



# Midweek Message

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

**SUNDAY, Sept 13th 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 for worship in our church parking lot and on the lawn!

## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, Sept 13th**

On this day, we will join with Lutheran congregations throughout the ELCA to "Be the Church" by serving neighbors in our community. Join us in contributing items for "Baby Bundles" to be given to Bethany House in Rochester for mothers with young children escaping domestic violence.

*We will be collecting the following items through September 13.* Items can be dropped off in the plastic bin at the sanctuary doors on the East side of the building. Thank you for caring and sharing.

- \*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)

## **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.



## **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.

## Technical Difficulties

### *Internet Connection*

We apologize for the internet interruptions during last Sunday's livestreaming of worship. Our internet connection at Atonement is not as strong outdoors as indoors, and can be further weakened as it is "shared" among various electronic devices. Please assist us in helping to address this issue by turning OFF all cell phones/iPads etc. when you join us for outdoor worship.

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### *Livestream Worship*

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

## **STORY TIME SUNDAY SCHOOL via ZOOM**

Beginning Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>

10:45 – 11:15am

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.



## **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.

[Vox Cosmica Hirundo Maris](#) Hildegard von Bingen was a German abbess in the 12th century. She wrote a lot of music and poetry, much of which is a meditation on the parallels between the natural world (especially plants) and ideas in the Bible, for example seeing Jesus as a flower and Mary as the branch. This is a collection of a few different pieces of Hildegard's in performances by Hirundo Maris ("Sea Swallow"), a European group.

[Earth Song](#) Frank Ticheli is one of the most popular living composers, especially for band. He lives in California. "Earth Song" isn't especially religious, I guess (though it at least has the word "Alleluia" in it), but is very pretty music with words that might feel a propos now. (The lyrics are under the video.)

## **BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING**



The Board of Ministries will be meeting this Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

## A LETTER BY BISHOP MACHOLZ



Upstate New York Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

September 8, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the sake of the world!

I have a confession to make. I fear that I may be growing numb to the mounting number of deaths of our black and brown sisters and brothers in the streets of cities as well as the quiet of bedrooms; Daniel Prude being the latest. Daniel's death, which happened six months ago on the streets of Rochester, NY, and was only revealed yesterday, was ruled a homicide by asphyxiation at the hands of the police.

Regarding the numbness I know in the depths of my very being that to head in that direction only moves me to a position of passivity in this horrifying sequence of killings and makes me complicit in the racism that is infecting the very core of our society and communities. I cannot grow numb. We cannot grow numb. Rather we must grow in numbers.

We must grow in the number

- ⊕ of people who speak out against the unending list of lives needlessly and tragically taken.
- ⊕ of individuals who speak up on behalf of those whose voices are being ignored
- ⊕ of churches whose ministry is involved in fighting this evil and recognized as such in our communities
- ⊕ of voices raised to say justice delayed is justice denied
- ⊕ of those who find ways to support our black and brown sisters and brothers
- ⊕ of those who, called to preach the Gospel and speak out against hatred and racism, do so with courage and conviction
- ⊕ of people who not only pray for an end to this but find a way to work toward that end
- ⊕ of communities of faith that commit to taking on the necessity of the hard conversations around systemic racism in all aspects of our lives

As the Prophet Micah questioned: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Look for God so you can walk with God. You'll find God standing next to the black woman on the street who wonders if she will get hit by a stray or intentionally directed rubber bullet while standing there peacefully demonstrating. You'll find God holding up the family of George Floyd as they continue to mourn George's murder. You'll find God walking beside the family of Breonna Taylor and lifting them up when they fall. You'll find God embedded in the crowds that march down the streets of our cities and towns crying for peace and an end to violence and racism. You'll find God working on behalf of those who can't afford insurance, who have been evicted from their homes due to the loss of work and with those who work three jobs each day to put food on the table and pay bills while barely scraping by in life.

We have work to do people of God. We need to talk about this. We need to confront this head on. We need to say enough is enough. We need to dig deep and find the stamina and energy and patience to fight the fight that is taking place. It will be a battle, no, it is a battle. But it is a battle worth waging.

## The Sacredness of Life

*Pope Francis*

My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.

## I Stand With Love

*-Diana Butler Bass*

*I stand with love. Not some romanticized version, but the sort of love that stands for the dignity of every human being. For a world where all are safe, all have decent food and water, all have a chance to be happy with family and friends.*

Listen again to the words that John Lewis left behind for us to hear and more importantly to live out.

"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." – A tweet from June 2018

"I appeal to all of you to get into this great revolution that is sweeping this nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and hamlet of this nation until true freedom comes, until the revolution of 1776 is complete." – At the 1963 March on Washington

Listen as well to the words of the greatest prophet: "whatever you do to the least of these you have done it unto me."

This coming Sunday and in future Sundays at worship, in daily personal prayer and in prayer groups, while beginning or ending the day, pray. Pray for an end to systemic racism. Pray for the families that have lost loved ones through violent means, name their names. Pray for courage and for God to use you to be a voice, to offer hope, to find a way forward and to be the light in the darkness that presently exists. Pray for those in the fight and then...join it knowing that the God who has claimed us goes with us each step of the way.

In Hope and Confidence,



John S. Macholz, Bishop

