celebrations. October is a busy but fun-filled month!

The preschool will co-host Community Trick or Treating with Atonement's Stewardship committee on Saturday, October 31, 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! Everyone is Welcome!



Sarah Sensenig

Lutherans in Classical Music

Sarah Sensenig, mezzo-soprano and author who grew up at Atonement and is the daughter of Katie Sensenig, will be returning to give a program on Saturday, October 17 at 7:00pm titled *Lutherans in Classical Music*. She'll be accompanied by her pianist husband, Don Dolan, on music by Brahms, Schumann, and will also talk about her new book *MADAME COMPOSER: The Virtuoso Genius of Clara Schumann*. A book signing will follow. (The book is published under her pen name Sarah Fritz and releases in books stores on Sept. 29.) This program is free and open to the public.



Music Makes the World a Better Place!

Join a choir at Atonement this fall!

Atonement Choir – for teens and adults

Meets weekly on Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm
Sings in worship most Sundays
First rehearsal: Thursday, October 1

Atonement Praise Band – for teens and adults

Meets only when preparing to lead worship
Sings/plays in worship 5-6 times per year

See Deacon Tom for more information!



Children's Choir – for all children Grades K-6

Meets weekly on Sundays, 11:15am-12:00pm
Sings in worship about once a month
First rehearsal: Sunday, October 4

Adult Faith Formation

During the month of October, we will be gathering during faith formation hour at 8:45 am in Room F122 to focus on WHO WE ARE as a faith community. We will be using the feedback from the summer listening sessions and finding scripture that helps define our mission and vision for Atonement. A mission, vision, and welcome statement will be prayed over and talked about to help us tell our church story. Join us! Pastor Molly and Pastor Katie will take turns leading the conversations.

Atonement Archives

Are you interested in historic documents? The archive committee has recently unearthed some interesting record books and letters from the early 1900s. The handwriting, the use of the word "twas", the fact that our phone number was "Bell Phone 24922", and the expense amounts will all have you feeling like you've stepped into another lifetime. Call the office if you would like to explore these items from Atonement's times gone by.

2026 Congregational Council

Class of 2024

Robin Border ♦ Scott Boyer ♦ John Lehr

Class of 2025

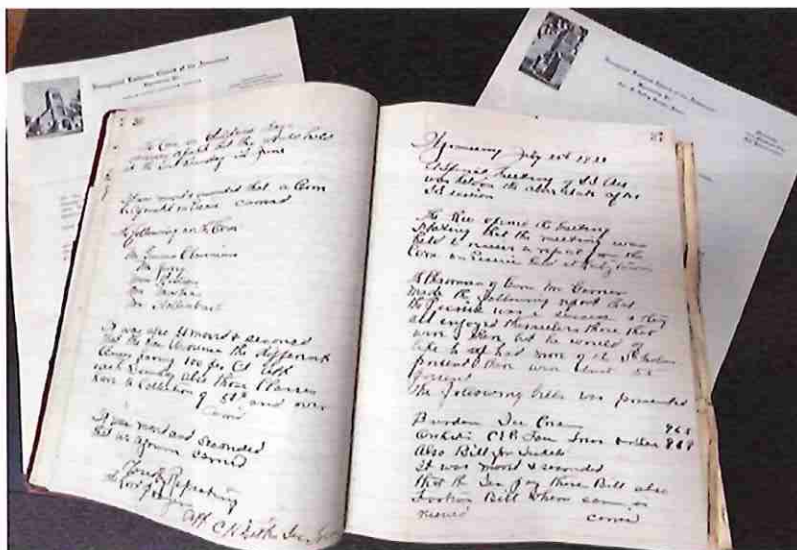
Robert Bailey ♦ Emily Garl ♦ Jeff Good

Kate Harenza ♦ Henry Turner

Class of 2026

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

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



Join the Fun!

Our fall outreach started off with a bang with our first "Crafting For A Cause" event in August raising over \$800 with more than 30 participants! New connections were made and friends got to spend time together doing what they love. In fact, one of the biggest questions of the day was, "When are we doing this again!" Stay tuned!

West Reading's Fall Fest September 19 was another success! On a beautiful day our Atonement volunteers served popcorn and iced coffee, performed security, and helped with the kid's crafts while at the same time engaging with the community in the **only** free station at the festival. We partnered with Reading City Church, students from Alvernia College, and Mary's Shelter.

Next up is our safe, trick-or-treat event with the preschool on Halloween, October 31. You surely don't want to miss this one! We're still looking for people to staff tables and hand out treats, donate goodies, and help with set up and tear down. Contact Jen Dauber or the church office for details.

Stewardship Sunday is November 8. We thank you all for your generosity over the past year and hope that you'll prayerfully consider pledging for 2027 because we can't do all that we do without you.

And rounding out 2026, on December 6 is our second annual cookie extravaganza. Stay tuned for notification of when to pick up boxes. If you haven't signed up yet, there's still plenty of time. Contact Jill Scheidt or the church office for details. Rumor has it a famous furry blue friend who loves cookies might be joining us again!

We love the enthusiasm and the volunteerism of our Atonement members. Once again we thank you all for helping us reach out to our community.



Crafting for a Cause, August 29 in Lundin Hall



18th Annual Healing Power of Spirituality SPEAKER SERIES



Speaker Series: Save the Date



October 13, 2026

Kim Porter

Co-Founder and Executive Director
of Be a Part of the Conversation



November 10, 2026

Brian Hughes

Vice President of Business Development
& Alumni at Caron



March 9, 2027

Fred Kofke

Caron Regional Advisory Board Member



April 13, 2027

Honorable Eddie Moran

Mayor, City of Reading

This event is complimentary, and you do not need to pre-register.

Atonement Lutheran Church | 5 Wyomissing Blvd. | Wyomissing, PA 19610

Clothing Collection

With the weather changing, we are seeing more needs among the people on the streets of Reading. Last week we served nearly 100 meals and Refresh Berks has never had that many people needing showers on a given day. People are in need of layers of clothing to stay warm and we ran out of men's clothing to give away. Some people were asking for blankets. If you have blankets, extra clothes, jackets, belts, or shoes, please consider donating them to Common Ground Recovery Community. There is a blue bin by the coat room in the narthex. Anything you can do would be appreciated!

Volunteers Needed Mondays at the Common Ground Drop In Center

Every Monday 1:00-3:30 pm we offer a safe space for people to gather at Common Ground at Trinity on 6th and Washington, Reading. We are looking for people to help us during this time. We need people to play board games, help with art projects, and most importantly, be a listener to someone. We are not "fixing" people's problems, we are just showing up and letting people know we care about them. Staff will have supplies out on the tables and connect you with people who would enjoy time with a volunteer. Please consider volunteering once a month - building community is the greatest gift we can give!

Contact Pastor Molly at pastormolly.outreach@gmail.com or cell 717-321-4877.

Congratulations Mal Mitchell & Gloria Berrios!

Recipients of Caron Foundation's Unsung Hero Awards

Malvern Mitchell has served as the chef at Common Ground Recovery Community for more than nine years. During that time, he has prepared more than 500 sit-down dinners, serving more than 42,000 individual meals. He is responsible for planning meals and ensuring that the necessary ingredients are available.

In addition to his culinary responsibilities, Mal manages Common Ground's Helping Harvest program, including weekly pickup of food donations from several supermarkets. A person in long-term recovery, Mal also lives out the spiritual principles of recovery through service to others. He is often found supporting a sponsee or helping someone in need. His commitment to service has made him a tremendous asset to Common Ground and the broader recovery community.

Gloria Berrios has served Common Ground Recovery Community for eight and a half years. She began by helping ensure that meals were ready to be served to members of the community, and as the organization grew and additional needs emerged, she took on greater responsibilities.



Under Gloria's care, the clothing program known affectionately as "Gloria's Closet" has grown from a few racks of clothing to a robust resource offering clothing, shoes, socks, underwear, personal hygiene items, and more. Gloria works to ensure that community members have access to what they need while also considering each guest's individual circumstances. She also coordinates Common Ground's Community Aid program, and alongside her team, is always ready to step in where support is needed. A person in long-term recovery, Gloria is deeply dedicated to helping others find hope and healing.

Caron is proud to recognize them with the Unsung Hero Award.



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.
Phone: 610-587-7273
MarcJ905@msn.com
CDsbyGeddio.com

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Office: 610-670-2770 x3242
Website: BarryCsells.com

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