



Midweek Message

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Sunday, Sept 27th at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for worship in our church parking lot! If you like to enjoy the cooler weather, bring a jacket and join us on the lawn, or sit in your car (it's football weather!). This service will also be livestreamed on our Atonement Facebook page. *Note below: A Special Children's Moment.*

'...remember what peace there may be in silence.'
-Desiderata

Greeting signers! It's Elizabeth Hanks. I invite you to click on the following link and practice the sign you see. We'll be using it for the Children's Moment this week during worship! [Click Here](#)

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, Sept 27th at 10:30 a.m.

Topic: Purchase of New Boilers for Atonement's Heating System *This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.* A Zoom link will be emailed to Atonement members prior to the meeting.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, October 4th at 9:30

On this date, the Church remembers St. Francis of Assisi, a lover of animals and all living creatures.

On this day at Atonement, we will give thanks for God's gift of creatures and for the animals who befriend, protect, and enrich our lives. Animals of all shapes and sizes-two legged and four legged, winged and finned-will receive a blessing!

Bring your pets (or favorite stuffed animals) and a donation of canned dog or cat food for rescue pets in need at Lollipop Farm.

- ◆ We ask that all animal friends arrive on a leash or in a pet crate/ carrier.
- ◆ If pet exorcism is needed, please give Pastor advanced warning!



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.

Join us outdoors or 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.

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Livestream Worship

Sunday morning worship
at 9:30 a.m. via the
Atonement Facebook page.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE



Members and friends of Atonement Lutheran Church can now make financial gifts directly on our website!

No need to worry about weekly envelopes or mailing in special donations. Instead, give a gift at any time (from any device that connects to the internet) using a current Email and bank account or credit card. It's simple and secure. You can even turn your gift into an automatic deposit that gives when, and how often, you'd like.

Go to our web site at www.atonementrochester.org, and under the 'Ways To Give' to Atonement menu tab, *click on* ['Give Now'](#) to see how easy it is!

BEHIND THE CAMERA: Volunteers Needed

Our upgraded audio/visual equipment is scheduled to be installed in the church sanctuary by the end of September. Can you help us "behind the camera" occasionally as we continue to livestream our worship services? A "user friendly" training session for volunteers will be offered. Please contact the church office!

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.

[O Sing Unto the Lord a New Song](#) Handel is known as the composer of "Messiah," and this work is very much in that vein. Soon after he moved from Germany to England, Handel worked for the Duke of Chandos, and wrote a set of 11 psalm-settings in English to be used in the Duke's chapel. This recording combines English and German groups at the Market Church in Halle, Germany, where Handel was baptized. This church also has Luther's death mask (well-known people often had plaster casts made of their faces after they died).

[So Will I](#) "So Will I" is one of the most popular songs from Hillsong, a worldwide church based in Australia. Their music is one of the main reasons they've grown so quickly, and you can see why here! It's irresistibly anthemic – you'll want your lighter handy when listening. I wouldn't mind a little more theology, but there are some interesting images.

STORY TIME SUNDAY SCHOOL via ZOOM

Sunday, September 20th

10:45 – 11:15am

Story for the Day: *Miss Rumphius* by B. Cooney
(Making the World a More Beautiful Place)

Something new for Sunday School this Fall! Join us on ZOOM to listen to a story from some great children's books... hear how the story reminds us of God's love and care for us and the world...sing a song or pray a prayer...and spend time chatting with Sunday School friends online.



Make sure to bring your favorite stuffed animal to the conversation and introduce him or her to everyone!

Let us know if you would be willing to be a Story Leader. A list of books to choose from will be provided – or select a favorite of your own.

WILDFIRE DISASTER RESPONSE

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, devastating wildfires are raging across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. At least 20 people have died, hundreds of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and more than 3.5 million acres have burned across the three states.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs to include food, water, and other necessities as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized by this tragedy.

Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our brothers and sisters in time of need. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors, and will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires.

You can make a secure donation by clicking here: [U.S. Wildfire Relief](#)

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
For in you my soul takes refuge;
In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
Until the destroying storms pass by.
Psalm 57:1*

A Daily Process

Peace

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.

-John F. Kennedy

Thought for the Week

Live by love

May we never applaud someone's suffering, never weaponize our religion to do harm, never grow comfortable with hearts that are only capable of anger. Live by love, with hope, in peace.

INSIDE THE BUTTONHOLE

Pastor Gail Swanson

Lately I find myself saying a Frederick Buechner quote to myself: "*Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Do not be afraid.*"

It reminds me that chasing only joyful moments can mean missing out on some of the most important lessons God is teaching us; lessons God plans for us in the dark, sometimes fearful spaces in our lives.

Terrible things are happening. Fires keep burning...discord keeps dividing...hatred & mistrust of "the other" rages on. Virus germs keep spreading...jobs and small businesses keep disappearing...football is no longer sidelined, but now we have to take sides on whether science is "real"? What possible lessons could God be teaching us in all of this?

Trust, might be one. Or, as the poet Ada Limon writes, "*I suppose this eternity is the one inside the drawer, inside the buttonhole.*" We are built for a purpose that we must trust will find us. Like a buttonhole waiting for a button to need us, we sit in anticipation, in confidence, in trust for the ways God will use us. Use us to stand up to the terrible and to live out the beautiful.

Terrible things are indeed happening. But also beautiful ones. Love offered and extended...faithful acts of prayer...a stand for justice. Concern for this creation...healing among families...the voiceless now heard...the Church still Spirit-led, still moving forward as Christ finds a use for us.

Until the terrible things are no longer, let us be the buttonhole; let us live with trust; let us wait with purpose; let us rise up when needed in hope and in confidence. Do not be afraid.



**Atonement
Children
Stand for
Justice!**

"Refuse to underestimate the power of kindness, decency, and love."