



Midweek Message

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



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Congratulations to our Atonement family graduates!

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Alexa Howe is graduating High School with a Regents diploma from Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School. In the Fall she will be attending SUNY ESF-College of Environmental Science and Forestry, in Syracuse. She will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Resources Engineering.



Katie Krapf is graduating from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Marketing. She plans to work for KPMG (a network of firms providing audit, tax, and advisory services) in New York City starting in October. Katie is currently studying for her CPA exams.

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 and hymns will be Emailed to our Atonement families, and are posted weekly on our web site.

A Note of Thanks

From
Florence Wright

Each kindness is a tiny piece of heaven.

Thank you for so many kindnesses (in the form of salads and casseroles) when I was sick and ailing.

Synod Assembly

Update

In light of health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Upstate New York Synod Assembly has been postponed until 2021. The Bishop's election and other elections of Synod officers will take place at that time.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Annie Bartlett is graduating from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Sustainability Sciences. Currently, Annie is searching for work in conservation before eventually applying to graduate school.

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Pastor Gail Swanson

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

But that's not what happened this week at St. John's Episcopal Church in DC.

The House of the Lord became a backdrop for political showmanship and a military crackdown.

The Holy Scriptures were used to bless a brutal stunt.

The written Word of the abiding love of God was propped up – not as a symbol of grace and salvation – but as a sword to divide Christians into two categories: “righteous” followers or “heathen” protestors. Protestors which included pastors, priests and thousands of followers of Christ.

But God is not mocked.

Jesus is Lord. Caesar is not.

“Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it,” Jesus promises us.

“God's Word forever shall abide,” Martin Luther assures us.

When those with power claim their policies are heaven blessed, the Bible proclaims that God stands with the powerless.

When Christians seek the kingdom of God in the shape of their own church, Christ calls us to one Lord, one faith, one Church.

When others sing the Battle Hymn of the Republic, remember the words of this hymn: “Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.”

The Bible is not a prop.

The Church is not a photo op.

Religion is not a political tool.

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.
Psalm 122:9

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.

Trinity Sunday caps off the first half of the church year, which starts in Advent, in which we've celebrated Jesus through his birth, various events in his life, his death and resurrection, and the beginning of his worldwide ministry through the church (Pentecost). It's sometimes thought of as presenting a summary of the church's beliefs. It's also the traditional end to the program year for church music, now as in Bach's day, and we have four of the cantatas Bach wrote for the occasion.

BWV 129, "[Praised be the Lord, my God](#)," follows the typical Bach cantata form, with choral movements at the beginning and end, and solos in between. The last chorale might sound familiar, as it uses the same tune as our hymnal's 806, "O God My Faithful God." This Swiss performance tries to recreate the instruments and playing-styles Bach would have known, so you might notice the trumpets have no valves, the flute is made of wood, and the string players are holding their bows more toward the middle. The text and translation can be found here: [Text Translation](#)

Mark Hayes is one of the most performed composers in the country now. I really like how he takes elements of popular styles (especially in the piano writing) and combines them with classical harmonic techniques. His "[Hymn of Adoration](#)" combines "Holy, Holy, Holy" with "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee."

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

May 30, 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

To be honest with you I don't know where to start. The killing of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis continues to play itself out across my television screen as I watch it over and over again, not out of a sense of the macabre but out of a place of deep sorrow and disbelief that this has happened again. Only a few days ago we watched videos regarding the killing of Ahmaud Arbery that took place in February and was recently being brought to light. And after Ahmaud Arbery there was Breonna Taylor and last October there was Atatiana Jefferson and before her was...a long, long list of black and brown people whose lives were needlessly taken by violence in a society that continues to not only remain broken but break even further.

On CNN last evening one of the persons being interviewed said, "I think this country has reached a tipping point." I pray that is so. I pray that the balance tips us into a space where we can no longer

Prayers and Sympathy

*For the
Ginegaw Family*

We offer our prayers of sympathy to the family of Marion Ginegaw upon her death on May 27th, which was her 93rd birthday. A private funeral service will be held on June 6th.

Synod Worship

Many Rooms: Synod Worship Service

Every Sunday at 4:00 p.m.
Beginning June 7th

This weekly livestream worship service will include music, scripture readings, prayers, and a live or pre-recorded sermon from a variety of pastors and leaders.

You can join via *Zoom* or livestream on the Upstate New York Synod *YouTube* page.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP (continued)

ignore the cries of injustice of our black and brown sisters and brothers, no longer stand silent while racist and bigoted remarks are so easily tossed around by leadership, no longer stand speechless as we watch another person, created in the image of God and deeply loved by God, be killed or demeaned or slighted or discriminated against or denied or marginalized because of the color of their skin or ethnic background or family history. We must begin to speak and speak loudly against this ongoing nightmare in which our sisters and brothers live and in which we participate.

And we must begin that conversation admitting our own realities. I confess to you, as I did to two of my colleagues yesterday during two separate phone calls, that I am not free of racism and that I struggle to fully comprehend my white privilege. I confess to you that I was once more complicit in this in my past than I care to realize. And, I confess to you that I have much work to do before I get to where I need to be in this dialogue to change the balance of inequality that exists in this country as we move forward to face these realities and find resolution for the pandemic of racism that runs silently through systems and lives with little recognition or knowledge on our part. It is time to talk, to talk honestly and from our places of great vulnerability, giving voice to our own shortcomings and failures, our own racism and white privilege.

It is also time, in that space of vulnerability to listen. To listen deeply to the realities and stories of our sisters and brothers in the black and brown communities. To listen deeply to the hurt and pain and righteous anger for what is not only occurring now but for what has taken place for centuries. To listen deeply to our own hearts and minds and confess our sins and failures and silence. Then, and only then, will we be able to move forward in a conversation that is honest yet painful and, at best, challenging for us to be involved with in our relationship with others.

In these days I pray for the family of George Floyd, a father, a brother, a friend, a co-worker, a companion on the way, a bright and shining light. I pray they may find comfort in the promise of the resurrection. And I pray that they may know that his death will lead us to new learnings and new life and hope for change and a new direction in this country.

I invite you to join me in this prayer, in vulnerability, in honesty, in perseverance, in hope, in faith, in conversation and in the hard, hard work we have before us.

May the One who is faithful prod us and motivate us and, if need be, shove us forward into the hopeful future held out by our Lord Jesus Christ “that all may be one.”

In Christ’s Peace and Hope,

