

# Midweek Message

May 27, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 5.4

## HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

Join us in person or livestream via our Facebook page as we celebrate the life-giving presence of God the Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit whose power renews the church.

Please help our Transitional Pastor Doug Stewart and other guest Pastors in learning the names of members & friends by wearing your name tag each Sunday in worship.



## BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

**Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

The Board of Ministries will be meeting in the Conference Room.

## FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS MEETING

**Next Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.-Noon in Reissig Hall**

Join us on the first Friday of each month for crafting and fellowship. Feel free to bring your own materials for projects you're working on, or we'll have a few items on hand. If you don't want to craft, then join us for the coffee and conversation!



## ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Join us after worship for fellowship, food, and fun at our annual Church Picnic. **Please Note:** a grill has been gifted to the church, and we will be using it for the first time at our annual picnic! We will be providing hots and burgers for grilling (instead of sandwiches and wraps), and beverages.

*Please sign up in the church narthex to bring rolls, a side dish, dessert to share, or to assist with set-up/clean-up.*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR RED WINGS OUTING

**Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m.**

Atonement's annual Red Wings outing will be on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Red Wings will take on the Toledo Mud Hens. Game time is 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and all are welcome! There is a **sign-up** sheet on the narthex table, or see Tom Thompson, or Email Tom at [tommyth27@gmail.com](mailto:tommyth27@gmail.com) to reserve tickets.



# Atonement Lutheran Church

## **PASTOR'S PAGE: "Peter's Voice", A Pentecost Reflection by Pastor Doug**

I remember the charcoal smoke most of all. Not the wind. Not the fire. Not the voices rising like rivers breaking through stone.

The charcoal. Its scent still haunted me. The smell carried me backward—to another fire, another courtyard, another night where shadows danced against cold stone and I warmed trembling hands while fear hollowed out my courage.

*"I do not know him."*

Three times. Three wounds. Three echoes that would not leave me. Even after the empty tomb. Even after seeing him alive. Even after breakfast beside the sea when he placed grace into my trembling hands and asked me three times if I loved him.

Yes, Lord.

You know.

You know.

You know.

Still, something inside me remained buried. I had seen death defeated. I had watched scars become testimony. I had stood beneath skies that carried him upward until clouds gathered him into mystery. And yet my voice remained hidden beneath old failures. Locked away. Buried beneath fear.

Then Pentecost came. Not softly. God is rarely soft when making all things new. The house shook as though creation itself had inhaled. Wind thundered through walls. Fire rested above us—not consuming but awakening. Not destroying but illuminating.

The Spirit of God moved among us like breath returning to lungs that had forgotten how to breathe. The room that once held frightened followers became suddenly too small. Voices spilled outward. Feet found streets. People gathered. Languages collided. Wonder rose. Clarity followed.

And there I stood. Simon Peter. Fisherman. Disciple. Failure. Forgiven one. The same mouth that once shaped denial now burned with words I could no longer contain. Something holy pushed against my silence. Not anger. Not certainty. Not strength. Spirit. The Spirit of the living God pressing life into places fear had emptied. And suddenly I understood.

The miracle was not only wind. Not only fire. Not only hearing many languages carried upon ordinary tongues. The miracle was this: I found my voice. Not a louder voice. A truer one. The voice fear had buried. The voice mercy had restored.

I stood before crowds that shimmered beneath Jerusalem sun. Pilgrims. Foreigners. Skeptics. The curious. The weary. Faces upon faces stretching beyond my sight. And I spoke. Not polished. Not perfect. Only true.

I told them of Jesus. Of calloused hands healing broken bodies. Of bread broken beside hungry people. Of mercy stronger than shame. Of a cross that looked like defeat.

## PASTOR'S PAGE (continued)

Of a tomb that could not hold life. Of scars that still spoke love. Of ascension glory. Of a kingdom that had come near enough to touch. Christ crucified. Christ risen. Christ ascended. Hope alive!

And somehow my words—ordinary and trembling and Spirit-carried—landed inside hearts like seeds falling upon hungry soil.

And here's the miracle of it all. God found a frightened fisherman standing beside the ruins of his own failures.

And there—amid wind and fire and grace—God gave him back his voice.

## CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS

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

[Krystian Zimerman - Chopin - Ballade No. 2 in F major, Op. 38](#) Chopin wrote four of these Ballades. They're all in one movement, with a pair of contrasting themes. In this one, the difference between the calm opening melody in major, and the fiery second one, in minor (a little after two minutes in), couldn't be bigger. The rest of the piece gradually brings them closer together, and it ends with the first idea presented in the key of the second

[VOCES8 - Purcell: Hear My Prayer, O Lord](#) We've done a couple of Purcell pieces this year in choir, but nothing with the unusual technique this piece has. In order to make it more expressive and dissonant, Purcell sometimes has two versions of a note (e.g., an F and an F sharp) either at the same time, or right beside each other. It's a little jarring at first, but definitely gives the work a pleasantly rough effect.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a Lutheran VBS program for your children or grandchildren? Consider the programs below, hosted by Lutheran congregations in the Rochester area! Be sure to visit the host church's website or call them to register your child for their program.



•Vacation Bible School: July 6-9; 9:00am - 12:00noon at St. Martin Lutheran Church, 813 Bay Road, Webster, NY 14580. The cost is \$20 per child. Hosted by Bethlehem, St. Martin, and Transfiguration Lutheran Churches. [Click here to register.](#)

And...

•Vacation Bible School: July 20 - 23 9:00am - 12:00noon at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 28 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford, NY, 14534. At-will donations are accepted, but not expected. Hosted by St. Paul's and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches. [Call \(585\) 586-0580 to register.](#)
















## 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)

### KIDS' PAGE: GO FOR A NATURE WALK! ...Scavenger Hunt Style

Invite a parent, grandparent, or friend to take a nature walk with you. You can walk in your neighborhood or a local park. If you have binoculars, take them with you to help you see things far away. Can you find all of the things below? What do you see that you can add to this list? A robin? A lilac bush? A turtle, or a painted rock? Check off all of the things you can find below, and draw or write in other things you see in the blank spaces.

	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cloud		flower		leaf		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
butterfly		insect		duck		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
seeds		grass		branch		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
fly		bush		dirt		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
water		tree		log		_____

### Looking Ahead

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wednesday	May 27th	6:30 p.m.	Board of Ministries Meeting	Conference Room
Sunday	May 31st	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	May 31st	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship/Coffee Hour	Reissig Hall
Wednesday	June 3rd	10 am-1 pm	Pastor Doug Stewart's Office Hours	Pastor's Office
Friday	June 5th	10:00 a.m.	First Friday Friends	Reissig Hall

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester NY 14618

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

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The Rev. Doug Stewart, Transitional Pastor