



Midweek Message

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

ATONEMENT OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 16th at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for worship in our church parking lot and on the lawn! Music, scripture, prayers, Children’s Moment...and more.

Many thanks to our guest Pastor: The Rev. Mary Johnson.

Helpful information:

Enter the church parking lot on the Sanctuary (East) side of the building and stop at the table to pick up a bulletin through your car window. Updated church directories will also be available for pickup this day.

- Sit in your car for worship OR bring a lawn chair/blanket for socially distanced lawn seating, a sun hat, or shade umbrella.
- Please wear a face mask if you leave your car.
- Out of consideration for the environment, we ask that you keep your car engine off during worship. Bring a hand-held fan and your water bottle to stay cool!
- A container will be available to drop off offering envelopes.

We look forward to seeing you in person! *This service will also be livestreamed on our Atonement Facebook page.*

Please Note:

1. For those with lawn chairs/blankets on the grass; please park your car in a ‘sunny spot’-allowing ‘shady spots’ for those who choose to stay in their cars.
2. In case of cancellation due to rain, we will activate our Atonement Phone Tree and post the information on our website.

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SOMETHING NEW!

<i>August 22</i>	Saturday Evening Outdoor Worship Service and FB Livestream (No Sunday morning service)	5:00 p.m.
August 30	Outdoor Worship Service & Livestream	9:30 a.m.



Join us Online

Online worship from our Atonement sanctuary!

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

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

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

Beautiful Things

Grace

*Grace is the cargo train
that distributes into my
life all the good and
beautiful things that are
un-earnable:*

*forgiveness, mercy,
endless second chances,
the goodwill of those who
could write me off, the
sun rising each day, a
perfect peace in
summer...and love.*

-Nadia Bolz-Weber

THINGS THAT MATTER

Pastor Gail Swanson

There is a voice of hatred and bigotry that has a megaphone and a platform in our communities right now. A voice of cruelty, an attitude of callousness, a perpetrator of pain, and an incubator of injustice.

This voice sounds nothing like Jesus, whose love for others knows no barriers. Who taught that that the greatest commandment, the bedrock foundation of a disciple's life, was to love God and love one's neighbor. Not just the neighbor in our zip code, but the one who was hurt or beaten or left in a ditch by the side of the road.

Knowing this, it defies explanation why so many people, and many Christians, not only refuse to love their neighbor - their black neighbor, their brown neighbor, their gay neighbor - but seem intent on causing them harm in ways large and small. Jesus himself said that he was bringing good news for the poor, the vulnerable, the oppressed - and until the Church passionately and powerfully ushers in these things, we aren't making good on Jesus' promise.

Consider this: If more Christians listened to Jesus, they would reject toxic racism and homophobia. If more Christians listened to Jesus, they would take up the cause to make sure everyone has enough to be whole and healthy. If more Christians listened to Jesus, they would be the first ones wearing masks in a pandemic, the first ones opposing discrimination and inequality against the LGBTQIA community, the first ones welcoming refugees, the first ones declaring that black lives matter. Not the last ones.

Yet here we find ourselves: still a society with demeaning comments, discrimination and exclusion towards our LGBTQIA brothers and sisters. Still the structural racism, harassment and senseless deaths of black men and women. What will it take to begin to untangle ourselves from ways that are not of God, and to live more fully into the legacy of Jesus?

A small step forward.

Our summer readers group has been meeting on the lawn at Atonement to discuss the topic of racism and racial equity. A recommendation from members of the readers group was presented to the Board of Ministries - and approved - as a way to show love for our neighbors who are facing these particular struggles at this particular time. Two small signs will be posted on the church lawn as a symbol of support for our LGBTQIA neighbors and as a statement of belief that Black Lives do indeed Matter.

To be clear: This is a theological statement that our congregation is making; not a political or philosophical one. A statement of support not for specific causes but for children of God. An actual step of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus to those who find themselves hurt, beaten and left in a ditch at the side of the road.

To be clear: The love of Christ is indeed for all lives and for all people. Yet in this moment, like the Good Shepherd who loves all of his sheep, but leaves the 99 in search of that one sheep in need, these brothers and sisters are in need of our focused attention at this time.

To be clear: Like cans in a cupboard, signs have a shelf-life. For the time being, may they remind us that Jesus said, “Love your neighbor,” not “Tolerate your neighbor.” Not until we find the strength to love our brothers and sisters who have been left in the ditch by others, will the world become an abundant place for all.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

To be clear: These things matter.

BISHOP’S APPEAL UPDATE

Although the Bishop’s Golf Tournament was cancelled this summer, the Bishop’s Appeal is still in need of financial donations. This Appeal focuses on supporting and growing Lay Leadership Development. As we did last year, our Atonement congregation supports this benevolence ministry with a donation of \$100. Individual contributions from across the synod are also gratefully appreciated; by sending a check directly to the Upstate New York Synod or donating via the website at www.upstatentsynod.org

If you were to give it would be PAR FOR THE COURSE, and help us to DRIVE this ministry home!

A WORD OF THANKS

Our grateful appreciation to Kathy Wilkinson and Siena Catholic Academy for the gift of a portable sound system. This sound system has been a blessing to our ministry this summer; and will make outdoor worship and other events possible at Atonement for years to come. Our thanks for this generous gift.

When You See

When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something. To do something. Our children and their children will ask us “What did you do?” “What did you say?”.

We have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history.

-John Lewis

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.

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.



[I Sought the Lord](#) Karen Marrolli is a church musician in Albuquerque, who does a lot of folk-style music as well. And I’ve always liked this text, a poem by Jean Ingelow, a nineteenth-century English poet.

[In the Garden](#) “In the Garden” is an old chestnut. It’s also the source of one of my dad’s favorite jokes: “What’s Jesus’ other name? [pause] Andy. [quizzical pause] You know, Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.”

HELP US COLLECT: BABY BUNDLE ITEMS

During the next few weeks, you can help us collect the following items for Baby Bundles for Bethany House:

- *Onesies for boys and girls, size 3 – 6 months
- *Socks for boys and girls, size 3- 6 months
- *Baby Wash (full size bottles)
- *Baby Lotion (full size bottles)

Items can be dropped off in the plastic bin at the sanctuary doors (East side) on Wednesdays and Sundays beginning August 16th. Thank you for caring and sharing.

