



Midweek Message

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

EASTER CANNOT BE CANCELED

-Pastor Gail Swanson

Easter cannot be canceled. We may not gather in the same way, but Easter will not cease. The Resurrection continues.

The Church has never had anything to do with geography. It was never a building, never a fixed, physical location you visited on Sunday morning. That's far too small a space to fit the vast and abundant life it produces.

The Church has always been the people who gather together in the name of the Risen Lord to do the work of compassion, mercy, love and justice, regardless of where and when they gather. Each of us a living, breathing sanctuary.

In these disorienting and fearful days and weeks leading up to the victory of Easter Day, the Church is doing what it was always supposed to:

- Exhausted healthcare workers are on the frontline, living out sacrificial love of neighbors.
- Grocery store employees are working tirelessly to fill ever-emptying shelves in order that others can have their daily bread.
- Outreach ministries are still staffed with courageous volunteers as they direct resources to continue caring for the least of these.
- Online teachers and at home parents are contending with their own fierce worries, while shepherding the children in their care.

These are not all people of faith, but many are – and they are being the Church right now as much as ever. They are the living hymns and exhaled prayers and walking sermons in the trenches of this crisis. They are the Church, when the compassionate love of Jesus is seen and felt and known in their work and in their words.

This kind of discipleship cannot be regulated to one hour on a Sunday morning. It is part of a wide “holy ground” of hospital rooms and store aisles and makeshift computer workspaces and kitchen tables. These are the tiny yet mighty acts of faith and goodness that no worship service can contain.



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.

Postponed

Atonement Rummage Sale

Our *New to You* sale is being postponed to a later date, but Spring is a perfect time to gather items from around your home and save them for the sale!

Books, kitchenware, glassware, linens, and toys would be appreciated. *We are not accepting clothing this year.*

Church News

Please Note

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 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 at (614) 477-7863.

EASTER CANNOT BE CANCELED (continued)

Whatever the work of Jesus is, it isn't waiting quietly in a church building to be unlocked and released. And this is the beautiful truth in these dark days: even in these fearful times, even when people are scattered, even when sanctuaries filled with pews are closed, the Church is still the Church and love is still love.

Every day is Easter for those who are willing to see it. There is always new life breaking through, always restoration happening, always resurrection taking place, always miracles in our midst.

Easter cannot be canceled. We are the Church of the Risen Lord, now as much as ever.

** with thanks to John Pavlovitz, "You Don't Need to Open the Church By Easter"*

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

A Maundy Thursday Devotion

On Maundy Thursday, our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we join Christians around the world to enter into the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We remember Jesus' command to love one another and to follow his example of humble service.

You are invited to use the Maundy Thursday Devotion, included with this email, for a time of worship on this holy day.

BEING GENEROUS WHEN NOT IN WORSHIP

While our congregation may not be worshipping in person, the mission of God's church continues, and our ministries continue to need your support. Your financial generosity is appreciated.

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.

[Saint John Passion](#) -J.S. Bach

What Wondrous Love Is This ELW # 666

*And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
And through eternity
I'll sing on.*

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).

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.

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

