

Atonement Lutheran Church

2021 Annual Report

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2021 FROM THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL PERSPECTIVE

And we thought 2020 was a tough year! We began 2021 with a new optimism and the expectation that we were getting back to normal very soon. Just as the vaccine was getting a wider roll out, our Associate Pastor Julie Recher was called to a senior pastor position in Oklahoma. We were not able to give her the sendoff we would have wanted due to limits on large gatherings, but we sent her forth with gratitude for her ministry and the role Atonement played nurturing her development as a pastor. Finances and the reduced work load caused by the pandemic as well as our strong staff led us to the decision not to call a new associate minister.

Just four months later, our senior pastor Ryan Hersch announced he and his family were returning to Arizona to be closer to their extended families and a new call at Peace Lutheran Church. While Pastor Ryan was with us a little less than four years, he had a tremendous impact on our congregation. His introduction of the policy governance model, his leadership through the beginnings of our cultural discernment and his guidance through the Zoom experience of worship, bible study and meetings built on our foundation and gave us the drive that has carried us through since his departure.

With the appointment of Rev. Katie Lyon, we now have pastoral guidance to lead us through our transition and our search for a new senior pastor. Our call committee is in place and all of the documentation and data have been submitted to the synod so they can prepare our call package.

Through this challenging year, you, the people of Atonement, have been very faithful in your financial support of our ministry. Council likewise has been prudent in the management of our resources. However, it probably should not be a surprise that our congregation's pledges are down during this time of uncertainty and upheaval. Council has worked hard to "live within our means" and our treasurer Katie Sensenig has prepared a budget that is conservative, realistic and balanced. We will ask you to approve it at our annual meeting on February 6th.

In addition to approving our budget, the annual meeting will include the election of members to serve on church council. First, we'd like to thank Ann Bastian, outgoing council member, for her three years of faithful and insightful service. Current council members C. Louise Fair, Debbie Gentry and myself are all willing and able to stand for a second term. Our nominating committee has invited Tom Endy, who has previously served, to stand for election to council. We will ask for your approval and vote on these four candidates.

We have a beautiful worship space and extensive facilities at Atonement and we can be proud of that and of the ministry we strive to bring as the community's church. This year has shown us that we, the people, are the true church of the Atonement. As it turns out, 2021 was a year we learned just how strong, faithful and blessed we are.

Love & Service,

Tim McGuirk

Class of 2019

Ann Bastian
Louise Fair
Debbie Gentry
Tim McGuirk (vice-president)

Class of 2020

Patty Lehr
Cara Pepper (treasurer)
Tyler Rankin
Deb Seyler (secretary)

Class of 2021

George Fulton
Gary Mishler
Katie Sensenig
Bryan Wang

2021 REPORT FROM THE DEACON

Let's be honest: 2021 was a tough year for Atonement. We said good-bye to two pastors – Pastor Julie in April and Pastor Ryan in August. We continued to deal with the repercussions of the pandemic, struggling for ways to be the church safely and faithfully.

But through it all, my spirits have continued to be uplifted by the many wonderful people at Atonement who remain committed to being the Body of Christ in this place and time. This end of year review seems like a good time to give thanks to them. First, I am thankful for the Atonement staff – full time, part time, and volunteer. They kept the day-to-day operations of our congregation going with energy and good humor even without pastoral leadership. These folks make it a joy for me to come to work every day! Can you name them all? Here's the list:

Full-time staff:

Jen Dauber, Preschool Director.

Jen supervises a talented, hard-working group of part time teachers and helpers.

Tom Gresh, Property Manager.

Tom oversees our part time sextons who keep the property clean and functioning.

Part-time staff:

Crystal Shirk, Office Manager

Michelle Endy, Calendar Secretary

Melissa Hazlett, Director of Children's Ministry

Amy Rodgers, Financial Secretary

The Rev. Art Wyse, Visitation Pastor

Volunteer staff:

Sharon Calder, Church Administrator

Lois Hein, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Dr. Ken Lord, Congregational Health Advocate

Next, I am thankful for the Congregational Council: President Tim McGuirk, Vice President Cara Pepper, Secretary Deb Seyler, Treasurer Katie Sensenig, and members Anne Bastian, Louise Fair, George Fulton, Debbie Gentry, Patty Lehr, Gary Mishler, Tyler Rankin, and Bryan Wang. These twelve dedicated members have worked harder than ever this year to steer Atonement on a course toward the future, making sure that we are financially stable, continuing our path to deeper discipleship, and poised to serve God and this community for many years to come. They deserve our thanks and support!

I am also thankful for Pastor Katie Lyon, who felt a call from God to step in and lead our congregation for the next year or so as we search for a new called senior pastor. I can't wait to see how she guides, teaches, and inspires us in the coming months!

Finally, I am thankful for one more person at Atonement: YOU. If you have read this far, I know that you care about our congregation and its future. Thank you for all the ways you give your time, talent, and treasure to this church.

We have been dealing with COVID for almost two years now, and we have survived about five months without pastoral leadership. But if we are ever tempted to feel sorry for ourselves, we need only remember that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness of Sinai for FORTY YEARS. Through it all, God was with them, feeding them, protecting them, and teaching them how to live God's way. Moses addressed them as they were about to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land, and his words are still powerful and true for us today:

“Then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. God made water flow for you from flint rock and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.” (Deuteronomy 8:14-16)

Well done, people of Atonement! May God bless us with his grace in 2022!

Peace,

Deacon Tom

2020 REPORT FROM THE PASTOR

I began as your Transitional Pastor on January 3, 2022 so I was not technically your Pastor in 2021. Yet I served as a consistent Supply Pastor on Sunday mornings beginning in September of 2021. In the short time I have been with you I have also begun to learn a bit of what you went through last year with the loss of both of your Pastors and the continued struggles due to Covid. Thanks to dedicated staff and lay leaders you have been able to move forward as a vital worshipping community.

The instruction of children and youth is still of great importance. Atonement's preschool continues to teach a multitude of children and prepare them for further schooling. Enrollment for the 2022-2023 is about to begin. Communion instruction has also begun and by the time of our annual meeting, 12 children will have formally received their communion on a Sunday morning. Confirmation classes will resume this winter and a time for service to the community will be explored for the spring. About half of our confirmation class will be confirmed later this year.

A top priority identified by Atonement's Council for this in between time is to move toward greater discipleship and maintain the congregation's focus on guiding principles and developing its sense of mission and purpose. I will lead a series during Lent using the book "Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation" by Dave Daubert. This continues the work you started with the book "Reclaiming the 'L' Word" by Kelly Fryer and what Council began with "Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation". "Reclaiming the 'L' Word" helped you come up with your guiding principles: Jesus is Lord. Everyone is welcome. Love changes people. Everyone has something to offer. The world needs what we have. Living Lutheran will help us find more specific ways to move forward with renewal at Atonement.

Another top priority during this transitional time is to strengthen the relationship between Common Ground Recovery Community and Atonement. We will begin this important work in Lent by doing a joint Wednesday evening worship and study. Make the commitment to attend and get to know our siblings in Christ. The services will continue to be livestreamed for those who are unable to attend.

Together we will also continue to ask and answer these and other difficult questions: What does Atonement really need in a future Senior Pastor? How else does staff need to be reconfigured in order to best carry out the mission of Atonement? How might we deal with the reality of fewer resources and at the same time take our call to reach out to our neighbors seriously? How can we continue to minister in the midst of Covid and the new realities of the world? What changes do we need to make to better love and serve our neighbors and truly become the community's church?

I look forward to journeying with you during this transitional time. The future is uncertain however we know that God goes with us. Together we can do amazing things in this community and beyond!

Peace to you,

Pastor Katie

"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." Holden Village Prayer

AGENDA

Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, February 6, 2022

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Motion to Conduct Meeting
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021
6. Sale of Lynne Avenue Property
7. Adoption of 2022 Budget
8. Election of New Council Members
9. Election of Representatives to 2022 Synod Assembly
10. Adjournment
11. Closing Prayer

Atonement Annual Congregation Meeting- January 31, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Council President Bryan Wang at 9:45 a.m. via remote communication. There were 94 voting members of the congregation present.

Pastor Julie Recher led us in an opening prayer.

1. Adoption of Agenda (Bryan Wang)

There were no concerns about the agenda, and it was adopted by unanimous consent.

2. Conduct Remote Meeting (Bryan Wang)

Due to the Pandemic, Bryan Wang motioned that this congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication.

There were no concerns about holding this meeting remotely, and it was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of Minutes (Bryan Wang)

The minutes from the annual meeting of the congregation held on January 26, 2020 were approved by unanimous consent.

4. Adoption of 2021 Budget (Katie Sensenig)

Katie provided an overview of Atonement's financial position, which from an operating standpoint, remains secure. In 2020 income exceeded expenses by ~\$102,000. The special gifts, advances on pledges, and forgivable PPP loan allowed us to maintain income while decreasing expenses due to the pandemic. There were no additional questions regarding the 2021 proposed budget, which is conservative. **Motion** (made by Katie Sensenig, on behalf of Council): *That the proposed 2021 Budget be adopted.* The motion does not require a second; the proposed budget has been recommended by the full Council.

The motion passed, and the budget was adopted. (Voice vote).

5. Election of New Council Members (Tim McGuirk)

Tim McGuirk thanked the outgoing members of council who are: Tom Endy and Ed Kern, Jr. He then thanked the members of the nominating committee for their work in securing the following nominees to Council, to serve a three-year term: George Fulton, and Gary Mishler along with announcing that Bryan Wang and Katie Sensenig have agreed to resume another three year term serving on Council. There were no additional nominees from the floor.

The nominees were elected by acclamation. They were virtually recognized by the congregation.

6. Election of Representatives to Synod Assembly (Tim McGuirk)

Tim presented three nominees to be lay representatives from Atonement at the NEPA 2021 Synod Assembly with a date and location that will be determined at a later date due to the Pandemic: Tyler Rankin, Steve Fellman, and Kathryn Fellman. These nominees have agreed to serve along with our pastors and Tom Yenser at the assembly.

There were no additional nominees.

The nominees were elected by acclamation. Tim then proposed appointment of several alternates, who would be open to being asked to attend the assembly if any of the nominees were unable to attend. The following individuals volunteered to serve as alternates: C. Louise Fair, Deb Seyler, Sally Youngcourt, Ellen Bryan.

The nominees to serve as alternates to the NEPA Synod assembly were elected by acclamation.

Pastor Ryan Hersch thanked Bryan Wang, Council President for his faithful dedicated service to Atonement this past year and closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Seyler

2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Dedicated Funds

Atonement Lutheran Church - Dedicated Funds
December 31, 2021

Contributed
New Funds

	Beg. Bal. 01/01/2021	Dedicated Income	From Atonement	Dedicated Expense	Total 12/31/2021
30100 · Major Repair Fund	0	10,000		0	10,000
30110 · Memorial- Joe Lewis	1,898			-445	1,453
30115 · Family Promise	2,583	175		-173	2,585
30120 · Thanksgiving & Memorial	17,122	4,192			21,314
30160 · Childrens Ministries	1,269				1,269
30210 · Music Fund	4,974	479			5,453
30220 · Youth Fund	1,476				1,476
30225 · Arts Fund	1,278				1,278
30235 · Flowers	0	1,993		-3,826	-1,833
30256 - Pastor Discretionary Fund	942	3,500		-3,500	942
30345 · Columbarium	2,889	1,800		-1,000	3,689
30348 · Chaney Memorial Book Fund	0	1,000		-500	500
30400 · Common Ground	1,583	104,903	24,000	-130,386	100
30470 · Martin Luther Service Award	4,907			-2,000	2,907
30500 Pre-School Staff Emerg Fd	896	3,205		-1,840	2,261
30500 Pre-School Playground Fund	6,061	350		-1,082	5,329
30600 Health Fund	1,028				1,028
	48,905	121,597	24,000	-144,752	59,750

2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Balance Sheet

Atonement Lutheran Church

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, 2021	Dec 31, 2020
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000A - Cash Accounts	166,036	157,456
10011 - Money Market - FNB	266,954	210,823
Total Current Assets	432,990	368,279
Long Term Assets		
10041 - Endowment Accounts	1,321,893	1,238,958
10080 - Construction Permit Bond	14,247	14,247
Total Long Term Assets	1,336,140	1,253,205
TOTAL ASSETS	1,769,130	1,621,484
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
20000 - Accounts Payable	7,984	1,186
Total Accounts Payable	7,984	1,186
Other Current Liabilities		
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	3,606	4,364
25000 - Advance Preschool Tuition	29,457	1,981
25001 - Advance Pledge	36,998	27,460
25003 - Advance Room Rentals	840	0
26000 - Endowment to be Transferred	(23,597)	(3,985)
Total Other Current Liabilities	47,304	29,820
Total Current Liabilities	55,288	31,006
Long Term Liabilities		
26003 - MIF Loan Payable	335,088	354,134
26100 - PPP Government Loan Payable	-	115,458
Total Long Term Liabilities	335,088	469,592
Total Liabilities	390,376	500,598
Equity		
30109 - Dedicated Accounts	49,750	47,489
30280 - Endowment	1,291,543	1,186,595
30300 - Landscape Trust	31,262	36,169
30460 - Capital Campaign	-	(371,756)
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets	(174,022)	54,103
Operating Net Income	180,221	168,286
Total Equity	1,378,754	1,120,886
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,769,130	1,621,484

2022 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Atonement Lutheran Church

2022 Recommended Budget

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Variance	2022 Budget	Budget Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					Compare 2021 to 2022
42000 - Member Offerings/Pledges	651,305	655,000	-3,695	632,000	-23,000
42010 - Offerings-Plate	4,397	3,000	1,397	3,000	0
42030 - Room Donations	12,198	12,000	198	12,000	0
42070 - Interest Income	1,425	1,260	165	1,200	-60
42080 - Offerings-Miscellaneous	73,469	12,100	61,369	20,800	8,700
42100 - Preschool Tuition	236,554	198,745	37,819	258,300	59,555
72000 - Capital Campaign-Debt Service	34,072	34,560	-488	0	-34,560
45000 - Rental Income	11,000	12,000	-1,000	2,000	-10,000
Total Income	1,024,430	928,665	95,765	929,300	635
Expense					
60000 - Employee Salaries & Benefits	315,186	365,502	-50,316	298,420	-67,082
60050 - Sextons	19,395	17,280	2,115	16,700	-580
60200 - Social Security	23,033	28,615	-5,582	19,830	-8,785
60350 - Auto Allowance	1,099	1,000	99	900	-100
60400 - Continuing Education Exp	0	100	-100	800	700
60450 - Guest Preachers	5,024	100	4,924	4,000	3,900
61000 - Christian Education	705	3,400	-2,694	2,500	-900
61100 - Congregational Fellowship	725	500	225	500	0
61150 - Hospitality	854	600	254	600	0
61151 - Health Advocate	315	500	-185	500	0
61200 - Stewardship Supplies	1,194	1,300	-106	1,300	0
61250 - Worship/Music	8,420	8,500	-80	8,500	0
61300 - Youth	0	200	-200	8,200	8,000
61350 - Preschool Expenses	16,005	8,305	7,701	10,700	2,395
61351 - Preschool Wages	221,665	200,240	21,425	242,000	41,760
61353 - Preschool Pension	4,451	5,200	-739	5,550	350
61400 - Advertising	886	500	386	500	0
62000 - Administration	42,996	30,000	12,996	38,000	8,000
62050 - Conference/Workshops	99	500	-401	500	0
62100 - Miscellaneous	100	100	0	100	0
62200 - Utilities	49,561	50,000	-439	50,000	0
62250 - Maintenance/Repairs	103,931	76,000	27,931	89,000	13,000
62300 - Insurance	32,946	31,920	1,026	33,500	1,580
62400 - Benevolence	54,000	54,000	0	54,000	0
63400 - Debt Payments	18,089	18,000	89	19,100	1,100
63400 - Interest Expense	15,983	16,560	-577	15,850	-710
63410 - Bank Fees	3,483	3,200	283	3,200	0
63500 - Property Taxes	4,425	4,350	75	4,450	100
Total Expense	944,583	926,472	18,111	929,200	2,728
Net Ordinary Income	79,847	2,193		100	

Council Nominees

Tom Endy

Tom Endy and his wife, Michelle, both grew up in Boyertown and relocated to Wyomissing in 1992. He is a graduate of Alvernia College (now Alvernia University). Tom retired in December 2020 from the Wyomissing Police Department, completing a 30 year career in law enforcement. He is currently the Manager of Client and Technical Services with CODY Systems in Pottstown.

Tom and family became members of Atonement in 1996. Over the years he has served on the Stewardship and Property committees, numerous task forces, and previously Church Council serving in various roles. He currently is an usher, an A/V technician on Sunday mornings, and the recently established Lawn Care Team.

Tom and Michelle have two grown daughters, Caroline and Amy, who were raised within Atonement. The family enjoys vacationing during the summer at the shore and the Poconos mountains in the fall. A favorite activity of theirs is touring historical locations of all kinds. Tom is grateful for the honored past of Atonement, participating here in the present, and looking forward to its future.

C. Louise Fair

Louise and her family have been Lutherans for many generations. However, she is now a Lutheran 'by choice', having taken numerous biblical studies. She has been active in church all her life, beginning at an early age. She is a mother, a grandmother and a great-grandmother.

"It is an honor to serve this fine congregation as a member of the church council."

Debbie Gentry

Debbie has been a member of Atonement for roughly 16 years. She is the mother of four children, Jennifer, a freshman at University of GA; Richard, a junior at Wyomissing High School; Thomas, an eighth grader; and Lauren, in sixth grade.

She is looking forward to this time of growth for Atonement and excited to help be a part of it . Outside of church and all it has to offer she enjoys various activities and being with family and friends .

Tim McGuirk

Tim has been a member of Atonement since 2001. He has been active in small group book studies, Family Promise, and has served on Council since 2019, where he has service as vice president and now president.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in January

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	--	203	237
Second Sunday	--	242	280
Third Sunday	--	216	202
Fourth Sunday	--	309	445

Attendance in February

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	--	260	251
Second Sunday	--	287	266
Third Sunday	--	247	290
Fourth Sunday	--	246	264

Attendance in March

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	55	281	320
Second Sunday	108	308	251
Third Sunday	90	--	338
Fourth Sunday	189	--	272
Fifth Sunday	--	--	273

Attendance in April

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	252	--	257
Second Sunday	102	--	412
Third Sunday	137	--	684
Fourth Sunday	100	--	484

Holy Week Attendance

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Palm Sunday	189	--	412
Maundy Thursday	--	--	116
Good Friday	--	--	173
Easter Vigil	--	--	60
Easter Sunday	252	--	684
Preschool Sunday	--	--	394

Attendance in May

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	108	--	210
Second Sunday	105	--	300
Third Sunday	149	--	293
Fourth Sunday	119	--	227
Fifth Sunday	109		

Attendance in June

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	156	--	326
Second Sunday	165	--	232
Third Sunday	165	--	253
Fourth Sunday	173	--	290
Fifth Sunday		--	191

Attendance in July

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	122	--	183
Second Sunday	86	--	191
Third Sunday	114	--	209
Fourth Sunday	154	--	188

Attendance in August

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	130	--	182
Second Sunday	202	--	181
Third Sunday	103	--	198
Fourth Sunday	109	--	274
Fifth Sunday	117		

Attendance in September

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	121	--	169
Second Sunday	131	--	252
Third Sunday	143	--	239
Fourth Sunday	161	--	223
Fifth Sunday		--	243

Attendance in October

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	131	109	264
Second Sunday	163	102	209
Third Sunday	191	101	261
Fourth Sunday	134	170	263
Fifth Sunday	215		

Attendance in November

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	191	114	374
Second Sunday	158	107	202
Third Sunday	171	88	302
Fourth Sunday	126	102	275

Attendance in December

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
First Sunday	159	--	242
Second Sunday	157	--	296
Third Sunday	198	--	280
Fourth Sunday	68	--	460
Fifth Sunday		--	186

Christmas Attenda

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Longest Night	50		
Eve 11:00 AM	129	--	300+
Eve 6:00 PM	106	--	199
Eve 7:30 PM	155	--	331
Eve 10:00 PM	--	--	118
Day 10:00 AM	--	--	48
Total	440	--	996+

MEMBERSHIP AND ENROLLMENT

Members received:	2019	2020	2021
Transfers (Lutheran)	8	1	0
Transfers (Non-Lutheran)	10	0	0
Profession of Faith	10	2	0
Infant Baptism	9	11	7
Adult Baptism	4	0	0
Reinstated	0	0	0
Associate	1	1	0
Total Accessions	42	15	7
Baptized members confirmed	8	10	10
Members removed:			
Deaths	14	14	15
Removed at own request	1	0	0
Transfers (Lutheran)	3	1	10
Transfers (Non-Lutheran)	5	0	0
Moved to Inactive	0	11	5
Total Losses	23	26	30
Total Membership	1252	1241	1218

Atonement Christian Preschool Enrollment

2019-20: 152 students in 209 spaces
 2020-21: 85 students in 111 spaces
 2021-22: 127 students in 164 spaces