



Midweek Message

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING: GENEROSITY IN OUR LIVING...AND IN OUR GIVING

Sunday, November 22nd at 9:30 a.m.

Worship with us In-Person or Livestream on our Atonement Facebook page on this day as we:

- Give thanks to God for the blessing of safekeeping, courage, and hope during this past year.
- Celebrate the success of our Special Challenge Fund Appeal for New Boilers. The challenge fund total will be announced during worship.
- Conclude our Annual Stewardship Drive with our pledges and gifts of support for our 2021 ministries and mission.
- Receive, once again, God's gifts of forgiveness, strength and salvation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ among the gathered people of God. It is the gathering around Christ – not the bread and wine themselves – which offers the gifts of forgiveness and strength and the promise of salvation. But what happens when we cannot gather, cannot kneel at God's table for these past weeks and months, and perhaps weeks or months to come? In the midst of a health crisis, does this sacrament extend over a digital connection to an online community?

It's a theological question I continue to wrestle with. But pastorally, I feel it is the right time, and the right Sunday, to adjust our sacramental practices and offer Holy Communion to those who will be present for in-person worship – and to those who worship at home.

For those present in the sanctuary – We will offer a safe/socially distanced way to receive bread and wine this Sunday.

For those who worship via Livestream - Plan to have bread and wine (or grape juice) available in your home in order to receive the sacrament. Please observe the sanctity of the communion elements. Bread and wine is bread and wine; not Poptarts and orange juice!

Continued on next page...



All Are Welcome

In-person and online 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.

Atonement Lutheran Church

Mark the Date!

Habitat for Humanity Pie Pickup

Pie orders can be picked up
at Atonement in Reissig Hall on
Tuesday, November 24th
between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (*continued*)

If you're interested in making your own bread for Sunday (with enough to share a loaf or two with a friend) use the communion bread recipe below.

Worship with our Atonement family this Sunday... and give thanks. Christ still comes to us, even when we do not experience church as in previous days.

LUTHER SEMINARY COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

Sift dry ingredients together three times (*important!*)

2 cups whole wheat flour
1 cup white flour
1 + 1/4 tsp baking powder
1 + 1/4 tsp salt



Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved.

3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (*minimum of 180 °f*)
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. *Do not knead dough.* Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4" thick disk.

With a knife, score the top of each loaf to make eight pie-shaped sections, so that the sections can be more easily broken off while serving. Alternatively, you could score a cross onto the loaf.

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet and bake at 350°f for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield: 4, 8oz. loaves. Each loaf serves 60-70 people, depending upon the size of the piece given. The loaves freeze well.

NEW ADVENT TRADITION

Beginning December 1st, read one chapter of Luke's Gospel each day for the 24 days in Advent. On Christmas Day, you will have read an entire account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Child born in a manger to save us from our sins!

ADVENT WORSHIP: LIVESTREAM ONLY

By Pastor Gail Swanson

As we enter into the holiday season next week... with the reality of Thanksgiving travel and indoor gatherings ... the return of college students from across the country...and the anticipation of an alarming increase of the spread of this virus during the month of December... it is time to move back to Livestream worship for our entire Atonement family. Upon the recommendation of Bishop Macholz, the congregations of the Upstate New York Synod have been asked to return to online worship only during these upcoming weeks on behalf of the safety, and our care and concern, for one another.

At our meeting last evening, our Board of Ministries affirmed the decision to suspend in-person worship during the four weeks of Advent. A decision about Christmas worship will be made soon.

Advent is a time of waiting. The shepherds are waiting. The angels are waiting. The stable is waiting. Mary and Joseph are waiting. The world is waiting - to greet the baby who is coming. So it is that we wait with them - in hope and trust - for the time when we can gather together again in safety to worship this Holy Child.

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING CLOTHING DRIVE

Friday, November 27th at Atonement

Do you have clothes and shoes at home that you are willing to donate? Bring them to church to support Habitat for Humanity.

- Donations of used clothing/shoes can be brought to Atonement on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, November 25th -27th. Items will be picked up for delivery on Friday at 4:00pm.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF ITEMS BEFORE WEDNESDAY.

- Please enter the church building through the office (West) entrance, using the keypad password.
- Please place all donations on the tables in Reissig Hall.
- Your donations will be delivered to the Habitat drop box.
- Thank you for your outreach to those in need during this Thanksgiving Weekend.

Items accepted for donation:

Clothing/shoes/belts/purses
Blankets/sheets/drapes/pillow cases
Stuffed animals

Do not drop off:

Pillows/rags/fabric scraps
Household Items
Books/Toys

Leaf Raking

Help Needed

We are looking for some assistance to rake leaves on **November 27th (Black Friday)** from 10:00 am-1:00 p.m. Bring your rakes and a good sense of fun so we can get this big job done! Thanks so much for your service.

Rain date will be Sunday, November 29th following worship.

Please Note

Change of Address

David & Christina Brown
22 Mount View Crescent
Webster, NY 14580

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR PLEDGE CARD?

We invite you to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for Atonement for 2021 as we live into our thanks to God, generous in our living and in our giving. Please return your pledge card to the church office by Sunday, November 22. Extra pledge cards are available in the church office and the narthex.

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, December 13th at 10:30 a.m.

Be sure to join us as we discuss the 2021 Church Budget.

This meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom. A Zoom link will be Emailed to Atonement members prior to the meeting.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT...

...for information about our Advent Giving Collection- "*Warm Hands/Warm Heads/Warm Feet*"- coming in next week's Midweek Message!

STORY TIME SUNDAY SCHOOL

via Zoom Sunday, November 22nd at 10:45 a.m.

Storyteller Sarah (Sahara) Kruidenier will be reading our story this week. We hope you will join us! The Zoom link will be emailed to our Sunday School families every Saturday.

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.

[Cantus-Simple Gifts](#) It wouldn't be Thanksgiving for me without the Shaker song "Simple Gifts." Both music and words were written by Joseph Brackett in 1848. Apparently Shaker communities forbade dancing and instrumental music, and songs like this were sung to accompany clapping games that served the same function, despite this tune being often sung very slowly these days.

[We Gather Together](#) I hope this gorgeous arrangement by Stephen Paulus doesn't make anyone too sad that we're not "gathering together" like usual this year. Maybe after Covid every normal occasion with friends and family will feel special? Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving from David, Sherry, and Leah .

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

By Diana Butler Bass from her book *Grateful*

God, there are days when we do not feel grateful. When we are anxious or angry. When we are alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world, or with our neighbors. We struggle to feel grateful.

But this Thanksgiving, we chose gratitude. We chose to accept life as a gift from you, from the unfolding work of all creation. We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; for the air we all breathe.

We make the choice to see our ancestor, those who came before us, and their stories, as a continuing gift of wisdom for us today. We chose to see our family and friends with new eyes, appreciating them for who they are, and thankful for our homes, whether humble or grand. We will be grateful for our neighbors, no matter how they voted or how much we feel hurt by them. We choose to see the whole planet as our shared commons, the public stage of the future of humankind and creation.

God, this Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks. We choose it. And we will make thanks, with strong hands and courageous hearts. When we see your sacred generosity, we become aware that we live in an infinite circle of gratitude. That we all are guests at a hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received. We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table. Instead, we choose to see grace, free and unmerited love, the giftedness of life everywhere, as the tender web of all creation. In this choosing, and in this making, we will pass gratitude onto the world.

Thus, with you, and with all those gathered here, we pledge to make thanks. And we ask you to strengthen us in this resolve. Here, now, and into the future. Around this table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth. Amen.



Gratitude

Maya Angelou

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. Let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

BACKPACK HANG TAG CRAFT

You can make a hang tag for your back pack, or a keychain for your favorite grown up! You will need:

Crayola model magic or Sculpey clay (or other drying clay)

A straw

A key ring

A piece of craft foam

A marker

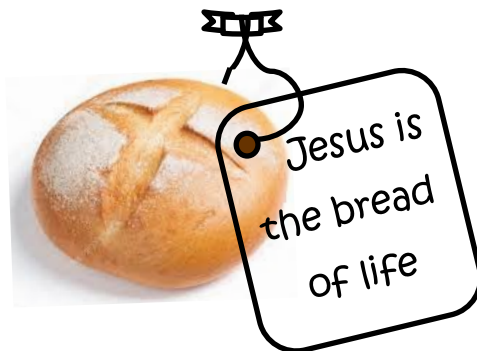
Scissors

A piece of string or yarn

1. Take a piece of clay and roll it in your hands to make a ball.
2. Gently flatten the ball into a thick disk, like a loaf of bread.
3. Use the straw to make a hole on an edge, to hang it from.
4. Use a plastic knife to make a cross on top. Let dry.
5. Cut out a rectangle shape from your craft foam, about 2" x 2".
6. Make a small cut or hole near one corner, to hang it from.
7. Use the marker to write *Jesus is the Bread of Life*.

When your clay 'bread' is dry, put the piece of string through the hole in the clay, the foam, and the key ring and tie it snugly.

Hang it on your backpack, or give it to a friend!



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***In-Person &
Livestream Worship***

**In-person worship
at 9:30 a.m. will also be
Livestreamed on the
Atonement Facebook page.**