



Midweek Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 6th at 9:30 a.m.

Worship with us Livestream on our Atonement Facebook page as we "light two candles to watch for the Messiah..."

ADVENT GIVING OUTREACH ~ DEC 6TH-DEC 20TH

"Warm Hands/Warm Heads/Warm Feet"

Help us help our neighbors in need by donating to this year's Advent Giving Outreach.

- Donate NEW socks, gloves, mittens or winter hats.
- All sizes for men, women and children.
- Other winter clothing will also be accepted (Must be new or clean and very gently used.)
- Donations will be received Wednesdays and Sundays in the bin placed outdoors by the Sanctuary (East) entrance. 
- All donations will be given to Saint's Place, Rochester, whose mission is to "Welcome the Stranger," by providing needed items to newly-arriving refugees in Rochester.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR OUTDOOR, DRIVE-THROUGH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, Dec. 13th at Atonement: 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Take a drive through our church parking lot to see and hear the story of the birth of the Baby Jesus through the eyes and voices of our Atonement children and youth!

A special event for our congregation and for family members, neighbors, and friends of our church family.



All Are Welcome

Livestream Advent 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. by going to our Atonement Facebook page at [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.

Atonement Lutheran Church

Our Sympathy

And Prayers

Our sympathy and prayers to Dick Browne upon the death of his sister-in-law, Mabel "Mib" Browne, on November 19th.

"Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her."

BE A PART OF #MyNativityScene



Take a photo of your Nativity Scene at home, and Email it to the church office with the subject heading "My Nativity Scene," along with your name and anything unique about your Nativity scene.

Whether your Nativity Scene is ceramic or glass; made from wood, pottery or origami; purchased locally or delivered from across the globe, we would love to feature your photos for the next three weeks in our Midweek Message! Even though we may not be able to be physically together in worship during this holy season, we can still share in the wonder and beauty of the Christ Child and his Holy Family.



ONE OF US

*He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving name,
For ev'ry child of earth, for ev'ry child of earth. ELW #737*

Maybe this was God's intent all along, why God chose to become one of us- to upend our normal. And maybe this is why Christmas has to come every year- to remind us, once again, that the normal we create isn't the normal God wishes for us.

-Karoline Lewis

BOARD OF MINISTRIES ZOOM MEETING

Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom. A Zoom link will be Emailed to Board members prior to the meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, December 13th at 10:30 a.m.

Be sure to join us as we discuss the 2021 Church Budget.

This meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom. A Zoom link will be Emailed to Atonement members prior to the meeting.

STORY TIME SUNDAY SCHOOL

via Zoom Sunday, December 6th at 10:45 a.m.

Storyteller Sarah (Sahara) Kruidenier will be reading *Be Kind*, by Pat Zietlow Miller this week, a book that shows us that even a small act of kindness can make a difference. We hope you will join us! The Zoom link will be emailed to our Sunday School families every Saturday.

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.

[Comfort, Comfort Ye My People](#) “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” is in our hymnal at number 256. It’s a setting of one of those parts of Isaiah that are so strangely on-the-nose about the birth of Jesus. The music was written by Louis Bourgeois, a 16th-century French Calvinist composer, based loosely on the melody of a secular love song. He’s also the person who wrote the Old 100th/Doxology tune (“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”), and in both cases there are still traces of the Renaissance’s freer approach to rhythm, sometimes in groups of three, sometimes in two.

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#) Nancy Raabe is a popular modern Lutheran composer and pastor in Wisconsin. In this hymn setting, she uses some nice rich seventh and ninth chords (which go well with the old modal American folk tune “Jefferson”), and tasteful finger cymbals give it a bit of a mysterious atmosphere.

[Virtual Christmas Programs](#) Of course we all know not to think about Christmas during the Advent season, but as long as we feel bad about it, it should be okay. Here’s a list of streamed Christmas programs from Lutheran colleges around the country to listen to through December.

Living Lutheran

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Living Lutheran is the monthly magazine of the ELCA, offering the latest news, articles, and stories featuring the work, mission, and ministries of the church nationwide and around the world.

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Thank You!

For Helping

To our Black Friday leaf rakers and outdoor cleanup volunteers- Atonement is now ready for winter!

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OVER THE RIVER AND BACK TO ISAIAH

By Pastor Gail Swanson

A well-known holiday song dating back to 1844 begins with the words, “*Over the river and through the wood, to grandmother’s house we go.*” Sometimes sung at Thanksgiving, other times at Christmas, it conjures up a time of horses and sleighs and drifting winter snow – and in one version – pumpkin pie!

Not all of us have this exact experience of “Going to Grandma’s house in the countryside.” (Personally speaking, one of my grandmothers lived outside of Pittsburgh... the other, in Queens, NY, where there was lots of traffic and subways but no sleighs!) But most of us do remember occasions - or still continue to make occasions - to visit grandparents during the Christmas season. When we visit those of an older generation, what we experience is tradition. We learn about the values, the history, the events, the stories that have shaped our family. The past indeed shapes us, and if we are fortunate, the past shapes us for the good.

Each year during the season of Advent, we visit the “homes’ of the four Gospels; spending time with Mark, Matthew, Luke and John to experience how the coming of Jesus, God’s Son and Messiah, unfolds. Each visit offers uniquely different storytelling of the wondrous event of how and why and where the birth of Jesus took place. But writer Cynthia Campbell suggests that there is one more visit, one more “home” to stop at. Just like us, the Gospel writers had “spiritual grandparents.” In fact, all four Gospels share one relative in common: the prophet Isaiah. Biblical scholars tell us that what we know as the Book of Isaiah represents the life and proclamation of at least three different prophets over a long period of time. As centuries passed, this prophetic word became one, largely because of the clear vision of God’s promise of redemption, not only for Israel, but for the entire human family. It’s almost impossible to imagine the story of Jesus without Isaiah, who lived more than five hundred years before Jesus’ birth but whose words and faith shaped early followers and, two thousand years later, shape us.

Spending time with Isaiah reminds us once again:

“Immanuel – God with us” (7:14)

“A child born for us, a son given to us...Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (9:6)

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” (11: 1-2)

“He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.” (40: 11)

For health and safety reasons, visiting the homes of relatives and family members might not be in our plans this holy season. But as we prepare for the coming of God’s Messiah, may we hold in our hearts the hope we have received from our spiritual ancestor, Isaiah. And may that hope shape us for the good.