



Midweek Message

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

CHURCH FAMILY FRIENDLY FACES

*The Domroes Boyle family with Pastor
Debbie Johnson and Suki the cat*



Andrew Spillane



Vi Price



The McCarthy's



He is Risen, Indeed!

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.

Face Masks Ready for Pickup

This Sunday

Are you in need of a face mask? Barb Sanko has sewn masks in both adult and youth sizes and in a variety of colors that are ready to wear!

Stop outside the sanctuary (East) entrance **this Sunday, May 10th from 10:30 am - 3:00 pm** to select a mask for you and your family, and **send us a photo of yourself wearing your mask.**

Our grateful thanks to Barb for her help in keeping us safe!

GOING FORWARD: WHERE JESUS IS LEADING US

Pastor Gail Swanson

Longing to go back to normal. This is what I hear from everyone. Longing to go back to church. This is what I hear from church people. Yet the path forward will be different and delayed from what we might have originally planned – and for good reasons.

The pastors of our Conference have been meeting weekly via Zoom to discuss this very topic. Last week, Bishop John Macholz joined our conversation, and followed up by sending a detailed letter on the issue of opening our church buildings for worship. Some excerpts from his letter are below:

“We are beginning conversations around “Lifting the Pause” (or “Re-opening”) though I am not a fan of the use of that term. It suggests that we are going back to what was, and we are not. What has been, has been; a completely new future awaits. How we get there, will be an indicator of how well we plan for and work with those plans to get us to wherever God is leading us. We are not going back to pre-March church. Gone, I’m afraid, will be handshaking or greeters at the door welcoming folks. How the Eucharist is cared for from start to finish will be a critical issue, as well as how our buildings are set up to assure social distancing. The Exchange of Peace will take on a new form, and how we receive and process offerings will change. How do we reduce touch points in our church buildings so that fewer hands touch fewer items? How do we clean and disinfect? These are just some of the items to plan for in the coming year. The list is long but it will be necessary to do all of these things and more.

*You can begin to understand the challenges we will face and the work that will need to be done. Nowhere in Governor Cuomo’s plan of the phases of a re-opening strategy for New York does he specifically talk about churches, so it’s unclear as to what phase we will be involved in. There is consensus around the fact that **we do not anticipate opening worship in our congregations before the end of June. That is my recommendation right now.** It seems to me there are a number of steps necessary to take before we can even think about opening the doors.”*

Indeed, there are multiple considerations and preparations that need discussion and implementation before Atonement meets for in-person worship. I have drafted a list of these things, divided into several categories, which will be shared with our Worship Planning Committee and our Board of Ministries for discussion at upcoming meetings. Additionally, a Congregational Questionnaire will be included in next week’s Midweek Message, inviting input from our members and friends regarding health and safety practices they would like to see put into place as we plan for a future start date for corporate worship. Please know that I am also available for conversation if you have suggestions or concerns.

In the meantime, we go forward. I'm reminded that on Easter morning, Jesus didn't go back to normal. He didn't come back from death and then go back to his usual ministry. He was transformed for something new. Just as we are being transformed by what is happening in our world and happening to us. Going back to normal is not an option. Going forward – is where Jesus is leading us.

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.

[Samuel Sebastian Wesley: Lead me, Lord](#)

Sung by the choir of Somerville College, Oxford

[The Call by Vaughan Williams](#)

sung by Apollo5

A NOTE FROM DON AND KAREN GROVER

To our Atonement Friends,
We want you to know how appreciative we are for your good wishes and support. It helps a lot.

Since my hip fracture at Thanksgiving, I have had fairly intensive rehab, and can now walk and climb stairs reasonably well. In fact, yesterday we both went downstairs to our cellar to look at the framed pictures we brought from Rochester. We put up a half dozen with several more to go!

Because of the virus, the University of Michigan has cancelled rehab for now. We are self-isolating at home and our daughter, Kimberly, brings us food and supplies. We continue self-directed rehab as best we can.

We certainly miss our Rochester friends. We had hoped to return in late April to help with the Rummage Slae, but the trip is now on hold. We still hope to go to Cape Cod in late May.

With sincere thanks for all your support,
Karen and Don

DINNER TABLE DEVOTIONS BY JANEEN OLIVER

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. This devotion comes from a book called *Dinner Table Devotions & Discussion Starters* written by Nancy Guthrie. I've created an activity for you to print and complete on the last page. Just click the link below:

[Holy Hands Devotion](#)

Thank you to all who sent their Bible Boggle lists. I hope you all had fun searching for words! Ms. Janeen

May: a Month of Famous Composers

Featured Names

During the Sundays of May, music of famous composers born during this month will be featured as a part of our livestream worship services. Check the weekly bulletin for a short paragraph about each composer.

*“Be of courage,
dear church, and
remember that
Christ is with us
now and always.”*

*ELCA Presiding Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton*

God's Work

God's Way

"God's work done in God's way will never lack for funds."

May we continue in our faithful giving.

Confirmation Classes Resume

Join us via Zoom

Confirmation classes will resume online using Zoom meetings. Watch your email for meeting links!

May 6th, 14th, 21st, 28th
3:00-4:00 p.m.

UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY KIDS BOOK DRIVE

From Nan Westervelt

Thank you so very, very much! I was so surprised to find almost 300 books on my doorstep yesterday. So many children are going to be thrilled to have their own books.

It's been so rewarding to participate in this effort!

Blessings to all!

MOTHER'S DAY FOOD DROPOFF

In honor of mothers, help us assist mothers and families in need by supporting our *Mother's Day Food Drop Off!* Please drop off a bag of food items (see the list below) on Mother's Day, **May 10th, from 10:30am – 3:00pm** at the sanctuary entrance (East entrance) to our Atonement building. All donated items will be taken to the Pittsford Food Cupboard to assist families with immediate needs in the Pittsford, Brighton, and Rochester area. Help us help others on Mother's Day!

Immediate Needs:

Trader Joe sized paper bags

Wegmans style reusable bags

Paper towels

Cleaning supplies (any)

Hand sanitizer

Shampoo

White rice

Cereal

Jam & jelly

Spaghetti sauce

Large containers of juice

BLESSING FOR THE MITZVAH OF PUTTING ON A MASK

Thank you to Rabbi Michael Knopf for sharing this beautiful blessing for the sacred obligation of wearing face masks in this time.

Baruch ata, Adonai Eloheinu,

Melech ha-olam,

asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav

v'tzivanu al shmirat hanafesh

Blessed are You, Eternal our God,

Sovereign of the world,

who has sanctified us with commandments,

and commanded us to protect life.