

APRIL
at
Atonement
Lutheran Church



WEEKLY WORSHIP:
Wednesdays: 6:30pm
Sundays: 9am

ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
APRIL 3rd and 7th: Recognition of Volunteers!
APRIL 10th and 14th: Big announcement!
APRIL 17TH and 21st: What is our vision?

April is National Volunteer Recognition month.
Thank you to all volunteers.

Heavenly Father, we come before you today with hearts full of gratitude for the compassionate volunteers who selflessly give of themselves to serve others.



Your Word teaches us that love and compassion are the essence of your character, and we are thankful for those who reflect these qualities through their actions.

We pray that you would be their constant source of inspiration and motivation. Let them experience the joy that comes from making a positive difference in the lives of others. May their service be a living testimony to your goodness and grace.

In the name of Jesus, the ultimate example of compassion, we pray. Amen.



April 21-27 is National Administrator/ Secretary Week. Thank you to Laura Hillmer, our office administrator, for her dedication to Atonement. Her birthday is also in April.

APR 1, MONDAY

Office Closed

APR 2, TUESDAY

9am Bible Study with Pastors
10am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
12-6pm Blood Drive
6-8pm Unity meeting
6:30pm NA Anonymous

APR 3, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon AI Anon
5:30pm Church Supper
5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Worship: Vol. Recognition
7:15pm Confirmation

APR 4, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Study Online-Men
12pm Bible Study-Women's
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
5:30pm Beginning Bell Choir
6:30pm Bell Choir
7pm Council Committees

APR 5, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de Oracion)

APR 6, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

APR 7, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Volunteer Recognition
10am Unity Spiritual Center
3:30pm Casa de Oracion Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

APR 8, MONDAY**APR 9, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors
10am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6-8pm Unity meeting
6:30pm NA Anonymous
6:30pm Stamp Club

APR 10, WEDNESDAY

8am Bread Makers
8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon AI Anon
5:30pm Pizza Supper
5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Worship: Cap. Campaign
7:15pm Youth Packing Project

APR 11, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Study Online-Men
12pm Bible Study-Women
5:30pm Beginning Bell Choir
6:30pm Bell Choir
7pm Council Committees

APR 12, FRIDAY

1pm Prayer Beads
6pm Bible Study (Casa de Oracion)

APR 13, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

APR 14, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Capital Campaign
10am Unity Spiritual Center
Unity Potluck
3:30pm Casa de Oracion Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

APR 15, MONDAY

Noon Book Club at Jimmy's

APR 16, TUESDAY

9am Bible Study with Pastors
10am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous

APR 17, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
9:30am Elizabeth Circle
Noon AI Anon
5:30pm Pizza Supper
5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Worship: Vision

APR 18, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Study Online-Men
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
1pm Birthday Cards
5:30pm Beginning Bell Choir
6:30pm Bell Choir

APR 19, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de Oracion)

APR 20, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous
7pm Itinerant Pitcher @ Milk & Honey

APR 21, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Vision
10am Unity Spiritual Center
3:30pm Casa de Oracion Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

APR 22, MONDAY**APR 23, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors
10am Men's Group
11:30am TOPS
1pm Naomi Circle
6:30pm NA Anonymous
6:30pm Stamp Club

APR 24, WEDNESDAY

8am Bible Online-Men
9am Quilters
Noon AI Anon
5:30pm Pizza Supper
5:45pm Wednesday School
6:30pm Worship
7:15pm Choir

APR 25, THURSDAY

9:45am Bible Study Online-Men
10am Youth Card Writing
12pm Bible Study-Women
1pm Pieces of Love Quilters
5:30pm Beginning Bell Choir
6:30pm Bell Choir
7pm Church Council

APR 26, FRIDAY

6pm Bible Study (Casa de Oracion)

APR 27, SATURDAY

10am NA Anonymous
6:30pm NA Anonymous

APR 28, SUNDAY**9am Worship**

10am Coffee & Conversation
10am Adult Ed:
10am Unity Spiritual Center
3:30pm Casa de Oracion Worship
5pm NA Anonymous
5pm Gamblers Anonymous

APR 29, MONDAY**APR 30, TUESDAY**

9am Bible Study with Pastors
9am AARP Drivers' Course
9:30am Men's Group
10am Naomi Circle
11:30am TOPS
6:30pm NA Anonymous

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

Be the one to say yes!

There are so many opportunities to volunteer at Atonement or through our outreach. Many hands make lighter work! **If you are not currently volunteering at Atonement**, please think of your interests and the gifts you have and choose the committee or activity that is a good fit. If you want to explore options and learn more, please contact Linda Schreiber, 320-293-3894 or LTJSchreiber@hotmail.com. There is a 3-ring binder in the library that has contact information for each of these and it will be posted on the bulletin board by the ushers' table.



Finance*	Worship Environment	Bell Choir
Evangelism*	Advent Tea	Office Volunteers
Mission*	Bloodmobile	Wedding Coordinator
Adult Ministry*	Book Nook	Sunbeam Volunteers
Children/Youth Ministry*	Card Ministry	Newsletter
Property*	Prayer Beads	Vacation Bible School
Fellowship*	Youth Mentors	BWCA Adult Chaperones
Stewardship*	Classroom Teachers/Aides	Fundraisers
Worship*	Community Youth Projects	Various Ad Hoc Committees
Funeral Hosts	Flag Raising/Lowering	Money Counters
Communion Assistants	Food Shelf Volunteers	Prayer Chain
Worship Readers	Funeral Dinners	Children's Worship Bags
Ushers	Funeral Lunch Set Up	Women of Atonement
Hospitality Team	Dishwashers	Women's Circles
Serving Groups	Habitat for Humanity	Book Club
Worship Camera	Lefse Makers	Faith Chest Ministry
Worship Slides/Powerpoint	Lent Lunches	WELCA Conference
Communion Bread Making	Wednesday Evening Suppers	Giving Tree
Quilters	Mailings (Bulk)	
Yard Cleanup	Choir	

*Council committees generally meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

YOUTH CARD MINISTRY

PLEASE HELP! We need help in writing 100 cards to young people of Atonement. Join us **March 28th, 10am-Noon**. Help for 1 hour or more, whatever works for you. Please contact Mata at 320-252-6203 ext 115 or program@atonementlutheran.org if you are coming later than 10am so if they finish before you are scheduled, she can call you.

The Evangelism Committee is looking for volunteers to be taped doing a 30-40 second snippet about what they like about Atonement or what they enjoy doing at Atonement to be posted on the Atonement Facebook page and Instagram. If interested, please contact one of the co-chairs: Pat Flicker--patflicker@gmail.com or Nancy Sokoloski--sokoloski@charter.net. We are looking for all ages.

FAITH FORMATION

** YOUTH HAPPENINGS **

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Following Easter, the confirmation students will focus on the Sacrament of Holy Communion, do a packing project on April 10th; then close-out our study of Luther's Small Catechism with three weeks on the Lord's Prayer. The last packing event is scheduled for May 8th. We will wrap up confirmation classes with a special event on May 15th.

STUDENT RETREATS/CAMPS

Register NOW for Luther Crest **SUMMER CAMPS**. There is a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit upon registering. If the overall cost is a concern, please talk with Pastor John or Pastor Tim. The summer camps fill up fast so to have more date options, plan NOW! Online: <https://luthercrest.org> or call 320-846-2431.



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR QUILTS

Attention all High School seniors and parents! We would like to give you a quilt on May 15th or 19th, made by quilters at Atonement. Please contact Mata if you would like to receive one.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

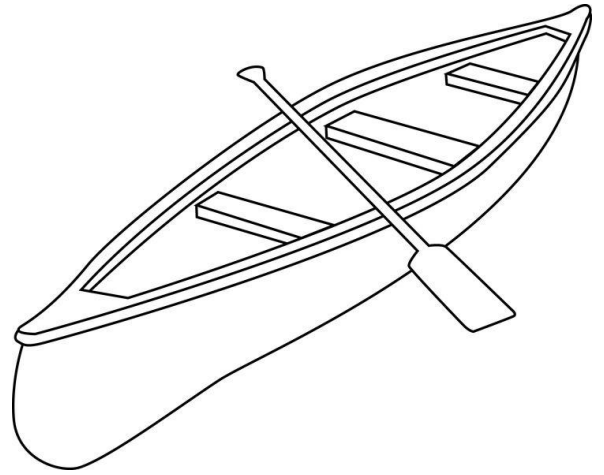
A summer kids' event called Scuba VBS will be hosted at Atonement Lutheran Church from **June 3 to 6, 2024**. At Scuba, kids explore what it means to have a friendship with God! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out sciency-fun experiments that get imagination bubbling. Scuba is for kids from age 3 (by Sept 1, 2023) through sixth grade and will run from **9am to noon** each day. For more information, call or text Lisa at 320-281-9541 or Mata at 320-252-6203 x115. We need volunteers for:

- Coordination Team
- Song leaders
- Bible stories
- Crafts
- Games
- Snack Preparation
- Technology
- Photographer
- Environment
- Clean up crew
- Infant/Toddler Care
- Prepare items for crafts or snacks
- Van driver
- Van Assistant



BWCA Trips

This summer Atonement's Pastors will be leading two trips to the BWCA the first trip will be for dads & boys, July 25th - 28th. The second trip for high school boys is August 8th-11th. Information on a girls' trip will be available soon. If you have questions, see Pastor Tim or Pastor John. Register on the Atonement website.



PROTECTING YOUTH

"Sextortion is a form of child sexual exploitation where children are manipulated into sending a sexual image or video, then threatened and blackmailed by a person who demands additional sexual content, activity, or money from the child. What begins as an online friendship or romantic relationship quickly changes into a scary and desperate situation for the child. The exploiter has no issue with shaming the child and tearing them down, even to the point of tragically taking their own life.

I learned that once images are shared, young people may be too scared to come and tell an adult and feel there is no way out. Open conversations with young people – as young as 10-12 years old – can prevent this harm from happening. They can learn what signs to look for, they can be assured we are always there for them, no matter what. This is what God's mercy can look like for a child." ...Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director

As a result of a conversation on this, the Children and Youth Ministry Committee decided to post at Atonement a sign indicating that this is a safe place. Most schools have already done this so youth know who they can turn to and be accepted.



ADULT EDUCATION

In April, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to hold a series of conversations about Atonement Lutheran Church and its future.

April 7th – Volunteer Recognition! We value our many faithful volunteers who keep Atonement functioning. Please join us to show your appreciation.



April 14th – Capital Campaign Kickoff!

April 21st – What's Your Vision for Atonement? We will review and discuss the results of the March "Post It Note" exercises. You will have opportunities to elaborate on your own Post It Note comments and add comments, if you like, about what you love about Atonement and what you would do if you could do one thing differently at Atonement. Visioning Team members will be available to answer your questions.

April 28th – Bon voyage! Come wish Pastor Tim and Paula well as they prepare for Pastor Tim's sabbatical in May.

Summer Break

Adult Ed will take a break over the summer until sessions begin again in September. As always, Jean would love to hear your ideas for future offerings. If you would like to become a member of the Adult Ed Committee, please contact Jean.

PRAYER LIST AT ATONEMENT



Thanks for Visitors at Worship
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Easton
Family of Morris Glenn Freier
Family of Joanne Hoekstra
Family of Nathan Miller

Liz Krause
Vonnie Ottem
Arlene Omlid
Pat and Brian Robinson
Melissa Atwood Reichert

Alexia Engels
Lainey Matuska
Mark Allen
Jodi

BLOOD DRIVE

Atonement continues to host the community drive on the first Tuesday of every even month, 12-6pm. **April 2nd** is the next date to give here. Mark your calendars now as there is an urgent need for blood donors.



AARP SAFE DRIVER (REFRESHER) COURSE

Course will be held on April 30th from 9am to 1pm. Completion of this course allows a discount by most insurances. Call the office to register; questions contact Debbie Grzybowski.



LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS

Don't Ever Give Up!

50 years ago, one of the hottest bands in America was Three Dog Night. The band had 21 Billboard Top 40 hits between 1969 and 1975, with three hitting number one. The band formed in 1967, was founded by vocalists Chuck Negrón, Cory Wells, and Danny Hutton. This lineup was soon augmented by Jimmy Greenspoon, Joe Schermie, Michael Allsup, and Floyd Sneed. Today, the band is still touring, but the only remaining member is Danny Hutton. One of your pastors is excited about this band coming to *The Ledge* in Waite Park on Friday, July 19th (we will let you guess which one).



Three Dog Night has an interesting history. While the name Chuck Negrón may not be immediately recognizable, for more than a decade he sang with the band. If you are old, or like "classic rock", you will probably remember a few familiar songs, "One Is the Loneliest Number," "Easy to Be Hard," and "An Old Fashioned Love Song."

For a while Chuck Negrón had it all. He and his band had many top ten hits and sold 50 million records. He was rich. He was famous. He was on top of the world. He had everything - including an addiction to heroin that he just could not shake. It wasn't that he hadn't tried. During the course of his career, he made more than 100 attempts at rehabilitation - including 35 hospital stays - and yet Chuck failed repeatedly.

After pawning his gold records to buy cocaine, Chuck hit rock-bottom (no pun intended); he wound up living on the floor of an East L.A. crack house. He had lost everything. Everything, that is, except hope.

In spite of all his failed attempts, Chuck tried one more time. On September 17, 1991, he entered rehab for the 37th and final time. In a program called "Cri-Help" he finally, after 20 years of failure, won the battle. He remained clean for years, is still supportive of, and works with counseling and intervention programs for musicians. It took more than 100 tries, but he finally made it. Chuck is now 81.

You can read Chuck's story in his autobiography called *Three Dog Nightmare* published in 1999. A revised edition with several new chapters was released in 2008 and an updated version was released in 2018. If you read the book, you will be reminded of the times in your life when you have been tempted to give up too soon - deciding it was easier to live with losing than struggle for success.



If you are struggling for success, do not give up hope. Easter comes, but not without Good Friday. Remember the symbol of the Christian faith was once a symbol of failure and suffering. The cross was a sign of failure, torture, and death. The followers of Christ saw the cross and hid for shame fearing total failure.

You may be tempted to say, "It's just no use. I've failed at this too many times...Why should I keep trying? This is one habit I will never break, one sin I will never conquer, one failure I will never overcome."

Don't give up! You are not alone in your suffering! In fact, it is in suffering that we meet Christ! Easter does not come until after Good Friday. The cross is a reminder that Christ walks with those who suffer and it gives us hope that sin will not have the last word. Are you willing to try again? Can you trust that you are not alone in your struggle?

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:18

The next time you see a cross, remember that it was once a sign of hopelessness and now is a symbol of hope. Then get back up. Even if you lose some battles along the way, Christ forgives. Christ walks with you, gives you strength and hope. When you no longer have the will, Christ will surround you with love and carry you. This is good news that is worth sharing, especially around Easter. Invite someone you know, especially someone who is struggling, to join you for worship at Atonement – here, they will see the embodiment of Christ's love!



WEDNESDAY SERVICES with guitar

Jason Ploof provides guitar music on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. During Lent the service has been the Holden Evening Prayer. Following Easter, worship on Wednesday evenings will have the same readings as the following Sunday. A meal is served most Wednesday evenings at 5:15pm.

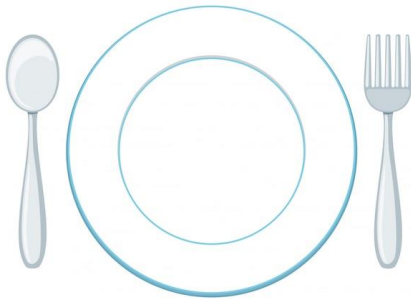
A LITTLE LAUGHTER NEVER HURT

- On Easter Sunday our minister, trying to emphasize the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, asked the children if they had noticed any changes in the music from previous weeks. "For the last few Sundays, the music has been slow and somber," he reminded them, "but today it's upbeat and joyful. Do you know why?" No one ventured an answer until the organist's three-year-old daughter piped up, "Because Daddy's been practicing all week!"
- My wife's Aunt Aggie told me once that there are four advantages to getting old and forgetful. "One, you meet new friends every day; two, every joke you hear is new; three, you can hide your own Easter eggs; and four . . . I forget the fourth thing."
- While driving to church on Easter Sunday two years ago, I told my children the Easter story. "This is the day we celebrate Jesus coming back to life," I explained. Right away, my 3-year-old son, Kevin, piped up from the back seat, "Will He be in church today?"
- A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you..."
- A parent was having difficulty keeping his five-year-old son quiet during worship. Finally, when he saw that he wasn't succeeding, he picked up the little lad and hurried toward the door. As they neared the exit, the boy yelled loudly: Pray for me!

FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY MEALS

During the school year, there is a **supper provided on Wednesday nights at 5:30pm**. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME! On most weeks, there is pizza, veggies, fruit, etc. Mac and cheese will be the main entrée on April 3rd.



APRIL CATERED LUNCH

Join us at noon on Wednesday, April 17th for fine fellowship, a good finger lick'n 3 piece KFC chicken box lunch, and an interesting program from Catholic Charities about avoiding scams and ID fraud. Ten Dollars (\$10) per person is the measly cost for this event. Signup with payment must be received by Sunday, April 14th. See us at our table in the Narthex or sign up at the church office.

Youse all better come now, have a good time, good eat'n,

and sign up early and don't get scammed.

ITINERANT PITCHER

Join the pastors on Saturday April 20, 2024 at 7pm at Milk and Honey in St Joseph.



ST CLOUD PUB THEOLOGY

Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin) hosts on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6pm at the Martini Lounge, Red Carpet, Downtown St Cloud. You are invited. For the topic each month, see <https://www.facebook.com/stcpubtheology>.

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS NEEDED

Men and women age 55 years or older who can commit 5-40 hours weekly, provide volunteer service to address needs of children and youth in community non-profit agencies, including schools, early educational programs, day cares, day treatment programs, residential facilities, and social service agencies.

Volunteers are paid an hourly stipend that is non-taxable, non-reportable, reimbursed travel, accident and liability insurance while on assignment, stipended time off and designated holidays, and when available, daily meal at site. Contact Catholic Charities, 320-229-4588 or toll-free 1-866-895-7992.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Have you or someone you care about had a loss due to death, divorce or separation? Beginning Experience (BE) is providing a weekend for healing on **April 5-7**. Held at the retreat center at Luther Crest, Alexandria, BE is a program designed to facilitate the grief resolution process for adults enabling them to move on in hope. For more information or an application please call 320-319-8863.

ATONEMENT'S



OF THE MONTH

April Mission of the Month: Lincoln Center

The Lincoln Center is a project of Homeless Helping Homeless that is operated in conjunction with our volunteers, staff members, & supporters.

Individuals experiencing homelessness are some of the most oppressed individuals within our society.

The Lincoln Center was created to specifically act as a resource to all those experiencing homelessness. We are working to build a center that can act as a refuge for individuals during times when the weather is inclement or when otherwise needing respite from the stress of surviving without the basic necessities in life. Our center is a point of outreach & support for individuals experiencing homelessness or extreme poverty.

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit and will attempt to mediate any immediate need within our organization's means. Within our center we operate a 24/7 community snack bar available to our visitors and guests which features fresh water, hot coffee, an assortment of snacks, & meals each day to our guests and others in need. We also have resources available for guests to use to contact potential employers and housing opportunities, such as wi-fi, computers, and phones. We have televisions to help our visitors pass the time through entertainment, gaming, or otherwise.

At this time the Mission Donation Center will collect ramen meals, cereal and hygiene items only. The Lincoln Center is in need of night stands and book shelves for the private modules; if you have one to donate, please let the Mission Committee know. Anyone with time or donation to share can contact Kay or Kris and we will help make that happen. Up to 24 guests can stay in the new modules. People can come during the day. While we do not have a kitchen to make meals, we do have space to serve meals.

DONATION CENTER

The center, located across from the coat racks, has containers or a cart to accept the following:

- Collection of food for Salvation Army and McKinley Area Learning Center
- Place of Hope - Laundry soap and personal hygiene items ONLY
- Homeless Helping Homeless - Ramen meals, cereal, oatmeal packets, & hand soap (with a pump) ONLY
- Bus passes and gift cards for gas, groceries & leisure activities will be collected in a lockbox in the office and will be distributed to Anna Marie's Alliance, Terebinth Refuge, Sexual Assault Center & Pathways 4 Youth
- Used Cell Phones will be collected for Terebinth Refuge & Anna Marie's Alliance
- Coats for kids and adults



THANK YOU!

Atonement members make a difference with their donations and volunteer work.

January Mission of the Month, Luther Crest (camperships): \$4,862.05

February Mission of the Month, Place of Hope: \$4,377.90

March Mission of the Month, MN FoodShare: Totals will be forthcoming.



MISSION AND YOUTH

The once-a-month Community Youth Packing Projects have been a huge success in educating the youth and participating adults about needs in our community. Financial support for these projects are greatly appreciated.

- April 10th – Cookie delivery to front line workers.
- May 8th – Pockets of Hope – backpacks for children ages 12 to 18 at the Child Advocacy Group.

Summer break – projects will resume in September.

Thank you to Stearns Electric, Andy's Towing, Dutch Maid Bakery, and members of Atonement who has contributed to the Community Youth Packing projects. Envelopes will continue to be available on the Ushers' table.

VISIONING TEAM

Atonement's Visioning Team continues its interesting challenge to discern what Atonement might look like in ten years.

Thank you, Atonement members, for contributing to the process by responding to these questions:

What do you love about Atonement?

If you could do one thing better or differently at Atonement, what would it be?

Congregation responses to the first question were summarized as – our people, our hospitality, and our mission projects. Responses to the second question centered on worship, evangelism/community (both within the congregation and outside our doors), and fellowship.



As we move forward our congregation will be asked for additional input. Three opportunities will occur following worship on the first three Wednesdays and Sundays of April. Please join us at those gatherings....we value your thoughts. The Adult Education article in this newsletter identifies the topics scheduled for each session.

WANT TO DONATE DIRECTLY FROM INVESTMENTS?

For giving directly from your investments, contact your investment company and they will assist with the process. By having contributions sent directly to Atonement, you avoid having to pay tax on the amount. You can designate amounts, frequency, and how they should be used: General Fund, Capital Campaign, Mission of the Month, etc.



Atonement Lutheran Church
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St. Cloud, MN 56303

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
St. Cloud, Minnesota
Permit No. 382

Atonement Lutheran Church Executive Committee & Staff

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