

Atonement
Lutheran
Church

voice of Atonement

October 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,

My 40th Port Angeles High School Reunion, complete with dinner, sharing memories, seeing old friends, dancing, laughter, and fun, held at The Crab House Restaurant overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca the first weekend in August 2020 was completely cancelled due to Covid-19. Nonetheless, memories of times together flooded Facebook even though we couldn't meet in person. One, in particular, stood out for me.

Our last week of school turned out to be a nice warm week in Washington, which doesn't always happen in early June. Word came down that Wednesday was therefore declared "Short Shorts & Halter Tops Day" for the girls. Who knows who deemed it this, but it sounded good to my friend Liz and I, after all, it was our last week of High School. So early Wednesday morning, I came downstairs to grab a piece of toast for breakfast before Liz picked me up for school and I heard,

in what I recall seemed in unison from my parents, "You aren't wearing that to school." I said, "Why not? Everyone's wearing shorts and halter tops today." Again, practically in unison, Mom and Dad said, "Well you're not everyone!" Then Dad, normally my hero, piped in with his favorite phrase, "If everyone jumped off the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, would you?" I thought to myself: "Well of course not! It's way too high! But still ..." Of course, they won. I changed. Liz arrived. I got in her car and she wasn't in short shorts and a halter top either. She said, "Looks

like you got told 'Well you're not everyone' by your parents too!"

I started relating this memory to the complex question surrounding returning to worship inside church buildings. I've been asked more than once: "When will Atonement be opening again?" The short answer is: "We are open; we've never closed. Join us on Facebook Live and/or for our Parking Lot Worship." The longer answer is: "We won't be going inside the building for worship until we're told it is far safer to do so."

Before you say it, I will: "But other churches are worshipping in their buildings." I think of my denim short shorts and blue halter top which prompted my parents words: "But you're not everyone!" That prompts my comment here as well: "But we aren't everyone." As flippant as that might sound, it's not meant that way. It's meant to explain that I, along with those in leadership roles at Atonement, decided

not to jump on the bandwagon of what in reality may only be a small number of congregations compared to the total number in the whole state. When Liz and I arrived at the High School that warm spring day, disappointed as could be our parents wouldn't let us wear short shorts and halter tops, we kept looking around as we walked to class, and lo and behold, out of our Graduating Class of about 475 people total, about 250 were girls, and of the girls, only about 20 or less had short shorts and halter tops on! I guess "everyone

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Annual Congregational Meeting

on Sunday, October 4th
11:15 am

Our Congregational meeting will follow the parking lot worship. You may attend in person under the tents, or in your car. You may also attend via Zoom.

This is very important that you attend. In this meeting, we will be electing new council members/officers, and will approve and vote on changes to our church constitution.

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wasn't doing it" as we thought they would!

Because the stakes are so incredibly high, literally with lives at risk, we have opted to choose the safest way possible, along with all the other congregations who have realized "everyone isn't doing it" either. Because we love and care about each and every member and visitor that worships here, we have chosen the option to continue on Facebook Live, soon YouTube Live, and our Parking Lot Worship (lawn chair or stay in your vehicle tuned in to the radio) for the foreseeable future. The following informed our decision: Much Prayer; Extended Research; Review of necessary guidelines for inside worship, including cleaning, disinfecting, no singing allowed, a worship reservation system; Discerning advice from Conference Calls with Governor Polis and Public Health Officials, including data about Covid-19 cases, and numbers of congregations experiencing cases of Covid-19 after returning to worship inside their buildings.

Additionally, experts agree a lesser known/understood, but primary factor in the spread of the coronavirus when people move inside buildings has to do with inadequate ventilation systems. The way most systems are set up, the air flow goes over people, passing from one to another, spreading the virus in that same path. For example, in one case, a yet asymptomatic person in a restaurant infected nine other people. The culprit, however, was found to be the air conditioner as the nine people were in the direct line of it and the asymptomatic person. People at tables right next to the person with no A/C direct line blowing between them didn't get infected.

The last thing I would ever want is for our indoor worship to cause any one of you to get Covid-19! To date, I personally know 27 people who have, or are, suffering from the effects of this nasty virus. Of those, at least 5, that I know about, have what seem to be lasting effects, some particularly devastating. One is an Atonement member who has already been in and out of hospitals several times. At his young age, he's already been diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure, and just had a severe Heart Attack ~ all due to contracting Covid-19 while working in his

beloved field of health care, to which he can no longer work! This virus doesn't care!

But, I do! The leaders of Atonement do! Our ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod South Metro Conference Congregations do, and they aren't meeting inside for worship either! The Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA and the ELCA as a whole does, and thus they are discouraging congregations from going back inside church buildings until it is much safer to do so! Guess they *all heard*, "But you're not everyone," too!

I wish it were different. I wish Covid-19 didn't exist. I wish we could just throw away our masks. But, we can't. Not yet. Ever seen the sign: "God give me patience, but I want it right now!" Ever feel that way? I do. You might too, especially if mostly stuck inside due to aging/health, or if all online or hybrid with schooling this year!

How about this ... keep worshipping on Facebook Live, YouTube Live OR in-person at our Church Parking Lot (or if you can't worship any of these ways, tell me, and we'll see how we can help with that!) ... and, if that's not enough for you, call me. Together, let's figure out some small group we could get to meet inside (windows open, socially distanced, masks on) to help with your, and other's, desire for fellowship and/or study. Or, call me. I'm willing to visit with anyone, anytime at one's home, a restaurant, park, hiking trail, golf course, ski slope, or somewhere else in God's beautiful creation. I'll bet others from our community of faith will, as well. Together, let's be there for one another until that time we will all joyfully run back inside God's house for worship, knowing it's as safe as humanly possible from this nasty Covid-19. BTW, "But you're not everyone," really isn't completely true. We are all someone ~ God's special people ~ all of whom just choose different options. This is ours. We hope you respect it, and we all should also respect those who choose differently than we do, too.

*With God's love and care,
—Pastor Kristi*



SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to our Council Members that are leaving office in October. They agreed to continue in their ministry when Covid 19 delayed our meetings and we had tough decisions to make. Thank you Jan Sweeney our Council Secretary, Howie Folz, and Wendy Brown. It has been a pleasure to work alongside such a great group.

Thank you to Audrey Brack-Banks for agreeing to stay on for a year to help balance the rotation on Church Council and to Liz Kelpis for her continued support and ministry as she serves her second term. We have embraced a new reality and have met on Zoom since March. We have a dedicated Church Council and are looking forward to working with new Council Members after the elections on October 4.

Blessings to all,
Eileen Koppenhaver

From the president

We are entering the month of Reformation – October when we celebrate Martin Luther’s realization that “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God we are saved by grace alone.” Anybody who went through confirmation has learned this. We live this as Lutherans. Because we are saved by grace, we reach out to minister and serve. I used to sing in the Atonement Choir for many years. The one song the choir sang every Reformation Sunday was *God Is Our Refuge*. It seems a good song for us this year too.

God Is Our Refuge

*God is our refuge and strength
A present help in time of trouble
Though the mountains shake
In the heart of the sea
Though the waters roar and foam
We will not fear*

Verse 1

*Come and behold the work of the Lord
The awesome acts of God
He is in the midst of His people
In all the earth
He is the Word we are His hands
He will lead us
He is the air we are His song
We will celebrate His presence
All the day long*

Verse 2

*Come and behold the work of the Lord
The awesome acts of God
He is in the midst of His people
In all the earth
He is the rain we are the stones
He will cleanse us
He is the air we are His song
We will celebrate his presence
All the day long*

Ending

*We will not fear
We will not fear
We will not fear*

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As the song says, “*He is the Word we are His hands, He will lead us*”. We continue to do the work. We have been led to help support the Title 1 students at Westgate Elementary and their families. We provided school supplies and food in September when school resumed.

Continue bringing food for the Westgate food bank. Many families that were already struggling have been hit hard with job loss and reduced work. We have also been led to highlight different ministries each month through our benevolence program “Drop in the Bucket”. We can help in ministry and mission through a variety of organizations.

In keeping with “*He is the air we are His song; we will celebrate His presence*” we continue to worship in a variety of ways and yet are still familiar. Your Church Council continues to follow the recommendations of *The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*. Although some area churches are gathering indoors, with or without masks, and in close proximity, our area Lutheran churches are being conservative and continuing to worship in different ways. We are offering **in person worship outdoors with spacing and masks, drive-in style from your car listening to a radio station or in the comfort of your home on Facebook Live or YouTube or later on our website.**

Meeting inside at present is not recommended. One issue is our ventilation system. It is not designed for high efficiency air filtration. In addition, our windows in the sanctuary do not open, per Lakewood City fire code, to allow adequate cross ventilation. A better ventilation system would be very costly. A few small groups have met in the Fellowship Hall because of the ability to open windows and doors. We will continue to evaluate the safest way to meet and/or hold Zoom meetings and eventually worship indoors.

Some area churches are worshiping with a “reservation system”. With spacing and a limit of 50 people indoors, people are required to make a worship reservation each week. If you

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IN OUR PRAYERS

Recent:

Christopher Bohn
 Shelley Slinkard
 Katy Brackeen
 Audrey Classen
 Esther
 Grace Gillette
 Jane Hoeft
 Steve Midthun
 The family and friends of Jack Arnold (Brandon Bill's Grandfather)
 The family and friends of Joy Kelpis

Ongoing:

Annette Brackeen
 Evangie Conklin
 Leslie Crowe
 Olivia Estep
 Ralph Hill
 Oscar Otto
 Charlotte Pienkos
 Craig Poore
 Jason Robinson
 Lisa S.
 Carl Sandoval
 Dewaine Silker

Special prayers for the safety and well-being of the people and firefighters affected by the devastating forest fires burning here in Colorado, including surrounding Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, and throughout the western United States, as well as for those experiencing hurricanes in our nation.

From the vice-president

Things are settling down for Laurie and me in Potsdam. We take care of our granddaughter Max all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and for half a day on Mondays and Fridays. We also meet up with Max and her mommy and daddy occasionally during the rest of the week.

As I mentioned in my last article, the *Drop in the Bucket* ministry for September is Sky Ranch. Sky Ranch is still threatened by the Cameron Peak Fire. If you're interested in getting updates for that fire you can go to <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6964/>. As of Sept 19, the fire covered over 100,000 acres and was only 8% contained. It was moving to within a mile of Sky Ranch though the early snow helped to slow things down somewhat and allow the firefighters to regroup and review their strategy. Please continue to pray for Sky Ranch and if you haven't made a contribution yet, please consider doing so now.

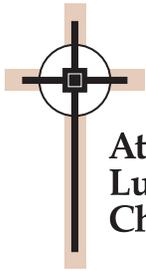
We're doing something different for October *Drop in the Bucket*. We will be lifting up two local ministries: our own holiday basket ministry and Habitat for Humanity. Providing holiday baskets for members of our community is a long standing tradition at Atonement, but rather than gather up the makings of a holiday banquet, we will be providing gift cards this year. The pandemic is making food insecurity a bigger and bigger problem in our own location

and around the world, and Thanksgiving is largely celebrated with the tradition of turkey and all the fixings. Inability to put food on the table could really add to the many sadnesses that Covid has caused. Please give generously. Habitat also addresses a basic need. Covid has already caused the local Habitat organization to forego a new building project in favor of rehabilitating an existing building. The Miracle Workers won't be able to serve up a pancake breakfast this year, but will try to attend worship in October and give an update on their activities. Please keep this worthy organization in your prayers and give generously to their cause.

Perhaps I don't need to keep asking you to give generously because your giving to Atonement and to *Drop in the Bucket* has been remarkably generous this year. As you can see from the updated table, our giving continues surpass that of last year to the point that we are nearly \$1,700 ahead of where we were in August of 2019. Your remarkable generosity continues to provide a reason to be joyful that overcomes all evidence to the contrary.

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

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		\$768
Holiday Baskets/Habitat for Humanity	October		Not applicable
Rainbow Trail	November		\$828
Pastor's Assistance Fund	December		\$2,316
Year to date total		\$8,455	\$6,779



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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do not have a reservation or the space has filled with 50 people, you are turned away. Not allowed to come in. I would not want to be the “door keeper”. There are people that have started a “Worship Protest” movement. They claim to have the liberty to worship in person – packed in closely. Your church leaders and pastor believe God is with us in all the different worship opportunities we have. The Holy Spirit leads us to protect our congregation, friends, and community. “*God is our refuge and strength*” and is leading us.

Psalm 62:5-8 “*Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.*”

United we care and pray for each other,
—Eileen Koppenhaver
Congregation President

stewardship

SHARE YOUR HARVEST, IF YOU ARE ABLE

John the Baptist went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.... And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

– Luke 3:4, 10-11

God’s people have traditionally given thanks and celebrated God’s abundance at harvest time, when farmers close out their growing season. In 2020, North Americans once again rejoice that our land has produced plenty of food. And many Americans, blessed with stable jobs and rebounding investments, can give thanks for a harvest of financial and personal blessings as well.

But millions of us and our neighbors are struggling. Covid-19 has caused massive joblessness, pushing countless families into

poverty. Hunger and homelessness are skyrocketing. Federal, state and local safety-net programs are breaking, and food banks, shelters and other charities are overwhelmed.

The rising need presents an opportunity for God’s people who are blessed with more than enough to help siblings in need. This year, consider celebrating your harvest of blessings not only by giving thanks but also by donating generously – of your time, talent, money or goods – to a local food bank, homeless shelter, soup kitchen or charity. Our congregations could lead this effort with a campaign, “Harvest of Giving.”

Our hurting, struggling neighbors need to know not only that Covid-related misfortune is not their fault, but also that God and God’s people are standing with them, supporting them with love and help. The best way is for those who are blessed with an abundant harvest to share it with those whose harvests are lean.

—Rob Blezard

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ATONEMENT ONLINE GATHERINGS

"Socially-Connecting" while still "Physically Distancing"

All Gatherings and Worship are posted on the Atonement's Facebook page and our website: www.atonementdenver.org/online-together.html for viewing at another time.

For detailed instructions on accessing the Online Gatherings see the instructions at the end of the email, check the website or call the office: 303.985.1122.

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Pastor's Bible Study via Facebook

Wild Women of the Bible
(50th Ordination of Women in the Ministry!)

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

Children's Time via Facebook

Wednesdays at 11:30 am

Music Time via Facebook

youth & community outreach

Wow! What a wonderful month September was for our fellowship and doing God's work. First, the Pencil Box Bash was a smashing success! Thanks to so many in our church family we were able to not only meet the needs of 140 filled pencil boxes for the students at Westgate, but exceed it. Because of the generosity of your money, donations, and time we were able to help those students start off the school year with the tools for success. Thank you!

To further our work with Westgate Elementary School, Youth Ministries held a drive-by food drive after worship service on Sunday, September 13th in celebration of "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. We were able overflow the shopping cart as well as help families who were in need.

As we look for new and interesting ways to come together in these uncertain and isolating times, we had our first of many outdoor movie nights. We were able to share in the brand new

release of Disney's 'Mulan'. Friends and neighbors brought their lawn chairs, blankets, pillows, and snacks as we watched the film on the new nine foot outdoor screen.

October is looking to be another fun month!

- We will continue to have outdoor worship every Sunday. We have purchased outdoor heaters for those chilly, autumn days.
- **Saturday, October 10, 7:30pm:** Outdoor movie night! We will be watching the classic, "Hocus Pocus"! We are looking forward to making these movie nights even more of an event, so be sure to watch your emails for more information.
- **Friday, October 30:** Trunk-or-Treat! We will be having a fun, fall festival style Trunk-or-Treat this year. We will need volunteers to decorate their vehicles and hand out goodies, as well as people to help run the socially distanced games.

— Brandon Bill

Youth & Community Outreach Coordinator

worship and music

O come, let us worship ... the LORD.

— Psalm 95: 6

Well it's hard to believe that we are into the fall season already. We are continuing the outdoor services, and will need to have some more helpers.

I am looking for some volunteers to be ushers for the service. This entails standing at the entrance wearing both a mask and gloves to hand out the communion set, bulletin and anything else. We ask that you collect the offering before or after the service in the large Home Depot buckets, and give them to Audrey if Shauna is not available. You are free to sit closer, or in your car during the service. There are 2 carts that get wheeled out to each end with all supplies that you would need (except gloves and masks) in the narthex. Please take

these carts to and from the entrances. Barbara Krug, and the Plates have ushered this summer and can answer any question you might have if I am not available.

I also want to thank all those who have helped make this summer happen.

I am grateful for:

- The very generous gift of 2 out of our 5 tents, by Sherry Kruger and Eric Muhle (parents of Julie).
- The set up crew who puts on the canopies, and sets up the sound.
- All those who help take down those canopies after service is over.
- Those amazing musicians and singers who make Wednesdays music hour possible.

Thanks again!

—Shauna Skaff

Worship and Music Team Lead

Faith in Action

NEXT MEETING: October 6th, 7:00pm, ZOOM!

Please call Suzanne if you will be joining us.

Late Breaking FIA News: Faith In Action is exploring the possibility of a Virtual Global Gift Fair for the month of November 2020.

We will keep you posted in Atonement's email blasts and Sunday announcements. We expect this approach to be less labor intensive and to meet State requirements that may be in place for COVID. Christmas shopping for the Good may be coming to Atonement!



NBWC Chow Hall Gala Goes Virtual to the Ball Park!

New Beginnings Worship Community (NBWC) announces its **Virtual Chow Hall Gala on October 9th (Friday) from 6:00 until 7:30pm.** For detailed information and to buy tickets go to <https://handbid.app.link/chowhall>.

The evening event will "feature a paddle raiser and guest speakers, including Denise, who spoke at our first gala five years ago; she has an astonishing update to share. Also expected are Nadia Bolz-Weber, NYT best selling author and NBWC guest preacher, and Dean Williams, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections. Rounding out the event are The Denver Dolls who will take us back in time with a very special performance you won't want to miss?" (NBWC Newsletter, August 2020).

Individual tickets are \$30; see link above. Be sure to wear your favorite baseball attire and stock up on peanuts and Cracker Jack for this fun event...as close as your living room sofa!

Two FIA members share their moments working the 2020 Census!

First from Michelle Healey: Being a Census Enumerator Builds Character

Working for the U.S. Census Bureau sounded like an honorable, interesting job, with the added bonus on earning some extra cash. So, I applied, was interviewed, fingerprinted, and sworn in. Then COVID-19 hit and those that could, stayed home. The 2020 Census was delayed until Aug. 1st. In late July, I completed 10 hours of on-line training and passed an Exam. I received my "device": an iPhone utilized for everything from providing the scripted interview, to logging in my hours. I received my official badge, a briefcase full of forms, masks, and hand sanitizer and I was ready to begin door to door enumerating.

Now, keep in mind that the folks that I'm attempting to interview have already received 3 large envelopes from the Census Bureau months ago. For some reason, they have not responded. For most, this reason is fear or distrust of the U.S. government. The challenge is to catch someone at home, hope that they will answer the door, try to establish some trust, and complete the survey. It quickly becomes frustrating, because most often, it is obvious that someone is home and never going to answer. Consistent failure coupled with walking around in the extreme heat and poor air quality was exhausting.

True perseverance was required now because if I was unable to get a response, I need to try a least three "Proxies." For example, a neighbor who knows about the people who live at the target address. A good proportion of Proxies either don't answer the door or don't know their neighbors.



Once I got my foot in the door (figuratively speaking, I always remained outside),

establishing trust wasn't difficult. I could honestly tell them that I lived in the neighborhood and how the Census statistics would benefit our community. The idea that most people are good, kind and helpful was validated over and over. Sometimes I visited for too long, but honestly, I needed the positive interactions to motivated me to keep trying.

On brutally hot days, where I was "batting 000"; unable to close a single case, I prayed to God for help. Later when I knocked on my final door of the evening, I was welcomed by eight smiling faces as they celebrated a five-year old's birthday. They were from Guatemala and were excited to participate in the Census. This experience was a "God thing" and the moment I choose to cherish from my days working as an enumerator.

And then from Barb Kaare-Lopez:

Atonement has three known census enumerators, or census takers, working to help get more census responses before the deadline of September 30. The deadline had been October 31. Here are some Census Basics. Yep, it is done every 10 years, beginning in 1790. If you live in the U. S., you are required by law to respond to it.

Why is the census even done? Three basic reasons are: to count the population in the U.S., to allocate the number of representatives each state receives in the U. S. House of Representatives, and to allocate money for schools, roads, hospitals, and public works, from the more than \$675 billion allocated from the federal government.

My stories include how we were either welcomed after knocking at the door and introducing ourselves, or having someone "respond" by saying, "what do you people want? You have left all these Notices (of Visit) in my door. Just give me that form!" Or there are the pleasant responses, like the young college student who told me, "sure I will talk to you. My mom was a census worker in California. She told me how hard it could be." I have followed Parole Officers into a restricted access building to get in. All the information we gain from folks we interview is kept confidential. But we do have our stories!

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November 2020 Ballot Includes 11 Issues: Be Prepared!

Deadline for *Voice of Atonement* is too soon for a detailed analysis of all the statewide issues on this year's ballot. But thanks to Ballotpedia and the Colorado Secretary of State information is at hand.

The Blue Books are scheduled to arrive in the mail in time for your ballot (sent October 9th) but in the meantime here is a brief preview:

To begin: A chart from Ballotpedia
(https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado_2020_ballot_measures)

On the ballot - Colorado			
<u>CICA</u>	<u>Amendment 76</u>	<u>Suffrage</u>	Amends the Colorado Constitution to state that "only a citizen" of the U.S. who is 18 years old or older can vote in federal, state, and local elections, instead of the existing language that says "every citizen" who is 18 years old can vote
<u>CICA/SS</u>	<u>Amendment 77</u>	<u>Gambling</u>	Allows voters in Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek to vote to expand allowed gaming types and bet limits
<u>VR</u>	<u>Proposition 113</u>	<u>Elections</u>	Joins Colorado into the <u>National Popular Vote Interstate Compact</u> , awarding Colorado's electoral votes to the winner of the <u>national popular vote</u>
<u>CISS</u>	<u>Proposition 114</u>	<u>Forests and parks and Environment</u>	Reintroduces gray wolves on public lands
<u>CISS</u>	<u>Proposition 115</u>	<u>Abortion</u>	Prohibits abortion after 22 weeks gestational age
<u>CISS</u>	<u>Proposition 116</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	Decreases the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.55%
<u>CISS</u>	<u>Proposition 117</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	Requires voter approval of new enterprises that are exempt from TABOR if their revenue is greater than \$50 million within its first five years
<u>CISS</u>	<u>Proposition 118</u>	<u>Healthcare</u>	Establishes a program for paid medical and family leave
<u>LRCA</u>	<u>Amendment B</u>	<u>Taxes and Property</u>	Repeals the <u>Gallagher Amendment of 1982</u> , which limited the residential and non-residential property tax assessment rates so that residential property taxes amounted to 45% of the total share of state property taxes and non-residential property taxes amounted to 55% of the total share of state property taxes
<u>LRCA</u>	<u>Amendment C</u>	<u>Lottery</u>	Requires charitable organizations to have existed for three years before obtaining a charitable gaming license instead of five years; allows charitable organizations to hire managers and operators of gaming activities so long as they are not paid more than the minimum wage
<u>LRSS</u>	<u>Proposition EE</u>	<u>Tobacco and Taxes</u>	Increases taxes on tobacco, creates a new tax on nicotine products such as e-cigarettes; dedicates funds to education and health programs

- CICA: Citizen initiated constitutional amendment
- CICA/SS: Combined citizen initiated constitutional amendment and State statute
- VR: Veto referendum: A veto referendum is a type of measure put on the ballot through citizen signature petition in an effort to repeal a law recently passed by the legislature. The National Popular Vote veto referendum is the first veto referendum to be certified for the Colorado ballot since 1932. (Secretary of State website.)
- CISS: Citizen initiated state statute
- LRCA: Legislatively-referred constitutional amendment
- LRSS: Legislatively-referred state statute

Much more detailed analysis is available on the Secretary of State website. To access you can use this link: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/ballot/contacts/2020.html>. There you can get a snapshot of each issue and those favoring and opposing. Also available on this website are the ballot issue details: final language and fiscal impact.

In addition, Colorado Public Radio has more information on its website: use this link <https://www.cpr.org/2020/08/28/here-are-the-eleven-ballot-measures-coloradans-will-vote-on-this-year-from-taxes-to-raffles/>.

The Colorado Social Legislation Committee sponsors a Fall Forum on ballot issues appearing on the November ballot. Over the course of

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three Zoom gatherings, they will focus on seven measures that are most relevant to its mission to convene conversations on human needs legislation and policy. More info & registration available here: <https://cslc.org/2020/09/08/2020-cslc-fall-forum/>. The first forum session is September 29th and you must register in advance for Zoom connection info.

Or you can continue to do your independent research and wait for your ballot and the Blue Book! Please note:

1. There may be additional issues on your ballot regarding local jurisdictions. For example, Denver has another seven.
2. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry is supporting Proposition 118, under its focus "Poverty Reduction". (Suzanne Rousso)

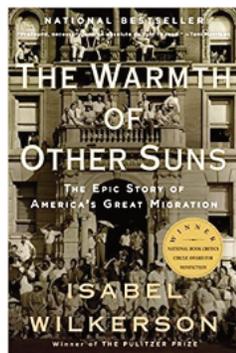
FIA Picks:

Events:

- **NBWC Chow Hall Gala, October 9th, See invite above.**
- **Next Book and Lunch Event:** At our last meeting we scheduled for **November 15th, Sunday, at 12:30pm** our next book review. The book we chose is "The Warmth of Other Suns" which is at both the Jefferson County and Denver libraries but in high demand. It's not a heavy read but it is a long one! Reserve now if you haven't already.

"In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves." *Goodreads*.



- **Denver Art Museum: Frida Kahlo exhibit, October 25th:** FIA is planning on attending as a group on Saturday, November 21st. at 11:00am. We will each make our own reservations which are booked out two weeks in advance (November 7th). This field trip is not limited to FIA, we will reserve all the slots we can at 11 and then the overflow can be at 11:15.



You are welcome to join us.

Featuring more than 150 artworks by internationally celebrated artists Frida Kahlo,

Diego Rivera, Lola Alvarez Bravo, Gunther Gerzso, María Izquierdo, Carlos Mérida, and others, this exhibition will take a closer look at the role art, artists, and their supporters played in the emergence of national identity and creative spirit after the Mexican Revolution

ended in 1920. Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Mexican Modernism will explore the Mexican modernism movement through paintings and photography. (*Denver Art Museum website*)

Movies / Streaming / Posts:

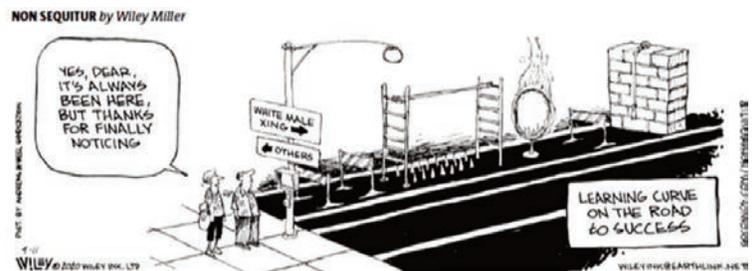
- ❖ **Ted Talk:** *The Fight for Civil Rights and Freedom: Congressman John Lewis in conversation with Bryan Stevenson* (Just Mercy). Ted Talk on YouTube: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8atXMqZ_w0M)
- ❖ **NBWC Worship Services** are online for viewing by the public and the women in prison...[facebook.com/nbwcdwcrf](https://www.facebook.com/nbwcdwcrf). Pastor Terry holds weekly services on Friday evening, 6 - 7:30pm. They are archived on New Beginnings' website. (Added after meeting.) Continue to worship virtually with women at DWCF!

Books/ Articles/ Blogs

- ✓ *Paying for Our Nation's "Original Sin"*, by Martina Will, Go to: FrontPorchNE.com, Under "News", "Archives", "2020", "August", page 6. An interview with Harold Fields, STRF founder, on examining reparations and the founding of the Denver Black Reparations Council.
- ✓ *Daring to Face the Past*, by Ana Banks, "The Smithsonian", Sep 2020. Two women from disparate worlds confront a terrible injustice that one family's ancestor perpetrated on the others. Montgomery County, AL
- ✓ *The Mythology of Racial Progress*, by Jennifer A. Richeson, "The Atlantic", Sep 2020. "The mythology of racial progress distorts our perception of reality: perhaps more significantly, it absolves us of responsibility for changing that reality."
- ✓ *The End of Denial*, by Ibram X. Kendi, "The Atlantic," Sep 2020. "Just as the abolitionists of the 1850s demanded the immediate eradication of slavery, immediate equality must be the demand today."

A closing thought on Privilege and Justice:

(Thanks to Cathy B)



**Upward,
Faith In Action Ministry Team**

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Outreach Ministry

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Worship & Music

Sauna Skaff

*Graciously serving as interim leaders

WE ARE GOD'S CHURCH

It was another hot August day at Community Ministry's Food Bank. I now volunteered two days a week as a Greeter at the Food Bank. My Gringo Spanish came in handy while interviewing folks who were new to coming to the Food Bank, and the general greeting before we delivered food to the folks waiting outside. Due to COVID, no one can enter the building, which to me, was like a warehouse. Today, four workers were not there due to other commitments.

There were 8 or 9 folks who were lined up before 10 a.m., when we usually opened the doors to start bringing the food out. Today, I had no help with Greeting, returning the carts, nor washing the carts. Even Izzy, the United Health Care lady who came every other Monday to help folks with insurance offered to help push some carts. Our young, ever so helpful college student Luke was able to help me 40 minutes later, after helping to unload the food that had arrived that morning. I would tell folks, "I will be with you; I am alone today," and most folks were patient.

And then Ricardo arrived, pushing his shopping cart, with his sleeping bag tucked underneath. He was homeless. He was wearing a black cap with the sun beating down on him. "Can you help me get my Food Stamps card?" he asked.

I replied that we could not help with Food Stamps. He could try calling 211, the Mile High United Way Help Center, or 311, Denver's non-emergency call center. I did tell him we could give him food. But Izzy overheard our conversation, and offered to help him. She made several phone calls, and later was able to have his Food Stamps card sent to a church on South Broadway that he attended.

As he waited for Izzy to make her phone calls, he told us, "I am a Mexican. I worked as a migrant worker. I like to work. I read my Bible before I came here today. I read that 'we are God's church.' You know I cannot read very well; I wish I could. It's because I was a migrant worker and moved around a lot. But I do believe, 'we are God's church.' Like this building here...it is God's church." As I said, to me it looked like a warehouse. When I told him that, he replied, "but you help people here. It is a church."

I ended up greeting by myself, probably 27 sets of folks that day. I did not sit down until I had a 5-minute lunch, which was a salad. Then I had to resume the greeting. Later when I tried to finish my salad, flies were buzzing around in it. Not wanting to share my salad with flies, I threw it out. Would I have eaten it if I was homeless? I did not drink any water. I did not go to the bathroom until after 1 p.m. I was pooped.

But what a great day I had. And unknowingly, I had been volunteering in this warehouse looking building, Community Ministry, that Ricardo called "God's church."

—Barbara Kaare-Lopez
Greeter at Community Ministry



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