



## Atonement Lutheran Church

*Living in God's love ~  
Reaching out with hope*



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### 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**

Again, there will be no Pastor's article for the Newsletter this month, as Pastor Kristi is still on medical leave, due to several unique medical issues that she has been facing since her stroke last November. Pastor Kristi's surgeries went well, she is currently undergoing physical therapy for her knee, and she still has a splint on her right (her dominant) hand. She is also currently on

leave due to her Cushing's Disease and Antiphospholipid Syndrome, trying to get her blood thinners under control. She is now resting per "Doctor's orders." Naturally, we will keep you posted as to her return date. We do have a Pastor who is willing to fill in for Pastoral emergencies. Please call the office if you are in need of pastoral care.

### *From the President*

Once again, we come into December, the last month of the year, a time for reflection and celebration. This year we will celebrate the beginning of Atonement Lutheran Church. An amazing 60 years of mission and ministry, growing and contracting, being challenged and answering the call. We have welcomed Resurrection Lutheran community and Christ the King family to join us in mission the last few years. Together we go forward, endeavoring to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community, our country and the world. Join us on December 14th at 10 AM, one service, all together.

In past years when I was serving as president of ALC, I shared at Christmas time poems from a book *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems. Enjoy!

#### ***What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star...***

*Brilliance in a package,  
something you could keep in the pocket  
of your jeans*

*or in the pocket of your  
being.*

*Something to take out in  
times of darkness,  
something that would  
never snuff out or  
tarnish,  
something you could  
hold in your hand,  
something for  
wonderment,  
something for pondering,  
something that would*

*remind you of*

*what Christmas has always meant:  
God's Advent Light into the darkness of  
this world.*

*But stars are only God's for giving,  
and I must be content to give you words*



*(continued on next page)*



## IN OUR PRAYERS

### Recent

Pio (friend of Trish Sanders); Richard; Carl Farr; Randy Updike; Donna Zentner; Scott Beebe; Melanie; Guy Markle (brother of Barbara Krug); Marjorie Sandoval; Dave (son in law of Donna Zentner); Leslie Crowe; Carol Markle (sister-in-law of Barbara Krug); Walter Beekman; Nancy Henning; Allison (Toni Jung-Brack's daughter); Grace Gillette; the family and friends of Bob Lombard; Pastor Kristi

### Ongoing

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

### 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!

(continued from previous page)

*and wishes  
and packages without stars.  
But I can wish you life  
as radiant as the Star  
that announces the Christ Child's  
coming,  
and as filled with awe as the shepherds  
who stood beneath its light.  
And I can pass on to you the love  
that has been given to me,  
ignited countless times by others  
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.  
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.*

*Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem,  
The Westminster Press, 1980.*

Christmas Joy,  
Hope and Love,



—Eileen Koppenhaver  
Church Council President

## CELEBRATING OUR 60th ANNIVERSARY AT ATONEMENT!

To all Atonement members from all years, and friends and visitors, please join us on Sunday, December 14 for ONE SERVICE at 10 am when we'll celebrate our 60th anniversary! Atonement Lutheran Church was here during the booming growth period of Southwest Denver and Bear Valley and has been an enduring faith presence in this community. Pastor Kristi and several former pastors will be present including Chris Davis, Carl Hansen and Keith Prekker. We hope that Del Grauerholz could attend; former Pastor and Bishop, Jim Gonia, is unable to attend. To help mark our 60 years, please bring 6 food items or make a \$6 to \$60 donation to Community Ministry. Following the service will be a reception and a time to share Atonement stories. We hope that YOU will be present to celebrate this community of faith for 60 years, since 1965!

## December Birthdays

Laura Blair	12/3
Ron Andersen	12/11
Kristi Beebe	12/13
Tom McDougal	12/13
Jan Lehnertz	12/15
Loma Rhynard	12/26
Stephanie Goman	12/28

## December Anniversaries

Cliff & Sharon Wink  
12/19/59

Marilyn & Ron Andersen  
12/26/70

## Food Collection

Let's continue to bring "tons" of healthy, body building, brain building food for food banks near us. Barb and Bernie load up each week and take food to Community Ministry. Suggestions: canned ham, canned tuna, chicken, corned beef, sardines. Peanut butter, beans, and tofu. Also think of ease of opening cans for those that don't have homes to cook in. Let's fill the cart with so much food Barb and Bernie will need help hauling it.

## In and Out Reach Committee

With the most recent collection of gently eyeglasses that you have dropped in the provided box, Atonement has donated a grand total of 51 pairs to be re-purposed by the Lions Club. Good job! And just a reminder for any future donations, the Lions Club does not accept the eyeglass cases.

The coffee cafe continues to be enjoyed by folks and is a terrific opportunity to meet fellow members who perhaps regularly attend a different service time than you do... and perhaps even have a chance to chat with a visitor attending worship at Atonement for the first time. As always we are looking for more volunteers to help with the set up

(making the coffee and putting out the goody donations) before the 9 am service and with the clean up. And of course, any contribution of a homemade or bought goody to share is always welcome!! A big thank you to all of you who have donated goodies and/or assisted with set up or clean up and we'd love to enlarge that group of folks!

Please do look at the sign up sheets for greeters, coffee cafe, etc. that are in the narthex each week and consider putting your name in one of the spots so that we can continue to do the things that make our congregation a welcoming one!

—Barbara Krug



**Please buy socks and underwear in the following sizes:**

**Boys sizes** 2T/3T, 4T/5T & 12,14, 15 boxer briefs.

**Girls sizes** 12 & 14

**Small socks** for boys & girls.

*Also Needed:*

**Adult-sized** gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves & scarves.





## THE CORNER DESK

As we enter the month of December, our hearts turn once again to the wonder of Christmas—the astonishing truth that God stepped into our world in the most humble of ways. Let us Rejoice!

December also invites us to share God's love in meaningful ways: Don't miss our Kid's Christmas Program during both services on December 7th. We will also have the pleasure of hearing the Original Dickens Christmas Carolers between services. It's sure to be a wonderful day!

Advent began on November 30th with the lighting of the first Advent candle. This tradition continues with Advent readings and candle lighting every Sunday before Christmas.

Atonement's 60th Anniversary celebration will be on December 14th. We will have **one service only** at 10:00 am. Pr. Chris Davis will be proclaiming the sermon, and we have other guest surprises for that Sunday. Make sure to join us!

Lessons and Carols Sunday will be on December 21st. Pastor Kodiak is writing a special service for us – it promises to be a special blessing for all of us.

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be at 3, 5, and 11pm. Make sure to join us for this beautiful and meaningful service.

On Sunday, December 28th, we will have a Carol Sing Sunday for both services.

Wishing a happy holiday season, and a Merry Christmas to you all!

Audrey Brack-Banks  
Atonement Office Manager

## Christmas Services and Events

**December 7 Kids Christmas Program, both services**

**Sunday Advent Services:**

**9:00 am Praise Service**

**10:45 am Liturgical Service**

**December 14 Atonement 60th Anniversary Celebration**

**One Service Only at 10:00 am**

**December 21 9:00 and 10:45 Lessons and Carols Services**

**Original Dickens Carolers sing between services**

### Christmas Eve Services

**December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

**3:00 pm, 5:00 PM, and 11:00 pm**

**December 29 Lessons and Carols Service**

**9:00 am and 10:45 am**

## Thank You

*I would like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thank-you to our incredible office volunteers. Your time, patience, and joyful hearts bless our church more than you know. I am truly grateful for each of you.*

*Thank you to Marilyn Andersen and Barbara Krug, Our terrific office volunteers. The office would not run smoothly without them.*

*Thanks also to our counters, Charlotte Updike, Marilyn Heitmann, Tom and Mary Alice McDougal; Nancy Henning, Betty Pedersen; Ella Parsons, and Carol Farr.*

*And I can't forget our newsletter folders, Bob and Phyllis Smith, as well as Tom McDougal, who transports the Newsletter to the Golden Post office every month.*

*Thank you all again-- your faithful service keeps our ministry running smoothly. You are so very appreciated.*

*- Audrey Brack-Banks, Office Manager*

## A/V Capital Campaign

The overwhelming input from specialists evaluating our systems is that they were great at one time but in order to meet our needs now, digital equipment will improve quality and ease of use. One of the major components is a new assisted hearing system. There are several new types of systems. Please continue to designate gifts to the A/V Capital Campaign. Hint: this will improve online worshipping and a HUGE improvement for in person worship.

## Faith in Action Visits Glass to Glass Recycling

Clad with our hard sole boots, orange hard hats, yellow vests and protective glasses, three members of Faith in Action went on an outside tour of the Glass-to-Glass Recycling facility by Wadsworth & Dillon Road in Broomfield on Nov. 4. We continue to learn and visit places on caring for our planet.



Celene Peck-Andreano is the Business Development Manager, who gave us lots of information on glass recycling in general and specifics to the Glass-to-Glass Processing Facility that she oversees, before we toured outside. The following is some information that she shared with us. In Colorado, only 11% of glass is recycled, which is one of the lowest in the country (Google stated up to 16% is recycled). The national average for glass recycling is 35%.

One of the benefits of glass recycling is that glass can be recycled an unlimited number of times, without loss of quality. Virgin raw materials including sand, silica and limestone from the mines in Wyoming require a melting temperature of 2800 Degrees F! Processed recycled bottles melt at a lower temperature of 1500 degrees F, saving energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. It is best to collect glass that will be recycled in glass bins, but if

there is no access to local glass bins, you can place glass in a single stream bin, which allows collecting all single stream items in a bin, as plastic, cardboard, newspapers, etc. There are six glass bin facilities in the Denver area. The Lakewood Recycling Center is at 1068 Quail in Lakewood. Can Denver residents use this Center?

Celene spoke of the two melting facilities that are part of this glass recycling process and circular economy right here in Colorado; Rocky Mountain Bottle Company in Wheat Ridge and O-I in Windsor. It takes about 30 days for one bottle to travel the circular economy from consumer back to consumer in our state. In the Denver area, Republic and Waste Management collect and recycle our waste and recyclables and send their post-consumed and presorted recycling materials to Glass to Glass for additional sorting to yield, "cullet," which is sent to RMBC and OI to remelt into bottles.



The outside tour was interesting; we saw lots of glass in various stages of "flint" and other forms. Celene was enthusiastic with her information and the sustainability of glass. You can contact her at 720 580 0545 or [celene.peck-andreano@glastoglass.com](mailto:celene.peck-andreano@glastoglass.com). I would say the tour was "pretty glassy!"

(Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

## Working the Draft Detector!

After reading about the draft detector (aka Draft Check Meter!) available from Xcel Energy through many local libraries, I signed up. It did not take long to be notified that one was available and waiting at my library.



It comes in a satchel with the detector (charged and ready) and instructions on use. There is also a video on the Xcel site on how to use it. It's very straight forward.

So, I chose an interior wall to set the temperature I expect around the condo and a variance of 1 degree Fahrenheit and began checking all the windows and outside doors and wall intersections that are exterior. It came as no surprise that several leaked since the caulking was 20 plus years old. What was the surprise? The amount of the temperature variance! No wonder I am chilly sitting at my desk, next to the window!!

So, clearly to me, this was worth the effort to detect leaks, I now have a repair list based on data from the worse "offenders." All hardware stores carry "adhesive caulk" to be used all over the house. No special tool required, although a caulk gun does make the job go faster. So, the next sunny, warm day my "to-do list" is prepared! (S Rousso)

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## FIA Picks:

**Diana Bulter Bass blog, *The Cottage***, was recently shared and I am finding it illuminating. The blog is free if you only want two emails a week (my choice!) or a small fee for more. Mine arrive on Sunday and usually another a few days later. She is an preacher, author, and presenter and her books have been FIA picks before. The *Cottage* are her musings, usually on the lectionary and current events. Sometimes, sermons. Always asking to consider donating as this is now her source of income. She has a new book published, *A Beautiful Year*, and so there is that. Highly recommended for commentary on current events and gospel readings! (S Rousso)

***Unbreakable, A Woman's Guide to Aging with Power***, Vonda Wright, MD, 2025. Described as "Go Strong, Live Long. A 6 week program for lifelong strength and vitality" she offers strategies for exercise, nutrition, lifestyle and supplements to help us long our life path. All the latest info to determine our current health state and to add more vibrant health to our years. She got my attention in Chapter 9, subtitle: Why We Fall..." While there are many reasons for falls as we age, loss of bone density, loss of muscle strength and loss of agility are three of the most critical. The good news is these issues are also the most preventable." Worth the read. (S Rousso)

***Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleeing Frauds***

"In the spirit of George Carlin and Christopher Hitchens, the son of a former Catholic nun and a Franciscan brother delivers a deeply irreverent and biblically correct takedown of far-right Christian hatred."

"For more than two centuries, the United States Constitution has given us the right to a society where church and state exist independently. But Christianity has been hijacked by far-right groups and politicians who seek to impose their narrow views on government, often to justify oppressive and unequal policies.

Comedian and broadcaster John Fugelsang finally offers the answers. In this informative, perspective-shifting book, Fugelsang takes readers through common fundamentalist arguments on abortion, immigration, LGBTQ rights, and more—exposing their hypocrisy

and inaccuracy through scripture, common sense, and deeply inappropriate humor. It offers practical tips on how to debate your loved one, coworker, or neighbor on the issues that divide us using that Bible they claim to follow.

But Fugelsang's message is about more than just taking down hypocrites. It's about fighting for the love, mercy, and service that are supposed to make up the heart of Christianity." (Amazon)

**The next Faith in Action Meeting is scheduled for December 4th, a potluck, at the home of Cathy Bajsci.**

## Women's Ministry goes to Gregorios on Mariachi Night.

Everyone loved Mexican Elvis!



## Queen City Jazz Band visits Atonement — what a fabulous service!







**Beautify Our Worship Room at Christmas** by providing poinsettias! You buy them & bring them in to the church; any size you

**want!** Sign up forms are in the Entry Area to specify if they are "in memory of," "in honor of," "in celebration of," or "to the glory of God." We will need to receive the plants by December 21<sup>st</sup>.



*Don't miss our wonderful*

## **Children's Christmas Program**



**December 7th  
at both services!**

## *The Original Dickens Carolers*

will sing on Sunday, December 21,  
between services



Lots of Christmas Fun, Don't miss it!



# **FYI.....**

**There is still time**

**To get your donations in For the 2025 tax year!**

*But... you must have your donation in  
the office by December 30, 2025.*

**Help  
our  
Community**

**Thru  
Dec  
14**

## **The Giving Tree**

**Will soon be in the  
entry area!  
Pick up an ornament or  
two and go shopping!**

**Please return gifts by  
December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**To benefit some of the  
folks from**

*Crista Rey  
Lutheran Church*



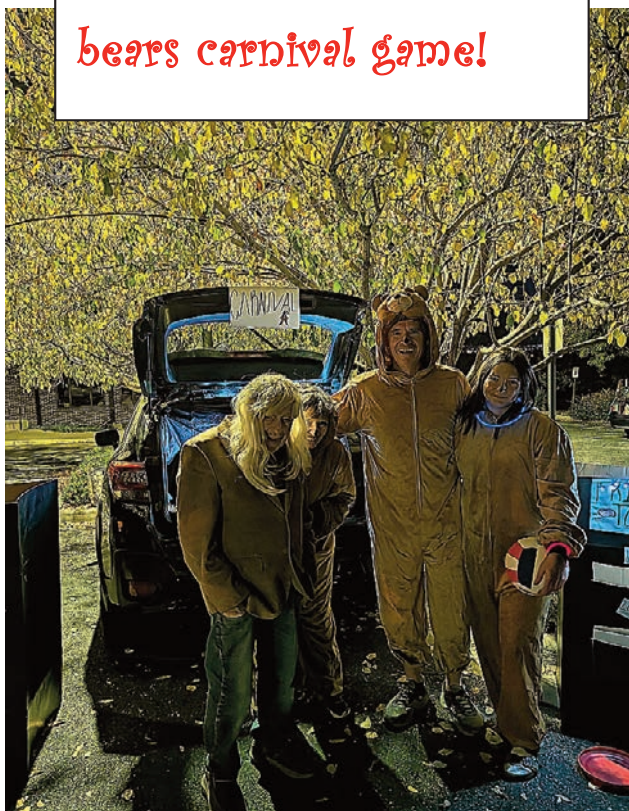
# Trunk or Treat Fun!





# Trunk or Treat Prizewinners!

Second Place- the Ott  
family and their three  
bears carnival game!



First Place- Molly  
and her  
Squishmallows!



Third Place- Bernie and  
Emilio and their  
basketball trunk !

## CHURCH COUNCIL

President  
**Eileen Koppenhaver**

Vice President  
**Tracy Ford** 720-339-8338

Secretary  
**Julie Strasser** 303-988-5504

Treasurer  
**Pam Peschel**  
treasurer@atonementlakewood.org

Financial Secretary  
**Eileen Koppenhaver**  
eileen.kopp@icloud.com

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Member at Large  
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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

**December 2025**

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!

**PLEASE NOTE: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on 12/14- one service only at 10:00. Both ushers and greeters need to be there by 9:45am, please**

Date	Greeters	9:00 AM	10:45 AM
12/7		Mary Campe	Barb and Bernie
12/14	One service 10:00 am	Jeanette Hill	Dean and Lily Reinfort
12/21		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Dean and Lily Reinfort
12/28		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Nate and Laura Blair
	Readers	9:00 AM	10:45 AM
12/7		Jim Ris	Carmen Cohn
12/14		Dan Bock	
12/21		Audrey Brack-Banks	Johann Cohn
12/28		Audrey Brack-Banks	Carol Farr
	Ushers	9:00 AM	10:45 AM
12/7		Mike and Toni Brack	Barb and Bernie
12/14	One Service only 10:00 am	Jeanette Hill	Dean and Lily Reinfort
12/21		Toni and Mike Brack	Dean and Lily Reinfort
12/28		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Nate and Laure Blair
	Coffee Café	(Between services only)	
	set up and clean up		
12/7	Mary Campe		
12/14	Barbara Krug		
12/21	Judi Bauer		
12/28	Barbara Krug		



Atonement  
Lutheran  
Church

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