

# Midweek Message

May 13, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 5.2

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**



Join us in person or Livestream the service via our Facebook page. During this time of transition, please help our Transitional Pastor Doug Stewart, and our guest Pastors, in learning the names of our members & friends by wearing your name tag each Sunday in worship.

## 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

## CHICKEN BBQ NEXT SATURDAY

**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.



## CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS

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

[Beatles - Hey Jude e The long and winding road](#) I think the Beatles must be the most popular group among classical musicians. Their music tends to arrange well, I think, probably because they tend to use more than three chords in their songs, and secondary dominants (a chord that moves the piece from one key to another smoothly). Here are two classics played by orchestra.

[Grow by Frances, arr. Jeremy Alfera, Luther College Nordic Choir](#) As you know, the Midwest has a lot of Lutheran colleges, most of which have excellent choirs. This is Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, doing a song by Frances (that's her whole name) from 2015. Here are the lyrics: [Frances – Grow Lyrics](#) | [Genius Lyrics](#)

## CHOIR PRACTICE

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

# Atonement Lutheran Church

## **PASTOR'S PAGE: A Destination Called Good News**

Last week, as I drove in for my first meeting with the Board of Ministries at Atonement, my GPS announced that I had arrived at my “destination” — “Evangelical Lutheran Church.” For a moment, that phrase lingered with me in a fresh way. In our culture, the word “evangelical” has too often become tangled up with politics, division, or ideology. But at its root, the word simply means “good news.”

And that is precisely the kind of evangelical witness Atonement Lutheran continues to embody.

You live your mission — “Invite. Prepare. Go into the World.” — not merely as words on paper, but as a way of life. The good news becomes visible whenever this congregation gathers food for the Pittsford Food Cupboard and the Messiah Lutheran Church Food Pantry. The gospel takes on flesh whenever hands and hearts support Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity in building homes and restoring dignity. And the good news continues to ripple outward through the Barbara Macholz Grimaldi Legacy Fund, whose ministry confronts food insecurity and works toward racial, social, and criminal justice.

This is evangelical faith at its best: not shouting louder than the world, but loving more deeply within it.

In a weary and fractured time, Atonement reminds us that the gospel is still good news when it feeds the hungry, shelters the vulnerable, pursues justice, and refuses to give up on the neighbor. The world may hear the word “evangelical” and expect anger or exclusion. But through your ministry, people encounter something far closer to the heart of Christ: compassion, generosity, mercy, and hope.

I also want to say how deeply grateful I am to serve alongside you during this season of pastoral vacancy. Seasons of transition can sometimes feel uncertain, yet again and again I see a congregation continuing to show up with faithfulness, generosity, humor, resilience, and a deep love for both the church and the wider community. It is both a gift and a privilege to witness the Spirit at work among you.

This congregation is truly a destination worth arriving at.

Peace and Love,  
Pastor Doug

## **UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE**

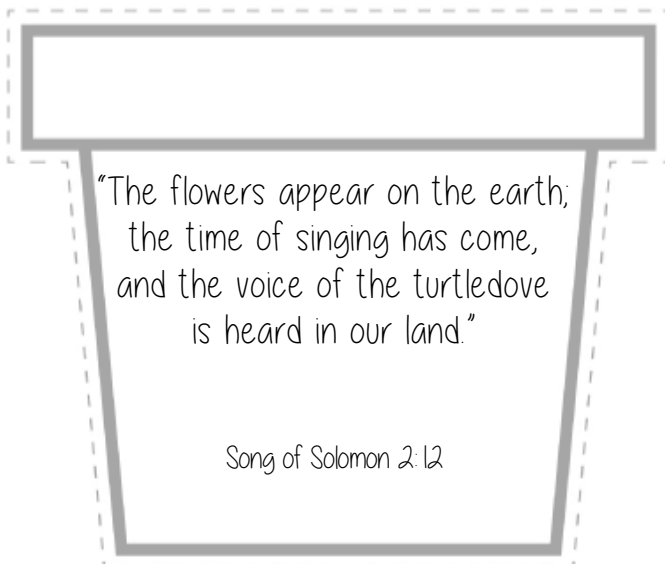
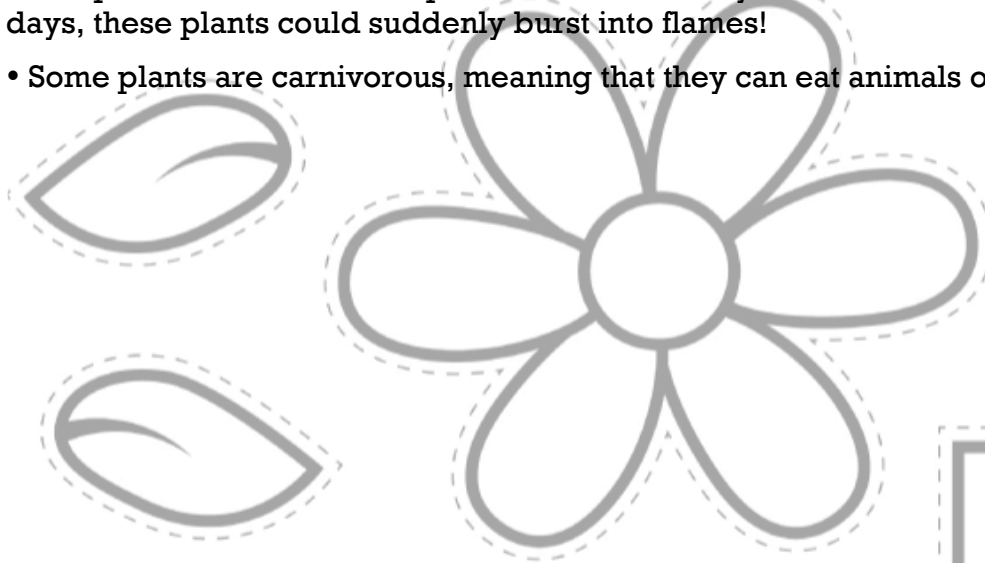


You will find updated Church Directories on the narthex table.  
*Please throw away your old Directories* to avoid confusion.

## KIDS ACTIVITY: Build a May Flower

Here are some fun facts about flowers:

- The scientific name for a flower is an *angiosperm*.
- Sunflowers can have up to 2,000 seeds!
- Wild flowers grow naturally in our environment. They don't need any help from people to plant their seeds or grow.
- The Wolffia flower is the smallest flower in the world (under 1 millimeter!).
- The Rafflesia Arnoldii (giant corpse flower) is the largest flower in the world (over 3 ½ feet wide!)
- Gas plants are flowers that produce an extremely flammable oil. On very hot days, these plants could suddenly burst into flames!
- Some plants are carnivorous, meaning that they can eat animals or insects.



### You Will Need:

The shapes on this page, scissors, colored or construction paper (optional), crayons or markers, and glue.

### Directions:

1. Color (or trace onto colored paper) and cut out the flower, leaves, stem, and pot shapes on this page.
2. Glue them together to build your very own May flower.
3. You can glue them onto a piece of construction paper or cardboard and draw a background for your flower.

## 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://fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch)



During this time of adjustment and transition, questions are sure to arise. Here is a list of people to contact if you have any questions. Phone numbers and Email addresses can be found in the updated Church Directory; copies are available on the narthex table.

- Pastoral Care: Pastor Doug Stewart
- Worship and Music questions: David McCarthy
- Building and property questions: Tom Thompson
- Cleaning Services questions: Jean Seager
- Midweek Message, bulletins, and office matters: Becky Wiesmore
- Leadership and oversight: Joanne Scanlon or Margy Peet
- Mutual Ministry Committee: a “listening post” for concerns or conflicts during this time of transition, and beyond, and support through affirming, listening, clarifying, advising, and making recommendations as needed for the well-being of the current pastor, staff, and congregation members.

Eric Domroes ~ Amy Irish ~ Nan Westervelt

## Looking Ahead

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday	May 14th	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sunday	May 17th	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	May 17th	10:30 a.m.	Praise & Prune	Church Grounds
Wednesday	May 20th	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