Atonement Visitor
June/July 2018

Upcoming Summer Events

June 11th-14th
VBS

July 4th
No Wednesday Worship
Office Closed

July 22nd
Worship at Wilson Park/Pet Blessing

July 30th—Aug. 2nd
Day Camp

August 26th
Worship at Wilson Park/Blessing of Backpacks

Baptisms
Theodore Abfalter—May 13th, 2018
Ada Christie—May 27th, 2018

Funerals
Steve McDeid—May 17th, 2018

May God bless you and keep you safe in all your summer travels and adventures.

Have a fun and safe summer!

From Atonement Staff

Atonement’s Mission Statement

“Reaching Up, Reaching Out”

Reaching Up To God: We build personal relationships with God through worship, prayer, Bible study and Christian fellowship.

Reaching Out To Others: God’s love leads us to share the message of Jesus Christ with others through our love, our lives and our gifts in our faith community and the world.

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Summer Worship Times
Saturday-5:30pm
Sunday-9:30am
Wednesday-6:30pm
Most mornings I can be found in a cemetery near our home. Alive. Getting my walk…..and tuning in to the chorus of singing saints. I sense them dancing around me – a holy, playful cloud of witnesses.

My niece, Berit, recently attended the dance recitals of their two kids. Royal, age 8, perfectly danced ballet and hip hop. Vera, age 5, told her mom she didn’t remember her dance steps. Mom assured her that it was ok, she should do what comes natural to her and have fun.

As her classmates danced in line, Vera danced free style around and between them, joyously shaking every part of her body while mom watched and cried tears of joy as she attempted to capture the ecstasy on video.

As they left the event, Berit asked her kids how it went for them. Royal knew he did a good job, he was a confident and very satisfied young man, completely on point. Vera responded, "mom, I did great! I loved it!"

During this interim time, we have shared the dance of life and faith, replete with new moves and steps, free style and reluctant twists and turns. Even those of us who do not know the steps or dance well at all have found some good in simply being together.

The poet Rumi writes: Dance when you’re broken open. Dance if you’ve torn the bandage off. Dance in the middle of the fighting. Dance in your blood. Dance when you’re perfectly free.

Pat and I have loved this dance with you. Heartfelt thanks for being you and being community. I might have stepped on a few toes or swung you in a new direction, making a way for the “new thing” God is doing here. The Spirit is ushering us out to the dance floor to join with new neighbors and all creation, seeking the good in each other, risking new moves for justice and sustainability, taking bold new steps toward healing and reconciliation, banishing party lines for a celebration of God’s greatness imprinted within all people.

Consider the final song we prayed with our voices last Sunday, Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song, #808. Pastor John sang tenderly in French and I sang in English. All of us singing and dancing together our oneness in the Spirit. And it was great!! I loved it!!

On 19 July we leave for our new call in Berlin, Germany via Cunard from NYC to England, the Chunnel train to Amsterdam and train to Berlin. I will be serving as Senior Pastor at the American Church in Berlin. The present church community includes people from 15 different denominations and 35 countries. Check it out online. From near and far, we have everything we need through faith.

Here we go, mindfully moving forward into God’s dynamic and transforming future! God’s Abundant Peace and Love be with you all!

Pastor Mari
Ever since Pr Mari gave her notice, Gilbert O’Sullivan’s big hit, “Alone again… Naturally,” has been making periodic runs through my head. It’s funny because it’s true. June 2018 will see us again a one pastor congregation. We spent a good bit of June 2017 that way following Pr Erica’s departure. And, for those who may not have known, this was also how I spent the summer and early fall after my colleague at Resurrection in St. Joseph retired in May 2016 (along with most of the other staff that year). Can you hear it in your head? “Alone again… naturally” – funny because it’s true. Almost. Not almost funny – it’s extremely funny – but almost true. And maybe not even almost true. It only seems true, because we are never, really, alone. Not me. Not you. And certainly not all of us together.

We begin this season of the Church year by celebrating Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in dramatic fashion, sending them out to build the Church. This Spirit is the one Jesus promised would come to stay with us, to guide us, help us, comfort us, and even give us words when our minds and tongues fail us (cf John 16, among other places). Each of us receives this Spirit in our baptism and through that Spirit the gift of faith and countless other blessings.

And the Spirit does stay. It is no accident that much biblical imagery of the Spirit is of breath or wind (the words we translate as Spirit from Greek and Hebrew can mean wind or breath or spirit, or all at the same time, depending on context), because the Spirit surrounds us as completely as does the wind – moving over us and our world even when we can’t see it – and it fills us like the breath we draw, permeating our bodies more deeply, even, than any air we inhale for our blood to carry hither and yon.

Only one person has ever been truly alone. As he hung dying, Jesus Christ was cut off from the God he called Father and who called him Beloved Son, from the presence of the Spirit that knit him in Mary’s womb and drove him throughout his ministry. He died alone, truly alone and cut off, so that we would never be – not even if we run from him. So, even though we find ourselves down a staff member, we are certainly not alone.

Now, as a practical matter, there is too much work to do here for one pastor to do well without something breaking down at some point. This would normally point to getting another interim; however, as we may be able to fill our vacancy rather quickly (council will communicate how that may be), we plan to hold off on hiring another interim pastor for the time being. To ensure adequate pastoral coverage (and allow me to keep my planned trip to visit family in mid-summer), I will invite local pastors and members of our congregation who have gifts for worship leadership, preaching, and pastoral care to share those gifts with us over the summer. Things might be a little different week to week (we might, for example, have a lay preacher and hold a Service of the Word instead of a Service of Holy Communion one or more weeks), but we plan to keep our summer worship schedule (Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday) intact.

And, of course, you are all strongly encouraged to remain healthy and alive until our new pastor is called. But even if you don’t, or if all our well-considered plans fall through, all will be well, because our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – will be with us and we are not alone.

pj
MINISTRY OF THE MONTH
JUNE
ANNA MARIE’S ALLIANCE

The mission of Anna Marie’s Alliance is “to provide a safe place for victims of domestic abuse and to achieve systems change that reduces violence.”

Their services include:
Safe shelter for 24 hours 7 days a week. Advocacy and support for abused women and their children from Central Minnesota. Assist with medical care, legal matters, housing, welfare, education opportunities, and short and long term goal planning. Also provides a 24 hour domestic violence hotline.

Children’s Program provides daycare, group support, activity time, and advocacy services to children. Shelter hosts a licensed daycare.

ChildrenExposed to Violence Initiative is a collaboration of child advocates, therapist, child psychiatrist, public health nurse, and early childhood educator, to provide immediate on-site help for children.

School Program provides prevention through educational/support groups to help middle-school and high-school students develop healthy relationship skills in dating, family and peer relationships. Youth Advocates facilitate learning sessions in local elementary schools to teach social skills including personal safety and honoring differences.

Criminal Justice Intervention provides legal advocacy for victims.

Jill Eckhoff Transitional House provides long-term housing and advocacy services to help them move toward self-sufficiency.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH
JULY
Lutheran Campus Ministry

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. The mission of campus ministry in the ELCA is to invite people in academic settings to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples.

ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff and others on campus, not just a ministry for Lutherans. It provides an ELCA presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide.

Drawing on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, campus ministry bears witness to God’s amazing grace within the context of higher education. Sensitive to the pastoral needs of those on campus and engaged in the intellectual discourse of the university, campus ministry strives to communicate the gospel in fresh ways.

Through worship, study, fellowship and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God’s grace. As expansive as Christ’s love, campus ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus.
Weekly Event

**Monday**
Praise Team Rehearsal - 7 pm

**Tuesday**
Bible Study - 8:15 am
TOPS Group - 11:30 am
Singing Saints - 7 pm

**Wednesday**
Men's Bible Study @ Caribou - 7 am
Quilting - 9 am
Spanish - 5pm
Ice Cream - 5:30 pm
Worship - 6:30 pm

**Thursday**
Pieces of Love - 9:30 am
Men's Bible Study - 10 am
Bible Study - 12 pm

**Saturday**
Worship - 5:30 pm

**Sunday**
Worship - 9:30 am
Laotian Bible Study - 2:20 pm

June Special Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Saturday Eve Fellowship—6:30 pm</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Coffee and Conversation—10:30 am</td>
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<td>VBS Orientation—6 pm</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Bloodmobile—1pm</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>VBS—9am</td>
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<td>14th</td>
<td>Committee Meeting—7 pm</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>Itinerant Pitcher—7:30pm (offsite)</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>Back Door Bakery—9:00 am</td>
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<td>21st</td>
<td>SAVE—7:00 pm</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>AARP—12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Executive Meeting—6:00 pm</td>
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<td>Council Meeting—7:00 pm</td>
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**Vacation Bible School**
June 11-14
Morning sessions for ages 3 – grade 6
Preschool/Kindergarten—9:15—11:45 am, St. Peter’s
Grades 1-6—9:00am—12:00 pm, Atonement
At Shipwrecked, VBS kids will learn that Jesus rescues them. They will leave knowing there is Someone bigger than their struggles, Someone stronger than their weakness, Someone who loves them unconditionally.....Jesus! The week will also be full of God Sightings. This is a cooperative ministry with the Churches of St. Peter and St. Paul.
Registration forms available at the church or online at atonementlutheran.org

**AARP Smart Driver Classes**
The 4 hour refresher course will be offered at 12:30 pm on June 27th. The cost for AARP members is $17.00, and non-members $22.00. This includes materials, coffee, and snacks. To register, call the church office at 320-252-6203.

**SW WELCA CONVENTION**
If there are any women who would like to attend the SW WELCA Convention being held at Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Cloud, Friday, June 29th, and Saturday, June 30th, please contact Debbie Grzybowski @ (320) 203-7643 or nyla4@msn.com. Our church is allowed one voting delegate, and others can also attend. Thank you.
Weekly Event

**Monday**
Praise Team Rehearsal - 7 pm

**Tuesday**
Bible Study - 8:15 am
TOPS Group - 11:30 am

**Wednesday**
Men's Bible Study @ Caribou - 7 am
Quilting - 9 am
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Worship - 6:30 pm

**Thursday**
Pieces of Love - 9:30 am
Men's Bible Study- 10 am
Bible Study- 12 pm

**Saturday**
Worship - 5:30 pm

**Sunday**
Worship - 9:30 am
Laotian Bible Study - 2:20 pm

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**July Special Events**

1st
Coffee and Conversation—10:30 am

3rd
Bloodmobile—1:00 pm

4th
No Wednesday Worship

7th
Saturday Eve Fellowship—6:30 pm

12th
Council Meeting—7:00 pm

15th
Committee Meeting—7:00 pm

Backdoor Bakery—9:00 am

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19th
SAVE—7:00 pm

21st
Itinerant Pitcher (offsite) - 7:30 pm

22nd
Outdoor Worship/ Pet Blessing—9:30 am

26th
Executive Meeting—6:00 pm
Council Meeting—7:00 pm

**July 30th—August 2nd**
Day Camp—9:00 am

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Atonement/LutherCrest Day Camp
**That Changes Everything!**
Theme based on Ephesians 2:8
July 30th—August 2nd 9:00-3:00

For campers who have finished kindergarten-grade 5
Luther Crest counselors will bring parts of the camp experience to Atonement. Each day we will hear stories about God’s great gift to us: by Grace we are saved through faith. Campers will make crafts, play crazy games, and praise God through meaningful worship. Camp will be held at Atonement with some outings to the park and splash pad. Registration is $10 for the week and forms can be found on the Youth bulletin board or online. Space is limited so sign up now!

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**Bloodmobile**
This is a BIG request for Atonement members to donate blood to the Red Cross Bloodmobile on June 5th and July 3rd from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Atonement. Just one generous gift of blood can help save several lives. Call LouAnn Garner at 320-252-1555 for an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

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**ITINERANT PITCHER**
**SATURDAY JUNE 16TH AND JULY 21ST AT 7:30PM**
Come join the Itinerant Pitcher regulars at for fellowship after worship. Locations will be announced. It goes from 7:30pm until you feel like going home.
BOUNDARY WATERS
CANOE AREA TRIP
AUGUST 6TH-11TH, 2018

Atonement is planning a youth and adult BWCA trip August 6th-11th, 2018. If you are interested in joining in on this trip please contact Pastor John or Steve Grzybowski ASAP.

Worship in the Park/Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, Aug. 26, at our outdoor worship, all ages who are attending school or who work at a school are invited to bring their backpacks to be blessed. Each person whose backpack is blessed will receive an article to hang on their backpacks as a reminder of God’s continual presence with them.

THE STORY
FINING YOUR STORY IN GOD’S STORY.

Back in 2017, Lifeway released the results of a survey they had conducted of Americans’ thoughts about and reading of the bible. The headline was “Americans are Fond of the Bible, Don’t Actually Read It.” Ouch.

Well, here at Atonement, we want to be a people who are more than just fond of the bible. We want to be a people who read the bible and understand how it relates to our lives today. Beginning in September 2018, we are going to work toward that goal (a lifelong one, to be sure) by engaging The Story in our weekly worship and learning for all ages.

Here are some highlights of what that means for next year:

**For everyone: The Story** is a 31-chapter condensed summary of the whole bible presented as a novel for ease of reading. Thanks to a generous donor, every ALC household will receive 1 (one) copy of The Story to keep as a gift (while supplies last). Weekly worship and education for all ages will follow The Story, with all engaging the same chapter at the same time. Please note that large group portions of Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings will bring together youth and adults.

**For Youth & Children:** Age-appropriate copies of The Story will be provided as part of Sunday/Wednesday School and Confirmation. The chapters of children and youth materials match the adult chapters, so parents, grandparents and young people will all be on the same page all year (in some cases, literally).

**For Adults:** All existing study groups & circles are invited—but certainly not required—to study The Story and will be offered the chance to supplement the main book/video with additional study materials.

**For Leaders and Helpers of all ages:** We will need help distributing resources, facilitating/leading large & small groups at Atonement or in homes or any other location you choose, and enriching our congregation’s experience of The Story during worship or through performance, arts and crafts.
Atonement Lutheran Executive Committee & Staff

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atonementpreschool@gmail.com

Phone Ext. 112
Phone Ext. 115
Phone Ext. 110
Phone Ext. 18

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