



Midweek Message

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

ZOOM COFFEE CHAT THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST

Join us immediately following our livestream worship service this Sunday for Coffee & Conversation via Zoom!* from 10:15-10:45. Bring your beverage and catch up with our church family. The link below is also listed on our web site under News/Upcoming Events

**Zoom is a video conferencing application on the computer or your mobile phone, allowing you to see and/or talk to other people as a group.*

1. On Sunday at 10:15 a.m., click on this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84240384699>
1. If you do NOT already have the Zoom application installed on your computer, click on “download and run Zoom” and follow the onscreen directions. It is FREE to download.
2. If you already have Zoom, then simply click on “Open Zoom Meeting”
3. If you are dialing in via your mobile phone, then dial 1 929 205 6099, and the meeting ID is 842 4038 4699#

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 with you.
- 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



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.

Christ In Our Home

Daily Devotional

Copies of this daily devotional for the months of July-September are now available. Please contact the church office to arrange for a time to pick one up, or to have one mailed to your home.

BACK TO OUR PLACE: PREPARING FOR RE-ENTRY **Pastor Gail Swanson**

What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house the earth its floor.

Walls and a roof sheltering people,

Windows for light, and open door.

Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,

And know our God is near.

ELW #524, What Is This Place

We want to come back to our place, to our church home. Back in our sanctuary, in the pew where we sit, with the people we miss seeing, worshipping together. Yet it's not just about opening the building and turning on the lights; it's about making a place where safety is felt and experienced as our church family gathers again.

At our weekly Zoom meeting on June 9th, the Genesee/Finger Lakes Conference Clergy came to the consensus that our congregations would return to in-person worship no earlier than **Sunday, August 2nd**. Many of us have begun the process of preparing for that date. Some congregations will continue only with online worship until September. This decision came following the NY State announcement that houses of worship could now reopen at a 25% capacity; and upon guidelines from Bishop Macholz and the Synod Office.

With this in mind, our Board of Ministries is recommending that we regard August 2nd as our tentative "re-entry date," if preparations are in place by then. Our Re-Entry Committee has been formed and has already been meeting to develop clear guidelines and protocols in three areas:

1. Building Preparedness
2. Worship Practices
3. Technology Improvements

We will be required to follow NY State and CDC mandatory guidelines for physical distancing, wearing face masks, protective equipment, proper hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting, etc. We must also complete and retain on file a NY State Safety Plan addressing these issues, as well as protocols for health screening and contact tracing if needed.

Other considerations that have developed from our discussions:

- Continue to offer livestream worship on Sunday mornings even when we return to in-person worship.
- Upgrades in our tech capacity (knowledge + equipment) are necessary .
- The possibility of outdoor worship in our parking lot is being explored.

- Upon the time of re-entry, the church building will be opened only for Sunday morning worship. There are no plans this summer for fellowship events/meetings at the church. We will continue to hold meetings online until further notice.
- Nursery Care will not be offered this summer.
- Guidelines will be developed for the roles of our Worship Assistants, the modification of several of our liturgical practices, the use of music in worship without congregational singing, along with other items.
- Outside groups using our church building may return to gather no earlier than September 1st.
- Consideration is underway for increased ways to offer online giving for financial sustainability.
- We are identifying new ways to be a caring community for our Atonement family and friends while we remain physically distanced from one another.

And much more to come!

What does this mean for us? Be prepared for changes as we prepare to gather together again. What does this mean for pastoral leadership? Leading in a time of change requires clear direction and steady connection. I will try my very best to be that kind of leader. If you have questions, suggestions or concerns as we journey forward, please let me know.

Above all, we take heart in knowing that we move together into a future that God is holding up for us in this place.

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.

["Have Mercy On Me, Lord"](#) The Calmus Ensemble is a German 5-part a cappella group, based in Leipzig, the city in which Bach spent the last 27 years of his life. In this video, they sing an arrangement of a keyboard piece of Bach's, set to the traditional Latin for "Have mercy on me, Lord." They're standing around Bach's grave site, in the church of St. Thomas in Leipzig. Many people think Bach was the Kantor and organist at St. Thomas, but he was the Kantor of the school associated with the church, charged with teaching the boys and organizing the music for all the major churches in Leipzig.

[“Children of the Heavenly Father”](#) Eric Nelson lives in Atlanta, though he did his undergraduate degree at Houghton College (where I did my MM in organ). We'll be singing this old Swedish tune this weekend. I love the rich, Americana harmonization here, and you'll notice there's a quote from the hymn "My Shepherd will supply my need" right near the end, which combines well both musically and textually.

Prayer

For Peace & Mercy

Merciful God,
into your wide embrace we
place all for whom we pray.
Grant that we, having turned
toward you in prayer, now
might turn toward one
another in peace, and tend the
world with justice and mercy;
in the name of your Son, our
peace. Amen.



*"God writes the gospel
not in the Bible
alone, but on trees
and flowers and
clouds and stars."*

-Martin Luther

CABIN RENTALS FOR SUMMER AT LAKE CHAUTAUQUA LUTHERAN CENTER

New for summer 2020, LCLC is renting its camper cabins to individuals and families for weekend fun. While operating safely within the NY Forward guidelines, cabin camping offers you a safe way to enjoy LCLC this summer. Guests will need to be 100% self-sufficient, just as they would be in a state park or wilderness area. With the self-contained toilet and shower facilities in our cabins, picnic tables, and campfire circles for doing your own cooking, it will be camping made easy!

As we hopefully move into Phase 3 and 4 of NY State's reopening guidelines, programmatic offerings such as worship, crafts, boating, and swimming may be offered.

For more information, [click here](#) or call (716) 386-4125

ELCA WORLD HUNGER GIFTS MATCHED

Currently all donations to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal will be matched dollar for dollar until the goal of \$100,000 is reached. Your support is needed as COVID-19 continues to move through the world. Many who were already living on the brink of hunger are now even more vulnerable. Checks may be made *Payable To:* Atonement Lutheran Church with the *Memo Line:* ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

LAZARUS FUND DONATIONS

The Lazarus Fund provides emergency financial aid to families and individuals in our congregation and community. During these difficult times, please consider making a donation to the fund, as well as contacting Pastor Gail if you know of someone who may need assistance.

MEN'S SUMMER CLOTHING APPEAL **For Asbury Dining & Caring Center Clients**

The usual sources of clothing for those served by the Asbury Center are depleted or closed due to the current health crisis.

NEEDED: Men's summer clothing, shoes, baseball caps

DROP-OFF SITE: home of Karen Goodyear & John Kruidenier
106 Stonybrook Drive
Brighton, NY 14618

DROP-OFF DATES: June 17th-24th