

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

In 1961, Atonement Lutheran Church, 1980 Silver Lake Road, New Brighton, Minnesota, was one of 19 similar mission churches bearing the identical name to be established in each of the 19 districts of the American Lutheran Church. These churches were built to commemorate the merger of three branches of the Lutheran Church into one national body in 1961. This selected name--Atonement Lutheran Church-- means the church of God's reconciliation, "to be at one" with God.

The first governing body of Atonement was the ALC mission. They called and appointed a pastor, Reverend Herman P. Senft of Dubuque, Iowa, to gather a congregation for this new church. Pastor Senft did this by making telephone calls, visiting nearby homes, sending out flyers, and spreading news of the new church by word of mouth.

The first meeting of the Atonement congregation took place on September 10, 1961 at Sunnyside Elementary School, about a mile from the construction site of the church. There were fifty-one people in attendance at this service, and they gave an offering totaling \$37.80.

The cornerstone for the building at Atonement's present location was laid on October 22, 1961, and the first service to be held in the church structure was a Christmas program presented on December 17, 1961. After many hours of volunteer labor and an approximate cost of \$100,000.00, the new facility was dedicated on May 20, 1962, with 49 confirmed and 100 baptized members. Early Atonement leaders included the first church board composed of Henry Boyer, Allan Johnson, Ken Hoogakker, Luretta Anderson, John Fahning, Chas. Winans and Larry Brovald, as well as trustees V. Keikhafer, James Lund and Arthur Pedersen. Pastor Senft remained with the congregation one and a half years, serving as the church secretary, maintenance worker, and custodian in addition to his duties as pastor!

In the years that have followed, Atonement has been home to hundreds of members, giving them religious education and inspiration, joy-filled music, support and love. What follows on these pages are highlights in the congregational life of Atonement Lutheran Church.

1961

- ✠ September 10 - First worship service held at 10:30 AM at Sunnyside Elementary School
- ✠ October 22 - Special observance to lay the cornerstone for a new building
- ✠ December 17 -First service in the new building; a Christmas program with 107 people in attendance

1962

- ✠ May 20 - Dedication of new building, with Dr. E.C. Reinertson presiding (Reinertson was president of the southeast district of the ALC)
- ✠ First vacation church school; 54 attended
- ✠ October - First wedding: Judy Ratfield-Warren Johnson
- ✠ A kidnap party was held by church women
- ✠ For 6 straight Sundays attendance was over 100
- ✠ Rev. Senft left Atonement on December 31st to accept a call in Stillwater, Minnesota

1963

- † John Fahning, a second year student at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and the first member of the congregation, led the parish until a new pastor arrived
- † February - Rev. Charles H. Akre, youth pastor at Grace Lutheran of Watertown, SD, began serving as pastor of Atonement. He conducted his first service on Ash Wednesday. He was installed later that month by Dr. E.C. Reinertson.
- † April - The first circle meeting was held (believed to be Rebecca Circle)
- † May - The congregation voted to buy the property from the American Lutheran Church (church building and parsonage) at a cost of \$97,500.00
- † June - The first Mother/Daughter Tea was held
- † November - The women of the church began sewing gowns for the Carol Choir

1964

- † April 5 - The Cherub Choir presented a concert at Anoka Rest Home
- † May - 110 people were served at a Mother/Daughter banquet
- † October 4 - The choirs presented "The Story of Jesus in Song"
- † November - The teens participated in a suburban church roller-skating party
- † November 15 - Pastor S. Kishii, a Japanese teacher at LBI in Japan was a guest for Mission Sunday

1965

- † January - Atonement members, including Gladys Boyer, were engaged in teacher training under the Bethel Bible Study program
- † Easter Sunday - 335 people attended this worship service

1966

- † February 16 - Atonement held a Sweetheart Dinner at Captain(?) at a cost of \$5/couple
- † October 6 - Members sang in a Cantata, with Una Solheim serving as director

1967

- † Mrs. Lu Anderson began the third Bethel series of Bible study

1968

- † From a desire to become a self-sufficient congregation, Atonement began a campaign called "Make the Break in '68"; they assumed a loan and sold bonds

1972

- † Loretta Follingstad was hired as a part-time secretary; the women of the church asked for more pledges to pay her salary

1973

- † January 4 - King's Kids Preschool (now nationally accredited) began as an outreach to the children in our community; Carol Pesola was Director and Dorri Olson was Assistant Director
- † March 28 - The congregation voted to build a new addition
- † May 23 - Groundbreaking ceremony for a new two-story addition (today's education wing)
- † November 12 - The parking lot was black-topped
- † November 28 - 190 people attended a stewardship dinner in the still uncompleted addition. There was no water or stove hook-up, but there were counter-tops!

1974

- † January 6 - A smorgasbord dedication dinner was held in the new addition, which included a kitchen, nursery, choir room and storage area, in addition to classrooms
- † August 1 - John Peshek began his year of internship
- † Thought to be the first year of ALCW-sponsored Boutique (even bigger and better today!)

1975

- † February 27 - Pastor Akre submitted his letter of resignation; he accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Riverview, Michigan
- † April 1 - John Peshek, a second year student from Luther Seminary, was licensed by District President J. Elmo Agrimson to serve as Atonement's interim pastor
- † April 6 - Open house farewell for the Akres; over 200 attended the meal and nearly 300 were at the open house
- † April 6 - The congregation decided to sell the parsonage
- † June 2 - The congregation voted to issue a call to Rev. John L. (Jack) Drier, who was the youth minister at University of Hope Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- † September 7 - Pastor Drier's first Sunday at Atonement after accepting the call
- † September 14 - Pastor Drier's installation at both services followed by a fish fry at 6:00 PM (fish were caught, filleted and prepared by Lu and Dale Anderson)

1976

- † March 5 - Atonement hosted a World Day of Prayer Service. Due to heavy snows, many schools were closed and many prayer services were cancelled; Atonement, however, had a full church; the King's Kids afternoon class sang.

1977

- † February - Share and Care meetings were held at Pastor Drier's home; participants committed to pray for each other daily
- † June 5 - Atonement charter member, Pastor John Fahning, preached at Atonement
- † June 19 - Carl and Ida Nelson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary...the first couple from Atonement to do so!
- † October - With assistance from James Dehn of Hope Lutheran and Truman Jackson, Atonement began youth group activities
- † December - After a year of strengthened faith and pride in their church, many Atonement couples accompanied Pastor Drier to Heritage to sing for and with the residents

1978

- † Members were pleased with their stewardship efforts, and met their budget!
- † July - Pastor took the youth on a backpacking trip to Montana; other than an injured leg by Terri Moe, the experience was wonderful!
- † November 4 - The Boutique was again well-received, with \$1,000 profit!

1979

- † May 6 - The congregation voted to hire Linda Schumacher as a part-time pastor; she will soon be ordained and then begin serving our congregation
- † September 9 - Lorna Schultz coordinated a program to introduce the congregation to the new green hymnal
- † September 16 - The annual fish fry was held in conjunction with Boyer Recognition Day; Henry and Gladys Boyer were presented with an engraved hymnal at the 8:45 AM worship service, and were given a pewter hurricane lamp at a special program that evening. They were honored as wonderful Christians at Atonement and in the community!

1980

- † March 19 - Stewardship Day; 42 quilts were made and 120 pounds of soap were collected for Lutheran World Relief and 3 lap robes were made for Anoka State Hospital
- † December 14 - Linda and Loren Schumacher were ordained together at Atonement which may have been a first in the history of the American Lutheran Church; John Olson made a set of chalices as our gift to them; they will be serving together at Christ Lutheran Church in Salem, Wisconsin

1981

- † June 28 - Parting reception for Pastor Drier; congregation presented him with a monogrammed briefcase as a going away gift

1982

- † February 7 - Pastor Laurin Vance formally installed as pastor of Atonement; celebration followed the installation
- † June 13 - Atonement's 20th Anniversary celebration; Pastors Akre, Drier, and Vance participated in the worship service, followed by a special program in the afternoon
- † July 6 - After playing eight games, the men's softball team finally won a game!
- † August 10-14 - High school youth attended gathering in San Antonio, Texas...wonderful experience for them!

1983

- † January 16 - Atonement member, Fred Tessmer, was ordained at Atonement; he will serve at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Holiday, North Dakota
- † Long Range Facilities Renovation Project began this year

1984

- † March 13 - Quilt Day; 16 quilts, 5 kiddie kits, and 12 lap robes were completed
- † April 8 - Caring Community Dinner and Bible study, Paul Eide, speaker; 7th grade time and talent fair between services

1985

- † April 14 - Celebration of Bach's 300th birthday with special worship service of his music
- † August - Youth attended National Youth Gathering in Denver; Pastor Vance did much preparation work in Denver for the communications system used at the gathering
- † November 17 - Joint choirs of Atonement, Chapel Hills, and St. Luke Lutheran from St. Paul performed Baptist cantata at each other's churches

1986

- † April 25-27 - Confirmation retreat at Minneola Lutheran Church in Wanamingo, MN, with pulpit exchange
- † August 24 - Special congregational meeting to approve sale of southern most acre of land to Haarstad, and to elect a call committee

1987

- † August 1 - Rev. Gary E. Johnson installed as pastor at Atonement; the day was called "Genesis"
- † 193 baptized members and one Sunday morning service
- † Share and Care helped Social Concerns plan a spaghetti dinner benefit for Brian Krebsbach; 475 persons served; tickets and raffles netted approximately \$4500; \$2000 in matching funds from AAL and approximately \$3000 from Lutheran Brotherhood (exact date/year unknown)
- † Pat and Wayne Haselhorst developed successful curriculum for "The Lounge" (10th-12th grades) (exact date/year unknown)

1988

- † Completion of hallway, narthex, and entrance of Atonement
- † Formation of SONbeam and SONshine singers; Joan Johnson, Director

1989-1990

- † August - Began serving communion two Sundays/month
- † The following changes occurred in the late '80's and early '90's, but exact dates/years are unknown: church office computerized; developed "Around Atonement" newsletter; Long Range Planning Committee re-established; all-member survey conducted; Liturgical Design & Fund Appeal consultants engaged; Lector Program implemented; second Sunday morning worship service begun; developed Chapel service format; twice monthly children's sermons implemented; mid-week Lenten services re-developed with Dr. Mark Hilmer; Vacation Bible School re-established; Adult Forum group developed; Cross Club established for 4th and 5th graders; and Intern Pastor program started.

1991

- † Groundbreaking for new sanctuary; Capital Fund Appeal theme had been "Lighting the Crossroads"

1992

- † June 14 -30th Anniversary service in conjunction with dedication of new sanctuary (facility changes also included narthex, nursery/library, offices and bathrooms)

1993

- † Jan Kimble thanked for her service as Atonement's office manager; Betsy Carlson hired as part-time secretary and Nancy Jahnke promoted to office manager
- † May 16 - Pastor Johnson's last Sunday at Atonement; Joan Johnson's last performance as director of SONbeam and SONshine Singers
- † August 19 - Suzanne Strudwick spoke on "Going for the Flag; Living the Christian Life on the LPGA"; sponsored by Men's Fellowship group
- † September - Pastor Priscilla Ojala began serving as interim pastor at Atonement

1994

- † January 5 - Julie Boll welcomed as new director of SONshine Singers
- † March 31 - Joint choirs of Atonement and Christ Lutheran Church of St. Paul perform John Rutter's *Requiem* at the Maundy Thursday service at Atonement
- † May 14 - Pastors Tim and Kisten Thompson ordained at Atonement
- † May 22 - Farewell tribute to Pastor Ojala
- † June 1 - Pastors Tim & Kisten Thompson begin co-pastoral positions at Atonement
- † June 8 - Stephanie Maynor, a British golfer on the LPGA Tour, spoke about her Christian faith and life as a professional golfer; sponsored by Men's Fellowship
- † July 31 - 35th Anniversary of Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center
- † September 11 - Rally Sunday with "It takes a village to raise a child" theme; Fellowship Hall set up as a village with food, activities, and family resources
- † November 5 - 20th Annual Holiday Boutique
- † November 6 - New chancel furnishings and new altar paraments (made by Donna Carlson) were dedicated
- † New hardcover Bibles purchased for pews

1995

- † March 11-12 - First annual men's retreat at Interlachen Lodge on Lake LeHomme Dieu near Alexandria, MN; 14 attendees (still going strong today!)
- † Confirmation program re-designed; now called **Wednesday Night Workshop (WNW)**
- † May 6 - Doll show/tea party at Atonement
- † Parking lot light installed (from WELCA Boutique funds)
- † October 8 - John Kunik performs the Gospel of Mark
- † November 19 - Celebration of completion of landscaping plans
- † December 10 - Dedication of *With One Voice* hymnal supplement

1996

- † March - Copier and high-speed duplicator purchased for church office
- † Easter Sunday - Sanctuary pew chairs used for the first time
- † May - New computer and software installed in church office
- † May 18 - 7th & 8th graders went on a "sound and light" scavenger hunt
- † June - Sanctuary carpeting installed
- † September 15 - First service with Lay Assisting Minister (LAM)
- † October 10 - WELCA talent show

1997

- † January - Atonement gets an email address!
- † New baptismal font installed in the narthex
- † Atonement prays for its partner congregation in the upper midwest flood area, Family of God Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, MN
- † July-August - A family lived for one month in the lower level of Atonement after their home burned down
- † September 25 - "Jesus and Friends" presented by Living Stones Puppets; sponsored by WELCA
- † September 28 - Narthex wall art panels, by Duluth fabric artist Jeanette Paulson, dedicated with baptismal theme
- † September - Inactive member ministry began meeting
- † October 1- Life & Missions Committee became Outreach & Congregational Life Committee
- † October 19 - Consecration Sunday; catered celebration luncheon
- † Atonement Foundation for planned giving is activated
- † Atonement chosen as field education site for 2 students (Chad Christensen and Mona Gausman) at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN

1998

- † February 22 - Celebrate Atonement! event hosted by Pastors Tim & Kisten Thompson
- † May 13 - Ellen Huelsnitz retired after 18 years as King's Kids director; Cindy Hanson became new director
- † October 4 - "Growing in the Light" capital fund appeal began; hymn "Walk in the Light" composed by Cathy Soldner especially for our congregation!

1999

- † May - Council restructuring began on a 1-year trial basis
- † Many in the congregation reading and discussing The Purpose Driven Church by Rick Warren
- † Began Wednesday night outdoor summer worship service
- † July 18 - Welcome reception for members of Faith Community Church who began renting space at Atonement for their worship services and Sunday School
- † Lorna Schultz retired as Senior Choir Director after 29 years of service!
- † August - Kay Johnson hired as Director of Music Ministry at Atonement
- † October - Contemporary worship service began twice/month at second service

2000

- † January - Began offering communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays/month at both services
- † January 18 - Alpha (introduction to Christian faith) began at Atonement with 10 lay leaders; more courses followed
- † Through their offerings and donations, Atonement's Sunday School children raised \$150 to purchase a llama through Heifer Project International
- † February - MaryAnn Nelson, Una Solheim, Willie Moe, and Lynn Miller were thanked for their years of dedicated service playing organ/piano/keyboard at Atonement; Cheryl Broostin hired as choir/worship accompaniast
- † April 9 - Youth musical "Kids Telling Kids" with over 20 participants; Kay Johnson directed, Cathy Soldner accompanied, and Bob & Lorna Schultz videotaped
- † May - Flooring removed from Fellowship Hall
- † September - At a special congregational meeting, bids were accepted for the kitchen/choir room addition
- † October 8 - Groundbreaking for new kitchen addition after 2nd service; Dick Larson (Capital Improvement Steering Committee Chair), Bev Johnson (charter member of the congregation), and Anne Olson (new member of the congregation) were chosen to begin the groundbreaking
- † December 17 - First intergenerational Christmas program "The Big, Big Story"

2001

- † Council initiated the Vision Discernment Process
- † Pilot Light leadership training began, to foster small group ministry
- † Abuse Prevention Policy and Facilities Usage Policy implemented at Atonement
- † Fellowship Team, led by Nita Nelson and Christi McGeorge, began its ministry
- † July - New pictorial directory of members
- † May 6 - Youth musical "Good Kings Come in Small Packages; Kay Johnson, director
- † June 2- Y.E.S.S.(Your Excellent Super Summer Saturdays) began meeting for fun and fellowship for 6th-12th graders; live band kick-off!
- † June 3 - Kick-off to year-long celebration of Atonement's 40th Anniversary; dedication of new kitchen addition
- † Senior choir CD "With a Voice of Singing" and Contemporary Worship Team CD "The Air We Breathe"
- † Atonement's first appearance in New Brighton's "Stockyard Day's"; great float!
- † 14 Lay Assisting Ministers (LAMs) were commissioned
- † August 15 - New 6'1" ebony Weber grand piano delivered and paid for!
- † September - Service and Ministry Team (SAM) was formed
- † December 16 - "Signs of Christmas" created and directed by Cathy Soldner
- † December 31 - Atonement has 375 baptized members, 282 confirmed members, and 11 associate members

2002

- † Small group ministry vision continues to grow
- † After identifying our Core Values, congregation begins examining our Bedrock Beliefs; the process of discerning our Vision and our Mission will begin soon!
- † Chris Miller is our Luther Seminary contextual education student
- † February - Lasagna dinner/musical fundraiser raised over \$1400 for music ministry projects
- † April 12 - Confirmation class travels to Luther Park to learn about world hunger
- † April 19-21 - Pastor Janna Kontz presented "The Parables of Jesus" at the Women's Retreat at Luther Crest Retreat Center on Lake Carlos near Alexandria, MN; 30th annual women's retreat for Atonement women!
- † April 19-21 - Greg Hanson and Betsy Carlson accompanied Pastors Tim & Kisten Thompson to the St. Paul Area Synod Assembly; new Bishop the Rev. Peter Rogness elected to six-year term
- † Shannon Coogle designed/built Atonement website; Pete Fabian created the graphic design for the front page (LightTheCrossroads.org)
- † April -May -Lower Level Education Wing Update Project underway!
- † May 18 - Spring Fling Clean-up/Fix-up Day!
- † June 2 - Culmination of Atonement's 40th Anniversary year...congregational dinner and informal program follow a service of special music; 11th anniversary of the groundbreaking for our sanctuary addition
- † September – video projector is installed
- † Oct. 12 – “40 Days of Purpose” satellite simulcast (with Rick Warren)
- † Nov. 2 – Holidale Boutique earns over \$6000.00!
- † December 15 – intergenerational program “Christmas Snapshots” performed; written and directed by Cathy Soldner

2003

- † Atonement Lutheran joins ISALAH (a faith-based action group)
- † Francis and May Tsui returned as contextual ed students; they had been with us in 1999
- † Feb. 23 – Pre-K-6th graders performed “Veggie Tales & Songs” musical
- † Two exterior wall signs/electronic reader board were installed, as was Power Point software
- † May 31 – Kay Johnson retired as Director of Music Ministry; a celebration lunch in her honor was held on May 18th
- † July 19-26 – Youth mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota
- † Oct. 12 – Cheryl Broostin installed as choir director
- † Nov. 16 – 30th annual Holidale Boutique earns over \$8000.00!
- † Dec. 8 – caramel rolls/coffee delivered to riders at bus stops along Silver Lake Road
- † Dec. 14 – youth musical “Catch the Christmas Spirit”

2004

- † Nancy Jahnke is honored for her 15 years on staff at Atonement
- † Jan. – Mission and Vision statements affirmed
- † Feb. 4-11 – prayer labyrinth at Atonement
- † May 1 – Atonement joined CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Program)
- † Atonement had two worship services; traditional with senior choir director Cheryl Broostin and contemporary with contemporary worship team director Cathy Soldner
- † The narthex, offices, and nursery were painted and re-carpeted
- † June 4 – Pastor Kisten was installed as Dean of the North Central Conference at the St. Paul Area Synod Assembly
- † June 6 – Celebration of Pastors Tim & Kisten Thompson's 10-year anniversary of their ordination and call to ministry at Atonement
- † July 31 – gave away root beer floats in the Cub Foods parking lot
- † November – new headset microphones for pastors and LAMs
- † Nov. 6 – Holidale Boutique earns over \$8500.00
- † Nov. 13 – delivered 46 loaves of bread with "The Lord's Prayer" label; delivered batteries to over 1500 households in the area
- † Dec. 12 – "Checkin' it Twice" children's Christmas program

2005

- † January – Karen Larson honored for her five years as Treasurer; Cheryl Lee replaced Karen
- † Sanctuary was painted; flooring/windows replaced in upper education wing
- † Feb. 17 – farewell reception for Pastor Kisten Thompson, who resigned earlier
- † March 28 – Ordination of Nathan Feig at Atonement
- † Sunday School has 40 students in Pre-K-8th grade; King's Kids Preschool has 38 students enrolled
- † April 14 – St. Paul Area Synod Ministerium held at Atonement
- † June 5 – farewell reception for Cheryl Broostin who resigned earlier
- † July 31-Aug. 5 – Atonement and Faith Community Church (FCC) youth went on a joint mission trip to a Navajo Reservation in Window Rock, Arizona
- † Sept. – farewell reception for Cathy Soldner who resigned earlier
- † Sept. 16-17 - Atonement and FCC co-hosted a multicultural celebration
- † Oct. – Melinda Hoelscher hired as Director of Worship
- † Oct. 30 – St. Paul Area Synod Bishop Peter Rogness preached the sermon at Atonement
- † Nov. – Dwight Williams hired as senior choir director
- † Nov. – Patrick MacKenzie began using our kitchen for his catering company
- † Nov. 5 – Holidale Boutique earns about \$8000.00
- † Dec. 31 – Atonement has 350 baptized members; 275 confirmed members; 7 associate members

2006

- † Lenten doorhangers were distributed in nearby neighborhoods
- † Good Friday – senior choir cantata “For Such A One As This”
- † Atonement went to one service at 10:00 AM; began celebrating communion every Sunday
- † May 21 – Sunday School classes performed a musical “Assignment Life” written by Cathy Soldner
- † May 28 – Melinda Hoelscher’s last Sunday; she resigned earlier in the month
- † July – Dwight Williams became Director of Music Ministry
- † Pastor Tim Thompson resigned at the end of the summer; a farewell reception was held in his honor
- † Sept. – Diane Lightbody was hired as our accompanist
- † Sept. 10 – Interim Pastor Rebecca Thurman began at Atonement
- † Nov. 4 – Holidale Boutique raised over \$6000.00
- † Dec. 17 – Senior choir cantata “Everlasting Lord”
- † Cheryl Lee resigned as Treasurer, effective December 31

2007

- † Feb. 25 – Appreciation reception for Cheryl Lee for her work as Treasurer
- † April – Royce King became our new Treasurer; he had previously held this position for 15 years!
- † May 6 – Dedication of new hymnal worship books (Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship)
- † July 8-Aug. 5 – Pastor Keith Lentz served as interim pastor while Pastor Thurman was away
- † Oct. 21 – Farewell reception for Pastor Rebecca Thurman
- † Nov. 11 – Installation of Pastor Tom Jenkins as Atonement’s new pastor
- † Nov. 21 – First Thanksgiving Eve community dinner; 50 people served
- † Dec. 16 – Senior choir cantata “A Glorious Christmas” and Sunday School program “The Very Important Christmas Pageant”

2008

- † March 3 – new men’s fellowship and Bible study began with co-leaders Pastor Jack Drier and Jim Drier, PhD
- † Sunday School has 30 students in Pre-K-8th grades; King’s Kids Preschool has 39 children enrolled
- † March 23 – Easter musical drama “He’s Alive”
- † June 1 – Senior choir cantata with Cross of Glory church “God With Us”; followed by dual congregation picnic
- † June 4-Aug. 20 – members of Atonement’s congregation led midweek worship services on Wednesday evenings
- † Oct. – Joel Gueningsman (wife Rachel) became our contextual education student
- † November – Community Thanksgiving meal; 50 Atonians and 35 guests attended
- † Dec. 14 – Sunday School Christmas program “No Room”
- † Dec. 21 – Senior choir Christmas cantata “Mary, Did You Know?”
- † Pictures were taken for a new pictorial directory

2009

- † May 2 – Youth fundraiser/variety show
- † May 17 – Hymn sing with Faith Community Church (FCC)
- † Pete Fabian begins developing new church website (www.atonementlutheran-nb.org)
- † September – Marilyn Nelson retires from Education committee/Sunday School teacher after many years of service!
- † Oct. 11 – Ron Evens presented a training session on the use of the church's new AED device at Adult Forum (the defibrillator was donated by Tim & Alicia Blank)
- † Nov, 22 – 120 people attended the Consecration Sunday dinner catered by Pat MacKenzie
- † Nov. 26 – Community Thanksgiving dinner; 113 people served
- † Dec. 13 – Children's Christmas program "The Flower of the Holy Night"
- † Dec. 20 – Senior choir Christmas cantata "I Hear the Prophet Callin"

2010

- † April 4 – 168 in attendance at Easter service
- † May 22 – Youth fundraiser/variety show and dinner
- † Sound panels were installed on the back wall of the sanctuary
- † July – Pat MacKenzie's catering business ceased operating out of our kitchen, due to Pat's ill health
- † Sept. – 7 Atonement members helped build a Habitat for Humanity house
- † Sept. 19 – Youth musical "Under God's Sea in 3D"
- † Nov. 6 – Holiday Boutique earns over \$8400.00!
- † Nov. 14 – Community Thanksgiving dinner; 84 diners (24 were non-members)
- † Dec. 12 – Children's Christmas program "Christmas in a Box"

2011

- † Palm Sunday – Breakfast served by confirmation students and their parents...continuing a long-standing tradition
- † April 8-10 – Women's Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN; the women of the church have been attending a spring retreat for many years
- † May 13-15 – Men's Retreat at Shores of St. Andrew's Bible Camp in New London, MN; the men have also been attending retreats together since 1995
- † May 21 – Spring talent show/dinner; youth made \$600 in profits
- † May 22 – Farewell reception for Worship Director Dwight Williams
- † Aug. 23 – Royce King joined other Lutherans in singing the National Anthem at the Twins game!
- † As of August 31, we have 243 baptized members, 189 confirmed/voting members, and 7 associate members. Our average Sunday morning attendance is 100.
- † We are thrilled that Atonement Lutheran Church charter members Bev Johnson and Jack & Willie Moe still worship with us! Ed & Una Solheim joined in 1962 and also remain active at Atonement!
- † Sept. 11 – Rally Sunday/congregational meeting
- † Sept. 11 – First service for new Minister of Music Shannon Brockshus

- ✠ Sept. 17-18 – Celebration of Atonement’s 50th anniversary (pig roast, ice cream social, program, car show, and dance scheduled for Saturday; 10 AM worship and reception on Sunday)
- ✠ Nov. 5 – Holidale Boutique

From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.-John 1: 16

The historical highlights presented above only briefly touch upon the many activities at Atonement. We are blessed with an amazing staff, active committees, inspired small groups, talented singers and musicians, strong educational programs, countless volunteers, a visionary Council, and a wonderful pastor. Our community outreach includes King's Kids Preschool, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, Meals on Wheels, layettes and quilts to Lutheran World Relief, birthday cakes for Anoka Regional Treatment Center, our fall Boutique, Tanzania Seminary project, ministering in local Seniors buildings, joint worship services with area churches, Luther Seminary contextual education students, food shelf donations to Ramsey and Anoka Counties, membership in CEAP, St. Philips Disaster Relief Team, community dinners, Sewing Angels, Bundles of Love, Social Concerns Network, membership in Isaiah, Habitat for Humanity, Project Linus, Alexandra House, Feed My Starving Children, Personal Care Kits, donations of coats and school supplies, Prayer Shawl Ministry, NW Youth & Family Services, Heifer Project, and in countless other ways! We nurture each other and our faith through Prayer Ministers, men’s and women’s retreats, and our prayer chain. We learn together through two book clubs, Adult Forum, Men’s breakfast & Bible Study, Mary’s Circle, Elizabeth’s Circle, and Naddy’s Men’s Fellowship. We love to sing...in Senior Choir, Contemporary Worship Team, and the men’s and women’s gospel ensembles. We have fun together playing Hand ‘n Foot, on game day, attending Twins games, playing softball (Go Saints!), on Faith ‘n Fun Nights, during coffee fellowship, scrapbooking, on hayrides, canoe trips, and ski trips, and at family camp. Since there are other ways in which we serve that aren’t even mentioned here, it is obvious that Atonement Lutheran Church is a vibrant, active community of believers. We are excited to be celebrating 50 years of joyful worship and service. It is as Pastor Tom says a time to “honor our past and celebrate our future.” We will continue to be led by God, filled with the Holy Spirit, and inspired by our Savior Jesus Christ. The skylight in the narthex and the cupola atop the sanctuary are constant reminders of God's light shining in us and through us into the world. With praise and thanksgiving, we will continue to "Light the Crossroads" in service to our Lord.

...for I can do anything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.-Philippians 4:13

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you.

We are thankful for wonderful spiritual leadership from the following blessed pastors:

1961-1962 Herman Senft
1962-1963 John Fahning (interim acting pastor)
1963-1975 Charles Akre
1975 John Peshek (interim acting pastor)
1975-1981 Jack Drier
1979-1980 Linda Schumacher (part-time pastor)
1982-1987 Laurin Vance
1987-1993 Gary Johnson
1993-1994 Priscilla Ojala (interim pastor)
1994-2005 Tim and Kisten Thompson (co-pastors)
2005-2006 Tim Thompson
2006-2007 Rebecca Thurman (interim pastor)
2007-present Tom Jenkins

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- ✠ Information was also taken from a document entitled "The History of Atonement Lutheran Church" (no author listed)
- ✠ The forward (entitled "Atonement History") in the Atonement cookbook *Our Favorite Recipes* provided valuable historical information
- ✠ Past Atonement newsletters, congregational meeting minutes, Council minutes, and bulletin inserts were helpful in supplying important historical dates

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