



*LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT*

1285 North New Florissant Road, Florissant, Missouri 63031

Church: (314) 837-1224 School/Child Care: (314) 837-1252

[www.alcs-web.com](http://www.alcs-web.com)

*Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024*

*8:15 a.m.*

*10:45 a.m.*

*Welcome to Worship at Atonement*

- ***We are delighted to have you worship at Atonement today. Wherever you are on your journey of faith and life, we extend to you a warm welcome. May the Holy Spirit richly bless your worship.***
- We invite you to fill out the attendance form in the bulletin and hand it to the ushers when coming forward for Holy Communion. If you are a guest with us this morning, please leave some contact information so we can get in touch with you about how to connect with what's going on in this faith community.
- Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing-impaired and those with hearing aids are available. Large print worship folders are also available. Please ask an usher prior to the service.
- We welcome to the Lord's Table all Baptized Christians who commune in their home parish and who wish to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Those with questions about the meaning of Holy Communion or who wish a private confession and absolution should contact a pastor during the week prior to communing.
- Both individual cups and the chalice (common cup) are now offered to communicants. The chalice is available only for intinction (dipping the host into the wine). The darker wine in the center of the tray is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the pastor. Those desiring a blessing may fold their arms across their chests.
- The congregation responds with those portions in **bold** print.
- Please turn off all cell phones and pagers and refrain from flash photography.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Children will be dismissed during the 8:15 a.m. service.

**CONFIRMATION:** Multipurpose Room, 9:30 with Pastor Delaney, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

**ADULT FORUM:** Small Chapel, 9:30 a.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSONS:**

**Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*  
*December 15, 2024, 3rd<sup>d</sup> Sunday of Advent*

**PRELUDE:** *Partita on "People Look East"* - Joseph Bertolozzi

+++ **GATHERING** +++  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The assembly stands.*

**ADVENT VERSE: ELW 257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 7**

7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
fulfilling the promise,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.  
We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.  
We plead: come to us.  
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 248 “People Look East”**

### **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

L We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
strengthen our hearts

as we await the Lord's coming in glory.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may serve our neighbors in need.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**C Amen**

*The congregation sings together as three candles are lit.*

**ELW 240 verse 3 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”**

+ + + **WORD** + + +

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

R Word of God, Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM (10:45) *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* – Michael Larkin**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R Word of God, Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The children are invited to join Pastor Delaney at the front of the sanctuary.*

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 519 “*Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*” verse 1 only**

# Open Your Ears, O Faithful People



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.  
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.  
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

## *Refrain*



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version  
Music: YISRAEL VORAITA, Hasidic tune  
Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
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## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Delaney Schlake-Kruse*

*The assembly stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 249 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again;**



he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.***

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet each other with a sign of peace and may say “Peace be with you” or similar words. Then the assembly is seated.*

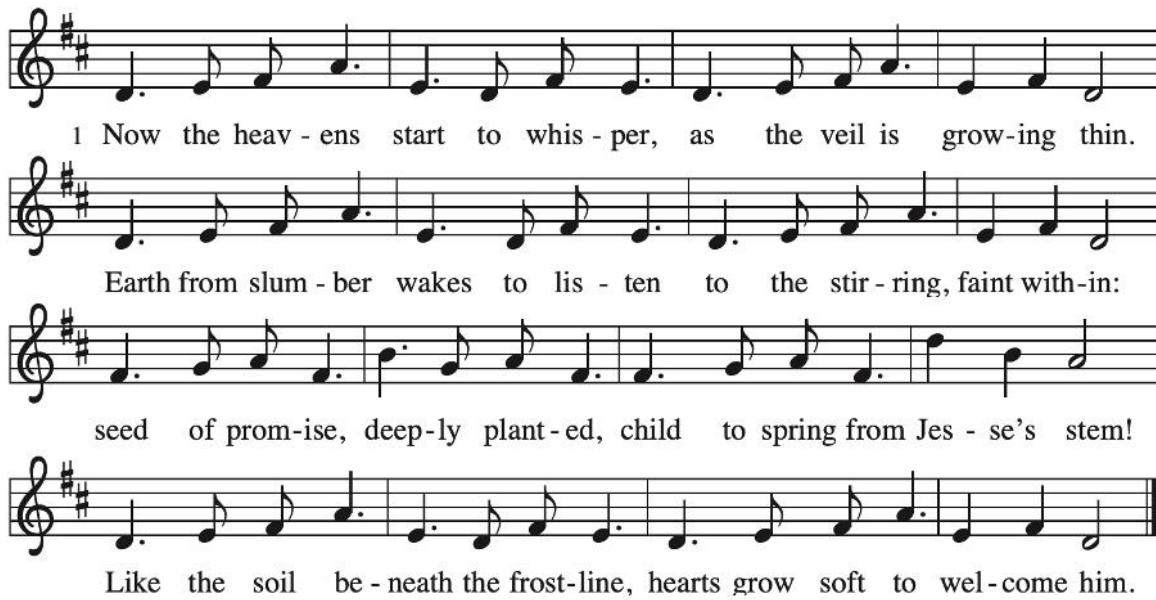
**+++ MEAL +++**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*The gifts of our tithes and offerings are presented and the altar is prepared for the Lord’s Supper.*

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

**OFFERTORY: ACS 901 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” (see next page)**



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
 Music: SŪO GĀN, Welsh melody  
 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

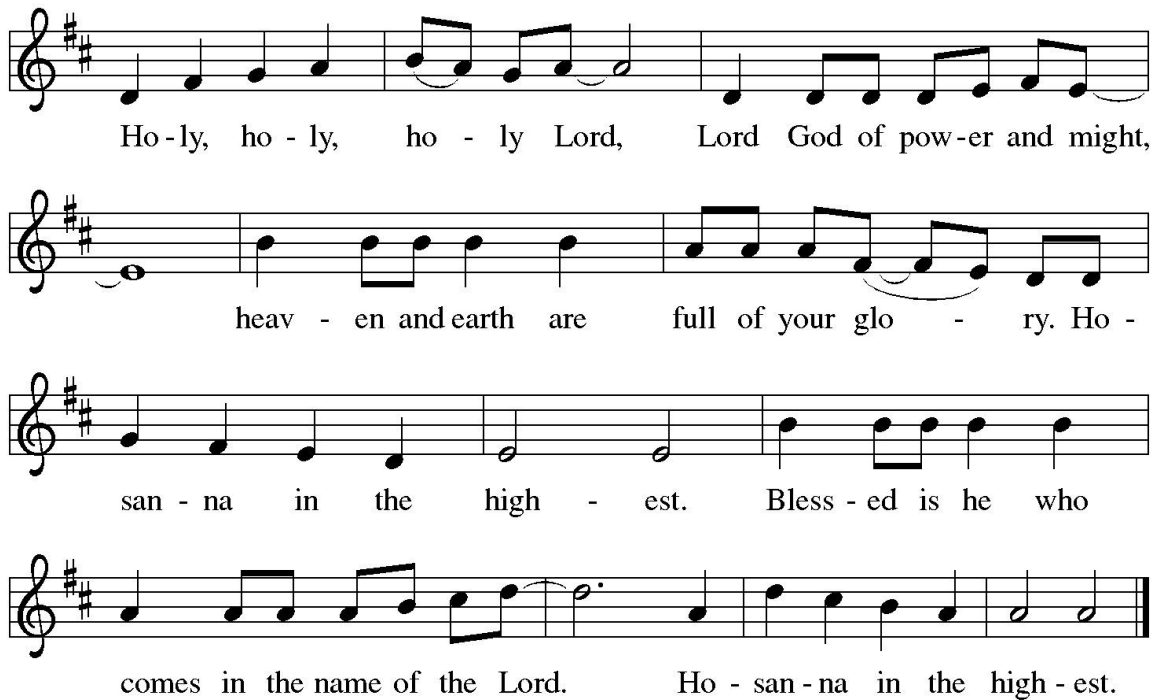
## PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW Setting 6 page 173**



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Breath of peace,  
Giver of all life,  
Source of love that knows no boundaries.

You bring our longings to birth,  
and send prophets to awaken us  
to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,  
have the strength and courage  
to give birth to your love in the world;  
for those who, like the shepherds,  
dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;  
for those who, like the wise ones,  
actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us  
in womb and tomb,

in cradle and cross,  
in tenderness and compassion.  
We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

**O come, Emmanuel.**

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,  
we proclaim your saving love in Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God feeds us with tender mercy.

**C Come to the table.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*The ushers invite the assembly forward, where they receive bread and either wine or grape juice. If you need to receive communion in your pew, please let the usher(s) know.*

### **“Lamb of God” ELW Setting 6 page 174**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

**ELW 246 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”**

**ELW 239 vs 1,3,4 “Hark! The Glad Sound”**

*The assembly stands.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C Amen.**

+++ **SENDING** +++

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

**BLESSING**

P God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: ELW 264** *“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Now the Green Blade Rises* - Michael McCabe

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Eucharistic Prayer from Alydia Smith, United Church of Christ in Canada; was inspired by  
“Blessed are you, gracious God...” by William Kervin and Lillian Perigoe in *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 276. Used with permission.

*Please stick around for coffee, donuts, fellowship, and prayer practices in the family room!  
All are welcome.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher.....*Pastor Delaney Schlake-Kruse*  
Assisting Ministers.....*(8:15) Jennifer Negwer, Brenda Blight;*  
*(10:45) Cathy Hohl, Ruth Blundell*  
Bell Choir Director.....*Sharon Carter Eichenberger*  
Organist.....*Cindy Vantine*  
Choir Director.....*Dr. Bruce Vantine*  
Altar Guild.....*Jack & Bonnie David, Verina Ruiz, Ruby Phelps*  
Greeters.....*(8:15) Claire & Rick Brown;*  
*(10:45) Barb Wishon*  
Counters .....*Jocelyn & Patrick Walker*  
Ushers.....*(8:15) Ron Behrens, Jeff Moravec;*  
*(10:45) Dave Johnson, Marge Purgahn, John Yetter*  
Trustees.....*(8:15) Tom Blight; (10:45) Dave Johnson*  
Advent Family.....*(8:15) Blight Family (10:45) Cathy Hohl*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Hospitalized or Ill:** Ann Behrens, Brenda Blight, Faith Brooks, Ginny Groves, Shirl Henke, Darlene Johnosn, Maxine Pabst, Carol Peachee, Roger Riemann, June Schmidt, Barb Wishon

**Our Loved Ones/Friends:** Kathy Amido (sister-in-law of Kris Thompson), Kathleen Boyd, Becky Cole (sister of Dave Cole), Susan Hall (friend of Joyce Pingel), Ian Hawkins (son of Faith Brooks), Joyce Johnson (sister of Patrick Walker), Myra Jordan (friend of Ginny Groves), Kelly Keel (daughter of Larry & Joyce Hanebrink), Rachel Moore (niece of Rachel Moore), Gail Mueller (sister-in-law of Barb Stoneburner), Abby Pruitt-Pimentel (friend of Emma & Evan White and Jeanine Dalton), Martha Sanford (relative of Greg & Paula Viehman), Trevor Thwing (grandson of Jeanette Thwing), Dennis Whittington (Dad of Mary Beth Sandcork)

**Our chronically-ill and homebound loved ones and friends:** Jean Beck, Jacki Bickel, Teri Branhof, Gus and Thelma Carlson, Carol Hegger, Nancy Marxkors, John Meyer, Vivian Meyer, Jim Temps, Cheryl Tucker

*Please notify the church office if you would like your prayers to remain, otherwise they will be removed after two weeks.*

*Flowers on the altar are in honor of the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Joyce & Patrick Walker and in honor of the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Vickie & Nelson Minter.*

**\*\*Copies of Taking Faith Home are available at the usher stand or on the table in the narthex.**

## OUR CONGREGATION

Atonement is a family of professing Christians who are in ministry to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been in ministry since September 30, 1951. Atonement School has begun its 69th academic year with the mission statement "Teaching children of God the skills needed for a lifetime of learning, worshipping, and caring, so that the world see Jesus in them."

## OUR AFFILIATIONS

We are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and support local ministries including Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Humanitri, Lutheran High Schools, LuMin Campus Ministry, PAKT, and The Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM).

## OUR TEAM

Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse  
Senior Pastor (414) 292-6164  
SeniorPastor@alcs-web.com

Bruce and Cindy Vantine  
Ministers of Music

Jim Baumgartner, Worship, Too!  
jimstrat@aol.com, (314) 488-6903

Sharon Carter  
Bell Choir Director

Cathy Mifflin  
Parish Administrator, (314) 837-1224  
cathy.mifflin@alcs-web.com

Becca Gardner  
Principal, (314) 837-1252

Angie Kemper  
School Secretary, (314) 837-1252  
Child Care (314) 837-1252

Parish Nurses: Joyce Pingel, L.P.N., (314) 740-2137  
Cathie Lehr, R.N., (314) 809-4477

## OUR CALENDAR

*This Sunday, 3rd<sup>d</sup> Sunday in Advent*

8:15 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

Sunday School

9:25 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Confirmation with Pastor Delaney in MP

10:45 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

Monday, Dec. 16

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec. 17

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday, Dec. 18

8:45 a.m. Chapel All Welcome!

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service

Thursday, Dec. 19

9:30 p.m. Bible and Breakfast

7:00 p.m. Atonement School Christmas Program

Friday, Dec. 20

Church Office Closed On Fridays

No School, Closed for Christmas Vacation

Saturday, Dec. 21

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Simply use the QR code on the bottom. It will take you directly to Atonement's giving through Tithe.ly. This can be a one-time option, or you can set up a recurring transaction.

