

# The Spirit

of Atonement

NOVEMBER 2020

## A TINY 'LIGHT' IN THE CORONAVIRUS TUNNEL?

A rise in worship attendance? It's reportedly happening in Great Britain, and there are hints it is happening in other parts of the world, as well.

According to the British evangelical commentator, Adrian Warnock, one in four persons in Britain (as of mid-June) had attended an on-line worship service since the churches had been on lock-down for several weeks. Among young adults, that figure was one in three. He called these figures "astonishing" in a country with one of the lowest attendance patterns in Europe.

Citing a report in *The Guardian*, which is not regarded as a "pro-church" newspaper, he added that "70 percent of church leaders report a rise in church attendance."

Warnock urged that regularly-attending church members encourage their unchurched relatives and friends, by sending them a link to their church's services over social media or text messages.

"Some churches report double the number of virtual attendees than they did back 'in real life.' Except isn't on-line the real world now?" he wrote.

Why this new interest? Warnock offered a few possibilities.

One is that people in need are becoming more aware of community services, such as food banks and counseling, offered by churches. Further, "people who were once complacent about

spiritual matters before are now shaken; economic problems are family problems."

In addition, "many who would never darken the door of a church will attend virtually because there is no embarrassment, and no chance of a Christian handshake or, worse yet for shy people, a hug."

As a result, he wrote, "Many people are experiencing Christian worship, preaching, and some form of fellowship for the first time ever," some of whom may never once stepped inside a church building.

Similarly, a study by Britain's Evangelical Alliance, across a wide range of Christian denominations and covering 700 congregations and 196 faith-based agencies, revealed that "a marked increase in people are exploring our Christian faith," adding that "thousands are engaging with church for the first time as a place of hope."

All of which suggest that this season of adjustments and modifications in our church life may be God's way of presenting us with some new opportunities and new means to reach people whom the church, for whatever reason, may not have been reaching with God's message of hope and healing. If so, how can we make the most of this unique opportunity?

In other words, is this possibly the light we were looking for at the end of an increasingly long, circuitous, and dark Coronavirus tunnel?

- - rem

(Source: *The Covid-19 Awakening*, June 11, 2020, [pathos.com](http://pathos.com))

## Seniors Alive

(subject to change or cancellation)



### Monthly Meetings

Meetings have been postponed until further notice, but when they resume, seniors (age 50 and over) are invited to monthly meetings at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Check News & Notes or the weekly e-mail "blast" to learn about the resumption of gatherings.

### 2020-21 Tours

All tours for the remainder of 2020 have been rescheduled to 2021. Plans are to resume in May, beginning with:

- May 11-13, Branson
- June 16-18, Iowa

For more information on tours, please contact Don Kuethe at (314) 831-8478.

### Service Sunday Blessing—November 8, 10:45 a.m. worship



Don't you find it exciting to hear about all the creating, assembling and community service that happened on Service Sunday and that it is still continuing?

Red Bag lunches were packed, greeting, cards were designed and crafted, and warm winter items were, and continue to be, sewn, knitted and crocheted. All this is done out of love for our neighbor. Thank you for sharing your talents by blessing others with care and warmth this winter.

On November 8 at the 10:45 a.m. service, these items will be laid before the altar to be blessed. They will be sent out into the community to those in need.

If you have finished items at home, please bring them to Atonement by November 8. There is a clear blue bin in the narthex for collection. If you need someone to pick up your items, please contact me at (314) 921-5434 to make arrangements.

-- Jan Koch



### SCHOOL NEWS

We have a lot to be thankful for at Atonement.

Our teachers continue to provide an excellent experience, both to the students who are in the building, and also to those learning virtually at home. To start the year, we had approximately a 50-50 split between "in-building" learners and virtual. As we start the second quarter, we have 67 students in the building and 47 learning from home.

Although Covid-19 has affected a few of our staff, we have been able to mitigate the situation and to move forward safely for the benefit of our students.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I am thankful for you, the congregation of Atonement, which has over the years supported this great ministry. Although the challenges have been great, the joys of teaching, building relationships, and modeling God's love supersede any negatives that come our way.

-Principal Rob Biesendorfer



## From the Parish Nurse IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

Joyce Pingel, L.P.N

Unlike many other health conditions, irritable bowel syndrome is hard to talk about.

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder that affects the large intestine. Signs and symptoms include cramping, abdominal pain, bloating, gas, diarrhea or constipation, or both. IBS is a chronic condition which, if you contract it, you will need to manage long term.

Most people with IBS experience times when the signs and symptoms are worse and times when they improve or even disappear completely. Only a small number of people with IBS have severe signs and symptoms yet the precise cause of IBS is unknown. Some people can control their symptoms by managing their diet, their lifestyle, and/or their stress. More severe symptoms can be treated with medication and counseling. The good news is that IBS doesn't cause changes in bowel tissue or increase your risk of colorectal cancer.

Some signs and symptoms for which to look are weight loss, diarrhea (especially at

night), unexplained vomiting, rectal bleeding, difficult swallowing, and iron deficiency anemia.

You should see a doctor, if you have a persistent changes in bowel habits or other signs or symptoms of IBS. They may also indicate a more serious condition, such as colon cancer.

Always remember to pray to the greatest Healer and to look to the Scriptures.

Psalm 30:2, Jeremiah 30:17, 3 John 1:2

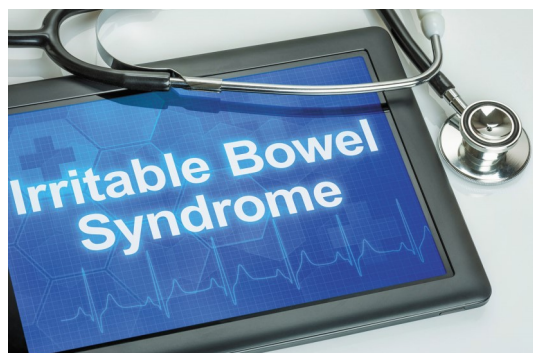
*(portions of this article adapted from Mayo Clinic Staff)*



**Parish Nurse  
Office Hours  
to Resume**

Beginning Monday, Nov. 2, Joyce Pingel will resume church office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the first Monday and third Thursday of every month.

Due to Covid-19 Sunday blood pressure screenings will remain on hold.



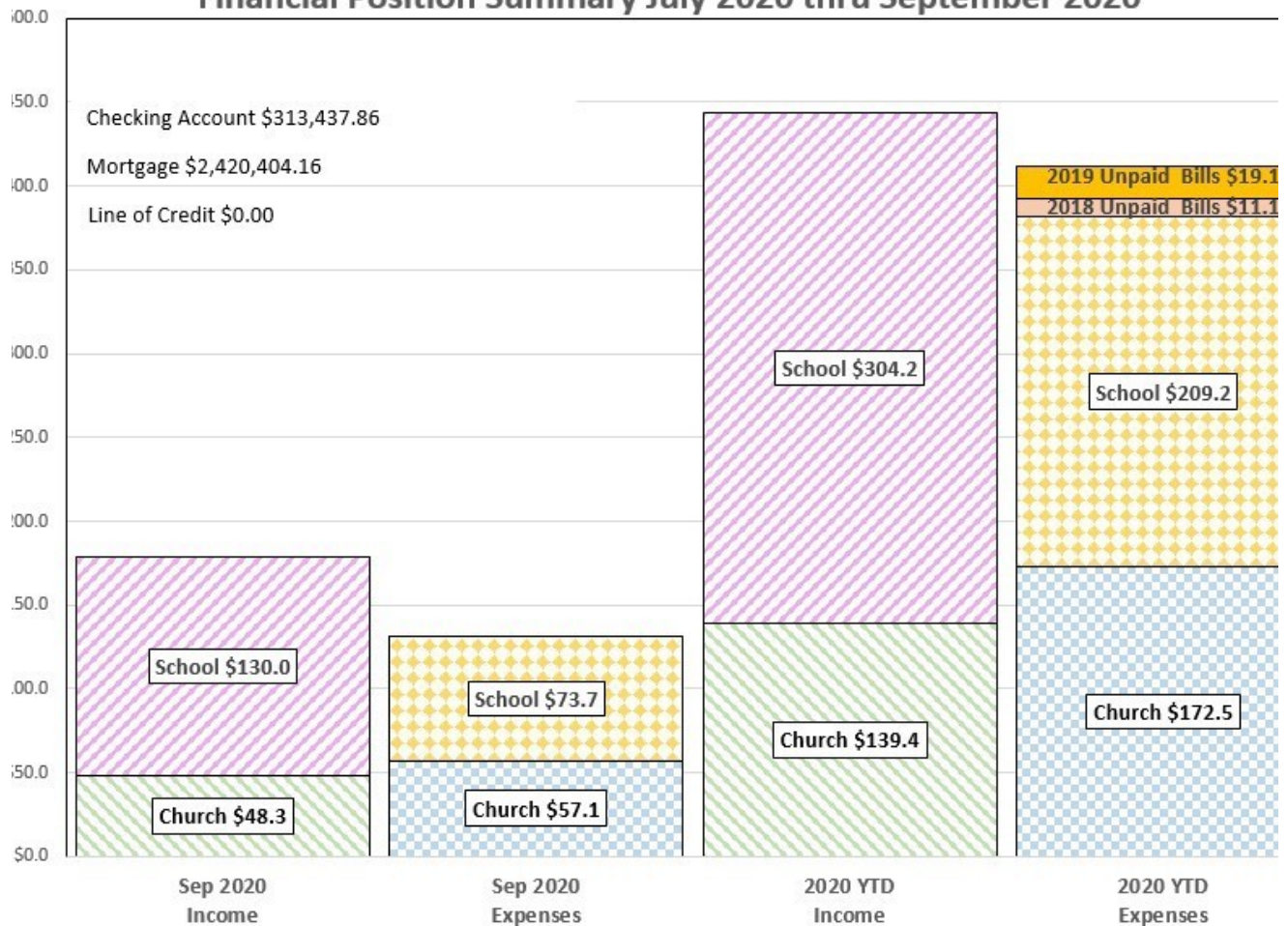
*Lutheran Church of the Atonement  
1285 North New Florissant Road  
Florissant, MO 63031*

## Return Service Requested

*November 2020 Newsletter*

**Deadline for the combined  
Dec./Jan. issue  
12:00 Noon  
Tuesday, Nov. 6**

### Financial Position Summary July 2020 thru September 2020



Notes: 1) The quarterly church support for the school of \$28,125 is included above both as an expense to the church and as income to the school. 2) The “unpaid bills” designation does refer to a handful of unpaid bills, but mostly to our obligation to the Lutheran high schools. 3) The chart does not reflect funds borrowed for on-going ministry expenses from designated funds, such as memorials or Confirmation Camp or from a line of credit at Commercial Bank. 4) A cash balance of roughly \$100,000 is maintained in order to meet current obligations.