



# Midweek Message

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship*  
Join us in-person in our sanctuary or livestream via our Facebook page as we light one candle for the Messiah.

## **LEAF RAKING HELP NEEDED**

We are looking for volunteers to rake leaves on November 26<sup>th</sup> (Black Friday) starting at 10:00 a.m. Bring your rakes and a good sense of fun so we can get this big job done! Thanks so much for your service.



## **ADVENT COLLECTION**

We will be coordinating this year with Center for Youth/Crisis Nursery for an Advent season collection of needed items. We will be collecting different items weekly from November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup>. This week's collection is Toiletries for Teens: deodorant, bodywash, lotion, shampoo/conditioner, hair accessories, toothpaste, toothbrushes, chapstick, hand soap.

\*Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

## **CHRISTMAS COOKIE RECIPE EXCHANGE**

Do you have one or two favorite recipes for Christmas cookies? Please share them with us for our Atonement Christmas Cookie Recipe Booklet! Traditional favorites as well as brand new cookie recipes are welcome.

Submit your recipes to the church office by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Recipe booklets will be available online and as paper copies in time for your holiday baking.

## **CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING**

*Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.*

Join us as we discuss the proposed 2022 Atonement Budget in a 'hybrid' meeting format. You are invited to participate in-person in Reissig Hall, or at home via Zoom.



*A Zoom link will be Emailed to Atonement members on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.*



## **Atonement Lutheran Church**

### **All Are Welcome**

*In-person worship in our Sanctuary, or Livestream worship via our Atonement Facebook page.*

Join us 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.

## December Celebrations

### *Birthdays*

- 1 Kevin Thompson  
Wynn (Rebecca) Thompson
- 6 Norm Karsten
- 7 Michael Kruidenier
- 8 Mary Teter
- 9 Connor Krapf
- 12 Nancy Heise  
Joe Manthey
- 14 Betty Middlebrook
- 16 Al Kaminsky
- 19 Meghan Domroes  
Phyllis Hennessey
- 25 Lindsay Lazenby
- 26 Nan Westervelt
- 28 Todd Bogumil
- 29 Lin Macholz

### *Anniversaries*

- 30 Amy & Joe Loporcaro

*If we have missed your special day, please Email or call the church office to let us know so that we can update our records.*

## **SAVE THE DATE:** **OUTDOOR, DRIVE-THROUGH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

*Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:00 p.m.*

Take a drive to Atonement on this day for some Christmas cheer! Arrive any time between 3:30-4:00 p.m. and drive through our parking lot to see and hear the stories of the Angel Gabriel... the Innkeeper... Mary and Joseph...Angels and Shepherds and Magi... and some special Christmas music as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Cast members include our Atonement children and youth!



## **CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS!**

***“Next to the Word of God, Music Deserves the Highest Praise”***

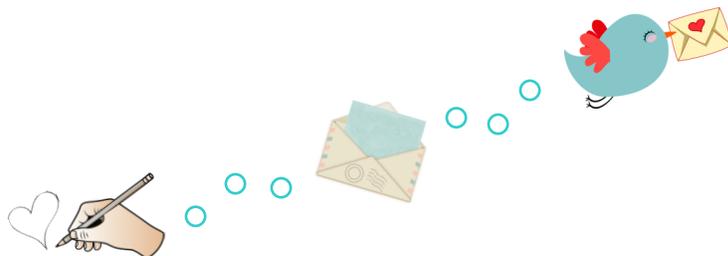
**People, Look East** This text was written in England in 1928 by Eleanor Farjeon, a children’s book author who also wrote the lyrics to “Morning has Broken.” It’s traditional to think of looking for the Messiah in the East, also the traditional orientation of the altar of a church. In this video, the seats of the church are arranged facing each other across the aisle, so the audience has to turn to see the singers. At the end of each verse, “Love” (Jesus) is called the Guest, the Rose, the Star, and the Lord in turn. The melody is an old French carol, and thus was probably meant to be danced to by the singers themselves, linking arms in a circle.

**The Angel Gabriel** One of the themes in Advent music is the annunciation to Mary that she would bear Jesus, made by the angel Gabriel. This song comes from the Basque culture. It was first translated into French by Charles Bordes, and then into English, by the well-known hymn-writer Sabine Baring-Gould (who also wrote the text for “Onward, Christian Soldiers”). Thanks to him, we don’t have to sing “Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen”!

## **SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE**

### *Volunteer Needed*

We are seeking a person to fill an opening in our Sunshine Ministry group. For two months out of the year, you would send greeting cards to Atonement members. Occasions to send cards include birthdays, get well, thinking of you, congratulations, sympathy, etc. Greeting cards and postage are provided on a limited basis. *If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Barb Sanko.*



## **LUKE'S HOUSE**

**By Pastor Gail Swanson**

Do you have plans in the next few weeks to visit the homes of friends or family members? Or to take a drive around the neighborhood to see the lights and outdoor decorations house by house? Each year as Advent begins, we visit another “house” in the three-year cycle of Sunday scripture readings. Pastor and writer Cynthia Campbell reminds us that the first year, the Gospel readings take us to Matthew’s house; twelve months later we move on to Mark; and finally, we visit Luke. (And on special occasions, we go to visit John!)

Like our own homes, each Gospel house is different – reflecting the families that live there and their traditions. One is filled with a fascinating cast of relatives and strangers ... another is simple and spare... and one in particular looks as if it is made out of light. And then there’s the house decorated with Christmas details within an inch of its life! It’s natural to like certain houses more than others, but moving around allows us to see and hear things from a uniquely different point of view.

This year, Advent brings us into view of Luke’s house. There’s a live nativity display in the front lawn with shepherds and sheep and donkey. Christmas carols are playing from loudspeakers mounted on the roof. There’s a wide front porch that invites visitors to stop by for a visit; a joyous place and open to all. Everything about this house says, “Welcome! There’s a story to *hear* and to *see*... in detail.”

Luke is the Gospel that gives us the Christmas story we know best (and for many of us) love the most: with a mother and a holy child surrounded by warmth and safety, despite there being no room at the inn. With wondrous music filling the night sky and plenty to ponder in our hearts. Christmas at Luke’s house is what we yearn for the most: beauty and joy and peace.

But Luke doesn’t only tell us about the birth of Jesus. He spends an entire chapter (eighty verses) on what came before, on the “gospel before the gospel”, inviting us deeper into the house and deeper into the backstories of Zechariah, Elizabeth, John and Mary.

However you decorate your own home for this Holy Season, join us for worship each Sunday this Advent as we journey, story by story, through chapter 1 of Luke’s Gospel ... as we visit Luke’s house.

### *Gratitude and Faith*

*Let gratitude be the pillow upon which  
You kneel to say your nightly prayer,  
and let faith be the bridge you build  
To overcome evil and welcome good.*

*-Maya Angelou*



## **Gratefulness**

*By George Herbert*

*Thou that has given so much to me  
Give me one more thing,  
A grateful heart.  
Not grateful when it pleases me,  
As if thy blessings had some spare days.  
But such a heart  
who's pulse may be Thy praise.*

## **PASTORAL MESSAGES on Rittenhouse trial, Nov 19th**

Dear Church,

In the book of Leviticus we read: "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor" (19:15).

Our social message on [Community Violence](#) urges us to become more involved in countering the reality and fear of violence in our communities and our neighbors' communities, pursuing justice and seeking peace no matter how long the journey or complex the challenge.

When a child is allowed to become a vigilante without recourse, we are forced to confront the idols of our society: guns, violence and white supremacy. To be sure, this is not about one person, but indeed about all of us, together.

Today's acquittal is an injustice. It points to the disorder in which we all live. As we seek to restore justice; so also will we restore God to God's rightful place at the center of our life together.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

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To God's People formed together as the Upstate New York Synod,

The prophet Isaiah calls a nation to repentance: *Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands at a distance; For truth stumbles in the public square. (Isaiah 59:1-2,14)*

As church together we reject the notion that a person can take it upon themselves in an act of vigilantism and commit violence upon another, in this case taking the lives of two others. We name, reject, and repent of idols of violence, racism, and white supremacy, which become weaponized with fear and anger, destroying the fabric of human community.

The [ELCA social message on Community Violence](#) states that, "some violence is a reminder of the failure to ensure justice for all members of a society. Many people — due to race, language, economic class, gender, [identity or] orientation — have not received the protection and justice necessary for human well-being."

We, the Upstate New York Synod, confess and insist that anti-racism work is part of the life-long work of discipleship, not a social or political interest. We will continue to pray, learn, prepare, and partner with allies in the work of dismantling racism and joining with Christ in the restoration of the Kingdom of God. Isaiah writes, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isa. 58:6)

Through the death and resurrection of Christ our Lord, God reconciles each one of us to God's own self. The Holy Spirit calls us and invites us into this work of salvation for all people. This is the work of the Gospel, for which we are made into the Body of Christ, and of which we are not ashamed.

Thank you for joining me in this work of liberation and love.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Lee Miller II, Upstate NY SYNOD, ELCA

### *Atonement*

### *Lutheran Church*

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### *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

*\*Church Office Will Be Closed  
November 25th-26th for the  
Thanksgiving Holiday.*