



# Midweek Message

## **THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

Worship with us Livestream on our Atonement Facebook page as we remember: Each of us has a calling in God's world.

## **STORY TIME SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM**

**Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.**

Join us for a NEW BOOK for the new year! We hope you will join us. The Zoom link will be Emailed to our Sunday School families every Saturday.

## **LIGHTING CEREMONY & CHURCH BELL RINGING: MEMORIAL FOR COVID VICTIMS**

Communities and churches around the country are invited to join Washington D.C. in lighting up buildings and ringing church bells on January 19 at 5:30pm EST in a national moment of unity and remembrance of lives lost in the midst of the COVID pandemic, which has killed more than 380,000 people nationwide. A lighting ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington will memorialize these COVID victims.



At Atonement, we will join in this memorial with the sound of our organ chimes – amplified outdoors – and with lights on in the sanctuary, in remembrance of all who have died as a result of this dreaded virus.

*Bring them to your eternal garden, O God; watered by your mercy and everlasting light.*



## ***Atonement Lutheran Church***

### **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.

## Board of Ministries

### *Zoom Meeting*

The Board of Ministries will be meeting Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. A link will be Emailed to Board members.

## THE LIGHT OF THE STAR

**By Pastor Gail Swanson**

One week since the Day of Epiphany. One week since we remembered the journey of the Wise Men who followed the light of a star which led them to the Light of the world. One week since mob violence, fear, and sedition descended to our nation's Capitol – and upon those within its walls. A day which began with the radiance of God ended with a darkness of the forces of evil.

Yet the Light of God is with us in our journey forward- and through- this horrifying event; and the star still shines. Pastor and writer Diana Butler Bass says it best:

*As the beloved community comes into the world, evil kings will lie and murder – do anything- to stop the possibility of God's dream made manifest here and now.*

*So what do we do? Be like the magi. And do not give in to Herod.*

*The best wisdom I have this day is that the wise men were, indeed, wise. This is the time to remember the light of the star. Remember the angelic song of peace. Remember the longing of our hearts for a governance of grace. And remembering, we continue following the star. We can kneel, worship, be overcome with joy. Even through Herod's lies, God's presence does not absent itself. Love is still here.*

*And then – once we let that truth fill us – we do not go home the way we came. Because there will always be some Herod whose fear leads to violence and death. We will leave Epiphany by another road.*

*I don't know where that other road will take us. But we can't continue on the road we've been traveling. If nothing else, I'm glad we're on this journey together. There are so many who see more clearly today than yesterday, and many who will be searching for the star. Look up. Salvation is at hand.*

***From all oppression, conspiracy and rebellion;***

***From violence, battle and murder;***

***From dying suddenly and unprepared,***

***Good Lord, deliver us.***

***-Book of Common Prayer***

## Hear Us, O God

*Saving God, amid the lawless violence, fear, and death  
in our nation's Capitol, your presence is steadfast,  
and your quiet strength never fails.*

*In these times of unrest and danger,  
be our sure Guardian and the Rock of our defense.  
Protect us from all conspiracy, sedition and rebellion.  
Comfort us in our distress and outrage.  
Lead us to a future of truth and justice,  
Peace, and safety for the well-being of every person.*

*Amen.*



## **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.

[Gigout Toccata](#) This is very much a “live” recording! Alana Brook is an Australian organist now working in the UK, at Lincoln Cathedral. She’s playing one of the most famous organs in the world: that built by Cavaillé-Coll in 1862 at the church of St. Sulpice in Paris. Sitting beside her (and commenting) is Daniel Roth, the titular organist of that church. There was a school of French composers like Gigout who arose in response to Cavaillé-Coll’s new organs, making very rich, Romantic pieces which have to be heard in these old churches to be fully appreciated.

[The Healing of the Nations](#) The National Conference for Sacred Music happens every year in January, but I’ve never been able to go before. This year, of course, it was virtual (and free!), so I was able to catch up on what people have been writing recently. I liked this piece by Anne Krentz Organ, the Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke’s Lutheran in Park Ridge, IL. It’s a vision of world peace, with images from Revelation. Musically it’s a series of ostinato (short, repeated) patterns in the choir supporting a soloist.

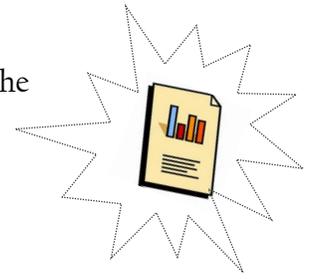
## In Our Prayers

### *This Week*

Loved ones and friends in need of healing, especially Regina Short and Pastor Steve Hluchy.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE**

Please submit 2020 Annual Reports to the church office by January 20th.



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***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

## **A HEART-FELT THANKS**

Sonja Wastvedt writes:

“Dear Atonement Family,  
Thank you SO MUCH for all of the cards and letters that you sent to my mom, Kathy Jensen, this Christmas! As you can imagine, it has been a very difficult holiday being in a new place and not being able to visit with family or meet any others in the facility. At times she has not even been allowed out of her room, if the case count was too high.

Your thoughtfulness has really made a difference for her in these days! She has received dozens of cards from all of you and she comments every time I talk to her on the phone that she can’t believe that all of you remembered her. Nearly every day she has said ‘...and I got MORE cards today!’. I can hear the smile on her face.

Thank you for your kindness, and for being such a loving church family for my parents for so many years-and still today.”

*What should be done then, my friends?  
When you come together,  
each one has a hymn, a lesson,  
a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation.  
Let all things be done for building up.*

*-1 Corinthians 14:26*