

# Atonement Council Minutes for April 23, 2026 at 7:00pm

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## Council Attendees (10/11)

Matt Badding	<del>Lyn Bowers</del>	Angie Brickson
Genevieve Brown	Cathy Dykman-Acinger	Tim McCandless
Greg Moffitt	Jeremy Otto (zoom)	Neil Pfeiffer
Dave Stelzer (zoom)	Laura Trentadue	

## Other Attendees

Pastor Zac Sturm, Pastor Jordan Stone, Toni Pearson, Nathan Choate (zoom), Pat Bjuland (zoom), Sean Willison

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## Opening Devotions – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

- Reading from Gather Magazine (March/April/May 2026), article: “Finished” by Julia Seymour, pastor at Big Timber Lutheran Church in Big Timber, Montana.

## Friendly Fellowship – Pastor Zac

- Everyone was invited to share a story or memory about their high school graduation.

## President’s Direction – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

- So many wonderful things happening at Atonement, and so many great people really digging in and doing great ministry. Thank you so much, and great work. Please continue to let your light shine.

## Monthly Ministry Highlight – Pastor Jordan

- Separately, Pastor Jordan just finished attending the 2026 “Lead(Her): Empowering Female Clergy”, a three-day conference held at Church of the Resurrection.
- Speakers included Grace Ji-Sun Kim, author of “When God Became White” (2024) and “Earthbound” (2025); Danielle Strickland, who spoke about hope; and Beth Allison Barr, author of “The Making of Biblical Womanhood” (2021), presented the topic of women in biblical history, including the recent tradition in the 20<sup>th</sup> century when women started being erased from prior church history.

Caring Ministries: Stephen Ministry, Bread of Life, Homebound, Hospice, Prayervine, Parish Nurses, Funeral Planning, and Caring Ministry Events

- Stephen Ministry & Bread of Life has 20 volunteers, with 14 volunteers actively serving one or more members. They meet as a group every 3 months.

- Homebound Members are hard to track using our current management software Breeze (Planning Center mentioned as doing this better), the list must be manually managed, and it is easy to miss someone when their personal situation or health changes. Currently there are about 40 homebound individuals Pastor Jordan is aware of.
- There are currently 21 members who receive Communion visits, and 2 who are on Hospice.
- The Prayervine currently has 180 recipients it is emailed out to. It used to be sent on a schedule but has worked well to just send them immediately as new requests come in, and Pastor Jordan sends out the requests as they are written or following the instructions the member provides.
- Parish Nursing Team is 3 members: Dina DeVries, Lyn Bowers, and Bette Croes, who meet with Pastor Jordan on the first Tuesday of every month and they go through the names on the Prayer List in the yellow sheet bulletin insert. Dina calls each member on the list to see how things are going, what has changed, if the congregational members need anything, etc.
- Related to Nurses: a special note to be mindful of who are health professionals in the congregation and asking for help when time arises, working with ushers to be prepared to help any aging members who may need assistance at any time during church related events or during service.
- Upcoming Caring Ministry Events:
  - » Gather of Hope and Healing: All Saints Weekend
  - » Till Morning Light: an all-night prayer vigil that takes place on evening of the winter solstice (December 21), praying throughout the night on the longest night of the year. Last time we called about 200, we can hope for calling 600 on the member roster.
  - » Stephen Ministry meetings: June 2, September 1, December 1
- Funeral Planning – pre-death funeral planning is a ministry that was done previously by Cherri Jestmore and Pastor Jordan continues, for anyone who wants to discuss their plans and ideas for their funeral, the service, and details they would like to communicate – the information gets captured and saved on the church’s shared file drive so it persists beyond specific staff or pastors.

## March Minutes

- **MOTION #1:** (Greg Moffitt moves, Angie Brickson seconds)  
*Motion to approve the council meeting minutes from March 26, 2026, without correction.*
  - 9 voting members present: **all verbal Ayes, no Nays, Motion Carries**

## Ministry Reports

- Read through each Staff Report’s *“Requested Support from Council”*, items of note:
  - » We lost power to the building right as Sunday evening concert was about to begin and discovered an issue with the fire alarm system. SEi was able to reprogram it at no cost.
  - » Special callout of thank you to Don Foss, Floyd Larson, Steve Hofer, Bill Tidd, Bill’s son, and everyone who helped remove the lower-level old floor tile.
  - » Appreciation for Nathan’s report and all the items he continues to dedicate himself toward.
  - » Appreciation for the balance and tension between long-range planning and immediate needs.

- » Reminder to sign up to attend the Family Picnic night on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- » Trivia Night raised over \$4,360 going towards youth camp funds (a good bump over last year).

## Pastor Report – Pastor Zac

- Had good feedback to the format for Holy Week, the dialectic theme/style of sermon series, and collaborating with Salem, each midweek service had great attendance at both locations by both congregations.
- Easter Sunday had over 1000 people attend; sanctuary was well designed and decorated.
- Capital Campaign is off and running, next week is the vision gatherings, asking for pledges and commitments. Next up will be the commitment cards leading up to May 17 as the final push.
- The Salem + Atonement planning group met this past Monday and started getting details and people coordinated for summer services starting May 31, with an adult education session May 17:
  - » 9:30am will be a Traditional Service hosted by Atonement Lutheran Church
  - » 11:00am will be a Contemporary Service hosted by Salem Lutheran Church

## Treasurer’s Report – Mike Daley & Tim McCandless

### March 2026

#### Topline & Giving

- March ended \$6,300 worse than budget, with a surplus of \$4,400 (planned surplus of \$10,700)
- General Fund giving was \$2,000 better than budget, but included \$7,900 of Lenten Giving, so adjusted was \$6,000 worse.
- Dedicated giving to Campus Sustainment was \$2,700
- March notes:
  - The adjusted transfer to Campus Sustainment for March was again \$5,000 (\$7,500 less, \$15K less YTD) to better manage cash flow for 2026.
  - The MIF loan application process is now complete, a new GL account is open with Mission Investment Fund, and \$1.5 million construction loan able to be drawn on when needed.

#### Balance Sheet

- Cash balances for March ended:
  - \$158,000 in unrestricted cash (prior month: \$109,000)
  - \$435,000 in restricted cash (prior month: \$310,000)
  - \$594,000 total (prior month: \$419,000)
  - \$25K free cash balance: *Unrestricted Cash of \$158K includes advanced giving of \$133K.*
- Advanced giving balance is \$133,000 (prior month: \$87,000)
- Next Level Generosity balance is \$105,000 (prior month: \$2,000)
- Campus Sustainment is at \$230,000 (prior month: \$222,000)

## Budget

- Expenses were \$2,000 better than budget with the following line-item variances noted:
  - Better: Communication \$1,000 ⇒ due to timing
  - Better: Payroll \$400 ⇒ due to lower hourly pay
  - Better: Property & Utilities \$500 ⇒ worse repairs and gas cost, offset by better snow removal costs and no HVAC repairs
  - Better: Stewardship \$6,000 ⇒ due to timing of Horizons invoices
  - Worse: Food Services \$1,000 ⇒ due to fellowship and kitchen costs
  - Better: Worship \$1,000
  - Worse: YFam \$5,000 (KFam \$3000 & YFam \$2000) ⇒ due to timing of VBS and Summer Trips
  - Worse: All other categories \$800
- Year-to-date general expenses are \$24,000 better budget.
- Year-to-date general fund giving is \$38,000 worse than budget.
- Year-to-date deficit actual is -\$57,500 (year-to-date deficit plan was -\$42,600).
- Year-to-date total variance is \$14,900 worse than budget.

## Mission Investment Fund Loan Update – Tim McCandless

- The loan process is now complete. We have a new GL account for the Investment account we opened with MIF, and we have access to up to \$1.5 million from MIF for a period of 2 years to complete campus projects.

## Operations & Properties Report – Toni Pearson & Dave Stelzer

- Toni introduced Sean Willison, owner and operator of Max-Pro Heating and Cooling, who does all the great work keeping all the HVAC systems up and running at Atonement.
- Toni added some great compliments she heard from a young couple with kids who live in Lansing, KS, who really appreciate both of our pastors and how they preach in a style that is understandable by parents and kids and both like it.
- The lower level for the education area has now been refinished with new floors and new bright paint, and the repaired sink, making everything seem much fresher and more inviting. Toni invites anyone who haven't seen the new flooring, please go see it. Since we had our own crew remove the old floor and saved on the original bid – the company that refinished the floors added new codebase (baseboards) at no additional cost.
- **MOTION #2:** (Matt Badding moves, Greg Moffitt seconds)  
*Motion to approve Toni Pearson, Director of Operations, for the painting of the lower-level education open area for the cost totaling \$2,700 to be paid from the Campus Sustainment Fund.*
  - 9 voting members present: **all verbal Ayes, no Nays, Motion Carries**

- We also completed the deep clean, the company will be back to reassess spots needing additional treatment.
- The new ice maker was replaced and now functioning, although wasn't working at Trivia Night since the power went out and turned it off and we didn't know it needs to be turned on.
- Looking at having solid bids for the sanctuary HVAC system replacement have a hard deadline of May 6<sup>th</sup>, planning for August replacement.
- Discussion was around the various speakers, which are working in the sanctuary, some are not, it echoes in specific places like the Choir Loft which needs the monitor to be turned on.
- **MOTION #3:** (Matt Badding moves, Angie Brickson seconds)  
*Motion to approve Toni Pearson, Director of Operations, to replace the sanctuary soundboard for the total cost of \$17,953.38, with \$14,500 already being covered by dedicated gifts, leaving a remaining cost of \$3,453.88 to be paid from the Campus Sustainment Fund.*
  - 9 voting members present: **all verbal Ayes, no Nays, Motion Carries**
- **MOTION #4:** (Tim McCandless moves, Genevieve Brown seconds)  
*Motion to approve Toni Pearson, Director of Operations, to replace the round tables in Charter Hall with 22 new lighter-weight tables, costing \$5,515.65 paid from the Campus Sustainment Fund.*
  - 9 voting members present: **all verbal Ayes, no Nays, Motion Carries**

## Up Next & Open Discussion

- The Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) organization is currently doing an audit of EVERGY's pricing and billing practices for churches, looking for discrepancies in fair practices. They are asking various congregations to participate and use their bill details over the last year to see if there is a pattern and need to establish an action plan. They are asking for Atonement to share our electric bills for the last one year, and any details we would have received on rate changes. There was discussion and consensus without any disagreement by Council members.
- Salem Lutheran Church will start hosting worship service in the sanctuary and asked if they can place the red/cranberry ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) books in the pews. Suggestion was to also make additional books (green and cranberry) available in stacks at places in the sanctuary.
- Also discussed was planning the shared Ministry & Cafe Reserve Fund for the summer, \$500 from Salem and \$500 from Atonement for the 3 months (\$1500 total from each) to be used by approval as needed for Worship/Communion (\$300) and Fellowship/Cafe (\$200), should current budget funds run low and be exhausted due to one or the other congregation sharing services.
- May 17th will be the annual Congregational Election Meeting.
- Retreat Synopsis – plan will be to resume planning work starting over summer/late summer.
- Reminder for Nehemiah Action event for Good Faith Network is next Tuesday, April 28.

## **Closing Prayer**

- **A Prayer of Unknowing** by Thomas Merton, 1956

**Adjourn at 9:06pm**