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THE ATONEMENT

# BELL

ISSUE 702 DECEMBER 2023

# PASTOR'S LETTER



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Isaiah 9:6

One of my favorite things about Christmas is the way so much of the world joins us in celebration. Yes, on the one hand, Christmas has become commercialized to an absurd degree. Hallmark has 42 new Christmas movies for this year – six of them appearing before Halloween. On the other hand, thousands and thousands of people who do not claim to be Christian, and who will not be in worship for Christmas, nevertheless spend lots of time and money to participate in one of the oldest Christmas traditions there is: giving presents.

Long before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah (among others) spoke of the coming Messiah. Isaiah claimed the child to be born was for us – a son who was given to us. Jesus, himself, is a gift. Jesus was not offered in trade. Jesus was not a down payment. Jesus was given, with no expectation of reciprocity – no strings attached.

The wise men from the east – most likely using information passed down by the wise Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel – brought gifts for the newborn King of the Jews. Again, there was no expectation of reciprocity. They did not seek favors from this king. Their goal was to honor the birth of this child. It is something many of us have done when friends and relatives have celebrate the birth of children.

As you go about your Christmas gift shopping this year (if you're done, great, just don't tell me), please keep in mind the opportunity to give a special gift through Atonement. Every year we offer this opportunity, usually with half of the gift staying at Atonement for some purpose, and half being given beyond Atonement. This year, gifts will be split between our own Capital Improvement Fund, and funding for roofs for people in Tepeagua, El Salvador.

You soon will be receiving by mail more information about this giving opportunity. I hope you consider this a particularly appropriate gift to honor the birth of Jesus, the newborn king, once again. May you have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, filled with the presence of our savior, Jesus.

God's Peace,

Pastor Talley

# MONTHLY EVENTS



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.  
*Isaiah 9:6*

## BEHOLD

CHRISTMAS 2023

### **Children's Christmas Program Advent Festival: Crafts + Fellowship**

Sunday, Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m.

Advent Festival begins right after the Christmas Program. Enjoy Christmas crafts, snacks and refreshments. No 10:45 a.m. worship.

### **Blue Christmas Service**

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

Honoring grief and loss in this season.

### **Festival of Music**

Sunday, Dec. 17, 8, 9:30, & 10:45 a.m.

Hear Christmas music from our Choir, Bell Choir, Worship Band, and more.

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, Dec. 24, 11 a.m., 2, 4, & 8 p.m.

Candle lighting at each service:

- 11 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 2 & 4 p.m. Contemporary Worship
- 8 p.m. Traditional Worship

### **Sunday After Christmas**

Sunday, Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m.

Only one service this Sunday—it will be filled with Christmas music and cheer.

### **FALL 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](https://atonementmuskego.org/worship)

### **PHOTOS FOR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY: SUNDAYS, DEC. 3, 10, & 17 BETWEEN SERVICES**

Did you know we are going to be adapting a new church management software in 2024? It is true! This program, Realm, will help us unify our finance records and our church directory to create an easier workflow for our staff and volunteers.

This software also offers an app that is easy to use for congregants- you will be able to easily update your picture, information, and access our Church Directory.

### **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)

# MONTHLY UPDATES



## 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:

**December 3: Lydia Circle**

**December 10: Kids BLAST Advent Fest**

**December 17: Ice Cream Sundaes**

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

## POSTPONED: RIC EDUCATION SESSION 2 ON DEC. 5 & 7

Though our RIC Core Team had hoped to host a second round of education sessions, we have to postpone the sessions on December 5 and 7. Keep an eye out for future communication about the Reconciling in Christ process at Atonement. We hope to host a small-group book club of Unclobber by Colby Martin in January of 2024.

## KNIT-WITS SILENT AUCTION: NOV. 19 - DEC. 10

This holiday season, come and "shop" at the auction with special handmade gift ideas for Christmas in mind. This year half of the auction proceeds will go to the Muskego Food Pantry in memory of Jean Albers, who recently passed away. She was an active member of our group and a long time volunteer at the Pantry. Come and support this wonderful ministry and the Muskego Food Pantry.



## 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)

## 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)

# MONTHLY UPDATES



## **EPIPHANY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: 9:30 A.M. SUNDAY JANUARY 7**

On Sunday January 7 during our 9:30 a.m. service, Youth ministry students will be serving Kids BLAST students, classroom teachers, and classroom grandparents a pancake breakfast in celebration of Epiphany.

## **ANNUAL MEETING: 12 P.M. SUNDAY JANUARY 14**

Atonement's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at noon in Fellowship Hall. The meeting agenda will include the review of pastoral reports and Church Council and Ministry Team reports.

In addition, congregational members will vote on the proposed 2024 Ministry Plan budget and members nominated to service on the Church Council next year. Prior to the meeting, a light lunch will be served.

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

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 ([marian@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:marian@atonementmuskego.org)), Lorraine Behling ([kbehling4@wi.rr.com](mailto:kbehling4@wi.rr.com), 414-422-1580), 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 Kara Mendez ([kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)).

## **RECONCILING IN CHRIST UPDATE**

On November 19 and 29, we hosted an Education Session, "Curious about the LGBT+ Community," in the Fellowship Hall. During the session, we discussed the history and relevance of different terminologies, the spectrums of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and how Genesis 1 can empower us as humans and co-creators on God's big green earth. Thank you to all who showed up with questions and curiosity! Though we are postponing our next set of Education Sessions (on Dec. 5 and 7), we look forward to hosting several small-group book clubs to dig deeper into the book "Unclobber" by Colby Martin.



## **UPDATE ON OUTDOOR BENCHES**

Have a seat! In the event you haven't noticed, there are two beautiful benches located just outside the doors as you enter our Church. One is dedicated to Jim Weber and the other to Darlene Duklas. Recently concrete pads were poured so both benches are on concrete and under the canopy to protect you from inclement weather.

They are positioned as to not interfere with the handicap entrance. Whether you are waiting for a ride or someone inside, feel free to have a seat!

# NOVEMBER REVIEW



## THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR ALL PEOPLES CHURCH: NOV. 5

Our Thanksgiving Meal drive for All Peoples Church was a great success! With the food and funds donated, we were able to share 36 Thanksgiving meal bags with All Peoples Church. Pictured are our middle school students packing up the bags on November 5.



## YOUTH PIE BAKE SALE: NOV 18-19

On Saturday November 18, our Youth Ministry students baked pies and prepared dry cookie mixes to sell on Sunday, November 19 between services. Their bake sale was a great success thanks to the purchases and donations from our congregation!

Our students raised just under \$1,000 from the sale, and \$500 was donated to Coats for Kids.



## OPEN PANTRY YOUTH MINISTRY SERVICE PROJECT: NOV. 22

On Wednesday, November 22, our Youth Ministry students took a trip to help serve the Open Pantry in Milwaukee.

# NOVEMBER REVIEW



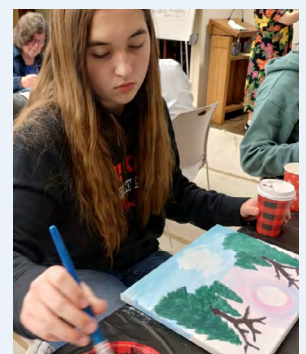
**FIRST COMMUNION FALL 2023** We had many students celebrate their First Communion on November 12 and 19! We are so proud of them! See more pictures on page 8.



## PAINT AND SIP: NOV. 28

On Tuesday, November 28, our Youth Ministry hosted a Paint and Sip to fundraise for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Everyone's paintings turned out great, and we raised over \$600 to go help with trip-related expenses.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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

## 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)

## IMPORTANT STEPPING STONE DATES

These are the dates for the Stepping Stones up through February. No dates set for graduate quilts yet. Please also note that there are classes preceding each of these presentation dates and people should look out for info and sign ups for each of them.

- January 21: Prayer Bear Presentation (2-5 years)
- February 4: Second Grade Bible

## CLASSROOM GRANDPARENTS

To nurture intergenerational relationships at Atonement, we welcome our older members to join Kids BLAST in their classrooms on Sundays. Reach out to Anne Farebrother to learn more!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Camden Sielaff  
Ethan Hassler  
Isaac Brogan  
Wyatt Goetsch  
Kendal Puranen  
Jocelyn McDonald  
Tyler Risic

## FIRST COMMUNION: NOV. 12 + 19

Here are some more pictures of our November First Communion students!





# YOUTH MINISTRY



Kevin Kretzmann Farrar [kevin@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kevin@atonementmuskego.org) & Kara Mendez [kara@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kara@atonementmuskego.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS [atonementmuskego.org/youth](https://atonementmuskego.org/youth)

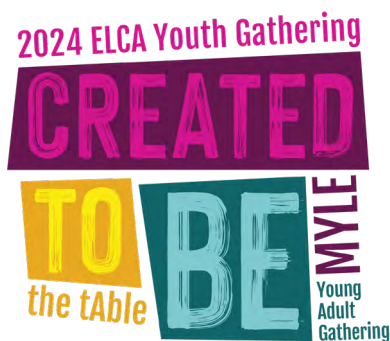
## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation is a two-year sequence that begins in eighth grade (and later for older students who have not yet been confirmed.) All classes are on Sunday afternoons from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The list of Fall confirmation dates are included on the Fall youth calendar: [atonementmuskego.org/youth](https://atonementmuskego.org/youth). If you are interested in confirmation but don't think you'll receive this invitation, please contact Pr. Kevin at [kevin@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kevin@atonementmuskego.org)

## FALL CLASSES, YOUTH SUNDAY, AND EVENT CALENDAR

<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Cross+Training &amp; ACTS classes: December 3 +17</b>
SUNDAY 12/3	Confirmation class, 12-1:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 12/10	<b>Youth Sunday: Christmas Program 9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Youth will support Kid's BLAST through filling such roles as ushering</i> <b>Monthly pre-meeting for ELCA Youth Gathering, 6-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>SAVE THESE DATES!</b>
JAN. 7, 2024	Epiphany Pancake Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.
FEB. 8-11, 2024	Fort Wilderness 2024
FEB. 13, 2024	Fat Tuesday: Evening of February 13



## ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2024

ELCA is jazzed to announce that we're heading to New Orleans for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering! The Big Easy is filled with rich history, friendly locals, amazing food and great music, and we just can't wait to go back.

Please block off July 14-21 and July 28 on your calendar. The Youth Gathering goes from July 16-20 and the exact days of the trip will depend on our method of transportation to the youth gathering. Those who attend will be sharing about the youth gathering in church on July 28. Sign up here: [bit.ly/ELCAYG-signup](https://bit.ly/ELCAYG-signup)

# SERVICE & OUTREACH



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS: NOW – DECEMBER 10

Help make Christmas brighter for teens at the Joy House and Cross Trainers Academy Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Pick up a tag from the tree or basket, and thanks for bringing joy to teens in need!

### Take a gift suggestion list (suggested price range \$20):

**For girls:** Make up, jewelry, lotion, hair and nail accessories.

**For boys:** Wisconsin sports themed novelties, and hand-held games.

**For any teen:** \$10-25 Walmart, Amazon, or Target gift cards, board games, card games, graphic novels, YA books, adult coloring books, extreme dot-to-dot or other puzzle books, small age-appropriate lego sets, and science/craft kits.

Put gift in a bag (no special wrapping needed) and attach the tag from the tree. Put gift cards in designated box. Please return to church by Sunday, December 10.

## COATS FOR KIDS: THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated coats for children at APC. We were able to give 102 coats to keep kids warm this winter. Our youth ministry donated \$500 towards Coats for Kids from what they raised doing the bake sale!

## CHRISTMAS MEALS FOR ALL PEOPLES CHURCH

Christmas meal donations run through Dec 10. Our goal is to fill 20 bags of food to help make Christmas meals possible for many APC families.

- Stuffing
- Jiffy Corn muffin mix
- Canned sweet potatoes, green beans and whole kernel corn
- Canned peaches
- Cream of Mushroom soup
- French's fried onions
- 1# elbow macaroni
- 16oz Velveeta cheese
- Hot sauce
- Cranberry sauce
- 16 oz bottle of canola oil
- Rice-a-roni
- Turkey gravy
- 1 box hot chocolate packs

## 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
  - 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
  - Ramen Noodles
  - Mac & Cheese
  - Pasta
  - Spaghetti Sauce (canned)
  - Tomato Paste/Sauce
- Items always needed:**
- Personal Hygiene Items
  - Shampoo & Soap

# SERVICE & OUTREACH



## MUSKEGO FOOD PANTRY

Jean Albers was our liaison to the Muskego Food Pantry for many years, donating many hours there as well as here at Atonement. We all really miss her and so does the food Pantry. We would like to continue supporting the Pantry as Jean did. The pantry is now serving about 100-150 families per month. The barrel for food donations is in the hallway going to the Children's Wing. Please remember to drop off an item or 2 on Sundays. The need is great and the winter months usually see an increase in numbers. The most needed items for December are items for holiday meals.

Due to a number of fresh foods and meats being left in barrels at the food pantry and spoiling before the workers can empty the barrels, **you can ONLY drop off perishables during the hours when they are open.** Open: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. S81 W19150 Apollo Drive in the Industrial Park | 262-679-6448 [muskegofoodpantry.org](http://muskegofoodpantry.org) Thanks for your support of our neighbors. If you have any questions contact Joan Johnson: (262) 679-3672 [jjohnson016@wi.rr.com](mailto:jjohnson016@wi.rr.com)

Suggestions are:

- Stuffing
  - Canned vegetables like: mixed vegetable, carrots, peas and carrots. No corn or green beans (they have plenty.)
  - Canned cranberries
  - Canned sweet potatoes
  - Cream of mushroom soup
  - French onions
  - Packaged potatoes
  - Canned pie filling
  - Pie crust mix
  - Dry cookie/cake mixes
  - Jello
  - Flour
  - Sugar
- Other items:
- Toilet paper (always needed)
  - Diapers, sizes 5 and 6

## DAYS FOR GIRLS

We will not be meeting in December. Next meeting will be January 11, 9:30 a.m.

## KNIT-WITS NEWS

The Knit-Wits meet the first Tuesday of every month. 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

## SERENITY INNS 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

# COUNCIL CORNER



## LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As we reflect on 2023 and think about where we are headed in 2024, I want to pause and thank our Congregation Council and staff. We were challenged with a Senior Pastor change, Contemporary Music Leader change, and other staff changes the past few years. That incredible amount of change was difficult, so it was nice to “normalize” a bit in 2023.

With that said, we suspect those headwinds and economic worries resulted in some decreased giving this past year. Our financial commitments for 2024 were also a little less than we hoped, so with increasing inflationary costs the Finance Committee and Executive Committee researched ways to balance a proposed 2024 Operating Budget. To make up that expected shortfall next year we weighed several options:

1. Refinance the mortgage - This would have stretched out the mortgage term 15 years, at a higher rate and a substantial fee. This option would have improved our cash flow by almost \$7,000 a month. The cost of doing this, however, just didn't seem prudent.
2. Borrow from our restricted Memorial Fund, which is allowed by Atonement's constitution. We all concluded that this was just pushing out the cash flow issue to next year and would deplete our cash.
3. Reduce expenses – We all are committed to the long-term success of Atonement through the current staffing model. Our member attrition rate could have been much higher with all the changes (we were told to expect over 20%), but we were blessed to quickly fill the open positions with an amazing Senior Pastor and Contemporary Music Leader along with other volunteers.
4. Re-Amortize the mortgage – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, our current lender, made the Council aware that since we had been paying ahead on the mortgage by two years, we could take the remaining balance and re-amortize it to the original term ending in January of 2029 (spread it out an additional two years from the planned early 2027 pay off). There is no fee to re-amortize the mortgage, and the interest rate stays the same. We were blessed as a congregation to have paid ahead due to previous Principal Payment Reduction campaigns, which provided us with this flexibility now, and we hope to hold another campaign at some point in the coming next few years.

The Council met on November 21st and voted to take advantage of the re-amortization option, thus lowering the annual mortgage payments by \$51,000. Since we re-amortized to the original term of the loan, a congregational vote was not needed.

On a more positive note, I hope everyone feels as good about our congregation as I do. As I write this update, it has never been more apparent to me how important the youth are to our congregation. The Faith Stories the confirmation students shared last month are always incredibly emotional (my eyes were sweating) .... and .... I have never been more Joyful in Hope, seeing nineteen students take their first communion the second Sunday of November with barely an open seat in the church. Thank you to the pastors, staff and volunteers that keep the Children, Youth and Family Program front and center.

[Continued on next page]

# COUNCIL CORNER



## NOVEMBER COUNCIL REPORT

The Church Council approved the re-amortization of Atonement's mortgage with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, our current lender, due to reduced commitments that did not meet the expected 2024 Ministry Plan budget. The reduced monthly payment will allow Atonement to meet its budgetary commitments.

Council members learned by paying ahead on the mortgage, Thrivent will re-amortize the remaining mortgage balance, which will return to the original term date in January 2029. Since the mortgage was re-amortized to the original loan term date, a congregational vote was not needed. In addition, there is no fee to re-amortize the mortgage, and the rate remains unchanged. Please read the Church President Dave Franks' message in December's Atonement Bell newsletter for more information.

Stewardship representative Rachel Zabkowicz reported to Council members that this year's Stewardship Campaign received commitments from 176 giving units, as compared to 180 giving units last year. A total of \$671,000 was committed by the Atonement congregation to support the 2024 Ministry Plan budget.

President Dave Frank reported that the Nomination Committee is finalizing Council roles for next year in preparation for the Annual Congregational Meeting in January. The open Church Council positions are President-Elect/Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Administration/Personnel, Children, Youth and Family, and Outreach and Service.

## LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT [Continued from previous page]

I also attended a traditional service in November, and while I love our contemporary service and normally attend at 9:30am, the traditional service just felt good. I seem to be more of an early riser so no doubt I will be attending more of those services in the years to come.

With the church in a good place and stabilized, the Council will re-focus on more outreach efforts to grow our brand in the community to attract more new members. We would love to hear from any marketing experts in the congregation on ideas as we build that "marketing plan". We will also discuss internal options to focus on more unrestricted giving campaigns that help with the general cash needs of the church. Ideas like mortgage principal parties, Tell-a-Friend Sundays, more consistent usher presence, more new family orientations and many more ideas have been discussed.

In closing, I apologize for so much budget talk. Obviously, transparency is important. Many looked forward to a mortgage burning party in 2027, as did I, but that celebration will have to wait a couple more years.

Meanwhile, we move onward and upward, excited about the future and proud of our church for all the resources we continue to provide our community and the world.

Yours in Christ,

Dave Frank

# WELCA



***All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. – Francis of Assisi***

As 2023 comes to a close, I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to serve as WELCA President and I am thankful for the amazing women of Atonement who do so much to live out God's love in our community and throughout the world!

We will end the year with our General Meeting on December 2. We will enjoy brunch and the beautiful music of the Women of Note. Thanks to Ruth and Mary/Martha Circles for hosting!

The WELCA Board will meet at Atonement on Monday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss plans for the coming year.

Our first General Meeting of 2024 will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 3rd. Mary/Martha Circle will host and serve soup at the end of the meeting. Hope to see you then!

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR WELCA LEADERSHIP:

**Elizabeth Circle:** Shirley Littleton: [shirklitt@gmail.com](mailto:shirklitt@gmail.com)

**Leah Circle:** Terry Hagen [hagentl@hotmail.com](mailto:hagentl@hotmail.com)

Denise Kral: [denise.kral@gmail.com](mailto:denise.kral@gmail.com)

**Lydia Circle:** Nancy Hanks: [nhanks49@yahoo.com](mailto:nhanks49@yahoo.com)

Jan DeGaetano: [degaetano135@gmail.com](mailto:degaetano135@gmail.com)

**Mary/Martha Circle:** Wendy Hunjadi: [wahunjadi@arandell.com](mailto:wahunjadi@arandell.com)

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 Hoffman: [maryandsadie@wi.rr.com](mailto:maryandsadie@wi.rr.com)

Sandy Zielinski: [sgreenz556@gmail.com](mailto:sgreenz556@gmail.com)

# MEN'S MINISTRY



## ATONEMENT LEGENDS

The Legends Saturday group will gather Dec. 16 at 8:30 a.m., to continue with a DVD series on Genesis presented by the Hillsdale College. All are welcome. Contact Larry Alber:

[larry@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:larry@atonementmuskego.org)

## RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT (ROMEO)


Meet to chat and connect on the 3rd Thursday each month, 9 a.m. at The Forum, 4711 S 108th St., Milwaukee. Interested? Contact Bob Puranen: 414-791-4197


# STATS & CONTACT



## OCTOBER DONATIONS

**General: \$61,618**  
**Benevolence: \$4,401**  
**Memorials: \$1,140**

Giving Beyond Atonement Thru Oct 2023	
 <b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</b> God's work. Our hands.	
<b>Hands-on Mission</b>	
Primary Benevolence ELCA	\$ 23,330
APC	\$ 1,930
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$ 50
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 150
ELCA Global Mission support	\$ 600
EI Salvador Roofs	\$ 6,600
EI Salvador Sponsorships	\$ 17,596
EI Salvador Water Project	\$ 1,000
Habitat for Humanity MKE/Waukesh:	\$ 380
Asylum ministry	\$ 1,915
Kids Blast to World Relief	\$ 987
Men's Ministry (Legends)	\$ 100
LWR School Kits	\$ 1,581
School Mural & School Supplies	\$ 1,810
Other Benevolences	\$ 380
Care Giving Ministry	\$ 220
Quilters	\$ 227
Knit-Wits	\$ 970
<b>Giving Beyond Atonement 2023</b>	<b>\$ 59,826</b>
<small>*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.</small>	

Ministry Plan	
 <b>ATONEMENT</b> LUTHERAN CHURCH	
<b>Year-to-date through Oct 30</b>	
Tithes & Offerings Received	\$ 499,379
Tithes & Offerings in our plan	\$ 545,221
Expenses Incurred	\$ 595,749
Expenses in our plan	\$ 594,605
Church Loan@4.25%ends 10/2027	\$ 332,853
OWC Loan @3.95% ends 5/2045	\$ 243,835

In our prior 5-year history, giving through Sept should be 76.4% of our annual plan. On 10/31/23, we are at 70.0%. Detailed financial reports are posted monthly in the office.

## MEMBERSHIP INFO (as of Oct. 2023)

Baptized Members: 726 | Confirmed Members: 497  
 Associate Members: 2

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact Deacon Marian (see info below) or submit a prayer request at [atonementmuskego.org/prayer](https://atonementmuskego.org/prayer) if you have a prayer request for our caregiving team or for the Sunday prayers.

## NURSERY CARE REQUESTS

Running an event at Atonement and need Child/Nursery care? Fill out this request form: [atonementmuskego.breezechms.com/form/d3025f](https://breezechms.com/form/d3025f)

## NARTHEX DISPLAYS: 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!

## CONTACT INFO & FALL OFFICE HOURS

**Church Office:** Mon., Wed., 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
[info@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:info@atonementmuskego.org) | 414-422-0400

**Pastor Gene Talley**  
 Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
[gene@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:gene@atonementmuskego.org) | 608-345-5333

**Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar**  
 Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
[kevin@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:kevin@atonementmuskego.org) | 414-207-8778

**Deacon Marian Wasierski**  
 Virtual Office Hours:  
[marian@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:marian@atonementmuskego.org) | 414-218-2421

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

**Isabelle Seifert (Comm. Coordinator)**  
[isabelle@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:isabelle@atonementmuskego.org)

**Larry Alber (Bookkeeper)**  
[larry@atonementmuskego.org](mailto:larry@atonementmuskego.org)



# Atonement Lutheran Church

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# BELL

THE ATONEMENT