

**Annual Meeting Agenda
January 25, 2026
Atonement Lutheran Church
St. Cloud, Minnesota**

- 1. Call to order – President Bruce Broman**
- 2. Devotions – Pastor**
- 3. Approval of Quorum**
- 4. Approval of Agenda**
- 5. Approval of 2025 Congregational Meeting minutes**
- 6. Pastors' report**
- 7. President's report**
- 8. Treasurer's report**
- 9. Approval of 2026 budget**
- 10. Presentation and election of 2026 Church Council members/representatives**
- 11. Old business**
 - Capital Campaign**
 - Memorial Fund Policy**
- 12. New business**
- 13. New President's comments – Debbie Niemeyer**
- 14. Closing Prayer – Pastor**
- 15. Adjournment – President Debbie Niemeyer**

Note: Any member who has a specific issue for the 2026 Annual Meeting is asked to submit a written request to Debbie Niemeyer for review by the Executive Council.
Please email Debbie at: president@atonementlutheran.org.

Atonement Lutheran Church
2025 Atonement Annual Meeting
January 26, 2025

Members physically present: 53

Call to order- President Linda Schreiber

Opening Prayer- Pastor John

Approval of Quorum- Was met.

Approval of Agenda- Motion was made by Karen Vann to adopt the agenda as presented. Kay Defries seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes- Motion was made by Jean Klosowski to accept the minutes as printed. Thor Larson seconded and the motion carried.

Pastors' Reports- Both pastors emphasized that Atonement is rooted in relationships and gave several examples (between members, among staff, in the music programs and with other congregations/ministries).

P.Tim shared information on the growing number of Atonement YouTube live stream views in 2024. Views were up 30% over last year. This technology offers an opportunity to minister to those who aren't able to physically attend a worship service. The average in-person attendance on Wednesday evenings increased by 23%. Easter Sunday attendance rose by 7% and Christmas Eve by 11%.

A new Atonement logo designed by vo-tech students was presented by P. John.

President's Report- Linda stated 2024 was a year of many successes and joys. She presented a list of the highlights. The Vision Committee was thanked for their work in establishing new mission and vision statements. Outgoing Council members (Susan Plahn, Ella Anderson, Kris Boyle, Ralph Carpenter, Sheila Molde, Sally Reichert and Steve Gabrielson) were thanked for their service. Laura Hillmer and Mata Carlson were thanked for their dedication. Those leading music during worship (Marcia Handahl, Eric Vollen, Jordan Goodwater and Jason Ploof) were thanked for sharing their talents. Jill Abrahamson was thanked for her efforts to re-organize reports after a shift to Clergy Financial. Bob Defries (Property Committee) was called forward to provide an update to the congregation on the replacement of electrical panels in the sacristy. He thanked Steve and Patty Gabrielson for their contribution to that project.

Treasurer's report- Jill presented the 2025 budget. To provide more balance in the checking account, two CDs were not renewed and the money and interest from them were put into the General Fund. A rise in insurance and technology costs necessitated an increase for administrative expenses. In line with the theme of planning to grow, the budgets for Evangelism and Stewardship were each slightly increased. The Discretionary Mission Ministry was reduced but it is hoped through the Mission of the Month program, funds will come in to cover the reduction. Fellowship and Youth Ministry budgets were reduced as their spending in past years has been below previous budgeted amounts. Worship was split into 2 lines: one for music and one for the Worship Committee.

Jill stated the 2025 budget is on the conservative side but Atonement has shown itself to be a generous congregation.

Approval of 2025 budget- A motion to accept the 2025 budget was made by Kris Boyle, seconded by Thor Larson and carried by vote.

Presentation and election of 2025 Church Council members

President:	Bruce Broman (one year term followed by one year as Past President)
Vice-President:	Debbie Niemeyer (one year term followed by one year as president)
Secretary:	_____ (1 st year of a two year term)
Treasurer:	Jill Abrahamson (2 nd year of two year term)
Fellowship Ministry:	Jon Molden (1 st year of two year term)
Worship Ministry:	Yvonne Carriere (1 st year of a two year term)
Evangelism:	Nancy Sokoloski (2 nd year of a two year term) Pat Flicker
Childrens & Youth Ministry:	Pat Pflipsen (1 st year of a two-year term)
Adult Ministry:	Jean Klosowski (2 nd year of a two-year term)
Property Ministry:	Bob Defries (2 nd year of a 2-year term) Thor Larson, co-chairman
Stewardship Ministry:	_____ (1 st year of a two year term)
Mission Ministry:	Kay Defries (2 nd year of a two year term)
Nominating Committee:	Linda Schreiber (one year term) Kris Boyle (one year term) Debbie Grzybowski (one year term) _____ (one year term)
Appointed Positions:	
Legacy Committee:	Kay Josephs (3 rd year of 2 nd three year term) Ralph Carpenter (1 st year of three year term) Nancy Wilson-Hagen (1 st year of three year term) Pat Buttweiler (1 st year of a three-year-term) Debbie Niemeyer (1 st year of three year term)
Luther Crest Board:	Marcus and Marilyn Anderson, Talliev and Karen Vollen Presley Grzybowski
Gustavus Adolphus Representatives:	Jeanne & Dave Erickson
Synod Representatives:	Tim & Linda Schreiber (one year term) Bruce Broman (one year term) Susan Ukaonu (one year term)

Positions remaining open are for Secretary, Stewardship Ministry and Nominating Committee. Karen Vann motioned to elect the slate of candidates as presented by the Nominating Committee. Steve Gabrielson seconded the motion and it was carried by vote. Linda thanked members of the outgoing Nominating Committee including: Shelia Molde, Angie Janni, Christopher Wills and Jon Molden.

Old Business- None brought forward

New Business- Linda provided an update on the Capital Campaign. At the start of the campaign, the mortgage balance was \$363,405.92.

As of 01/01/25:

New mortgage is \$130,990.66

Total amount pledged was over \$353,000

Cash received was \$232,415.26

It is expected that the balance will be paid off by the end of 2025. Any additional monies received after that will go towards future street assessments.

Members of the Capital Campaign Committee were thanked including: Dave Erickson, Sheila Molde, Debbie Niemeyer, Chris Wills and Talliev and Karen Vollen.

P. John noted the importance of establishing an endowment fund for operating expenses. He plans to meet with the Legacy Committee to discuss opening another account in the Memorial Fund for this purpose.

New President's Comments- Bruce thanked Linda for her work and stated he is looking forward to serving the congregation as President.

Closing Prayer- P. Tim

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn was made by Kay Defries and seconded by Jill Abrahamson. It carried on vote and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Plahn
Secretary

Co-Pastors Annual Report

In a world that often craves excitement, attention, and power, we find peace in a different calling. What we love best about serving at Atonement Lutheran Church is that we don't have to be the hub of ministry. Not being the main characters, so to speak, frees us to focus on what we do best, what we have been trained and called to do — the ministry of Word (preaching, teaching, and proclaiming the forgiveness of sins) and Sacrament (sharing God's own gifts of Holy Communion and Baptism) — and supporting the rest of this congregation in using their gifts in vocations for what the Apostle Paul called "*building up the Body of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:12).

And there are great gifts here.

Every week, God sends us guests and visitors in worship. These are people who are not yet connected to this congregation, but who want to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. And they choose to spend that time seeking alongside us, joining us in proclaiming God's goodness and love. This is a great blessing to us.

Every week, partners in mission gather in our building to serve God and neighbor. Some of these partners use our physical space for their own worship, but many more use the building — which we have worked hard to maintain — for ministry with and for the homeless, those in recovery, and even the Arts. This is a great blessing to us.

Every month, this congregation affirms your pastors' belief that this is the most generous congregation towards mission partners that they have ever served (granted, Pastor John has been here for 3/4 of his career, so he has a limited sample, but Pastor Tim has been around the block a few times and knows what he's talking about). This generosity might seem like it is primarily a great blessing to our neighbors, but generosity changes the heart of the giver, drawing us closer to the God who gives it all. In this way, our generosity is a great blessing to us.

Just about every month — sometimes more often, sometimes less — our congregation ministers to grieving families with funeral worship and hospitality. We do this in our sanctuary and fellowship hall, as well as out in the community, serving not only members of our congregation, but neighbors who do not have a church home. We also open our doors and offer our pastors to families, couples, and individuals seeking marriage and baptism. All of this is a lot of work, but through this work we proclaim and demonstrate the love of God and the hope of the Resurrection — and by doing these things we follow Christ's command to make disciples of all nations. This is a great blessing to us.

And then, sometimes, things happen that are not at all common. This past year, for example, thanks to the leadership of our council and a group of talented volunteers, we paid off our mortgage before the end of a member-led capital campaign. Another group of members exercised their specific vocations — using gifts of knowledge, experience, insight, and patience to navigate an upcoming street and utility assessment. This is and will be a great blessing to us as well.

We cannot know exactly what 2026 will bring. Events of recent years demonstrate that we can only plan for and anticipate so much. But your pastors believe that some things will remain constant — the love of God in Christ Jesus, most of all, and our congregation's calling to share that good news in word and deed — by using all of the various gifts given to each of us for "*building up the Body of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:12).

2025 Atonement Worship Attendance Analysis

	Sunday* Average	Mid-Week Average	Special Worship	Sunday* Stream Average	Sunday Stream Adjusted (x1.4)	Mid-Week Stream Average	Mid-Week Stream Adjusted (x1.4)	Total Live + Online Actual	Total Live + Stream Adjusted	Sunday* Stream Average Duration	Mid-Week Average Duration
TOTALS											
Weekly	108	49		57	80	29	41	243	277	18:49	07:45
Summer (9:00 & 6:00) Program	90	21		57	79		0	168	191	15:52	05:32
Year (9:00 & 6:30)	115	59		57	80	30	42	260	295	19:56	07:55
Lent (12:00 + 6:30)	105	68				48	67	220	239	18:18	07:37
Holy Week (Thurs & Fri)		91				46	64		155		13:31
Easter			283	114	160			397	443	10:26	
Xmas Eve			407	96	134			503	541	14:10	

*Includes Xmas Eve and Easter in Weekly & Program Year

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

MacKlan Zimmer
Rachel Czech
Sienna Jablonicky
Rosabelle Robertson

Weddings

Gabrielle Langer & James Hasselbrink
Samantha Wuticki-Becker & David Nelson
Brandon Anderson & John Jimenez

Confirmations

Kalli Single
Arlo Gabrielson
Bo Parker
Owen Janni

Funerals

Jim Josephs	Michael Meyer
Ed Glimpse	Barbara Meyer
Barbara Kjolhaug	Tom Bevans
Loretta Anderson	Loren Krueger
Jim Page	Earl Pederson
Diane Wisniewski-Grzybowski	

Music Director's Annual Report

As Atonement's Director of Music Ministries, I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with, including directors, pastors, office staff, council members, Worship Committee and all the members of the choirs. We have dedicated, enthusiastic and talented directors who guide the choirs in learning wonderful music that enhances our worship with all of you!

This past year, as we welcome, worship and serve in the name of Christ, we have enjoyed a wide variety of music from our choir and handbell choir, as well as talent within our community including Laura Dahl, Mike Karl & the Lower Town Project & St. John's Boy's Choir.... all providing different styles of music during worship. We normally host the Singing Saints, but were not able to sync our schedules this year. Also, in recent years, Atonement's choirs have become more visible within our greater St. Cloud community. Eric and Jordan will expound on this in their comments below.

We wouldn't have continuity in our worship services without wonderful substitutes for Eric and me from time to time. Thank you to Kristie Elvehjem & John Schreiber for filling in for Eric as song leaders in his absence and for Jeanne Bruns and Jordan Goodwater who fill in during my absence. Thanks also to Kris Boyle, flautist for graciously stepping in when asked ...such a great addition to hymns, liturgy & choir selections!

Jason Ploof has been making music at Atonement since June of 2023. He continues playing Wednesday services and 1 Sunday a month. His willingness to step into new roles & join the other musicians as he did this past Christmas Eve and during Holden has been a wonderful addition.

On behalf of the music staff and choirs, we are grateful for your appreciation of the work we do to provide music for the services. We sincerely thank you for your support!

Marcia Handahl

Comments from Adult Choir Director, Eric Vollen:

Over the past year, the Atonement Choir has continued to serve as an integral part of Atonement's worship life, offering music that is beautiful, liturgical, singable, and centered on glorifying God. The choir sang regularly at worship services—typically two Sundays each month—supporting congregational song and often introducing new choral and hymn repertoire that enriches the assembly's participation in worship.

A significant highlight again this year was the choir's participation in the Come Thou Fount community choir concert in November, benefiting Catholic Charities Food Shelf. Atonement Choir was one of five participating choral ensembles and has now taken part in this event for the third consecutive year. This collaboration reflects both our commitment to musical excellence and our congregation's call to serve the wider community.

New singers are always warmly welcomed. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:15 - 8:15.

From Jordan Goodwater, Great River Resonance/Atonement Handbell Choir Director:

Through weekly rehearsals and worship leadership, the choir continues to bring together adult singers and youth in shared ministry, fostering musical growth, spiritual reflection, and community. The ensemble remains a visible and vital expression of Atonement's dedication to worship, outreach, and service through music both at Atonement and in the greater St. Cloud area.

The Bells of Atonement completed another successful season, providing handbell offerings on the second Sunday of each month from September through May. Our ensemble brings together ringers from four area churches alongside Atonement members who form the choir's core.

This year brought exciting improvements to our handbell program. Thanks to the Property Committee, staff (John, Tim, Laura, Marcia), and dedicated volunteers—especially Bob Defries and Greg and Julie Lingl—the bells now have a beautifully renovated home. New carpet was installed through the generosity of two donors, and we replaced the original tables and pads with funding from the Women of Atonement's Advent Tea proceeds. This enhanced space enables us to continue hosting Summer Fun Rings and serve as home to the Great River Resonance Community Handbell Ensemble.

We look forward to the Handbell Musicians of America Area 7 Handbell Festival to be held in St. Cloud this summer, June 25-28, 2026. If you're in the area, we'd love to have you join us for the closing concert with 500+ ringers and support Bells of Atonement ringers who'll be ringing in that event.

We'd love to welcome new ringers to our group! No experience is necessary—just contact Jordan Goodwater if you'd like to give it a try.

President's Annual Meeting Report

The members of Atonement made a difference last year. The Holy Spirit was at work among us through our church events. From Lenten Lunches, to Trunk or Treat, to the Advent Tea, all were well planned and well attended. We participated in mission projects such as Habitat 500 bike tour and Habitat build days, volunteered for the Catholic Charities Food Shelf, donated to Coats for Kids, supported Madison Elementary, North Junior High, and the Veterans Resource and Enrichment Center, supported the homeless in our community, and gave generously to other missions we support through our Mission of the Month giving.

A major accomplishment of commitment and generosity this year was that we paid off our mortgage. I want to recognize our Capital Campaign committee for organizing this effort and all those whose donations made this achievement possible.

We do have challenges ahead. One financial challenge is preparing to take on the cost of the street and city services reconstruction that will begin this year. I am confident that we will face that with our usual faith and commitment to Atonement's ministry to share the good news of Christ.

Our congregation is generous, both with our time and with our resources. We serve our wider community and support each other, doing God's work for God's family and sharing God's Word.

It was a privilege to serve as president of Atonement. I want to thank you all for supporting my efforts this last year and allowing me to work alongside you in yours.

Finance Committee Report

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$532,163.73	\$ 520,674.00	\$532,868.86
Expenses			
Administrative	\$ 60,557.14	\$ 63,500.00	\$ 63,744.12
Adult Ministry	\$ 203.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 251.50
Children's Ministry	\$ 2,139.91	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,650.15
Debt Service	\$ 50,616.18	\$ 50,564.00	\$ 43,233.44
Evangelism	\$ 356.11	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 423.15
Fellowship	\$ 76.68	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,212.59
Mission Ministry	\$ 35,040.00	\$ 27,996.00	\$ 27,982.32
Payroll	\$351,691.58	\$ 377,479.00	\$376,036.76
Property Expense	\$ 68,629.83	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 78,146.68
Stewardship Ministry	\$ 2,931.32	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,468.61
Worship	\$ 9,330.96	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,323.91
Youth Community Projects	\$ 6,628.15	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,987.02
Youth Ministry	\$ 2,200.81	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 996.02
TOTALS	<u>\$590,401.67</u>	<u>\$ 638,539.00</u>	<u>\$608,456.27</u>

Additional Receipts		
Mission of the Month	\$ 46,957.02	\$ 57,351.78
Building Use Fund	\$ 27,864.00	\$ 33,651.00
Capital Campaign	\$197,390.01	\$ 99,592.30
Youth - Canoes	\$ -	\$ 12,614.81
Grant		\$ 20,000.00
Other Income (Designated Funds)	\$ 10,504.56	\$ 32,571.00

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2025

Current Assets	<u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>12/31/2024</u>
Bremer Checking (unrestricted)	\$ 65,125.74	\$ 148,187.94
Bremer Checking (restricted)	\$ 145,115.18	\$ 137,889.11
Petty Cash	\$ 63.65	\$ 45.00
CD (6 Month) - Stearns Bank	\$ -	\$ -
CD (12 Month) - Stearns Bank	\$ -	\$ -
Family Assistance	\$ 2,428.85	\$ 425.46
ELCA Operating Endowment Fund*	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
ELCA Endowment Fund*	<u>\$ 70,400.57</u>	<u>\$ 63,191.78</u>
Total Current Assets	\$ 308,133.99	\$ 349,694.29
Fixed Assets		
Building and Property	<u>\$ 4,418,956.17</u>	<u>\$4,418,956.17</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 4,727,090.16</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,768,650.46</u></u>
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ -	\$ -
State Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ -	\$ -
Credit Cards Payable	\$ 5,809.47	\$ 5,318.72
Other Current Liabilities	<u>\$ (2,245.37)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 3,564.10	\$ 5,318.72
Long Term Liabilities		
Thrivent Mortgage Note Payable	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 130,990.66</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,564.10	\$ 136,309.38
Total Equity	<u><u>\$ 4,723,526.06</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,632,386.08</u></u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u><u>\$ 4,727,090.16</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,768,695.46</u></u>

**waiting on 2025 actuals from Legacy Committee*

2026 Budget

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2026 Budget*</u>	<u>Change +/-</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$ 520,674.00	\$ 521,066.00	\$ 392.00
Expenses			
Administrative	\$ 63,500.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
Adult Ministry	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Children's Ministry	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
Bank Fees & Mortgage Interest	\$ 12,564.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (9,564.00)
Mortgage Principal	\$ 38,000.00	\$ -	\$ (38,000.00)
Evangelism	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Fellowship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Mission Ministry-Discretionary	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Mission Ministry-SWMN	\$ 26,496.00	\$ 26,496.00	\$ -
Mission Ministry-Great River Conf	\$ 500.00	\$ 544.00	\$ 44.00
Payroll	\$ 377,479.00	\$ 390,000.00	\$ 12,521.00
Property Expense	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ (9,000.00)
Stewardship Ministry	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
Worship			\$ -
Worship - Music	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,125.00	\$ 1,125.00
Worship - Committee	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)
Youth Community Projects	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Youth Ministry	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
TOTAL	<u>\$ 638,539.00</u>	<u>\$ 599,165.00</u>	<u>\$ (39,374.00)</u>

**Approved by church council on December 20, 2025*

Presentation of Nominating Committee

Names in bold print are nominees for open positions.

Other names are mid-term in their positions.

President:	Debbie Niemeyer	(one year term followed by one year as Past President)
Vice President:		(One year term followed by one year as president)
Past President:	Bruce Broman	(One year term)
Secretary:	Fred Sandal	(2 nd year of two-year term)
Treasurer:	Jill Abrahamson	(1 st year of 2 nd two-year term)
Fellowship Ministry:	Jon Molden	(2 nd year of a two-year term)
Worship Ministry:	Tim Schreiber	(2 nd year of a two-year term)
Evangelism Ministry:		(1 st year of two-year term)
Children's & Youth Ministry:	Pat Pflipsen	(1 st year of 2 nd two-year term)
Adult Ministry:	Jean Klosowski	(1 st year of 3 rd two-year term)
Property Ministry:	Bob Defries	(1 st year of 2 nd two-year term)
	Thor Larson	
Stewardship Ministry:	John Hagen	(1st year of two-year term)
Mission Ministry:	Kay Defries	(2 nd year of 2 nd two-year term)
Nominating Committee:	Bruce Broman	(one year term)
	Sue Schmidt	(one year term)
	Dennis Plahn	(one year term)
		(one year term)
Appointed Positions:		
Legacy Committee:	Kay Josephs	(1 st year of 3 rd three-year term)
	Ralph Carpenter	(2 nd year of three-year term)
	Nancy Wilson-Hagen	(2 nd year of three-year term)
	Pat Buttweiler	(2 nd year of three-year term)
	Debbie Niemeyer	(2 nd year of three-year term)
	Evelyn Erickson	(1 st year of three-year term)
		(1 st year of three-year term)
Luther Crest Board:	Marcus & Marilyn Anderson	
	Talliev & Karen Vollen	
	Presley Grzybowski	
Gustavus Adolphus Representatives:	Kris and Greg Lehman	
Synod Representatives:	Chimezie Ukaonu	(one year term)
	Bruce Broman	(one year term)
	Susan Ukaonu	(one year term)

Committee Reports:

Evangelism Committee

For the 2025 year:

- The Evangelism committee had 2 co-chairs and 3 members.
- In 2025 we have sent out postcards to newcomers, with 373 sent out with special events associated with Easter, 379 sent out before the start of the fall education schedule and 391 with the Christmas events and worship schedule.
- We continued to present folders for new members during orientation sessions after the worship service that they were welcomed into the congregation.
- We have continued with placing water bottles in the rooms that are rented by organizations and place information about worship services and special events that occur during the church year (more often than the postcards)
- We removed the art work in the area between the office and the worship space with permission of/request by the original artist and were able to capture several aspects of the church life allowing a personal introduction to our congregation
- We did several easels throughout the year with emphasis on groups that are part of the member involvement in the various aspects of Atonement Lutheran Church with photos and a brief introduction to the group.
- We gave out stickers with the schedule for December events for youth and adults stapled to them as part of the Trunk or Treat event at the church to reach out to the potential "unchurched" in our area.

Stewardship Committee

Consecration Sunday in November was a success. As of January, we had 102 individuals and families pledging a total of \$385,000 to Atonement for 2026. In addition, we paid off our mortgage in 2025. Both show a wonderful commitment to Atonement's ministry sharing the Good News of Christ!

Stewardship Committee

Bruce Broman, Larry Asplin, and Dave Erickson

Legacy Committee

The Legacy Fund is used for 3 purposes: Scholarships and Christian education, local mission and ministry development, and capital improvements. Currently there is \$70,400 in the Legacy Fund. Yearly disbursements can range from 3-8% of the fund. We continue to receive memorial money for the fund. This year we gave \$1000 for the vine removal on the church property, which was required for insurance. We also gave out 2 \$750 scholarships. Mylie Parker and Cadaan Miller received the scholarships. We are preparing applications for 2026 scholarships and that information will be in the February newsletter.

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee of Jon Molden and Linda Schreiber had a lot of fun with our church members.

The Fellowship Committee hosted a luncheon on April 29th at Jimmy's with speakers on fraud and scam prevention.

May 19th, we toured St. John's Bible with prayer and a luncheon with the monks.

June 26th, we gathered to go to see a Rox baseball game.

August 27th, we hosted Root Beer floats at church.

Thanks Jon Molden

Mission Committee

Atonement's congregation is blessed with generosity of spirit and substantial giving. The **Mission of the Month** (MOM) will have raised donations of nearly \$50,000 in 2025! We've sent our gifts to Lincoln Center, Luther Crest, The Emergency Food Shelf, Habitat for Humanity, HELPS International, Madison Elementary and North Junior High, Global World Relief, Place of Hope, Anna Marie's, Homeless youth agencies and ELCA's God's Global Barnyard. The MOM list for 2026 is posted on the Mission bulletin board. We welcome any suggestions for MOM consideration.

The \$1,000 discretionary money in the Mission budget was used at Carefree Living for their Easter party, McKinley Area Learning for their food pantry, Lincoln Center for hooded sweatshirts, gloves, socks, sweatpants and hand warmers, food for the holidays at the Dream Center, and Place of Hope for general needs.

We continue to collaborate with the Unity Spiritual Center and other area churches on donation efforts. Our Donation Center has a dedicated rack of shelves for Lincoln Center for food, hygiene items and clothing. Food collection will continue for the Salvation Army and McKinley School. The bin for plastic collected for V-REC (Veteran's Resource and Enrichment Center) will end in February. We'll continue with donations of old cell phones, children's clothing for the Food Shelf and hygiene items for Place of Hope.

Members of the committee are Kris Boyle, Jan Keaveny, Kathy Matthies, Nancy Wilson-Hagen, Linda Evenson and Kay Defries.

Our congregation is amazing! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Defries
Committee Chair

Property Committee

The property committee has completed a variety of work over the 2025 Fiscal Year. The following highlights this work.

Appliance Repair – Coffee Maker was not filling, and was fixed. The large propelled vacuum was repaired, cleaned and put back into service. The dishwasher was repaired to bring it back to nearly original purchase performance.

Insurance – With the help of Ralph Carpenter, the committee painstakingly reviewed coverages and sought bids. A new company was selected that provides excellent service and resources at a reasonable cost.

Canoe Trailer – the canoe trailer was re-done with paint, new wiring, weatherstripping, etc.

Outdoor/Grounds – The committee completed lots of trimming, planted new in the boulevard strip, and managed the new native plantings. Mowing has been contracted to a younger member of our congregation. Several yards of mulch were added, and weed removal by Beth, Kathy and Arlene continued. Tim Schreiber continues to be a valuable asset for creating and maintaining our plantings.

Roof Hatch – the hatch above the sanctuary was made easier to open by adding additional springs. Previously this was a safety concern.

Door Thresholds – entry thresholds were repaired to allow for proper door locking

Tables – Several new, lightweight tables have been purchased, making it much easier for us to move. Heavier tables will continue to be replaced as needed.

Room Setups and Wall Moving – the committee coordinated with other members to open and close the movable walls, and performed a variety of table and chair setups in the fellowship hall and classrooms.

Room changes – the committee oversaw several room changes in the church. Kitchen and music storerooms were changed and items moved. The choir room was decluttered and items were moved to storage to create more room for renters. Several stationary and moveable shelves were made to create more efficient storage options. The nursery size was reduced to increase classroom and rentable space. The youth room was also reduced in size without losing usability, creating additional space. The bell choir room was also moved and redone (special thanks to the Lings!') creating a larger space for the choir. The old bell room was setup to create a larger classroom, with additional storage available.

Van – the committee oversaw repairs to the van, making it much safer and increasing longevity for use. The van was cleaned and detailed over the year, especially when being used to transport for Lincoln Center. Maintenance such as battery change, oil changes, wiper blades, fluids, etc. were performed by the committee.

Entryway Pictures - New pictures created by the Evangelism committee were hung in the entry.

Solar Project – The committee performed several hours of feasibility study for potentially adding solar. After much work, it was agreed that the payback period for such a project would not be financially attractive.

A/V – A variety of projects throughout the building were completed to create more efficient and effective use of a/v and technology in our ministries.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met regularly throughout 2025 to plan, support, and evaluate the congregation's worship life. The committee worked closely with pastors, musicians, and staff to ensure meaningful, well-organized worship across all seasons of the church year.

Key areas of focus included planning for Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, Advent, and Christmas, as well as special services such as All Saints, Blue Christmas, Veterans Day, and Stewardship Sunday. Attention was given to worship environment, music leadership, use of liturgical resources, and congregational participation.

The committee supported the planning of First Communion and Confirmations, reviewed worship schedules and service times, and addressed congregational feedback related to music volume, livestream quality, and accessibility. Budget oversight was provided, including preparation and submission of the 2026 worship budget, with the addition of a Worship Environment budget line.

Overall, the Worship Committee continued to provide thoughtful leadership and coordination to support meaningful, inclusive, and well-prepared worship for the congregation throughout the year.

Submitted by Tim Schreiber, Worship Committee Chair/Council Member

Worship Committee: Marcia Handahl, Sue Schmidt, Yvonne Carrier, Julie Lingl, John Schenk, Pastor Tim Lindhorst, Paster John Gabrielson

Environment Committee: Sue Schmidt, Bonnie Kittleson, Anne First, Diana Vaverek, Karen Vann, Linda Malvin, Nancy Johnson, Shelley Molden, Shirley Petersen, Nancy Wilson-Hagen, Kathy Matthies, Tim Schreiber

Adult Education Committee

The Committee members January through August were Jan Nairn, Ken Swanson, and Jean Klosowski. Kris Lehman joined the Committee in August. Adult Education meets in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays following 9 a.m. worship. People from elsewhere may join the sessions on Zoom.

2025

January – February

1/5 Our Story, Scott Roeder, (Suicide awareness)

February

- 2/2 The National Memorial to Victims of Lynching, Dr. Colleen Carpenter
2/9 Growing Through Volunteering into Faithful Service, Kevin LaNave, St. Cloud area educator
2/16 Aging with Flourish, Janette Ditlefsen, Good Shepherd Community Volunteer Coordinator, and Tauna Quimby, Americorp Senior RSVP
2/23 Harriet Tubman, Dr. Colleen Carpenter

March

- 3/2 The St. Cloud YMCA, Greg Gack, Executive Director
3/9 Introduction to the Lenten Series – Crucial Conversations, Pastor John, Pastor Tim
3/16 Thank You, Pastor Tim
3/23 Please Forgive Me, Pastor John
3/30 I Forgive You, Pastor Tim

April

- 4/6 I Love You, Pastor John
4/13 Goodbye, Pastor Tim
4/27 Update from the Council

September

- 9/21 Update from the Council
9/28 The Work of our Synod and the Greater Church, Pastor Dee Pederson, Bishop

October

- 10/5 The Salem Lutheran COP House & CentraCare Initiatives, Jenifer Oudette
10/12 BWCA, Cari Dombrovski, Ella Anderson, Hanne Gabrielson, Elsa Yanni, Charlotte Wills
10/26 Global Health Ministries, Sam Buegles

November

- 11/2 The Dream Center, Pastor Michael Laidlaw
11/16 When to Give Up the Keys, Mata Carlson
11/23 Christ the King Sunday, Pastor John

December

- 12/7 Holiday Tips for Caregivers, Tami Kolbinger, Vivie

Jean Klosowski
Chair, Adult Education Committee

Children and Youth Committee

Committee Members Ella Anderson, Naomi Abfalter, Charity Haugen, Kyle Janni, Jessica Parker, Pat Pflipsen, Council Representative, Stacy Tamm and Alisha Weah.

Wednesday School is for Children ages 3 – Kindergarten, 1st – 5th grades they have been learning about Bible stories in the Old Testament each week.

Confirmation students are studying Luther's Small Catechism this year.

Community Packing Projects. Each month a special project is done for different community organizations. We want students and members to be aware of the needs in our community. This is done during the school year as a part of confirmation.

January, we packed 100 bags that included personal care items, hats, gloves, neck warmers, and socks for Homeless Helping Homeless.

February 100 lunch bags were put together for Homeless people in the community, each bag had a sandwich, chips, fruit cup, juice and cookie.

For April individually wrapped cookies were packaged for area police, sheriff, fire, emergency room staff, and ambulance departments in our area. We packed about 70 dozen cookies, and these were delivered to the different agencies by members of Atonement.

May the project Pockets of Hope, 20 back packs were filled with personal care items, games and other items for students ages 12 – 18. These bags were given to Central MN Child Advocacy Center, the bags are given to children rescued from abuse, neglect and abandonment.

Quilts made by Wednesday quilt makers were given to 4 High School Seniors in May.

VBS was held in June, theme was True North, trusting Jesus in a wild world. We had students from 15 different churches that attended. There were 30 volunteers who helped make it a fun experience. A noon lunch was served as well as snacks. Salem helped with half of the expenses.

September 100 Birthday Bags were given to Catholic Charities. The bags are given to families who can't afford to provide for their children's Birthday. Each bag has cake mix, frosting, paper plates, napkins, candles, and a small gift. This is for children ages 6 – 10.

October Blizzard Bags were made. These are bags that have food for people who receive home delivered meals in case meals can't be delivered because of weather conditions they will have a meal. Each bag has a can of soup, crackers, fruit cup, juice, and cookies. These were given to Catholic Charities.

November Lutheran Social Services received 50 bags filled with cleaning supplies for Pathways 4 Youth. These are young people ages 16 through 24 who are at risk of homelessness moving into an apartment for the first time.

December bells were rung for the Salvation Army at 4 sites.

Trunk 'N Treat the students in the community were invited to attend. This year we did not serve food and had games outside where several trunks were open. Over 150 students attended. We held it on the 30th of October and felt this was a good decision and plan to do the same in 2026.