



Midweek Message

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

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MACHOLZ

Dear Saints of God,

These days are long, filled with anxiety and challenges we never imagined we would face. We ask questions that do not have immediate answers, wonder when the answers will come, and live from moment to moment trying to comprehend the rapidly evolving world around and within us. It is sometimes too much to take in, or so it seems.

So, where do we go from here?

From all that I have seen and heard from our Governor, Dr. Fauci, and the CDC, it seems, at this moment in time, that we will continue to be in this “stay at home” phase through perhaps May 15. We will continue to monitor these changes and share an update in mid-April when we have a clearer sense of reality. This, I hope, offers a suggestion regarding the possibility as to how long we will be worshipping virtually instead of in person.

Among us and with us is the One who grieved the death of the Son; and who has been there before us, stands with us, uplifting us when we stumble, encouraging us when we move toward despair, and reminding us again and again that we are claimed, named and marked with the cross of Christ forever. In these days I pray that you will know the peace that comes with that claim, and remember not only who you are but whose you are. Also, know that I pray for you daily as we find our way forward.

In Christ's Peace,

John S. Macholz, Bishop



LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

Online worship from our Atonement sanctuary!

Join Pastor Gail and David McCarthy for music and hymns, scripture, 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/)

Attending Church

Online

Go through your normal Sunday morning routine-
Minus the “Hurry up, we’re running late” part.

Gather your family together-
No multi-tasking; worship is a family activity.

Sing along!
Yes, it might feel strange, but we sing to the glory of God.

Have your Bible with you-
And read God’s Word as you listen.

Lean into the Liturgy-
Say “Amen” and “Thanks be to God”. Make your home a sanctuary.

Please Note

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.

THE BUILDING IS CLOSED– BUT WE ARE NOT!

Ministry continues at Atonement, even without activities in the building. The Church Office will be closed until further notice, with our Administrative Assistant, Director of Music, and Youth & Family Coordinator all working from home.

Pastor Gail will be checking in at the church to take care of mail and other office tasks, but is also working from home. Please feel free to call her: (614) 477-7863.

WE ARE STILL THE CHURCH

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

◇ Grocery drop-off ministry

In need of groceries? Call the church office or Karen Goodyear 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

Every household in our congregation will be receiving a “check-in” phone call. If there are ways in which we can be of help, let us know.

MARTIN LUTHER’S PASTORAL ADVICE DURING THE BLACK PLAGUE

“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed, in order not to become contaminated and this perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith: because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”

- *Martin Luther, Works v. 43, p. 132. Letter “Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague” written to Rev. John Hess.*

A LENTEN SCAVENGER HUNT!

For children and youth

Hello Atonement Youth and Families,
I hope everyone is safe and healthy. I miss you very much and look forward to the time when we can all be together in fellowship and fun. Until then, let's go on a Lenten journey together!

You will be receiving an email with a power point presentation, based on the book *Benjamin's Box* by Melody Carlson, each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (and each day in Holy Week) leading up to Easter. We will follow the story of Benjamin and learn about the amazing resurrection story of Jesus through Benjamin's eyes. Along with pages from the story and a scripture reading, you are invited to go on a scavenger hunt and fill your very own Benjamin Box. I encourage everyone to be creative and use items from around your house and yard.

Please take photos and "Reply All" so we can stay connected and share our journey together!

Grace and Peace,
Ms. Janeen

**Note: If others from our Atonement family would like to follow along with Benjamin's story and scavenger hunt – for yourself or for your grandchildren, nieces, nephews – please contact Janeen Oliver at: revransom@gmail.com.*

CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS!

"Next to the Word of God, Music Deserves the Highest Praise"

This quote by Martin Luther reminds of the gift of music in our worship life, and in our life of faith. Our Director of Music, David McCarthy, will be providing weekly music links of sacred music to offer inspiration, solace and peace. Click on a title to hear the song.

[If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee](#) *ELW #769 Stanza 3*
"God never yet forsook at need, the soul secured by trust indeed."

[Now Thank We All Our God](#) *ELW# 840 Stanza 3*
*"And keep us in all grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm,
In this world and the next."*

Your Offering

Giving

Thank you for your faithful giving.

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.

We Lift Up in Prayer

Children ...

...missing their classroom activities, teachers, and friends.

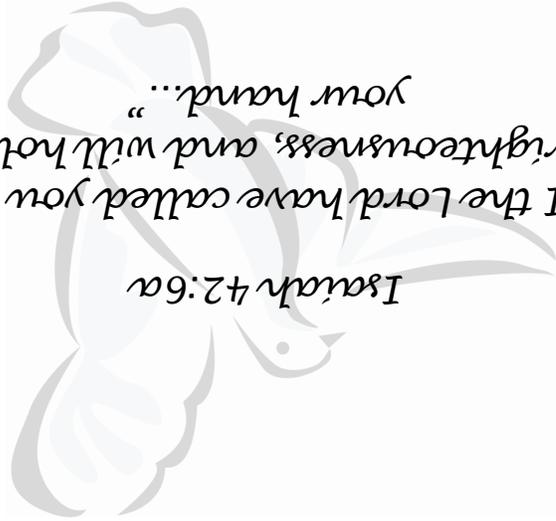
College students...

...struggling with disruption, disappointment, and unsaid goodbyes.

Church camps...

...making plans for a shorter summer season and smaller staff.

*“I the Lord have called you in
righteousness, and will hold
your hand...”*
Isaiah 42:6a



We are a Reconciling In Christ
(RIC) congregation.

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

*Go into the world as disciples.
Prepare for ministry in daily life,
presence of the living God,
Invite all people into the
people in Christ called to:
is a gathering of God's
Atonement Lutheran Church*

MISSION STATEMENT



1900 Westfall Road
Rochester NY 14618
(585) 442-1018

www.atonementrochester.org
Email:

office@atonementrochester.org

Livestream Worship

Sunday morning worship
at 9:30 a.m. via the
Atonement Facebook page

Until Further Notice

All worship services and
activities are cancelled.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

