



Midweek Message

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

MEASURING TIME

Pastor Gail Swanson

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy,” say the song lyrics of a familiar Broadway musical. Summer, yes. Easy living? Not sure yet. I don’t know about you, but one of the things that has been a bit confusing during this health crisis time/ racial injustice crisis time/ time of national discord and division – has been figuring out “time”. I find myself asking - “What time is it?” “What day is it?” “Tuesday? Or is it already Wednesday?” - more than I like to admit. As days blend into other days, and as worries of the day blend into new worries the next day, it seems more difficult to measure time.

In truth, over the past three months I’ve found myself spending more and more time with the Book of Psalms. Every emotion; each frustration, joy and concern; my gratitude, my highs and my lows; are mirrored in the words of the psalmists. So much so, that as I searched and struggled with this sense of displaced time, I came upon what I needed to hear: “*But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, “You are my God. My times are in your hand...”* Psalm 31: 14-15a

Perhaps these words are exactly the kind of reminder we need. Our time is not determined by a clock but determined by God. We are living in a “virus time,” a “racism reality check time” and a time of civil/political/religious outrage. These decisive forces will either inspire a new sense of who we are supposed to be as God’s people in Christ – or will make us fall back into ways that are not of God. We may want to deny their crucial importance to our discipleship, but I wouldn’t recommend it. How we navigate these messy, fearful crisis moments will reveal to whom we belong. Whose ways we take to heart. Whose footsteps we follow. And how our time is lived out.

“*My times are in your hand...*”.

Good words to believe on a Tuesday, a Wednesday... or anytime.



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.

Re-Entry Planning Committee

Zoom Meeting

Our Re-Entry Planning Committee will meet online via Zoom on *Thursday, June 11th at 10:30 a.m.*

WEDNESDAY WINDOW CHATS WITH PASTOR GAIL

Do you like to chat? How about through a window or a doorway? If you've been missing "face to face" conversation, Pastor Gail will be available for "window chats" on Wednesdays throughout the summer. Interested?

- Call the church office and leave a message with your name and a date and time that works for you.
- Pastor Gail will call to confirm.
- On that Wednesday, she will bring a lawn chair and sit outside your window or door for a chat, providing you with the opportunity to remain safely distanced.

How pleasant it is when kindred come together in unity.

Psalm 133:1

JUST FOR KIDS 10 AND UNDER THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

Each week, the Bishop will share a children's book and pair it with a story from scripture (15-20 minute session).

SIGN UP by completing the form found on the Synod's web site: www.upstatenysynod.org

Once registered, you will be sent the Zoom link for the sessions.

BOOK TITLES:

June 11 th	<i>I Love You the Purplest</i>
June 18 th	<i>Woof: A Love Story</i>
June 25 th	<i>The Colors of Us</i>
July 2 nd	<i>Don't Laugh at Me</i>
July 9 th	<i>Night Job</i>



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.

[“The Summons”](#) is a song we’ll be singing this weekend. The words were written by John Bell after he joined the religious community of Iona, to a traditional Scottish tune, and the song is pretty common at ordinations and other events where someone is committing themselves to Christ. Bell is the composer or author of five hymns in our hymnal. The Iona Community started in the 1930s as a project to renovate an abandoned monastery on the remote Scottish island of Iona, bringing the working class and clergy together, but has expanded to be an ecumenical Christian group dispersed across the world, with a focus on peace and justice issues. I like how in this recording each verse is presented a little differently.

[“Psalm 100”](#) Rene Clausen is a well-known American Lutheran composer, a St. Olaf alumnus, and has been the choral director at Concordia College for years. The Psalm appointed for this weekend is Psalm 100, which is one of the most popular ones for composers. The changing meter throughout makes it very appropriately dance-like. Look for the word-painting (where something in the notes reflects some meaning of the words) on "from generation to generation" at around 1:50.

OPENING OUR EYES TO RACISM

Avis Hooper

As people of faith, it’s time to reflect on white privilege and racism in our own lives, in our community, in our country. Please consider joining our reading group as we read and discuss “*Good White Racist? Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice*” by Kerry Connelly (pub. March 2020.) We can Zoom our discussion, chat via email, or even have small group discussions on our own patios, lawns or decks.

The book is available on Amazon and, as of last week, there was a pretty quick turnaround on delivery. To join the reading group, please respond to Avis Hooper at avishooper@gmail.com or to Becky Wiesmore in the church office at office@atonementrochester.org. We will contact you next week to talk about how to set up the discussion groups.

Another suggested book is “*White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*” by Robin Diangelo (pub. 2018.) Available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, but on back order at the moment.

We hope you will invest your time in reading and self-reflection, and join in on this important conversation.

Prayer

Grant Us Peace

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move in every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace. Amen.



GO TAKE A HIKE!

AT LAKE CHAUTAUQUA LUTHERAN CENTER

While our summer youth camping season has been canceled due to COVID-19, LCLC remains open to individuals and families looking for a "nature park" in which to hike or picnic for the day. Overnighting, however, is not possible.

Options for enjoying yourself at LCLC this summer will continue to maintain all the current COVID-19 precautions. Including social distancing, wearing masks when needed, not visiting LCLC if you are ill, and not gathering in groups of 10 or more.

Individuals and families should plan to be completely self-sufficient during their time at LCLC. Similar to hiking in a state forest, visitors will need to bring their own food, beverages, charcoal, grill, refuse bags, and campfire wood, as needed.

Outdoor areas available for reservation include:

- 4 miles of hiking trails
- Pavilion with charcoal grill
- Wales Hollow Fire Circle
- RATS Village Fire Circle
- Waterfront Fire Circle (swimming is not permitted)

Registration procedures:

Interested visitors need to register with the office by calling 716-386-4125 or emailing lee@lclcenter.org. The number of individuals and families on site at any one time will be strictly monitored and limited for the health and safety of all. Group gatherings of over 10 are not allowed at this time.

Costs:

While hiking is free, the reservation of a Campfire Circle or Pavilion is \$10.00 per site. We look forward to safely seeing you soon!

...AND THERE IS GOOD NOW

“Nobody but nobody makes it here alone. What really matters now is love. I mean, that condition in the human spirit that is so profound it allows us to rise. Strength, love, courage, love, kindness... love, that is really what matters. There has always been evil and there will always be evil. But there has always been good, and there is good now.”

-Maya Angelou