



## Atonement Newsletter

### Mark Your Calendar!

**March 6**

World Day of Prayer

**March 20**

Itinerant Pitcher @ Brick & Bourbon

**March 28 & April 4**

First Communion Preparation

**March 29**

Last Day to Register for  
Senior Youth Gathering

**April 5**

Palm Sunday

**April 9**

First Communion

**April 11**

Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast

### WORSHIP TIMES

#### Winter Worship Times

**Saturday - 5:30 pm**

**Sunday - 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

**Wednesday - 6:30 pm**

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### Lenten Worship Schedule - 12 noon & 6:30 pm

The noon worship will be followed by a light lunch.  
The evening worship will be preceded by light supper at 5:30 pm.

**March 4**

**March 11**

**March 18**

**March 25**

**April 1**

### Holy Week Worship Schedule is as Follows:

\*Please note that we're working on scheduling an ASL interpreter and will provide info about which service(s) will offer ASL.

**April 9 - 6:30 p.m.** Maundy Thursday Worship w/First Communion

**April 10 - 12 Noon & 6:30 p.m.** Good Friday Worship

**April 12 - 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.** Easter Sunday Worship

# *Message from Pastor*

Your pastors feel very lucky to be serving here at Atonement. We like each other. We like the other folks on staff. And we like you, the members of our congregation. We also feel very grateful for the generosity of this congregation, year after year. This is a remarkable blessing. Atonement has had its ups and downs, but your pastors feel nothing but hope for the future here and your generosity is a big part of that hope.

As we begin a new stewardship campaign this Lent (another of our blessings is an excellent stewardship team, again led by Jason Anhorn), we would like to share 3 facts and ask one question.

The first fact is that the majority of our giving households and giving dollars come from senior citizens. This is normal. Older folks, on average, have had a longer time to gather resources, invest, and pay down debt. Most (not all) are done paying for daycare, braces, college and the other costs of raising children. But there are also significant costs that come as we age, so we are deeply grateful for the sacrificial giving that so many of our mature members practice. Thank you.

The second fact is that Atonement has young givers. Not every congregation can say that. We have young singles and young families who may give less than \$100 per year up to multiple \$1,000's per year. We are grateful for each of these people and their generosity, because every gift is significant and, based on the conversations we've had with young givers, is a trade off with other expenses. Health insurance, diapers, clothes, education (Pr Tim has two kids in college this year, and knows that some of you do as well; Pr John is coaching his grade school kids to become nurses, welders, plumbers, or electricians - reasonable training costs, good pay, interesting work) all get more expensive each year, but our young givers have chosen to use some of what God has given them to support the mission of their congregation. Thank you.

The third and final fact we want to share is that giving is good for us. Money is a harsh and loveless master. We heard once that as he lay dying John Rockefeller was asked how much money is enough, and he replied "Just a little bit more." Money is a master who will never be satisfied, but our God is endlessly loving and giving and opens our eyes to see that no matter what we have, we have not just enough, but enough to share. If you can give your money away, it cannot own you. And that is a good thing.

With those things in mind, we ask that you consider this one question as you think about how you and your household will respond to this year's stewardship appeal: **Do you make decisions about how you will use your money, or does your money make decisions about how it will use you?**



We think that a lot of people let their money, and their worries about money, control them and make their decisions. And this is understandable - the story we hear in the wider world is that there are never enough resources to go around, so we have to get and hold on to as much as we can. But we believe, and we have found in our own lives, that when we choose to use our money to live out our values and beliefs, there is enough, and enough to share. Giving is one of the ways your pastors, and the majority of people in this congregation, use our money to live out our values. We are grateful for this generosity and for the ministry that we and God accomplish with those gifts. And we look forward to another year of growing in faith and generosity with you.



### Lent 2020 – God Is Near You NOW

Lent is a time of listening ... We listen to the story of Jesus. We listen to Jesus' life. We listen to each other. We listen to ourselves and listen to the world around us.

Listening to together during Lent by dwelling in the Word and in the world (through the sharing of our own stories) helps us begin to name what God might be up to in our midst. Listening to stories about what we long for and what we've lost (or are afraid to lose) helps our hearts align with what God cares about most.

This Lenten season invites the people of Atonement to find their way forward by reconnecting with God's faithfulness, God's story, and God's promises to us as God's people. We'll affirm God's leadership and abundance in our lives in the stories we tell about the challenges we are facing and the times in our lives when we are shaped by God's presence.

Join your friends on Wednesdays at noon (followed by a light lunch) or at 6:30 p.m. (preceded by a light dinner). Bring a friend, perhaps they'll discover in the stories they hear that God is (indeed) Near You NOW!

# Upcoming Events

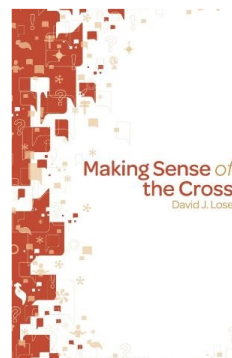
## MARCH MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



The Ministry of the Month for March is MINNESOTA FOODSHARE. This is unique among our Ministries of the Month, in that financial contributions are DOUBLED. Local food shelves like Salvation Army report financial contributions to Minnesota Foodshare double that amount. It is important that all financial contributions to March MoM be received by March 31. Thank you for financial contributions that buy food for the many hungry people in this area.

## “MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS” BY DAVID LOSE

Join us for a 6 Session Study by David Lose, “Making Sense of the Cross” starting Sunday February 23rd and ending on Palm Sunday- March 29th during Adult Education Hour. In 6 Sessions, we will explore together what the biblical witness and some of Christianity’s most thoughtful and important theologians have said about the cross, comparing them with each other and with our own experiences as Christians living in the world. There is a DVD video and participant book conversation of each session chapter.



## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



Join us on Saturday, April 11 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Youth Fundraiser Breakfast.

## TINERANT PITCHER SAT. MAR 20 @ 7:30PM

Come join the Itinerant Pitcher regulars at Brick & Bourbon for fellowship after worship on 3/20. Gather at 7:30pm stay until you feel like going home. Bring a friend. Brick and Bourbon: 119 5th Ave S, St Cloud



## DIVORCED, WIDOWED, OR SEPARATED?

Beginning Experience (BE) is providing a week-end program for divorced, widowed or separated adults on March 27-29, 2020 at Luther Crest, Alexandria, MN. BE is a program

designed to facilitate the grief resolution process for adults thereby enabling them to again love themselves, others, and God. Those who attend the weekend should be beyond the initial feelings of anger and despair. To receive an application, or for more information, call 320-319-8863 or visit [www.beginningexperiencemn.com](http://www.beginningexperiencemn.com)



## SWMN SYNOD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING

·THEME: "FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS"

·BASIS: MATTHEW 17:20

·WHEN: MARCH 27-28, 2020

·WHERE: COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT,  
MANKATO, MN

REGISTER: FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 12, 2020

INFO: [HTTPS://SWMNELCA.ORG/EVENT/SHYG2020](https://swmnelca.org/event/shyg2020)



### JUNE 8-11, 2020 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Join us as we once again partner with St. Peter's and St. Paul's Roman Catholic parishes and their faith formation staff. Interested in joining the Planning Team? Contact Lisa at 320-281-9541 or [lisac78@gmail.com](mailto:lisac78@gmail.com) to join in the fun! Registration for families will be available soon.

### REGISTER FOR LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP NOW FOR NEXT SUMMER!

Luther Crest Bible Camp is located just an hour away near Alexandria. It offers campers new ways to dive into the Bible, make crafts, play crazy games, hang out at the beach and praise God through meaningful worship and campfires. Youth from grade 2 through 12 can choose from a variety of camp opportunities some of which have a specific focus... Explorers, Seekers, Leapers, Night Owl, Joyful Noise, Xtreme Witnesses, Blazers, El. Fishing, Green Bay Mission Trip, Family Camp, Women's Week, and more. Surely there is something that will interest your child(ren)! Forms are available on-line at [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org). Assistance with camp fees is available through Luther Crest scholarships from Atonement and Luther Crest.



### LOOKING AHEAD-FIRST COMMUNION



Preparation for First Communion will be on Saturdays, March 28 and April 4 from 9:30-11:30 AM. Children will receive their first communion at the worship service on **Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 6:30**. Invitations will go out to first graders in February. If your child is in first grade, or any age, and you wish to enroll him/her for this milestone opportunity, please contact the church office.

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH BREAKFAST 6:45 A.M. THURSDAYS AT PERKINS

(near Hwy 15 & Co Rd 120) NEW TIME! 6:45 a.m. Thursdays one of the pastors (and maybe some interested adults) will meet High School youth for breakfast at Perkins (near Hwy 15 & Co Rd 120). The first visit breakfast is free but after that you're on your own. We'll meet in the back room and just eat and talk. Join us for some fun and bring a friend! PLEASE NOTE: IF THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR ISD 742 OR SCHOOL IS CANCELED, THERE WILL BE NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH BREAKFAST MEETING.





### Looking for Blood Donors

This is a BIG request for Atonement members to donate blood to the Red Cross Bloodmobile on **March 3rd from 1:00 - 8:00 pm** at Atonement. Just one generous gift of blood can help save several lives. Call LouAnn Garner at 320-252-1555 for an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

### AARP Smart Driver Classes

The 4 hour refresher course will be offered at 12:30 pm on April 1st, 2020. The cost for AARP members is \$17.00, and non-members \$22.00. This includes materials, coffee, and snacks. To register, call the church office at 320-252-6203.



### Celebration Service

To all Atonement adults, & kids of all ages, the decision has been made to have the final Celebration Worship Service held on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at both worship services. As we plan for the next 3 months, we invite you to submit requests for your favorite

songs to possibly be included in one of the upcoming Celebration Worship Services. Feel free to drop off your requests in the church office, or text or call Diane at 320-241-4049; or email her at [geewiz11kids@gmail.com](mailto:geewiz11kids@gmail.com). Another option is to submit your suggestions to any worship team member and they will get that information to Diane. Plan to join us between services on May 17<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate, and thank, the present and past members of the Celebration Worship Team for their commitment to share with the members, and visitors, at Atonement Lutheran, the gift of music that God gave to them.

### Veterans

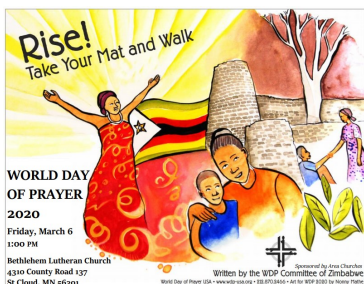
The Atonement Pieces of Love quilters would like to continue their mission of recognizing any Atonement members that are military veterans of all military branches including the National Guard. If you are a newer member and have not yet received a quilt, please contact the Atonement Office – 252-6203 or Julie Huseh – 290-7698.

**Calling  
All  
Veterans**



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

You are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer Service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on March 6, at 1:00 PM. This year's worship service was written by the women of Zimbabwe, with the theme of "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk." World Day of Prayer is a wonderful opportunity for ecumenical worship & fellowship. We hope you will join us! If you have questions please contact Mary Ann Albert (WDP Chairperson) at 320-252-5916 or [maryann.albert@outlook.com](mailto:maryann.albert@outlook.com).



### A NOTE OF THANKS

Pastor John and Sara would like to thank everyone who has reached out to the Gabrielson family during the past few weeks. Your prayers, notes, and words of comfort are appreciated. Thank you!



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St. Cloud, MN 56303

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## **Atonement Lutheran Executive Committee & Staff**

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**Church Office:** (320)-252-6203

**Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

[www.atonementlutheran.org](http://www.atonementlutheran.org)

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**Office Hours Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm**  
**Call the church office (320-252-6203) to reach the pastor on-call or (320-310-0822)**