

**Atonement
Lutheran
Church**

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

Voice of Atonement

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Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
As I sit a bit each day, working on my Mom's Obituary and Sermon for her Memorial Service, it amazes me how much there is to say about her. As a Kindergarten and 2nd Grade School Teacher all of her career, she guided, nurtured, and educated many young people, one of whom is Derek Kilmer, now a U.S. Representative for Washington's 6th Congressional District, and has been since 2013! Mom was so proud of Derek, and of others she taught in Kindergarten and 2nd Grade who grew up to do great things in our nation and world.

I recall she also had a little boy in 2nd Grade named Timmy. Timmy had a very difficult life ~ both parents on drugs and in and out of jail; usually no breakfast before school or anyone at home able to even care enough to send him much of a lunch for school; and all in all, no one to truly nurture him and love him. Needless to say, Timmy had some major personal issues, including great difficulty in learning, sitting still, or focusing for more than a short minute on the classwork in front of him. When I'd have a little extra time, or if we got out of school before the Elementary students, my Mom would often say to me, "Can you come to my classroom and give Timmy some attention? He really needs someone besides just me to care about him. I'm sure it will help him in some way." Of course I went. I liked little Timmy, and I felt so sorry for his home and life situation. He really seemed to respond to personal attention.

The interesting thing is that as Mom was reflecting on her life, and especially her teaching career, several weeks before her death, we talked, not just about U.S.

Representative Derek Kilmer, of whom she was so proud, but we also talked about little Timmy. Mom sincerely cared about, and wondered what has happened to Timmy. She said she often prayed that Timmy is now alive and doing well.

What has always amazed me is that one's status in life has never mattered to my Mom (or to my Dad, for that matter). She always just accepted people for who they were, no matter what else. She was always convinced everyone was worthwhile, and needed love and care. She always believed all people, from a Derek to a Timmy, have gifts to offer, whether they go on to do great things in our nation/world, or whether they figure out just how to survive a difficult family life situation.

That's our call as Christian people. We are called to reach out to U.S. Representatives who seem to be making a difference in our world, and we are called to reach out to people struggling in difficult home situations and just trying to survive. It matters not who you are or what you've done, ALL people are created by God, worthy of respect and love.

Mom (and Dad) taught me that by the very lives they lived. How can we also live that way and teach others the same? If everyone tried to accept other people, giving them care and love, wouldn't our world be a better place?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 reminds us: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things,

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**ATONEMENT
STAFF**

Senior Pastor

Pastor Kristi Beebe

Music Director, Youth and
Outreach Coordinator

Brandon Bill

Office Manager

Audrey Brack-Banks

Music Accompanist

Carol Ott

Keyboardists

Gayle Gunderson

Carol Ott



IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent:

Bob Bauer

Peter Campe

Andrew Chepelvich

Jan Harding

Barbara Kretsch

Pam Struessel

Hanna Trudell

Randy Updike

Ongoing:

Kay Beebe

Jim Bland

Grace Gillette

Milton Milberger

Arlene Karika Thompson

Barbara Palmer

Beth Thompson

Jean Viste

PLEASE NOTE:

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

PrayerRequests@atonement-denver.org

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hopes all things, endures all things. ... And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

Thanks Mom, for this life lesson! May we all learn from it!

In Christian love,
—Pastor Kristi Beebe



P.S. Thanks again for all your love and support in the midst of my Mom's death and upcoming Memorial Service. Please say your prayers on April 9th at 11am (Noon, Colorado time) so that the service goes well, the preacher (yours truly) has a decent message, and we can truly celebrate my Mom and a life well-lived!

President's Thoughts

As I am writing, it is mid-March, a snowy cold day and deep in Lent. Our Lenten journey is looking more like normal times. This year we have two mid-week Lenten services, afternoon and evening as well as live streamed. Lent Suppers have returned for fellowship.

Soon April will be here. Lent concludes its journey as we follow the road to Jerusalem. Holy Week begins April 10 with Passion/Palm Sunday. By the end of the week, we will witness the Last Supper, praying in Gethsemane, arrest, trial and finally crucifixion of Jesus. But that is not the end of the journey. Three days after being crucified and laid in a tomb, something miraculous happens. The hand of God lifts Christ back home. God's angel rolls back the stone of the cave to reveal to some women the reality of this special day, Easter.

The thing is this is not the end of the story. It doesn't end on Easter. For the church this year, our Easter Season runs from April 17 to June 8. Lots of time to explore what happens the days following Easter leading to Pentecost.

Once again, I want to share a poem from Ann Weems. She is not the only author I read, but so often I remember something that I think many of you would appreciate. This one seems familiar. We see all our children running up front to Pastor Kristi. Whether it is to hear a special message or to receive the special treat she always has, I don't want to guess.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

When the time came
for the children's sermon,
the congregation enjoyed
the flurry of small bodies,

popping up here and there,
racing to the front
of the sanctuary
which, like the children,
was Easter-clad.
One small child,
bottle in hand,
went down the aisle past the Communion
table
to the steps in front of the pulpit,
and sat with the others.
The minister greeted them and
began by asking them
to hold out both their hands.
Not wanting to be left out,
the child with the bottle
placed it on the table,
the table that had been properly prepared for
Holy Communion.
Whether the congregation grimaced or grinned,
I cannot say,
but some report to have heard
an extravaganza of bells
that Easter Sunday,
when a plastic bottle,
filled with the nourishment of life
for this small child, stood beside silver cup
and plate
filled with the nourishment of life
for the souls of all present.
Of such is the kingdom of heaven....

Kneeling in Jerusalem by Ann Weems

Easter Blessings,

—Eileen Koppenhaver
Congregation President

Church Council Meeting Highlights



Beautify Our Sanctuary and Outdoor Worship Space on Easter Sunday!

Please consider purchasing a beautiful Easter lily! If you would be able to provide one or more lily plants to decorate the sanctuary and outdoor worship space for Easter, please fill out the forms available at Sunday Worship. You may also contact the church office.

Lily plants are \$20.00 each. Order deadline is April 10th.

Celebrate, remember, or honor loved ones, or donate a lily to the glory of God! We will include the names of those who provided lilies and to whom they are dedicated in the Easter Bulletin.

Plants may be taken home after the late service on Easter Sunday.

Council Meeting on Zoom, March 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM

1. Pastor Kristi Beebe –
 - The April Council meeting date was changed from 4/13 to 4/20. (4/13 is during Holy Week)
 - Pastor thanked Julie Strasser for organizing the suppers. Next week it's Adult Ed. Julie also thanked everyone.
 - Synod Assembly location was moved from El Paso, TX, to Loveland, CO
 - RMSELCA webpage is requesting people w/mountain cabins to allow some Lutheran families who lost homes in the Marshall Fire to have some respite time in one of these homes.
 - The ELCA cancelled the Nat'l Youth Gathering this summer (COVID); some Youth Pastors in this area will plan something on the same dates here in Denver and Pastor will tell Brandon about this.
 2. Vice-President – Tracy Ford
 - *Drop in the Bucket* for March and Lent questions. If a Ministry Team has the connection they will arrange for speaker. Tracy can also reach out on her own if we've not established a connection.
 3. Stewardship for All Seasons – Randy Cunningham
 - "Guided by the Spirit - New Horizons Ahead" Generosity appeal update; they're waiting on more forms to come in.
 - Randy asked Mike Lewellen about being a Project Manager for getting and installing two automated external defibrillators (AED) at the church.
 4. Bookkeeper and Acting Treasurer – Mike Skaff
 - Mike met with Suzanne Rousso for training.
 - Mike hopes to streamline things, increase efficiencies and automate as much as possible.
 - New account: Processing Fee Offset (ex., credit card fees which are about 2.5%; Venmo, PayPal and Vanco offers the giver to pay the fee themselves. We have an expense for these fees and now an income line for it.
 - A new Building and Grounds manager for inside is needed.
 - Building and Grounds reported
 - most of our recent projects are done but
- the TOPS AC company has some more work to do w/the AC.
- Most recently another sewer line backed up, the east line, and this was another \$250 (Mike learned that we have two lines). Also, a small hot water heater leaked (2.5 gal) and a plumber will come to discuss w/Mike what other options we may have for this.
 - The Sanctuary roof has a new leak above the Media Desk; the roofer acknowledged that there is something going on, and Mike will follow-through on that. This should be under warranty.
- Carol Farr asked about the dishwashers; it had been approved to have one replaced but Mike Skaff suggests we get two that are the same brand and model and replace both. There are funds in the restricted building maintenance fund; we have a quote about 6 months old; it'll be around \$1,500. Julie Strasser moved that we authorize out of restricted funds the purchase and installation of two new dishwashers for an estimated \$1,500 amount for both. As well to have hauled away the two old dishwashers. Brian Strasser agreed to help with these. Mike seconded. The motion was passed.
 - Brian Strasser agreed to help with Building issues.
5. Old Business:
 - Update on El Paso Property, Cookie Plate. We should be able to close the sale of this problem property soon to a cement company depending on what the underwriters of the Title company say.
 - Digital sign update. No update: waiting on our other projects to get done to see what contingency funds are available to be our core amount. Two variances are probably needed and one of these was recommended by the city person. One was to move closer to the street
 - Mike Skaff relayed a Mike Lewellen question about the dead grass on the slope that always dies. Pastor Kristi suggested rock or artificial turf.
 - Next Council Meeting –
Thursday, April 20, 2022

Holy Week Schedule

All evening services are also on Facebook Live and YouTube

Maundy Thursday

April 14: 11:30 am and 6:45 pm (indoor services)

Good Friday

April 15: 11:30 am and 6:45 pm (indoor services)

Easter Vigil

April 16: 6:45 pm (indoor service)

Easter Sunday

April 17:
8:45 - 12 noon continental breakfast
9:15 am indoor service (also on Facebook Live and YouTube)
10:30 am outdoor service
11:30 am children's Easter egg hunt

WORSHIP HELP NEEDED!

Now that we are back in our beautiful sanctuary every Sunday, we need worship helpers again!

Ushers, Greeters and Lay Assistants are needed. Please sign up on the forms in the Narthex, or contact the church office. We would love to have your help!

From your Building and Grounds Team

You may have noticed that the building is being used much more. This is great news! Just remember that church has COMMON AREAS that are used by many different groups at various times. We ask that you respect the space and others that use the various spaces. Clean-up after yourself. Help us, keep the church looking great for everyone.

PUNCH-LIST...NEVER ENDS!!

Isn't it funny?!? When we start using the building again, weird things start falling apart or needs attention?!? Ugh :-/

Minor projects

COMPLETED - Tree Pruning of the trees in the Parking Lot Islands and Ash Trees treated.

COMPLETED - GOOD NEWS - The minor roof leak in the Sanctuary above the Media Booth turned out to be leaking window flashing that needed to be sealed with goop. Mission accomplished \$0.00!!

COMPLETED - Sewer on the east side of the building backed-up. Plumber has cleaned out the line.

In Progress - Replace the dishwashers. We will be seeking Memorial Day Sales to look for good deals. Help is most appreciated to install the new DW's and haul-away the old ones.

Recent Fail - The hot water heater in the sacristy rusted out and sprung a leak. We are getting pricing to replace with a 'tankless water heater' for just that sink.

Another recent fail - The backboard on the outdoor basketball hoop has been shattered. **We need a volunteer to help fix/replace the basketball backboard and hoop...please.**

Major projects

In-Progress (at the time of this writing) New A/C -Units in foyer, and education unit.

Under Investigation THE DIGITAL SIGN!!

Under Investigation Improvement and Integration of the Fire Detection System.

On Hold Shingled Roof above Sanctuary and West Portico.

If you see something (that needs repaired), say something to the Church Office.

OPEN POSITION(s): VOLUNTEER(s) WANTED (Building and Grounds Maintenance TEAM). YES... We NEED a TEAM!!!

Many hands make lighter work!!!

With Mike Skaff assuming the responsibilities of bookkeeping, we need someone... like YOU and YOU and YOU... to step up to coordinate any maintenance and repairs needed in and around the church building. Several of you have ask what this assignment entails. THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!!

Much of the major improvements are complete. The remaining duties of this position are to coordinate scheduled maintenance and upkeep in and around the church building. This may include:

- Coordinating Heating/AC scheduled maintenance
- Coordinating interior/exterior window washing
- Assist with clean-up days
- Periodically cleaning up (don't have to wait for clean-up days!!)
- Assist with the occasional snow removal.
- General maintenance, changing light bulbs and other DIY necessities.
- Miscellaneous Repairs
- Moving Furniture
- Project Coordination

Contact Mike Lewellen, Mike Skaff, or the Church Office for more information ... or just to volunteer!

OPEN POSITION(s): Custodial Team

Our Tiffany is graduating High School very soon. Time Flies! Early Congratulations Tiffany! She has let us know that we need to find a new custodial team that will need to start May 2022. Sorry, we can't offer work-at-home. But the plus side is the hours are totally flexible!! Contact the Church Office for more information.

*Respectfully,
Building and Grounds Team
Mike L. and Mike S.*

Thank you

With regret, we accepted Tiffany Beebe's resignation from the ALC Janitor position. She graduates from high school in May. She will be off to college late summer. Thank you, Tiffany for serving this past year.

Now Hiring

Janitor position is a part-time job, 4-6 hours per week. Compensation related to experience. Job description is available from the church office.

New Position

Technical Support for Live Streaming Worship Services
ALC is looking for someone who is tech savvy and experienced Streaming Live Worship. This is a new position that is part of the Worship and Music Ministry. Most of the services will be on Sunday morning at 9:15 AM. Compensation is \$20 per Sunday. There will be additional service during Advent and Lent. If interested contact the church office.

Drop in the Bucket

April Drop in the Bucket is for ELCA World Hunger

About 11 percent of people in our world today, or about 820 million people, are hungry ... that's more than 1 in 10 people who can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. The most recent estimates suggest that 736 million people, or 10% of the world's population, live in extreme poverty, living on less \$1.90 per day. The least expensive Happy Meal (the kind with the hamburger) costs \$2.49 on average in the United States. The one with chicken nuggets costs even more. This means that 736 million people in our world can't even afford the hamburger Happy Meal. Those are not "happy" statistics whatsoever! In fact, at some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States alone were unsure where their next meal might come from. With Covid-19, it is likely those

numbers have risen. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond to this crisis in our nation and in our world.

We must be a church that "rolls up our sleeves and gets to work." Remember the slogan, "God's Work, Our Hands"? We are called to respond to those who hunger and thirst in our world, not just for the Gospel, but for basic human needs. The ELCA World Hunger division, along with congregations, are uniquely positioned to reach communities needing assistance in areas from health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. ELCA World Hunger is actively *"creatively and courageously working toward a just world where all are fed."*

Adult Education

MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS

The curious thing about the cross is that as central as it is to the Christian faith, as much as we hear it referenced, we really don't talk about it all that much. That is, we don't talk about what it means, what it accomplishes, why Jesus had to die, or whether Jesus had to die.

So take a few moments and ask yourself how much you really know about the cross. Could you explain to someone who doesn't know much about Christianity why the cross is

important? If not, please join us on Sundays during Lent.

Here is a quote from Phil Ruge-Jones, author of *The Word of the Cross in a World of Glory*.

"In Making Sense of the Cross you will find words to express more carefully the things that confuse you about the cross. But you will receive something even greater; You will be drawn personally into the event of the cross itself, so that Christ himself meets you and raises you into new life."

Thank You

We want to thank **Stephanie Goman** for serving as Co-Financial Secretary. She will be leaving this position by May but is willing to help train someone. This position is part of leadership in the church. It requires being comfortable with computers and being willing to learn how to use our giving software, Realm, to record gifts and giving to Atonement. This position tracks income and will interact with the Treasurer who handles expenses and accounts. If you are interested or would like to know more about this position, please contact the church office.



THE CORNER DESK

Its April here at Atonement, and we're counting down to Holy Week and Easter. It is great to have the sanctuary opened up to celebrate Holy Week. It seems a lot more "normal" for Easter Sunday especially. Not only will we be celebrating in the sanctuary, but we have other things cooking as well-- look for performances from the choir, an Easter egg hunt, and a continental breakfast! Happy Easter!

Thanks to Mike Skaff's diligent efforts, we are almost at the tail end of our construction/improvements to the church building. We are just waiting for some more air conditioning to be installed, and all the work will be complete. We thank God for providing us with all of our building's improvements!

I am privileged to be here in the office where I see people's generosity daily. I see wonderful people and their donations all the time--whether they are donating to Community Ministry, Soles 4 Souls, or to the Afghan Refugee/Guests packing party supplies. It is a joy to see such a wonderful giving spirit among our members. Thanks to all those who volunteer their time as well!

Wishing you a joyous Easter season!

Audrey Brack-Banks
Atonement Office Manager

Worship and Music

Easter Season is almost here, it's hard to believe that Lent is almost over. We are coming into Holy Week very fast. Here is the break down for this busy week.

Palm/Passion Sunday: services are going to be the same. Indoor is at 9:15, and Outdoor at 10:30. This service will have communion, but the sermon will be the Reading of the Passion from Luke.

Maundy Thursday: Services at 11:30, and 6:45 with Holy Communion.

Good Friday: Services at 11:30, and 6:45

Easter Vigil: Service will be at 6:45 with Holy Communion.

Easter: Services are going to be the same. Indoor is at 9:15, and Outdoor at 10:30. This service will include Holy Communion.

Music to Celebrate

There are only two times a year when the specific mention of the season makes everyone think of the exact same music collectively: Christmas and Easter. Even the time leading up to those seasons (Advent and Lent) have specific songs permanently attached to them. However, the music of the Easter season holds something special. Interwoven throughout the melodies on the pages is a mood that stirs in each of us the full spectrum of human emotion. Our celebration of Easter doesn't just begin on Sunday morning, though. We must experience the true sorrow, hurt, and loneliness to truly feel the indescribable and overwhelming joy that comes with Easter morning.

Our use of music to celebrate our Lord is nothing new. In fact, it's quite ancient. Jesus himself sang with his disciples at the last supper: Matthew 26:30 "When they had sung a hymn (after supper), they went out to the Mount of Olives." And as the saying goes, "if it's good enough for Jesus, then it's good enough for me" – and so we begin our musical pilgrimage on Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday begins with the triumphant

~ **Easter Breakfast:** we will be having a Continental Breakfast with pastries, and fruit. This will be in the Café, and Education area and will be open from 8:45-Noonish.

We will also have an **Easter Egg Hunt** at 11:30 after the late service!

Now that you know when the services are, we need help! We need Ushers, Lay Assistants (which is reading the Lessons if we have them, Prayers of the Church, and leading the Offertory prayer.)

Please sign up for these anytime in the Narthex.

*God Bless,
— Shauna Skaff
Worship and Music*

entrance of Jesus. The music is joyous and celebratory as we wave the palm branches upon His entrance. But as we move through the service the music morphs into something sorrowful as our Lord is tried, beaten, and put upon the cross. The music that we sing becomes slower and is written in a minor key, which evokes a feeling of sadness. This dejection continues throughout Holy Week. Our songs focus on loneliness, loss, sorrow, and hopelessness. We remove the word 'hallelujah' (God be praised) as the light of our hope is snuffed out.

But then the promise is fulfilled! Upon Easter morning our voices raise in triumphant jubilation as we see the broken stone and empty tomb. Jesus Christ is Risen Today! Hallelujah! The music is instantly loud, happy, celebratory – written in a major key. Even the first sound of 'hallelujah' brings with it the feeling of awe and relief: 'haaaaa'.

This Easter season, allow the music to fully envelope you as we grieve the loss of light and then celebrate the amazing love of Christ together.

PACKING PARTIES END WITH OVERWHELMING RESPONSE!



Thank You! Over the last four months members of Atonement and Abiding Hope have donated an incredible number of Welcome Bins to Lutheran Family Services for their Afghan Refugee and Evacuee Program. Beginning in November with 50 Hygiene Welcome Baskets (we were hoping for 20!), then in December and January with 291/2 Baby Welcome Bags (IKEA bags rock!) and ending in February and March with 10 Apartment Bins (filling the large trash cans, small trash cans and a bag—so many items!), each was a success. While items ranged in price from \$1.00 to over \$20, our combined efforts are estimated to total over \$23,750 in donations to LFS. We exceeded our expectations and have embodied once again the generosity of God’s people to the stranger.

Our last delivery on Friday, March 11th was directly to Lutheran Family Services, in fact they sent a truck for the Apartment Welcome “Bins.” Suzanne Rousso met the truck, transferred the donations to it, and then went with the truck to Atonement and filled it with all the extra donations both left over from the packing parties and donated outright. It took 4 trips at the church and included over 100 bars of soap and 40 packages of toothpaste, but who’s counting. Previously all donations were delivered to Ruby’s Market in south Denver, Michelle, Ruby’s owner, was our contact point. We could not have done it without her and her band of volunteers! Thanks!

Faith In Action is indeed grateful for the outpouring of support from our

church members and those of Abiding Hope! FIA extends a special thanks to Atonement Packers: Jan Sweeney, Carmen Cohn, Carol Farr, Gayle Gunderson, Marilyn Kohls, Bernie Lopez, Charlotte Updike. And another heartfelt thank you especially to Mary Chapel, our coordinator at AH, and Susan Shepard, our SignUp Genius coordinator, and all the Crucial Conversation and church members who donated countless items and then packed them. And, finally, a special thanks to our FaithInAction team: Cathy Bajsci, Laura Buhs, Barbara Kaare-Lopez, Michelle Healey, and Suzanne Rousso. We are truly Church, Better Together. (Suzanne Rousso)

APRIL KICK OFF: CARE FOR CREATION!

April 22 is Earth Day.

Atonement will recognize the day on *Sunday, April 24* with a special service and a collection for RMS **Creation Care Team** as the fourth Sunday Drop in the Bucket. Our Bucket offerings will be put to work right here in our own wider neighborhood.

Faith in Action has partnered also with Interfaith Power and Light to offer some education and action opportunities about combatting climate change. Interfaith Power and Light is a religious response to global warming. The organization is encouraging a nationwide week of action from April 22 to May 1. Faith Climate Action week has reached over two million people with more than ten thousand climate and stewardship sermons and talks. The theme this year, *Sacred Trust: Our Children’s Right to a Livable Future*, examines our responsibilities to safeguard the Earth for future generations, and how our faith calls us to respond with bold and just solutions.



Our FIA impetus to participate comes from our own ELCA social statement, “*Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*” and a sense that we at Atonement support it as well. A Rocky Mountain Synod advocacy group, Creation Care Team, has offered a resolution to reaffirm and renew that 1993 social statement. An introduction and summary, as well as the complete social statement are available on the ELCA website under Care for Creation.

At Atonement’s Earth Day service on April 24, a sign-up will be available for congregation members who want get involved. Voter pledge postcards promising to support climate change candidates and legislation will also be available for your own advocacy.



As a result of our fall survey, FIA is adopting climate change as our 2022 issue; *Water, Waste and Weather*, encouraging an action each month to make a difference for Earth. In an article by Thomas Bateman and Michael Mann in *Fast Company*, the authors address the despair we experience when facing the daunting prospect of trying to confront climate change. In determining how to make a difference we consider our ability to make an impact on a seemingly intractable problem. “A key part of this is one’s belief, our agency, when faced with a task to perform, a situation to manage, or a long-term goal like protecting the climate, that ‘I can do this.’”

FIA’s challenge for one action in April is to *believe in our agency and ability to make change*. In coming months we’ll offer activities and life hacks for making those impacts. (Cathy Bajsci)

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INSIDE WIRE: COLORADO PRISON RADIO BEGINS PLUS, CLEAN SLATE BILL

In March 2022, *Inside Wire* launched broadcasting its prison radio from Limon Correctional Facility. It is the first statewide prison radio station in U. S.

history. Limon Correctional Facility is “a sprawling Level IV prison on Colorado’s



Eastern Plains that holds more than 700 inmates behind a 4,000-foot-long double-perimeter fence”. It is beamed “to anyone with an internet connection around the globe.” It is also broadcast from Sterling Correctional Facility and Denver Women’s Correctional Facility. “The goal of the program is to shift the narrative about the more than 14,000 people housed in Colorado prisons”. (The Denver Post, “Colorado inmates begin broadcasting over America’s first statewide prison radio station”, March 3, 2022).

Founded by Ashley Hamilton, executive director and co-founder of the University of Denver’s Prison Arts Initiative and “funded by the DU Prison Arts Initiative, programming runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and includes music programs, and conversations between incarcerated individuals and correctional staff.” The station can be streamed online or via the Inside app. It is also beamed to every cell in Colorado’s 21 prison facilities. Dean Williams, the executive director of Colorado’s Department of Corrections, promises to “normalize” life behind bars. He plans to take part in a weekly program called “Up to the Minute with Dean Williams.” Inside Wire fosters connection and community, cultivates joy and reflection, and empowers possibility and the restoration of justice.

One prisoner stated, “when you come here, you lose hope.”

“We have a vision: Create something by us, for us.”

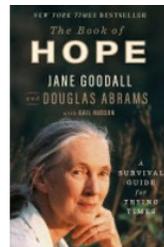
So how is SB22-099, also known as the Clean Slate bill, connected? This bill was addressed at the February Lutheran Day at the Legislature. (Author’s Note: I must admit my head sometimes “spins” trying to understand legislative bills.) I will quote parts of the information we received on this bill, which is “concerning the procedure for sealing of criminal records for nonviolent offenses, and, in connection therewith, addressing workforce shortages and minimizing barriers to employment for job seekers.” Sex offenders are NOT included in this bill. At present, there is a process that allows for automatic sealing of records for certain drug offenses. “This bill extends that automatic sealing process to all of the offenses, including civil infractions...The bill streamlines the automatic record sealing process.” If an offense currently qualifies for sealing, then this process bill applies.

How can this process help us? Among other benefits, it can increase the work force. It has bipartisan support in the Senate, including many within the business community. It applies to non-violent crimes, all non-convictions, many misdemeanors, and lower-level felonies. It is estimated that 1.3 million people in Colorado could be affected. One in three adults in the U. S. has an arrest record. Do you? Clue: you don’t have to have been prosecuted. (Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

FIA PICKS!

Events:

- RMS Creation Care Team, Zoom Event, April 9th, at 10:00 am: Book Discussion, *The Book of Hope, A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams. In this book, Jane focuses on her “Four Reasons for Hope:” the Amazing Human Intellect, the Resilience of Nature, the Power of Young People, and the Indomitable Human Spirit.”



➤ Lutheran Family Gala at the Botanical Gardens:

“ Together We Dream”,

Friday, April 29th, 2022,

6:00pm Cocktails & Silent Auction,

7:00pm Dinner & Entertainment

Please join in at the beautiful *Denver Botanic Gardens* to celebrate LFSRM 39th Annual Benefit Gala. After two years of having only connected virtually, LFS is extremely excited to finally spend its signature annual gala event in person with you again. Expect an evening of celebration, gourmet cuisine, community, and exciting entertainment. We are grateful for this wonderful opportunity to connect with our supporters, staff and community members from the Rocky Mountain region and beyond. The Ticket price is \$175. If you are interested in attending this fundraiser as a group, call Michelle Healey: 303-478-6529.

Movies, Streaming, etc.:

- **West Side Story**, An adaptation of the 1957 musical, *West Side Story* explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The story, music and dancing are still exciting! (Recommended by Barbara Kaare-Lopez)
- **CODA**. As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the family’s fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music by wanting to go to Berklee College of Music and her fear of abandoning her parents. (Recommended by Cathy Bajsci)
- **Belfast**. Writer-director Kenneth Branagh tells a semi-autobiographical story. Young Jude Hill is playing in the street outside his row house, when suddenly



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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.

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Protestant gangster march through and smash every Catholic household's window, rip up the paving stones, and drive everyone, Catholic and Protestant alike, to refuge. *(Recommended by Michelle Healey)*

Books, blogs, etc.:

➤ **The Kitchen without Borders**, The Off Beat Chefs, to support International Rescue Committee, dedicated to all the talented and hard-working refugees and immigrants around the world, and the welcoming communities who help them blossom to create a better future together. & for the Eat Offbeat Chefs, whose amazing talent, passion, and dedication made this adventure possible. Yummy recipes! Try from Chef Dhuha, Iraq, Chicken Shawarma! *(Suzanne Rousso)*



➤ **The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race**, Walter Isaacson. After helping to discover CRISPR, Doudna became a leader in wrestling with the moral issues surrounding the use of mRNA, CRISPR, to change human kind, and with her collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier, won the Nobel Prize in 2020. Her story is a thrilling detective tale that involve the most profound wonders of nature, from the origins of life to the future of our species. Without her work, COVID vaccines would still be under development. *(Suzanne Rousso)*

"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it."
(The Hill We Climb, Amanda Gorman)

Faith In Action Ministry Team

Stewardship

Easter stewardship: Resurrection reset

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

-Romans 6:3-4

Christ is Risen! Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The triumphant words we cherish every Easter signal more than just Jesus' victory over the grave. They announce for us the end of deadness and the start of a new life, a fresh beginning, in our earthly pilgrimage. Jesus was raised from the dead so that we, too, might walk in newness of life.

From Jesus' resurrection, our lives take on a new trajectory, a turn away from the values and precepts of the world and toward the kingdom of God. As we journey, our lives progressively align with the purposes and mission of God.

For a steward-disciple of our Lord, the implications are many. As we walk in newness

of life, we might find ourselves

- Re-examining our relationship to "stuff" – our money, our possessions, the things that might have given us a sense of security or worth. Jesus is our security and our worth.
- Drawing closer to family and friends. True wealth is measured by the love we give and receive. Our lives effervesce with the love we receive from God.
- Contributing more to church and charity. Jesus frees us from the grip that possessions have upon us. We can more freely give.
- Gathering into our lives what Paul calls the fruits of the spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

May your lives as steward-disciples take a resurrection reset. Christ is risen! Risen indeed! Alleluia!

—Rob Blezard

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Atonement got a visit from **Larissa No Braid** (and Grace Gilette) while they were filming an interview for Colorado and Company, which aired on Channel 9 here in Denver. Larissa was dressed in her beautiful traditional dress, celebrating the 46th Annual Denver March PowWow which had just resumed after two years of hiatus due to Covid 19 restrictions.



The SNOW is not over...yet!

NEEDED: SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS

The B & G Team requests your assistance to help shovel the sidewalks and common areas..

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q) Will there be a rotation schedule or telephone call tree?

A) No, there will be NO rotation schedule and NO telephone call tree.

Q) How will I know if/when I need to go to the church and help with the snow shoveling?

A) God will provide a sign from the heavens...and the ground! 😊 If you see snow, consider it your personal invitation to go to church to help shovel snow!

Q) When does the snow need to be cleared?

A) Tuesday thru Friday, the church office is open by 9:00am. Pastor Kristi, Audrey and the full cast of volunteers need the sidewalks cleared to make their way into the office.

AND SUNDAY, SUNDAY, SUNDAY Services begin @ 9:15AM. Many people begin to arrive before 9:00am. In

ALL cases, the sidewalks need to be cleared and worry free before 9:00am.

Q) What tools and equipment will be required?

A) A strong back is highly recommended. Bring your favorite Snow Shovel. There are a few Snow Shovels available. Some are in better shape than others. There is a Snowblower available in the storage room. If you are the first to arrive, you get first dibs to use this marvelous piece of machinery!!

Q) How long does it take to clear the sidewalks of snow?

A) IT DEPENDS on how much snow piles up and if you show up! Plan to arrive between 7:30am and 8:00am. If ONE person does it all...take between 2.5 and 4 hours and lots of sour muscles. If 20 people grab a snow shovel and pitches in...will take < 15 mins and no pain.

Please help with snow removal this season,

—Mike Lewellen.

Building and Grounds



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