



Midweek Message

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

STAYING HOME ISN'T NOTHING -Pastor Gail Swanson

Are you restless as this time of physical distancing moves from one month to the next, from the season of Lent to the joy of Easter, from the absence of soap and toilet paper on grocery shelves to the search for canola oil and ground turkey?

If you are yearning to get out of the house, to break free from daily meal preparations and dine in a real restaurant, or sit in your familiar pew and see familiar faces at church on Sunday morning – wait. Resist the urge to do so.

Staying home isn't nothing. It is everything right now, and it is soulful, loving work.

Our job is to take care of each other and love each other, not only by washing our hands and not giving that hug, but by staying home, out of love. Each day that we choose to be “home bound”, we've limited the spread of this deadly virus. You may have saved someone's life today, perhaps yesterday, maybe tomorrow.

St Paul writes: *We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*
– Romans 5:3-5

This does not mean Paul is advocating suffering for suffering's sake, or that he believes God intends for us to suffer. Far from it! We worship a God who surprises us by showing up to meet us right in the middle of our struggles and weakness in order to comfort us, strengthen us and give us hearts to love and care for others.

Which means our Atonement family will continue to gather for worship on Facebook... continue to reach out to each other by phone, by prayer, by cards, by emails and text messages...and continue to support each other in the confidence that, indeed, “God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”

We will get through this. And we will get through this together. And when we do, we may be surprised that we have grown in our faith, hope, and in the soulful, loving mindfulness of others.

Staying home – out of love for neighbor - isn't nothing.



Join us Online

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 Sundays at 9:30 a.m. by going to our Atonement Facebook page at [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch/)

A worship bulletin and hymns will be Emailed to our Atonement families.

Church News

Music Notes

Every week while we're apart, David will take hymn suggestions from parishioners, and make a recording of a short organ or piano piece based on them.

Please email the titles of your favorite hymns (as many as you want) to: mccarthy95@hotmail.com.

He'll pick a few at random, put them in the blender, and we'll see the results on our Facebook page!

Board of Ministries

Zoom Meeting

Our Board of Ministries will meet Tuesday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m. **online via Zoom**. More details to follow.

HOLY WEEK AT ATONEMENT



Remembering His sacrifice.



Wearing our masks.



Easter worship at home.



Appreciating His beautiful creation.

A NOTE FROM BISHOP JOHN MACHOLZ

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:

We hold in our individual and collective hands the power to bring this pandemic to its knees by #stayinghome and #flatteningthecurve. That suggests to me that we need to stay vigilant in our current model and look beyond April 30 toward May 15, at the very least, for a potential return to gathering again. What we don't want or need is to grow complacent as it begins to flatten out, and to jump to conclusions that will leave us in a direction we don't want to go. I know this is so hard to do, since we are "people who need people" (cue Barbra Streisand) but it is necessary moving forward.

It is my prayer that God will give us all the courage we need in the coming days to be the Church in this new iteration.

MAKING FACE MASKS

Now that we are all advised to wear face masks when we absolutely must leave our homes and go out in public, here are a few resources to help you locate or make your own.

If you can sew, try this helpful link for a pattern and tutorial:

“How to make a Fabric Face Mask with fabric ties”

[Sewing a Face Mask](#)

If you cannot sew, try this link instead: “CNN: How to make your own mask at home.”

[Making a No-Sew Face Mask](#)

If you can sew but have limited sewing supplies, Barb Sanko has assembled kits with fabric and ties. They will be available in a cooler outside the sanctuary doors for pickup **this Sunday** from **10:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** If you have extra fabric masks to donate to Atonement members, please leave them in the box.

Thimble Tailor in the Brighton Tops Plaza at 1900 South Clinton Avenue is making fabric masks for the general public for \$10 each, as well as donating them to local hospitals. To order yours, and arrange for curbside pickup, call *Thimble Tailor* at (585) 244-7810. You can also find them on Facebook, or by visiting their web site at www.thimbletailor.com.

Remember, wearing a face mask will not totally protect you from COVID-19. It is simply the smart and socially responsible thing to do if you must go out. Otherwise, please stay home!

THANKS TO YOU, FOR YOUR GIVING

Our thanks to all who have dropped off, mailed, or given an offering through electronic giving. Please know that your ongoing, faithful support in this time is appreciated and needed; and we are grateful.

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.

[Beautiful Savior](#) -F. Melius Christiansen

By His Wounds We are Healed

We Pray For:

-Suzanne Terhune, upon the death of her husband, Charlie, on April 5, following a long period of hospitalization.

-Helen Pearson, recovering from a fall.

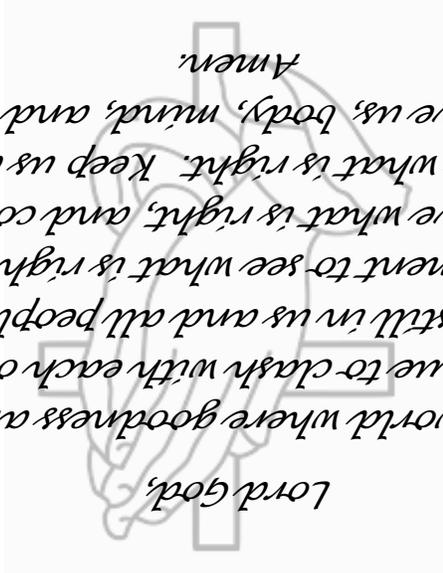
-Families who have lost loved ones to this devastating virus.

Grocery Ministry

Call for Assistance

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.

*Lord God,
In this world where goodness and evil
continue to clash with each other,
instill in us and all people
discernment to see what is right, faith
to believe what is right, and courage
to do what is right. Keep us and
preserve us, body, mind, and soul.
Amen.*



 **Atonement Lutheran Church**
Invite • Prepare • Go into the World
1900 Westfall Road
Rochester NY 14618
(585) 442-1018
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.

www.atonementrochester.org

MISSION STATEMENT

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.
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.
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.

Invite all people into the presence of the living God,
Prepare for ministry in daily life,
Go into the world as disciples.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

