March Schedule
Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00 AM
Sunday Adult Discernment Workshop
9:45 AM
Children’s Sunday School
9:45 AM
Holden Evening Prayer
7:30 PM
Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:30 PM

Jesus is Lord.
Everyone is welcome.
Love changes people.
Everyone has something to offer.
The world needs what we have.
from Reclaiming the “L” Word

The Men’s Group at the Highlands will meet on Monday, March 9, at 10:00 AM, in the marketing sales room.

Lent PHOTO-A-DAY Challenge

Want a different kind of devotional activity this Lent? Join us for a Photo-A-Day!

Reflect on the word of the day and post a picture or image on your social media (Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter) inspired by that word. Make sure to use the hashtag #alclent. Then, search #alclent to see and engage with what others have posted! Participate as a family, or everyone do your own photo - the more the merrier!

@atonementwyo #alclent

Wednesdays in Lent: Holden Evening Prayer at 7:30 PM

As we journey through the season of Lent, consider making Wednesday evenings at Atonement a part of your Lenten devotions. For five consecutive Wednesdays — March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 — we gather for Holden Evening Prayer in the nave at 7:30 PM. This 30-minute contemporary setting of the ancient office of Evening Prayer by composer Marty Haugen is led by cantors and Atonement Youth Singers, accompanied by piano and Kathryn Fellman on flute, and features liturgical dance by Anndria Ciabattoni. We sing, read Scripture, pray, and light candles together. All are welcome!
Thursday Bible Study

Thursday Bible Study will continue to meet with the coming Sunday’s preacher on Thursdays at 1:30 PM. No Bible study experience is necessary! Come and learn things about the faith you don’t know that you don’t know!
**Music in Worship this March**

Do you think that all Lenten music needs to be quiet, slow and sad? Think again! Join us for Sunday worship throughout the season of Lent for a wide variety of music, featuring choirs, bells, flutes, trombone, cello, guitars and drums.

**March 1**  
Atonement Ringers add trombone to their powerful arrangement of “A Mighty Fortress” and flute to the contemplative “Lenten Prayer.” They also accompany Atonement Choir singing the beloved hymn “Be Thou My Vision” at 11:00 AM.

**March 8**  
We welcome Brian Mishler on cello at both services. He accompanies Atonement Choir singing “Lenten Carol” at 8:30 AM. The children’s choir sings with flute and piano at 11:00 AM.

**March 15**  
Atonement Praise Band leads music at both services, with selections that enhance the gospel story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well.

**March 22**  
We sing the familiar favorites “Amazing Grace” and “You Are Mine.” Atonement Choir contributes at 11:00 AM.

**March 29**  
Atonement Choir sings at 8:30 AM. Sunday School children sing and celebrate the Good News at 11:00 AM, along with Anndria and Barry Ciabattoni singing “Best News Ever.”

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**Girl Scout Sunday, March 8 at 11:00 AM**

Girl Scout Sunday kicks off Girl Scout Week on March 8. If you are a Girl Scout and would like to help lead the 11:00 AM service on March 8, please contact Crystal at cshirk@atonementwy.org. We need greeters, readers, and communion assistants. If you don’t want to help lead you don’t have to — just come to church March 8 in your Girl Scout uniform! This is our chance to show the community how many GIRLs (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) we have making a difference in our world!
Sunday School

We are well underway with our Winter/Spring unit Sunday School unit, Share The Good News. Our readings in the Gospel of John have identified Jesus thus far as the bread of life, the light of the world, and the gate for the sheep. We can’t wait to find out the last four I AM statements by Jesus. Our researchers and writers are well on their way to the publication of their newspaper, which they have named God’s Good News. Our newspaper will be filled with the contents of our ten-week unit, including the recipe for the Communion bread we made in class, engaging news articles on some of the stories about Jesus’s miracles and healing, graphic depictions of the stories we read (aka the comics section), and a lifestyle section that contains our very own daily crossword puzzle and arts submissions. The first edition of our newspaper is set to hit the newsstands on March 29!

Be sure to join us on March 29 at the 11:00 AM service for our special Sunday School service. Our youth, Pre-K through sixth grade, will lead us through most of worship service that day, and all congregants will receive a copy of our God’s Good News newspaper. Don’t miss out!

Just a reminder that even though we celebrate our unit in worship on March 29, we don’t officially conclude our unit until Sunday, April 5, with one last lesson on this date. After that, Sunday School during the 9:45AM hour will be on break, but stay tuned for our three-week Children’s Chapel coming during the 10:00 AM worship services on April 26, May 3, and May 10.

Scholarship Opportunities

Atonement youth graduating from high school in 2020 may be eligible for the following awards. Find the details and applications for both on our website at http://atonementwyo.org/resources/awards. You can download a PDF, and for the first time this year, fill out the applications online. Applications are due April 15. We give thanks to God for our generous donors, the Chaney family and the other anonymous donor, for these awards.

Jeanne M. Chaney Memorial Book Award

Applications are being accepted through April 15, 2020, for the annual Jeanne M. Chaney Memorial Book Award, established by the Chaney family to recognize Atonement’s high school graduate who best exemplifies the qualities of scholarship, leadership, faith, integrity, service, citizenship, and fitness—qualities possessed by Jeanne as she strived to make a difference in her community and at Atonement. The award is given annually to the graduating senior entering higher education who best exemplifies the above qualities and is most likely to make a difference in our community. The Jeanne M. Chaney Memorial Book Award recipient receives $1,000 toward the first year’s purchases of textbooks and/or computer. The award will be made in May.

Martin Luther Service Award

Applications are being accepted through April 15, 2020, for the annual Martin Luther Service Award. This award is given annually to the graduating senior entering higher education who has served in and through Atonement Lutheran Church, testifying to his/her Christian faith. The Martin Luther Service Award recipient receives $1,000 to be used for tuition, books, computers or other required materials needed for college courses. The award is sponsored by an Atonement member.
Youth Ministry

League of Lutherans!
Junior Youth Group for 4th-6th graders.
3rd Sundays of the month
4:30-6:00 PM unless otherwise stated
In February we did a Scavenger Hunt with a twist — in the dark! Thanks to the group of eight youth who participated!
For our March event, we will be bowling at Berks Lanes.
All 4th-6th graders welcome: members, friends of the congregation, and friends in the community!

Confirmation!
In our Sunday morning Bible studies we’ve been delving into the Guiding Principles through teaching, reading the Action Bible, and discussing in small groups. As we move forward we will seek to plan our service learning activity for the spring based upon the gifts we have (guiding principle 4, everyone has something to offer) and what we see our community or the wider world needing right now (guiding principle 5, the world needs what we have).

Bear Creek Camp Sunday
March 22, 2020
Atonement will host a representative from the Camp to speak with us and be available between worship services for conversation and questions. Camp scholarships will be available through Atonement this year. Information and application for the scholarship can be found here: https://atonementwyo.org/media/2084/bear-creek-camp-scholarship-request.pdf. Deadline for first consideration of scholarship requests is April 15.

High Schoolers
Two of our high schoolers joined with the Koinos Youth Group for a night of adventure and fun — so much fun in fact, that they didn’t even pull their phones out to take a picture!
Soon we are looking to host a conversation on the shape of the youth program going forward. Parents will be invited to a parent meeting, and youth to a youth meeting. More details as they are available.
Preschool News

It’s hard to believe that we are two-thirds of the way through this preschool year! My how time flies! February was fun with Jump Rope for Heart and Valentine’s Day celebrations. In March, our classes will learn about space, dinosaurs, transportation, Dr. Seuss, pets, signs of spring and Easter. We celebrate our dads with Dad’s Day on March 5 and 6. It is a very special time when dads visit our 3s, 4s and PreK classrooms for an hour of interactive play and adventure with their child. Dad’s Day is a beloved tradition! Our 4s and PreK classes will take field trips to the Reading Public Museum and Planetarium on March 12 and 13. Local author, Theresa Cocci will read her book “Henry the Hungry Hound” to our 3s classes during pet week. It will be a busy but fun month in preschool!

Preschool registration for 2020-21 is now open! Contact Mrs. Dauber for availability and to schedule a tour.

Preschool Summer Camps return this summer! Camps include Preschool Fun Week, Naturalist, Explorer, Art with Mrs. Egan, Kindergarten Kickstart and Preschool Fairytale Fun. Camp packets are available on our website and in the preschool lobby.

In the picture to left, we all fit in a mitten for story time! Can you guess what book we heard?

from the Prayer Team

Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gift of today. Thank You for my many blessings. Thank You for the gift of prayer. Thank You for Your limitless love.

Living on Purpose — Acting on Principle

Atonement’s 2020 Discernment Series Sundays at 9:45 AM

March 1 — Acts 9
Jesus is Lord and love changes people

March 8 — Acts 6
Jesus is Lord and everyone has something to offer.

March 15 — Acts 6
Jesus is Lord and everyone has something to offer.

March 22 — Acts 16
Jesus is Lord and the world needs what we have.

March 29 — Acts 16
Jesus is Lord and the world needs what we have.

Continuing this month, Pastor Ryan and the Adult Formation Team will be convening the next five sessions of our ten-week discernment series during the 9:45 AM multi-purpose hour. In terms of format, this discernment series will include TED-talkish lectures, small groups (less than five people), and conversation groups (fifteen to twenty people). The series, which takes its inspiration from material from the ELCA, focuses on the book of Acts. As participants study several chapters from Acts, they will dig more deeply together into their understanding of each of the five guiding principles that our congregation has learned from Kelly Fryer’s book, Reclaiming the “L” Word. This will help us to listen for Atonement’s accent on the principles. By describing God’s activity in Acts in their own words, participants will also help us to listen for language and imagery that describe Atonement’s sense of purpose in God’s mission. On the basis of this discernment, Atonement will be in a position to boldly live on purpose and to act on principle!
Council Members

Class of 2018
Tom Endy ♦ Ed Kern, Jr.
Katie Sensenig ♦ Bryan Wang

Class of 2019
Ann Bastian ♦ Louise Fair
Debbie Gentry ♦ Tim McGuirk

Class of 2020
Patty Lehr ♦ Cara Pepper
Tyler Rankin ♦ Deb Seyler

2020 Officers
Bryan Wang, president
Tim McGuirk, vice president
Cara Pepper, treasurer
Deb Seyler, secretary
Council meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Council Update from Council Member C. Louise Fair

The February meeting of council began with a ‘get-acquainted’ period. As each person shared their life journey that led them to Atonement we realized the many ways the Lord leads each of us. Some had been Lutherans from childhood as members of Atonement; several ‘shopped’ around feeling that their present church was not fulfilling their needs or expectations; several came from Catholic backgrounds. Some were new to our area and just walked in the door. Another wanted to attend the closest church in their neighborhood. In most instances persons were either invited or were greeted at our door with a friendly smile and a cheerful ‘good morning.’

We can’t underestimate how our invitations and greetings can affect another. May we all continue to let our lights shine and see how the Lord will use it brighten someone’s life and feel the presence of the Lord at Atonement Church.

We all feel the Lord is leading us to new heights in ways yet unknown through our inspiring worship and the Bible labs and the witnesses of others.

Sunday Attendance in February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday in February</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Sunday in February</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Sunday in February</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Sunday in February</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Sunday in February</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>264</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total February attendance</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>1,071</td>
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January Financial Report

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<tr>
<th>January Financial Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January Unrestricted Income</td>
<td>$194,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January Expenses</td>
<td>$115,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year-to-date Unrestricted Income</td>
<td>$194,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-to-date Unrestricted Expenses</td>
<td>$115,613</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gifts of stocks or securities are always welcome donations. If you plan to give stock or securities, please notify the office of the pending donation to Atonement’s Schwab Account at Weik Investments (the office will provide account number, etc.), along with the purpose for which you are donating it, the name of the stock, its value, where it is coming from, and who the donor is. Don’t forget that your offering can be given by credit card on our website, by texting to the number 610-624-8412, and by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.

Capital Campaign Update: as of January 3, 2020
$1,012,282 received, 1,363,227 spent

Thank you so much, Atonement, for your incredible generosity!
Please contact Amy Rogers with any questions.

Pastoral Acts

February 2020

February 2,
Installation of Church Council

February 8,
Funeral for James Connors

February 9,
Baptism for Brooklynn Freeborn

February 16,
Baptism for Mackenzie Erb

Need Prayer?
The prayer team is a ministry here at Atonement that will pray for all requests daily. You can make your needs known by calling the church office or filling out a blue prayer request form found in the pews and in the narthex with the prayer request box. Interested in joining this ministry and becoming a pray-er with us? We meet the first Tuesday each month at the Highlands Skilled Nursing unit. Please consider being a part of our ministry!

Helping Hands Ministry

You still have time to participate in our Helping Hands Ministry, which matches Atonement members with home needs to those who are willing to provide help in meeting those needs. Use the form found on the web site at https://atonementwyo.org/connect/volunteer/helping-hands to sign up to service or be served. Paper forms are also available in the narthex. Edward Hein and Ken Lord will serve as the coordinators of this program. If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Hein at 610-858-6601 or Dr. Lord at klord@atonementwyo.org.
**Memorials & Gifts**

### The Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund
- In memory of Doris Jane Krick
  - from Nancy Hemmerich
  - Charles and Jean Greusel
  - Marian Pounder
  - David and Susan Fox
  - Kent and Barbara Davis
  - Doug and Fran Then an
  - Linda J. Barry
  - Michael J. McGlinn
  - Janet and William Trusty
  - Tim and Hilary Corbett
  - Glenn and Barbara Gallagher
  - Barbara J. Arner
  - Elizabeth B. Rothermel
- In memory of Joan Diefenderfer
  - from Paul T. Scheider
  - Francine Klein
  - Don and Doris Westley
  - Patricia A. Farina
- In memory of Ruth Leidich
  - from Carl and Marilyn Trettin
  - Baer's Accounting Services, LLC
- In memory of Otis Parker
  - from Robert R. Sharetts
- In memory of Philip Brumbach
  - from Maureen Brumbach
- In memory of Carl Botterbusch and Family
  - from Beatrice Botterbusch

### The Endowment Fund
- In memory of Paul Roedel
  - from Paul and Margaret Brass
  - Rosemary Bestwick
  - Bill and Cindy Laubach
  - Jo Eileen Sturgis

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**A View from your Pastoral Care Coordinator**

Have you ever had an “ear worm” playing in your head over and over again? You may wonder, “Why am I hearing this?” You may say to yourself, “I wish it would stop.” Recently, I had words and music playing in my head over and over again…keeping me awake at night. I wondered if it was a real song and music or was my brain composing a piece of music that could be a major hit?

I believe in using our resources, so in the morning I sent an email to our wonderful music director, Tom Yenser. If anyone would know the song it would be Tom. I told him of the words that had been playing in my mind, and the tune and rhythm that accompanied it. Within minutes Tom responded with the title, *You are Mine*, and the arrangement by David Haas. He also said it was one of his favorite hymns, #581, in our church hymnal. I immediately went to my phone to search for it on YouTube. “Do not be afraid I am with you. I have called you all by name…I love you and you are mine.” I found the verse in my Bible, Isaiah 43:1. Wondering into the day, is God telling me something here? I found myself returning again and again to my phone to play the music and sing the words aloud.

Last night when I wanted to be sleeping, the words “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,” Psalm 23. “He leadeth me beside the still waters…He restoreth my soul…” I fought the words for awhile wanting to get a good night’s rest. Then I got up, wondering what God was trying to show me.

I envisioned our church family as the sheep of the pasture and how Jesus shepherds us, sending us out to serve one another and to be served. I thought of the act of leading a herd of cows into the fields at dawn and leading them back to the barns at night. My heart went to the current people on our pastoral care list. I thought of the blessing of walking alongside one another on this physical plane.

How courageous it is to ask for prayer, to ask for help in a time of need, to seek clarification on something that has been troubling our sleep at night. How courageous it is to respond when God taps us on the shoulder. May we have the courage to speak of what God is doing in our life and in the life of our church family. We are called to love one another. May it be so.

Feel free to contact Crystal in the church office to connect with a member of the pastoral care team for care or to be connected to current fields of ministry at Atonement!

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**Bell Ringers Needed!**

Atonement Ringers, our congregation’s bell choir, is in need of new members! Led by Tama McConnell, the group practices Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM in the nave, and rings in worship approximately 6 times a year. Bell ringing is fun and easier than it looks. Stop by their table in the narthex on Sunday, March 1, before or after worship to try your hand at ringing, see how the music is marked, and ask questions. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling YOU to be a part of this ministry!

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**Atonement will be hosting Family Promise from April 5 through April 12 (Holy Week). Please prayerfully consider helping us to welcome those neighbors who will call Atonement home that week! Contact Dorothy DeLong at 484-529-0878 for more information or to volunteer.**
Family Promise Host Week Apr 5-12, 2020
Holy Week

Family Promise of Berks County is people of faith working together to provide homeless families and youth with help for today and hope for the future. Their ‘home’ while in the program is a different church each week. During the day Family Promise works with the families to find jobs, housing, and whatever support they need to get back on an even keel. Atonement is ‘home’ for families several times a year and will be ‘home’ starting on April 5. Volunteer more than once to get to know our guests better! Help the families celebrate Holy Week.

SIGN UP ONLINE at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e49a9a822a4f94-family17

Watch a 15 minute training video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYxruf3Xq-gw.

Find these links on www.Atonementwyo.org under Connect, click on Volunteer, then Family Promise or PHONE Dorothy DeLong at 484-529-0878 to volunteer

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Set up: Sun., Apr 5. Make beds, organize kitchen areas for guests.

Shopper: 6:30 PM on Sun., Apr 5. Meet with guests and make a list of breakfast and lunch foods they need and then go buy it. You can be reimbursed for the expense.

Dinner Prep & Evening Host: 5:15 or 6:15 – 8:30 PM + prep time — TWO needed each night. Prepare a hot meal at home or in the church kitchen. Serve and eat dinner with guests. Socialize and assist parents with children’s needs. Great job for a family! Teams OK! Note — guests come at 5:15 PM Sunday and Saturday, 6:15 PM on weekdays.

Overnight Host & Breakfast Prep: 8:30 PM – 7:00 AM (or earlier) — TWO needed each night. Spend time with guests, sleep at church and be available in case of emergency. Set out and put away breakfast foods in the morning. Note — guests leave at 10:00 AM on Saturday morning (after Friday overnight) and at 8:00 AM on Sunday morning (after Saturday overnight).

Saturday Breakfast Prep: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Families often like a hot breakfast on Saturday, but some just like to sleep in. Make breakfast and hang out till families leave at 10:00 AM.

Pack Up – Sun., Apr. 12 (EASTER) at 7:30 AM. Take down beds, load them into truck. Takes about 30 minutes. Guests help.

Laundry – after host week. Wash a guest’s bedding. Pick up after Pack Up and return to church for future host weeks. Need as many people as there are beds used.

Financial Contributions: If you cannot serve physically, you can still help! Financial contributions cover the cost of breakfast food, lunch food for families to pack for work and school for the week, and sundries like shampoo, diapers, toothpaste, etc. $50 sponsors a person for the week or any amount is appreciated to help with the ongoing costs of breakfast, lunch and sundries. Write Family Promise in the memo line of your check.

Dorothy DeLong will start collecting clearances for volunteers that interact with the families. If you have clearances from helping with Sunday School or elsewhere, please provide a copy for her. If you don’t have clearances, it is free to get them online. Contact the office for more information.

Family Promise sends out periodic email newsletters and updates about what is going on, you can sign up on Facebook or the Family Promise website www.FamilyPromiseOfBerks.org.
Holy Week and Easter at Atonement

Palm/Passion Sunday ♦ April 5, 2020
Worship at 8:30 And 11:00 AM

The voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet Isaiah’s words and the pleading of the psalm. We are invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus’ passion. In the second reading, we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. Lent leads us to this holy moment.

Maundy Thursday ♦ April 9, 2020
Worship at 7:30 PM

The traditional Maundy Thursday liturgy is reimagined as a contemplative, candlelit experience. Four central elements—Candlelighting, Footwashing, Communion, and Stripping the Altar—are surrounded by moments of silence and music from the Taizé community.

Good Friday ♦ April 10, 2020
Worship at 12:15 and 7:30 PM

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

Holy Saturday ♦ April 11, 2020
Easter Vigil with Common Ground at 7:30 PM, in Lundin Hall

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church’s year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, welcome new sisters and brothers at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

the Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday ♦ April 12, 2020
Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 AM
featuring the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” God has indeed raised from the dead the one who was put to death “by hanging him on a tree.” Alleluia! God allows Jesus to appear “to us who were chosen by God as witnesses” in holy baptism and invites us to eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ. Alleluia!