



Midweek Message

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

SUMMERTIME OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AT ATONEMENT

Sunday, July 26th 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.

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!

If you are unable to join us in person this day, the 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.



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.

Today's Thought

The Real Stuff

I yell at God sometimes.
“What’s the purpose of
THIS part of life?”

And God says “Practicing
hope. Learning resilience.
Becoming brave for your
neighbor’s sake. Being gentle
to yourself and others.”

But when does the real stuff
start?

And God replies, “This is the
real stuff, Beloved.”

-Laura Jean Truman

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

Pastor Gail Swanson

A gentle breeze, the beauty of a lake and the wide expanse of a deep blue sky surround me as I write this reflection. One more thing... a campfire ring, ready for a new recipe I'm eager to try:

BLUEBERRY-CINNAMON CAMPFIRE BREAD

1 loaf cinnamon-raisin bread

6 large eggs

1 cup half-and half

2 Tbsp. maple syrup

1 tsp. vanilla extract

½ chopped pecans, toasted

1 cup fresh blueberries

Prepare campfire for low heat. Place bread slices, slightly overlapping, on a greased double thickness of heavy-duty foil (24" x18"). Bring foil up sides, leaving the top open. Whisk eggs, half-and half, syrup and vanilla. Pour over bread; sprinkle with nuts and blueberries. Fold edges over top, crimping to seal. Place on grill grate over campfire for 30 – 40 minutes. Serve with additional blueberries and syrup.

When Jesus tells a story, he often invites us to look at ordinary things with new eyes: a mustard seed, a hidden treasure, a pearl, and yeast in a loaf of bread. The kingdom of heaven is like these things! Could it also be like a gentle breeze, a beautiful lake, the sky above, bread sweetened and moistened and heated over a fire?

Parables, like a change of scenery, can transport us to a new world, and give us eyes to glimpse the hidden ways God's kingdom is present in the familiar. Parables are also images of hope; and more than that, they inspire us to believe in the power of hope. I long for my inner eyes to notice where God's kingdom is waiting to be seen in the midst of everyday life, in both the simple things and the difficult ones. I long to trust its transforming effect as surely as I trust that a campfire recipe will transform a morning meal. Just as surely as I trust the words “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

“The kingdom of heaven is like bread sweetened and moistened and heated over a fire, until it produces a breakfast to behold.”

The power of hope brought near.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The annual Bishop John Macholz Golf Outing has been cancelled.

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.

[Take My Life and Let It Be](#) This is a modern piece by Tom Keesecker, who was going to play a concert at Atonement in May (we'll have him back). “Take My Life” is one of those texts that musicians have repeatedly been drawn to, perhaps because of the square rhythms of the text; there are two different tunes setting it in our hymnal (685 and 583), and here's another one. At 2:13, we hear a classic trick to make a piece sound brighter, by taking it up a semitone partway through. This is common in gospel style, and Bach used it sometimes when accompanying hymns.

[Prelude and fugue in G major](#) Speaking of whom, it's been a while since we had Bach! Here's a prelude and fugue for organ. Bach often wrote pairs of pieces like this: a more free first one, and then a fugue, which is a piece built around repeating a tune (called the “subject”) in different keys over and over, starting with one part (a “voice”), and then adding more. It starts at 2:47 in this video, which also shows one of the most famous organs in the world, at St. Bavo in Haarlem, Netherlands.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Zoom meeting for parents
of Atonement Sunday School Children
Monday, July 27th at 8:00 p.m.

We have ideas for online Sunday School in the fall with two new ideas for curriculum: a play-based curriculum based on Old Testament stories...and a worship/activity based curriculum. We also have Sparkhouse Curriculum available for both in-class and online classes. Please join Joanne Scanlon, Janeen Oliver, and Pastor Gail for a conversation about the shape and design of Sunday School in September.

We look forward to Zooming with you! A Zoom link will be emailed to each famil on July 26th.

Board of Ministries

Zoom Meeting

Our Board of Ministries will meet online via Zoom on Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 p.m. A meeting link will be Emailed to Board Members by July 27th.

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Livestream Worship

Sunday morning worship
at 9:30 a.m. via the
Atonement Facebook page.

RACIAL EQUITY CHALLENGE

Avis Hooper

"I am and always will be a catalyst for change"

Shirley Chisolm

How have you made a successful change in your life? Exercise more? Eat less? Change jobs? It's not easy and takes time and attention.

You can learn about and help create effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of power, privilege, supremacy and leadership by joining Atonement members and friends in the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge ©

The **Challenge** website has a comprehensive list of resources that includes suggestions for readings, podcasts, videos, observations and ways to form and deepen community connections. For 21 days, select one action each day to further your understanding and record your progress on the printable tracking chart also on the website. It can easily be done individually, as well as to generate thoughtful conversation with friends and family.

Find out more about the **Challenge** at:

<https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge>

Please let Becky Wiesmore in the church office know **if you** decide to participate in the Challenge as well as when you have completed the 21 steps. We'll give you a "shout out" in the newsletter! Let Avis Hooper know if you would like to join our readers/discussion group as we meet periodically under the trees on the church front lawn. (avishooper@gmail.com)

Sometimes the hardest part is just getting started. Please join us as we empower ourselves to become more effective players in the quest for equity and justice.

