

Atonement in Action

Volume 18, Issue 4

May, 2018

Worship Schedule Sundays

8:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Worship

Starting May 27
8:15 & 10:00 a.m.
worship



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Coming in May

May 6 -
11:00 a.m. - Girl Scout Sunday

May 13 - Mother's Day
Bring Mom to worship!

May 20
9:30 a.m. - Preschool Graduation
11:00 a.m. - Cantate (Music)
Sunday and conclusion of the
Capital Campaign

May 27 - Memorial Day week-
end SERVICE TIMES
CHANGE to 8:15 and 10:00 a.m.



Calling all Girl Scouts! We will celebrate Girl Scout Sunday on May 6 during the 11:00 service. Girl Scouts are invited to wear their sash/vest/uniform to church to show their involvement in scouting. Any Girl Scout interested in assisting in worship (greeter, usher, lector, communion assistant), please contact Crystal Shirk (crystalshirk@yahoo.com) or Jen Dauber (jdauber@atonementwyo.org).



From Pastor Julie

Grace and peace to you!

Thank you all so much for your support, love, prayers, and many, many gifts for Khloe, Jayden, Jo and myself in this time of transition. We are head over heels in love with both these babies! In these last several days, we have been overwhelmed by your generosity, love, and well wishes. Please continue to pray for us as I take maternity leave to help transition into this new phase of our life and family. Many of you have offered support in many ways – we'll let you know what we need as we need it! I have a feeling the babies are going to have so many surrogate grandparents!

Blessings to you.
Pastor Julie



Atonement Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Hersch

Alleluia! Christ is risen, my friends!

I'm writing this article on April 12. An awful lot has happened in the first twelve days of this month!

April 1 was **Easter Sunday**. It was a *great* day in our congregation's ministry. Both our sanctuary assemblies were more than double their normal size. As a matter of fact, at the 11:00 AM service the ushers counted almost 500 souls. And as important as the turn-out (probably more so), the assemblies had about them a spirit of joy and mirth that points to the presence of the Risen One. **Thank you** to all of you who helped to make our Easter celebration so special!

On the Wednesday of Easter week, **Adi and I bought a home!** We are now the proud owners of 1144 Cleveland Avenue here in Wyomissing. If you cross Lincoln and walk down the lane (a little birdie told me that Wyomissing doesn't have alleys), our place is right across the street from the lane on Cleveland. That means I'll continue to be able to walk to church, the boys will be close to the park, and Seb won't have to change school districts. We're thrilled, to say the least! A special word of thanks to **Eva Eisenbrown**, who worked so very hard to remedy the Hersches' homelessness!

On the Friday of Easter week, Pastor Julie and Jo welcomed their first foster child! Little **Khloe** is an adorable one-year-old girl. Just yesterday (as of my writing), Pastor Julie and Jo welcomed Khloe's little newborn brother **Jayden**. Needless to say, that household has suddenly become *very* busy. Pastor Julie will be going on the initial six weeks of full-time leave given her in her letter of call, effective April 12. Near the end of that time, she will determine if she wants to extend her full-time leave, move to part-time leave, or return to full-time ministry. In the meantime, the staff and I will assume direct responsibility for the youth and family ministry portfolio. Sorry, Confirmands! There will still be class in May!

On the second Sunday of Easter, April 8, the congregation voted to pursue the deconstruction and recycling of the senior pastor **parsonage** and the expansion of our main parking lot. The conversation about the long-term stewardship of the parsonage and its yard began in earnest with the departure of Pastor Rick and Christine in 2016. When Adi and I decided to buy our own home, the congregation's leadership realized that we had reached a decision point in the matter. Though we are still not of one mind, the congregational meeting **voted to authorize** the recycling of the building. That is not, of course, the end of the story. We will still need the borough's permission to proceed and to make sure we proceed in a way that is financially responsible. Nevertheless, it is helpful for us to have a sense of direction. I'm hoping this decision will help to make long-term ministry at this location more sustainable.

There are so many things I can't report because they haven't happened yet! Preschool Sunday on April 15. Capital Appeal kick-off breakfast on April 22. Anti-scam workshop on April 29. Girl Scout Sunday on May 6. Choir Sunday and celebration of the Capital Appeal on May 20. And then, finally, we hit the summer schedule of worship on May 27 and take a deep breath!

God bless you all for your partnership in the exciting ministry!

Ryan+

From the Prayer Ministry Team

Each kindness enhances the quality of life. Each cruelty diminishes it.

Desmond Tutu

Council Corner

Our transition to policy governance continues. We are using examples from other congregations who have policy governance and are coming to understand the process more fully. We are being guided by Bryan Wang, who has researched the area well. We also have to write policy for Pastor Ryan, to guide him with what his job will be to manage the running of the church, and what his goals will be in the coming years. I will keep you informed on our progress.

We are also forming a committee this summer to update the church's constitution. Once that is finished, we will need a congregational vote to ratify the changes, and then another vote at the annual meeting in January.

Sharon Calder
Council President

Women of Atonement

On Saturday, May 19, join us at noon in Room F.104 for our annual spring luncheon, which will be a pot luck meal. Please make your reservation by signing the sheet in the narthex. The program is Gail Dawson-White's study of military occupation during World War II in Paris, France. The challenges of collaboration, resistance and belief were all put to a four-year test during the Nazi reign in France. If you are not able to join us for lunch, you are still welcome to come for the program.

Tech Café



Do you have questions about your phone? An annoying problem you can't solve? Or maybe you just want to know what it can do. On Sunday, May 6, at 9:30 a.m., we may have some answers. Bring your mobile device and come to the Tech Café in the narthex. Put your name on a list, and when it's your turn we will pair you up with a young person to answer your questions. We won't have all the answers, but we will do our best to help!

Music Man in Concert Sunday, June 3 7:00 p.m.



Members of our children's, youth and adult choirs will join forces to present a concert version of the beloved Broadway musical, *The Music Man*. All ages are welcome to the nave for this one-hour program. Invite your friends, family and neighbors!

Calling current and former band members of all ages! If you play a band instrument, you are invited to join our "Music Man band." Any level of playing is welcome. We will gather once or twice in May to rehearse a simplified version of "76 Trombones" for the concert on June 3. If you or your children are interested in participating, please email Tom Yenser at tyenser@atonementwyo.org with name, instrument played, and grade for school-age children.

Thank You

Dear Atonement Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the gorgeous azalea that we received to celebrate Clara's birth. We look forward to planting it when the weather improves! It will be a beautiful reminder of all of the kind people at Atonement and to give thanks for our healthy daughter. Thank you again for thinking of us and for the thoughtful gift!

Love,
Meredith, John, Jeanie, and Clara
Weisman

Vacation Bible School

Register your child today to participate in Vacation Bible School, June 18-22, 8:45 a.m. -- 11:30 a.m. Children age 3 through grade 4 are invited to a week filled with Bible stories, crafts, music, games and tasty snacks! Youth from grades 5 on up are invited to serve as helpers and work with the younger children. It is certain once again to be a fun-filled week for our members, neighbors, and friends.

VBS participants are also invited to worship with us on Sunday, June 24, at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate our week together, praising and thanking God. During worship, we will share the adventures of our VBS week with everyone. You can find the registration form on page 8.

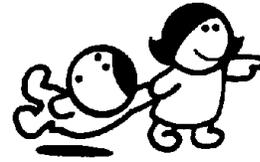


Preschool is Hiring

Atonement Christian Preschool has several positions available for the 2018-19 school year.

We are seeking a **Toddler Teacher** for two classes, Mon/Wed/Fri and Tues/Thurs mornings. Qualified applicants must possess either an AAS in Early Childhood or a BS in Early Childhood and/or Elementary Education, a love of young children, and the ability to provide a developmentally appropriate environment for toddlers.

We are also seeking an **Assistant Teacher** for Wed/Fri mornings in our new Younger Toddler class. Qualified applicants need to enjoy young children and be willing to assist and support the lead teacher in all aspects of the toddler classroom. Please contact Preschool Director, Jen Dauber for more information, 610-375-8049 or jdauber@atonementwyo.org.



Please Come to My Party!

As many of you know, I will be retiring after 42 years of working at Atonement. There will be a party for me on Sunday, June 24 at 4:00 p.m. Because I do not like to be in the spotlight, I am looking on this event as my chance to thank all of you for putting up with me for so many years. The questions I have gotten most are: How many pastors have I worked with? I think it is 18: Lundin, Ulrich, Hand, Evans, Routt , Spohn, Richter, Reinsel, Summy, Lee, Recher, Stoddard, and Hersch, plus visitation pastors Rhoda, Charles, Deibert, Dewalt, and Wyse. In addition I worked at Nativity Lutheran for three years with Pastor Krause, and there are other pastors I did not directly work with but remember fondly. What am I planning to do when I retire? Sew, work in the garden, clean the house, do some volunteer work, and just relax! I will still be coming to Atonement for worship services, the quilt group, and probably helping out in other ways as well. After all, I am a master "stuffer"! But, even though now you know the answers, please do plan to come to the party, and thank you so much for all your support over these many years.

Jo Sturgis



Please return your Capital Campaign pledge card as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support!

Thanks to Our Choirs and Musical Ensembles

Many thanks to all members of our choirs and ensembles in 2017-18: Spirit Singers (grades K-2), Alleluia Singers (grades 3-6), Atonement Youth Singers (grades 7-12), Atonement Choir, Atonement Ringers, Flute Ensemble, and Atonement Praise Band. We appreciate all of the time and talents these dedicated volunteers give to the glory of God.

Spirit Singers

Eva Anders
Timmy Biltcliff
Shannon Bratton
Sabrina Gross
Sierra Lowell
Kyleigh McCrae
Kate O'Reilly
Quinn Orzechowski
Tama McConnell, director

Alleluia Singers

Emma Calicchio
Amelia Eastman
Sebastian Hersch
Olivia Levering
Macy Lord
Makayla Ledo
Maya Lowell
Madison McCrae
Grace O'Reilly
Evan Orzechowski
Braelyn Reis
Bryna Reis
Trevor Witsoe

Atonement Youth Singers

Marina Biltcliff
Evelyn Eastman
Elizabeth Harenza
Ileana LaFramboise
Ian Levering
Brayden Reis
Emily Shirk
Rachel Shirk
Emily Weidner

Atonement Choir

Kathy Bickhart
Ellen Bryan
Anndria Ciabattoni
Barry Ciabattoni
Sue Colon
Donna Danielski
Sue Durand
Brad Eastman
C. Louise Fair
Kathryn Fellman
Steve Fellman
Joanna Gardner
Lise Gerhart
Ed Hein
Michelle Huber
Bill Laubach
Leif Levering
Stephen Longenecker
Carole Lusch
Jack Lusch
Barbara Mishler
Gary Mishler
Tracy Ravert
Rod Roberts
Chris Spang
Ray Warmkessel
Sally Youngcourt

Atonement Ringers

Jessica Bialek
Joanne Gabel
Maureen Klahr
Shirley Levensgood
Carole Lusch
Linda Sell
Heidi Silverman
Sue Smith
Jack Williams
Sally Youngcourt
Tina Ziegler
Tama McConnell, director

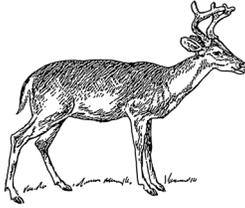
Flute Ensemble

Kathryn Fellman
Joanna Gardner
Eve Kimball
Sally Youngcourt
Robin Lilarose, director

Praise Band

Jordan Bickhart
Kathy Bickhart
Ellen Bryan
Anndria Ciabattoni
Barry Ciabattoni
Eve Kimball
Stephen Longenecker
Dave Mattes
Sean McCrae
Pam Shields
Matt Shirk





Health Advocate: Lyme Disease

Springtime brings sunshine, warmth, blossoms, flowers and, yes, ticks. Lyme disease (named after the town - Old Lyme, Connecticut where the illness was first discovered) is caused by the bacteria *borrelia burgdorferi*, transmitted by a deer tick bite. The disease is very prevalent in Pennsylvania since most deer ticks are infected with the microorganism. The deer tick is a very small tick (unlike the larger dog tick) and resides on white tail deer and on the white-footed mouse. People will contact the deer tick as they walk through wooded or grassy areas. Once the tick attaches and bites and feeds, it will then inject the bacteria into the individual.

Lyme disease initially presents with a fever, body aches, possible headache, and general lethargy; symptoms are very similar to the flu. One will develop a red “bulls-eye” rash at the tick bite site and in about 50% to 80% of cases a diffuse “bulls-eye” rash (*erythema migrans*) will spread over the entire body. It is diagnosed with a blood test and treated with a broad-spectrum antibiotic for at least 21 days (there is some controversy over the duration of treatment). If left untreated during this first stage, the initial symptoms will resolve, but the disease will progress months or years later to stage two and stage three, affecting the heart, muscles, joints, and then neurological systems. Treatment for these later two stages is much more complicated and less effective.

Prevention is key to Lyme disease. When visiting wooded or grassy areas, wear long pants and long sleeved shirts, tuck pants legs into socks, and use insect repellent (DEET). After your hike, examine your entire body for ticks. The less time the tick is attached to your body, the less chance of contracting Lyme disease. Usually

it takes a tick 36 to 48 hours to attach, bite, feed and then inject the bacteria into its host. Look carefully since the deer tick is very small and its nymph stage (which is more infectious) is ever smaller. To remove the tick, simply grab it with a fine tweezers and pull it off completely. If one develops any of the early Lyme disease symptoms, see your health professional for prompt diagnosis and treatment.

More information at www.CDC.gov. or visit the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dpD0QWJH1Y>

Ken Lord, M.D.

WBMD Day Camp

West Berks Mission District invites your children to attend Bear Creek Day Camp. It will be held from Monday through Friday, June 25 to 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Camp is being offered to all children in the district who have completed grades K through 6. It is being held at Allegheny Lutheran Church, 1327 Alleghenyville Road (Route 568) in Knauers, Brecknock Township. The cost is just \$30 for the week, but scholarships are available.



Bear Creek Camp is coming here to help us explore, celebrate, and grow in God's creation. Come! Meet new friends! Learn new songs! Learn more about our awesome God! Have lots of fun! Register today. Registration forms are available in the church office, or check the WBMD website at www.westberksmissiondistrict.org. For more information or to arrange transportation for your child, please contact Dawn Baxter at 610-375-8303.



Preschool News

The end of our 2017-18 preschool year is fast approaching! May is a busy month! We will have our annual Trike-a-Thon to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital and honor our moms with our Mother's Day Tea Parties. We will recognize our students who are graduating from preschool with our Preschool Graduation on Sunday, May 20. We will celebrate the end of our preschool year with family picnics at Happy Hollow on May 22 and 23. The last days of classes are May 29 and 30. But the Preschool will not sit empty for very long!

Atonement Christian Preschool is hosting a variety of camps throughout the summer! June 4-8, we are offering Extended Preschool Year Come & Play. The weeks of June 25 and July 16, children will explore Weird Sea Creatures in Naturalist Camp. During six 3-day weeks, children can enjoy Summer Come & Play. Mrs. Egan is hosting Art Adventure Afternoons on June 5, 12, 26 and July 17, 24, and 31. Children 3-6 years old are welcome to join us for our summer programs. Contact Mrs. Dauber or go to our website <http://atonementwyo.org/connect/education/preschool/summer-programs> for more information.

Registration for the 2018-19 preschool year is still open. We have availability in all Toddler classes, Tues/Thurs 3's, Tues/Thurs morning Naturalist, and Tues/Thurs afternoon Explorers. Contact Mrs. Dauber to schedule a tour.

Thank you to Women of Atonement for their continued support of scholarships for several preschool families. We appreciate your generosity!

Flower Boxes of Love

The flower boxes are working! We have installed 200 flower boxes around the Goggleworks and Hope Lutheran Church. The flower boxes are simply a door opener for building relationships while also serving as an inspiration for residents and passersby. In December, we had conversations and hugs! It finally feels like we are getting to know people in the neighborhoods.

Save the date: Saturday, May 12, to help plant, install, and converse! Skills needed: ability to smile and willingness to get your hands dirty. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. We hope to be done by noon. Sign up in the narthex or on the Atonement website link to Sign Up Genius: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0E49A9A822A4F94-flower3.

If you are a Thrivent member, you can apply for a \$250 Action Team Grant that can be used to buy plants and refreshments. Contact Dorothy DeLong if you are willing to do this, at 484-529-0878 or email pbjdelong@comcast.net.



ATONEMENT BLOOD DRIVE: Tuesday, May 8, from 12 noon until 5:00 p.m. in Lundin Hall. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or sign up online at www.giveapint.org. Go to Blood Drives and search by zip 19610. Check "Mobile" and put start and end dates as 5/8/18. Then select Atonement and click on the Schedule. You can sign up for any available slot. Please consider donating at this very needy time. If you have questions call Ken Lord, M.D. at 610-223-8885 or email at klord@atonementwyo.org.

Be A Part of Atonement's VBS!

For children age 3 by January 2018 through Grade 4

June 18-22, 8:45-11:30 a.m. & Worship, June 24, 10:00 a.m.

Child's Name: _____

Child's Age: _____ Birth Date: __/__/__ Gender: M F

School Grade To Be Completed in June 2018: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Congregation (if any): _____

Person who will pick up child at 11:30 a.m. each day of VBS: _____

Relationship to Child: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency contact if parent/guardian cannot be reached: _____

Relationship to Child: _____ Phone: _____

Allergies (food, bee, etc.) or medical needs that staff should be aware of:

In case of emergency, Doctor's Name: _____

Doctor's Phone #: _____ Preferred Hospital: _____

Any behavioral issues or strategies that will help us interact more effectively with your child?

Special needs/circumstances: _____

Photographs will be taken this week and included on social media. If you do NOT want a photograph of your child to be included, you MUST have a signed form, *Request for Exclusion from Media Coverage*, on file in the church office.

Will you help at VBS? (Adults and Youth, Grade 5 and up)

(Circle areas of interest) Group Leader Crafts Games Nursery

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Days available to help June 18-22: All Only: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
(Circle days available)

I can help in planning and preparation prior to VBS week ___ Yes ___ No

Please return completed registration form to Atonement Lutheran Church office by June 3.