

# Midweek Message

May 06, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 5

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Pr. Doug Stewart Preaching & Presiding in worship followed by a Welcome Coffee Hour in Reissig Hall

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

Join us in person or Livestream the service via our Facebook page. Following worship, please join us in Reissig Hall for coffee, conversation, and snacks as we welcome our Interim Pastor Doug Stewart.

### FROM PASTOR DOUG STEWART

*Dear Beloved Saints of Atonement Lutheran Church,*

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*It is with a gentle and grateful heart that I write to you as I begin my time among you as your Transition Pastor. I am deeply honored to walk alongside you in this season of change, trusting that God is already at work in your midst—guiding, sustaining, and renewing.*

*By way of introduction, I have been serving as Pastor of Incarnate Word Lutheran Church in the city of Rochester for the past 21 years and before that for 10 years in Buffalo. Over that time, I have come to cherish the ways in which God gathers communities of faith and nurtures them through every season, both steady and uncertain. It is in that same spirit of trust and hope that I now join you for a time.*

*In this shared season, it is my privilege to offer pastoral and spiritual care—to listen, to pray, and to accompany you as you discern what God is calling you to be and to become. Times of transition, while often tender, are also holy ground. They invite reflection, patience, and trust, and they open space for new possibilities shaped by the Spirit.*

*With that in mind, I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve with you in the weeks and months ahead. I look forward to worshiping alongside you on occasion, learning your stories, and building relationships rooted in Christ's love.*

*As we begin this journey together, please know that I welcome the opportunity to be in conversation with you. Whether in times of joy or concern, I am here to listen and to walk with you as our shared, hallowed time together unfolds.*

*May the peace of Christ dwell richly among you.*

*In Christ's service,  
Pastor Doug*

### NAME TAGS

During this time of transition, please help our Transitional Pastor Doug Stewart in learning the names of our members & friends by wearing your name tag each Sunday in worship.



# Atonement Lutheran Church

## MOTHER'S DAY OUTREACH PROJECT: BIRTHDAY CAKE BAGS

Help us to provide a special treat for families receiving food assistance at the Messiah Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Rochester with a donation of a **'Birthday Cake Bag'**. We will be collecting bags on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Donations can be placed on the table in the narthex. Place all items into a paper gift bag/tote bag with handles.



To create a Birthday Cake Bag, gather together:

- \* One cake mix (any flavor)
- \* One can of frosting (any flavor)
- \* One package of birthday candles
- \* One pkg of small *Birthday plates* (8/pkg)
- \* One pkg of small *Birthday napkins* (8/pkg)

## UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE



You will find updated Church Directories on the narthex table this Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please throw away your old Directories to avoid confusion.

## ATONEMENT GARDEN REFRESH THIS SATURDAY!

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**



It's time to refresh the church garden to get it ready for planting in late May! Soil needs to be turned over, landscape cloth needs to be re-stapled in some of the beds, and new landscape cloth needs to be put on the ground to replace what is there. Please join Lin and John if you have a few moments. No gardening skills are required!

## NEXT SUNDAY: PRAISE AND PRUNE

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> following worship**

Join us for worship followed by a time of outdoor gardening and weeding around the church property to spruce up our lawns. Refuse bags and refreshments will be provided! You are invited to:

- Wear gardening clothes to worship
- Bring gardening gloves/rakes/tools for weeding

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT CHICKEN BBQ

**Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until sold out**



You can skip cooking dinner! Come to our easy, drive-through Chicken Barbecue and get a full, delicious meal of BBQ chicken, along with corn, broccoli salad, a roll with butter, and a cookie for dessert. The cost is just \$15 per meal, and all proceeds will benefit the Brighton Habitat Coalition of Churches. Volunteers are needed to help with this event.

## **A NOTE FROM PASTOR GAIL**

*Sunday was my Thanksgiving. There was no turkey, or cranberry sauce, or pumpkin pie on the bountiful brunch tables...no parade or football game on TV...but my heart is filled with gratitude.*

*I give thanks to God with a grateful heart for bringing me to Atonement, and for the privilege of serving as your pastor.*

*I give thanks for each of you who have supported me in ministry in countless ways.*

*I give thanks for the bountiful brunch, the glorious music, the cards and gifts, the kindnesses, good wishes, and prayers.*

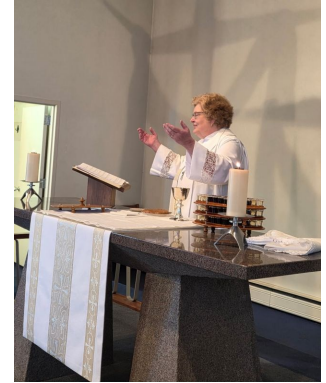
*I give thanks for the memories that will last me a lifetime.*

*I will miss you and hold you in my heart.*

*But right now, it's Thanksgiving...and I'm thankful for everything we have done together in Jesus' name. Grateful.*



*Pastor Gail*



## Come Worship With Us ... Everyone Is Welcome!

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship *Or Livestream on our Facebook Page*

Website: [www.atonementrochester.org](http://www.atonementrochester.org) Facebook: [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch)

### CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS

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

[For the Beauty of the Earth | John Rutter – Bel Canto Choir Vilnius](#) We had a little bit of sun and reasonable temperatures recently, which is enough for Western New Yorkers to start praising God! This is John Rutter's popular setting of the famous text, very well sung by a Lithuanian choir.

[For the Beauty of the Earth | The Tabernacle Choir](#) And here's the best-known setting of the text, to the hymn-tune "Dix," in a lush orchestral and choral version by Mack Wilburg. They're very careful to not breathe between the long note on "raise" and "this" in the refrain, which is a classic bugaboo for church choir directors.

### CHOIR PRACTICE

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

### NEW SPRING/SUMMER BULLETIN BOARD: WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS! All Things Bright & Beautiful

We're asking all pet owners and pet lovers to share a photo of their furry, finny, amphibian, or feathered friends! You can **bring a photo in to post on the board**. Please be sure to use a small index card –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!

### Looking Ahead

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday	May 7th	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Saturday	May 9th	9-11:00 a.m.	Atonement Garden Refresh	Front Lawn
Sunday	May 10th	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	May 10th	10:30 a.m.	Welcome Coffee Hour for Pastor Doug Stewart	Reissig Hall
Wednesday	May 13th	10 am-1 pm	Pastor Doug Stewart's Office Hours	Pastor's Office

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](mailto:office@atonementrochester.org)

The Rev. Doug Stewart, Interim Pastor