



# Midweek Message



## Atonement Lutheran Church

### **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

Worship with us Livestream on our Atonement Facebook page as we are challenged to live faithfully, act courageously, and center our lives in God's saving love. *Story Time Sunday School* will be held following worship at 10:45 a.m.

### **CONGREGATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

*It's now a year into this pandemic, and it seems an appropriate time to do another round of phone call "check ins" with our congregation...as well as to ask some important questions. Please take a moment to respond below.*

1. What things has Atonement offered during this year of pandemic that you have most appreciated?
  
2. What have you missed most? What do you need more of?
  
3. Would you consider attending worship in-person in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday? (Following standard health precautions which include mask wearing and physically distanced seating.)
  
4. In addition to our livestreamed services, would you consider attending in-person worship and/or outdoor worship during the summer months?

*Thank you for sharing your thoughts!*  
 Please email your responses to [office@atonementrochester.org](mailto:office@atonementrochester.org)  
 OR mail to the church office no later than March 14.

### **All Are Welcome**

*Livestream 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.

## For These Things

### *We Pray*

For the health and healing of our church family, especially Carl Foucht...

For economic relief for struggling families...

For students and teachers, parents and child-care givers...

For a vaccinated world and an end to the coronavirus...

For the Church and a future filled with hope...

For mercy beyond expectation, far beyond deserving.

## **TEN THINGS I'VE LEARNED THIS PAST YEAR** **By Pastor Gail Swanson**

It was nearly a year ago when an email popped up on my laptop. An email from Bishop Macholz directing us to suspend worship for the coming Sunday due to a new virus spreading across the synod, the state, the country and the world; bringing with it fear and panic, illness and death. That one Sunday has turned into a year of doing church work, church life, church ministry differently; a year that has offered it's own teachable moments:

1. **Online worship is here to stay.** Even as we plan a return to face to face gatherings on Sunday morning, a livestream connection with our church family and friends at home needs to be a part of the future of the church.
2. **Some church meetings don't have to be in-person.** Tired of Zoom? Me too. But there may be good reasons for some of our meetings to be held online as we move forward.
3. **Kids need community and connection.** Our children need to be with each other, and with their church family. I pray that day comes soon.
4. **I will never take a handshake for granted again.** After almost 32 years of sharing the peace and greeting worshipers after worship, I've probably shaken hands a thousand times. This past year, I have deeply missed it, and the meaning it holds.
5. **Ditto with hymn singing.** Can't wait to sing a joyous Christmas Carol with my full voice.
6. **Preaching is more enjoyable with filled pews.** And the delivery is better.
7. **Surround yourself with good people.** Our staff... our Sunday morning worship volunteers... those who faithfully stop in to take care of a needed task... have made this journey much, much, smoother. Please know how grateful I am.
8. **Walk gently into the lives of others; not all wounds are visible.** This year has taken its toll on all of us. It doesn't matter how resilient you are. Compassionate listening is one thing we can do for each other right now.
9. **Quit beating yourself up. We all live under grace, and do the best we can.** I confess to you, my Atonement family, the reality of my own struggles of self-doubt, my own moments of darkness during this 12 month journey, particularly in the early weeks and months. But thanks be to God, grace abounds.
10. **No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging.** Nothing, absolutely nothing, can ever separate us from the God whose protection and care is utterly reliable. A learning never to forget.

## **WEDNESDAY SERVICES FOR LENT**

February 24 – March 24: A Joint Lenten Series of the  
Genesee Finger Lakes Conference of Congregations  
7:00pm Worship and 7:30 Prayer Practice via Zoom

This year during Lent, our area Lutheran congregations will live out our connection by joining together for worship, conversation and prayer. Drawing from the Sunday Lectionary, we will reflect together on the various ways we are called to be one community: with *Creation*, with the *Saints*, with our *Neighbor*, with those on the *Margins*, and with *Christ*.

Each Wednesday at 7:00pm we will join in worship together around a different theme, led by pastors across the Conference. At 7:30pm we will offer an opportunity for those who wish, to grow deeper in community, either through conversation or through exploring a prayer practice that expands upon the week's theme.

Please Note: the same link will be used for every week. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83740220666?pwd=bmgzTolFbGdpToRCZnFZOG1kclZSUT09>

### **Schedule for Wednesdays during Lent**

#### **Mar. 3 *In Community with the Saints***

Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson, Pastor Debbie Johnson, Pastor Andrew Gookin  
Prayer Practice: Praying the Psalms

#### **Mar. 10 *In Community with our Neighbor***

Pastor Eric Madsen, Pastor Korey Finstad, Pastor Steve Meyer  
Prayer Practice: Meditative Virtual Prayer Walk

#### **Mar. 17 *In Community with Those on the Margins***

Pastor Imani Olear, Pastor Gail Swanson, Pastor Craig Swanson  
Prayer Practice: Prayer through (Chair) Yoga

#### **Mar. 24 *In Community with Christ***

Pastor Jonathan Deibler, Pastor Lori Nickoloff, Pastor Matthew Nickoloff  
Prayer Practice: Praying the Examen



**This Year**

**I Want to Be**

***More Like Jesus***

- \*Hang out with sinners
- \*Tell stories that make people think
- \*Make time to pray
- \*Welcome kids
- \*Be kind, loving, and merciful
- \*Take naps on boats

**Christ in our Home**

***Now Available***

Christ in our Home devotionals for April/May/June are now available. You can pick one up in the church office or on the narthex table.

## **OUTDOOR FAMILY FUN MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> 3:00-4:00 pm** **For Children, Youth, and Families of All Ages**

Since it was just too rainy and wet to have much fun last week, we've rescheduled our Youth & Family Outdoor Fun for this Sunday! A few things to remember to make our day more enjoyable:

- \*Dress for the weather
- \*Bring a flashlight for a touchless version of tag
- \*Wear your masks
- \*Snacks will be provided (pre-packaged, individually wrapped)

*We look forward to seeing you on Sunday– let's have some fun!*

***Atonement***  
***Lutheran Church***  
1900 Westfall Road  
Rochester NY 14618  
(585) 442-1018

***Email:***

office@atonementrochester.org

***Website:***

www.atonementrochester.org

***Facebook:***

fb.com/  
atonementlutheranchurch

***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

### **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.

**Mass for chorus and double wind quintet** Igor Stravinsky was probably the most famous classical composer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He fell away from Christianity as a teen, but rediscovered his faith in his forties. He once said, “Music praises God. Music is well or better able to praise him than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the Church's greatest ornament.” This Mass is a setting of the “Mass Ordinary,” the five parts of a Christian service that generally don't change: Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy”), Gloria (“Glory to God in the highest”), Credo (“I believe in one God”), Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”), and Agnus dei (“Lamb of God”). It's a late piece, and in a somewhat angular style, but please give it a close listen and see what you think.

**Pastorale-piano & harmonium-Brodsworth Hall** The harmonium, or pump organ, sounds a lot like an accordion, and the wind comes from a constant pumping of the feet. Many composers wrote for it in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including Alexandre Guilmant. It's a very popular instrument in India, used for Indian classical music. In this recording we get an idealized vision of musical life in an upper-class home ca. 1900.

