Crossroads

A Parish Newsletter for

Atonement & Cross of Glory Lutheran Churches

April 2021





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Atonement Lutheran Church

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Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

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"Making Christ Known"

"Connecting people to Jesus Christ & to each other."

From Our Pastor



"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." -1 Peter 4:9

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I'm writing to you from the beginning of Holy Week. It is tempting to include Easter words of praise and joyhowever, I'm aware that we are not quite there yet. By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Not an appropriate time for us to break into joyful song just yet.

That feels like the season we are in overall: so many of you have been vaccinated or are certainly going to get a vaccine soon. We can tell that we will be able to rejoice soon, however it's just a little too early to break into song. While the news about the pandemic has been mostly hopeful lately, I was surprised to see a line out the door at the local COVID testing site I sometimes visit. It has been months since I've seen it so busy. It occurs to me that with many of us returning to pre-pandemic activities, there will likely be an uptick in cases. We do NOT want our churches to be a part of that uptick in cases and we continue to take steps to protect our church family.

We cannot actually fast forward through this part of the pandemic. We want to be past all of this--and that will come in due time. On the way, we have to keep our safety measures in place:

- 1. If you do not feel well, stay home from church.
- 2. Wear a mask over your mouth and nose while in the church buildings.

3. Keep a 6ft distance between your household and other households when you are seated in the sanctuary for worship--and do your best to keep distant from one another as you exit worship.

4. Go directly outside the building following worship if you choose to chat with others: conversation in the church parking lot is being celebrated these days!

5. Refrain from congregational singing. Humming quietly, whisper singing while masked, and tapping your foot are all encouraged.

6. If you have trouble following the above guidelines, our livestream continues to be a great option. If you need help accessing worship online, contact the church office and we can help.

Remember, by taking these actions when we gather together, we are providing hospitality to one another. When we welcome visitors and people who are returning to worship in-person for the first time in a year, they are commenting on how well we follow (or do not follow) these guidelines. We want to provide welcome and communicate that we care. Thank you for continuing to provide hospitality to one another "without grumbling." This is a part of our responsibility as Christians. We are to welcome one another in Jesus' name. May God bless you as we continue this work.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Cassie Nault

From Our Intern Pastor



"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." -Galatians 6:9

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I had the realization this week that I have four and a half months of my internship left. Wow-that's not a lot of time! But, one thing I've definitely learned over this last year of "pandemic-time" is that we are extremely good at making the most out of less than ideal situations, so with that in mind, I know we will make the most out of these last months that we have together.

One of the big "to-do's" left on my list (remember, I'm a list person) is my Internship Project. Every intern has to complete a project of any sort. The assignment is pretty open ended- the only major requirements are that you have your proposal approved by your supervisor and committee.

My specific project is going to be starting a team called the "Crossroads Parish Action Team." The idea behind this project is to start a committee of people who are dedicated and interested in asking "what is Crossroads part in God's work in the world?" What are we, as a parish, being called to do right now in our communities? Is there a particular need that we could work to fill? How might we be a more visible presence in the community? How might we each use our gifts and talents to turn outward towards our neighbors in need? One of the things the Gospel does is replace people's bad news with good news, and it is our job as Christians to spread that reality. But first we must do the important work of figuring out what bad news is troubling our neighbors. For example, is hunger or food insecurity an issue? Or access to fresh and healthy vegetables? How might we offer good news in the place of this bad news for people? These are the types of questions this team will look to tackle. If this sounds at all intriguing to you, please reach out to me (via email or phone) so that we can make sure to connect about it! My hope is to get this rolling in April/early May. Be on the look-out for more details and opportunities in the coming months!

In Christ,

Intern Pastor Marty

From Our Council President



Hello Atonement!

I am happy to be serving in my new role as president of the Atonement Council, and I look forward to meeting the Atonement members I don't already know. Here are five pieces of information about me!

- 1) I've been a member of Atonement since September 2019 and a council member since January 2020.
- 2) I lived in New Brighton when I joined Atonement; now I live in Crystal.
- 3) I'm a school psychologist with Intermediate District 287.
- 4) I'm the proud dog mom of two Labrador retrievers.
- 5) Being outdoors is where I prefer to be, whether it's running, camping, kayaking, or hiking.

This past year of the pandemic has been long and difficult. Like all of you, I'm thrilled that the vaccine is becoming more available and our lives are opening up again. It was wonderful to see so many people in worship last Sunday. In addition, signs of spring are showing themselves: robins are coming back, the snow is melting, and I saw some perennials growing. All signs of hope! In addition, Easter is coming, which is a day of ultimate hope. I'm grateful for the hope Jesus provides us and the community of faith we share at Atonement.

Stacy Nielsen

Atonement Council President





The Call Committee met to interview Pastor Cassie Nault on March 22nd, 2021 at 7pm. All 12 members were in attendance and participated in the interview. The Call Committee consisted of the original 12 members (6 for Atonement, 6 from Cross of Glory per the Shared Pastor Agreement) from two years ago as was approved by each congregation's councils. The interview lasted just under one hour. Immediately following, the group of 12 shared some discussion and **voted unanimously to put forth Pastor Cassie Nault to our congregations for their vote on a Settled Call for a full-time Parish Pastor position.**

Due to Synod requirements for calling a Pastor and the Shared Pastor Agreement, both Atonement and Cross of Glory congregations are to meet at a neutral site (Abiding Savior) and must have a physical paper vote. Both the Call Committee and the Councils understand that safety is important during a pandemic as well as having everyone feel safe. Our councils and other congregational leaders have worked hard to provide options to meet Synod requirements as well as make this Special Congregational Meeting as safe as possible. Please review these options and let the church office know if you have any questions. In order to complete the Call for Pastor Cassie, each congregation needs a 2/3rd majority vote. Both congregations must have the 2/3rd majority as separate entities. If this is not achieved, the Synod will bring forth new candidates for a joint call committee to review. If both congregations achieve a 2/3rd majority vote, the Call Committee will extend the official call to Pastor Cassie to be our Settled Parish Pastor.

The Call Committee consisted of the following individuals:

- Arlene Drier (ALC)
- Lindsey Fabian, co-chair (ALC)
- Wayne Haselhorst (ALC)
- Carreen Houfek (ALC)
- Jim Nelson (ALC)
- Adam Vasel (ALC)
- Melissa Emerson, co-chair (COG)
- Shelley Kinsel (COG)
- Brayden Kirk (COG)
- Gwen Lentsch (COG)
- Paula Reed (COG)
- Rob Wilkinson (COG)

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Emerson Call Committee Co-Chair



IMPORTANT—SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting for members of both Atonement and Cross of Glory to vote on a settled call to Pastor Cassie Nault as Parish Pastor to Atonement and Cross of Glory.

DATE: Sunday, April 11
TIME: 1:00PM
LOCATION: Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View

Abiding Savior has a large sanctuary that can accommodate our congregations safely. Masks and proper distancing will be required. The meeting will also be available via Zoom so watch for more details on how to attend virtually.

A paper ballot vote is required and there will be time after the meeting for members virtually in attendance to drive up to Abiding Savior to receive a ballot, vote and submit your ballot, all done safely from your car.

Members are encouraged to attend whichever way you are most comfortable.

Worship





Holy Week Palm Sunday—March 28 Maundy Thursday—April 1—7pm—Atonement Good Friday—April 2—7pm—Cross of Glory Easter Sunday—April 4 7am—Sunrise Easter service—Cross of Glory 8:30am—Easter service—Cross of Glory 10:30am—Easter service—Atonement

(All services except the 7am Sunrise service will be live-streamed.)



Sunday Worship Schedule

In-person Worship 8:30am—Cross of Glory 10:30am—Atonement The live stream alternates weekly between church sites.

Reminders for Worship Services

Please remember to register to attend worship service so we can keep our walk in spots available for guests.

As you seat yourself, please try to keep yourself safely distanced from other families.

We continue to need to wear masks properly and to refrain from singing. Humming and tapping your foot is welcomed.

Thank you for helping us keep each other healthy.

Children, Youth & Families



First Communion

On Palm Sunday we celebrated Holy Communion for the first time with the following children from our congregations. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their faith journey.



George Emerson, Ethan Lunde, Elijah Nault, Oliver Nault Abigail Sumsky, Melanie Thomalla, Alexandra Wilkinson

King's Kids Preschool

King's Kids Preschool Annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser Wednesday, May 12 and Thursday, May 13; times are 9:00 – 5:30pm Drop off Donations at Atonement: Wednesday or Friday mornings between 9:30 – II:00am from April 7 through May 7 and Saturdays May 1 and 8 from 3:00 – 5:00pm.



No Preschool Classes on Friday, April 2



Join us via Zoom Sunday mornings at 11:30am. NOTE: We will NOT meet on Easter morning.



We return to meeting Wednesdays at Abiding Savior beginning April 7.

NEW TIME: 6:30-8:00pm



Join us Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:00am at Cross of Glory for Sunday School. NOTE: There are NO Sunday School classes on Easter morning.

Marilyn & Dani



ABCD Book Discussion Schedule 2021

We meet the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m.



The Atonement Book Club Daytime invites people from both Atonement and Cross of Glory to join us on Skype the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. to discuss books. You can join us for every discussion or only for those that interest you. Please email Nancy Jahnke at nkjahnke@gmail.com if you would like to attend. She will email you the link.

We picked books through April so more of you can have an input later in the year - in hopes we can meet together by late spring or early summer.

⇒ April 5, 2021 Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss by Margaret Renkle Andrea Quanbeck will lead the discussion.

King's Kids Preschool Rummage Sale

Spring is approaching fast, so it is time to think about the annual King's Kids Preschool Rummage Sale. (The preschool is located in Atonement's education wing.) Last year we were not able to host our annual Rummage Sale fundraiser.

The dates of the sale will be Wednesday, May 12 and Thursday, May 13; times will be 9:00am—5:30pm. Please start gathering together items that you no longer need. (No used TV sets, old VCRs, or mattresses are accepted.) Think "spring cleaning!"

Your donations can be brought into the Atonement fellowship hall during Wednesday or Friday mornings between 9:30 – II:00am from April 7 through May 7 AND on Saturdays May 1 and 8 from 3:00 – 5:00pm. If your donated large item does not sell, you will be responsible to take it back.

On the dates of the Rummage Sale, customers must, of course, wear masks and space 6' apart and will be limited to 25 at a time.

Thank you for your generosity and for thinking of the children in our community that King's Kids Preschool serves!

The King's Kids Preschool Staff





Growing Through Loss Series



This 6-week series provides an opportunity for individuals to obtain information and support for a variety of loss and grief issues. Each session begins with an educational presentation by a professional from the community, followed by small groups facilitated by leaders who understand the grieving process. *The educational presentations will be live streamed through YouTube entitled GTL North Suburban.*

Although there is no cost, donations are welcome. Registration takes place each evening before the program. Church affiliation is not necessary. Each session is complete in itself; attend any or all sessions. We will be following Abiding Savior Lutheran Church's facility use policy during this pandemic. Child care will not be provided for safety reasons. **You are required to wear a face mask.** Call 763-755-5335 or visit <u>www.growingthroughloss.org</u> for more information. The next series will be held Tuesday evenings, April 6th through May 11th, from 6:45 to 9:00 pm at:

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church 8211 Red Oak Dr Mounds View, MN 55112

(Please note there is a speaker change to the schedule for April 20. Stuart Walker is unable to attend so Deacon John Cleveland, Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Chaska will be speaking instead on the same topic.)

What's your gift?

We all have gifts to offer. Big or small.

A hobby? An area of interest?

It might be something you do all the time and don't realize it could be shared.

Think outside the box on how you can serve others in our community.

Watch for your Time and Talent survey coming to your inbox soon!





Men's Retreat-2021

Attention MEN of Crossroads Parish & Abiding Savior.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of May 21-23.

Heartwood Resort and Conference Center is the return site for our annual Men's Retreat; it's recently under new ownership and is welcoming us BACK. Go to www.heartwoodresort.com to see this amazing place that is less than 2 hours away near Trego, WI.

For those of you who have been with us before you know what to expect...great food, fellowship and a relaxing weekend.

Intern Pastor Marty will be facilitating our spiritual exercises; and some significant takeaways are being planned!

Please feel free to contact any of the team with questions or concerns and LET US KNOW IF WE CAN COUNT ON SEEING YOU.

Steve Klaers, Jim Nelson, Wayne Haselhorst, Scott Carlson

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Thank you to our many prayer chain members at both Atonement and Cross of Glory!

Our prayer chain would also love to pray for thanksgiving and they encourage you to send your prayers of thanksgiving as well as your prayers of need.

It's always wonderful to hear how our prayers have helped someone in need of them.



Farth Day

April 77







ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

As previously mentioned there are many ways to contribute to the Atonement Foundation and this month I'd like to mention a couple.

GIVE AFTER YOU'RE GONE...

One way to do this is to set up a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). You can make a plan to tithe your ESTATE directly to your DAF. Your heirs can meet once a year to decide on where and to whom the annual distribution will be sent.

MAKE A DIRECT BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION ...

Most of us have some Life Insurance, IRA, Annuities or a Retirement Plan. These assets are very rarely all spent before death and make a great gift to our Foundation.

I hope you'll give these options prayerful consideration. I encourage you to check with your financial advisor, Attorney or Pastor for advice. Pastor Cassie and I will also be happy to provide more details.

Godspeed... Steve Klaers 612-599-8103 sklaers@comcast.net







Volunteers NEEDED for Sunday Mornings

We are in need of usher and counter volunteers on Sunday mornings at both Atonement and Cross of Glory.

USHER DUTIES:

Ushers help facilitate leading worship attendees through the 4 stations and into the sanctuary and ensure that everyone is properly wearing a mask.

Station 1—Pick up a bulletin Station 2—Offering Station 4—Sign In Station 5—Pick Up Communion

After visiting the 4 stations attendees are asked to enter the sanctuary and find a seat that is safely distanced (6 ft) from other families.

Ushers will bring the offering plate up to the altar when requested by the pastor.

After communion is completed, ushers will collect empty communion cups with a basket.

After worship, ushers will assist in leading guests safely outside with proper distancing.

COUNTERS:

Counters will collect the offering after worship and follow the counting procedure for each church which involves counting and recording any offering received on Sunday morning as well as offering received during the week. We need two counters from different families each Sunday morning per church.

TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT:

Atonement members interested in volunteering to help, please contact Carol Hoiby at carol.hoiby@centurylink.net or call 763-572-9169(home) or 763-438-1184(cell).

Cross of Glory members interested in volunteering to help usher, please contact Dawn at dawn@crossroads55112.org or call the church office at 763-784-2528.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ALC=Atonement Luth Ch COG=Cross of Glory Luth Ch MoB=Mount of Blessings Ch FCC=Faith Community Ch ASLC-=Abiding Savior Luth C				1 Maundy Thursday 7pm @ ALC April Fool's Day	2 Good Friday 2pm COG Prayer Shawls 5pm ALC—MoB 7pm Worship @ COG	3 9am ALC—MoB
4 Easter 7am Sunrise service @ Cross of Glory 8:30 Cross of Glory 10:30 Atonement Noon—ALC—FCC	5 Easter Monday Office Closed 8am Men's Bible Study 1pm ABCD Book Club	6 1pm ALC Worship Committee 7pm Mutual Ministry	7 6:30 Confirmation	8 10am COG Naomi Cir	9 Pastor Day Off 5pm ALC—MoB	10 9am ALC—MoB
11 8:30 Cross of Glory 9:15 Sun School @ COG 10:30 Atonement 11:30 Zoom Youth Group Noon–FCC @ ALC 1pm Cong. Meeting @ ASLC 6:30 P. Marty Book Club	12 8am Men's Bible Study 1pm COG Fellowship Circle 6pm ALC Property	13 11am ALC In-Reach 6:30 ALC Council 7:15 COG Council	14 6:30 Confirmation	51	16 Pastor Day Off 5pm ALC—Mob	17 9am ALC—MoB
18 8:30 Cross of Glory 9:15 Sun School @ COG 10:30 Atonement 11:30 Zoom Youth Group Noon—FCC @ ALC 6:30 P. Marty Book Club	19 8am Men's Bible Study	50	21 6:30 Confirmation	22 Earth Day	23 Pastor Day Off 5pm ALC—MoB	24 9am ALC—MoB
25 8:30 Cross of Glory 9:15 Sun School @ COG 10:30 Atonement 11:30 Zoom Youth Group Noon—FCC @ ALC 6:30 P. Marty Book Club	26 8am Men's Bible Study	27	28 6:30 Confirmation	29	30 Pastor Day Off 5pm ALC—MoB	



The church offices remain open. As always, you are welcome to contact the church staff at either site, regardless of where you attend worship.

Church Office Hours:

Both Atonement and Cross of Glory church offices are open Monday - Friday.

Atonement's office is open in the morning until Noon.

Cross of Glory's office is open in the afternoon until 4:30.

<u>"Remember the Sabbath day," -Exodus 20</u> Pastor Cassie and Pastor Marty take Fridays off as their Sabbath day <u>except for pastoral emergencies.</u>

How to Contact Staff:

Atonement: 651-633-2240; Cross of Glory: 763-784-2528

Dawn's Email: <u>dawn@crossroads55112.org</u>;

Pastor Cassie: cassie@crossroads55112.org; Cell: 763-219-3094

Intern Pastor Marty Wyatt: marty@crossroads55112.org; Cell: 763-742-9609

Shannon Rosas (Music Director at Atonement): shannon@atonementnb.org; Cell: 651-387-0662

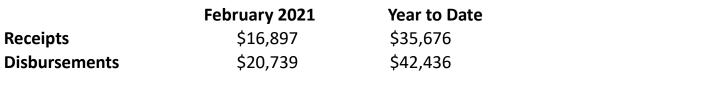
Like Us on Facebook! Find us on our websites: AtonementNB.org or CrossOfGloryMV.org

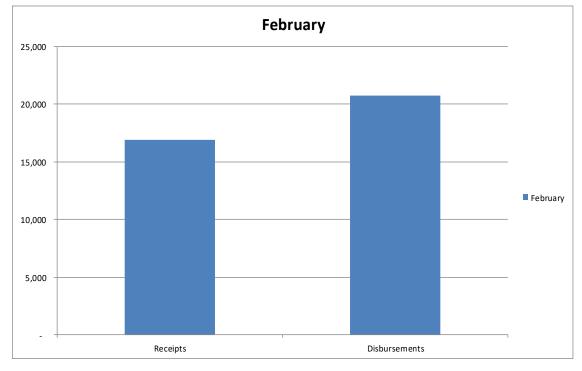


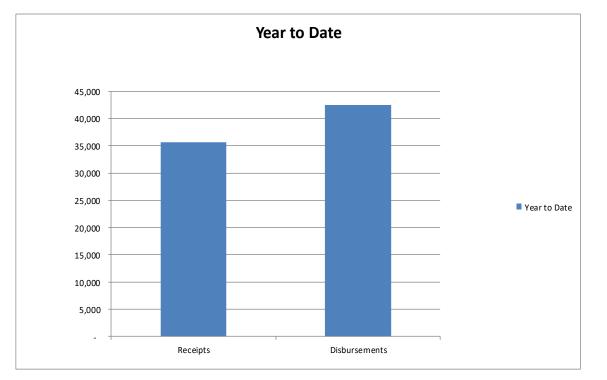
Submit articles by the <u>third Monday of the month</u> to be included in the next monthly newsletter.















Birthdays and Anniversaries

- April 7 Vicki Klaers
- April 11 Karen Larson
- April 12 Janet & Jim Zastrow (1969)
- April 18 Grace Ellis

April 20Aili VaselApril 20Bob & Tami Kinney (1995)April 23Kirsten Ellis



Thanks & Joy

- Thank you to Al Johnson for his many years of dedicated service bringing the aluminum recycling in for the Cross of Glory Youth Program!
- ♥ Thank you to Leslie Bjork who faithfully volunteers to usher Sunday mornings at Cross of Glory.
- ♥ Thanks to Marie Thomalla for helping get Cross of Glory's sanctuary ready for worship Sunday mornings.
- Thank you to Carol Hoiby, Eric Woods, Bonnie Anderson, Judy Hill and Bea Laubach for volunteering to help usher at Atonement!
- Thank you to Adam Vasel for repairing one of Atonement's furnaces and getting the lower level bathroom in working order for the King's Kids Preschool. Also thank you to Tony Houfek for cleaning up and drying out the water from the furnace area.
- Thank you to Ron & Shelly Markham for volunteering to take over the aluminum can recycling at Cross of Glory!
- Thank you to Tony Houfek for shoveling Atonement's sidewalks all winter!
- ♥ Thank you to Tom & Denise Thomalla for snow blowing Cross of Glory's sidewalks all winter.
- ♥ As always, thank you to our dedicated audio/visual crew who keep us connected for every service!
- ♥ Thank you everyone, for all you do for Atonement and Cross of Glory every day!

