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THE ATONEMENT

BELL

ISSUE 691 JANUARY 2023

PASTOR'S LETTER



This is not how I expected my first Christmas to go at Atonement. After being exposed to COVID-19, I followed the CDC's guidelines: mask for 10 days, test after 5 days. Less than a week after that – the morning after our December council meeting – I tested positive. I missed Christmas Eve services. We didn't make our annual trip to Minnesota to see family. I missed the Sunday after Christmas. I missed the Bell deadline, and now it's late.

Thank you to all of you who have reached out to me, who have prayed for me and my family (and others with COVID-19 and other concerns), and who have picked up responsibilities while I have been out.

I hope I don't sound like I'm complaining. I'm actually sharing all of this because I'm reminded that the first Christmas didn't go the way many people expected either. Joseph didn't expect Mary to be pregnant before they were married. Mary certainly would not have planned to be pregnant for the trip to Bethlehem. In that time and place offering hospitality to strangers was a great honor – and to not provide hospitality was scandalous – but that didn't create any extra room in Bethlehem. So Jesus – the Son of God, the Messiah, our savior – was born among the animals, and laid to sleep in a feed trough.

Was this how God planned it? Or was Jesus born despite all of these things happening? We aren't really told. The shepherds were told to find Jesus lying in a manger – but was that before it happened? Or was that God rolling with the situation? Both? Neither?

Did God intend for me to be sick this Christmas? Or once I was sick, did God then work among our staff and volunteers so that we as Atonement still offered meaningful worship opportunities and the chance to celebrate God coming to be among us as one of us? I strongly suspect the latter, but realize either is possible.

What we do know is this: God is present. Jesus is here, among us. Here, where we normally wouldn't think to look. Jesus shows up, whether the circumstances are favorable or not. That's what we celebrate on Christmas – not that Jesus was born once, but that Jesus continues to enter into our world to be God with us. In every circumstance.

Merry Christmas,
– Pastor Talley

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

What is it? Why is it important?

On Tuesday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we will welcome The Rev. Bill Beyer to Atonement for an evening of conversation around the topic of Reconciling In Christ (RIC). What does it mean for a congregation to be RIC? If we already say that we welcome everyone, why would it be important to adopt a welcome statement that mentions some people specifically? The Rev. Beyer has lots of experience answering these and similar questions. We are sure you will find the time spent with him useful, whether you are about to go Google "Reconciling In Christ" or could present about it yourself. We hope you will set aside the time to attend.

The Ministry Site Profile that was shared with me and other pastoral candidates this past summer included the following: "We have recently begun conversations about inclusion and welcome that educate and involve the whole congregation. We recently formed a task force for inclusion and have begun conversations with our synod's Reconciling in Christ team. We look forward to calling a Senior Pastor who is eager to accompany us through these conversations." (Cont. on pg 3)

MONTHLY UPDATES



WINTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8 a.m. Traditional Worship

- In-person and online

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

- In-person and online
- **Kids BLAST, ACTS and Cross+Training classes**

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

- In-person only

See all worship options at atonementmuskego.org/worship

FELLOWSHIP HOUR IS BACK!

We are asking for different Atonement groups to sign up to host fellowship. You can 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 are also looking for some volunteers to help with fellowship on occasion throughout the year.

Please contact Jaci Geiger at 414-659-1255 or geiger1029@yahoo.com.

GROUPS HOSTING IN JANUARY:

Jan. 8: (No Fellowship)

Jan. 15: Lydia Circle

Jan. 22: Korth/Fantetti Growth Group

Jan. 29: Days for Girls

UN-DECORATE ATONEMENT: JAN. 7, 9 A.M.

Help take down Christmas decorations at Atonement!

EPIPHANY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: JAN. 8, 9:30 A.M.

Our student Epiphany Breakfast will be January 8 at 9:30 am. Youth Ministry students will be serving yummy pancakes to Kids BLAST. We will start Kids BLAST in the Fellowship Hall, NOT in service.

ANNUAL MEETING: JAN. 15, 12 P.M.

At the Annual Meeting we will: elect Council members for 2023, approve 2023 Ministry Plan, and approve Amended Constitution and Bylaws.

Congregants should review the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws online or by picking up hard copies at the welcome desk. See pg 10 for more info!

YOUR KINGDOM COME: EPIPHANY 2023

While Christmas is by far the season's most widely celebrated Christian holiday, there's another nearly-as-significant day just a few days after Christmas: Epiphany. While Christmas celebrates that God has entered the world in the form of Jesus, Epiphany celebrates that Jesus reveals God is for all people of the earth. In our worship series that follows Epiphany, we will reflect on what it means to live into such a reality of God's welcome and love for all—a reality we pray for every time we utter the words, "Your Kingdom Come."

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDES

Find sermon discussion guides here:

atonementmuskego.org/discussion

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (cont. from pg 2) This task force has continued to meet, and several members attended a fall RIC synod event. We now feel it is time to widen this conversation again and invite the whole congregation into dialogue. Please join us on January 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to welcome the Rev. Bill Beyer as he helps us begin to develop a deeper understanding of the RIC process together. I look forward to seeing you there. – Pastor Talley

DECEMBER REVIEW



WELCA CHRISTMAS TEA On Dec. 1, WELCA celebrated their Christmas Tea Party! So many amazing hats and tea cups!



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM On Dec. 11, Children's Ministry performed their annual Christmas Program with a craft/cookie reception! More on pg. 8.



FESTIVAL OF MUSIC Our congregation's musical talents were on display on Dec. 18! Thanks to all our participating ministries for such a special day.



CHRISTMAS MEAL WITH ALL PEOPLES CHURCH Our food drive with All Peoples Church was a success! Over 100 families served, with blankets handed out as well! Thank you for your generosity!

DECEMBER REVIEW



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Dec. 24, we worshiped together on Christmas Eve! Thanks to all who volunteered to help with the service, and thanks to the talented performers!



CHURCH IN SOCIETY: GIFTS FOR VETERANS UPDATE

A huge thank-you to everyone from Atonement and the surrounding community area, including Pop's Marketplace for honoring our Veterans by collecting and donating a multitude of ongoing needed items. With a special thank you to Dianne Hoskins who personally made and specifically donated 30 beautiful patchwork quilts for the Veterans, with her unknowing at the time that there are exactly 30 Veterans living in the 3 Community Living Center homes on the grounds of the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center". Now all of those 30 Veterans will receive a brand new quilt for Christmas!!!

GOD IS GOOD AND SOMETIMES WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS!!!

On November 17, 13 boxes in all were delivered and welcomed with excitement and heartfelt appreciation to the VA Medical Center. Way to go everyone for another very successful year!!!

SERVICE & OUTREACH



JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE

On Thursday, January 5, 2023, join us in helping our community by donating to our blood drive. Sign up on our website: atonementmuskego.org/events

DAYS FOR GIRLS WORK DAY

We will be having a work day on Thursday, January 19 at 9:30 a.m. We will be assembling kits to be sent to El Salvador in February. For more information, contact Nancy Hanks 262-751-7451, nhanks49@yahoo.com

KNIT-WITS NEWS

The Knit-Wits meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of each month. Not all members need to know how to knit and/or crochet- there are many other jobs to do! If you need some lessons on knitting or crocheting, we have ladies who can teach you. 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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. or call Jean Albers at 262-707-6231 and let her know if you are interested in this ministry. **We are running short of prayer shawls.** The recommended sizes for shawls are between 24-36 inches wide and 58-60 inches long. The recommended yarn should be a soft acrylic- you will probably need 3 skeins. Learn more here: atonementmuskego.org/creatives

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH (APC) FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

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

MUSKEGO FOOD PANTRY S81 W19150 Apollo Drive in the Industrial Park | 262-679-6448

muskegofoodpantry.org The pantry is staffed for drop-offs on Thursday, 1-5 p.m.– or drop off food in the red barrels at church. *Donations of fresh produce are always welcome.*

At the present time, they would appreciate:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Canned Fruit | • Kid's Snacks | • Baby Diapers | • Feminine Hygiene Products |
| • Jelly | • Ramen Noodles | • Any paper products | • Cash Donations. |
| • Pancake Mix | • Toilet Paper | • Kleenex | |

WELCA



All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.

– Francis of Assisi

During 2023, we will continue to focus on all the ways the Women of the Evangelical Church of America shine their light in the world as individuals, small groups and as part of Atonement.

We ended 2022 with a Christmas Tea at our General Meeting on December 1st. We played games and enjoyed appetizers and desserts and great fellowship. We also inducted our officers for 2023. Thanks to Lydia and Rebekah Circles for hosting!

The WELCA Board will meet at Atonement on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss plans for the coming year.

Our first General Meeting of 2023 will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 11. Elizabeth and Rebekah Circles will host and serve soup at the end of the meeting. Hope to see you then!

– Lori Schantz, WELCA president

2023 WELCA OFFICERS:

President – Lori Schantz

Secretary – Wendy Hunjadi

Treasurer – Kathy Elgin-King

Mission Action – Mary Taylor

Mission Community – Nancy Hanks

Council Representative – Candy Nemke

WELCA CHRISTMAS TEA More pictures of the WELCA Christmas Tea Party!



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR WELCA LEADERSHIP:

Elizabeth Circle: Barbara Downer: bjdown@wi.rr.com

Leah Circle: Mary Mooney: mamooney@wi.rr.com

Pam Robel: pamr@wi.rr.com

Lydia Circle: Nancy Hanks: nhanks49@yahoo.com

Jan DeGaetano: degaetano135@gmail.com

Mary/Martha Circle: Wendy Hunjadi: wahunjadi@arandell.com

Lori Schantz: planethyak@aol.com

Rebekah Circle: Jane Parthum: jsparthum@aol.com

Ruth Circle: Pat Gallun: patgallun@yahoo.com

Mary Hoffman: maryandsadie@wi.rr.com

Sandy Zielinski: sgreenz@sbcglobal.net

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Anne Farebrother anne@atonementmuskego.org & Kara Mendez kara@atonementmuskego.org

EPIPHANY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: JAN 8

Our student Epiphany Breakfast will be January 8 at 9:30 am. ACTS and Cross+Training students will be serving yummy pancakes to Kids BLAST. We will start Kids BLAST in the Fellowship Hall, NOT in service.

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



MORE PICTURES FROM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cooper Kocour
Aydin Deschaine
Madric Deschaine
Oliver Deschaine
Aria Huber
Josh LaBarber
Hailey Frelich

Eli Gumieny
Max Gumieny
Cole Tennie
Ava Balkunas
Brady Klawitter
Grace Tischaefer
Jackson Goetsch

BUSY BAGS DURING 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 Facebook page!
bit.ly/3wOG32I

YOUTH MINISTRY



Troy Mendez troy@atonementmuskego.org & Kara Mendez kara@atonementmuskego.org

YOUTH MINISTRY WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Each confirmation class will be from noon to 1:15 p.m. on Sunday Jan. 8, Jan 22, Feb. 5, and Feb 19.



FORT WINTER RETREAT: FEBRUARY 9-12, 2023 6th-8th Grade: Campers, 9th-12th Grade: Servers
Registration is open! Please sign up before January 29! atonementmuskego.org/events/fort-2023



CHRISTMAS KICK-OFF On Dec. 2, Youth Ministry celebrated their Christmas Kick-Off with tree decorating, snacks and a movie!

LET US KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED!

Mission Trip:

Lake Traverse, South Dakota

June 25-30, 2023

Incoming 8th Graders -12th Grade

New Orleans ELCA Youth Gathering

July 16-20, 2024

Incoming 8th Graders -12th Grade

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!

Interested in any of these trips?

Find the interest forms in our weekly announcements here:

atonementmuskego.org/youth

COUNCIL CORNER



The Church Council approved the 2023 Ministry Plan to be presented for consideration by the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The meeting is set for Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023 at 12:00 pm (noon) at Atonement, and it will also be available online via Zoom.

Andy Hesselbach was approved by Council members as the Building & Grounds representative for 2023. A search to fill the Children, Family & Youth representative position is in process. All Council members are planned to be installed during the Sunday, Jan. 22 worship services.

The Council approved special stipends for Sarah Talley and Dianne Hoskins for up to \$1,300 from the Traditional Music designated fund, which is part of the church's Memorial Fund. Sarah will be given \$675 for her musical contributions to the Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 11 and the Festival of Music on Dec. 18. She also plans to serve as the worship musical accompanist on Jan. 1. A suitable gift will be shared with Dianne for her musical direction during the Festival of Music on Dec. 18.

IN SEARCH OF: CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER

Atonement is seeking a part-time musician (approx. 8-12 hours/week, plus special events, as needed) to lead the music in our contemporary worship services.

In this role, this person will be expected to lead a dynamic music ministry that enriches the faith life of our congregation, shares the joy of the gospel with our neighbors, and brings together children, youth, adults through contemporary worship music. Learn more and apply: atonementmuskego.org/staff

UPDATED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

At its October 18th meeting, Council formed a Constitution Committee consisting of Gary Dostal, Mark LeMahieu and Lori Schantz. The Committee reviewed the current Atonement Constitution with the goal of making updates to be in compliance with the Synod's Model Constitution. Council approved the updated Constitution and Bylaws to be submitted to the congregation during the November 15 Council meeting.

As a general summary, the Synod updated the nomenclature related to various clergy roles, added language to allow for "seasonal" members, and most importantly, added the required language to allow for virtual meetings.

We ask that the congregation review these documents leading up to the January 15 Annual Meeting. Find physical copies of these documents on the Welcome Desk, or online at atonementmuskego.org/publications

ATTN SIMPLY GIVING USERS: SPECIAL ENVELOPES AVAILABLE


If you utilize Simply Giving, let Kara know if you would like envelopes for special occasions (like Good Friday or Easter), 13 total! These would be mailed directly to you on a quarterly basis. kara@atonementmuskego.org

STATS & CONTACT




NOVEMBER DONATIONS

General: \$ 63,175 Benevolence: \$4,996
Memorials: \$250

Giving Beyond Atonement Thru Nov 2022	
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America <small>God's work. Our hands.</small>	
Hands-on Mission	

Primary Benevolence ELCA	\$ 28,833
World Hunger	\$ 960
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$ 485
Global Mission Support	\$ 2,525
BLAST to Eastern Europe/Ukraine Cr	\$ 2,237
Muskego Food Pantry	\$ 500
March gifts to Ukraine Crisis	\$ 400
Habitat for Humanity - MKE	\$ 872
LWR School Kits	\$ 2,022
Habitat for Humanity - Waukesha	\$ 436
El Salvador Sponsors	\$ 20,515
All Peoples Church	\$ 2,360
60th Anniversary	\$ 2,023
Food Pack	\$ 3,055
Knit-Wits	\$ 714
Krystal Bell Complete Set & CD	\$ 600
El Salvador Water Well Project	\$ 54,833
Asylum Ministry	\$ 776
Giving Beyond Atonement 2022	\$ 124,146
<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	
 ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH	
Year-to-date through Nov 30	
Tithes & Offerings Received	\$ 575,741
Tithes & Offerings in our plan	\$ 603,288
Expenses Incurred	\$ 623,629
Expenses in our plan	\$ 641,596
Church Loan @4.25% ends 10/2027	\$ 427,855
OWC Loan @3.95% ends 5/2045	\$ 251,616

In our prior 5-year history, giving through Nov should be at least 86.3% of our annual plan. On 11/30/22, we are at 82.4%. Detailed financial reports are posted monthly in the office.

MEMBERSHIP INFO (as of Nov. 2022)

Baptized Members: 244
Confirmed Members: 510
Associate Members: 2

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

+ ADD YOUR PICTURE TO YOUR BREEZE PROFILE

Need to update your contact information in the directory, or want to add a picture to your breeze profile? Go here: atonementmuskego.org/breeze

PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact: Lorraine Behling kbehling4@wi.rr.com, 414-422-1580, Jan DeGaetano jdegatano135@gmail.com, 262-442-0920, Marian Wasierski or Pastor Kevin (see info below), atonementmuskego.org/prayer.

NURSERY CARE REQUESTS

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

CONTACT INFO & WINTER OFFICE HOURS

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.-3 p.m.
gene@atonementmuskego.org | 608-345-5333

Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 12 - 4 p.m.
kevin@atonementmuskego.org | 414-207-8778

Deacon Marian Wasierski

marian@atonementmuskego.org | 414-218-2421

Kara Mendez (Office Admin.)

Hours: Mon., Wed. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
kara@atonementmuskego.org

Isabelle Seifert (Comm. Coordinator)

Office Hours: Mon., Wed. & Fri., 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
isabelle@atonementmuskego.org

Larry Alber (Bookkeeper)

Office Hours: Wed. 12-3 p.m.
larry@atonementmuskego.org