Midweek Message

September 2, 2026 Volume 26, Issue 9

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 6th at 9:30 a.m.

Join us in person or livestream via our Facebook page. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation. Please help our new Pastor, Ken Maldonado, as he begins leading us in worship today by wearing your name tag.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KEN

For months, there has been so much anticipation—conversations, discernment, prayers, visits, questions, decisions, packing, moving, and more than a few moments of wondering what God was doing in the middle of all of it. And now, finally, September has arrived, and I get to say something I have been looking forward to saying for a long time:
I am so incredibly excited to be your new pastor.

Those words carry tremendous joy for me. They also carry a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility, because I know that this moment is about more than simply welcoming a new pastor. This is a new chapter for Atonement. It is a new chapter for me and Kevin. And, most importantly, it is the beginning of a new chapter that we will write together.

I come to Atonement filled with excitement about what God may have in store for us. I am excited to worship with you, to preach and preside among you, to sit around tables with you, to hear your stories, to learn the history of this congregation, and to discover the gifts that already exist within this community.

I am excited about the things we will celebrate together. I am excited about the things we will wrestle with together. I am excited about the people we have not even met yet who may someday find their way through our doors—or encounter us somewhere beyond them—and discover that there is a place for them here.

Most of all, I am excited about becoming the church together.

Ministry is something we discern together. We listen to one another. We listen to our neighbors. We listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit. And then, sometimes courageously and sometimes imperfectly, we take the next faithful step.

There will be time for dreaming about the future. There will be time for asking difficult questions and trying new things. There will be time for laughter, meals, meetings, mistakes, surprises, and probably a few ideas that sounded much better before we actually tried them. That is part of being the church.

But before any of that, I simply want you to know how grateful I am. Thank you for calling me. Thank you for trusting me. Thank you for welcoming Kevin and me into this community and into this next chapter of Atonement's life.

With gratitude and joy, Pastor Ken

FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS

Friday, September 4th at 10:00 a.m.

Come join us in Reissig Hall for some crafting and companionship. We do have a project planned, or you can bring your own project to work on, or just come and enjoy some coffee and snacks. All are invited!

BMGLF GOLF CLASSIC NEXT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

We are seeking donations of
lottery tickets for our basket raffle.

Register today or become a sponsor at bmglegacyfund.org/registration-and-sponsorship

Gather your foursome and invite your friends and neighbors for a day of golf at the Sycamore Golf Club in Macedon, NY on September 12th. *(www.sycamoregolfclub.com) You are also welcome to join us for dinner.*

WELCOME & APPRECIATION RECEPTION SEPT 13th

Next Sunday, September 13th following worship

Be sure to join us in Reissig Hall next Sunday following worship for a special fellowship hour as we thank Pastor Doug and Pastor Keith, and welcome Pastor Ken and Kevin.

We will be providing hot dogs and hamburgers for the grill.
There is a sign up sheet on the narthex table for other food items
or contact office@atonementrochester.org to let us know what you can bring.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Saturday, September 19th: BBQ Fundraiser
Sunday, September 20th: Ice Cream Social

ATONEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Best of Rochester

Please contribute to *Atonement's Best Recommendations*. We are looking for your help in creating a list of local recommendations for Pastor Ken and Kevin to use as they settle into their new home in Rochester. Add your ideas to one or more of the recommendation sheets in the Narthex or call the church office at (585) 442-1018 or Email your ideas to office@atonementrochester.org *by Wednesday, September 9th.*

O LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those struggling with pain or illness, and for those whose well-being we hold in our hearts:

Mary Teter

BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Ministries will be meeting in Reissig Hall.

WHERE IS THAT?

Are you looking for information about our Adult Forum topics? Would you like to share a milestone in your life? Do you know how many local area organizations Atonement supports? Have you been wondering just what the Barbara Macholz Grimaldi Legacy Fund is all about? You can find all this and more on our Bulletin Boards located in the main (office) hallway!

There are 8 boards to see as you walk from the narthex down to Reissig Hall:

Barbara Macholz Grimaldi Legacy Fund
~ Find out what it's all about & organizations it has helped

Faith Formation/Education
~ What's new with Adult Forum and Sunday School

Seasonal
~ Changes every 4-6 weeks with the seasons

Member News & Notes
~ Fun things about our members: accomplishments, milestones, members in the news

Member names
~ A listing of our church family member names

Community Support/Giving
~ See where our outreach has made an impact & scan the QR code to support our efforts

Atonement Mission and Info
~ Visitors can find our Mission Statement and some basic info about our building

Share & Serve board
~ Check out our Newsletter, sign up for volunteer opportunities, find the list of Monroe County food cupboards, see upcoming events at other area churches, read about the Small Wonders Preschool that meets in our building, etc.

Come Worship With Us … Everyone Is Welcome!

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

Website: www.atonementrochester.org *Facebook*: fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch

Prayer for the Start of a New School Year

Be with every child and young person beginning a new school year.
May they enter their classrooms knowing they are beloved exactly as they are.
Give them curiosity to learn, courage to ask questions, friendships that bring joy,
and communities where they feel safe, seen, celebrated, and valued.

Bless the teachers, educators, counselors, administrators, bus drivers,
cafeteria workers, coaches, and school staff who care for students each day.
Give them patience, creativity, compassion, and the resources they need
to nurture every learner.

Be with parents, guardians, caregivers, and families as they encourage,
support, worry, celebrate, pack lunches, navigate schedules,
and walk alongside their young people.

May our schools be places where every student—of every race,
ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity—knows they belong.

When the year feels overwhelming, grant rest.
When someone feels alone, bring connection.
When injustice appears, give us courage to speak and act.
When there is joy, help us celebrate abundantly.

Holy One, go with all who begin this new school year.
Surround them with love, guide them with wisdom, and remind them each day:
You are beloved. You are seen. You belong.

Looking Ahead

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday	Sept. 3rd	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice resumes	Sanctuary
Friday	Sept. 4th	10:00 a.m.	First Friday Friends	Reissig Hall
Sunday	Sept. 6th	9:30 a.m.	Worship with Pr. Ken Maldonado	Sanctuary
Sunday	Sept. 6th	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour	Reissig Hall
Wednesday	Sept. 9th	9:00 a.m.	Small Wonders Preschool resumes	Founders Hall
Wednesday	Sept. 9th	6:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries Meeting	Reissig Hall
Saturday	Sept. 12th	10:00 a.m.	BMG Legacy Golf Tournament	Sycamore Golf Club in Macedon
Sunday	Sept. 13th	9:30 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	Sept. 13th	10:30 a.m.	Thanks & Appreciation Reception	Reissig Hall

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
Ken Maldonado, Pastor