

GTOBER

Atonement Newsletter 2020

Jordan Goodwater

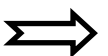
Welcome



Jordan grew up in the handbell world, literally. While his mother Jackie was pregnant, Jordan was in her womb kicking along to the beat during her handbell choirs rehearsals and performances. Once born he was instantly surrounded by the handbell family consisting of 16 mothers and grandmothers as she continued to bring him along to her handbell rehearsals. Having been bonked

on the head by the director more than once as he conducted "his choir" he finally started his ringing career in 2nd grade under the direction of Vickie Helm of The Bells of St. Johns, Park Rapids. Never looking back Jordan has had a very successful career on both sides of the table as both a ringer as well as a conductor. Jordan has had the opportunity to work with choirs in 3 states in religious, community, and educational settings. His last position was Director of Handbell Choirs for Princeton Theological Seminary/Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey.

Jordan is currently the General Manager of Timberlake Hotel and Timbers Restaurant & Event Center in Staples. He resides in Staples with his husband, Robert who is the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, MN. When not working on various boards and committees Jordan can be found with his hands in the dirt at the Central Lakes College Community Gardens where he grows award-winning dahlias or tending to his flock of egg laying chickens. As a musician, Jordan is active with the Handbell Musicians of America and serves as a substitute organist, pianist, and substitute handbell conductor and ringer for various churches in the region.





Join Your Community for Worship

It's live and in-person every **Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m.!** Please join us, we miss you! The worship committee has established excellent guidelines that have guided us in gathering safely during the current pandemic.

However, if you are in a high-risk group or are simply uncomfortable meeting in any group during the pandemic rest assured, Atonement will continue to provide opportunities to participate online in virtual worship. In fact, our coming technology upgrade will hopefully make our online worship even better!

Our online virtual worship includes communion but if you'd like to receive communion elements blessed at the altar during worship in person from your pastors please call the church to arrange for a time when you can stop by church during the week and your pastors would be happy to share the Lord's Supper with you inside the building or outside the building in the safest way possible!



Confirmation/Youth Ministry



Yep, this is going to be a weird year! For the confirmation aged youth, 6th-9th grade, Pastor Tim & Pastor John would like them to work on Monthly Milestones with their families. To supplement this the Pastors will invite the confirmation aged youth to connect via Zoom periodically on Wednesdays after worship at 7:15 p.m. and to participate on a once a month in-person get together that will follow the Covid-19 social distancing guidelines in effect at the time. More specific information will be sent out in a letter to each family.

There are 8 Monthly Milestone topics that can be done as a family. Confirmation aged youth will be invited to work on each topic for a month (4-5 weeks in a row) with their family. When the tasks for each topic are completed, students will be invited to sign up for a Sunday to celebrate in worship either live or virtually. An outline and overview of the topics/projects follows:



1. **Faith 5** – Do this as a family 3x/week - Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless
2. **Worship** – What is worship and how do we share in it.
3. **Prayer** – Pray every day, learn new ways to pray, write prayers for worship.
4. **Christmas Story** – Read the stories of Jesus' birth in the gospels and make a nativity scene out of toys or household items.
5. **Bible** – A survey of the bible and the stories that feature kids.
6. **Communion** – Make some bread, drink some grape juice/wine and learn the story of how Jesus feeds us and builds us up from the inside with his own body.
7. **Easter Story** – How do the gospels tell the Easter story? How will you tell it in a peep diorama?
8. **Baptism** – What is baptism? What does it mean? Who are your godparents?

Children's Ministry



This fall brings significant challenges for faith formation of children in preschool through 5th grade. We have learned that Atonement families cover the entire spectrum when it comes to what they consider safe and appropriate for their children's faith formation. Some prefer to begin the year learning at home. Others are ready to resume in-person Sunday School. Still others would prefer the opportunity to move between those models as the year unfolds.

In order to provide families the greatest range of options, we are offering three different approaches to children's faith formation. Families can choose to participate in **any or all** of the following three offerings.

1. **Pen Pals** - One of our Children's ministry households found pen pals for their children over the pandemic summer. We found out about this great idea from the pen pals, who thought it was so rewarding that they told their friends. Your pastors love this idea and think it's a great thing to scale. We have almost 20 adult volunteers already and will keep recruiting more until every child who wants has a pen pal who is a mature, faithful Christian from Atonement.
2. **Monthly Milestones** - Your pastors and a team of volunteers from the congregation have put together a year's worth of family-centered projects that will guide children and parents (or grandparents, godparents, aunts & uncles) through key elements of the faith. At the end of each project chil-





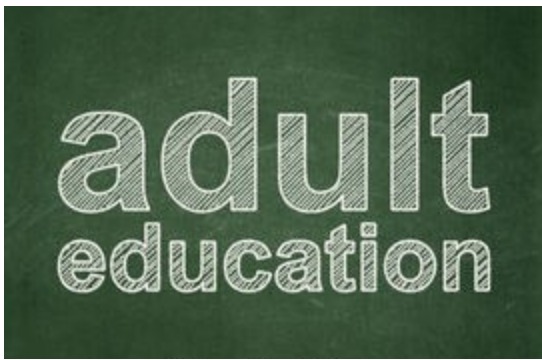
dren are invited to share their work (for example, learn the Christmas story and build your own Nativity) or learning with the congregation via social media and/or in worship and be celebrated. The "Monthly Milestone" list/instructions will be posted to our website and social media for download.

3. **Sunday School** - This year we will use a curriculum designed for home-based online use so that families can transition between online and in-person learning as the pandemic dictates.

- All Sunday school families will use the same curriculum, which will be linked on our website. This curriculum follows the readings from worship and includes downloadable/printable content and a video. This curriculum allows home-based and in-person Sunday school households to learn the same stories at the same pace and to benefit from a connection to our congregation's worship.
- In-person classes will follow CDC/MDH guidelines concerning masks, distance, contact tracing, etc. If we cannot follow guidelines, we will suspend in person gatherings until our leadership feels that we have made the necessary changes to resume. These measures are not ideal, but they are for the sake of our children and teachers, each of whom is precious.
- Due to the particular dangers posed by the pandemic to older and immune compromised adults, we have a reduced number of teachers available and will only offer in-person classes for grades Pre-k through 5 on Sundays. We hope to resume Wednesday School in the future. If you are able and willing to join the teaching rotation, please notify the pastors, the church office, or the children's ministry team.



Registration for Children's Ministry will be exclusively online this year. Forms are available via your database profile (Realm Connect / onrealm.org) or on our website. If you use the downloadable form please return it to Celia via email office@atonementlutheran.org.



Adult Education Begins this Fall

The Adult Education committee is forming plans for a Sunday morning education hour that will have options for both in-person and virtual remote attendance via Zoom. Jean Klosowski and the Education Committee have been working hard to formulate Sunday morning adult educational opportunities that will be flexible and inter-

esting. Some of the topics on the menu are as follows:

- *What Are Hymns For?*
- *The Lord's Prayer*
- *What's the Church Service for Anyway?*
- *What are we saying when we pray it?*



The teachers for these and other topics to come are both Pastor John and Pastor Tim, and retired Pastor Jan Nairn, a member of Atonement and an active participant of the Education Committee. If there is something you're particularly interested in hearing about contact the pastors or the church office.



Back to School Blessing

We know that back to school is an exciting time, even in a pandemic, and your congregation wants to bless and support students, parents, and school staff. We also know that some families are not ready to come to worship or to the church building for an in-person blessing. Therefore, if you wish for a back to school blessing for your child, your school-worker

spouse, or yourself, you have three options this year. They are:

1. Schedule a day to come for a blessing in worship. This can be a Sunday or Wednesday. We ask for scheduling only in order to ensure that we can preserve social distance in worship per our guidelines.
2. Schedule a day to come to the office for a socially distanced blessing from one of the pastors.



3. Use the attached blessing (written and shared by a colleague of your pastors serving in Ohio) to bless your family member(s) at home.

Blessing of the Brains & Backpacks

STUDENTS

GOD OF LEARNING & GROWING,
BLESS OUR BRAINS, OUR BACKPACKS, OUR SCHOOL
SUPPLIES, OUR MASKS, AND OUR CHROMEBOOKS.
HELP US LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD YOU HAVE
MADE & GIVE US PATIENCE WHEN IT IS HARD.
PROTECT US AND OUR FAMILIES & REMIND US YOU
ARE WITH US ALWAYS. AMEN.

TEACHERS

GOD OUR TEACHER,
BLESS OUR BRAINS, OUR TECHNOLOGY, AND OUR
CREATIVITY THIS YEAR. REMIND US OF THE GRACE
WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED, AS WE EMBODY THAT
FOR OUR STUDENTS. WE ARE SCARED AND ANXIOUS
THIS YEAR; GIVE US HOPE. BE NEAR TO US THIS
YEAR. AMEN.

SUPPORT STAFF

GOD WHO SEES THE NEEDS OF ALL,
SO MUCH OF OUR WORK IS UNSEEN, JUST AS SO MUCH
OF YOUR WORK IS UNSEEN. BLESS OUR BRAINS, OUR
PPE, AND OUR RESOURCEFULNESS AS WE TEND THE
NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, &
ADMINISTRATION IN OUR SCHOOLS. PROTECT US AS
WE GO THROUGH OUR DAYS. AMEN.

ADMINISTRATORS

GOD OUR LEADER,
BLESS OUR BRAINS, OUR DECISIONS, OUR CARE FOR
OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. THE
WEIGHT OF ALL IS ON OUR SHOULDERS. BE NEAR US,
GUIDING US WITH YOUR WISDOM. AMEN.



From the Pastor's Desk

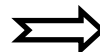
Your pastors get kind of emotional thinking about how lucky we are to serve God and neighbor with you. We are deeply grateful for you and for what God has done for and through all of us here at Atonement Lutheran Church. We have not merely weathered a global pandemic, but have remained committed to each other, to our neighbors, and to God. That is no small thing.

Consider these facts:

We have not worshipped at full capacity since the middle of Lent, but we have never once cancelled a week of worship. We moved online and later modified worship to be safe (as best we knew how). A small team has burned and delivered DVD's of worship to households that can't access worship online. Some of us even invited new people to come and see what God was doing and promising in online worship. With any luck, our new bell choir director will make his worship debut soon. This is only possible because of the support and participation of this congregation and the flexibility and creativity of our music staff and worship committee. (Do you remember some of those Lenten faith stories? If you can't please go back and watch one or two on Youtube.)

We have continued to feed and house our neighbors, despite a massive recession hitting our paychecks and portfolios. We have paid rent and utilities for dozens of neighbors who found themselves without income or with dramatically reduced income due to the shutdown and its aftermath. We have fed our neighborhood and kept our eyes on the needs of our neighbors with most need by keeping all of our pre-pandemic commitments to partner ministries like Place of Hope. That is only possible because this congregation has continued to give, some households in dramatic and sacrificial ways, despite or even because of the recession.

We are launching a 3-pronged faith formation approach (online, hybrid, and in-person all at one time!) **so that no matter what happens with the virus, children, youth, and adults at Atonement will continue to learn the story of the God who loves and saves us.** That is only possible because our core of faithful leaders is just that - faithful - and because we have been blessed to welcome new people into our faith formation teams.



We could go on, but there is only so much space in the newsletter and we need to ask you for a few things:

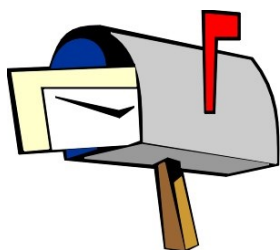
- 1) **Please join us for worship, and join us in leading worship.** We aren't worshipping the way we all want, but we are in it together and we have Christ with us always. Your pastors, our staff musicians, and or worship team can help you figure out how to read a lesson or prayers, share a gift of music, or produce the worship video. You can do any of these things in person or online, depending on what feels safe to you.
- 2) **Please continue to support our mission and ministry with your time, talents, and treasure.** Your church council has carefully managed our finances so that we are in a strong financial position heading into the end of the calendar year. Your financial support makes it possible for us to keep our missions commitments, pay our staff and keep the lights on for the community groups that continue to use our space in pandemic-safe ways.
- 3) **Please consider joining in faith formation as a learner and a leader.** Our adult ed series will start soon and Sunday school and Confirmation will have already started by the time you receive this newsletter. We need pen pals for every child (Homebound folks, we're looking at you! Learning about your lives and faith has blessed us, and we think your faith could be a blessing to child - and that child a blessing to you!) We would also like to start the background checking process for confirmation guides and Sunday school teachers ASAP so that we can ramp up in-person learning and fellowship when it is safe to do so.

OCTOBER MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

October's Ministry of the Month, as determined by the Missions Committee, is Lutheran Social Services, Refugee Services. Refugee Services assists new refugees with housing assistance, job counseling, and other services which make residency in this part of the State easier for those willing to establish new lives here. Thanks for your contributions to this effort.



Address Updates for Students and Service Members



We would like to encourage college and military members of Atonement monthly. We are looking for updated address for all our college and military members. This will help our card ministry as well as the church office to keep the database up to date. Please email or call the church office with their addresses: office@atonementlutheran.org or 320-252-6203



LITTLE FREE PANTRY UPDATE

October finds the Missions Committee transferring back the Little Free Pantry by the side of our building, to the Little Free Library. Thanks to all who contributed money and food to this very successful project. There are still hungry people! Bring food for them to the grocery carts in the Donation Center starting in November.

E-giving

Our online church community offers new and easy ways to give financially to support our ministries. Whether you want to set up a recurring gift or split your donation among different funds. We invite you to browse through the guide located on the **Welcome Stand** as you walk in to learn how to use giving in Realm. Below are instructions to download the Realm Connect App and manage your giving through the app. We hope you take advantage of this convenience. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



1. Download the Realm Connect app from your Android or iOS store
2. Sign in with your Realm login. Don't have an account? Contact the church office.
3. Tap Giving, and tap Make a Gift
4. Give any amount to the fund of your choosing

Text – To -Give Instructions

Text **Atonement (any amount you wish to donate, Example Atonement50 to give \$50) to 73256** to give to General Fund using your text messaging. Standard text message rates do apply.



QR Code For E-giving:

Scan the QR code and it will bring you automatically to the e-giving form

2020 Share the Spirit Campaign at Atonement

For many families throughout Central Minnesota, it can be difficult to find joy in the Christmas season while struggling to provide their children with a wonderful holiday experience. Our community neighbors have been hit particularly hard this year and with your support, we can help ease this worry for families and spread some Christmas spirit!

The Share the Spirit campaign sponsored by Catholic Charities will match a number of families who are experiencing hardship during the upcoming holiday season with Atonement. If you are one of those families or know one of these families, please direct them to contact Catholic Charities. Since they are well equipped to handle the diverse needs of families experiencing hardship holiday requests made directly to the pastors at Atonement will be referred to Catholic Charities. Atonement will receive the requests in early November and will be asked to deliver the collected items in early December.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Student Name | Student Grade |
| Email | Student Email |
| Address | |
| City | Zipcode |
| Phone Number | |
| Is Atonement Lutheran Church allowed to take and post pictures of your child online to on our social media page? | Yes or No |
| Is Atonement Lutheran Church allowed to transport your Child in the church van or in volunteer's personal vehicle? | Yes or No |
| Church Van | Yes or No |
| Volunteer's Personal Vehicle | Yes or No |
| Student is under the Costodial Care of? | Mother Father Both or Other |
| Name/Names: | |
| Address: | |
| Home Phone Number : | |
| Cell Phone Number: | |
| Email Address: | |
| Parent: Are you will to help/volunteer in the program? | Yes or No |
| what kind of things are you will to help/volunteer with? | |
| If Yes, Please List: | |

Medical Question

Allergies

If Yes, Please List:

Yes or No

Date of Last Tetanus Shot?

Present Medication:

Contact Lenses/Glasses

Yes or No

Medical History:

Surgical History:

Family Physician

Family Physician Name

Phone Number

Yes or No

Medical Insurance

Insurance Company Name

Policy #

Yes or No

Atonement Lutheran Church
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St. Cloud, MN 56303

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
St. Cloud, Minnesota
Permit No. 382



Atonement Lutheran Executive Committee & Staff

1144 29th Avenue North, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Church Office: (320)-252-6203

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

www.atonementlutheran.org

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
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| Vice President | Jennifer Lamberg | jenlamberg26@gmail.com | |
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| Treasurer | Denise Boock | dbck089@gmail.com | |
| Pastor | John Gabrielson | johng@atonementlutheran.org | Phone Ext. 114 |
| Pastor | Tim Lindhorst | TimL@atonementlutheran.org | Phone Ext. 112 |
| Office Administrator | Celia Young | office@atonementlutheran.org | Phone Ext. 110 |
| Adult Choir Director | Eric Vollen | Eric.vollen@gmail.com | |
| Director of Music/Organist | Marcia Handahl | mhandahl@atonementlutheran.org | |
| Celebration Worship | Diane Wisniewski-Grzybowski | geewiz11kids@gmail.com | |
| Handbell Choir Director | Al Marquardt | abmarquardt756@gmail.com | |
| Preschool Director | Kathy Young | atonementpreschool@gmail.com | Phone Ext. 120 |

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)