



THE ATONEMENT

# BELL

ISSUE 707 MAY 2024

- 2 Pastor's Letter
- 3 Monthly Events & Updates
- 5 Church Resources
- 6 CYFM Update
- 7 Youth Ministry
- 7 Children's Ministry
- 8 Service & Outreach
- 12 Men's Ministry
- 13 WELCA
- 14 Council Corner
- 15 Statistics & Contact Info

# PASTOR'S LETTER



At Mt. Horeb] the angel of the Lord appeared to [Moses] in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Exodus 3:2-4

In the Narrative Lectionary that we are following we catch highlights from the book of Acts each Sunday during the season of Easter. We're following the original narrative in that way – Jesus rose from the dead, his followers started trying to figure out what that meant, and the whole time they were trying to play catch-up because the Holy Spirit was already out ahead of them. That's my one-line synopsis of the Book of Acts: the early church trying to catch up to what the Holy Spirit was doing in the world.

Thinking about how that must have felt for those earliest followers of Jesus, the story of Moses and the burning bush often comes to mind. What usually gets lifted up as the amazing part of this story is that Moses happened upon a burning bush. But apparently this wasn't actually that strange – I've read in several places that finding a random bush burning in the desert was somewhat common. What was strange about this bush is that, although it was burning, it was not being burned up.

The text is also quite clear that God waited until after Moses noticed the bush and turned to take a closer look before calling out to him. It always makes me wonder – how many other times had God appeared where Moses could have noticed, but didn't?

In the story of Acts, at least the followers of Jesus were getting better at noticing what God and the Holy Spirit were up to. They were still trying to catch up – but at least they knew they were trying to catch up to what God was doing.

How good are we at noticing when God is present? How well do we track the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst? While these are always important questions for congregations, they are even more so for us now as we work to hire a new Communications Coordinator, a new Youth Director, and begin the process of considering what are needs are related to calling a new pastor. What future ministries do we need to be preparing for now? What will it look like to be partners in God's mission a year or two from now? Five or ten years from now?

While these questions can be daunting, I also find them exciting. Because God IS up to something. And God DOES want us to be involved in what God is up to. This isn't about God trying to trick or to trap us. This is about God hoping for the chance to say, "Hey, I'm glad you decided to join me – I've got a great idea that I've been hoping you would help with." Could anything be better... more exciting... more fulfilling... than working with God to achieve what God has planned?

God's Peace, Pastor Gene

# MONTHLY EVENTS



## WINTER WORSHIP HOURS

8 a.m. Traditional Worship

*Indoors and online*

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

*Indoors and online*

9:30 a.m. Kids BLAST, ACTS

and Cross+Training classes

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

*In-person only*

**See all worship options at**

[atonementmuskego.org/worship](http://atonementmuskego.org/worship)

## BE A PART OF FELLOWSHIP!

We are asking for different Atonement groups to sign up to host fellowship. Serve any food/beverage. Any monetary donations can be kept by the hosts to reimburse for goods purchased, to purchase items to support their service mission, or donated to church. We depend on Atonement groups, families and individuals to host fellowship.

### Fellowship Hosts this Month:

May 5: OPEN

May 12: OPEN (Mother's Day)

May 19: CIS Fellowship

May 26: OPEN

Contact Jaci OR Justin Geiger if interested: 414-659-1255 or [geiger1029@yahoo.com](mailto:geiger1029@yahoo.com)

## SUMMER HOURS COMING SOON!

Starting on Sunday, May 26, we will move to our summer worship hours: 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship and 10 a.m. Contemporary Worship.

Both services will be indoors on May 26. On June 2, our Contemporary worship service will be held outside in the Outdoor Worship Center.

Summer Worship Hours Begin May 26th

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

10:00 a.m. Summer Kids BLAST (Begins June 2nd)

\*Please remember to watch for announcements via email on Sunday mornings in case we need to move inside due to weather or other issues.

## PASTORAL CARE VISITATION REMINDER

Please call the office if you have a pastoral care need and would like to request a visit from a pastor. We rely on members to let us know of major life changes and your desire for a pastoral care visit. We aim to keep channels of communication open and especially during this time of transition. As always, feel free to call Deacon Marian at 414-218-2421 with any concerns. Thank you.

## RECONCILING IN CHRIST UPDATE

In the midst our current transitions, I've been busy meeting for the first time with our confirmation class, our CYF Committee, and our newly-formed CYF Leader Task Force – which has unfortunately left little time to meet with our RIC Core Team. So while that process has been stalled recently, I look forward to picking up where we left off with them soon. This conversation remains a priority for us, especially considering we know that as part of a new call process we will again be asked by the synod about our openness to calling a pastor who identifies as LGBTQ+. So look for this conversation to be picking up again soon!-Pastor Gene

# MONTHLY EVENTS



## **SUPPORT THE YOUTH: COOKIES BY THE DOZEN**

**Between services on Sunday May 5,** purchase SEVERAL different kinds, baked and ready to enjoy!

## **MADAME SHARON'S CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES FOR SALE!**

**Between services on Sunday May 12,** purchase a box of 4 large truffles in support of Atonement's Youth Ministry.

## **SPRING FLOWERS-KIDS BLAST HOSTING**

Purchase flowers on May 12th after each service, while supplies last. Free-will offering, proceeds will go to Safe Babies Healthy Families.

## **UPDATE ON TEPEAGUA AND EL SALVADOR ON PAGE 10**



## **BAKE SALE JUNE 2, BETWEEN SERVICES**

Church in Society will be holding a "carry out" bake sale on June 2nd, after first and second services. Proceeds will go to help sponsor the Safe Babies, Healthy Families picnic this summer. Thanks for your support.

## **MEMBERS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- May 3-5-Godspell, Germantown PAC, [cytchicago.org](http://cytchicago.org)(Griffin Geiger)
- May 5, 2 p.m. – Milwaukee Concert Band-Pops Concert (member: high school senior-Rebekah Talley on bass clarinet) at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 South Howell Ave
- May 10, 7:30 p.m. New Berlin Community Band (member: Mary Hoffmann) at New Berlin West Performing Arts Center
- May 21, 7:30 p.m. New Berlin Eisenhower Middle & High School Spring Choir Concert
- May 23, 6:30 p.m. New Berlin Eisenhower Middle & High School High Band Concert
- May 29, Eisenhower Middle School Orchestra Concert (Tommy Meller)

# CHURCH RESOURCES



## HOW TO: OUR DIRECTORY

Sunday, May 19-9:00am & 10:30am  
(choose one)

Learn step-by-step instructions on:

- logging in to see the online directory to connect with other members
- how to see your giving records
- how to give safely online

Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Caregiving Team which consists of Pastor Gene and Deacon Marian. We would like to have emergency contact information for you. This information will be held in strict confidence, accessible only to the Caregiving Team. Please let Marian know the name, phone number, and email of your designated contact person(s). Email [marian@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:marian@atonementmuskego.org) or call 414-218-2421. Thank you in advance.

## SMALL GROUP MATERIALS

A link for Small Group discussion guides was sent to all SG leaders. If you would like the link sent to you, please contact Kara Mendez: [kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)

## NURSERY CARE REQUESTS

Running an event at Atonement and need Child/Nursery care? Contact Kara Mendez [kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)

## NARTHEX DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS: NOTIFY CHURCH OFFICE

Coordinating a drive or collection and want to put a display out in the Welcome area/narthex? Please notify the Church Office to confirm there is space for you!

## ALTAR FLOWERS

\$25. May bring home after 10:45 service. Need to know of order by Wednesdays of that week. Contact Kara Mendez: [kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)

## PRAYER REQUEST OPTIONS

**Prayer Chain** Atonement's email prayer chain allows is a community of Atonement members who share prayer requests and pray for one another. To send your prayer request out on our prayer chain, please send your request to [prayer@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:prayer@atonementmuskego.org). Deacon Marian Wasierski and Jan DeGaetano ([jdegaetano135@gmail.com](mailto:jdegaetano135@gmail.com)) can also send a prayer request out on your behalf. If you'd like to receive requests sent out on the prayer chain, please contact Marian.

**Connect Card** Fill out a Connect Card/Prayer Request form in our pews, and leave it in the offering basket or Church Office

**Online** Fill out a prayer request form on our website: [atonementmuskego.org/prayer](http://atonementmuskego.org/prayer)

## SIMPLY GIVING ENVELOPES

Do you give to church using Simply Giving? Would you like to receive envelopes on Special Occasions, (ie) Good Friday, Easter, 13 total! These would be mailed directly on a quarterly basis. If you are interested please contact Kara Mendez: [kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)

# CYFM UPDATE



## CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are well into the spring season, which means LOTS of things are happening, being planned, and wrapping up. Our Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Committee meet for the first time this year, and were able to welcome our new council representative Laura Brogan. We made plans for honoring our graduating high school seniors early this summer, heard about some of the plans for our TWO youth trips this summer (New Orleans for the triennial ELCA Youth Gathering, and Minneapolis for a YouthWorks service trip), and discussed recruitment, training, and support for our many volunteers who do such a wonderful job working with our children and youth.

We would like to express our gratitude to all of you who have responded so generously to our various fundraising efforts to support this summer's two youth trips. We look forward to sharing more details about those trips as they get closer, and to sharing with you about those trips after the youth return!

We also recommitted to reading together the book *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* (Powell, Mulder, and Griffin). This is the same book that our staff read together last summer.

Our CYF Leader Task Force is getting ready to have their first meeting in the next few weeks. As part of assessing our current needs related to youth ministry this task force will also be reading the book *Growing Young* together. Having this shared understanding to how we will be approaching youth ministry moving forward will help align our search efforts and the work our CYF Committee continues to oversee.

In other news, I have met with our confirmation students, and parents, for two classes this spring, and we will have one more class before our summer break starts. As we continue to grow into our new curriculum from Faith Inkubators we will continue to make some changes to when we meet, how we meet, and maybe even who meets (such as having parents around once in a while, but not every time). I have enjoyed shaking off some of the cobwebs and getting back to confirmation ministry, and am already looking forward to starting up the program again with our students and parents next fall.

During the various transitions happening right now, we would appreciate your prayers for our CYF Committee and CYF Leader Task Force, all of our volunteers from Little Steps up through ACTS, and for wisdom and insight as we read *Growing Young* and chart the most faithful way forward for ministry to, and with, our children and youth. Thank you!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me (call/text 414-422-0401, email [gene@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:gene@atonementmuskego.org)) or Kara Mendez ([kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)).

God's Peace, Pastor Gene

# YOUTH MINISTRY



## YOUTH MINISTRY WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our Weekly Announcements can now be found in Atonement's Sunday Bulletin email and on the Youth Ministry page: [atonementmuskego.org/youth/#weekly-announcements](http://atonementmuskego.org/youth/#weekly-announcements)

### YOUTH BAKERS WANTED! MAY 4, 9 A.M.

Join us in the kitchen at Atonement to make and bake cookies.

### SELL COOKIES MAY 5, 9 A.M.

We will sell cookies between services on Sunday, May 5.

### YOUTH SELLING TRUFFLES SUNDAY MAY 12 BETWEEN SERVICES

Help us fundraise for Youth Ministry on Sunday May 12 between worship services.

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class will be held on May 19th 12-1:30pm

Contact Kara Mendez [kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org) with any questions

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Weekly Announcements can now be found in Atonement's Sunday Bulletin email and on the Children's Ministry page: [atonementmuskego.org/children/#weekly-announcements](http://atonementmuskego.org/children/#weekly-announcements)

### BUSY BAGS IN WORSHIP

Does your child need something during service to occupy them for a little bit? Be sure to grab a Busy Bag from the rack, just outside the office.

**FOLLOW** our Kids BLAST Facebook page! [bit.ly/3wOG32I](https://bit.ly/3wOG32I)

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Hannah	Evie
Owen	Adeline
Margot	Benjamin
Lucas	Dylan
Hazelle	

Contact our Children's Ministry team:

Anne Farebrother [anne@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:anne@atonementmuskego.org), Kara Mendez [kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)

# SERVICE & OUTREACH



## DAYS FOR GIRLS

Our May work day will be on Thursday, May 23rd at 9:30 am. All are welcome. For information, contact Nancy Hanks 262-751-7451, [nhanks49@yahoo.com](mailto:nhanks49@yahoo.com)

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

### Get a jump on a big need for hats and mittens; Calling all knitters and Crocheters

We have seen an increased need for mittens, hats and scarves for various agencies in the Milwaukee area. We will be collecting all three of those items as well as new socks of all sizes at our Christmas in July collection. Now is the time to work on the mittens, hats and scarves. If you are making scarves, we ask that they be approximately 8 to 10 inches wide and about 60 inches long. Others can be used, but this size is best. We appreciate all you do to make the Christmas in July collection a success. Please hang onto any items you may have until July when you will see a tree set up for the collection. All items will be distributed in the fall to where they are most needed.

## KNIT-WITS NEWS

The Knit-Wits meet the first Tuesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. We always need yarn donations! We typically use 4 ply (worsted weight) acrylic (washable) yarn of any color. We also accept monetary donations. Contact Mary Mooney for more information: 414-425-3299

## MUSKEGO FOOD PANTRY

S81 W19150 Apollo Drive | 262-679-6448

Please help us to continue to support the Muskego Food Pantry, Drop the items in the large bin, labeled Muskego Food Pantry, next to the grocery cart located in the hallway going to the Sunday School rooms.

– Linda Lundin, Church in Society (CIS)



### Any non-perishable food items

- Ø Canned meat (chicken, tuna, spam, and hash)
- Ø Boxed potatoes (mashed, scalloped, au gratin)
- Ø Canned pastas (ravioli, spaghetti-o's)
- Ø Creamed soups for cooking (Chicken/mushroom/etc)
- Ø Canned chili
- Ø Canned tomatoes (diced, sauce and paste)
- Ø Cereal
- Ø Items for school lunches

### Also consider personal care items

- Ø Shampoo/conditioner
- Ø Toothpaste
- Ø Deodorant
- Ø Bar soap
- Ø Laundry soap
- Ø Toilet paper is always a big need



# SERVICE & OUTREACH



## ALL PEOPLES CHURCH (APC) FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Pancake Mix/Syrup
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Jiffy Mix
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Ravioli
- Canned Vegetables
- Cream of Chicken Soup
- Ramen Noodles
- Mac & Cheese
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Hamburger, Chicken, or Tuna Helper
- Low Salt Spam or Ham
- Tuna
- Potatoes (Boxed)
- Dry Beans
- Rice (small bags)
- Rice a Roni
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce (canned)
- Tomato Paste/Sauce



### Items always needed:

- Personal Hygiene Items
- Shampoo & Soap

## HYGIENE KITS FOR ALL PEOPLES CHURCH

We are hoping to put together 100 hygiene kits for APC food pantry to pass out to those in need. Help us reach our goal!! Items will be collected in the narthex until the end of May.

\*\* due to a generous donation, toothbrushes and toothpaste is not needed at this time\*\*

- Moisturizing shampoo
- Moisturizing conditioner
- Body lotion
- Bar soap
- Razor
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Band aides

## SERENITY INN MEAL

Serenity Inns provides a place for men in addiction recovery to stay while they get back on their feet. We at Atonement have the opportunity to serve these men dinner once a month or so. It is easy to sign up to bring a dish, and you just have to drop it off at Atonement on the planned drop-off date. Jan Larsen coordinates these meals and delivery to Serenity Inns. If you're interested, in contributing part of a meal, give her a call: 414-529-5193

# SERVICE & OUTREACH



## TEPEAGUA, EL SALVADOR UPDATE

Next year our partnership with Espiritu de la Paz (The Spirit of Peace) Lutheran Church in El Salvador will reach 25 years! During this time, Atonement members have consistently supported education by choosing to sponsor students in Tepeagua. These Atonement sponsors send funds to the families (\$25/month for elementary, \$40/month for middle school, \$50/month for high school, and \$100 per month for university students.) More significantly, sponsors and students correspond several times per year. Many build significant Christ centered relationships.

In El Salvador, education is free through the ninth grade (up to age 14), but only 82% of children make it this far. Six percent of Salvadoran children never attend any school. Only 33% of the children old enough for secondary school actually attend. Our sponsorship program has allowed Tepeagua students to get to higher grades than the national average. They are better prepared for life with more reading, math, and writing skills, even when they do not achieve school completion.

For the past few years, Atonement has sponsored 32-38 students each year. In February, I visited Tepeagua and met with our current students and provided letters from the Atonement sponsors. It isn't unusual to receive additional requests to join the program from 1 or 2 families. Generally, we have been able to do this.

However, in 2024, I received requests from 17 students for inclusion in our program. This was unusual and frankly, a heart-breaking experience. I spoke with each family and promised to return to Atonement to present their need for help.

The background to this increased need is based on extremely high inflation in El Salvador. The worst inflation is in food and transportation. In addition to inflation, work opportunity has been on the decline. An average worker in regulated Salvadoran industries may earn \$300 per month. But this work is generally available to men and much of work done in El Salvador is "informal" where the employer can pay whatever they please. Even government-regulated work only pays slightly over \$1 per hour. Note: Economic indicators suggest the average Salvadoran is poorer now than 5 years ago. Of the 17 petitions I received, 14 were from single mother homes. These single women would have a very hard time finding work. If they found any employment, it would not pay for the childcare their absence in the home would necessitate. Salvadoran society does not require any type of child support when a parent (generally father) leaves the family. Nor is there any type of social safety net through the government.

I was unable to say yes to these families but did promise that we at Atonement would try to support them. The families were often in tears, and I came to realize I was speaking to mothers who were not eating so that their children could.

At this writing, I have five new sponsorships! Please consider donating to this cause. You and your family will have the opportunity to get to know these families and learn more about life in El Salvador. I am happy to share the details at [dostal4@gmail.com](mailto:dostal4@gmail.com)!

With much gratitude for your demonstration of God's love and mercy, Cindy Dostal

# SERVICE & OUTREACH



## COLLECTIONS FOR VETERANS

In honor of Memorial Day, the CIS committee is collecting much needed items for Veterans at the Clement J. Zablocki VA medical center during the month of May. There are many areas that could use donated items for both men and women. All donated items will be distributed to the areas of need whether that be for the homeless veterans or for those in the nursing home setting.

Please look for the donation bin in the Narthex starting Sunday May 5th -Sunday June 2nd. See the list below for some of the items needed and/or pick up the list from the table by the donation bin.

Monetary donations are also appreciated. Checks can be made out to Atonement Lutheran church with "CIS-VA Collection" in the memo line OR Give online: Fund: Special Gift, choose Veterans in Memo. We will then purchase any items needed.

The veterans have always been in the hearts of people at our church and in our community, since many have served valiantly for our country. Thank you for your willingness to help with this very worthwhile project.

For questions please contact:

Nancy Hanks: 262-751-7451 [nhanks49@yahoo.com](mailto:nhanks49@yahoo.com)

Linda Lundin: 262-894-9091 [skiermom31@gmail.com](mailto:skiermom31@gmail.com)

**See the list of some of the items below. All items need to be new.**

### Men's & Women's

- New t-shirts (S-3XL)
- New Wireless sports bras
- New athletic shorts (M-3XL)
- New sweatpants/yoga pants (S-3XL)
- New sweatshirts (M-3XL)
- New sweatshirts (M-3XL)
- New Athletic shoes (sizes 8-13)
- New t-shirts (S-3XL)
- New Long sleeve t-shirts (S-3XL)
- New athletic shoes (sizes 6-9 half sizes also)

### Men's and women's toiletries:

- Deodorant (travel and full size)
- Regular size body wash, shampoo and conditioner
- Bar soap (Dove brand is much appreciated)
- Lip balm
- Razors(3 blades or more)

# MEN'S MINISTRY



## **ATONEMENT LEGENDS: NEXT MEETING MAY 18, 8:30 A.M.**

The Theology of C.S. Lewis; the affect on Christianity, C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) born in Belfast, Ireland, became one of the most published theologians of our time, including Mere Christianity. Professors Michael Ward & Larry Arnn of Hillsdale College have presented 7 lectures on DVD, about his philosophy.

Join us every 3rd Saturday each month at 8:30, as we discuss:

1. Faith & Reason
2. Good & Evil
3. Conversion & New Life
4. Enjoyment & Contemplation
5. Prayer & the Bible
6. Suffering & Death
7. Heaven & Hell.

All are welcomed. Contact Neil Borgman: [neborgman@wi.rr.com](mailto:neborgman@wi.rr.com)

## **RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT (ROMEO)--NEW RESTAURANT**

Meet to chat and connect on the 3rd Thursday each month, 9 a.m. at Tail Spin Cafe, 19680 W. National Ave, New Berlin

Interested? Contact Bob Puranen: 414-791-4197

## **MEN'S GROUP**

Are you a guy who likes to:

- a) hang out every once-in-a-while with just the guys;
- b) make connections with other guys in the community;
- c) have a legitimate reason to get out of the house on Monday evenings;
- and/or d) learn from and perhaps even share with other guys?

If so, make plans to come and check out a new men's group that will be meeting at church Mondays at 7pm, a couple of times per month. Meeting dates are: May 6th, May 13th, June 3rd & June 24th. Meet in the conference room, room 201. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Text/call Mike Gandrud at 414-732-9644

# WELCA



“ I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”  
- Mother Teresa

When I wrote this message, snowflakes were falling as I looked out the kitchen window. Hopefully, things have improved!

Our General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30 PM. There will be a short meeting to discuss business and approve changes to the Atonement WELCA constitution. A performance by the Civic Broadway Singers will follow. Enjoy refreshments hosted by Elizabeth and Rebekah Circles.

It's time to appoint a nominating committee for 2025 officers. If you would like to help, let me know. We need three volunteers. The following positions are open next year - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Council Representative.

Circles do not meet in June and July so begin thinking about a recipient for the WELCA Trust Award. Nomination letters must be submitted before the August board meeting, no exceptions.

Happy Mother's Day!

“A mother's love is unconditional and reflects the love of God, bringing warmth and serenity to the home in which she dwells.” © by M.S.Lowndes

This month, we also celebrate Memorial Day. Take a moment to remember and honor the sacrifices of the thousands of men and women who gave up their lives for our country. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. – Joshua 1:9

Blessings, Candy

## 2024 WELCA OFFICERS

President - Candy Nemke

Vice President - Open

Secretary - Wendy Hunjadi

Treasurer - Kathy Elgin-King

Mission Team - Nancy Hanks, Denise Kral,

Linda Lundin, and Sue Nicgorski

## WELCA LEADERSHIP:

**Elizabeth Circle:** Barb Downer [bjdown@wi.rr.com](mailto:bjdown@wi.rr.com)

**Leah Circle:** Terry Hagen [hagentl@hotmail.com](mailto:hagentl@hotmail.com)  
and Denise Kral [denise.kral@gmail.com](mailto:denise.kral@gmail.com)

**Lydia Circle:** Nancy Hanks [nhanks49@yahoo.com](mailto:nhanks49@yahoo.com)  
and Jan DeGaetano [degaetano135@gmail.com](mailto:degaetano135@gmail.com)

**Mary/Martha Circle:** Wendy Hunjadi  
[wahunjadi@arandell.com](mailto:wahunjadi@arandell.com) and  
Lori Schantz [planethyak@aol.com](mailto:planethyak@aol.com)

**Rebekah Circle:** Sharon Holden  
[sholden41.sh@gmail.com](mailto:sholden41.sh@gmail.com)

**Ruth Circle:** Pat Gallun [patgallun@yahoo.com](mailto:patgallun@yahoo.com)  
Mary Hoffmann [maryandsadie@wi.rr.com](mailto:maryandsadie@wi.rr.com)  
and Sandy Zielinski [sgreenz556@gmail.com](mailto:sgreenz556@gmail.com)

# COUNCIL CORNER



## CALL PROCESS UPDATE

The council created this timeline graphic below for the congregation to understand where we are in the process of calling a new pastor to replace Pastor Kevin. As you know, we have been using pastors from the synods “pulpit supply” to help fill in with preaching a Sunday or two each month during this transition. We interviewed one transition pastor candidate in April and will be interviewing a second candidate the first week of May. As noted below in the graph, a Transition Pastor is like an Interim Pastor, however, a Transition Pastor does not need to help us with the call process since we have a Senior Pastor in place.

We are in the process of establishing a Mission Exploration Team (MET). They will organize some listening sessions to ask the congregation how we think God is calling us moving forward and complete the Mission Site Profile (MSP).

The council continues to discuss what we think the staffing model should look like (should we simply seek an Associate Pastor or is God calling us to focus on more of a youth pastor, part time pastor, or even a mission-based model with interns). Look for updates here as well as during our Sunday services each month.





# STATS & CONTACTS

## FEBRUARY DONATIONS

**GENERAL, \$56,289**  
**BENEVOLENCE. \$3,727**  
**MEMORIALS, \$2,890**

### Giving Beyond Atonement Thru Mar 2024



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

#### Hands-on Mission

Primary Benevolence ELCA	\$ 6,723
El Salvador Roofs	\$ 4,914
El Salvador Sponsorships	\$ 7,502
El Salvador Mission of Healing	\$ 1,000
Habitat for Humanity MKE/Waukesha	\$ 200
Asylum Ministry	\$ 1,500

**Giving Beyond Atonement 2024 \$ 21,839**

\*These lists do not include all of the gifts and services given by many individuals and groups to a variety of other organizations and ministries.

### Ministry Plan



#### Year-to-date through Mar 31

Tithes & Offerings Received	\$ 186,800
Tithes & Offerings in our plan	\$ 156,340
Expenses Incurred	\$ 167,027
Expenses in our plan	\$ 185,046

Church Loan@4.25% ends 1/2029	\$ 301,214
OWC Loan @3.95% ends 5/2045	\$ 240,205

In our prior 5-year history, giving through Mar should be 23% of our annual plan. On 3/31/24, we are at 28%. Detailed financial reports are posted monthly in the office.

## OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

**Church Office:** Mon., Wed., 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
info@atonementmuskego.org | 414-422-0400

### Pastor Gene Talley

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
gene@atonementmuskego.org | 608-345-5333

### Deacon Marian Wasierski

Virtual Office Hours: Mon. 1-5 p.m., Tue. 1-3 p.m.  
marian@atonementmuskego.org | 414-218-2421

**Kara Mendez** (Office Admin.) Hours: Mon., Wed.  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. kara@atonementmuskego.org

### Lori Schantz (Bookkeeper)

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
atonebookkeeper@gmail.com

## MEMBERSHIP INFO (AS OF MAR. 2024)

**BAPTIZED MEMBERS: 734**

**CONFIRMED MEMBERS: 498**

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: 2**

## FIND US ONLINE!

Facebook: [facebook.com/atonechurch](https://facebook.com/atonechurch)

Youtube:

[youtube.com/@AtonementLutheranChurch](https://youtube.com/@AtonementLutheranChurch)

Website: [atonementmuskego.org](https://atonementmuskego.org)



# Atonement Lutheran Church

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THE ATONEMENT