



Midweek Message

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

FACES OF ATONEMENT



Stew and Suzanne Stover



Our Church Home In Bloom

*Sarah Darder
with Hannah and Deeks*



He is Risen, Indeed!

Join us Online

*Live from our
Atonement Sanctuary!*

Join Pastor Gail and David McCarthy for music and hymns, scripture, a sermon, prayers, and even a Children's Moment.

Follow us Sundays at 9:30 a.m. by going to our Atonement Facebook page at fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/

A worship bulletin and hymns will be Emailed to our Atonement families.

Technical Difficulties

Livestream Worship

If you joined our Atonement Facebook 9:30 a.m. worship service this past Sunday, you no doubt noticed some technical difficulties with our livestreaming!

Our apologies...and we hope to have the problems corrected for next Sunday's livestream. Thank you for your patience.

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Until Further Notice

All worship services and activities are cancelled.

HOLY GOD, HEAR THE WORDS OF MY PRAYER

Pastor Gail Swanson

For those who are giving birth alone, for those who are grieving without their people; for beleaguered parents who ran out of creative ideas two weeks ago; for those who don't know where this week's grocery money will come from; for everyone who has watched the date of their wedding, or their graduation, or their birthday, or their dissertation defense, or their long hoped for vacation, or their family reunion, or the "non-essential" medical procedure they hoped would change their life – come and go; for the exhausted and the despairing, I ask that your comfort, your presence, and your peace be felt. And if that's not possible, could you just nudge the right person to reach out and call them? Just that, Lord. Just that?

When I read this prayer by Nadia Bolz-Weber, my first reaction was to shout a very loud "Amen"! Was she speaking to me? After all, in the past few weeks I've been a bit "irritated" about missing things. Celebrating my father's 90th birthday on Zoom rather than in person...watching the date of a friend's wedding postponed until next year ...rejoicing in my daughter's graduation from graduate school but without a graduation ceremony....cancelling a vacation trip in May and cancelling our family reunion in June...seriously doubting that my husband and I will be dining in a restaurant next week in honor of our anniversary ...and struggling to comprehend how people out of work are going to be able to afford the price of a pot roast or four large oranges in the near future.

I know that I am not the only one.

Many of you have watched the dates of eagerly anticipated events, occasions and trips in your life come and go – but not in the way you had hoped. These disruptions, postponements and cancellations during this season of sickness have been oh, so disappointing – because we feel we're missing out. Yet, could we also be missing out on something else?

I ask that your comfort, your presence, and your peace be felt. And if that's not possible, could you just nudge the right person to reach out and call?

We can't wave a magic wand to re-create a wedding that didn't take place or re-live a vacation trip we didn't get to take. But we could be the person who receives a "holy nudge." We could be the "right" person -to share God's comfort, peace and presence by reaching out to another, by making a call, by saying "You must be disappointed – let's talk. God is with you."

Just that, Lord?

Just that.

FOR OUR YOUTH:

Random Acts of Kindness Challenge

An email to Atonement's children and youth from Janeen Oliver:

This time of social distancing is not easy for any of us, especially for those who are considered to be our most vulnerable. Wouldn't it be a wonderful 'pick-me-up' for these church members and friends to receive a letter or hand-made or hand-drawn card or picture as a reminder that someone is thinking of them?

I have sent a list with names of some Atonement members and friends who might appreciate this gesture from you. Be Christ's hands and share God's love through this Random Act of Kindness by sending a "Thinking of you" message.

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.

"[We All Are One in Mission](#)," a meditation on unity in the church, was written by Lutheran pastor Rusty Edwards in 1985. It's been set to many different tunes, but this one (also found in our hymnal at 576), "Kuortane," also known as "Nyland," is the most common. The melody comes from Finland, and was first used in a Lutheran hymnal from 1909.

"[Singet Dem Herrn Ein Neues Lied](#)" This is one of Bach's six motets, in this case for double choir. Mozart heard it in 1789, when visiting Leipzig (long after Bach had died, his music seemingly with him). He hadn't heard much Bach before, but immediately perked up, and at the end of the performance said "Now there's something you could learn from!" The text begins with "Sing to the Lord a new song," Psalm 149, though it moves on to other sources later.

STILL AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP

There are still a few face masks available in adult, youth, and toddler sizes for those that still need them.

Call or Email the church office to arrange a time for contactless pickup.

Our grateful thanks to Barb Sanko for making these masks to help in keeping us safe!



Atonement Graduates

Let Us Know!

Is your son or daughter graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this Spring?

If so, please email the church office with their name, the name of the school/degree, and their future plans.

Stewardship

*“Stewardship is the
practice of faith.”*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Atonement Lutheran Church
is a gathering of God’s
people in Christ called to:
Invite all people into the
presence of the living God,
Prepare for ministry in daily life,
Go into the world as disciples.*

Atonement Lutheran Church is a
congregation of the Upstate New
York Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA).

We are a Reconciling In Christ
(RIC) congregation.

SUMMER PROGRAMS CANCELLED

At Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Camp

Friends of LCLC,

While it will probably come as no surprise given the current and expected continued impact of COVID-19 in Upstate New York, the LCLC Board of Directors has made the painful but necessary decision to cancel our 2020 summer camping season. This decision is based on our number one priority of keeping our campers and staff safe and healthy. Although this decision is clearly in the best interest of our campers, our staff and the future of LCLC, it still causes us to grieve. We join with you in grieving the loss of what would have been another Christ-filled summer at LCLC. May God sustain us all as we journey together through this time apart. While there is absolutely no virtual substitute that could ever match a real week of camp, we do hope to stay connected with our campers via technology. Stay tuned to our social media outlets which will encourage you to get outside and enjoy the wonders of God’s creation – just like we do every day at camp.

Finally, a word of hope. Thanks to the love of God in Christ Jesus, there is no loss that is not followed by resurrection. As painful as the loss of this summer’s camping season is, may you rest in the confidence that summer camp will return to LCLC in the future. Until then, may the sustaining love of God carry you into a future of health and wholeness.

Lee M. Lindeman, Executive Director

A Season of Grieving and Grace

*Some day
We will again find the ground
and a light
and a path
and a hope.*

*Till then
let those of us who grieve
ask for what we need.
And may Grace sit with us
and hear us
and sigh deeply with us
until, that someday comes.*

-Rev. Larry P. Morris