



# Midweek Message

## **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

### Outdoor Worship Service and Livestream

As we begin a new year of learning, all children, youth, college students, teachers and educators are invited to receive a blessing for their backpack – and for the year ahead.



Whether you will be using your backpack at school...or using it in other ways... we hope you can join us either in person or through livestream with your backpack in hand!

Join us for worship in our church parking lot and on the lawn!

Enter the church parking lot on the Sanctuary (East) side of the building and stop at the table to pick up a bulletin through your car window. Please wear your face mask if you leave your vehicle.

## **BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL!**

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

### A September Serenade of Music

We welcome guest musicians Rachel Sanguinetti Hayes, soprano, and Shoghi Hayes, trumpet, to our Sunday morning outdoor worship. This service will also be livestreamed via our Facebook page.



## **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 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.

## September Celebrations

### *Birthdays*

- 4 Martha Dox
- 5 Benjamin Thompson
- 6 Carl Foucht  
Elizabeth Rose
- 9 Jeffrey Fisher  
Andra Smith
- 12 Michael Hauck
- 13 Dottie Haelen
- 17 David Irish
- 18 Femi Thompson
- 20 Carol Pearson
- 21 Jim Rau
- 23 Samuel Bogumil
- 24 Connor Rose
- 27 Celina Tassone
- 28 Kathleen Wilkinson
- 29 Annet Bartlett  
Matt McGill

### *Anniversaries*

- 5 Alyssa & Wes Jones
- 17 Terry & Avis Hooper
- 18 Adam & Sharon Darder
- 22 Carl & Pat Foucht

## I HAVE SET MY BOW IN THE CLOUDS

I don't know anyone whose spirits aren't improved by the sight of a rainbow. It doesn't matter where you are: stuck in traffic... standing at the kitchen window... or watching the waves move across a lake. It's raining and the sky is as gray as a dolphin but you look up – and there it is: an arch of lovely colors!

The story of God, Noah and the rainbow is one of those stories that has gotten down deep inside of us; a story full of grace right from the beginning. Before the rain began to fall...before the sound of hammers and nails on wood...before the rainbow...we hear that God made the whole world and pronounced it good. Very good. Then God gives his people the keys to the front door.

But before long, things became broken. People became broken by hatred, killing and sin. Until by the end of Genesis 6, God's own heart was broken: "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I created, for I am sorry that I made them." (Gen.6:7) Surely one of the most sobering sentences in all of scripture.

Unlike floods that have devastated areas of the world over time, the Great Flood was a means of rescue for God's people, a reminder of the unbreakable relationship God offers. It's a "I shall be your God and you shall be my people" kind of relationship; our belonging to God and God sticking with us, even in the face of the hatred, the killing, the brokenness we bring upon a good creation. Enough brokenness to fill the nightly news.

Could it be that the story of the Great Flood is not a story about a change in people, but rather a change in God? Confronting sin no longer by threatening death but by offering life? Certainly there is no sin stronger than God's grace, no rising waters more powerful than God's love. Surely God's mercy is available to our world today, desperately in need of cleansing water and a good bath!

It's still raining, you see. But we can still keep watch as we search the sky, knowing the promise of grace is there: an arch of lovely color...a rainbow. God's promise and blessing on earth.

*August morning at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center.*



## **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.

[Earth and All Stars](#) (the music starts 40 seconds in) “Earth And All Stars” is a hymn we’re singing this weekend. The song was written for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Olaf College in 1964. Herbert Brokering, the author, said “I tried to gather into a hymn of praise the many facets of life which emerge in the life of community. So there are the references to building, nature, learning, family, war, festivity. Seasons, emotions, death and resurrection, bread, wine, water, wind, sun, spirit. . . have made great impressions on my imagination.” Many favorite hymns seem a bit vague in their imagery, to me at least, and this one leans heavily into concrete images. The traditional place to roll one’s eyes is at the test tubes, but I love the earnestness.

[Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes](#) Heinrich Schütz was a German Lutheran composer in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. His parents ran an inn in Saxony, and after a nobleman staying at the inn heard Heinrich singing at the age of 13, he was sent to study music. He spent time studying in Venice, and his style is a mixture of German and Italian traditions, and Renaissance modes (the scales that predate major and minor) and Baroque rhythmic drive. He’s usually regarded as the greatest German composer before Bach. In this piece, look for lots of “word-painting,” where something in the music reflects something in the text.

## **TECH TIP**

Did you know that you can also view the weekly bulletin, Midweek Message, and previous Newsletters, online? Just visit our web page at [www.atonementrochester.org](http://www.atonementrochester.org). Midweek Messages and bulletins can be found on the ‘Breaking News’ page. Just scroll down the page and click on the correct box to view current and past weeks. We make every effort to have these items posted by Thursday afternoons.

If you’d like to take a look at older monthly Newsletters, go the ‘More...’ menu and select ‘News’ to view the Newsletter archives.



## **Our Sympathy**

### *And Prayers*

To the family of Jan Hunt upon her death on August 30th.

*“Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.”*

1900 Westfall Road  
Rochester NY 14618  
(585) 442-1018

www.atonementrochester.org  
Email:  
office@atonementrochester.org

### *Livestream Worship*

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

## **STRENGTH TO ENDURE AND FLOURISH**

*There is so much suffering going on right now: COVID-19, racial injustice, outrage and fear. economic hardship, emotional despair, and more. In all these things, not just Christ's cross is present, but Christ himself – holding us, lamenting with us, encouraging us, and promising us the strength to endure and, having endured, to flourish and, flourishing, to help others do the same.*

David Lose

## **HELP US COLLECT: BABY BUNDLE ITEMS**

We are collecting these items for Baby Bundles for Bethany House:

- \*Onesies for boys and girls, size 3 – 6 months
- \*Socks for boys and girls, size 3- 6 months
- \*Baby Wash (full size bottles)
- \*Baby Lotion (full size bottles)

Items can be dropped off in the plastic bin at the sanctuary doors (East side) on Wednesdays and Sundays through September 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for caring and sharing.

## **GIVE STUDENTS A FOOT UP**

Thrivent is partnering with Samaritan's Feet to hold a back-to-school "shoe raiser" to support kids in need in our communities. No matter if they are learning in-person or from afar, new shoes are some of the most-needed items by students.

While this shoe drive may look a little different than your typical shoe drive, the result is the same: Students across the country will receive shoes, thanks to people like you.

1 – Get Creative. Post a photo with as many shoes as possible! For every shoe featured, \$2\* will be donated toward this fundraiser. Use the "Share a Photo or Comment" button below to post your photo.

2 – Give. For every \$2 you donate through this page Thrivent will add another \$1\* to the cause.

3 – Send hope. Write a Hope Note for one of the children who will receive shoes by going to <https://bit.ly/hope-notes>

Inspire your friends, family and those you volunteer alongside! Share this page so they can help, too! Samaritan's Feet serves and inspires hope in children by providing shoes as the foundation to a spiritual and healthy life resulting in the advancement of education and economic opportunities. Visit the Thrivent [campaign page](#) for more information!

