



**Atonement  
Lutheran  
Church**

*Living in God's love ~  
Reaching out with hope*



September 2023

# Voice of Atonement

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## ATONEMENT STAFF

Senior Pastor

**Pastor Kristi Beebe**

Worship and Music Leader

**Brandon Bill**

Office Manager

**Audrey Brack-Banks**

Choir Accompanist

**Carol Ott**

Music Accompanists

**Gayle Gunderson**

**Carol Ott**

## Pastor's Message

Greetings Friends in Christ!

Trivia time: What song holds the distinction in the United States of being the Number 1 hit with the oldest lyrics?

Hint: It's words are traditionally ascribed to King Solomon sometime between the 10<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC

If you answered the Byrds' 1965 recording of the song written by Pete Seeger in 1959 called "Turn! Turn! Turn!," also known as, or subtitled, "To Everything There Is a Season," you're

absolutely correct! The lyrics ~ except for the title, repeated throughout the song, and the final two lines ~ consist of the first eight verses of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3 in the Old Testament of the Bible. Ecclesiastes 3, is sung, or read:

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die;

<sup>3</sup>a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>4</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

<sup>5</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

<sup>6</sup>a time to throw away stones,

and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>7</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

<sup>8</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

<sup>9</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

As verse 11a & 12 go on to tell us, "God has made everything suitable for its time ... I know

that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live."

"To everything there is a season ..." sounds a lot like "Transitions" to me.

Tiffany flew back home in July, and the 20 days here flew on by as she all too quickly got

on a plane to fly back to Spain. Jasmine came home in May for the whole summer, which was wonderful for both of us!! Yet just as quickly as

Hurricane Hillary came in and out of Southern California, so too it seems Jasmine and I drove her from California to Colorado in May, and almost just as quickly she's currently driving from Colorado back to California, yet this time I'm not driving with her; her boyfriend is! He flew out from California just to drive back with her. He said he wanted to see Colorado. But, alas, "To everything there is a season ..." and I think the season of Jasmine and my road trips may be about up! Transition times!

Transitions ... they happen throughout our lives, in all aspects of our lives.

Confirmation Students that have been in classes with me for what seems like years due to Covid will be Confirmed. I'd rather they just go on being Confirmation Students forever for they're an amazing group of young people! I'm blessed to be their Pastor. I wish you could've been a mouse in the corner listening to their fantastic questions about faith and life. They've matured greatly since our first class together. You should've seen them at Rainbow Trail this summer when the guys had to fit in with a group of other boys and a counselor ALL from another close-knit youth group. It wasn't easy, but they

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

### Recent

Keeley; Cindy (Barb Kaare-Lopez' cousin); Sandy; Norman Jonland; David Holen; Michelle Healey; Carol (Barb Krug's sister in law); Adam (Katy Brackeen's son)

### Ongoing

Kyle (Julie and Brian Strasser's nephew); Aubrey (Sonja Buzard's friend); Ann and Charles; Donna Winters; Stan (Cookie and Terry Plate's friend); Jim and Jacque Bland; Grace; Janice (Michelle Healey's Aunt); Nick (Kathy Stapleton's grandson); Arlene Karika Thompson; Jean; Bob

### PLEASE NOTE:

If you would like to place someone on the prayer list, please email their name and reason for request to:

**PrayerRequests@atonement-denver.org**, or call the office.

Please let us know if you have received permission for the church to use the last name of the person(s) needing prayer in our bulletins or newsletters. If not, we will only use their first name.

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persevered and made friends. Or it was a blast seeing their faces at our “Fun Night” when I won while playing Uno! One of them said, “*Oh sure, Pastor has home advantage!*” Ha ha! These young people currently participate in the life of our congregation in a variety of ways: in the A/V Booth; helping with the Kids Sunday School; working on Church Clean Up Days; the Christmas program; etc.

Transitions ... as much as I'd like to keep these Confirmation Students forever in class with me, over half of them will be Confirmed September 10<sup>th</sup>. Isn't it time we as church members now step up and DO something positive for these, and ALL our teens and younger children as they grow in their faith lives? They need SOMEONE else to guide them and get them excited about wanting to continue their whole lives in the church. So please, just as you have been so extremely FAITHFUL IN GIVING TO THE DIGITAL SIGN (thank you, thank you, thank you!), now please join me in being faithful to our young people as we look to hire a Youth Director Remember how important Youth Ministry was for you? Be a part of making it that for our young people today as well! Even if all you can do for now is buy tickets for CASINO NIGHT for you, your family and friends, then do so! That will help as well, for all proceeds go toward a Youth Director. Thanks!

Transitions ... may be coming up in worship as well in order to make more time for Adult Education either in between worship services or after the second worship service. Fill out a Worship & Education Survey IF, and only IF, you attend the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and/or Adult Education. The Visioning Team will then figure out how best to move forward this Fall. Remember, when we returned back inside after being outside for Covid, we promised we'd re-evaluate Worship & Education Times after a year, so that's exactly what's happening. Stay tuned!

Transitions ... again, due to your faithful giving, a digital sign will soon be here so we can transition into inviting more and more people into our community of faith! That's a truly exciting transition for our congregation and surrounding neighborhood!

Transitions ... “To everything there is a season ...” It really does sound like God knows what God's doing after all, doesn't it! Transitions = God's exciting new seasons ... let's embrace them faithfully and fully!

To Transitions and God's New Seasons!,

—Pastor Kristi Beebe



SAVE THE DATE

## The Right of Confirmation

WILL BE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH,  
AT THE 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE!

*We rejoice to celebrate with some of our young people as they affirm the baptismal vows their parents made for them when they were young and say "Yes" to their faith!*





Don't forget to take the **VISIONING TASK FORCE SURVEY FOR UPCOMING WORSHIP & EDUCATION TIMES!**

If you regularly go to the 10:30 am service, come to church and fill out a survey so that you can weigh in on changes to the Adult Ed and late worship service times. There are four options—we want to know what you think!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SEPTEMBER 30TH,**  
**SATURDAY, 9 AM**

Field Trip to the Headwaters of the North Fork of the South Platte

*Picture gold leaves, golden air and a beautiful fall day! The headwaters gather on the east side of Kenosha Pass, rivulets into a brook into a river. We'll pass the Roberts Tunnel and confluence with Geneva Creek off Guanella Pass. Details to follow.*

# Drop in the Bucket Benevolence Ministry

## September's "Drop in the Bucket" ministry benefits Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp is one of two ELCA/Rocky Mountain Synod camps for young people, adults, and families to attend and experience the love of God amid a beautiful setting in God's creation. It is located 55 miles west of Fort Collins. Sky Ranch's Mission "is to facilitate an encounter with Christ on the

mountaintops." They do this "by being in a place set apart; by providing participants with service opportunities; by being in the beauty of creation; by emphasizing the value of retreat to physical and spiritual well-being, and by partnering with local, regional, and national congregations." You can learn more by visiting their website: [skyranchcolorado.org](http://skyranchcolorado.org).

## Christmas-in-July Response

*And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." Matthew 21:22 ESV*

And indeed, you have shown that prayers can be answered.

We prayed, the call was delivered, and YOU responded! For all of you that participated in the Christmas-in-July call, THANK YOU!!

Remember as kids, we wanted Christmas to be every month, every week, even... every day?!? With that same thought, we should all celebrate the birth, life, death, and RESURRECTION every day without pause. For God is good!

We pray for your continued blessings. For those worshipping online, we praise you! For those that we see each Sunday, it's good to see you! For those we haven't seen in a while, we welcome you. In any case, continue to reach out and invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join us! ALL are welcome here!!

As you know, our church facility is open for use to the community. We currently host Travelling Nurses Foot Clinic and the Square Halos Square Dancers. Do you know of other

groups or organizations that need a place to meet? Here are some ideas to consider,

Boy/Girl Scouts troops, HOA meetings, Yoga classes, dance / drama clubs, and more...

Contact the church office to inquire about the church facility use.

## Stewardship and Pledge season it right around the corner

Begin discerning how you can support our Ministry and Mission in the coming year through your Time, Talent, and Treasures. We will also be offering the opportunity for you to update your Church Profile to keep us updated with,

- Contact Information
- Family members
- Talents
- And interests

We will use this information internally in the church to not only get to know you better, but also to perhaps facilitate building small groups that may share common interests.

Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

## Casino Night! Silent Auction Items Needed

Atonement's Casino Night Oct. 7 will feature a silent auction, Do you have anything you would like to donate to help raise funds for a youth director? We could use sports and concert tickets, museum or other art passes, gift baskets and more.

Please contact Carol Farr ([carolfarr@aol.com](mailto:carolfarr@aol.com)) or Tracy Ford ([tracyandersonford@gmail.com](mailto:tracyandersonford@gmail.com) 720-339-8338) if you would like to donate something and we will make arrangements to get it.



## THE CORNER DESK

September is here!

As Psalm 126:5-6 says:  
*"Know that though your soul may feel parched and barren, you can enter into this harvest season with the promise of showers of blessings and armloads of joy."*

Accordingly, we are busy here at Atonement, and we can look forward to many events in September! Sunday school (and Adult Ed) will be starting, and Faith in Action is going on two field trips this month, continuing its "water" theme. We are celebrating the Rite of Confirmation for some of our young people on September 10, and installing council members on September 17th. Also, the weather is finally getting cooler. I think we are all looking forward to the beautiful, cool days of Autumn.

As our children go back to school, and as we look forward to the Autumn season, don't forget to expect the "promise of blessings and armloads of joy!"

Wishing God's best for you!

Audrey Brack-Banks  
Atonement Office Manager

## Worship and Music

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

I want to thank all of you who have helped with making the service run smoothly, and those who did all of the pre-work for each service.

I have decided to step down as the Worship and Music Team Lead. I am so thankful to have been Team Lead since 2016, and doing many of the same things since Pastor Del retired. I am looking forward to seeing what new things will be happening with the new person in this position.

Speaking of a new person. We are looking for someone to take my place. Here is what is involved:

~ Altar Guild "Worship Preparation" (maybe a new name?) This team is self run. Members set up and clean up communion, decorate the

Sanctuary with banners, paraments (things on the altar and the podiums, and drape around the cross) and candles.

Members also obtain:

~ Greeters: The In and Outreach team takes care of the greeters.

~ Assistants to the Pastor, readers, Ushers, communion helpers.

~ Set up meetings for long range planning of the Liturgy for late service as well as Music

~ oversee the Tech Booth

Thank you again for all those who have volunteered to help during the services.

Please let the office know if you would be interested.

—Shauna Skaff

## Stewardship

### Consider 'Percentage Giving'

*"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." —Malachi 3:10*

Again and again the Bible lifts up tithing – giving a tenth of our income – as a benchmark for faithful giving. The prophet Malachi goes so far as to say God promises to rain down abundant blessings upon those who tithe. Yet most Christians fall quite short of tithing, generally giving less than 3 percent to the church?

Why? One reason is that in calculating how much to give, most people use the fixed-rate method. They first take stock of how much they *are able* to give, and then how much they want to give. Weighing these two factors, they then decide how much *they will* give.

There's nothing particularly bad about this method, but it has limitations. While giving folks an offering amount they can live with, the fixed-rate method doesn't necessarily put them on the path toward tithing.

A better method is percentage giving, that is, determining your offering as a percentage of income. Here's how:

Using a calculator, divide your weekly (or monthly, or yearly) church offering by your take-home pay for the same period (week, month or year). Then multiply that figure by 100. This gives you the percentage of your giving. For example, if your weekly offering is \$30 and your weekly take-home pay is \$500, your percentage of giving is 6 percent ( $30 \div 500 = 0.06$ , then  $0.06 \times 100 = 6$ ).

Can *everyone* afford to tithe? Of course not. But many of us, maybe most of us, could afford to give more than we do now. The important thing is to be prayerful about your offering, be as generous as you are able, and keep tithing in mind, perhaps as a goal.

Keeping track of your giving as a percentage of income provides you with information to gauge your offering and perhaps build up to a tithe. You can make it a goal gradually, over time, to increase the percentage until you reach a tithe – 10 percent. One simple way would be to increase your giving by one half of a percentage point per year.

As Malachi promises, God will bless you richly for your tithing, and not only that, your church will be blessed, too. Switching from fixed-rate giving to percentage giving is a good start.

—Rob Blezard

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## September Birthdays

Marilyn Anderson	9/1
Ray Levstick	9/3
Pal Bajcsi	9/4
Dean Reinfort	9/7
Jim Ris	9/9
Mike Lewellen	9/11
Cathy Bajcsi	9/12
Ben Goman	9/22
Norm Viste	9/24
Donna Winters	9/24
Cliff Wink	9/28

## August Anniversaries

Barb and Bernie Lopez	8/23
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## September Anniversaries

Melissa and Peter Lemke	9/27
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## *In and Out Reach Committee* (formerly Evangelism Committee)

As the summer is coming to a close, we look forward to people returning from vacations and their weekend trips out of town and that we see faces at services that we haven't seen in awhile! With the construction of our new Atonement sign on Yale Avenue, it is expected that some folks will be worshipping with us for the first time. We definitely want to make them feel welcome and have them know that that is the place where God's people live in love for Him and for one another.

And we all know that some things need to be repeated, SOOO here goes!

Have you missed a smiling face greeting you as you enter the sanctuary for a service lately? We're trying to get as many volunteers involved in serving as greeters as possible but sadly, there have been a few Sundays where a smiling face is missing to greet worshippers. Would you like to fill that void and volunteer?!! Great - you don't need to be a member of this committee to do so and it is much appreciated and really rewarding. There's a signup sheet in the narthex and you can pick a Sunday to do this and you can also pick the time of the service you prefer. If you have any questions about what you are to do, please don't hesitate to ask us!

A big thank you to all of you who have already done so or are planning to bring in goodies for the Sunday coffee cafe - it is turning into such a great way to visit with folks. We are seeing quite a few people staying for conversation and fellowship after services. Of

course, we still need volunteers and - as always - there is a signup sheet if you want to pick a Sunday to bring in a goodie to share. We also would love to have folks volunteer to set up (before the 9 am service) and/or clean up after the 10:30 service as committee members have been doing that thus far - many thanks to them! We will be happy to show anyone interested the "ropes" - again, ask if you would like to do that as we didn't put out a signup sheet for making coffee and cleaning up but one may just soon appear.

Bags of gently used eyeglasses are making their way to the Lions Club to be repurposed for those that have a need. Keep on bringing those to the designated box located in the Narthex!

Birthdays are special to everyone. From May through the end of September, Atonement will have mailed almost 70 birthday cards to members. If we have missed yours, it is most likely because your birthday is not in the data base that Atonement maintains for its members. Either call the office or speak to one of us to remedy that.

As our Congregation President and Pastor wrote in their articles in the August newsletter, volunteers are the unsung heroes of Atonement (and everywhere)! All of us need to have a purpose and volunteering provides that "in spades". "Thank you's" to all who DO volunteer and when you do also, you will feel that "joy" down in your heart.

—Kathy Stapleton/Barbara Krug, co-chairs

## QUILT RAFFLE! *This Beautiful, Handmade, Vintage Quilt Could Be Yours.*



Mary Campe has generously donated this beautiful double wedding ring quilt, and has agreed to have it raffled off! Mary estimates that the quilt is about 40 years old, and it is a beauty.

Keep looking for details on raffle ticket prices and dates. See the actual quilt in church on Sunday! *Proceeds from the raffle will go towards new signs in the front of the church.*

## FIA Inspires trip to Montgomery, AL

Faith in Action has opened my eyes to the possibility of many new adventures. Most recently by defining my vacation plans as part of a trip to Charleston, SC, for a family reunion! Our FIA studies on racial justice led to an additional goal along with reuniting with family: to “get to Montgomery for the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.” Both are projects of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) and Bryan Stevenson, author of *Equal Mercy* and part of *The Sun Still Shines* (2 FIA Pic books). As my vacation plans developed it seemed I could add other stops on this trip: Brunswick, GA and Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC, (from another FIA book *Wandering in a Strange Land*). What a difference it made to be on a “eduvation”! (I made up that word!)

Unfortunately, the Museum does not allow photographs inside, so I’ll use their words to describe its location and exhibits. My two hours here are best described as overwhelming and gut-wrenching.



“The Legacy Museum provides a comprehensive history of the United States focused on slavery and its legacy. From the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its impact on the North and coastal communities across America through the Domestic Slave Trade (what???) and Reconstruction, the museum provides detailed interactive content and compelling narratives. Lynching, codified racial segregation, and the emergence of



over-incarceration in the 20th century are examined in depth and brought to life through film, images, and first-person narratives.

Situated on a site where enslaved Black people were forced to labor in bondage, the location’s history adds to the contemplative and sobering atmosphere.

An entire wing of the museum explores the economics of enslavement, the violence of slavery, sexual violence against enslaved Black women, the commodification of people, and the desperate efforts enslaved people made to stay connected to loved ones.

An expansive exhibit on Reconstruction (after 1864) documents the important 12-year period in American history with a detailed timeline, short films, and first-person narrative accounts.

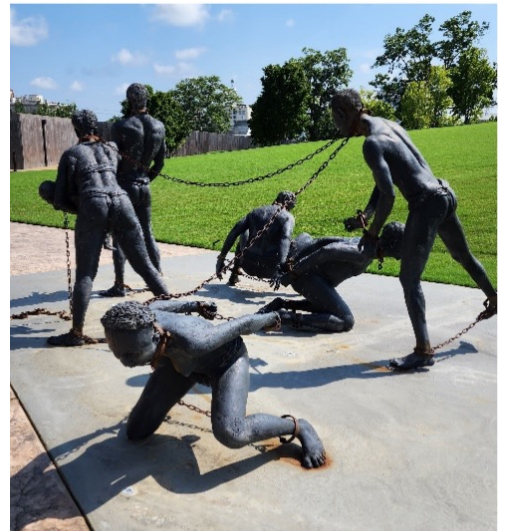
The museum’s expansive content on lynching is housed in a wing that examines the role of media during the era of racial terror violence. The last words of lynching victims dramatize the suffering racial terrorism imposed on entire communities. Facts about the lynching of children help visitors understand the scale of terror and violence many families endured.”

One of the more sobering exhibits in the Museum contains 800 jars of soil collected around the country. They line the wall, one

right after the other, rows upon rows, all marked with tape and perhaps a name. This is part of EJI’s (Equal Justice Initiative) Community Remembrance Project is a unique and powerful display of the growing community response to reckoning with this painful past. Most jars are labeled “UNKNOWN.”



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice (located a couple of blocks from the Museum, shuttles are provided) was “conceived with the hope of creating a sober, meaningful site where people can gather and reflect on America’s history of racial inequality.” It is all that and more! (Plus, photos are allowed!)



Upon entering the memorial, I first encountered the sculpture on slavery. The path then leads visitors on a journey from slavery, through lynching and racial terror, with text, narrative, and monuments to the lynching victims in America. In the center of the site, is memorial square. The memorial experience continues through the civil rights era made visible with a

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sculpture by Dana King dedicated to the women who sustained the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Finally, the memorial journey ends with contemporary issues of police violence and racially biased criminal justice.



The memorial structure on the center of the site consists of over 800 corten steel monuments, one for each county in the United States where a racial terror lynching took place. (All documented by EJI)

The building is four immense hallways, the monuments are installed in all four sides, each engraved with the name of a county and state and the names of the victims lynched in that place. Most of the columns hang from the ceiling, creating a symbolic lynching. (You walk, looking up.) While most of the counties are located in states of the south, not all are. In fact, Colorado is listed on one of the columns with several other states.

The museum and memorial are part of EJI's work to advance truth and reconciliation around race in America and to more honestly confront the legacy of slavery, lynching, and segregation. "Our nation's history of racial injustice casts a shadow across the American landscape," EJI Director Bryan Stevenson explains. "This shadow cannot be lifted until we shine the light of truth on the destructive violence that shaped our nation, traumatized people of color, and compromised our commitment to the rule of law and to equal justice."

One of his statements resonates with me both then and today: "The formal abolition of slavery did nothing to overcome the harmful ideas created to defend it, and so slavery did not end: it evolved."

This is vital US history that was not addressed in my school classes, elementary through college. I believe it is a history that all Americans should know. What is it that stops us from doing so? Add this Museum and Memorial to your next trip south and begin the history lesson. (Suzanne Rousso)

## Tour of Denver Water Treatment/ Recycling Plant & the "Ick Factor"

(Additions 8/22/23)

Two ladies from Faith in Action were able to tour the Denver Water Treatment/Recycling Plant at 5650 York Street in Commerce City, even though the site when Googling states, "temporarily closed". It was a little tricky to locate, but using Brighton Blvd. off I-70, not York Street, got us there. A waiver needs to be signed before one can go on the tour, which begins inside a building, and exits to the outside area of the plant. We needed to wear the safety glasses that were temporarily provided to us to tour some areas.

"Denver Water's recycled water system serves numerous parks, schools, golf courses" including The Denver Zoo and Xcel Energy. Recycled water is non potable (potable is safe to be used as drinking water) and is currently not available for residential use. Denver has a high-quality water source, which is the mountains. The process begins: "treated water from Metro Wastewater is captured just before it is discharged into the South Platte River & is pumped to Denver Water's Recycling Plant." There are many other steps before "the recycled water is stored in a 300-foot wide, 23-foot-deep reservoir which can hold 11 million gallons of water." This is the Finished Water Reservoir.

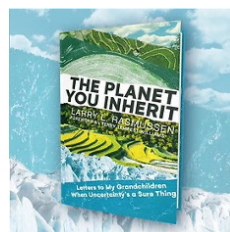
This was an interesting tour for those that are interested in water, drought, and recycling of water issues. And what is the "Ick Factor"? It is when one does not want to drink treated water. There are places around the country where treated water is potable and customer education is important. Where did you say that water came from?

(Barbara Kaare-Lopez & Cathy Bajcsi)

## FAITH IN ACTION PICKS...

### BOOKS:

*The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren when Uncertainty's a Sure Thing*, Larry Rasmussen, 2020, In this series of letters to his grandchildren, Rasmussen describes what our children's



and grandchildren's generation will face: a different world, one affected by climate instability, mass uncertainty, and breathtaking extinction. In fact, the next generation will face the reality that human activity is changing the planet from one geological epoch to another.

As a grandfather invested in a green earth and climate justice as well as a scholar of faith-based earth ethics, Rasmussen bridges this gap between generations to write to the future about climate change, global citizenship, democracy, and legacy. Rasmussen explores the large questions of justice, meaning, and faith, encouraging us to speak to and look to the future generation and their future world. It is a book of extraordinary hope in a time of extraordinary urgency. (Suzanne Rousso)

### MOVIES:

"*Till* is a profoundly emotional and cinematic film about the true story of Mamie Till Mobley's relentless pursuit of justice for her 14 year old son, Emmett Till, who in 1955 was lynched while visiting his cousins in Mississippi. In Mamie's poignant journey of grief turned to action we see the universal power of a mother's ability of change the world. (United Artists; Barbara Kaare-Lopez).

### *Jane Goodall's Reasons for Hope*, DMNS, Infinity Theater

(former IMAX), thru September A giant screen film that is based on Jane's philosophy of hope for the world and all of life on it. The film is structured around Jane's four main pillars of hope: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power and dedication of young people, and the indomitable human spirit. The main purpose of the film is to highlight good-news stories and to inspire people to make a difference in the world around them. Terrific cinematography, compelling stories, deeply inspiring, a joy to watch. (Recommended by Suzanne Rousso)

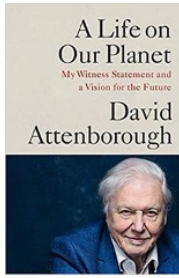


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**David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet**

(Netflix) In this unique feature documentary, the celebrated naturalist reflects upon both the defining moments of his lifetime and the devastating changes he has seen. The film addresses some of the biggest challenges facing life on our planet, providing a snapshot of global nature loss in a single lifetime. With it comes a powerful message of hope for future generations as Attenborough reveals the solutions to help save our planet from disaster.



and Hawai'i, they bring perspective and solutions from the poor, the indigenous, the youth, and wildlife into a conversation with Pope Francis himself. This documentary follows their journey to Rome and the extraordinary experiences that took place there, and is packed with powerfully moving personal stories alongside the latest information about the planetary crisis and the toll it's taking on nature and people. (Previous 3 movie reviews by Suzanne Rousso)

“Faith is taking the first step when you don’t see the whole staircase.” Martin Luther King Jr. Articles compiled by B. Kaare-Lopez)

now room for only 5\* more adults (over 18 years old is a DW requirement). So we invite you to join us! Please call the office to register for the tour (name, phone number, and email so information can be forwarded to you). There will be carpooling. You must **contact the office before September 8th to join the tour.** Tour details will be provided to those who have signed up. (\* Number as of August 17th!) *A unique opportunity to learn more about where your water comes from and goes!*

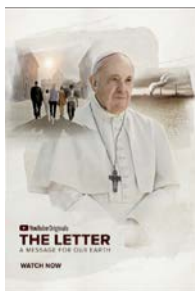
*“Faith is taking the first step when you don’t see the whole staircase.”*  
Martin Luther King Jr.

**The Ants & the Grasshopper** (Coming To A Theater Near You, September) Anita Chitaya has a gift; she can help bring abundant food from dead soil, she can make men fight for gender equality, and she can end child hunger in her village. Now, to save her home from extreme weather, she faces her greatest challenge: persuading Americans that climate change is real. Traveling from Malawi to California to the White House, she meets climate skeptics and despairing farmers. Her journey takes her across all the divisions shaping the US, from the rural-urban divide, to schisms of race, class and gender, to the thinking that allows Americans to believe we live on a different planet from everyone else. It will take all her skill and experience to persuade us that we’re all in this together.



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**The Letter** (YouTube, Prime Video, PBS) In 2015, Pope Francis wrote **Laudato Si’** (The Letter); an encyclical letter about the environmental crisis to every single person in the world. A few years later, four voices that have gone unheard in global conversations have been invited to an unprecedented dialogue with the Pope. Hailing from Senegal, the Amazon, India,



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**EVENTS...**



**There is still time for five\* more lucky folks to join the tour of Denver Water Recycling action!**

Faith In Action has reserved a group tour of their Recycling Plant (Water, not Waste!) for **September 14th at 9:30am**. There is

Faith in Action articles compiled by Barbara Kaare-Lopez

**Housing and Homelessness**  
Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm ✓

**Join the RMS Hunger Network to ponder this important topic for our life together!**

**Ryan P Cumming, Ph.D.,**  
Director of Education and Networks/Building Resilient Communities Team  
**is our speaker for the Zoom event.**

**He will talk about the current state of homelessness in the U.S. and share some stories from housing ministries supported by ELCA World Hunger.**

**HERE IS THE ZOOM LINK:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4418378179?pwd=QldRZU5wMUZaSXBER0pRQmpOWk82QT09>  
Meeting ID: 441 837 8179. Passcode: Lutheran  
One tap mobile: +17207072699,,4418378179# US (Denver) +17193594580,,4943729991# US

**Is your congregation involved in supporting unhoused people or working with a community organization that is exploring creative solutions?**

Email the contact information to Carol McDivitt (mcdivitt@mindspring.com). Our Zoom program on October 10 will explore some of these programs on the territory of our synod. ✓





## FOOTSTEPS 4 FOOD

### 5k Walk /Run to benefit Community Ministry!

- Virtual: September 1 - 9
- In Person: Saturday, September 9, 2023.

8:30 am check in  
9:00 am run/walk

Go to  
[comministry-denver.org/?s=footsteps+4+food](https://comministry-denver.org/?s=footsteps+4+food)  
for more info.




## Introducing... Technology Ministry Team!!!

Do you know that in Martin Luther's time the most highly regarded technological advancement was the PRINTING PRESS?!?!? Johannes Gutenberg is credited with its invention in 1436. Martin Luther's 95 Theses, which previously would have circulated only among the literate scholars of Wittenberg, became a bestselling pamphlet within a year of its initial posting in 1517.

The Printing Press and Martin Luther's translations of the Bible to German made the Bible more accessible to even more people of that era.

The typewriter was later invented in 1868 and soon after in 1885, the mimeograph machine was invented. The mimeograph machine was a low-cost duplicating machine that worked by forcing ink through a stencil on to paper. Many of you may still remember the smell of the ink of the mimeograph machine. The smell of fresh mimeographed paper is indescribable. I know my teachers used it in the elementary and middle school I attended. I know our very own church office staff used typewriters and the mimeograph machine up to the mid-90's!! Just ask Eileen Koppenhaver!! 😊

ENTER the Copy Machine and Personal Computers (PCs)... In the Mid-90's, our church began to use a computer using

'Windows 95'  and a 'used' **xerox** copy machine. The Internet was still slow and dial-up. E-mail was thought to be a fad. Times were so much simpler then. <sigh>

Now here we are 2023. Technology in the church has literally

exploded  to reach even more people and Share the "Word of the Lord"!!!

With all this technology, there is only 1 or 2 of us that have been trying to keep the current technology up and running. AND WE WANT TO DO MORE to improve our Online Streaming capabilities to reach even more people. Albeit, not to rival Joel Olsteen... :-/


Hence, we are organizing the "Technology Ministry Team"!!!



We will be having meetings to provide overviews of the current technology used. You do not need to be an expert in anything or everything about all the technology we use. You just need curiosity to pursue it!! I always say...and live by...

"It's not what you know... it's how fast you can **Google** it!!" 😊

Here is the technology that our church uses today.

- 5 - PCs with Windows 10 
- 1 - Laptop with Windows 10 
- 1 - MacBook 
- 2 - Raspberry Pi's 
- Highspeed **xfinity** Internet,
- 1 - Ethernet Local Area Network (LAN)
- Deco Mesh Wi-Fi Access Points  from every inch of the church building,
- A Multi-Function **RICOH** Color Printer/Scanner/Copier,
- 3 - Sound Systems in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, mobile unit for outside worship
- 1 - FM Radio Transmitter

(continued on next page)



## Atonement Lutheran Church

*The mission of Atonement Lutheran Church is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ - birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. This is a shared ministry of staff and laity. We are a community that provides time and space for worship, learning and administration of the sacraments. We witness by reaching out with God's love. We accept responsibility for ministry to the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation, community and people of the world.*

(continued from previous page)

- Live Internet Streaming to **facebook** and **YouTube** using **OBS Studio** and **ProPresenter**
- **realm** Realm (ACS) Church Management Software
- **venmo PayPal Square** Mobile Payment Solutions
- Websites galore
- Social Media Sites
  - Facebook
  - Youtube Channel
  - NextDoor
- Church Office Automation using Microsoft 365
  - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher, SharePoint
- SmartPhone - Android and iPhone
  - Some of the support software only runs on Android and iPhone (like Venmo and Deco)
  - The Church Office doesn't use a Smartphone. So, we use an Android emulator **BlueStacks** on the PC's.

As you can see, there is an opportunity to learn a little, some, or all of this. We can use your help!!! Please contact Mike Skaff <mike\_skaff@msn.com> or Dan Malyszko <dmalyszko@malisko.com> if you are interested in becoming part of the Technology Ministry Team!!!

### A thank you note from WhollyKicks:



**WHO YOU WALKING WITH?**

*Atonement friends,  
Your generous support of \$691 means that 1000 students chose newkicks just in August! we are on track for 6,400 newkicks in 2023. Your love is connected to our mission. Thank you for walking with us as we walk with others.*



### 4th SUNDAYS GAME NIGHT FOR EVERYONE!!!

Join us for Game Night on Sunday, September 24th! Everyone is invited! We'll have appetizers and beverages from 5:30 – 7:30pm.

Card and/or board games will be available to all ages, and fellowship with one another will abound!

If anyone is interested in hosting this Game Night, let the church office know of your willingness (simply provide some games, or set out the ones at the church, and bring some appetizers/snacks).

**LET'S MAKE 4th SUNDAYS GAME NIGHT AN UPCOMING ATONEMENT TRADITION!** Bring your family and friends for a fun time of fellowship and light food.



Do you have stuff? Most everyone does! Start now collecting the stuff you no longer need, (but someone else might) to sell at the upcoming Yard Sale! Here's how it will work:

The sale runs from 9:00 am. to 3:00 pm. Everyone sells their stuff from their own booth. We have tables, but you may want to bring a canopy of some type to keep yourself out of the sun.

Stalls will cost \$25.00 each. If you make more than \$25.00 in sales, we ask that you donate 10% of your profits above that amount.

Clear out your garage and/or basement, and make some money for yourself and Atonement!



ELCA's "God's Work; Our Hands" is on Sunday, September 10th. However, we have some young people receiving their Rite of Confirmation on that date, and we want to stay and celebrate with our confirmands.

However, we do have an opportunity to participate in the "Gods Work Our Hands" event before September 10. We can help our Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in Denver friends by helping to clean and sort the contents of their old building, so that they can move forward into their new building (the former Christ the King Lutheran Church building at 2300 South Patton Ct., Denver). They need help in the days and evenings prior to September 10, the date of the first worship service in their new building. Please call the office if you are interested.

Additionally, mark your calendar for September 24th as we are invited to celebrate with Cristo Rey Lutheran on their Festival Day ~ a day when a grand party" will mark their move into Christ the King's former worship space and building. BTW: Did you realize that "Cristo Rey" literally means "Christ the King" in Spanish?!? What a wonderful transition and gift this space becomes!

Let's Go All In for Hiring a Youth Director at

# CASINO NIGHT

Tickets entitle you to \$1000 in "fun" money for

**Games Libations**  
**Raffles Hors d'ouvres**  
**Silent Auction**

5:00pm to 8:00pm  
Saturday, October 7th  
Atonement Lutheran Church  
6281 West Yale Avenue

\$50/person by 10/4  
\$60.00 after 10/4 & at the door

[www.atonement-denver.org](http://www.atonement-denver.org)

SCAN TO GET YOUR TICKETS!

Or go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/v7xuj2em>



**Everyone had fun at Day Camp!**



**Rainbow Trail Day Camp doings!**



**Learning about Grace and having fun!**



## Church Fundraising – While You Shop!!



### What is RaiseRight

For more than 25 years, RaiseRight has been empowering individuals and families to use gift cards to turn their everyday spend into funding for their school, sports team, church and more. Unlike paying with cash or credit cards, every time participants purchase or reload their favorite brand gift cards from RaiseRight, they earn real money that goes directly toward their designated organization. It's that simple.

RaiseRight is a nationwide program that benefits non-profit organizations such as the Atonement Lutheran Church. RaiseRight partners with more than 750 retailers to offer gift cards to pay for purchases. You buy the cards at face value and RaiseRight gives a rebate between 2% and 15% back to ALC!

See what you can do, by just spending money, on things you already buy, and simply pay for your purchases using gift cards!!



Shop at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) or on your phone using the RaiseRight App

Go to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) or the **RaiseRight App** and 'Join a Program' using  
**Enrollment Code: F84C731861822**



Did you know that Atonement Lutheran Church received nearly **\$2,300** in 2022 from the King Soopers Community Rewards Program? It's TRUE!! It's all because many have you buy groceries and linked your King Soopers Loyalty Card to **Organization Name: Atonement Lutheran Church of Denver CO**  
**Organization Number: VF091**

Visit <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards> to learn how to create a digital account using your King Soopers Loyalty Card!

## CHURCH COUNCIL

President

**Cookie Plate** tcplate@comcast.net  
C: 303-910-1459

Vice President

**Tracy Ford** 720-339-8338

Treasurer

**Michael Skaff**

Treasurer@atonement-denver.org

Secretary

**Gayle Gunderson**

Financial Secretary

**Eileen Koppenhaver**

eileen.kopp@icloud.com

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**Carol Farr** carolfarr@aol.com

303-985-3278

Member at Large

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Member at Large

**Eric Muhle** eric.muhle@gmail.com

Member at Large

**Julie Strasser** 303-988-5504

## MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Adult Education

**Carol Farr**

carolfarr@aol.com; 303-985-3278

Building and Grounds

Building Contact

**Brian Strasser** 303-988-5504

Property Contact

**Terry Plate** 303-594-3939

Children's Ministry

**Kari Bland**

Youth Ministry - Open

Congregational Caring - reorganize

In and Outreach (Evangelism)

Co-Chairs

**Kathleen Stapleton**

303-985-2155

**Barbara Krug**

720-398-9109

Faith In Action

**Barbara Kaare-Lopez**

bkaarelopez@hotmail.com

303-906-5322

Fellowship Ministry

**Dan Bock**

**Nate Blair**

I.T. Team

**Mike Skaff** mike\_skaff@msn.com

Stewardship - Open

Worship & Music - Open

## Our Young People Enjoying Worship!



**Atonement  
Lutheran  
Church**

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