



# Midweek Message



## **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*July 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.*

*In-Person and Livestream Worship*

Join us in-person in our church sanctuary for worship service or Livestream with us via our Facebook page...*as our eyes look to God, who shows us his mercy. (Psalm 123:2)*

## **ATONEMENT VACATION PHOTOS**

Traveling this summer? Taking a family vacation to the beach, to a lake, to a city, to the woods, to the mountains? Planning a day trip to a new place?

Enjoy your time away...and then send us a photo! We would like to feature photos in the Midweek Message of our church family on vacation during the summer months.

*Watch over those who are traveling, Loving God, that they would be granted safe journeys, refreshing days away and a blessed homecoming. Amen.*



*Pastor Gail Swanson and her sister at Lake Chautauqua, NY.*

## ***Atonement Lutheran Church***

### **All Are Welcome**

*In-person worship in our Sanctuary, or  
Livestream 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. and for special services by  
going to our Atonement Facebook page  
at [fb.com/  
atonementlutheranchurch/](https://fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/)*

A worship bulletin and hymns  
will be Emailed to our  
Atonement families, and  
posted weekly on our web site.

**Psalm 121:7-8**

*He Will Keep You*

The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
He will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ATONEMENT GRADUATE!**

Blessings to Faye Domroes, who graduated from Penfield High School on June 21<sup>st</sup>. In the Fall, she will be attending the University of Delaware, pursuing a major in communications.

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11*



*Congrats! Class of*  


**SIGN UP: SUNDAY MORNING SWEET TREATS**

During the months of July and August we will be offering a time for fellowship and ice cream served outdoors following each worship service (formerly known as Lemonade on the Lawn).

Can you help us by signing up to host on a Sunday? Just click on the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FA4AE2FA31-Sunday>



Thank you for your ‘sweet’ assistance!

## **BUMPER STICKER THEOLOGY**

**By Pastor Gail Swanson**

*“Baby on Board.”*

*“I Love Beagles”*

*“The Closer You Get, the Slower I Drive.”*

It seems that bumper sticker proverbs leap off the back windows and bumpers of every four or five cars I see on the road.

*“My Kid is an Honor Student at Orchard Park Middle School.”*

*“I Believe in Science.”*

*“No Human is Illegal”.*

*“Born OK the First Time.”*

Now, as in the Bible, proverbs serve up bite-sized portions of human wisdom. Sometimes they sound like your mother...and sometimes they sound like they're mouthing off to mothers, fathers and plenty of other people! Either way, they reveal the character of those who collect them and display them, supporting and overturning values and opinions, affirming identity, and offering ethical direction. It comes as no surprise that they can stick in our minds better than any sermon.

About the only place proverbs aren't found is in the pulpit. Why? Is it because they appeal more to human experience than to God's saving acts of salvation? Is it because they need no explanation? Do you really need a master of divinity degree to unpack a bumper sticker?

Yet Jesus used at least 60 proverbs in his public teaching and preaching. *“No slave can serve two masters.” “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*

Jesus seemed to know how people thought – not necessarily about church – but about their real lives on this real earth. About family and work and money; about decency, and status and power and injustice. He seemed to know that if he did not grab their attention with some short wisdom about these things, then someone else would. Caesar had his own proverbs. So do hate groups and bigots and liars. So do those committed to displaying unjust, indecent and ungodly rhetoric on the back of their car.

The question is not “will we live by proverbs?” ...but “by whose proverbs will you and I live?

*“I brake for Starbucks”.*

*“I bet Jesus would have used his turn signal.”*

*“Let those who have ears, listen.”*

## **A Prayer**

*For Surfside, Florida*

*Hear our cry for mercy in the wake of the unfathomable tragedy of this building collapse. Bring your comfort to families with loved ones dead or still missing, so that desperation and grief will not overtake them. Help them to trust in the promise of hope we know in the death and resurrection of Jesus, and bring assurance that you will be with them in whatever lies ahead. Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

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***Livestream Worship***  
9:30 a.m. Sundays via the  
Atonement Facebook page.

***Church Office Hours***  
9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday

## **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.

**Werde munter, mein Gemüte** We all know Johann Pachelbel's Canon in D Major, but he wrote a lot of other pieces, especially for organ; he was also a close friend of Sebastian Bach's father and oldest brother. Here's a partita on the tune "Werde munter, mein Gemüte," which is familiar to most classical music lovers from Bach's setting which we usually call "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (it's in our hymnal at 501, "Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus"). Partitas are, generally, collections of small pieces, usually for keyboard, and in the context of organ works, they're usually variation sets on chorale melodies. They are often set for improvisation competitions: you traditionally start with a hymn-like setting of the melody, and then in each variation push it further into the background behind decoration, distracting bass lines, etc., so the listener has to work harder to hear it.

**Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring** Here's a version of the Bach setting for banjo and voice, performed by Pete Seeger, who seems to have learned it in German as a boy. He grew up in a very Christian family, and echoes of the Bible come through in his songs, probably most famously in "Turn, turn, turn," which sets part of Ecclesiastes.

### ***A Constant State of Grace***

*Above all else,  
through the pouring rainstorms of your soul  
and down across the frozen wastelands of apathy and evil  
that you may witness,  
never stop celebrating.*

*In time,  
you will learn that every emotion is a gift,  
that hardship is a younger, dirtier version of wisdom,  
and that we are all,  
each of us,  
Miracles in a constant state of grace.*

*-Dr. Jeremy Goldberg*