

Atonement
Lutheran
Church

voice of Atonement

November 2020

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ATONEMENT STAFF

Senior Pastor
Pastor Kristi Beebe

Music Director
Brandon Bill

Office Administrator
Audrey Brack-Banks

Choir Accompanist
Carol Ott

Organists
Gayle Gunderson
Carol Ott

pastor's message

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Did you see Frontier Airlines advertisement for 100% off on Thanksgiving Day flights? Pay only the taxes and fees! Then along came Southwest with \$29 fares. That's close to 100% off! "Close enough for government work," my Dad used to say. Or sometimes he'd add in, "Or slow dancing!" I admit it, I looked long and hard at those ads. How nice it'd be to go see my Mom for Thanksgiving. But alas, the girls and I stayed here ... by ourselves. Thanksgiving 2020 wins the prize for being "definitely different" than ever before. We griped a bit about not being able to take advantage of the airline prices and "fly, fly away;" we griped a bit about not being able to get together with family friends as we often do for dinner; but we had to do it. We're desperately trying to curb the spread of Covid-19 and adhere to the expert's recommendations.

Lo and behold, Christmas looks to be much the same, with the exception of the marvelous and meaningful *Drive Through Christmas Eve Worship Adventure* planned at Atonement Lutheran Church (more on that throughout this newsletter!) According to all leading epidemiologists, scientists, and health departments, Covid-19's not suddenly going to disappear in time for all the "Ho, ho, ho's" of the season, the gatherings around the Christmas tree to open presents, and yet another big meal with family and friends. It's not going to suddenly disappear in time to take advantage of more amazing airline ticket prices so we can go see my Mom or fly out to ski at Tahoe, or even Park City.



It's not even going to suddenly disappear so we can gather face to face as a faith community to worship on Christmas Eve, complete with the reading of the Christmas Story, Special Music, Holy Communion, and everyone's favorite ... turning off the lights, holding one's individual candle, and singing "Silent Night," in the church sanctuary. Plus, we won't even get to see all the children's new clothes ~ boys dressing up under duress in handsome slacks and shirts, and girls dressing with excitement to show off their sparkling red holiday dress. I'm sorry. It's rather sad. Ok, it's really sad, but it's reality. We'll post a Christmas Eve service on Facebook and YouTube, but we all know already, it won't be the same. It'll be a very different kind of Christmas this year.

As I was lamenting not being able to see all of you for Christmas Eve Worship, unless you show up at our outdoor *Drive Through Christmas Eve Adventure*, and how different Christmas 2020 must be, I started thinking that maybe, just maybe, this will be the year we'll just have to sing "Silent Night" silently to ourselves and actually take the time to silently contemplate this Holy Season ~ not the secular season, mind you, for that will be different too ~ but the Holy Season, for that's really what it's all about. How often, in Christmases past, does all the "extra stuff" sometimes block our eye's attention from the baby in the manger? All the hassle of getting to the plane in time, worrying about trying to find just the right present, making sure everything's

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Young people: Sign up soon for summer camp at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp or Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp! At Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, priority is given to Rocky Mountain Synod young people ... that's you! ... through December 2020. After that, registration opens up for young people from around the nation, and you don't want to wait until then or you might miss out on a great opportunity of a summer at RTLK, for it fills up very quickly once registration opens up to everyone! Look at your summer schedule and register soon at one of our fantastic Lutheran Camps!

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just perfect for the extended family's main meal, and getting all the lights on the house and on the tree in working order for the major gathering of the year ... how often can these, and many more details draw our attention away from the simple beauty of the season, the baby Jesus, born to love and save us forever.

Maybe this will be the year when in the quietness of "just the girls and I" gathered together, or whomever that may be for you in your immediate family, maybe we can take a deep breath and open ourselves to the mystery and majesty that is truly Christmas. Maybe we can stop and recall how Jesus, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, remains all part of God's great plan, to be the solution to our yearnings for wholeness, and healing from the brokenness in our lives and the world.

Life isn't what we want it to be as we approach this Holy Season ... it's complicated and full of "Covid-chaos" ... but God's answer to life's complications and chaos is to send us a baby, unlike any other who's ever been born: God in human form, experiencing life from our perspective, even when it's a disillusioning or lonely perspective at times. God comes so we aren't alone. Jesus, forever "Emmanuel" ~ "God with us." In Jesus' company, we can cope with whatever life hands us, for Jesus is at our side, in

our life, walking with us wherever life leads ... even when Christmas proves to be very different this year.

Jesus ~ Emmanuel ~ "God with us" turns any season bright, for God's presence makes all the difference! This season life may be a bit more quiet as we gather only with those who live with us in our desperate effort to curtail the spread of Covid-19, but maybe, just maybe, the extra quietness might allow us to hear the words of the song in a new way, without all the other hustle and bustle: "*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright ...*," and to know that regardless of all else, life really can be "calm," and "bright," when Jesus enters into our hearts and lives, not just for a moment or two during this Holy Season, but for every day and every moment of the year!

Although a bit different this Holy Season, may your Christmas be peaceful, holy, meaningful, calm, and bright, and may you enter into a New Year filled with the love and joy of Jesus! Use the "different-ness" of this year to really feel the baby Jesus' presence!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all!,

—Pastor Kristi Beebe



Christmas Giving in our Community

Caring by Candlelight- the Virtual Experience from Community Ministry

The Caring by Candlelight event is a victim of COVID, but will now be a VIRTUAL experience. Check out Community Ministry's website and Facebook pages for this virtual experience December 1-5. They will also be having an online silent auction during that same time. They suggest that it would be fun to deliver dessert to your friends and watch the video or do a zoom or other social media get together while you watch the video.

Santa's Stocking is here!

Community Ministry is in need of boys and girls underwear and socks, every color and size. Let's fill Santa's stocking! You can place donations in the bin underneath the giant stocking at worship on Sunday, or drop off donations at the office Tuesday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00 pm.

Westgate Miracle Shop

Our friends at Westgate Elementary are collecting new and very gently used toys. On December 11th and 12th, the parents of the students can come in and shop in the Miracle Shop for Christmas gifts for their children - all for free, including gift wrapping. Please donate and help the kids of Westgate have a wonderful holiday. All donations must be dropped off to the church by 12:00 noon on December 10th.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS AT ALC

The prime business for Church Council on November 11, 2020 was to brainstorm and fine tune a Vision for the next 6 months while we are dealing with Covid 19 and its impact on us. We are looking at small amounts of time instead of a major plan. Our mission statement is "Living in God's Love ~ Reaching out with Hope ~ Growing in Faith".

Our vision for the coming months is "Reaching out in faith". Then we set a few goals that we can all work to achieve. Establish mechanisms to interact and be connected; combat loneliness; bring ministry teams into the vision; support families during remote learning and working.

We applied for an ELCA World Hunger matching grant of \$500. We were granted this. Look for specific guidelines in this newsletter.

We have had a problem with some young people hanging out on church property near the sheds. Started with leaving trash and bottles but it has escalated to graffiti and passing out in cars. We have called the police for more drive throughs at night. Council is moving forward with installing some "Ring" devices for light and camera. I hope this will take care of the problem. We do welcome kids shooting baskets but expect respectful use: taking trash with them, no alcohol, or drugs.

From the president

This year started hopefully-2020, such a nice balanced number. A year that would see changes, and I was hopeful. There were changes but not what anyone could foresee. Like all the world we were confronted with an illness that was new and unknown. It has challenged the entire world how to cope and adapt while all the scientists went to work. It seems that the coming new year of 2021 will come with a vaccine and the hope of returning to some semblance of normalcy.

This year Christmas will be different. Maybe small celebrations, maybe more focus on our loved ones, maybe a closer reflection of the God that sent a Child to be our Savior.

The Christmas Spirit

The Christmas spirit
is that hope
which tenaciously clings
to the hearts of the faithful
and announces
in the face
of any Herod the world can produce
and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
and all the dark nights of our souls
that with God
all things still are possible,
that even now
unto us
a Child is born!

Kneeling in Bethlehem, Ann Weems

I have shared this poem before. It brings me comfort and peace. It makes of think of my dad and my husband and good fathers everywhere.

Getting to the Front of the Stable

Who put Joseph in the back of the stable?
Who dressed him in brown, put a staff in his hand,
and told him to stand in back of the creche,
background for the magnificent light of the Madonna?
God-chosen, this man Joseph was faithful
In spite of the gossip in Nazareth,
In spite of the danger from Herod.
This man, Joseph, listened to angels
And it was he who named the Child Emmanuel.
Is this a man to be stuck for centuries in the back of the stable?
Actually, Joseph probably stood in the doorway
guarding the mother and child
or greeting shepherds and kings.
When he wasn't in the doorway,
he was probably urging Mary to get some rest,
gently covering her with his cloak,
assuring her that we would watch the Child.
Actually, he probably picked the Child up in his arms
and walked him in the night,
patting him lovingly
until he closed his eyes.
This Christmas, let us give thanks to God
For this man of incredible faith
Into whose care God placed
The Christ Child.

Kneeling in Bethlehem, Ann Weems

—Eileen Koppenhaver
Congregation President

Second Notice:

The Ministry Team, Building and Grounds, needs leadership. For the last number of years Tom Ayers and Mike Lewellyn have been dedicated leaders taking care of the church building and exterior grounds. We have folks that are willing to help around the church, but we need the contact person to coordinate and oversee.

In an ideal world I would love to see this as a part-time Caretaker position. Great job for an active retired person or an energetic person that likes to work around a great place with great people. We cannot afford a paid position (yet).

If anyone is interested in becoming our B & G Team leader or team member, please call Eileen Koppenhaver at 303-898-6049, we really need you.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Recent:

- Adam, Daniel and Cindy Antonson
- The Blair Family
- Jim Bland
- Katy Brackeen
- Bridget Thompson
- Audrey Clausen
- Tracy Ford
- Todd Gilbert
- Grace Gillette
- Doug Hepler
- Jane Hoeft
- Jason
- Julie Johnson
- Lizzie Koch
- Danielle and Jaime Lewis
- Linda Hupala
- Ken McGrahahan
- Steve Midthun
- Jodi Paynter,
- Mary Pohlemus
- Kim Reed
- Susan Routzahn
- Aimee Rupprecht
- Marjorie, Carl and Denine Sandoval,
- Mike Skaff
- Shelly Slinkard
- Beth Thompson
- The family and friends of Dewaine Silker.

Ongoing:

- Annette Brackeen
- Evangie Conklin
- Leslie Crowe

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From the vice-president

Once again I'll be sharing feedback from some of our *Drop in the Bucket* ministries as a way to help focus our thoughts on the positive things we do rather than the limitations and losses from the Covid-19 pandemic that have affected our lives in profound ways. This ongoing program, along with new initiatives coming out of the Generosity Appeal led by the Stewardship Team and additional brainstorming efforts from the Church Council will add to Atonement's ability to offer comfort and support to our community and to expand the concept of community beyond the parking lot to reach the whole world. Please stay tuned for new information on what we're up to and how you can help. In the meantime, thanks for your generosity to our *Drop in the Bucket* Ministries. You can see in the table below how much greater your giving has been in 2020 compared to 2019. Our last *Drop in the Bucket* Ministry for the year will be the Pastor's Assistance Fund which can really make a difference for our members and neighbors feeling short term financial stress.

Ministry	Month	2020 Bucket	2019 Bucket
New Beginnings	February	\$1,457	Not applicable
ELCA World Hunger	March	\$967	\$1,155
Community Ministry	Lent	\$1,568	\$682
Lutheran Disaster Relief	April	\$1,060	\$1,391
Cristo Rey	May	\$1,245	\$2,049
Urban Servants Corps	June	\$530	\$553
Christ Church School	July	\$858	\$300
Westgate School	August	\$770	\$649
Sky Ranch	September	\$739	\$768
Holiday Baskets/Habitat for Humanity	October	\$1,144	Not applicable
Rainbow Trail	November		\$828
Pastor's Assistance Fund	December		\$2,316
Year to date total		\$10,338	\$7,547

Here is some feedback from Urban Servant Corps and Westgate School:

The Urban Servant Corps community is grateful for the shared generosity of the Atonement Lutheran faith community through the Drop in the Bucket offerings! These funds offered additional cleaning supplies and necessary health materials to the USC volunteers who live in an intentional community home during the beginning of COVID. Unfortunately, due to the extended stay-at-home orders in Denver

this Spring, the USC volunteers departed early from their year of service to ensure the health and safety of all staff and participants. Due to this, the Drop-in-the-Bucket funds also offered support as we transitioned volunteers safely back home to be with their families in May. We are tremendously grateful that we welcomed a new team of USC volunteers this August -- and again, funds from Drop in the Bucket, allowed for all the appropriate supplies to be available along with "regular" hospitality and welcome for these young adults committing to a year of service! We are 1 month into a new service year and everyone is healthy and making a difference for vulnerable populations that are being served in inner-city Denver.

The faithful support that comes from folks like you allow for USC to be a sustainable and on-going organization that is thriving in the midst of uncertain times! We are deeply grateful!

Krista Kilgus
Director, Urban Servant Corps

Right now I'm working towards buying a refrigerator/freezer for the food pantry. We have not been able to carry fresh or frozen foods because we don't have one. I'm going to use that money and some money from another donor to provide this at year's end. I can't tell you how excited I am to be able to expand the type and quality of foods

that we have to offer our families.

Please let your congregation know how much we appreciate them and their generosity.

Peace and blessings to you all,

Heather Jurgaitis
Director, Westgate Food Pantry

May the peace of the Lord that passes all understanding be with you all.

—Phil Pienkos

Prayers (continued from page 4)

Olivia Estep
Oscar Otto
Charlotte Pienkos
Craig Poore
Jason Robinson
Lisa S.

Please note:

It saddens us to hear that our member Steve Midthun not only developed congestive heart failure and suffered a severe heart attack due to COVID-19 but he has now been diagnosed with stage four kidney disease as another result of this nasty virus. Please keep Steve and Joe in your prayers. You may follow Steve's upcoming journey on Facebook and support him if you are able via his Facebook's GoFundMe.com page.



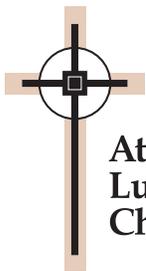
“It May Be Different, but it’s Still Good News!”

The theme of our Advent season reminds us that even in the midst of everything troubling going on in our lives and our world, Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem is still good and amazing news that comes into our lives. For in Jesus, we know that no matter what else swirls about us, Jesus brings us true **HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE** ... in our uncertainties, our struggles, our discouragements, and our differences. Join us as we focus on each of the above words/themes during 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship ... on Facebook or YouTube Live, and in our parking lot if it’s above 30 degrees! (We’ll be using weatherunderground.com to make our decisions on parking lot worship, or, look at your Eblast on Friday for a decision).

- **Advent is here! New this year? Midweek Advent Worship ... Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** Live, but accessible any time after 2:00 p.m. on Thursdays by going to Facebook Live Videos. So join in on Facebook Live on the following Thursdays: **December 3rd** (HOPE); **December 10th** (PEACE); **December 17th** (JOY); and **December 24th** (LOVE) ... 1:00 p.m. Live, or available anytime after 2:00 p.m. to watch later in the day/evening. Let’s celebrate Advent and the coming of Jesus, the Savior of the World!
- Mark your calendars for an Amazingly-creative, Hope-filled, Light-twinkling, Angels-singing, Shepherds-gazing, Maze-like **Drive Through Christmas Eve Worship & Adventure**, complete with Holy Communion for all who desire. All this happens on **December 24th, anytime between 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**, so mark your calendar and make it a part of your 2020 Christmas Eve! Note: Members & friends of Atonement Lutheran Church are invited to be involved in this outdoor telling of the Christmas story through music, drama, video, etc.! Talk to Brandon or Pastor Kristi today if you might be interested in setting up, or helping to set up, one of the several scenes in the Christmas Story, and be present on Christmas Eve to help “tell the story” to our congregational members and visitors, as well as our surrounding community as, in their vehicles, they venture through the “Christmas Eve Story, Worship & Adventure”! It will be a moving evening as we celebrate Jesus’ birth in a new, unique, meaningful, and exciting way! **EVERYONE:** Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and even strangers to come and experience Christmas Eve!
P.S. Anyone have a donkey we could borrow for the night?
- **The Christmas Program**, remotely presented by our young people, will be shown on Saturday, December 19th, 6:00 p.m., followed by Movie Night! Bring your dinner with you, or just some snacks and beverages, if you desire, and sit outside (if the weather’s really nice); or prop up in the back of your vehicle with the hatchback lifted up, nestled under blankets; or sit in your car with the windows open just slightly for sound from the speakers, or tune in to the radio station to hear the movie and keep all your windows closed. Your decision, but we do hope you will join us for this fun evening!
- **Christmas Eve Traditional Worship** will be on Facebook or YouTube, available 3:00 p.m. and anytime afterward. Have your bread and wine/juice, or individual communion kits, available as Holy Communion will be celebrated. Consider also, having a candle with you for the Candlelight portion of the service and the singing of “Silent Night.”
- **New as well this year: Christmas Day worship/devotional** will be on Facebook or YouTube, available at 10:00 a.m., or accessible anytime afterward. Start out your Christmas Day by remembering who makes this day even possible ... Jesus, the Christ Child, given for you!

Church wide Advent and Christmas opportunities

Watch for Advent services – online this season. Every Thursday at 1:00PM. The ELCA and other church sources are making available resources for us to use online. Follow ALC on Facebook, YouTube and our website www.atonementdenver.org for tools and inspiration.



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.

From the church council secretary

Keep reaching out!

In December you might send Christmas cards to your friends and loved ones you're reaching out! Any time of the year you might send a Happy Birthday or Anniversary card to someone you're reaching out! Or you might send a text, digital greeting or post something on a friends Facebook or Instagram page....you're reaching out!

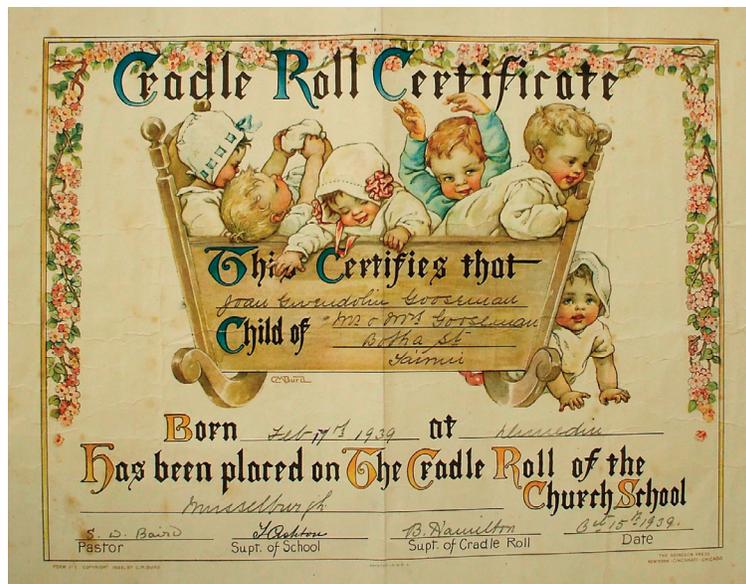
Atonement reaches out to our youngest and newest members and their parents, our children from birth to 3 years old. This long-time tradition is the "Cradle Roll". Each month these children's

parents are mailed an encouraging newsletter with ideas for faith formation and child development based on the child's age. A short, personal note is added along with a prayer and mailed off. The Cradle Roll is just one way that Atonement does outreach.

We're in such a time of isolation right now so this is an encouragement to you to reach out to someone! Who haven't you seen in church for some time? Do you know someone living alone and unlikely to have many interactions? Or a stressed parent at home long days with kids? Send a card or give them a call, even if you feel

you don't know them "that well". While the Cradle Roll is a specific program of outreach, each one of us can think of another, pray for them, call or send them a "thinking of you" text, note or card. The bulletin lists those needing prayers and a card would be an encouragement, too. It is a gift you can give to another.

—Gayle Gunderson
Church Council Secretary
and responsible for Cradle Roll



Stars and Promises Christmas Concert with Peter Mayer

In the first-ever ELCA event of its kind, ELCA World Hunger presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for singer Jimmy Buffett. The concert will premiere on the ELCA Facebook page on **December 9, 7 p.m.** Central time.

The concert is a gift to you this Advent season, a way for us to thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries. Register now to receive a free Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event!



stewardship

God equips us for 'new things'

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

—Isaiah 43:19

Advent and Christmas are all about celebrating that most amazing "new thing" God brought about for our sake – incarnating God's divine essence in the human form of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

We prayerfully ask at the beginning of every church year, "To what 'new things' is God calling us?" But this Advent the question holds special significance.

With its racial unrest, political divisiveness, riots, wildfires, hurricanes and COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will be remembered as one of the most troubled years in recent history. And everybody is bracing for a "new normal" that is still unknown.

The pandemic has caused us to cancel many of our cherished Advent and Christmas observances. We pray the Holy Spirit will give us the creativity and wisdom to find new ways

faithfully to steward the mystery of the incarnation and tell God's story.

More broadly, we also pray for guidance to steward our lives that we may be, as Jesus directed, the salt of the earth and light to a world that needs us more than ever.

As we listen for God's direction, preparing us for "new things," the four traditional Advent themes may offer a path. We cultivate these themes in our hearts and congregations and share them with the world:

- **Hope** as an antidote to the culture of despair.
- **Peace** in our hearts to bring to an angry world.
- **Love** for our friends and enemies alike.
- **Joy** in Christ, who makes all things new.

God, who promises to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, will prepare us and equip us to do "new things" to steward our lives and congregations to meet the challenges ahead.

—Rob Blezard

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Charitable Provisions in the CARES Act

The CARES Act had two major charitable provisions. First, it allows donors to deduct up to 100% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) vs. the normal 60% limitation.

Secondly, for those who take the standard deduction (which is most) there's a provision to allow an additional \$300, above-the-line, charitable deduction.

Charitable Gifts in 2020

Most taxpayers take advantage of the standard deduction when they are filing their Federal Income Tax Returns. The CARES Act provides an additional, "above-the-line" charitable deduction on top of the standard deduction for these taxpayers.

Taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions can take a one-time deduction of up to \$300 for gifts made to Atonement Lutheran Church. The deduction applies ONLY for gifts of cash made in the calendar year 2020.

If you are not itemizing on your 2020 taxes, you can claim this new deduction.

Statements of Intent

requested to be turned into the Church Office by **Sunday, December 6th**. This helps our Stewardship Team and Executive Council plan for the year ahead in our Mission and Ministry. Your participation and willingness to turn in your Statement of Intent is of immense value as congregational leaders figure out goals and visions for our faith community. Thank you!

All monetary giving to the church's mission and ministry is due in the Church Office no later than Noon on December 31, 2020 in order to be counted for 2020 Charitable Giving.
Thank you!

Faith in Action

**NEXT MEETING: December 1,
7:00pm, ZOOM!**

Please call Suzanne if you will be joining us.

Faith In Action @ Atonement Joins CSLC

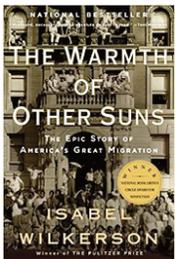
Faith In Action @ Atonement joins Colorado Social Legislation Committee, Working Together for a Better Colorado, in the hopes of expanding our understanding of issues that affect our neighbors. Established in 1971, the Colorado Social Legislation Committee (CSLC) is a coalition of persons and organizations interested in legislation related to human needs and services, especially at the state level. CSLC is a nonpartisan and all-volunteer organization that works to create a better future for Colorado. It meets every Monday at noon while the legislature is in session and periodically in the fall when the legislature is not in session. Meetings include legislative briefings and programs in which legislators and community professionals present information about current problems and proposed legislation. This membership ensures that issues important to us as Lutherans are promoted, especially those in the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Political Agenda. Team members will be attending these sessions and bringing their essence to you!

The Warmth of Other Suns Success!

Faith In Action hosted its second Book and Lunch Group via Zoom on Sunday, November 15th. In addition to its team members there were 5 guests: the Cohns from Atonement and Deborah and Coleman Tuggle and Mary Chapel from Abiding Hope.

Our conversations were greatly enriched by the personal experiences and histories of our guests. We were honored to hear them.

Warmth is a seminal work deserving of all the praise it has garnered since its publication in 2012. Isabell Wilkerson, the author, delves into the untold story of the movement of 6 million blacks from the South to the North and West over the course of decades, 1910s – 1970s. She masterfully weaves from the oral histories (over 1200 hours of interviews) of those who participated in the migration, distills



them into 3 personal accounts (real people, each of which led a sufficiently full life to merit a book in their own right) and sets all this against a background of historical context, recounting the motivations, circumstances, and perceptions of the Migration. Her three “stars” are: Ida Mae Brandon Gladney (covered by Barbara Kaare-Lopez), George (Lil’ George) Swanson Starling (covered by Michelle Healy), and Robert (Bob) Joseph Pershing Foster (covered by Cathy Bajsci).

Ida Mae began her migration from Chickasaw County, Mississippi, in late October 1937; George began his migration from Wildwood, Florida, in April of 1945; and Bob began his from Monroe, Louisiana, on Easter Monday, April 6, 1953. Ida lands in Chicago, George in Harlem, and Bob in Los Angeles. All faced incredible odds, racial injustice and persecution all through their journeys, both in the South and in the North. All were hard working, determined, persistent, and each succeeded in their own right. They all fled lynching or its possibility, and in their new homes, they all faced racial injustice. They had families and lives not exactly as they had hoped, yet they survived. They were hardy souls.

Thoughts from the book:

“Through the Great Migration,” Wilkerson said, “members of the nation’s lowest caste, despite meeting enormous resistance in the North, became the advance guard of the civil rights movement. They ultimately achieved what Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation could not. They Freed Themselves.”

“They left as though they were fleeing some curse. They were willing to make almost any sacrifice to obtain a railroad ticket, and they left with the intention of staying”. Emmett J. Scott

“By the end of the Migration, nearly half of all black Americans—some 47%—would be living outside the south, compared to the 10% when the Migration began.”

This story, this history, is more than facts and accounts. “It is the larger emotional truths, the patient retelling of people’s interior lives and motivations, that are the singular gift of the accounts in this book...The actions of the people in this book was a response to an economic and social structure not of their making. They did what human beings looking

for freedom, throughout history, have often done. They left.”

I was leaving the South

To fling myself into the unknown...

I was taking a part of the South

To transplant in alien soil,

To see if it could grow differently,

If it could drink of new and cool rains,

Bend in strange winds,

Respond to the warmth of other suns

And, perhaps, to bloom. —Richard Wright”

It’s unanimous: the Faith In Action Ministry Team loved the book. Barb shared her stories of Detroit, Coleman of Atlanta and Florida, Johann of Chicago. While the tale begins at the turn of the 20th century, it ends well within our lifetimes. The scope of history in this book is nowhere else. It is well worth a re-read and some us will. It has become, as most great books do, a part of our psyche.

Her newest book, *Caste, The Origins of Our Disconnect* will be a future choice by FIA for its Book and Lunch Group discussion. We have great expectations. If interested, you might want to get on the wait list at your local library now!

Suzanne Rousso

FIA Picks:

Events:

➤ **Virtual Global Gift Fair is Underway.** If you have not heard or seen, the Global Gift Fair is going Virtual this year and we have 15 vendors who have shared information and contact info. Shopping is easy: copy and paste the website into your browser and go to the organization’s website. There you can shop among all the fascinating choices they offer. Pay through their website.

If you have shopped in person over the last 15 years at the Global Gift Fairs at Atonement, you will recognize the art and design of many of the participant vendors. And, there are new items also.

If you have not seen any information on this event, please visit Atonement’s website: www1.atonementdenver.org and scroll down the GGF announcement. You can double click on the pdf file label and the brochure will pop up. Happy Shopping!

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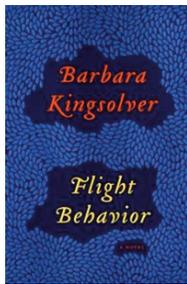
- Colorado Gives Day, December 8th... Join thousands of Coloradans to



support local nonprofits on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. This annual statewide movement celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The \$1 Million Incentive Fund made possible by Community First Foundation, FirstBank and other community members boosts the value of every donation.

Books/ Articles/ Blogs

- ✓ Flight Behavior, Barbara Kingsolver. a brilliant and suspenseful novel set in present-day Appalachia; a breathtaking parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in



life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths. A young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee experiences something she cannot explain, and her discovery energizes various competing factions, religious leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists, politicians trapping her in the center of the conflict and ultimately opening up her world. (Amazon)

If you have ever watch Monarch butterflies fly, rest, gather, you will enjoy this story. And, if you have thought about the end of a species, you will be haunted.

Movies,/Streaming/ Posts:

- ❖ **New Beginnings: Chow Hall Gala** was held on October 9th, a virtual party. It was recorded and is now available on YouTube for viewing. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgXK7B1mBrc>.

- ❖ **“Maiden: The Finish Line Knows No Gender”** Filmed live, the Whitbread Round the World Race (33,000 miles, 9 months) was considered to be the



most dangerous sailing competition on earth. When 26-year-old Tracy Edwards wanted to participate, she was met with resistance and sexism—no team would take her. This is the story of what she and her all female team did next. “Dazzling!” “Riveting!” “Simply Magnificent!” (DVD) It left me breathless and ready to watch it all over again!

Suzanne Rousso

- ❖ **“The Social Dilemma” Docu-Drama**

Available on Netflix

The Social Dilemma has the elite ex-employees of all major social media platforms talking about how badly social media has impacted the world.



While it talks about positives and good intentions as well, there’s a huge focus on how it has become a tool of spreading negativity. It’s an eye-opener to see these people have quit their dream jobs because they have harmed the social fabric of the world.

Social media manipulates our minds. Browsing social media won’t be the same experience after watching The Social Dilemma. It tells you how the UI (User Interface) is created in a way as to harness maximum user engagement which benefits advertisers and the social media giants themselves. We are nothing but consumer lab rats. I was surprised to know about the science and logic behind “photo tagging”, “generating comments” “replies to comments”, “suggesting emojis as replies to comments”. They want us to engage and spend as much time on the site as possible. They hack your psychology and every little part of social media has been crafted for that. Everything you see is served to you by the algorithms.

At the end of the film, they ask one ex-employee if he’d allow his children to be on social media and he replies, No”.

When I’d go to my Facebook account, I did enjoy seeing beautiful landscapes, adorable animals, and clever quotes. However, after I watched “The Social Dilemma”, I deleted my Facebook account. When a service is free (like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), the product is YOU. Nowadays I do feel a bit

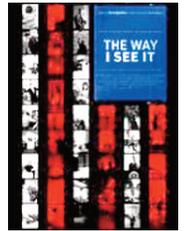
“out-of-touch” with some Facebook friends, but I also am finding more time to read books, exercise, and get to those projects that I love to procrastinate about. *Michelle Healey*

- ❖ **The Queen's Gambit (miniseries)**

Available on Netflix The Queen's Gambit is a fictional story based on Walter Tevis’s 1983 novel of the same name. The series follows the life of an orphan chess prodigy, Beth Harmon (Anya Taylor-Joy), during her quest to become the world’s greatest chess player while struggling with emotional issues and drug and alcohol dependency. The story begins in the mid-1950s and proceeds into the 1960s. Her life is not only difficult because of her dark past but also because she is a female in a male-dominated field.

- ❖ **The Way I See It**

Documentary, Available on Amazon Prime Based on the New York Times #1 bestseller, an unprecedented look behind the scenes of two



of the most iconic Presidents in American History, Barack Obama and Ronald Reagan, as seen through the eyes of renowned photographer Pete Souza.

As Official White House Photographer, Souza was an eyewitness to the unique and tremendous responsibilities of being the most powerful person on Earth. The movie reveals how Souza transforms from a respected photojournalist to a searing commentator on the issues we face as a country and a people.

“A picture is worth a thousand words.” Souza’s photos reveal how these two Presidents dealt with crisis, leadership, character, and empathy.

- ❖ **All In: The Fight for Democracy** examines the issue of voter suppression in the US. The film interweaves personal experiences with activism and historical insight to expose a problem that has corrupted our country from the beginning. With the expertise of Stacey Abrams, the film offers an insider’s look into the barriers to voting.

Upward,

Suzanne Rousso

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Shauna Skaff

*Graciously serving as interim leaders

Holiday giving with ELCA Good Gifts



Even in a year when the needs can seem overwhelming, ELCA Good Gifts provide an easy way to make a real impact. Your gifts share the love of Christ — one goat, water well or school uniform at a time. New this year, you can help prevent spread of the coronavirus through the ongoing health care projects of ELCA World Hunger and the emergency programs of Lutheran Disaster Response.



Atonement
Lutheran
Church

6281 West Yale Ave, Lakewood, CO 80227

303-985-1122

churchoffice@atonement-denver.org

www.atonementdenver.org

