

Atonement in Action

Volume 18, Issue 5

June, 2018

Summer Worship Schedule

8:15 & 10:00 a.m



Inside this issue:

From Pastor Ryan	2
From Pastor Julie Scholarships	3
Preschool News	4
Health Advocacy	5
Memorials	6

Some Highlights for June

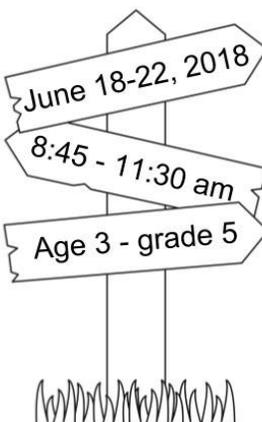
Service times will continue at 8:15 and 10:00 a.m. Please sign up in the narthex to assist with worship. We still need acolytes, assisting ministers, and communion assistants for most services. July sheets will be posted soon!

Sunday, June 3 - *The Music Man* in concert, 7:00 p.m. in the nave: Choirs! Dancers! Barber Shop Quartet! Band! All are welcome. We will be taking a free-will offering to benefit scholarships for music lessons for Reading School District students with great financial need.

Week of June 18 - Vacation Bible School - see registration information below.

Sunday, June 24 - Retirement Party for Jo Sturgis, 4:00 p.m. in Lundin Hall. We need an estimate of attendees for the caterer. If you have not already signed up, please do so on the sheet in the narthex or check with Jo and she will sign you up!

Come join us on a Vacation Bible School ...



ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE



Experience the ride of a lifetime with God at Rolling River Rampage. This white water rafting themed adventure includes memorable Bible stories, new music, creative crafts, fun recreation, and much more. Children will enjoy a week of fellowship with others while traveling through the Bible. To register:

<https://tinyurl.com/VBSatAtonement>

Adults and youth grade 6 and up can volunteer at:

<https://tinyurl.com/volunteerforVBS>

Atonement Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Ryan

The Lord is with you, my friends!

Many, many thanks to all of you who helped to make this spring's capital appeal, *The Growing Place*, such a success. As of the writing of this article, we have received pledges amounting to \$1,036,000! In the not-so-distant future, we will be meeting as a congregation to vote to take out a loan with the ELCA's bank, the Mission Investment Fund. This loan will allow us to begin tackling our long list of capital improvements, and the money from your pledges will help us to pay off the loan in a timely fashion.

I'd also like to take some space to bring you up-to-speed on Atonement's staff transitions. At the end of April, our congregation's leadership and I decided to make a change in our bookkeeping ministry. **Amy Rogers**, whom many of you know, has graciously accepted the position of bookkeeper. Amy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this important work. Please pray for Amy in her ministry, and feel free to contact her if you have any questions about your contributions to Atonement.

We are preparing for the retirement of our wonderful secretary, **Jo Sturgis**. Jo's retirement party will take place on the afternoon of Sunday, June 24. Please take time over the next couple weeks to RSVP for this catered event. Also, it's not too late to make a contribution to Jo's retirement gift from the congregation. We are continuing the process of finding Jo's successor. Notice I didn't write *replacement*, since there will be no replacing Jo! Please help us to spread the word about this part-time office manager position.

Pastor Julie and Jo have been super busy parenting their foster children, one-year-old Khloe and infant Jayden. Pastor Julie's first six weeks of leave came to a conclusion on Thursday, May 24. Now she is beginning the process of easing her way back into her ministry at Atonement. Also, Pastor Julie and Jo are, with my encouragement and blessing, purchasing their own home. I strongly believe that they should be

building up equity that they can access for the rest of Pastor Julie's public ministry. If everything goes to plan, their move will take place this month.

One of my goals for the fall is to relaunch Sunday school. This job, as I'm sure you can imagine, is going to be big enough that we can't rely on volunteer hours. I've asked **Melissa Hazlett** to serve as our Sunday school director for the 2018-2019 program year. Praise the Lord, she's agreed to serve! Melissa will begin to work with Pastor Julie, Tom Yenser, and me over the summer to prepare for the fall. For Melissa and our program to be successful, we will need volunteers to serve as teachers and children to serve as students. Please, brothers and sisters, help us spread the word!

It has been a very busy school year, hasn't it? There will, of course, be some time for rest over the summer. But, as we begin our capital improvements and bring on new staff, another kind of busyness will take its place. And I can't wait!

Praying you peace,

Ryan+

Tech Café Returns



Tech Café returns on **Sunday** at **10 from 9:15-10:00 a.m.!** Bring your mobile device, and we will be happy to answer questions and provide assistance. Youth and young adults, if you are interested to join and be a helper, please arrive at 9.

From Pastor Julie

Hello from maternity leave!

I have a few things I'd like to convey in this newsletter article, the first of which is simply my most profound gratitude for all of your love, support, prayers, meals, gifts both new and hand-me-down, and so much more. Jo and I have been overwhelmed and moved by your outpouring and truly consider you all God's messengers of grace and love in this amazing and crazy time. Khloe and Jayden also appreciate it even though they can't really express it just yet!

There has been some confusion about what we are doing, so I'd also like to clarify the Legal Risk (Foster-to-adopt) program that we are a part of. We are fostering these kiddos for an indeterminate amount of time. While we would love to keep Khloe and Jayden forever, we may not have that option; birth parents can and are doing work to ameliorate the situation that put the kids in foster care in the first place. If they are successful, the children will return to them. If they are unsuccessful, then we will find out what's next – it could be more time for birth parents to fulfill their requirements, or they could have their parental rights terminated involuntarily, meaning the children would come up for adoption. The courts do not take termination of parental rights lightly, though, so likely we'd be looking at the former option initially. In the meantime, while they are in our care, they have weekly visits with their parents, grandparent, and half-siblings to maintain that connection. This position is obviously a tough one for us to be in, because we already love Khloe and Jayden as if they are our own; however, if the courts deem they would be best off returning to their birth parents, we obviously want what is best for them. So, the best thing to pray for is probably that God's healing and peace be with all involved, and that God's will be done (and also for foster parents' patience and sanity!).

Finally, we have some exciting news to share with you all. For the sake of our future financial health as well as the desire for a more functional health for our newly expanded family, Jo and I have been

looking for a house of our own, and are currently under contract for a home in the Wilson school district just beyond the Wyomissing border. We are super excited to be able to build equity in a home that we've chosen to fit our family's growing needs. While we are sorry to leave behind our brief walking/bike-riding commutes to work, Jo and I feel this is the best move for our family. Despite the new (still short!) distance, I will be no less dedicated to my work at Atonement.

Grace and peace to you all.
Pastor Julie



Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following Atonement youth who have been selected as 2018 scholarship recipients:

Stephen Pepper – recipient of the Jeanne M. Chaney Memorial Book Award sponsored by the Chaney family. The \$1000 award recognizes the graduating high-school senior at Atonement who exemplifies the qualities of scholarship, leadership, faith, integrity, service, citizenship, and fitness. Stephen is headed to Penn State Berks where he will study biology and chemistry.

Amy Endy – recipient of the Martin Luther Service Award sponsored by an Atonement member. This \$1000 award honors the graduating senior from Atonement who has served in and through Atonement, testifying to his/her Christian faith. Amy will matriculate at Millersville University where she will explore options in education and/or social work.

Preschool News

There are various options for summer fun at Atonement this summer!

Atonement Christian Preschool is offering camps for children 3-6 years old (must be potty trained). Camps run 9:00-noon. Mrs. Egan's Art Adventure runs 12:30-3:00. To register, contact Mrs. Dauber, jdauber@atonementwyo.org or phone 610-375-8049. Registration packets are available online at <http://atonementwyo.org/connect/education/preschool/summer-programs>.

Extended PS Year Come & Play \$100/week:
Swash Buckling Pirate Adventure - June 4-8

Summer Come & Play \$60/3-day session: All Things Summer – June 12-14; Patriotic Fun – June 26-28; Pigeon, Elephant & Piggie and Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems – July 10-12; Pete the Cat Fun – July 17-19; Splish, Splash Water Fun – July 24-26; Medieval Times – July 31-Aug. 2.

Naturalist Camp \$125/week: Weird Sea Creatures – June 25-29 or July 16-20

Art Adventure Tuesday Afternoons with Mrs. Egan \$30/class or \$150/6 classes: June 5 - In the Jungle with Henri Rousseau, June 12 - The Path to Picasso, June 26 - Sew Me a Story, the art of Faith Ringold, July 17 - Creeping Creations with Maria Merion, July 24 - Let's Dance with Degas, July 31 - Colorful Critters of Franz Marc.

SNAPOLOGY of READING is offering camps for children ages 7+ at Atonement. Camps run 9:00-noon. Register online with Snapology at <https://www.snapology.com/locations/pa-reading>
June 25-29: Animation Studio (ages+)
July 9-13: Pokemania (ages 5+)
July 16-20: Incredible Inventions Robotics (ages 7+)
July 30-Aug. 3: Snapology Scientists (ages 7+)
Aug. 6-10: Drone Commander (ages 9+)

Atonement Christian Preschool's registration for

fall 2018 is still open. There is availability in all Toddler classes, Tues/Thurs 3 year old classes, as well as, morning Naturalist and afternoon Explorer enrichment classes for 4 and 5 year olds. Contact Mrs. Dauber to schedule a tour.

Thank You!

Dear Friends of Atonement,

Thank you all so much for the many cards, phone calls, visits and delicious meals I received during my recent mishap! I had surgery on my left heel April 16, so in about eight weeks I should be able to begin weight bearing on that foot. Thank you again, you are all very special people!

Fondly,
Sharon Stoner

Missing Plate

Gail Dawson-White is looking for a 20-inch silver plate, which she brought to church with refreshments (birthday cake) for the Women of Atonement meeting on Wednesday, March 12. The plate was a wedding anniversary gift. Please return it to the church office. Thanks!

Health Advocate: Children's Summertime Safety: Swimming

Summer is finally here. School is out and vacations begin. Swimming and water related activities are common. The following are facts and tips concerning water safety.

Drowning is the leading cause of preventable deaths for children age 1 to 4 years old.

Children 1 to 4 years old are more likely to drown in a pool.

Children 5 years and older are more likely to drown in natural water – ponds, lakes, ocean, streams and rivers.

The risks of drowning in open water increases with age. A 10 year old is three times more likely to drown in open water than in a pool.

There is no substitute for **active supervision** of children in or around bodies of water. Give children undivided attention. **An adult needs to be within arm's reach** of infants and toddlers who are around or in water. Adults need to avoid any distractions and multitasking. If there are several adults present, designate one adult as the **"Water Watcher"** for a certain amount of time and take turns as the "Water Watcher." This practice allows the other adults to socialize and prevents lapses in supervision.

Teach children to swim and start at an early age. Children will need to learn how to return to the surface, how to float "face up", how to tread water, how to turn full circle and find an exit, and how to swim 20 yards and exit the water.

Always have children swim with a **buddy**, hopefully one who is a more experienced swimmer.

Do not rely on swimming aids. Water wings, noodles and flotation rings are fun toys and not safety devices. Only use Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices. Flotation devices are **NOT** a substitute for undivided adult supervision.

Keep the pool area safe. Install at least four foot high fences around all sides of the pool. Install self closing and latching gates, lock the gate when the pool is not in use, and install an alarm to sound when the gate is opened. Inspect all pool drains and replace flat suction drain grates with dome grates, replace a single suction drain with several drains, and have an easily accessible pump shut off. Teach children never to swim near or play with the drain for risk of entrapment or entanglement. Pools should have VGB compliant drain covers. Find more information at www.PoolSafely.gov. Also empty and store all inflatable and portable pools immediately after each use.

Finally, learn how to administer CPR and call 911 in any emergency.

Ken Lord, M.D.



Memorials

The Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

We are grateful to acknowledge the following gifts to the glory of God and:

In memory of Fern High by Gayle and Ray Dimmick

In memory of Dorothy Johnston by:
Mrs. John H. Henninger, Jr. and family
Linda I. Chandler
Harry and Mary Catherine Tachovsky

In memory of Burt and Alice Kominick by:
the Rev. Thomas and Amy Reinsel
Melissa J. Kerper

In memory of Burt Kominick by:
Jerry and Mary Lou Wiggins
William and Carol Reid
Jack G. Mancuso
Elizabeth Q. Nacar
Henry and Janet Peters
Nancy and Gerd Zweig
Martha L. Hafer
George and Martha Connolly
Evans and Barbara Goodling
Scenic Concepts, Inc.
Janet and David Schlegel
Janet F. LeLacheur
Leigh M. Graff
Harold Daniel McKerny
Robert R. Sharets
Robert and Lois Rhoads
Marian Pounder

From the Prayer Ministry Team

Perhaps the worth of any lifetime is measured more in kindness than in competency.

Rachel Naomi Remen
Kitchen Table Wisdom

Painting Party

Moms' Night Out Painting Party

Friday, June 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Lundin Hall

Artist Bernadette Bresnahan of Creative Spirits Painting will take you step-by-step through the painting process. Patriotic theme on your choice of slate or canvas, \$40/person.

Sign up on SignUpGenius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaeac2ca7f85-moms>



In the narthex is a poster which lists volunteer opportunities for worship during the month of June. Summer is a good time to try something new. We need acolytes, lectors, communion assistants, assisting ministers, and deacons. If you are not sure what the job entails, call the church office.

Sunday, July 15, 3:00 p.m.

Harpichord Recital

All are welcome to a concert dedicating the new digital harpichord. This one-hour program will be followed by a reception in the narthex.

