



# Midweek Message

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

*This Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.*

Join us in person in our sanctuary or livestream via our Facebook page as we ask God to open our eyes to the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children.

## **ADULT FORUM & COFFEE HOUR**

*Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.*

Join us this Sunday as we welcome guest speaker Chris Scribani for a presentation and short video about the ministry of the Open Door Mission in Rochester.

Date	Presenter(s)	Topic
Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Scribani	Open Door Mission
Mar. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Gail Swanson	Finding Our Lutheran Voice in the midst of Christian Right Noise

## **FAITH-FILLED FUN DAY ON SUNDAY**

*Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-5:00 p.m.*

*“Jesus Calms the Storm”*

All children ages 2 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in these afternoons of faith and fun. Join us for a new twist on faith formation for our Atonement children: a Vacation Bible School-type gathering once a month on Sunday afternoons! Each session will include story time, crafts, games, and snacks related to the Bible story of the day. We look forward to seeing you!

## **CHILDREN NEEDED**

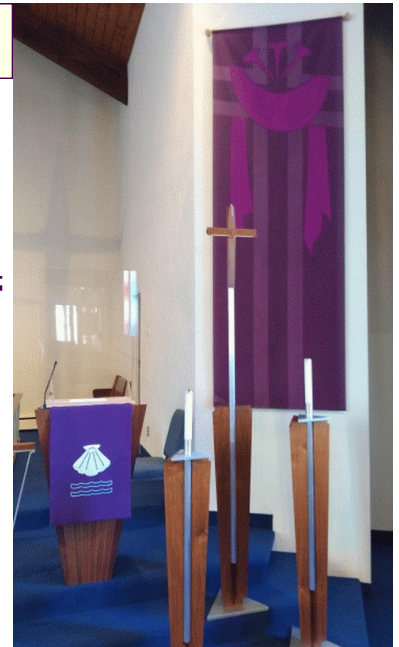
### **For two special Children’s Moments**

*Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.*

A musical Children’s Moment with David McCarthy and Hand Chimes.

*Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.*

A skit about Ezekiel and Dry Bones involving children of all ages.



# Atonement Lutheran Church

## **All Are Welcome**

Join us for in-person worship in our Sanctuary, or Livestream worship via our Atonement Facebook page.

*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 with hymns will be Emailed to our Atonement families, and posted weekly on our web site.

## Board of Ministries

### Meeting

The Board of Ministries will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, March 21st at 6:00 p.m. A link will be Emailed to Board members.

## FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP



*Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon*

This workshop is designed for children in Grades 1-4 who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Join us for communion instruction, a craft, and an opportunity to make communion bread! Parents are invited to join us for the last half hour of class.

Children who attend the workshop will be invited to receive their First Communion on Sunday, March 26th at our 9:30 a.m. service.

Please contact Pastor Gail to sign up your child.

## LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT: Birthday Cake Bags

Help us provide a special treat for families receiving food assistance at Messiah Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Rochester with a donation of a *'Birthday Cake Bag'*. We will be collecting these bags in the church narthex during Lent (Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> through Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>).

See the display in the narthex for details. Place all items into a paper bag/tote bag with handles (gift bags work well, and they can also be used for gifts).



## HABITAT COALITION NEWS

For many years, Atonement has been a member of the Brighton Habitat Coalition of Churches. Through various fundraising efforts the Coalition has been able to build a house every 3 years or so. These have been new builds or refurbishment of existing homes.

Recently, Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity proposed a new configuration due to the fact that the faith-based coalitions were often shrinking and the cost of homes was going up. They proposed merging all the faith-based coalitions into one entity. The groups, including Perinton Congregations, Brighton Habitat Coalition of Churches, Greece, Harvest Home, Habitat Interfaith Partnership, Penfield Coalition and GRHFH have all agreed to merge into a large coalition which will be named the Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders (GRIB). The goal is to have these merged groups build a house every single year.



This will be possible by pooling our funds and volunteers into one large endeavor. Each church will continue to raise funds throughout the year toward each new house. Our next build will be scheduled to start later in the 2023 building year.

If you have any questions, or wish to find out how to become more involved with Habitat and GRIB, please speak with Bob Touhsaent or Barb Sanko.

## FOSTERING CARE

<sup>14</sup>Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

Following an Adult Forum presentation by Andra and Joe Smith on the Foster Care system and what is required to be a foster home, they were approached to see how we as a congregation might support them.

Out of those conversations and recognizing the needs foster families face, Margy Peet, along with Lin and John Macholz, formulated a plan to assist the Smiths as they prepared to receive a foster child once again. The good news is that Andra and Joe have heard from the county that they will receive an eight month old child to care for today, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The little girl's name is Cali.

In light of that, the plan in place offers all of us opportunities to assist this loving family in the process. Initially they will need some meals the first two weeks, diapers, and some clothes. The meals will be helpful as the first days are filled with paperwork and appointments needing attention such as doctor visits and work with the county. This gift of meals will allow Andra and Joe to focus on the essentials.



There will also be a need for childcare for Cali. At the moment that is for one day a week as Andra works in the mornings and Joe travels to work one day a week. This will be helpful on Wednesdays between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Finally, gift cards to Target for clothes and diapers would prove useful.



To sign up to provide a meal, you can click on the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FA4AE2FA31-meals2> and follow the simple instructions to select a date to provide and deliver a meal to them at their home. They have requested that meals be delivered around 4:00 p.m.

There are no dietary restrictions for the Smiths, but fish and seafood are **not** on their 'favorites' list of meals. As a reminder, there are five members in the family plus the foster child (who won't be eating these meals). You may also want to consider sending them a gift card for Uber Eats or DoorDash or other similar company.

If you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch with:

Margy Peet  
Margypeet@yahoo.com  
585-698-6813

OR

John and Lin Macholz  
[jsmacholz@gmail.com](mailto:jsmacholz@gmail.com)  
[linhmacholz@gmail.com](mailto:linhmacholz@gmail.com)  
585-760-9708  
585-797-8612

## Prayer

### Concerns

We give thanks, O God, that you have come to heal us; and have called us to bring your healing to one another:

Nancy Dahl  
Phyllis Fleming  
Nancy Heise

## Morning Prayer

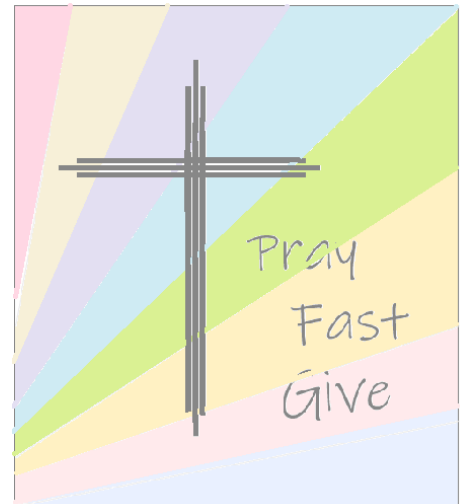
### *Hope, Love, & Joy*

As the sun rises,  
may your *hope* rise up in me.  
As the birds sing,  
may your *love* flow out of me.  
As the light floods this new day,  
may your *joy* shine through me,  
That I may carry  
your hope, love, and joy  
today in my heart. Amen.

## A LENTEN CROSS WATER COLOR CRAFT

Lent lasts for 40 weekdays (not counting Sundays). It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the Saturday before Easter Day. It is a time to focus on God and prepare our hearts, and to remember that Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us.

Lent is a time to pray, fast, and give. We *pray* to open our hearts, we *fast* (give something up for a time) like Jesus did in the desert, and we *give* our love to others. Let's make a watercolor cross to remind us what lent is about.



### You will need:

White construction paper or card stock, markers, painters tape (optional), aluminum foil (a piece a little larger than your piece of paper), a spray bottle for water

### Directions:

1. On your construction paper, painters tape to make a cross, or draw a large cross.
2. Beside the cross, write the words: *Pray Fast Give*
3. Take your piece of aluminum foil and use markers to create a diagonal design in different colors.
4. Lightly spray the foil with water.
5. Take your construction paper and lay it, design side down, onto the aluminum foil.
6. Carefully lift it up, and you will have a watercolor masterpiece!
7. Let dry. If you used painters tape, carefully remove it.

Hang in your room, on the frig, or on your front door.

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

*Wednesdays, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>*

*6:30 p.m.* Cake, Coffee, and Conversation

*7:00-7:30 p.m.* Service of Evening Prayer and Candle Lighting

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

### **“Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith”**

*Thursdays, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>*

*11:00-12:00 Noon in the Church Library*

## **CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS**

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

Martha Argerich Renaud Capuçon Cesar Franck Sonata Sherry will be accompanying a student on this piece in a few weeks. It's quite a difficult piano part at points (check out the second movement, which starts at 6:55 here)! So she's been practicing up a storm. Franck was a Belgian organist and composer in the late nineteenth century, who wrote in a juicy Romantic style.

Broken Birds V Danny Clay is a young (younger than me, at least...) American music educator and composer. Some of his pieces are based off of games he developed for kids in the classroom, often using some kind of imitation or echoing. I think this one is all written out, but still has a bit of that character.

## **A NOTE OF THANKS**

*"Many grateful thanks to all who sent cards or offered prayers after the death of my brother-in-law, Don Wright. I have been touched by your caring for me in this way."*

*-Florence Wright*



### IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!

Easter flowers are available to order in honor or in memory of a loved one. The plants will decorate the altar area on Easter morning and may be taken home following worship.

***Deadline to order: Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

**Given By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of plants:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$8.<sup>00</sup> each = total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this form with payment to the church office.***

## **Call for Updates!**

### ***Church Directory***

We are updating our Church Directory for Spring!

***If you have any corrections or changes to your name, address, phone, or children's names, or don't see yourself or your child on our monthly birthday lists, please contact the church office by Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.***

We will have updated copies of the Directory available in the narthex on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## DAILY DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS & PRAYERS FOR LENT

Wednesday March 15  
*What can you offer the world? Are you offering it?*

God of our stories, the Samaritan woman offered her bucket. She offered her truth. Am I offering all that I have to give? Are there ways I can give more, or give differently? The world can ask so much of us. Help me find pathways to give what I can, and give with joy. **Amen.**

Thursday  
*When was the last time you told someone about your faith?*

Gracious God, I believe, deep in my bones, that you offer a type of love and care that many people are hungry for. Yet, I rarely talk about my faith with others. Flood my spirit with conviction, that I might have the courage to speak about my faith as the Samaritan woman did. Show me how to be inspiring and gentle, how to speak and listen. **Amen.**

Friday  
*What are you thirsty for?  
What do you long for?*

God, I am thirsty. Thirsty for change. Thirsty for rest. Thirsty for a deeper connection with you. Help me see those inner aches as sign posts, leading me toward a truer version of myself. Help me listen to your call, which is tucked into those longings. **Amen.**

Saturday  
*After the Samaritan woman meets Jesus, she tells people about him. What should they know?*

Holy God, I assume it was you that planted the spirit in my soul. I assume it was you that gave me a voice to speak about the things I am most passionate about. The world needs truth tellers and hope planters. Let me be one of them. **Amen.**

Sunday  
*How do you describe God?*

Holy God, there are many names for you. How could I use just one? Friend, Healer, Creator, Teacher... the list goes on. As I move through Lent and continue to read your stories, remind me that you are bigger than any description. For that I give thanks. **Amen.**

Monday  
*The disciples make assumptions about the reason for a man's blindness. When have you made an assumption?*

God of patience; changing one's mind can be a slow and painful journey of dismantling and reassembling furniture in your mind. It does not come easily, and yet scripture reminds us that holiness can be found in changing our minds. Help me see where I may need to dismantle and reassemble, and guide me in that faithful work. **Amen.**

Tuesday  
*Connecting sin with disease was something the disciples had to unlearn.  
What are you trying to unlearn?*

God, I have stereotypes to unlearn. I have negative self-talk to unlearn. I have to unlearn the societal message that my worth comes from my productivity. There are many messages floating around in my head that do not come from you. Unravel those messages, and pull me back toward your embrace. **Amen.**

### *Atonement*

### *Lutheran Church*

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

The Rev. Gail Swanson,  
Pastor

### *Email:*

office@atonementrochester.org

### *Website:*

www.atonementrochester.org

### *Facebook:*

fb.com/  
atonementlutheranchurch

### *Worship*

9:30 a.m. Sundays  
in our Sanctuary

### *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