

March 19, 2020



Volume 20, Issue 3.1

# Midweek Message

*In place of our monthly newsletter, a weekly Midweek Message will be emailed and mailed to our congregation.*

*It will include a reflection from Pastor Gail, prayers, important updates and a "Music Link" section.*

## **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**

Life as we know it has changed.

Our families, our co-workers, our schools, our community - our churches - are increasingly anxious and unsure about what the next weeks and months will bring for the health and well-being of the world. How do we move forward in faith?

*Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise from another place, and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows; perhaps you have come for such a time as this?"*

*Esther 4:13-14*

*For such a time as this.* The phrase alone invokes courage and hope.

Esther was reminded that she had been chosen to let go of fear in order to face the enemy full-on. She was challenged to accept the risk to rise up for her people "*for such a time as this.*"

And now, we are in our own time of fear, with an invisible but devastating enemy to face full-on. A time which calls us to seek courage and maintain hope as we trust God right where we are: physically separated but joined by unbreakable bonds as God's people in Christ. A God who has been with us all along, and will never leave.

*For such a time as this.*

It can be hard to believe it is all in God's hands. But remember that we are the people God has called and equipped in this time and in this place.

Be of good courage.

Do not be afraid. You are not alone.

We have one another.

And God is with us.



## **PRAYER**

*God, meet us in our living rooms,  
Our front porches,  
In our beds with coffee.  
Meet us in our fear and loneliness.*

*Meet us in our anxiety  
and even in our Twitter scrolling.*

*May this homebound communion of saints  
be blessed,  
be nourished,  
be comforting,  
be church.*

*Amen.*

## Congratulations and Blessings

### *New Life*

Luke Roshan Macholz was born March 10<sup>th</sup> in Hannover, Germany. Son of Zach and Jasmin Macholz, and grandson of Bishop John and Lin Macholz.

### *Notice*

In light of the increasing health concerns regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the urgent necessity for practicing social distancing, and for the health and well-being of our congregation and our community:

*All activities, meetings and worship services are cancelled at Atonement Lutheran Church until further notice.*

## TRYING TO BE THE CHURCH WITHOUT BEING FACE TO FACE

With church doors shutting across the world, it is time for us to show that the Church has never been about the building. We are the Church! With this in mind, new activities and ministries have begun as we find ways to care for our Atonement Family in the midst of an increasing need to stay apart from one another

### ◇ **Livestreaming:**

#### **Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

Beginning this Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we are attempting to live stream worship from our sanctuary! (and we ask for your patience in getting this up and running smoothly.) Join Pastor Gail and David McCarthy for prelude music and hymns, scripture readings and a sermon, prayers and even a Children's Moment. Follow us this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. by going to our Atonement Facebook page at [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch/)

### ◇ **Grocery drop-off ministry**

We have a newly formed group of volunteers who will do grocery shopping/pharmacy pick up on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week for members and friends of our congregation. Simply call the church office and you will be paired with a volunteer who will write down your grocery order...purchase your items...and deliver them to your home.

### ◇ **Phone call check-ins**

Beginning this weekend, a small group of volunteers along with Pastor Gail will be making phone calls to every household in our congregation to "check-in" and ask if there are ways in which we can be helpful or provide care for them.

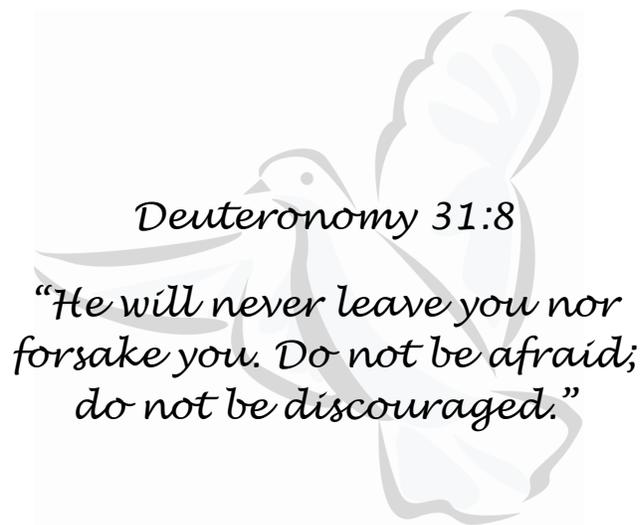
### ◇ **Emergency phone tree**

If a situation occurs in which we need to share information quickly with the entire congregation, we are updating the process for our Emergency Phone Tree.

*Do you have other ideas of how to be the church in such a time as this? Please contact Pastor Gail or the church office.*

## **WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN**

The work of our church continues through this health crisis, as do our ongoing expenses: heat, light, salaries, supplies. Your ongoing financial support of Atonement is needed and gratefully appreciated. Please keep current with your offering through electronic giving or by mailing your check to the church office. All contributions will continue to be counted and deposited weekly.



*Deuteronomy 31:8*

*“He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*

## **LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING**

O God, Great Healer -

Come to our aid, in the midst of this terrifying health crisis, that we may experience your healing love.

Keep watch over those who are sick with this virus, that they may they regain their strength and return to their daily lives.

Be with doctors, nurses, caregivers, researchers and all who are working tirelessly to combat this disease.

Grant good judgement, that we may each be guided to the right decisions for the good of all.

In the midst of this danger and trouble, be our guardian and our rock, sheltering us in your wings; through Jesus our Savior and our Healer. **Amen.**

## **We Lift Them Up in Prayer**

### *Members*

Eloise Kress ...  
...in hospice care

Myron (Mike) Dox...  
...in hospice care

Susan Touhsaent...  
...Recovering from a recent stroke

### *Coming Next Week*

**For our children & youth:**  
Watch for an email next week from Janeen Oliver, our Youth & Family Coordinator, with a Lenten Story and Activity for our Atonement children and youth!



Atonement Lutheran Church  
Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

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*Office Hours*

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Tues-Wed-Thurs

*Pastor's Day Off*

Monday

*Until Further Notice*

All worship services and  
activities are cancelled.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Atonement Lutheran Church*

*is a gathering of God's*

*people in Christ called to:*

*Invite all people into the*

*presence of the living God,*

*Prepare for ministry in daily life,*

*Go into the world as disciples.*

Atonement Lutheran Church is a  
congregation of the Upstate New  
York Synod of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA).

We are a Reconciling In Christ  
(RIC) congregation.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

