



# Midweek Message

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER WORSHIP**

*April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.*

*Online Only*

Our Synod Staff and other volunteers have pre-recorded an online worship service for congregations to use on this day. The service includes liturgy, hymns, music, a Children's Message, and a sermon from Bishop John Macholz. The link to print the bulletin and to view the video will be emailed to our church members and friends on April 8. There will be no In-Person OR Livestream worship at Atonement on April 11.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE**

There will be NO Story Time Sunday School on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

There WILL be Sunday School *Music Time* with David McCarthy on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m. via Zoom.



*This Joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!*



*He Is Risen, Indeed!*

## ***Atonement Lutheran Church***

### **All Are Welcome**

*Livestream worship via our  
Atonement Facebook page.*

Join Pastor Gail and David McCarthy for music and hymns, scripture, a sermon, prayers, and a Children's Moment.

*You can follow us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and for special services by going to our Atonement Facebook page at [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/](https://fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/)*

A worship bulletin with hymns will be Emailed to our Atonement families, and posted weekly on our web site.

## Meal Train

### *Sign-Up Online!*

During this time of Susan Touhsaent's recovery at Unity Rehabilitation following two strokes, we would like to provide meals for Bob.

Please visit our [sign-up page here](#) to view the available slots and click on the green button to sign up, and please make a note of what you are bringing to avoid duplicates. \*Additional dates will be added soon.

Meals should be dropped off to the church before 5:00 p.m. on your selected day, and should be placed in the freezer for pickup by Bob. Thank you!

## **THE INVITATION**

**By Pastor Gail Swanson**

An invitation arrived in the mailbox with Anne's name on the envelope. She was six years old and her friend Geneva was about to be seven. "Shhh!" the invitation read. "IT'S A SURPRISE PARTY!"

What's a surprise party, Anne wondered? Her mother explained: It was a secret. She was not to breathe a word about it to anyone – especially Geneva. When they arrived for the party, she would hide with the other guests in the living room; and when Geneva arrived, everyone would jump out and yell, "Surprise!" It sounded fun. What could possibly go wrong?

The party was Saturday afternoon, but Anne dressed in one of her Sunday outfits. Her mother did Anne's hair in a French braid and then drove her to Geneva's house. Within seconds of ringing the bell, Geneva came to the door.

"Surprise?" Anne and her mother said with hesitation.

"What are you doing here?" Geneva asked.

"You're early," Geneva's mother said gently as she walked towards the door. "The party is tomorrow."

Anne's mother began to apologize but Geneva's mother said, "Come on in," looking right at Anne. "I've been expecting you, just not quite this early. Don't worry, I was going to tell Geneva anyway." Anne stepped inside, and while the two mothers chatted over coffee, Anne and Geneva played a game.

The following afternoon, Anne dressed in a Sunday outfit with her hair in a French braid, and once again arrived at Geneva's house. The party was underway... Geneva was all smiles... and so was her mother. This happened years ago, yet still fresh in Anne's memory was the unmerited kindness Geneva's mother had shown to a little girl on her doorstep when a surprise party had gone awry.

As one who has witnessed all kinds of mishaps at surprise parties, I can say with all honesty that they're just not my thing. Yet I see the humor in this story; and I feel the embarrassment. Most of all, I am reminded of the invitation of God, who is always expecting me. No matter the time or location; whether I'm minutes early or weeks late; dressed in my fresh, white Sunday robe or my sinful worst – God meets me on the doorstep and gathers me into his marvelous, surprising grace. Inviting me to bring my whole self – my joy, worries, questions, hurts, hopes, disappointments, dreams and more – into his presence. "I've been expecting you," God says, "Come in...come on in."



## **CHRISTUS PARADOX**

By Sylvia Dunstan

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.  
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
You, peace-maker and sword-bringer  
Of the way you took and gave.  
You the everlasting instant;  
You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,  
Stripped of might upon the cross,  
Shining in eternal glory,  
Beggared by a soldier's toss,  
You, the everlasting instant;  
You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,  
Sit in power at God's side.  
You, who preach a way that's narrow,  
Have a love that reaches wide.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!  
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and victory.  
Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
You, who are our death and life.

## **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.

[Christ the Lord is Risen Today](#) This was the best sing-along version of “Easter Hymn” (“Jesus Christ is Ris’n Today”) I could find – I like that they have the words on the screen. Tom Trenney, the conductor, is the music director at this church in Lincoln. He used to live in Rochester (as an Eastman student), and gives very inspiring choral workshops.

[Easter Suite - He Has Risen](#) Oscar Peterson was one of the greats of jazz piano, and was commissioned to write an “Easter Suite” by the BBC for a show in 1984. It's a set of pieces for his trio, depicting scenes from the Passion and resurrection, ending with this movement. He never recorded it, as far as I can tell, so the TV version is the only one available. One of the things he did in the suite was to take the speech rhythms of phrases, and make a melody with them– I can only hear “Jesus is risen” in the little 5-note figure in this movement, but maybe he was thinking of something else.

## **Church Directories**

### ***Now Available***

New church Directories with the latest updates are now available in the church office and on the narthex table.

## **LAKE CHAUTAUQUA LUTHERAN CAMP HAPPENINGS**

### *Cabin Rentals Now Open*

LCLC will be renting its rustic camper cabins to individuals and families. While operating safely within the NY Forward guidelines, Cabin Camping at LCLC offers you a safe and peaceful way to enjoy LCLC. LCLC's camper cabins offer the "car camping" enthusiast a solid shelter along with self-contained toilet and shower facilities. As noted above, it's a great way to make wonderful memories!

[Click here](#) for more information, or call us at 716-386-4125, or Email [contact@lclcenter.org](mailto:contact@lclcenter.org). See you this spring, summer, and fall!

### *Adopt a Project Day April 17<sup>th</sup>*

Adopt-A-Project Day is a time for accomplishing prearranged work projects. By knowing in advance who's coming and for which projects, we're better able to get things done.

A reduced capacity of 25 will be followed this year for the health and safety of our volunteers. All projects will be outdoors, rain or shine, to provide for ample social distancing and fresh air. Please bring your mask for when you are unable to maintain a safe distance from other volunteers.

Projects available for adoption include:

- Retreat Center garden raking, trimming, etc.
- Trail trimming
- Outdoor Chapel raking, trimming, sprucing up
- Wood cutting and splitting
- Fiesta Tent set up
- Junk Disposal

A complimentary lunch will be served for all volunteers. Please contact the office to adopt a project and RSVP today. For more information, call 716-386-4125 or email [contact@lclcenter.org](mailto:contact@lclcenter.org)

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY 'HELP DESK TEAM' NEEDED**

### **June 4th & 5th**

From Bishop Macholz:

I am looking for ten people of all ages to volunteer for the Help Desk Team, during the day on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> (and a few folks on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsford. The tasks involved include answering phone calls and emails from people having basic questions or difficulties logging into the Synod Assembly from their computers/phones.

A 30-minute training session on how to respond to these questions will be offered one week before the Assembly.

The Help Desk will be logged into the Assembly so that volunteers can see what is taking place in real time on the Assembly floor.

If you can volunteer, please contact Pastor Gail, and she will forward your name to Bishop Macholz.

### *Atonement*

### *Lutheran Church*

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[fb.com/  
atonementlutheranchurch](https://fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch)

### *Livestream Worship*

9:30 a.m. Sundays via the  
Atonement Facebook page.

### *Church Office Hours*

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday