THE HISTORY OF ATONEMENT

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MAY 9, 1990
A Church History paper, on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Antonement Evangelical Lutheran Church. Let's begin at the starting point for the Ruby Avenue Mission. In the summer of 1929, the Mission Board of the Southeast Wisconsin District of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States seized the opportunity which God had placed before them to begin a new mission in a rapidly developing area of Milwaukee, formerly known as North Milwaukee. At the time the Synod was low on funds and could not support a new mission, so Pastors William Mahnke and John Jeske supplied money from their own savings to buy two lots on the corner of Ruby Avenue and North Thirty-eighth street (four blocks east of the present church).

Since no one had the money to build a building the old chapel formerly used by the Garden Homes Mission was moved to the site. The members of the Mission Board are the ones who did the repair and the fixing up of the "cottage." By the end of August 1929 the chapel was ready for use, and on the first Sunday in September it was dedicated.

The Ruby Avenue Mission was never one to sit still and so on the ensuing week Mr. A.F. Zorn was temporarily placed in charge of the Christian Day School, which had an enrollment of 19 students. Pastor Walter Gieschen, a member of the Mission Board, and Associate Pastor of Jerusalem, Milwaukee, conducted the weekly services. The Mission decided that a full time pastor would be needed to serve the mission and so a call was extended to Pastor William J. Schaefer from Colome, South Dakota. On November 3rd 1929 Pastor Schaefer was installed as the first full time pastor of the Ruby Avenue Mission.
On January 12, 1930 a meeting was called by Pastor W.J. Schaefer for the purpose of organizing a congregation. The meeting determined that Pastor W.J. Schaefer would be the chairman and A.F. Zorn would be secretary pro tem. Ten men signed the constitution that evening in the chapel. They were: Walter Seege, Walter Scherbarth, E.H. Thurow, William Ryerson, Walter Krause, A. Kurth, H. Knoll, A. F. Zorn, Fred Plinska, W. Radtke. The First Article of the Constitution read that the name of this congregation shall be "Church of the Atonement."
The remaining Articles were agreed to unanimously. "Church of the Atonement" would soon change its name when it became incorporated to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement. And on May 5, 1930 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement voted to become a member of the Wisconsin Synod. Out of these early meetings a very interesting sidelight developed.

Mr. A Kurth, president of the council and elder since January 12, 1930 resigns within 15 days and is not present at the January 27, 1930 meeting. Mr. Pipkorn replaced him. Mr. Kurth asks for a dismissal but the church will not grant him one since his attitude seems to be undeserving of one. However, throughout the next two years reference is made in the voter's meetings that Mr. Kurth had this attitude. What seems so peculiar is that this new church starts out with a man who apparently was highly respected, so much so that he is voted as president of the Church Council and also as an elder, but with the space of 15 days resigns. Mr. Kurth's resignation was apparently something of his own doing, bound by his conscious. But he must
have tried to bind the members into his way of thinking over the next three and a half years. The minutes from the April 3, 1933 meeting state, "A motion was made and seconded to have (the) secretary write Mr. Kurth requesting him to come to our next congregational meeting to explain his attitude. Then, if he is persistent a release will be granted." Fireworks of some sort persisted then for another 6 months. The meeting on October 3, 1933 states, "A motion was made and seconded to grant a release to Mr. Kurth upon his confession and we tender our forgiveness."

Now back to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement, in the meeting of October 6, 1930 it was decided to erect a combination church and school building. The Mission Board was not pleased, but was pleased with astounding growth of the new church which now included over seventy souls. Such growth is rare. God indeed was richly blessing Atonement in his own time and in his own way. Pastor W. J. Schaefer was delighted to see the fruits of God's Word in action. But this is just the tip of the iceberg, soon the congregation would outgrow the building being built at this time. In fact it took only eight years for the building to be overcrowded on Sunday mornings. We will talk about the school being overcrowded at this same time later.

But in the mean time the church had to be built, for we are not working with any ordinary church but with Atonement. As plans for a building increased they found that the property which was purchased for the church was not zoned for a church. This information was withheld from the buyers, Rev. Wm Mahnke and Rev. John Jeske, at the time of purchase. Needles to say
there was a scramble for land. They bought the present site of the church at this time (Sherman Blvd and Ruby, NE Corner).

On March 8, 1931 a special meeting was held after the church service to discuss the building plans and project. This meeting violated the church's constituion which said that a congregational meeting must be announced at least two services ahead of time so a motion was made seconded to suspend the rules so that the meeting could be held. The meeting was called by the Building Committee who did not want to go ahead with the proposed plans without support because the building was going to cost $31,083 and they only had $30,000 to spend. The result of the meeting was go ahead and build, which is what the Building Committee thought would happen but this saved them from problems in the future.

There was an immediate need for a building because just a few months early the chapel was condemned by the health of authorities of Milwaukee. Worship could be held on Sunday but no school! The students were taken to Garden Homes and Mount Lebanon until a building could be rented out. A trying first year for the new church on the North Side of Milwaukee.

Finally on April 5, 1931, Easter Sunday, the cornerstone was laid. The Dedication Service was held on September 13, 1931. In fact not one Service but three. (See Appendices I,II,III)

The thirties saw extensive church growth for Atonement, with virtually every voter's meeting including more than a handful of new members being accepted to the membership roles. Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit was working through the relentless Pastor.
Schaefer who made continuous surveys and canvasses in the neighborhood including repeat visits to those who did not want to see him the first time, let alone the fifth, sixth or even more. Pastor Koeplin recalling the evangelism efforts of the sainted Pastor W.J. Schaefer mentions the prospect who literally through the Pastor from the porch of his house. Yet year after year the Pastor would return and the result was always the same. Until one year that is when the man came to the door Pastor Schaefer quickly interjected "You know this might be the last time I come by here I think you ought to listen to what I have to say." The man became a faithful and life long member of Atonement.

It seems that the church did have a knack of losing so-called good members, from Mr. Kurth in 1933 to Mr. John Hegberg in 1936. You already know the story of Kurth and now the story of John Hegberg. Hegberg became a member in the spring of 1934 and soon took on the position of elder. By October of 1936 he had asked for a release. Again the records are not well documented in his case but it appears to be quite the tale because he too was not given a release on the first motion made in the voters assembly. The second motion carried though in these words, "Mr. John Hegberg be given his release from the Church of the Atonement when he names the Sister Church he intends to join." From the wording of this motion we can see that there was some concern on behalf of the voting council for Mr. Hegberg spiritual welfare.

The late thirties brought in the school building controversy which we briefly mentioned before. As was noted the Mission Board was not to keen on the idea of a mission having a school,
that is a school building. The record of April 4, 1938 shows
that the congregation was to stand behind Pastor W.J. Schafer
100% in his dealing with the Mission Board. But you see, this
situation was not merely a disagreement but a highly volatile
situation. Proof of this is found in the very next motion that
was carried. That motion was, "that the secretary send a letter
of protest to Pastors Bergmann and Brenner against Pastor Schulz
being a member on the Mission Board and of the College Board."

Now of course the Mission Board had the best interest of
Atonement in mind. After all Atonement was already at his time
behind budget by some $22,500. The Mission Board didn't want to
lose Atonement just because it wanted to be the "cadillac of
missions." And a school building would cost in the neighborhood
of $14,000 additionally.

However, Atonement showing great trust in God, perhaps the
Mission Board at this time would have called it by another term,
proceeded to take out a $30,000 loan on August 13, 1938. And on
October 3, 1938 we read that the school that has been proposed
is now being built. This resolution followed: WHEREAS,
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement after due and
careful consideration has resolved to erect on its premises a
school building in accordance with the plans and specifications
by its building committee and has commenced the construction of
the said building and , WHEREAS, it is necessary to borrow
additional funds and secure the payment thereof by mortgaging all
the real estate, personal estate, permanent fixtures and
improvements belonging to said congregation; NOW THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED: First, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement issue bonds in the total principal sum of $37,000, in such denominations as the trustees and officers of the congregation shall deem expedient and that the trustees and the officers of the church by a Deed of Trust of Mortgage convey to the trustee hereinafter named all of its real estate and improvements or any improvements that may hereafter be erected thereon as collateral security for the due and prompt payment of said bonds with bonds as hereinafter set forth: Second, that the proceeds of those certain bonds in the total aggregate principal amount of $22,000... in liquidating the cost of the school building now being erected... for general corporate purposes... etc.,

After seeing this the members indeed had a great faith and trust in God, again the Mission Board thought of another term. It would be good to remember also at this time the school was overcrowded and a separate building was needed for this reason. According to Pastor Kurt Koeplin, the Mission Board actually came out to the sight of the new school and instructed the construction crew to fill in the hole being made for the foundation of the school. Of course, this made no difference to Pastor W.J. Schaefer who went out and told the contractors to dig the hole back out when he saw what had been done! The school was built and the building committee was discharged with thanks in April, 1939. And so the first decade of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement was complete.

As the forties began, the church was back into the process of spending more money. They began to look at building a
teacherage for the principal of the school. And by April 1, 1940
had already decided to spend $5,000 on a home with the dimensions
of 26'10" x 22'10". They decided to wait for the Mission Board
to give them permission before they proceeded on with this
venture.

A task of Pastor W.J. Schaefer at this time was the
producing of the 1941 Hymnal. There is not a lot of mention
anywhere in the church files. Apparently since he was on the
Hymnal Committee there was no inside uproar. The Voter's
Meeting notes simply that the price per book is 81 cents with
trade in or $1.00 without. Another duty that Pastor W.J.
Schaefer had was editor of the Northwestern Lutheran, a position
which his son would occupy in the future. Atonement purchased 20
copies per issue with the intent of selling them at five cents
per copy to create interest in the synod publication.

In the July 14, 1941 Voter's Meeting we learn: "The Liturgy
as given in the new Hymnal was explained and discussed. Mr. W.
Boeder and Mr. H. Schallert moved that we follow the order of
services given therein with two exceptions, i.e. either the
Epistle or the Gospel is to be read from the lecturn and that the
collection baskets be taken and returned to the Altar. The
congregation assented by majority vote." And so the "new Hymnal"
began faithfully serving the church and continues to do so now.
But also at this time a former Pastor of Atonement and still
present member, Pastor Kurt Eggert is working on a new Hymnal
for the Synod. This story will be provided later.
During World War II, the church proceeded on with vim and vigor. It was a time of scrimping and save your shekels and try to grow and pay your bills. The church survived these years and in fact continued on in their normal growth. It should be noted that during these years Atonement had become quite large. A Pastor Ristow began to help out Pastor W. J. Schaefer with responsibilities on Sundays beginning in 1944.

In 1945 the church broke from jurisdiction of the Mission Board with the following resolution: "Since, by the grace of God, it appears that this congregation will be able to assume the entire financial burden of its support in the consideration of the suggested aid from the Mission Board of the Southeast Wisconsin District, BE IT RESOLVED: that as of March 1, 1945 we will no longer require subsidy from the Joint Synod of Wisconsin; that we notify the Mission Board of our decision; that we express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Joint Synod of Wisconsin and to the Mission Board of the Southeast Wisconsin District for the fine Christian spirit, the patience and the helpfulness manifested toward the Church of the Atonement." In addition to this, 1945 became the year that an additional Worship Service was held each Sunday. The average attendance on Sunday had swollen to 450 souls.

The following year a celebration of Pastor Ristow’s fiftieth anniversary in the ministry took place. In other words, Pastor Ristow was not going to be helping anymore. In this same year two women teachers took calls and left the school short. In 1947 the voter’s made a motion to have Mr. James Schaefer become their assistant pastor and teacher. After accepting this they took
their motion to the Assignment Committee.

In June of 1947 Pastor J. Schaefer joined his father as a pastor at Atonement. In his first two years at Atonement Pastor James (the name by which he was known) spent his time as a teacher to help fill the void in that department. His third year at Atonement saw him fill the role of principal at the school. It was not until his fourth year in the ministry that he assumed full time parish pastoral work.

But the story of Pastor James coming to Atonement is an interesting one and perhaps we should spend a little time reviewing the situation. It was well known that Pastor W. J. Schaefer was a tough man to get along with and that it would take a certain character of man to be able to work along side of him. No doubt this is a major factor in the Assignment Committee’s agreement and subsequent call of Pastor James.

Pastor James’ call to Atonement came as no surprise to him since the voters had already passes a motion for the same. So there was little tension as Call Day 1947 came. Nonetheless, Pastor James was honored to serve his home congregation along side his father. At the time Pastor James was one of about 10 or so assistant pastors, so he was more or less a pioneer in this area of service.

And once again Atonement was faced with building another building. They were outgrowing the school again and they also needed a house for the assistant pastor. The parsonage land was purchased first. And in 1951 the school was added on to. With this it is interesting to see the first published budget. (APP IV)
It is also of some interest to see the Ruby Ave. Mission be called as yet something different. For the most part we have been referring to the name of the church as Atonement because that is the name by which it is called to this present day. But in the meeting which gave permission to spend money on the new parsonage and for the addition to the school Atonement is called the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement.

But one of the more intriguing stories of Atonement surfaces in the April 3rd Meeting of the new decade, the fifties. In 1950 the church decided to call a principal to take over Pastor James' position so he could devote full time efforts to the parish ministry. Three men were named to fill this role and also to be the seventh and eighth grade teacher. They were Mr. Rolloff of Reedsville, Wisconsin; Mr. Raabe of Baraboo, Wisconsin; Mr. Glendy of Arlington, Minnesota. After some discussion the motion was made to extend a call to Mr. Rolloff. The vote was taken and there were only three dissenters. Of course a single dissenting vote for a call would show the prospective teacher lack of confidence in his abilities, so both Pastor Schaefers spoke on the importance of vote to be unanimous. The vote was taken again and it was unanimous. Simple enough it seems. But then a motion was introduced that a call be extended to Mr. Raabe if Mr. Rolloff declined and that if both of them declined that a call be extended to Mr. Glendy. This motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Rolloff declined the call and so did Mr. Raabe leaving Mr. Glendy the opportunity. But it was learned that Mr. Glendy had just returned a call to New Ulm, Minnesota, because he was in the middle of an assignment at his present church. Convinced
that it would be difficult to find a principal, the pastors and the president of the congregation took it upon themselves to go to the Assignment Committee for help, for the Assignment Day for teachers was the following day. The outcome of this is that Mr. Alfons Woidt became the principal-teacher. The congregation was delighted.

1950 also brought a call to Pastor James from a congregation in Sioux City, Iowa. At the voters meeting in which this called was discussed it appears that Pastor W. J. Schaefer was not to eager to lose his son as an assistant. The minutes say, "Rev. W. J. Schaefer pointed out that it was up to this congregation to prove that the call Rev. James already had from Atonement, is more of a divine call than the one he just received from Sioux City. After much discussion a vote was taken. 73 were in favor of Pastor James staying, while 10 dissented the fact that the Atonement call was more divine than the Sioux City call. Pastor James would receive two more calls before the twenty-fifth anniversary of Atonement.

In 1955 the Silver Anniversary of the church there were 945 members. 910 of these were active members. Atonement was surely growing rapidly. The school enrollment stood at 190 pupils. On account of this amazing growth Atonement found itself embroiled in yet another building project, namely addition to the church and to the school. This cost them over $90,000 to complete. Perhaps as a sidelight it should be noted that the Twenty Fifth Anniversary Booklet put out by members of the so called Atonement Evangelical Lutheran Church stated that there
were 1300 souls in the membership of the church. When Pastor James was asked how the Holy Spirit worked through him to have his members come more in tune with the Gospel he states three such situations. The first two deal with the practice of communion. The first of these two is that he made announcing for communion more accessible to those who needed the assurance of forgiveness of sins by allowing them to announce via the telephone. Up until this time communion announcements were made between 7:00-9:00pm Friday nights and Saturday mornings 9:00-11:00 for the first Sunday of the month. During his pastorate communion began to be celebrated on the the first three Sundays of the month in this order: first Sunday, first service; second Sunday, second service; and third Sunday, third service. This of course already mentions the other way in which members of Atonement were brought more in contact with the gospel, namely through the addition of another service.

In 1956 Pastor James became the senior pastor after his father suffered a heart attack. Pastor W. J. would later ask to retire but the need did not allow for it.

It was during these early years that Pastor Ristow inherited eternal life in its complete and full sense of the word. At this time, however, Rev. Prof. M. Lehninger, professor emeritus of our Lutheran Seminary, assisted in Services.

The fifties continue to be exciting years for the church. A young People’s Group was brought to the attention of the council. It would consist of people who were passed high school age and had not yet married. It sounds very similar to our present day interest in the singles in our church. And of course by 1957
Atonement was looking at building a new church. Fund raising became a big topic at the voter's meetings and they finally did go for outside help so long as there was to be no compulsion involved. A Stewardship Committee was formed in 1957, something that is rather common today but not so common at the time. The amazing thing about this Stewardship Committee is that before it even began as a Committee a motion was passed that helped out members outside the congregation. $1.00 per communicant member for the years 1958-1960 would be sent to St. Phillips to help this new mission make the grade.

Pastor James Ministry of Stewardship began with the extension of the Long Range Planning Committee. They developed a six year plan to pay off debts and to build the 1959 dedicated church building. At this time the Stewardship Program included Every Member Visits, Loyalty Sundays, Slide Presentations and the like. Later Pastor James would be in charge of the first Synod-wide offering the "Missio Dei."

The corporate name of the church changed to Atonement Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milwaukee in a voters meeting after the name Atonement Lutheran Church of Milwaukee Wisconsin failed.

Finally the most intriguing story of the 1950's has to be church relations with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It should be noted that today, some thirty years later that there are still some close personal ties with the erring-Synod and that people perhaps because of family relationships have not held on to what the proper teaching of fellowship is.
There was very little difference, if any, in the eyes of most members at Atonement. Even Pastor James, at the time, thought the Wisconsin Synod was acting to hastily. And a future Pastor of Atonement didn't realize that there was a problem until he was taught first hand at a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Convention. As Pastor James recalls the events one can see that there was hard fought battle at the time when many people's emotional ties were strained by the way things were handled. According to Pastor James at the 1959 Synodical Conference Convention a Chairman for an Educational Survey Committee was appointed. What this chairman was instructed to do was survey what was going on in Selma, Alabama where blacks were being trained for ministry in the LCMS, to make sure proper doctrine was being taught. This gave the LCMS three seminaries, one in St. Louis, one in Springfield, and one in Selma. The idea of the Selma seminary was to have pastors who could be placed in the inner city of all the large cities in America such as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland etc. Recalling his feelings, Pastor James says, "he thought we were being too picky with the LCMS." He admits he was fairly naive at the time. Perhaps also working on the mind of Pastor James was a call he received in June/July of 1959 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia. But this call was an easy one compared to the one he would receive in April/May 1960; a call to Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. The following is recorded from a Special Meeting held on May 23, 1960: "Pastor James then expalined the details of the call and read the accompanying letter. He stated that he (has) not made up his mind as to whether he would accept the call. .
as far as the crisis between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods is concerned, he felt that we are closer now to continuing fellowship than at any other time in the past. The acting Secretary then read the letter from Concordia’s Seminary Board of Control which was addressed to Atonement Congregation. It outlined their request for Pastor Schaefer’s teaching in the area of Systematic Theology. The Secretary then read the following letter from Principal A. Woldt who was unable to be present.

"It is my sincere hope, and prayer that the Lord would lead Pastor Schaefer to decline the call to Springfield Seminary, and for the following reason: 1. The need at Atonement is self-evident. 2. Our Synod is faced with a current man power shortage, but even more in need of sound leadership which, by the grace of God, you are in a position to offer in your present position. 3. The need for such leadership is especially urgent in these days of inter-synodical unrest. 4. The Lord has in no way indicated that your work is finished here at Atonement. 5. The spirit of cooperation is a singular blessing among the workers at Atonement, and would suffer should a vacancy be created."

About this time the Committee on Doctrinal Matters declared an impasse and in 1961 said we suspend fellowship. Many were disturbed.

A future pastor at Atonement, at this time, was in the Detroit, MI area and was a graduate of Springfield. Neither he nor his congregation knew what all the fuss was about. So they sent him to the Wisconsin Synod Convention and he came back still
unconvinced of any problem we as a Synod could not handle. So the congregation sent him to the Missouri Synod Convention and the light was turned on. As Pastor Koeplin recalls the details he says that he can remember wanting to be received as a friend at the Missouri Convention but he did not receive friendship. He received unbridled hostility and so did Dr. Becker who delivered a message condemning the false teaching of a Professor at St. Louis. Given the Scriptural support of what Dr. Becker said, Pastor Koeplin returned to Michigan and his congregation with the decided opinion that Wisconsin is correct!

In conclusion to this era it must be stated that Atonement made the right decisions and the right decisions were made for Atonement and because of this many, many people have been blessed with the true, inerrant and inspired Word of God.

Having entered the sixties let's continue on a positive note. In 1960's Atonement became involved in starting up Vacation Bible School, Young People's and Singles and most importantly they were one of the first congregations to initiate an Evangelism Committee. The new church building was also dedicated on the eve on the 1960's, November 15, 1959. (See Appendixes 5A, 5B, 5C.)

In 1963 after 13 years of faithful service Alfons Woldt took a call to Lutheran High School, also known as Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Perhaps the best thing that can be said about Mr. Woldt service to the Lord is that he was faithful servant in the fold, knowing when to lead and knowing when to follow. During the mid 1960's Pastor James received another call. This one to
teach at Northwestern College. If he accepted the call he would teach philosophy and psychology. He returned this call but later in 1966 he received a call to serve as the Executive Director of a Capitol Fund Raising Project. This call was just a matter of a leave of absence and the congregation consented that he be able to take such a leave in order to help the Synod out.

This left the Junior Pastor who was really a senior Pastor in charge. Pastor W. J. Schaefer did as best as he could but the congregation fell behind in its efforts as far as Stewardship and Evangelism is concerned, not do to a lack of faithfulness but due to lack of ability to do all the things that needed to be done. Not soon after this Pastor James received a call to be the Executive Director of the Synods Missio Dei Offering. He told the congregation he would abide by their wishes and asked that a vote be taken. The vote was 43 to 11 that he should stay.

But finally a call came which appeared to challenge Pastor James' God given abilities more than that of his call to Atonement. In October 1967 he received a call from the Synod to be the Stewardship Counselor. During this month he received letters from Synod Secretary, Carl Mischke and Synod President D. J. Naumann requesting that he accept the call. Pastor James asked for a peaceful release from Atonement.

The task of filling Pastor James' shoes was now at hand. (See Appendix 6). The call was extended to Pastor Robert Mueller of Livonia, Michigan. He returned the call. Pastor Mueller in presently the District President of the Michigan District. The next month, December, a call was extended to Pastor Kurt Koeplin. In retrospect, it is interesting to note
that he was the fourth man on the original list as far as number of votes received for a call from Atonement. It is interesting because he has so richly blessed Atonement for over 22 years now.

Pastor Koeplin upon arrival began an intense study of the congregation and after a number of months stated to the council that Atonement needed to revitalize its Stewardship and Evangelism committees and to form a Pastoral Assistance Board. Pastor Koeplin became a faithful servant, accepted by the people of Atonement quickly. He also became the head of Lutheran Radio Broadcasts. He also explained that a third pastor was needed. On December 1, 1969 a Call was extended to pastor Kurt Eggert. Pastor Eggert accepted the call.

As we begin the seventies we see that Atonement is in a period of change in leadership. Two new pastors, to make three and various other examples begin the 40th year of the history of Atonement.

In 1971 Atonement had a soul membership of 1,886 and a communicant membership of 1,386. One of the ways these members were saved was through the cassette tape ministry which started in 1970. The cassette tapes were sent to sick and shut-ins and people throughout the United States and even some foreign countries. It was at this time that Pastor Eggert said that Atonement was at its prime in history. There were no more building projects because of the sufficient facilities and now the church is growing more and more. The only changes that would take place in atonement over the next 13 years would be in the school faculty.
Significant teacher calls brought the most interesting details. The call of Ray Dusseau is one. Mr. Dusseau would compliment the pastors like only Al Woldt did. He was energetic, friendly and good to work with and a stickler for details. Dr., at the time Mr., Dusseau was installed on July 25, 1973. In 1974 Mary Prange received a call to teach and throughout the years she too must be considered a standout in the history of Atonement. And true, we should mention the call of Paul Bertolus to the faculty of the school. Perhaps no one in the history of the school cared as much for individuals as Mr. Bertolus. He reached out to the black community in his own special way and was a role model to many of the inner city youngsters. Bertolus left Atonement in the early 1980's to be the Athletic Director at Watertown Northwestern Prep.

Perhaps the most "exciting" thing to happen in the early 1970's was a dispute a Quarterly Meeting. The argument centered around salaries. Apparently this became hot and heavy because Pastor Eggert is reported to have said that harmony is the most important thing and salaries are not and that if we can't have harmony the meeting will be adjourned! Finally Pastor James, still a member, said the salaries are worthy of the servants we have here at Atonement and the budget of $246,033 passed unanimously. This was the 1974 budget.

Of interest also is that in 1976 Diana Piepenbrink was called to teach at Atonement while her husband was enrolled at the Seminary in Mequon. During his Vicar year she was able to remain teaching because he received a Vicar Assignment in Milwaukee (Gloria Dei). The following year her husband was
the Senior Seminarian (Senior Vicar) at Atonement the following year.

One of the most awe-inspiring gifts that Pastor Eggert was given by God was his musical talents and abilities. During 1980, the Fiftieth Anniversary of Atonement he planned out the Services for the entire year with each Service being just a little bit different. Recalling this he mentioned how easy it was to add in new thoughts and ideas without changing the order or the meaning of the liturgy. Pastor Eggert's gift of music was too much for the Synod to stay away from him and so in 1984 he was called to be the Project Director of the New/Revised Hymnal. His first inclination was to stay at Atonement but in the end he accepted the new responsibilities. Those responsibilities were and are: 1. He shall gather information necessary for the development of a new/revised hymnal. 2. He shall make recommendations for the development of the new/revised hymnal and implement the same as directed by the Committee on Worship. 3. He shall, in consultation with the Committee on Worship, advise the Conference of Presidents in the appointment of the committees deemed necessary for the development of the new/revised hymnal and shall direct, coordinate, and facilitate the work of these committees. 4. He shall keep the members of the Synod informed regarding the progress of the project and provide opportunity for response from the membership. 5. He shall present the annual budget for the project to the Commission of Worship for its approval. The congregation did not want Pastor Eggert to leave but his tremendous gifts in this area left most of the members to the realization that this would be an excellent way to serve the
Lord for him.

Calls were sent out so that the church would not go without a vacancy since Pastor Eggert agreed to stay until June 1, 1984. The pastor who fills his shoes to this day is Pastor Fred Piepenbrink.

In 1986 the Sampler began field testing and Atonement adapted well to the slight changes in the liturgy. The biggest complaint coming in the area of the Lord’s Prayer. The church to this day still enjoys the traditional language of the Lord’s Prayer, however the new version is also used in some Services.

In 1987 and 1989 Atonement was actively involved in the city wide Evangelism projects entitled GO ’87 and GO ’89 respectively. A number of new members were the results of these efforts. The Evangelism Committee also quadrupled in size in the 1980’s.

In 1988 the church’s first Mission Statement was formed. The Mission Statement included a statement of belief and a statement to nourish existing members and to reach out to the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 1989 Atonement began Cell Group Bible Studies. The impact is yet unknown. But the immediate consequences of the effort is that more than 200 people per month are joining together in small groups to study God’s Word. These results you can not argue with.

In the seventies and the eighties there were no building projects. The major expenses being the upkeep of the existing property and the tremendous increase in salaries over the last
twenty years.

Currently the congregation is taking commitments toward the organ fund which was decided to be purchased for this special Sixtieth Anniversary Year celebration. The organ is to cost $400,000.

I like to think of Pastors Koeplin and Piepenbrink as not only pastors of Atonement but also of the entire Synod. Both of them are involved heavily outside Atonement itself. They both write occasionally for the Northwestern Lutheran (Pastor James is the editor). Pastor Koeplin is the Chairman of the Southeast Asian Missions. This frequently takes him to Hong Kong, Taiwan and other so called exotic places. Pastor Piepenbrink spends a tremendous amount of time in presenting the Synod Evangelism programs as they come out, such as Prospect Witness and Nurture. Because of their involvement in such evangelism minded efforts the two are often called on to be Mission Festival speakers throughout the U.S.

Both men are also excellent motivators. In other words, they teach the Gospel in its truth and purity with no strings attached. Pastor Koeplin is a tremendous supporter of the Synods worker training schools, often traveling great distances to show his support.

The 1989 Synod Statistical Reports shows that Atonement has 1,367 baptized member. The motto of the church is, and may it ever be, SOLI DEO GLORIA!!
5. Mixed Choir, St. Mark's Church

4. Scripture Lesson

Thank God, hear our call.
Our words on the air.
Our gladness, hear our praise.
Let us sing our praise.

2. Let us join in prayer.

2. Aa of Dedication

Here is the time for our work.
We have the time to work.

2. Aa of Dedication

Here is the time for our work.
We have the time to work.

1. HYMN

HYMN

I. HYMN

8. Mixed Choir, St. Mark's Church

7. Sermon

Touched by Your

5. HYMN

4. HYMN

3. HYMN

2. HYMN

1. HYMN

HYMN

HYMN

HYMN

HYMN

HYMN

...
Hymn.

1. Blessed Jesus, at Thy word
   We are gathered all to hear Thee;
   Let our hearts and souls be stirred
   Now to seek and love and fear Thee;
   By Thy teachings sweet and holy
   Drawn from earth to love Thee solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
   Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
   Till Thy Spirit breaks our sight
   With the beams of truth unclouded;
   Thou alone to God canst win us,
   Thou must work all good within us.

3. Glorious Lord, Thyself impart!
   Light of light, from God proceeding,
   Open Thou our ears and heart.
   Help us by Thy Spirit's pleading,
   Hear the cry Thy people raise,
   Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

4. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
   Praise to Thee and adoration!
   Grant that we Thy Word may trust,
   And obtain true consolation;
   While we here below must wander,
   Till we sing Thy praises yonder.

5. Scriptural Reading and Prayer.

6. Mixed Choir of Jerusalem Church.


1. Behold the sure Foundation-stone
   Which God in Zion lays,
   To build our heavenly hopes upon,
   And His eternal praise.

2. Chosen of God, to sinners dear,
   Let saints adore the name;
   They trust their whole salvation here,
   Nor shall they suffer shame.

3. The foolish builders, scribe and priest,
   Reject it with disdain;
   Yet on this Rock the Church shall rest
   And envy rage in vain.

4. What though the gates of hell withstood,
   Yet must this building rise;
   Tin Thine own work, Almighty God,
   And wondrous in our eyes.

8. Sermon

   Pastor John Brenner
   St. John's Luth. Church,
   Milwaukee, Wis.

9. Mixed Choir of Jerusalem Church.


1. Let me be Thine forever,
    Thou faithful God and Lord;
    Let me forsake Thee never,
    Nor wander from Thy word;
    Lord, do not let me waver,
    But give me steadfastness,
    And for such grace forever
    Thy holy name I'll bless.

2. Lord Jesus, my Salvation,
    My Light, my Life divine,
    My only Consolation,
    O make me wholly Thine!
    For Thou hast dearly bought me
    With blood and bitter pain;
    Let me, since Thou hast sought me,
    Eternal life obtain.

3. And Thou, O Holy Spirit,
    My Comforter and Guide,
    Grant that in Jesus' merit,
    I always may confide,
    Him to the end confessing,
    Whom I have known by faith;
    Give me Thy constant blessing
    And grant a Christian death.

11. Prayer and Benediction.


   Thanks we give and adoration
   For Thy Gospel's joyful sound;
   May the fruits of Thy salvation
   In our hearts and lives abound:
   May Thy presence
   May Thy presence
   With us evermore be found.
APPENDIX III

EVENING SERVICE, 7:30 P. M.

1. Hymn.
1 Now thank we all our God
   With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
   In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
   Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
   And still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
   Through all this life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
   And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
   And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
   In this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
   The Father now be given-
The Son, and Him who reigns
   With them in highest heaven:
The One eternal God,
   Whom earth and heaven adore:
For thus it was, is now,
   And shall be evermore!

2. Scripture Reading and Prayer.

3. Male Choir of Grace Lutheran Church.

1 Holy Ghost! with light divine,
   Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
   Turn the darkness into day.

2 Let me see my Savior's face,
   Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me,
   Which are only known to Thee.

3 Holy Ghost, with power divine,
   Cleanse this guilty heart of mine:
In Thy mercy pity me,
   From sin's bondage set me free.

4 Holy Spirit, all divine.
   Dwell within this heart of mine:
Cast down every idol-throne,
   Reign supreme and reign alone.

5 See, to Thee I yield my heart,
   Shed Thy life through every part:
A pure temple I would be,
   Wholly dedicate to Thee.

4. Sermon

PASTOR WM. SAUER
Grace Luth. Church,
Milwaukee, Wis.


1 Savior, breathe an evening blessing,
   Ere repose our spirits seal;
Sin and want we come confessing:
   Thou canst save and Thou canst heal.

2 Though destruction walk around us,
   Though the arrows past us fly,
   Angel-guards from Thee surround us;
   We are safe, if Thou art night.

3 Though the night be dark and dreary,
   Darkness cannot hide from Thee;
Thou art He who, never weary,
   Watcheth where Thy people be.

4 Should swift death this night o'er-take us
   And our couch become our tomb,
   May the morn in heaven awake us,
   Clad in light and deathless bloom.

8. Prayer and Benediction.

### Appendix IV

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Total is $22,195.00.
The Apostle's Creed
THE GOSPEL — Congregation shall rise
THANKS TO THEE — Junior and Senior Choir

The Epistle
THE COLLECT — (After the collect, the Congregation will be seated)

The Leaven — Junior and Senior Choir

The Kyrie — After the singing of the Kyrie, the Congregation will be seated

The Introit — Gloria Patri

The Consecration of Sins

PRAISE Ye The Lord. The Almighty — Junior and Senior Choir

The Offering

The Sermon: The Reverend Leonard Konigser, WSP

PRAISE ye the Lord with jubilation, ye children of the Highest. In the temple of the Lord, let us give thanks. Praise ye the Lord with joyful voices, let us magnify His name. The Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever. We praise His name forever. We praise His name forever.

THE HYMN — Congregation

Prelude

9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Order of Dedication Service

Appendix VA
THE PSALM

To reach our home above,
Growth on these earth, and help us,
Worm, S. Luke's, in our love.
Abide with us, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE HYMN OF PRAYER

W. H. L. D. O. B.

THE BLESSING

On this day the Lord has brought you into His presence, and has declared His favour upon you. Let this be cause for our joy and thanksgiving. Give Him glory, and make known His name in the earth, as the dwelling place of righteousness and peace. Amen. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE CHURCH

Psalm

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Enter into Thy rest, O God, and give us grace to rest in Thy grace.

Since Thine own, O God, we believe Thine only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Holy Spirit who saith, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.
Twelve

speaker will be the Reverend R. L. Wiedemann, Milwaukee.
Next Sunday special services will conclude our Dedication Week. The guest
Henry J. Englehardt, of the Wisconsin Lutheran High School
will be the Reverend Kurt Fiegele, Milwaukee, and the guest organist will be
cared for a special worship service on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker
our new 21 rank organ installed by Fred Wiedemann and Son, will be dealt-
noon from 4:00 to 6:30.
An open house at the new Church and school addition will be held this after-
Elias Heger, a former teacher in our school.
A Vesper Service will be held this evening at 7:00. Guest speaker will be the
A buffet supper will be served this afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00.

Announcements

APPENDIX VC
Appendix VI

November 21, 1967

Atonement Evangelical Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Brethren in Jesus Christ:

After prayerful consideration and consultation, we are herewith suggesting the names of the following pastors of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod as candidates for the sacred office of associate pastor of your congregation:


Nominations by members of Atonement congregation:


BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anniversary and Dedication Booklets 1930, 1955, 1959,
Church Records (Council, Voters, Special Meetings)
Interview with Pastor Kurt Eggert
Interview with Pastor Kurt Koeplin
Interview with Diana Piepenbrink
Interview with Pastor Fred Piepenbrink
Interview with Pastor James Schaefer