

Atonement Lutheran Church

2132 Deckner Ave

Green Bay WI 54302

September 2020

Volume 2, Issue 9

The Visitor

Dear Friends of Atonement,

Autumn brings a return to school in different forms this year and the resumption of a fuller schedule of congregational activities even though most of them are still virtual. We also have the addition—worshipping outside in the parking lot. It's an opportune time to wonder where we stand before God. What is it that God wants from us? How can we be shaped again and again by God's word in our worshipping assemblies? What is this life with God that Jesus came to bring?

As fall rhythms return to a normal rhythm, we generally have backpack blessing. What if this year, we looked at the blessing or affirmation of Christian Vocation? Yes, it is in our red hymnal (pg 84 if you are interested). In it, we get the question "Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ . . . all the days of your life?" (p. 84).

What does it mean to pattern our life on the Lord Jesus Christ? This fall, we will see in the Gospel, Jesus tells a series of parables to describe this life with God that in Matthew is called "the kingdom of heaven." In Jesus' parables we find that mercy meets justice head on. In one parable, a king is the model of unexpected forgiveness for a great debt (Lectionary 24, September 13). In another, a landowner hiring day laborers pays the same wage to all, no matter what time of day they began their work (Lectionary 25, September 20). And in yet another, a king extends a wedding invitation to those in the streets when others more likely to respond reject the initial invitation (Lectionary 28, October 11). Jesus' stories surprise his listeners, causing them to rethink their place. How does it cause us to rethink our place?

So if we look at this via the classic Lutheran concept of law and gospel, how do we deal with these texts? The law- we find ourselves tangled in a web of judgment and cannot make our way out. We feel convicted. The Gospel- we recognize that Christ's death and resurrection, his teaching, and his pattern of life break open the ways of God's mercy and forgiveness to those who need it (which is all of us).

Mercy might be the joyful refrain for our communal lives with God. We can laugh at Jonah, and at ourselves, as we say along with the reluctant prophet, "I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing" (Jonah 4:2; Lectionary 25, September 20). Can we imagine a church named "The Church of Second Chances" (or third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh)? Are there stories you can tell or invite others to tell about starting over that might be connected to renewal of our ministries? In those stories, and in the readings that shape this season, we can come to realize that the adage "The church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints" is just right for us! The true query becomes how we use this information to change us.

Atonement Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2020

In attendance: Corey Kirch – President, Jarred Kopkey – Vice President, Lora Vandevoorde – Secretary, Denise Martin, Leah Bergstrom, Jolyn Helgeson, Marilyn Rabideau, Patricia Perez, Dane Bergstrom, Pastor Brenda Crossfield

Absent: Al Gajeski, Jean Keim, Julie Geyer

Corey called the meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Jarred began the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of June 18, 2020 minutes: Jarred motioned to approve. Leah seconded. Motion carried.

Committee reports were sent electronically to the council. The following items were discussed:

- FORE – planning a bible study. Contact Jean Keim or Pastor Brenda if interested in joining this.
- Christian Ed – Still working on plans for classes this fall, will likely follow GB public schools' plan.
- Youth/Family – no report
- Properties – Major water leak was found in the large group room (Herbie's Café), due to a pipe bursting. It will be treated tomorrow. Discussing whether to get insurance involved. Jarred will follow up with Gene on this.
- Technology subcommittee: Corey is addressing minor issues as they arise.
- Worship & Music – no meeting in the last month. Viewership of online services is down as well as in-person service attendance. Pastor noted that the peak viewing times are around 7am or 8pm.
- MPS – no meeting in the last month
- United 2 Serve – U2S plans to add a video to the online service video for one week of each month. The first one will be the July 26. Looking into a virtual Chicken Dinner/Fundraiser. Distributions requested are: \$250 for UWGB Campus Cupboard. Denise motioned to approve. Jarred seconded. Motion carried.
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Jarred made a motion to approve all committee reports. Leah seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Brenda is working to figure out why viewership of online services is down. The check-in feature of ICON (our new membership software) is being used to track attendance at in-person services. Pastor presided over a wedding on July 11. At-home VBS is now in progress. Marilyn made a motion to approve Pastor's report. Denise seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

In Julie's absence, Denise reviewed the financial reports for June. June's revenues were even with budget but expenses were underbudget significantly, leaving a net income of \$5,500 for June. Year-to-date revenues and expenses are both underbudget, leaving a net loss of \$887. We are doing better than budget, which expected a \$2,300 loss through June. One CD comes due at end of July so MPS is discussing whether to reinvest or take out some of the cash. Julie is working to add a brief financial report in each weekly Moment of Atonement email to keep the members updated on the church's financial situation. Denise asked for approval on our quarterly Crossways (\$212.50) and LSS (\$125) donations that are in the budget. Jarred made a motion to approve these donations. Marilyn seconded. Motion carried. Marilyn made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Jarred seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Pastor left the Zoom meeting and the Council entered a closed session.

Jarred ended the meeting with a prayer.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2020 at 6:00pm via Zoom.

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

We hope this finds you & yours in good health and good spirits. The fall season is right around the corner, and there is no doubt it will be one like no other.

The global pandemic has changed almost everything we do, from how we go to work and school, how we purchase our groceries and certainly how we worship. As the year moves along, we are adjusting to living with the virus and adapting to new ways of going about our business. Our evolution of worship opportunities is a great example of this.

We continue to think of Stewardship as a 3 legged stool – each leg representing Time, Talent and Treasure. Stewardship is demonstrated in every corner of Atonement during this difficult time, to which we should all be proud. (continued on page 5)

Do you want to join the prayer chain? You will be contacted by email when someone requests prayer and then pray for the request. If you would like to be listed on the prayer list please contact Janet Jacobson at 920-217-3938 or email—jjanim@aol.com

You are invited to celebrate the Season of Creation at an interfaith prayer service, **Resurrection Parish**, 333 Hilltop Drive, Green Bay, on Tuesday, September 22, at 6:30 p.m. The Season of Creation begins September 1 and continues through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year's theme is "**Jubilee for the Earth**" in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Have you found us on "Zoom Into Fellowship" yet? Every Sunday at 9:45AM we gather from the comfort of our homes to join each other on Zoom! The Zoom link is sent to you Thursday afternoon in your emailed "A Moment of Atonement." The mission of "Zoom into Fellowship" is to keep our connectedness a high priority! Be sure to ask if you have any questions about how to get connected!

We are happy to help!

New Community Shelter Meal

On Sept. 7 we will prepare food for 225! If you haven't already signed up we need your help! The Martin family is heading up the September meal, but we will need everyone's help and generosity to make this possible.

Watch for the virtual signup sheet in the Moment of Atonement email !

In the Hospital?

If you want us to know you are going to be and/or are hospitalized, please be sure to contact the church office, at 468-0713. When admitted to the hospital, tell them to contact Atonement. Even when you tell this to the hospital, sometimes we are called and sometimes we are not. The only way to be sure we know about your hospitalization is for you or a family member to contact us directly. Without your assistance, it is very possible your hospitalization will not be known to us.

- Time - that our Pastor, Staff and Volunteers put into preparing each service in a new way
- Talents – shared by many members of Atonement to bring new and creative elements to each worship service
- Treasure – our continued commitment to provide financial resources in support of our mission

Please remember that it is through your acts of Stewardship that Atonement will continue to thrive as a healthy congregation. Your contributions of Time, Talent and Treasure are as important today as ever. Below is a short financial summary. Although total giving through July is below our expected budget, expenses are also under budget. We continue to operate with a small deficit for the year.

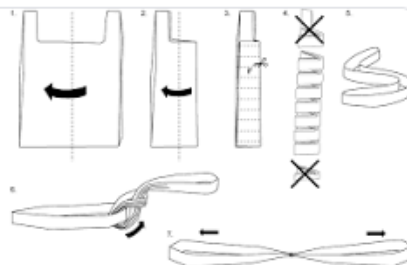
YTD	Ending	7/31/2020	
Budgeted General Offering YTD	\$127,589.63	Actual Expenses YTD	\$117,950.13
Simply Giving	\$34,135.00	Net Income YTD	(\$1693.18)
Choice Dollars	\$1356.00	Simply Giving %	29.36%
		PPP Loan Proceeds	\$28,000.00
Offering	\$80,765.95	U2S General YTD	\$1072.75
Total General Giving YTD	\$116,256.95	Chicken dinner	\$0.00

Blessings,
The Stewardship Committee

United to Serve Plastic Bag Collection

Plastic Bag Crafts

1. Lay **bag** flat and fold it in half lengthwise.
2. Fold **bag** in half again.
3. Cut folded **bag** into loops, discarding handles and bottom.
4. Knot loops together to form a single strand.
5. Roll the strand into a ball and crochet or knit as you would with **yarn**.



Council Members

Corey Kirch	<i>President</i>
Jarred Kopkey	<i>Vice-President</i>
Julie Geyer	<i>Treasurer</i>
Lora Vandevoorde	<i>Secretary</i>

Patricia Perez
Marilyn Rabideau
Jolyn Helgeson
Leah Bergstrom
Al Gajeski
Denise Martin
Dane Bergstrom

Cate Kopkey
Director of
Music Ministry

Ken Storzer
Tom Holschuh
Custodians

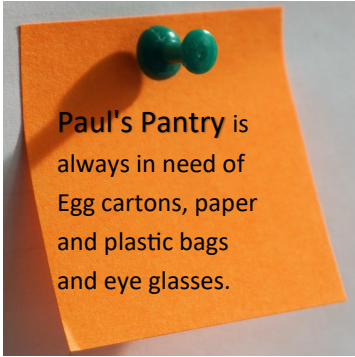
Linda Grzeca
Organist/Pianist

Kathy Huebner
Director of
Youth and Family

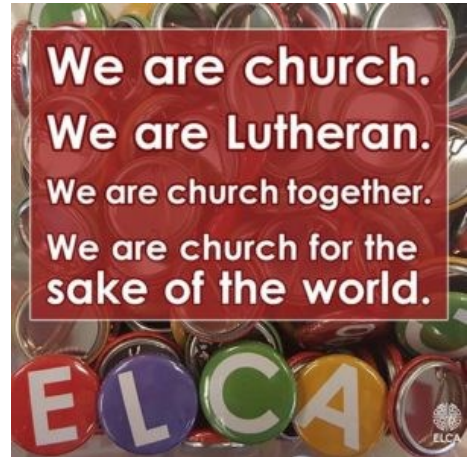
Corina Gerczak
Director of
Sunday School

Happy Birthday!

Joshua F.	9/1
Amanda H.	9/2
Cody D.	9/4
Janet J.	9/7
Norman R.	9/7
Joyln H.	9/9
Patricia P.	9/9
Aaron R.	9/9
Wyatt B.	9/11
Autumn F.	9/11
Isaiah M.	9/11
Brian P.	9/13
Julie S.	9/13
Lois D.	9/14
Margie M.	9/14
Lynn R.	9/14
Victoria H.	9/16
Piper K.	9/18
Jairo H.	9/19
Randy R.	9/22
Marilyn R.	9/23
Stacey R.	9/23
Sharon S.	9/25
Joanna W.	9/26
Craig S.	9/28
Joellyn K.	9/30



Paul's Pantry is still running as normal at this time, and experiencing a high demand from our community in need! Please keep them in your prayers, and remember that often times monetary donations, however small, are best during this time to avoid unnecessary trips to stores!



GOLDEN HOUSE Your donation today gives victims of domestic abuse the basic necessities to rebuild their lives. Thank you for providing a new beginning.

24 hour Help Line: 920-432-4244

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Hand soap	cooking oil
Deodorant	pillows
Disinfecting wipes	garbage bags
Toilet bowl cleaner	sugar
Toilet bowl brushes	coffee
Laundry soap	body wash
Towels	paper towels
Bath Washcloths	dishwasher soap
Twin bedding-sheets etc.	women's underwear
Coffee creamer	disposable silverware
Toilet paper	baby monitors
Dry food items	new HD vacuums

!!!Youth and Family!!!

National Youth Gathering 2021 has been postponed until 2022!

We will be looking at another option for a summer mission trip next year.

Items Collected for Preble

Please hold onto any items you may have already collected for Preble and please don't shop for any new items until early Fall.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Crossfield
Home phone 920-770-3985
Worship: Sundays: 9:00 am
And recorded and in the email link
Church Office: 920-468-0713
Website: atonementlutheran.church
Email: office@atonementlutheran.church

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