



# Midweek Message

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

## **LIKE A ROARING LION** -Pastor Gail Swanson

An African American Spiritual comes to mind:

*Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel,*

*Deliver Daniel, Deliver Daniel,*

*Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel,*

*And why not everyone?*

*He delivered Daniel from the lion's den,*

*Jonah from the belly of the whale.*

*And the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace,*

*And why not everyone?*

*Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel...*

Unlike the animals seen on the new Netflix miniseries *Tiger King*, I know that the world is a place where lions and tigers and bears still roam and prowl and devour. As do other predatory forces: sickness, sin and death; anxiousness, discouragement and fear. Wherever you might be on your journey during these difficult days or whatever deliverance you need in your life, look to God's mighty acts. Maybe it's not a lion's den or the belly of a whale or a fiery furnace, but aren't you and I in need of deliverance from something? Deliverance from the God who knows a lot about our fears, and a lot about liberation. What God did for Daniel, Jonah, the Hebrew children, and so many others, God will do for you.

*"Cast all your cares on the one who cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion, your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist the devil, keep steadfast in your faith." (1 Peter 5: 7-9a)*



## **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/)*

## 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.

## CHURCH NEWS

### *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.*

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion**      **April 5<sup>th</sup>**      **9:30 a.m.**

*Blessing of the Palms*

*\*Palm Branch Pick -up: The palm branches displayed in worship this day will be placed in a container outside the doors nearest the Sanctuary (East side of the church building.) Feel free to drive by Sunday late morning or afternoon and pick up one or more branches to take home.*

**Good Friday**      **April 10<sup>th</sup>**      **7:00 p.m.**

*Service of Darkness: Readings, Prayers, Hymns*

**Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord**      **April 12<sup>th</sup>**      **9:30 a.m.**

*Celebrate the Good News: He is Risen; Alleluia!*

## PANDEMIC

### **A poem by Lynn Ungar**

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath-  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love-  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

## **BRING TO THIS SACRED ALTAR THE GIFTS HIS GOODNESS GAVE**

Thank you for your faithful giving. Please keep current with your offering through electronic giving or by mailing your check to the church office. The church mail is collected and sorted regularly. All contributions will continue to be counted and deposited weekly.

## **INSPIRATION AND CONVERSATION**

**Maria Shriver's weekly e-newsletter - "The Sunday Paper"**

It's described on her website as "a free modern digital newsletter to inspire your heart and mind." Sign up online to receive your own copy each week and join us for a weekly online chat to discuss together.

- 1) Go to *mariashriver.com* to subscribe to the newsletter
- 2) Send an email to *avishooper@gmail.com* to sign up for our weekly group chat

It's a meaningful way to keep in touch and share ideas with Atonement friends.

## **A LENTEN SCAVENGER HUNT!**

### **For children and youth**

We will follow the story of Benjamin and learn about the amazing resurrection story of Jesus through Benjamin's eyes. 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.

Grace and Peace,  
Ms. Janeen  
[revransom@gmail.com](mailto: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.

[\*All Glory, Laud, and Honor\*](#)

*ELW #344*

[\*Saint Matthew Passion\*](#)

## **We Lift Up in Prayer**

*Nurses, doctors, and  
healthcare providers on the  
front line...*

Lord, keep them safe.

*Those who have lost em-  
ployment and income...*

Lord, provide for them.

*The isolated and those most  
vulnerable...*

Lord, assure them they are  
not alone.

## **With Sympathy**

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the family of Eloise Kress upon her death Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service will be held in June.

*“Let us keep ourselves open to the power that carries our life in every moment..that we may be filled with silent gratefulness.”*  
-Paul Tillich

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 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**



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***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

