



Atonement
Lutheran
Church

Living in God's love ~
Reaching out with hope

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In Our Prayers	2
Congregational Meeting	2
January Birthdays	3
Youth Group Happenings	3
In and Outreach Committee	3
The Corner Desk	4
Christmas Un-decorating	4
Stewardship	5
Community Ministry Needs	5
Faith In Action News	6
La Posada Christmas Party	7
Children's Program Pictures	8
Lessons and Carols Pictures	9
Servant of the House for January	10

ATONEMENT STAFF

Senior Pastor	
Pastor Kristi Beebe	
Youth Leader	
Erik Williams	
Office Manager	
Audrey Brack-Banks	
Choir Accompanist	
Carol Ott	
Music Accompanists	
Gayle Gunderson, Carol Ott	



From the President

Now that the Advent and Christmas seasons are behind us, and our 60th Anniversary was celebrated, we turn our attention to the quiet of January before Lent in late February! I would like to return our focus on the campaign to improve our audio/video systems. It has become very clear over the last 6 weeks that a major overhaul and improvements are in order. You may have noticed Lisa and Julie striving to turn on the projector on the north side (it has a mind of its own), the online service may or may not hear our readers due to a faulty audio system sending signal out, and of course the lack of a modern hearing assist system for those who are hard of hearing.

There are many more examples, I bet you can name a few. Ever since we started streaming during Covid, there are more opportunities for stream a service. At recent funerals families have requested the service be made available for family and friends.

Unfortunately, our streaming is unreliable at times.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this campaign. We have received \$12,000 of which \$6,000 was designated to the hearing assist hardware. The goal is to have the Phase 1 before Easter. Phases 2 and 3 would be great too.

Raise a Glad Sound: A/V Capital Campaign

We have been gathering bids for our campaign. I have broken the project into 3 sections:

Phase 1

A. Audio: \$17,325:

- New mixing console with user-friendly preset functions
- Replace DSP with a new QSC DSP
- Replace existing USB converter with a new stereo USB converter
- De-install equipment
- Provides testing, a written guide, up to 4 hours of training and project engineering/drawings.

Raise a Glad Sound: A/V Capital Campaign

B. Assistive Listening - \$4,565

- Auracast Auri system
- Training

C. Projection Display and Screens – \$25,770

- 2 8,000 im Laser LCD/ Projector/ Digital Link/4K Signal input
- Run new cables and hardware.
- Training

Phase 2

D. Remote Cameras \$19,700

- 2 cameras, Pro3 Conference
- 2 Sound Control technologies

(continued on next page)



IN OUR PRAYERS

Current

Sonja; Kelly Amedee (Ruth Zartman's son in law); Whitney Wisdom (Julie Strasser's cousin); Randy Updike; Donna Zentner; Scott Beebe; Melanie; Guy Markle (Barb Krug's brother); Marjorie Sandoval; Carol Markle (Barb Krug's Sister-in-Law); Walter BEEKMAN; Nancy Henning; Allison (Toni Jung-Brack's daughter); Grace Gillette; the family and friends of Julia (sister of Pal Bajcsi); the family and friends of Carol Farr; the family and friends of Mary Eckberg

Ongoing

Sharon Krebs; Marin (Charles and Annie Adkisson's daughter); Anna (Dee Teasdale's granddaughter); Jacque; Jeff (Charlotte Updike's son); Jean (Mary Campe's friend); Jean Viste; Pastor Kristi

PLEASE NOTE:

Names on the Prayer List will be included for two weeks, if needed. If you desire someone to remain on the Prayer List longer than two weeks, please email or call the church office near the end of the two weeks to ask to have the person remain on for another two weeks.

*If someone's name is removed, and should remain on the Prayers, please call the Office Staff to put them back on the list.

**We also encourage all members and visitors to daily pray for these people and/or situations.

Thank you!

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- 1 video switcher
- All cables and more
- User training

Phase 3

E. New microphones and monitor

- Replace Wired Microphones, \$5,452
- Wireless Microphone System, \$8,734
- Video monitor for Pulpit, \$4,189

Thank you for all the who supported our services, community support, music providers, and office support during Pastor Kristi's sick leave.

A very special thank you to Pastor/Father Kodiak McLeod for providing a message each week and sharing his love of music in hymn selections. Romans 15:13 NRSVUE 13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

A very special thank you to **Audrey Brack-Banks**, our office manager, for welcoming and announcements to begin worship services each week. She provides coordination with music for the Ensemble and Praise Team at ALC. When I think of Audrey this verse comes to mind.

Psalm 98:4 RSV 4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"

—Eileen Koppenhaver
Church Council President



Please plan to attend the

**WINTER CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
of Atonement Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 25th
at 9:10 am
(Between services)**

**The 2026 annual spending plan will
be presented, discussed and voted
upon.**

January Birthdays

Linda Schueller	1/2
Audrey Brack-Banks	1/6
Phyllis Smith	1/9
Darlene Jones	1/10
Jenna Wagner	1/13
Cathy Ayers	1/24
Laura Buhs	1/27
Steve Riedel	1/27
Aidan Hepler	1/31

Youth Group Happenings for January

- **Wednesday, January 14th, 6:00 pm,**
ATLA Bible Study – Prison Epistles
- **Sunday, January 18th, 6:30 pm**
Mini Game Scavenger Hunt – Matthew 7:7-12 and 7:1-6
- **Wednesday, January 28th, 6:00 pm,**
ATLA Bible Study – Galatians 5:13-26

In and Out Reach Committee

And so 2026 has arrived and 2025 is a memory. A big thank you to all of you who have helped make Atonement a welcoming place in so many ways: helping with the coffee cafe by setting up, cleaning up and donating goodies to share; volunteering to be a greeter; and by just smiling!!

In 2025, 125 birthday cards had been mailed to members of Atonement. If you did not receive one, most likely your special day is not in the church database and you can correct that by calling the church office!.....or let me know and I don't need to know the year!!

We would love to have even more people volunteering in any capacity that you are able to provide - assisting with the coffee cafe, being a greeter, taking the donated eyeglasses to a drop off place, etc. If you would be interested in serving on this committee and bringing fresh ideas as to how we can make things more efficient, please let me know by email (barbarakrug@comcast.net) or by phone (720-398-9109).

—Barbara Krug



THE CORNER DESK

Happy New Year!

As we step into 2026, we give thanks for a joyful and meaningful Christmas season and for God's faithfulness to our church family through the years.

December was rich with celebration and worship—from the heartfelt Children's Christmas Program that reminded us of the wonder of Christ through young voices, (and was the best Children's program ever!) to our beautiful Lessons and Carols Sunday that drew us into the story of God's redeeming love. Our Christmas Eve service offered a sacred and peaceful close to the season, as we gathered in candlelight to welcome the Light of the World.

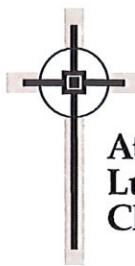
This past season was made even more special as we celebrated our church's 60th Anniversary, honoring six decades of ministry, fellowship, and service. As we begin January 2026, we carry forward the joy, gratitude, and renewed hope of Christmas, trusting God as we look ahead to all that He has planned for us in the year to come.

A huge "Thank You" goes out to those who donated, worked and planned to make all our celebrations so wonderful!

We look forward to a wonderful and hopeful 2026, knowing that God is watching over us!

Audrey Brack-Banks
Atonement Office Manager





Atonement
Lutheran
Church

The mission of Atonement Lutheran Church is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ—birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. This is a shared ministry of staff and laity. We are a community that provides time and space for worship, learning and administration of the sacraments. We witness by reaching out with God's love. We accept responsibility for ministry to the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation, community and people of the world.

Stewardship

GIVING IS GOOD FOR YOU

Giving Makes Us Happy

It's a fact! Givers are happier people than nongivers. A Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey of 30,000 U.S. households revealed that people who gave money to charity were 43 percent more likely than nongivers to report being "very happy" about their lives.

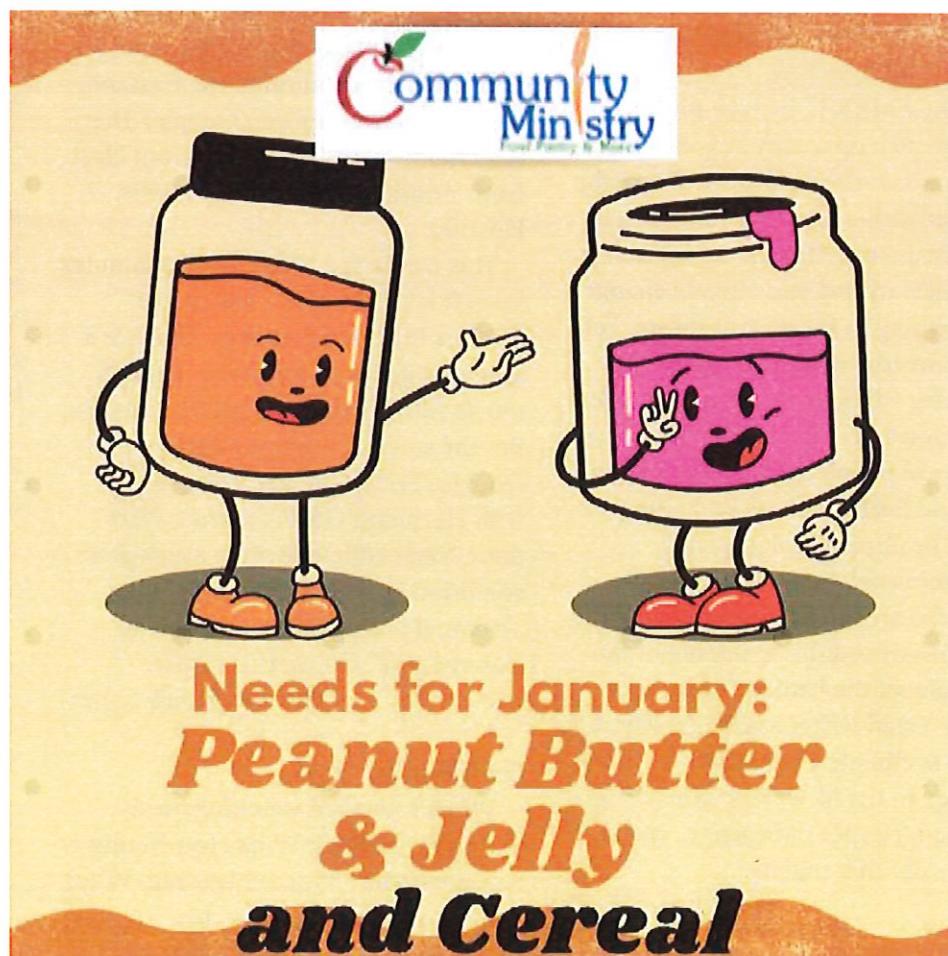
Giving Makes Us Healthy

According to the Christian Post, one study conducted by the nation's top universities—Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Stanford—revealed that people who are givers see the benefits of delayed mortality, reduced depression, increased well-being, and good fortune.

"Give daily, in small ways, and you will be happier," wrote Stephen Post, bioethicist and coauthor of the book "Why Good Things Happen to Good People: How to Live a Longer, Healthier, Happier Life by the Simple Act of Giving." "Give and you will be healthier. Give, and you will even live longer."

Giving Makes Us Rich

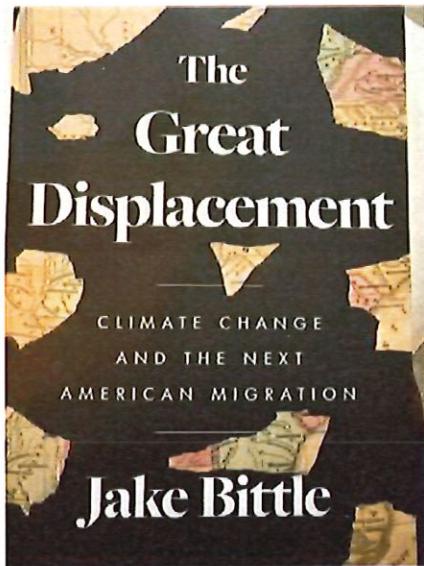
The Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey provided credible results: People who give charitably make significantly more money than those who don't. More giving doesn't just correlate with higher income; it causes higher income. And when people earn more, they give more, so the wealthier they become.



Faith In Action Book Review

Sunday, February 1st, @ Noon

Bring a Sack Lunch



Our current book of environmental study is "THE GREAT DISPLACEMENT," by Jake Bittle.

Please pick up a copy at your local library or favorite bookstore. Begin the new year with a new book and join us for a discussion! Many of us still think of global warming and climate change as something in the distant future. Yet, we are already living through it; increasing wildfires in the west and less or no snow in our local climate.

Millions of people will scatter around the world fleeing famine and rising seas. "The Great Displacement" compassionately tells the stories of those who are already experiencing life on the move and the reshaping of the geography of the United States. Jake Bittle is a staff writer at GRIST, where he covers climate change. His work has appeared in the New York Times, The Guardian, Harper's Magazine, and a number of other outlets.

(Toni Jung-Brack)

Faith in Action Movie Picks

Nuremberg....the 2025 movie

"The 2025 film Nuremberg is a historical psychological thriller based on Jack El-Hai's 2013 book "The Nazi and the Psychiatrist". It focuses on the psychological "cat and mouse" duel between a U. S. Army psychiatrist and high-ranking Nazi officials during the Nuremberg trials. Plot: U.S. Army psychiatrist Douglas Kelley is tasked with evaluating whether 22 Nazi prisoners, specifically Hermann Goring, are mentally fit to stand trial for war crimes."

Rami Malek portrays Douglas Kelley. Russell Crowe portrays Hermann Goring. Goring was Hitler's chosen successor and the second most powerful politician in the Third Reich, tasked with overseeing the German Air Force and the creation of the Gestapo, the Nazi's secret police. (Google) There is authentic archival footage from Nazi concentration camps in this movie. Horrific.

This movie is 2 hours and 28 minutes long. It is showing at a few movie theaters in the Denver area. Yes, it is a long movie. I was not bored. Yes this movie was "Hollywoodized" somewhat. But the story of the psychiatrist Douglas Kelley and his relationship with Hermann Goring is true. Were these Nazis afflicted with a psychiatric condition or were they normal men... "rational individuals....capable of extreme evil." Go see this movie.

(Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

Dark Winds

When I finished watching the 2-season series Dark Winds (on Netflix & Amazon Prime Video) I was sad. Why?

It was over. Inspired by this enchanting series from a Tony

Hillerman book, I was motivated to start to read Hillerman's books from the beginning. Today I finished his first book, "The Blessing Way". Once again, I am sad. Why?

In Dark Winds, "the year is 1971. Joe Leaphorn of the Navajo Tribal Police must solve a series of unrelated crimes." (Siri) Jim Chee and Bernadette Manuelito are also "solving mysteries and serving justice as their reservation is besieged by a series of increasingly violent crimes.... Each step closer to the truth forces the officers to confront their own personal demons, family trauma, and evil forces that threaten the uneasy balance of reservation life." (Google)

There was a mystery and otherworldliness to the series...like being in another world...just like there was when I spent 1 month on the Navajo Reservation in Ft. Defiance, Arizona after my Peace Corps service. "Where am I?" I would ask myself... just like I asked myself while watching Dark Winds. This series was filmed in New Mexico, Utah & Arizona. In New Mexico the license plates state "Land of Enchantment." AAAAHHH, so I also became "enchanted".

NOTE: December, 2025. Dark Winds is currently streaming Seasons 1 through 3 on AMC+ and Netflix.

(Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

La Posada Christmas Party at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church

THANK YOU! GRACIAS!

To all that were so very kind to purchase Christmas gifts for the two needy families at Cristo Rey! They are very grateful for your thoughtful gifts!

I had the great privilege to attend the “La Posada Christmas Party” at Cristo Rey. I was going to simply “drop off” the gifts. Then, I was so warmly welcomed in by Margarita Reyes!

We've heard of Cristo Rey, but I wanted to learn a bit more. Cristo Rey arose after an unsuccessful attempt to create a new church by merging a shrinking Anglo congregation and a Latinx faith community. They now occupy the former Christ the King Lutheran Church in Harvey Park, less than two miles from Atonement. Thanks to the full-communion partnership between the ELCA and the Episcopal Church, Cristo Rey's leadership comprises an Episcopal priest, the Rev. Quirino “QC” Cornejo, and ministry partner Margarita

Reyes, who is married to Cornejo. They are a dynamic duo that embody an ecumenical spirit, connecting people to the message of Jesus in new and welcoming ways! The two met in Texas, where Cornejo was a Catholic priest for twenty years. Cornejo is now an Episcopal priest. Together, “Q” and Margarita, are setting a powerful example of how people from differing denominations and traditions can come together to grow in relationship with Christ and make a difference in the world, in common witness.

What is a La Posada Party?

The word “Posada” means, in slang, “a place to crash or spend the night.” Jose and Maria (Mary and Joseph) were asking for posada when they knocked on door after door. During a Posada, families, friends, and neighbors gather together for 9 days, from Dec. 16th to 24th. These nine days represent Mary's nine months of pregnancy. Today, there are variations of the La Posada. The Christmas party guests

assume different roles and dress up.

Christmas music, food, and drink are included. The piñata used in Posadas are shaped like a seven-pointed star. Each point represents the seven deadly sins (pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, sloth) that are broken as soon as Maria and Jose are given a place to stay.

This La Posada party began with drums beating and children wearing bright yellow costumes with Aztec bells chiming walking in a procession into the church. Not at all what I had expected! Yet, I was very easily included into their celebration! Inside were the smells of great food, and the procession continued outside to an enclosed patio. Other young children were dressed as angels, Maria and Jose. The drum beating and the music continued.

I was seated at a reserved table for local Lutheran pastors and I felt like an honored guest, though I'm not a pastor.

Delicious homemade tamales and food were

quickly served! I kept wanting to turn my head so that I didn't miss seeing anything. A jolly Santa and a Grinch arrived to delight the children! Shrieks of delight all around! Santa handed out the gifts and the Grinch attempted to steal a few away, wink! The children were excited and delighted. I don't think I've seen so many children with cute dimples!

After all of the gifts were distributed, the children returned to the patio. It was time for the piñata! More giggling and laughter!

The individual families that received our gifts were very humbled and appreciative. They have many more challenges ahead. It was heartwarming to see them surrounded by so much love and support. Please keep them in your prayers.

—Toni Jung-Brack
Representing the Women's Ministry at Atonement



Childrens Christmas Program, December 7

The Best Christmas Program Yet!



Lessons and Carols

Sunday,

December 21st



CHURCH COUNCIL

President
Eileen Koppenhaver

Vice President
Tracy Ford 720-339-8338

Secretary
Julie Strasser 303-988-5504

Treasurer
Pam Peschel
treasurer@atonementlakewood.org

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Member at Large
Dan Malyszko
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Member at Large
Eric Muhle eric.muhle@gmail.com

Member at Large
Open

MINISTRY TEAM

LEADERS

Adult Education

Carol Farr
capreolar@Alo.com; 303-985-3278

Building and Grounds

Brian Strasser 303-988-5504

Children's Ministry

Jenna Wagner

Youth Ministry

Erik Williams

Congregational Caring - reorganize

In and Outreach (Evangelism)

Barbara Krug

720-398-9109

Faith In Action

Cathy Bajcsi
Toni Jung Bracks

Fellowship Ministry

Dan Bock

Nate Blair

Stewardship

Larry Koppenhaver

Women's Ministry

Toni Jung-Brack

Worship & Music

Eileen Koppenhaver



Servant of the House

January 2026

Servant duties are as assigned below. If you are signed up for a date on which you will not be available, please contact someone to replace or trade with you, or call the church office to do so. Thanks so much!

Date	Greeters	9:00 AM	10:45 AM
1/4		Mary Campe	Mary Campe
1/11		Jeanette Hill	Barb and Bernie
1/18		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Dean and Lily Reinfert
1/25		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Nate and Laura Blair
Readers		9:00 AM	10:45 AM
1/4			
1/11		Dan Bock	Johann Cohn
1/18		Audrey Brack-Banks	Carmen Cohn
1/25		Audrey Brack-Banks	Audrey Brack-Banks
Ushers		9:00 AM	10:45 AM
1/4		Mike and Toni Brack	
1/11		Jeanette Hill	Barb and Bernie
1/18		Toni and Mike Brack	Dean and Lily Reinfert
1/25		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Nate and Laure Blair
Coffee Café	(Between services only)		
	set up and clean up		
1/4	Mary Campe		
1/11	Barbara Krug		
1/18	Judi Bauer		
1/25	Barbara Krug		



Atonement
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