

The Spirit

of Atonement

MARCH 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Seniors Alive	2
Lenten Services	2
Parish Nurses - "Poison Prevention"	3
Creation Care	4
Church Calendar	5
- Adult Forum	8
- Ladies Bunco Night	
The Eagles Nest	9
- Youth Pages	10
- Mouse Races	
Mission of the Month	12
- Central States Synod	

St. Paul's Overriding Plea: Unity!

Churches can do untold good for individuals and society; strengthening faith, educating the young, serving the poor, housing the homeless, counseling the troubled —and our public media ignore it all!

But, let there be a rift in the church. It's "front page" news!

So, it was last month, when the two factions in the United Methodist Church announced that they had resolved to go their separate ways, and had found the mechanism for "a peaceful separation."

When Methodists divided in the 1840s, the issue was slavery. This time the issues revolve around gay marriage and the role of homosexuals in the church. Given the depth of conviction on both sides, perhaps this "peaceful separation" is the most God-pleasing option left. But, still, I wonder....

Sometimes Overlooked

Like most Protestant denominations, Methodists — as well as Lutherans — build most of their theology on the writings of St. Paul. Theologians pay close attention to Paul's ideas about justification, sanctification, Baptism, and Communion. Sometimes lost in the debate over those important concerns is Paul's overriding concern for unity,...for unity in the churches he helped found and whose members he loved dearly.

Almost all of Paul's letters incorporate an appeal for unity. So, Paul calls on the church in Ephesus to be "forebearing [of] one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Paul was merely echoing Jesus's own prayer, "that they all will be one."

Awkward Moments

William Willimon, a prominent retired UMC bishop, laments the impending separation: "My heart goes out to pastors and congregations" which will have to choose which group to align with, while cutting ties to the rest. He wonders what happens when a family who affirms traditional marriage shows up at a church which celebrates gay marriage, or vice versa, when a same-sex couple with two sweet children comes to worship at a "Bible-believing" church. Will they be turned away?

For, in truth, where do we find a church where everyone agrees on absolutely everything?

Certainly not here at Atonement! I once served as vacancy pastor of a congregation where one "member" worshipped by himself in his basement "chapel" every Sunday, because he couldn't worship with anyone with whom he disagreed. (His practice of self-Communion was a mockery of the very essence of Holy Communion.)

- -continued on page 7





Monthly Meeting

Seniors (age 50 and over) will gather on Monday, March 23 in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. Don Kuethe will discuss tours. A guest speaker from the Better Business Bureau will talk about scams.

After a brief business meeting, there will be refreshments and fellowship.

Seniors Alive

2020 Seniors Alive Tours

°March 26 - Veterans Memorial. Bus departs at 9:15 a.m. and returns at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$69 per person.

°April 21-23 Branson. The Showboat, Titanic exhibit, Noah, and other shows. Bus departs Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and returns Thursday at 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$650 single or \$550 double.

°May 13, Science Center

°June 17, The Muny. Dine, tour, and see "Chicago." Bus departs at 5:15 p.m. and returns at 11:00 p.m. Cost is \$85 per person.

°July 16, Arrow Rock. Tour the historic town and theater. Bus departs at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$125 per person.

°August 19 - Union Station, Ferris Wheel, Aquarium

°September 16-18, Travel to Iowa. Paddle wheel down through the locks to Quad Cities. Bus departs Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. and returns Friday at 4:45 p.m. Cost is \$525 single/\$475 double.

All tours are all inclusive and include transportation.

For more information and early bird discounts, please contact Don Kuethe at (314) 831-8478.

March 4, Florissant Valley Christian Church
March 11, Church of the Master
March 18, John Knox Presbyterian
March 25, Atonement
April 1, Florissant Valley Christian Church
April 9, Atonement / Maundy Thursday
April 10, John Knox Presbyterian / Good Friday Noon
April 10, Atonement, Good Friday, 7:30 p.m.



Each church (except Holy Week) will have supper at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m. If you can help with supper at Atonement on March 25, please contact Bill Meyerkord at (314) 304-1756.



From the Parish Nurses Poison Prevention

Kris Thompson, R.N.

March is poison prevention month. Each year the poison control center receives millions of calls. The majority of the calls are due to someone coming in contact with a dangerous or potentially dangerous substance. Prevention is the key to avoid poisoning. Know the poison help line, 1-800-222-1222

In the Home

Poison prevention is not just what's under the kitchen sink, although 90 percent of human exposure to poisons happen in the home. Safe storage habits include storing items up and out of the way of children, keeping them locked in cabinets, and keeping items in their original containers. Potentially poisonous items might include: all medicines whether prescription or over the counter, vitamins or supplements, tobacco and e-cigarettes, alcohol, laundry and cleaning supplies, pesticides, insect repellents, button batteries, any type of oil or lubricant such as fragrance oils or engine oil, personal care products and other chemicals.

Food Safety

The CDC estimates that each year 48 million people get sick from food poisoning or food-borne illness. Infectious organisms or toxins can contaminate food at any point of the processing or production. Some simple tips for food safety include

Prepare: Keep raw meat, eggs and poultry separate from other foods in grocery bags, on the counter, and during preparation

Cook: Use a food thermometer to check if the meat is fully cooked and has reached the internal temperature to kill harmful bacteria. Once cooked, keep hot food hot and cold food cold.

Store: Refrigerate leftovers within two hours to reduce the risk of bacteria growth. Consume or freeze with 3 to 4 days.

Medication

Medication is another category to prevent poison control. Whether it is safe to use, to store or to dispose of, it is important to follow safety guidelines.

Use: Follow the directions on the bottle or from your doctor and never share your prescription medication with someone else.

Store: Keep all medication out of reach of children.

Dispose: The best way to dispose of unused or expired medications is to drop them off at a collection site. The Florissant Police Department has a bin in their lobby.

There are many other poisonous threats from carbon monoxide to snake bites, fluoride toothpaste to household plants.

Hazardous items could be a poison threat to children, adults, seniors and even your pets. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Follow safe poison control habits and memorize the Poison Control help line, 1-800-222-1222.

For more information visit www.poisonhelp.org.



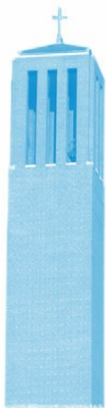
Spring Blood Drive

Spring is on the way and so are short sleeves shirts. So no need to roll up your sleeves! You will be ready to donate blood.

The parish nurses are hosting a spring blood drive with Mis-

issippi Valley Regional Blood Center. The blood drive will take place on Thursday, May 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please come and donate blood to help keep an adequate blood supply for patients in the St. Louis area.





Lutheran Church of the Atonement
1285 N. New Florissant
(314) 837-1224 church
(34) 837-1252 school
E-mail: church.office@alcs-web.com

See us on
www.alcs-web.com



ACC - TIPS

“When your fridge (or AC) shuffles off its mortal coils, dispose of it properly. Research shows tht one of the key solutions to climate change is managing refrigerants, which accelerate the warming of the atmosphere. To find your closest refrigerant-reclaiming facility, check the EPA’s list.”

From *The Oprah Magazine*, “Love the Planet”, April 2019, Vol. 20, No. 4, P. 99

Electronic Recycling Event in Florissant

Good News: We can take advantage of the electronics recycling event to be held in Florissant on Saturday, April 4 so we can keep our e-waste from ending up in the landfill. Midwest Recycling Center (MWC) hosts e-waste events around the St. Louis region, and they are teaming up with Florissant at St. Ferdinand Park on April 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is a \$10 fee for dropping off Freon containing ap-

Atonement Creation Care

pliances (fridges, AC units, dehumidifiers, etc.). Fees apply for televisions containing cathode ray tube glass (CRT). This fee covers MRS’s cost to dispose properly of these elements harmful to the environment.

Even Better News: All other electronic devices are free to recycle: desktop PCs, laptops, CD players, turntables, projectors, VCRs, crock pots, coffee makers, treadmills, lawnmowers,...and more than 100 others items in between. To view information about the event, including acceptable items and fees visit

<https://mrcrecycling.net/electronics-recycling-events/florissant-mo-2019-04-04>



You’re invited...
Creation Care for Congregations -
Collaboration, Commitment and Action

Saturday, March 28

9:00-10:00 a.m.
Worship and group introductions

Pastor Noni Strand, Chair of Central States Synod (ELCA) Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table

10:00-11:30 Introduction to Project Drawdown Facilitator

Josh Thede, Researchers have identified substantive solutions to address global warming. We learn about Drawdown and identify ways we can act on the research findings.

11:30-12:30 Drawdown Conversations

12:30-1:30 Lunch

Cost is \$15 per person, includes lunch

You may register online at

www.css-elca.org/lrcevents

Bethel Lutheran
7001 Forsyth, 63105
(314) 863-3112











2020



Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Florissant, Missouri

Pastor Richard E. Mueller, Pastor Daniel J. Johnson,
and Pastor Vern T. Skarstad

Mission of the Month
Central States Synod

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday in Lent <u>Worship</u> 8:15 am HC 10:45 am HC 5:00 pm HC Youth Group 6:00 pm	2 Parish Nurse Office Hours 10:00 am - 12:00 noon Worship at the Bridge 1:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm 	3 Schoharis Book Fair 8:00 am March is 	4 Schoharis Book Fair 8:00 am <u>Worship</u> 8:45 am Children's Choir 3:30 pm Public School Confirmation 4:45 pm Evening Prayer at FVC 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm Lutheran Schools Week	5 April Newsletter Deadline - Noon Schoharis Book Fair 8:00 am Bible and Breakfast 9:30 am	6 No Walking Exercise or Tai Chi Schoharis Book Fair 8:00 am VIP Day 8:00 am School Early Dismissal 11:30 am	7 Scrapbooking 9:00 am New Member Class 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am <u>Worship - HC</u> 5:30 pm
8 Second Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins <u>Worship</u> 8:15 am HC 10:45 am HC 5:00 pm HC The Bridge Fair Trade Sale 8:00 am Bridge Club 12:15 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm	9 Room at the Inn Worship at The Bridge 1:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm School Board Meeting 7:00 pm	10 Room at the Inn Voting in Fellowship Hall 6:00 am - 7:00 pm APTO Meeting 7:00 pm	11 <u>Worship</u> 8:45 am Workshop at De lahar Gardens 10:00 am Children's Choir 3:30 pm All-Atonement Confirmation 4:45 pm Evening Prayer at Church of The Master 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm	12 Bible and Breakfast 9:30 am	13 	14 <u>Worship - HC</u> 5:30 pm
15 Third Sunday in Lent <u>Worship</u> 8:15 am HC 10:45 am HC 5:00 pm HC Phoenix Club 12:00 noon Youth Group 6:00 pm	16 Worship at The Bridge 1:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Congregation Council 7:00 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 No Public School Confirmation Evening Prayer at John Knox Presbyterian Church 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm	19 Bible and Breakfast 9:30 am	20 First Day of Spring 	21 Men's Bible Study 9:30 am <u>Worship - HC</u> 5:30 pm
22 Fourth Sunday in Lent Blood Pressure Screenings <u>Worship</u> 8:15 am HC 10:45 am HC 5:00 pm HC Youth Group 6:00 pm	23 Worship at The Bridge 1:30 pm Seniors Alive 1:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm	24 	25 Worship 8:45 am Workshop at Bert Wood 2:30 pm Children's Choir 3:30 pm Public School Confirmation 4:45 pm Evening Prayer at Atonement 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm	26 Seniors Alive - Branson 9:15 am Bible and Breakfast 9:30 am Workshop at St. Sophia 2:45 pm	27 	28 <u>Worship - HC</u> 5:30 pm
29 Fifth Sunday in Lent <u>Worship</u> 8:15 am HC 10:45 am HC 5:00 pm HC Brown Bag Lunches 9:30 am Youth Group 6:00 pm	30 Worship at The Bridge 1:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm	31 	Sunday Education Schedule at 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum Adult Sunday School (every Sunday) Sunday School (2nd and 4th Sunday)	Walking Program Monday-Wednesday-Friday 8:15 - 9:00 a.m. Adult Exercise Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Tai Chi Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Wednesday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Friday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	

Spring Break - No School/Child Care

OFFICIAL ACTS AND RECORDS - January

Baptism: Evangeline Grace Boyd, daughter of Kyle and Shannon (Thompson) Boyd, and granddaughter of Rusty and Kristen Thompson

Released by Death: Ellen Friedman, Harold Moore, Alyce Pawelko

Please remember in prayer our chronically-ill and homebound members and those in nursing homes:

Ruth Hassebrock	Delores Hyland	Teri Branhof	Lorraine Fischer	Alberta Scott	John Oak
Theresa Tarwater	Estelle Stremmel	Lon Hackmeister	Violet Noles	Helen Simpson	Kay Gray
Ruth Jungkuntz	Lucille Thies	Cheryl Tucker	Millie Monroe	Jacki Bickel	Jean Beck
Muriel Patton	Emma Balven	June Wisdom	Vera Butler	Elaine Hueter	Lela Bradtke
	Rena Birge				

ATTENDANCE

January	4-5	11-12	18-19	25-26
Church Attendance	212	150	223	186
Holy Communion	186	134	99	164

Atonement Book Club

Are you a book lover? Do you enjoy sharing your thoughts and ideas about the books you read? Are you looking for new books to read? Do you have strong opinions about hardcover or paperback, Kindle or Nook? If so, then Atonement Book Club is for you. We meet once a month at a member's home to discuss the selected book for that month. The books we read are selected and voted on by our members. We also enjoy snacks and dessert.



We will meet Sunday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at the home of Jane Meyer-kord 1352 Eagles Way Ct., Hazelwood, 63042. Her phone number is (314) 731-2658. We will be discussing *The Benefits of Being An Octopus*, by Ann Braden.

Ann Braden's debut teen novel is told through the eyes of seventh grade Zoey. Zoey thinks how much easier it would be if she were an octopus with eight arms to do eight things at once, with camouflage ability, with unblinking vision, and with powerful protective defenses. Through her reality we see a compassionate look at poverty, hard choices, and defending one's right to be treated humanely.

Join us for this lively discussion. Please let the hostess know, if you will be attending.

St. Paul's Overriding Concern: The Unity of God's Church

... continued from page 1

Rather, is it not the very nature of a Christian congregation (and churchbody) that we come together with our varied insights and predispositions and values and histories in order to encourage each other and to grow together in faith? To which Paul would quickly add, "...and in love."

What Bishop Willimon writes of Methodism is true of all of us: "We are stewards of a church we did not create and beneficiaries of a centuries-old institution that none of us earned or deserved." The church is not ours to tear apart, certainly not by a narrow majority vote in a "winner-take-all" setting.

Further, the good bishop notes, "...it's of the nature of Jesus Christ to save people with whom I disagree, many of whom are unhappy that Christ saved and called me. I'm grateful for their obedience to Paul's command to put up with me in love."

Even as Jesus was criticized for calling all the wrong people, we also know that Jesus still changes everyone he touches, and continues to change us in ways no majority vote can stop.

Our own churchbody dealt with many of these same issues of sexuality a decade ago and charted a different course than the one the UMC will likely follow. We resolved to respect each other's opinions on these issues—and to strive to continue to work together. History may tell us which was the wiser course of action. But, we can do worse than to heed Paul's guidance to "forbear one another...in love"—even if that never garners headlines.

---rem

(Bishop Willimon's comments appear in the February issue of Circuit Rider.)

... "forbear one another...in love"



Easter Lilies

Help beautify the sanctuary while honoring or memorializing your loved ones by purchasing an Easter lily. Place your order in the box in the narthex. The cost is \$9.50 per flower and the deadline is 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 30. Sorry, all requests must be pre-paid.



The Bridge Fair Trade Market and Faith Community will be visiting Atonement on March 7 and 8. The Bridge, a mission of the Central States Synod, is a fair trade market, coffee house, and faith community located in New Town St. Charles. The mission statement of The Bridge is to "bridge the gap between God and everyday life by spreading God's love in an unexpected place." The Bridge will be displaying Fair Trade items for sale between services on March 7 and 8.



Cathy Hohl will continue with her series on influential world religions, always lending to lively conversation! Watch News & Notes or the Atonement weekly e-mail for new topics.

Adult Forum meets in Fellowship Hall (cafeteria) during the 9:30 a.m. education hour. Please join us for the program, fellowship, doughnuts and coffee!

At the same hour, Brenda Blight and friends continue their series on *"One Thousand Gifts,"* meeting in the Multi-Useless Room.



Save the Date—Friday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. This fun ladies fellowship night will be held in Atonement's Family Room, sponsored by AWE, the Atonement Women's organization.



Two upcoming events will benefit the FMSC food pack at Atonement in July.

Saturday, March 21 - Trivia Night, Zion Lutheran Church, 123 Carson Rd., Ferguson.

6:00 p.m. doors open / 7:00 p.m. trivia starts

Tables of 8 available for \$200, includes free snacks and soda. Call Pastor B.J. Arnold at (314) 518-1505 to reserve your table.

Dueling Pianos ...a FUNdraiser unlike any other

Saturday, April 25, 6:00 p.m. doors open / 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Dueling Pianos

- by Spanky Entertainment Dueling Pianos

This fun event will be held in Atonement's Kretzmann Hall (gym).

Dueling pianos is a high-energy, often hilarious, competition between two talented musicians, playing everything from Rock to Rachmaninoff, from Ragtime to Reggae.

Tickets are \$25 per person and you may register at EventBrite. For general questions, please contact Rick Brown at (314) 249-3418.



The Eagle's Nest

News from Atonement School, Principal Rob Biesendorfer (Mr. B.)

20/20 Catch the Vision - Fix Your Eyes on Jesus!

The year is flying by! We've had snow days, professional development days, party days, and regular days. Throughout the journey of the school year, we continue to focus on the quality Christian education we provide for our students. The positive school climate continues to grow as we work together as a team for a common purpose.

Our Board of Education has set the tuition for the upcoming year with a few things in mind. The balance between making our school ministry affordable to all who would like to attend, and providing the best teachers and materials for success. With that being said, tuition for the upcoming year will increase slightly, yet many of the former "add-on" fees are included in the tuition. We currently have over 20 new families that have swung by for tours for the 2020-21 school year.

Our 3-year old preschool program will now consist of five full days. We are excited as we already have two children enrolled. If you know of Christian early childhood educator, please let Mr. Biesendorfer know at rbiesendorfer@alcs-web.com.

Atonement was well represented at the Lutheran North High School academic fair, bringing home a large amount of ribbons in both the art and music divisions. Our teams placed:

First Place—senior math competition

First Place—fifth and sixth grade spelling competition

Third Place—Bible Facts competition

Dear members of The Lutheran Church of the Atonement,

Thank you so much for your continued support. Our school is a fantastic ministry to the community. We all have a lot to be thankful for.



The academic fair was held at Lutheran North the last weekend of January, ...

Pictured are the Third Place winners in the Bible Facts contest (L to R) Layla Gammage, Daniel Holt, Grant Gillespie, Elizabeth Binder, Abi Mandrell.

See page 11 for more photos/

Youth Page

"Atonement's Youth Ministry exists to be, do, know, experience, share, and grow in Christ, here and in the world." You do not need to be a member to join the fun!

Facebook: YOUTH of Atonement

Check out the new youth page on the website for more information and for all our forms.

<https://www.alcs-web.com/youth>

Sunday Nights are still happening.

Every Sunday the youth group gathers for a time of faith, fun and fellowship. With the start of #501 Worship the youth now meet at 6:00 p.m. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us and are encouraged to participate in the new worship service.

Mission Trip 2020

The youth are getting ready! Eleven youth and three adults are working hard to be ready for the mission trip to Beckley, West Virginia. They will spend the week sleeping on a church floor and cooking their own food. The group will be divided up and go into the community to be God's hands and feet and to learn about the world outside of their comfort zone. We will be working with our partners at YouthWorks! We will get to know the people of Beckley, and they will get to know our kids.

You can support the kids by sponsoring a participant for \$25. Your donation helps us to not host car washes, etc. Your name will go onto the back of our shirt, so you "will be with us" on our trip. Watch for more information at a later time.



Mouse Races March 7

And, They're Off....

Mouse races return to Atonement on Saturday, March 7, in Atonement's Kretzmann Hall gym.

Sponsored jointly by the men's clubs of Atonement and Grace Chapel Lutheran, the evening benefits the Boy Scout troops from the two churches.

The first race is at 7:00 p.m. The evening also includes 50/50 drawings, raffles, and auctions with soda and beer provided.

The cost is \$20 per person. For more information, contact Kelley Lloyd at skzlloyd@hotmail.com or see the flyer on the bulletin board.

Around Atonement ...



(left) Atonement Lutheran Church has re-instituted Sunday School for the younger ones on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

(middle row) Atonement Lutheran Church offers exercises classes led by Parish Nurse Kris Thompson. The class wanted to donate canned goods and non-perishables to a local food pantry. Items were packed up and taken to TEAM for distribution.

(below left) Lutheran North Academic Fair Senior Math First Place winners, (L to R) Reghan White, Ella Friedline, Elizabeth Binder, Lizzy Laffold,

(below right) 5th & 6th Grade Spelling competition First Place winners Pierre Person, Chloe Albers



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

Return Service Requested

March 2019 Newsletter

***Deadline for the April issue
12:00 Noon
Wednesday, March 4***

Mission of the Month - Central States Synod Synod Assembly Worship Comes to Atonement, June 4

Sometimes, Atonement's "missions of the month" come to Atonement. Lutheran High School North brings its choir or band to lead worship. Pastor John Schmidtke of Bethlehem offers a chapel service for our school. Eric and Linda Funke return from Tanzania to share stories of God's work in Dodoma.

And, this year the Central States Synod is holding its annual Assembly (convention) in St. Louis and has asked Atonement to host the Thursday, June 4, and to provide a from as far away as western Kansas. As details become known, volunteers and the Men's Club supper.

*"from as far away
as western Kansas"*

opening worship service on supper for delegates, as they arrive Atonement is honored to be asked. will be needed for both the worship

The assembly, meeting at the Synod's work of support to parishes, and retreat centers, health ministries, and pastoral placement. Through the Synod, churches like Atonement support our national Lutheran body in ministries such as seminaries and colleges, support to overseas partner churches, women's and ethnic ministries, world hunger and development, and mission congregations. And, for one evening, the Synod comes to Atonement.

Renaissance Hotel, will consider the candidacy, campus ministry, camps

To help Atonement honor our partnership with the Synod, write "Synod" on the "other" line of your weekly envelope—or send your gift to the church office.