

Midweek Message

April 15, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 4.3

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 19th at 9:30 a.m.

Join us in person or Livestream the service via our Facebook page as the Risen Christ walks with us and makes himself known to us in the breaking of the bread.

ADULT FORUM & COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, April 19th at 10:30 a.m. in Reissig Hall

Please join us in Reissig Hall following worship for refreshments and conversation. April is National Poetry Month, a time for celebrating the impact of poets and the power of language. While many poets and poems fill the air, let us take time to explore what Martin Luther called *The Little Bible*- the collection of poetry and songs found in the Book of Psalms.

ZOOM PRESENTATION: A CONVERSATION ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

How do we overcome polarization in American society? How do we advocate for justice when one side won't listen to the other and cycles of outrage escalate? How do we talk with each other when people of different perspectives are seen as evil, immoral, or anti-American? The ELCA is sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Pamela Cooper-White, Episcopalian priest and Professor of Religion at Union Theological Seminary in NY City. She will be leading this conversation on **April 18th** via *Zoom*. For more information and to register, go to: linktr.ee/buffalocooperwhite

NEW SPRING/SUMMER BULLETIN BOARD: All Things Bright & Beautiful

For the spring & summer months, we would like to try something different to brighten up our Member Board in the office hallway. We're asking all pet owners and pet lovers to share a photo of their furry, finny, or feathered friends! You can bring a photo in to share or send a digital photo to the church office to print (it will print in black & white) at office@atonementrochester.org. Please be sure to include a small index card if you bring your photo in –there are some on the board to use– with your pet's name and who their 'parents' are, or even a fun fact about your pet or something they like to do. We can't wait to see the board filled with your photos!

For Example:

This is Mimsy Lou, Becky Wiesmore's 15 year old calico.

Mimsy loves to find, hide, and play in any box or bag that she can find!



Atonement Lutheran Church

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF MINISTRIES PRESIDENT

It is with a mixture of sadness and anxiety for us, that we celebrate Pastor Gail's retirement into a new and exciting phase in her life.

As we prepare to say good-bye and best wishes to Pastor Gail, let us welcome our Transitional Pastor, the Reverend Doug Stewart, who will be shepherding our Atonement family through the transition process. Pastor Doug is the full-time minister at Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word in Rochester, NY. His wife, Pastor Joanne Groman-Stewart, is a full-time pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Webster, NY. Pastor Doug will lead our worship service on Sunday, May 10, 2026, followed by a 'meet and greet' reception in Reissig Hall. I encourage all that are able to attend the service and get to know our new 'shepherd'.

A few notes on Pastor Doug's responsibilities and Pastoral leadership with our congregation during this time of transition:

- Pastor Doug will hold office hours at Atonement every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please feel free stop in to say hello and to ask questions that you may have.
- His commitment to Atonement is limited to 20 hours/month.
- He will arrange for supply pastors to lead weekly worship and special services.
- Pastor Doug may lead worship on an occasional basis, but that will not be the norm.
- He will be offering Pastoral care, including home and hospital visits.
- He will attend monthly Board meetings and other necessary meetings as needed.
- He will provide Confirmation and First Communion instruction as needed.
- He will officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals as needed.

Throughout the transition process, the day-to-day needs of the congregation will continue to be attended to in a conscientious manner. Please contact the following people for the ministry area listed:

- Pastor Doug (as related to the commitments listed above)
Cell phone: 585-319-8848; Email: dougstewart@incarnatewordelca.org
- Worship and Music questions: David McCarthy
Cell phone: 585-299-1885; Email: McCarthy95@hotmail.com
- Building and property questions: Tom Thompson
Cell phone: 585-236-5559; Email: propertymanager@atonementrochester.org
- Cleaning Service: Jean Seager
Cell phone: 585-414-3464; Email: jseager2@aol.com
- Outreach Ministry: Barb Sanko, Jean Seager, or Karen Goodyear
Barb Cell phone: 585-721-2398; Email: blsanko@aol.com
Karen Cell phone: 585-354-3523
- Midweek Message, bulletins, and office matters: Becky Wiesmore
Office phone: 585-442-1018; Email: office@atonementrochester.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF MINISTRIES PRESIDENT (continued)

- Leadership and oversight: Joanne Scanlon or Margy Peet
Joanne Cell phone: 585-269-8423; Email: JoScanlon62@gmail.com
Margy Cell phone: 585-698-6813; Email: margypeet@yahoo.com

We will be working closely with the Synod and Conference staff and Pastor Doug as we enter a time of thoughtful discernment in the transition process. Although we cannot anticipate how long this transition will take, please be assured that we are receiving significant support from Pastor Doug, our Conference Dean, Upstate NY Synod staff, our Bishop and the entire ELCA community of faith. We will provide regular updates to keep you informed and encourage you to feel free to contact me with any suggestions, input, questions or concerns you may have.

With God's Blessing and Guidance,

Joanne Scanlon, Board President

CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS

"Next to the Word of God, Music Deserves the Highest Praise" -Martin Luther

Where Love Is The text "for where love is, there is God" dates from around 800, and is usually associated with Maundy Thursday. Maybe the sentiment is valid throughout the year? This is a pretty setting, sung in classic Mormon Tabernacle style, but there's no information for the composer.

Mozart, Divertimento In F major K. 138 - I. Allegro I've done other videos from "smalin," who takes classical music and represents it graphically in different ways. Even if you can read a score, these videos are fun to follow along with. Mozart was 16 when he wrote this piece!

CHOIR PRACTICE

All are welcome to join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the choir loft.



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

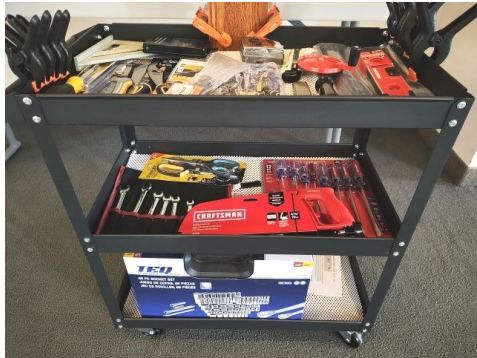
We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Dick Browne upon his death on March 8th at the age of 86. A memorial service will be planned for this summer.

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Come Worship With Us ... Everyone Is Welcome!

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship *Or Livestream on our Facebook Page*
Website: www.atonementrochester.org *Facebook:* fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch

TOOLS DONATED FROM OUR WISH LIST!



A *Tools Wish List* was created on Atonement's Amazon site several months ago to update, and add to, the tools we have on hand. These tools will increase our efficiency and ability to complete small repairs and maintenance jobs for ourselves. The response to this has been outstanding! *Thank you* to all who bought from our list. There are only a few items left... you can go online to view the remainder of [Tools Wish List](#). If you have any questions, please see Norm Karsten. *Be sure to take a look at our new tool cart and tools in the narthex!*

NEWS FROM GREATER ROCHESTER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On Friday, April 10, Raychel (new homeowner), her family, and the Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders gathered to celebrate her new home at 135 Hazelwood Terrace. From beautiful singing and a heartfelt blessing, to loads of love and laughter, her house is already full of joy. Atonement is a contributing partner of GRIB; our benevolence budget and profits from the semi-annual Drive Thru BBQs, support GRIB builds through Habitat. If you look closely at the photo, you will see Bob and Susan Touhsaent, dedicated representatives from Atonement.



Looking Ahead

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday	Apr. 16th	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice	Sanctuary
Sunday	Apr. 19th	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	Apr. 19th	10:30 a.m.	Adult Forum/Fellowship Hour	Reissig Hall

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester NY 14618
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Tuesday ~ Wednesday ~ Thursday
Phone: (585) 442-1018 *Email:* office@atonementrochester.org
 The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor