

Atonement  
Lutheran  
Church

# voice of Atonement

September 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the President	2
From the Vice President	3
In Our Prayers	3
Stewardship	4
A Note from Linda Neslund	4
Rally Sunday	5
Outreach Ministry	5
Family Movie Night	6
Spectacular Sundays in Sept.	6
Faith In Action	7
Giving Options	10
Shop With Scrip	11
Financial Reporting Update	12
Shredder Truck	12

## 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,*

Let's start with a little Bible and Music Trivia: What song holds the distinction in the USA of being the Number 1 hit with the oldest lyrics?

Since the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament of the Bible is traditionally credited to King Solomon in the 10th century BC, the Byrds' 1965 recording of the song, "Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)," written by Pete Seeger in the late 1950's and first recorded in 1959, holds the distinction of being the Numero Uno hit with the oldest lyrics. Why? The lyrics, except for the title, which repeats throughout the song, and the final two lines, are almost verbatim from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, even though the sequence of the words are rearranged a bit for the song:

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;*

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

*A time to gain that which is to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;*

*A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*A time of love, and a time of hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

This Biblical text, whether in song or not, speaks of a time and a place for all things: birth

and death; laughter and sorrow; war and peace; and so on.

As we've seen in 2020, "there's a time for ..." unfortunately includes a nasty Covid-19 virus affecting all of our world in many and various ways, including deaths beyond what most of us currently alive have ever before seen in our lifetimes; 2020 Graduates having no Proms, Sr. Fun/Skip Days, or even Graduation Days as the rest of us have known them; and now ... Back to School as none of us have ever known before ... with some In Person, other Hybrid, and other All Online! It's craziness!

God bless our students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators!

Now, in our own faith community, "there's a time for ..." unfortunately includes the retirement of Linda Neslund. On August 11, 2020 we regretfully received Linda's letter which in part read:

*"I want to thank you (and all the people of Atonement) for the great privilege and wonderful experience of working here these past six years. As hard as it is to move on from a position that has meant so much to me, I feel the time is here for me to fully embrace the opportunities that God is giving me to spend meaningful and needed time with my family... Thank you so much for the opportunity to have served in this capacity."*

Linda's final day in the office was Friday, August 28, 2020. On Sunday, August 30th, many people participated in a card shower for Linda to show their appreciation for all of her hard and dedicated work, and the care and compassion she has shown to everyone while working in the

*(continued on next page)*

*There's a  
time for ...*

## CONGREGATION MEETING

Please mark your calendar for **October 4, 2020's "Spring" Congregation Meeting.**

We had to postpone the spring meeting due to shut down orders around Covid 19. At this meeting we elect Council Officers and Council-at-large positions. Ministry Team leaders are welcomed into their ministries.

We are still designing what this congregation meeting will look like. How to make voting available to all members (sound familiar). Our current council members and ministry teams were gracious to continue through spring and summer, but it is time to move forward. Please save October 4 and watch for more information about how we will meet and/or vote. Mail in ballots, ballot boxes and socially distanced opportunities?!?

### Tape Ministry – updating to DVD Player Ministry

We are looking for the little portable DVD players that you may not be using anymore. They usually will play music cd's and video/movie DVD's. We will loan ALC DVD players to those who do not have computer access and weekly provide a DVD of Sunday's service, Bible Studies, and music videos. Please contact the church office or Eileen Koppenhaver if you have a portable DVD player you can donate.

*(continued from previous page)*

church office. I personally thank Linda for graciously and warmly welcoming me and helping me these past three years I have served as pastor. Linda is truly a supportive servant and a dedicated disciple in God's church and for that I am most grateful.

With Linda's retirement, the Executive Council wondered for a few days what in the world we were going to do, until almost instantly the Holy Spirit spoke to us and ... drum roll please ... now *"there's a time for ..."* fortunately includes an Office Manager by the name of Audrey Brack-Banks! Alleluia! I'll bet many of you already know that name! Audrey is one of our Worship Leaders every Sunday morning. Audrey has agreed to serve in this position, at least temporarily through May, giving the Executive Council more time to evaluate our office needs, during this Covid-19 time, and for our upcoming future life as a congregation.

*"There's a time for ...,"* well, to tell you the truth, there's a time for so many various feelings ... but mostly, thankfulness, for God has blessed us abundantly as individuals and as a congregation, in years past, presently, and we know for our upcoming years to come! Thanks be to God for life, for ministry, and for mission! May we live it well and with joyful hearts!

*"There's a time for ..."* whatever God calls us to, so let's do it!,

—Pastor Kristi



## From the president

### RENEW YOUR STRENGTH

Isaiah 40:31 *"...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."*

It has certainly been a time of uncertainty and change during this pandemic. It has been a hot summer that chases some of us back inside (me) and others out to garden, hike, and recreate. I know many families with children and grandchildren, educators, and school staff, have joined the concerned essential workers and health providers and their families to worry about what the coming months are going to look like. Worry makes you weary.

As summer closes we again are facing the horrors of fire in our mountains and communities. Fire out west. Strange weather phenomena that wiped out crops in the mid-west. Another natural occurrence that we do not have much control over. It makes you weary.

Many of our senior members have spent much of this year confined to apartments, care centers and homes. They are following guidelines, as many of the rest of us are (think masks), to protect their health and the health of others. After 7 or 8 months, it makes you weary.

**Now the good part.** Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength! Like the beautiful eagles we see soaring over our mountain tops we too will soar. Maybe small flights at first but WE WILL SOAR because our HOPE is in the Lord.

The Holy Spirit has guided us to new Ministry. We are looking with new eyes and opening our minds to new ways to come together. Maybe not "together" in person or spaced out but TOGETHER in purpose, caring, calling, respect and trust. The gifts that have been shared through offerings has never been stronger. Our HOPE is in the Lord.

Some have been called to new life journeys. Linda Neslund has been called to support her daughter who is teaching 5th grade remotely from her classroom and assist online learning for her kindergartner. Linda will be able to be the home educator and provide family support. Audrey Brack-Banks has a new path before her. She will join the ALC Ministry in the business office. Blessings on Linda and Audrey. Our HOPE is in the Lord. Blessings,

—Eileen Koppenhaver  
Congregation President

*"I've read the last page of the Bible. It's all going to turn out all right."* - Billy Graham



## IN OUR PRAYERS

### Recent Prayers

The family and friends of Fred Burklund, as they mourn his death

Evangie Conklin

Leslie Crowe

Olivia Estep

The family and friends of Shiloh Guiment, as they mourn his death

Ralph Hill

Jane Hoeft,

Denise Loos

Jason Robinson

Dewaine Silker

Lisa S.

### Deployed in the Military

Darren Bessett

### Ongoing Prayers

Sean Anderson

Annette Brackeen

Charlotte Pienkos

Craig Poore

Oscar Otto

Carl Sandoval

Special prayers for the safety and well-being of the people and firefighters affected by the devastating forest fires burning here in Colorado, and in California.

## From the vice-president

I wanted to fill you in on our move. Laurie and I (and our two cats) arrived in Potsdam on August 1, and immediately moved into our new home. Well, that's a bit of an exaggeration because our stuff was still in Denver and is expected to arrive later today. Fortunately, our daughter supplied some necessities so that we could begin to make our new house our new home. We needed to quarantine for a week (getting credit for the time on the road) but then we were able to form our new family unit including our granddaughter, Max. We hope to start to get our lives back into some sort of routine after we get the boxes unpacked. Thanks for your prayers of support and for safe travels. They were answered.



Council met this month and, at Gayle Gunderson's suggestion, agreed to include CRU as a *Drop in the Bucket* ministry for January. CRU is the name for the Campus Crusade for Christ, International with mission to win, build and send Christ-centered multiplying disciples and a vision of movements everywhere so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus. More details about the connection between CRU and Atonement will be forthcoming. This addition to the Bucket List completes the calendar with an individual ministry each month. I met with members of the congregation last January during Adult Sunday School for feedback on the program after the first year's run. This was very valuable for me to learn how important *Drop in the Bucket* had become as an Atonement ministry after a short period of time. It also provided a forum for brainstorming ways to improve upon the program and to identify new

ministries to lift up. We will do that again this January. It may be a Zoom call (or include a Zoom element) because of Covid and because I won't be able to attend in person.

Just a reminder that we lifted up Westgate School in August. Please take a moment to say a prayer for the teachers, administrators, students, and parents of Westgate and schools everywhere. Never in the history of the world has education been so important, and never has it been so

difficult. Similar challenges are being felt by Rainbow Trail (our September Ministry) and Sky Ranch (our November Ministry). Sky Ranch is now threatened by wildfires. If we prayed for everyone and everything at risk in today's world, we would be praying every waking hour. Come to think of it, that wouldn't be such a bad thing.

One or more scouts from Troop 808 will be helping out with outdoor services and with shredder truck day, currently scheduled for September. If you see scouts helping out at Atonement, please thank them and make them feel welcome.

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	\$1,467	Not applicable
ELCA World Hunger	March	\$947	\$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	\$833	\$300
Westgate School	September		\$649
Rainbow Trail	September		\$828
Holiday Baskets/Habitat for Humanity	October		Not applicable
Sky Ranch	November		\$768
Pastor's Assistance Fund	December		\$2,316
<b>Year to date total</b>		<b>\$7,660</b>	<b>\$6,130</b>



### Bring Your Family and Enjoy!

Bring your family group to use some of the fun activities we put in last summer. We have a basketball hoop in the parking lot. Great for a family game of HORSE! The GaGa Pit is great for family fun. Bring a rubber ball and enjoy. The colorful climbing/ sliding set can be set up on the lawn for your little guys. Bring your camp chairs or use our green vinyl chairs, have a picnic, and enjoy!



### WANTED! TECH TEAM!



We have been embracing some new opportunities to share and/or enjoy our ministries. We recently received a gift to add to our tools to do this. We now have a 9-foot inflatable movie screen and projector. Who wants to be part of putting on movie nights, concert nights, evening vespers ...?

We invite you; you know who you are, the person who loves new tech, enjoys producing a fun experience for friends and family. Let's put together a team to support recording worship, music, online ministry. And being the Movie Master!

# stewardship

## STEWARDING THE COMMON GOOD

Jesus taught, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* –Matthew 22:38

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God's question, Cain snarkily retorts, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The correct answer for Cain is, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper." And the principle applies to us, too.

Woven through Scripture is God's clear priority that we love and care for one another. The imperative finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy. *No exceptions.*

Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is an essential component.

As North Americans, we haven't done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to "look out for number one," as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government results from our thinking "what's good for me," rather than "what's good for everybody."

Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian?

This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor and stewarding the common good is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard

### A Note from Linda Neslund

*I would just like to thank everyone at Atonement making it possible to serve as your Office Manager. It has been a privilege working for you and with you. There are so many wonderful people at Atonement and we've been through a lot of changes over past five years and the changes just "keep on-a-happening!" I truly believe all these changes have been, and will continue to be, positive. I have learned so much about faith, worship, and how everyone has their part in achieving the goal of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and serving the Lord in many, many different ways. I cherish this time and the friendships and support you have given me. Of course, I will still be around Atonement but I will miss being "in the know" and your "go-to person!" I am excited to begin this new phase of life; but how is it I am old enough to be retiring?!?! Thanks again for everything.*

Christ's Peace,  
Linda



It's here, it's here! Rally Sunday is finally here again! On Sunday, September 13th, the youth of Atonement (and the young at heart) will be running a food drive on Yale Avenue right after service. At the conclusion of worship we will set up the shade tents, shopping cart, and grab our signs. But no one can work on an empty stomach, so we will enjoy some pizza to give us the energy and gastro gusto needed to work in the name of the Lord. Once we are all done collecting mountains of food, we will celebrate with ice cream!

Date: **Sunday, September 13th, 2020**

Time: **Conclusion of worship to 3:00pm**

Location: **Behind Atonement Lutheran Church on Yale Avenue**

Who: **Atonement's young (and young at heart) people!**

— Brandon Bill  
Youth & Community Outreach  
Coordinator

## outreach ministry



### COUPON COLLECTION FUNDRAISER HAS ENDED

The Coupon Clipping program ended August 30, 2020. We are so grateful to the many people/clippers who spent so much time over the years to bring money into Community Ministry in such a labor intensive effort. You do not need to bring your coupons to Atonement for distribution to Community Ministry anymore.

### FOOTSTEPS 4 FOOD

Community Ministry sponsors a 5K walk each year as a fundraiser. This year's event will be held virtually Saturday, September 5, 2020 through Sunday September 13.

Registration Cost: This year is a flat fee \$25.00 per registrant. Check out the Community Ministry website: [www.comministry-denver.org](http://www.comministry-denver.org) for details and to register

Community Ministry thanks you for all your support as we continue to move forward.

—Joyce Neufeld, Executive Director

Community Ministry of Southwest Denver  
1755 S. Zuni St. Denver, CO 80223, 303-935-3428



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace."

In preparation for "God's work. Our hands", on Sunday September 13th, Atonement will be putting together 140 pencil boxes for the wonderful students at Westgate Elementary School on **Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** right after worship.

Atonement has partnered with Westgate for the past few years and it is our hope to grow our ministry and partnership with the students, faculty, and staff. As the school and community navigate this very different school year, Westgate is in need of school supplies for EACH STUDENT so that they are not all touching the same materials. We are looking for the following donations:

#### We need 140 of each item:

- Pencil boxes (big enough to contain the remainder of the list)
- Packs of 24 Crayons
- Packs of 12 markers
- Packs of 12 colored pencils
- Packs of 12 regular pencils
- Dollar store headphones (no earbuds)

Please have donations dropped off to Atonement no later than **Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm**. For those who would like to help put the pencil boxes together, our Pencil Box Bash at Atonement right after church on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.



Join us on Saturday,  
September 5th in the  
Atonement parking long for a  
screening of the brand-new  
Disney live-action, "Mulan"!

# MULAN

Bring your lawn chairs,  
blankets, snacks, and masks!  
Date: **Saturday, September  
5th, 2020**

Time: Movie will begin at  
**8:00pm** (when it's dark)

Location: **Atonement  
Lutheran Church  
Parking Lot**

## Thank You

*Words are totally inadequate  
to express the depth of my love  
and gratitude for the beautiful  
farewell service you planned  
for me on July 12th!!! What a  
wonderful surprise!*

*The beautiful book of 365  
devotions (chosen by Carol  
Farr) was a truly meaningful  
gift that I will treasure always!*

*My heart is overflowing with  
love for all of you.*

*God bless each and every one  
of you.*

Siv Feierabend

## SPECTACULAR SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

### September 6th ~ Labor Day Weekend Worship/ELCA God's Work Our Hands Project

Come to our Parking Lot Lawn Chair worship dressed up in what you would normally wear to work ... or would have worn to work before Covid-19, or before retirement! Let everyone see what you did, or do, in the workforce on this Labor Day weekend. Wear a name tag displaying your occupation/vocation if it isn't obvious! Young people: Wear what you think you would like to do when you grow up!



### September 13th ~ "Rally Day" Transforms ... Food Drive at Atonement/Pizza Party by the Youth (and the Young at Heart) See article on page 5 for details.

### September 20th ~ "National Back to Church Sunday"

A recent Barna Survey alarmingly found that 1 in 3 Christians stopped attending online or in-person worship during the ongoing pandemic in our country. It's time now to Come Back to Church! Not only that, but let's invite others! Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." In other words, together ~ individuals, families and friends ~ no matter one's economic situation, lifestyle, geography, culture, color of one's skin, or any other matter ~ can make God's church stronger! Together, we will thrive in uncertainty, stay hopeful in a world of doubt, confident as fear grips our community, and flourish together as one in faith. That's the reason for "National Back to Church Sunday" of which over 15,000 interdenominational congregations will participate this year in order to reconnect with current members of congregations who have stopped worshipping during this pandemic, and to begin to connect for the first time with people in one's surrounding community. The need for a church home is great in our world, and it must begin with you and me! Join us for this year's "National Back to Church Sunday" and come back to sing praises to God ... Online or Parking Lot Worship ~ Sunday, September 20th, 10:00 a.m.!



### September 27th ~ "Season of Creation" Worship

In worship on Sunday, September 27th, through our liturgy, songs, and prayers, we will observe the ecumenical Season of Creation: "Jubilee for the Earth." Come and join us in praise of God the Creator of everything ... "and it was good!" Thanks be to God for our lives and all that we have!

For more information ~ This annual Season of Creation is celebrated by tens of thousands of Christians around the world, lasting from September 1 (Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) until October 4 (Feast Day of St. Francis).

It's a special time to give thanks to the Creator for our world, and to renew our responsibility to be good stewards of it. The 2020 theme, "Jubilee for the Earth," calls us to consider the integral relationship between rest for the earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

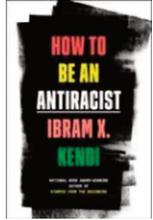
The LWF Celebration Guide (LWF = Lutheran World Federation) contains liturgical resources, prayers and meditations, and calls to action and advocacy. It can be used by individuals or congregations to nurture the moral imagination to restore right, just, and sustainable relationships with the Earth and among all species. Young adults and others in the academic community have appreciated the church's focus on caring for the earth and all creatures. Check it out! Anyone can join our Rocky Mountain Synod Creation Care Team Facebook group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/153008509368206/>. And for more information: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/jubilee-earth-new-rhythms-new-hope>.

# Faith in Action

**NEXT MEETING: September 8th,  
6:30pm, Michelle Healey's Deck**  
Please call Michelle if you will be joining us.

**U.S. Census changes last date to respond.  
NEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 30TH**

**New Faith in Action Book and Lunch  
Group starts during pandemic.**



“How to be an Antiracist”, by Ibram X. Kendi, was the subject of our discussion via Zoom on July 26th. FIA members lead different sections of this call to action and we were enriched by the comments of all and our guests, Carmen and Johann Cohn. We used all the time allotted to us until we could talk no longer! (Zoom ended up giving us unlimited time!)

Kendi divides his book into chapters that are used to discuss and reveal both the emotional and intellectual awareness of racism. He maintains you are either racist or antiracist: there is no such thing as “not racist,” one of many themes throughout the book. His chapters, e.g., Power, Ethnicity, Body, Behavior, Black, Class, Space, Failure, Success, to name a few, give him the space to fully explore the impact resulting from actions by racists and antiracists. He carefully develops the idea that it is racist to “blame the person” and anti-racist is to “look to policies” of government and culture. The last chapter gave us two lists: what he will strive to be and how and how an organization or group can move toward anti-racism.

The book group discussion ended with the question posed by Suzanne to participants: “What is the first step you, personally, will take in striving to be an antiracist? How will you check yourself and hold yourself accountable if you notice you, or someone else is being racist?”

Here are three of the responses from ministry team members:

“My first step to being an effective antiracist is to pay attention. Privilege has made it possible for me to navigate life with blinders on. I have been guilty of sins of omission and commission when it comes to racism; I have spoken before measuring the impact my words might have, I have mouthed platitudes without examining them for truthfulness, I have squirmed silently

in situations of overt racism and I have failed to notice the insidious and frequent microaggressions that my neighbors of color have to endure. My first step is to check myself, my speech, my reactions for the default privilege that has impaired my vision and made me a hesitant ally. I hope to listen more and act with compassion.”

—Cathy Bajcsi

~~~~~

The Question I chose to write about is why I strive to do so (be antiracist), even before reading his book.

In 1978, I chose to fly to Honduras to become a Peace Corps Volunteer; I did not go against my will. I was not shipped there in shackles; I was not a slave. I chose to learn Spanish and earn only \$200.00 per month with my stipend. In the first town I lived in, Olanchito, I was one of three Gringos...white, not Spanish speaking...yet... North Americans. The others were a priest and a missionary. In my second town, Tocoa, I was the only Gringo, or Gringa as I am female. I stuck out like a sore thumb. At times, folks would yell “Gringa” at me. When I was walking in Tegucigalpa, the capital, the men would also yell, “Goodbye My Love” (taken from a song popular at that time), and/or pinch me on the buttocks as I walked in the streets. I was stared at. A couple times, people would exclaim, “You don’t have blue eyes! I thought all Americans did!” I have brown eyes.

But it was when I opened my mouth and spoke Spanish that my gringo accent came out. I could not roll my “rrrrr”. When I first met the Honduran nurse that I would work with in Olanchito, and asked her to “please speak slower”, she rolled her eyes at me and snickered to the nearby doctor. Initially I could not understand jokes in Spanish. I remained mute while everyone else was laughing. I accidentally used “bad” words from the List of Dirty Words in Honduras that I had received in Peace Corps training. I made an assortment of mistakes in Spanish.

Once while partying with my Honduran friends on a Caribbean beach, they were teasing me once again, about not understanding a joke in Spanish. Now we would call it a micro aggression. I had had enough. I burst into tears, running from the party, and sobbing as I walked along the Caribbean beach to a friend’s house.

Over 2 ½ years living in Honduras, my Spanish improved. I understood many jokes,

and even told them. I made Honduran friends. I was invited to parties. And I was not treated as badly as many Blacks have been treated in the U. S. I vowed I would be patient in the future when a foreigner tried to speak English with me. I would try to help when I could. After all, now I knew what it was like to be a foreigner whose skin was different, who looked different, and who could not initially speak Spanish well.

I guess you could say I began to try to be Antiracist....seeing the races as equal...after living as a foreigner in Honduras.

—Barbara Kaare-Lopez

~~~~~

The first step that I will take on my journey to becoming an Antiracist will be to finish reading Ibram X. Kendi’s book, “How to be an Antiracist”. I will reread it and highlight the most powerful points from my perspective.

Self-Reflection is a necessary, beginning step. I will take a self-inventory of my racist ideas and actions, then record them for future reference. I will find concrete examples of how I knowingly or unknowingly have supported racist policies. I can then use these examples to illustrate how I have made decisions that are racist. Kendi says that the heartbeat of racism is DENIAL. The opposite of denial is Confession. I wish to CONFESS how I have been a racist in my thoughts and actions, so that I can be an empathetic and gentle confidant when I choose to initiate the conversation about racism.

I will have conversations about what I’ve learned about racism and how there are ways to have HOPE for a true antiracist country and world in the future. I started this step by sending a link to an Interview of Ibram X. Kendi in a mass email to friends and family members. The following day I received 9 positive responses and one negative one (a cousin that is entrenched in her world-view; that I won’t be able to change). I believe that I, personally, can reach out to folks that I know (have their contact information, at least) first, because that is where I’ll have the greatest influence. Hopefully, this will have a multiplying effect by encouraging others to think, share, and ultimately act differently.

To keep myself and others accountable, I

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

have Kendi's definitions of Racism and Antiracism memorized to be able to access and then "check myself". I'll be ready to share these definitions with others, as everyday situations, involving racist ideas and policies, present themselves. In order to even have these conversations, I've learned that it is essential to establish a common language (i.e. Agreed upon definitions) about racism. And even more importantly, to be an attentive listener. The key question should be why. —Michelle Healey

Antiracism begins one person at a time. Now, how would you respond! Read the book!

To be continued.

### "Good Government is a gift from God", Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

#### Research Shows Colorado's Mail In Voting: "Gold Standard"

##### Important information

(Secretary of State, Colorado, website)

- **Today:** Review your voter record to make sure your information is up to date.
- **October 9** - Counties will begin mailing ballots for the November 3rd General Election. (Last day to send out initial mail ballots: October 16, 2020)
- **October 26** - deadline to register to vote or update your registration and still receive a ballot in the mail.
- In Colorado, you can register to vote and vote in person up to 7 PM on Election Day. "One hand washes the other."

Bipartisan teams transport, verify, open, sort, count and store Colorado's ballots — all in secure rooms with windows through which anyone can watch.



Election judges and computers check each vote and signature against

state registries before they're tabulated and stashed by the hundreds in cardboard boxes, numbered and dated.

No single person or party controls any portion of the process. Checks, balances and redundancies guard against fraud, interference and innocuous errors.' (Denver Post, August 16, 2020)

One of the most important security features of Colorado's election system is the voter registry

and its diligent upkeep, said former Secretary of State Wayne Williams, a Republican who led the launch of Colorado's mail-in voting system in 2013. (Denver Post, August 16, 2020)

By early April, a third of states had contacted Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold for advice as they tried to build their own systems before the November election. By the second week in May, election officials in all 50 states were on calls with each other about the possibility of all-mail elections. The National Vote at Home Institute rolled out a 50-state analysis and plan to expand vote-at-home policies. Griswold, a Democrat, has advocated for expanding Colorado's system across all 50 states so every eligible voter can cast a vote during the pandemic. (Denver Post, May 24, 2020)

"Colorado's election model is the nation's gold standard, and we use both mail ballots and ballot drop boxes," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "Mail ballot drop boxes are safe, secure, and add great access to voting.



Colorado's use of drop boxes and the timeline for sending ballots make the state more prepared

to weather a postal service slowdown this election, Secretary Griswold said. "With budget cuts and other attacks on the U.S. Postal Service, Colorado's election model is uniquely insulated to withstand any service disruptions," Griswold's office said in a statement. "Ballots are sent to voters starting 25 days before Election Day and voters are reminded that they must return their ballot via drop box instead of the mail within eight days of the election."

There will be between 330 and 350 ballot drop boxes available in November, a number that has increased by approximately 100 in the past two years. The federal CARES Act has provided money for additional drop boxes this year.

Griswold's office estimates that 75% of ballots come back via drop boxes as opposed to by mail. "When drop boxes are emptied," explained Griswold's office about Colorado's procedures, "they are done so at least every 24 hours by a team of bipartisan election judges who must maintain a detailed chain of custody log when transporting ballots between drop boxes and the central counting facility to ensure no ballots are

removed or added." (Cathy Bajsci)

To watch a Denver Elections Division video about the process when the ballots are returned: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=316855042668708>

An article in the New York Times about the preparations for a post-election legal fight:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/08/us/politics/voting-nov-3-election.html?referringSource=articleShare&fbclid=IwAR3SdKrYk8xCr\\_etkT6nxYxwn8gLQMVzxCJEHShscyJ4r6PTBbZ9zQEEj\\_4](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/08/us/politics/voting-nov-3-election.html?referringSource=articleShare&fbclid=IwAR3SdKrYk8xCr_etkT6nxYxwn8gLQMVzxCJEHShscyJ4r6PTBbZ9zQEEj_4)

**Less there be any doubt, your vote counts and is counted!**



#### IMAGINING FREEDOM, Norman Rockwell at the Denver Art Museum.

Faith In Action recommends this exhibit running until September 7th at the Denver Art Museum. Reservations are required, the cost is included in admission. This poster captures the Four Freedoms by Rockwell, promoted by FDR: freedom of speech and freedom of religion and freedom from want and freedom from hunger. Do you remember them?

Rockwell's work was and is a big success. The exhibit also includes walls of Saturday Evening Post covers. The end of the exhibit includes numerous submissions under the title: "Imagining Freedom Now." The exhibit closes by asking, "Are the Four Freedoms still relevant as organizing principles of civil society?" Nine contemporary artworks respond (all from the DAM's collection and one on loan).

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Here is one response.

“Mr. Peterson used his iPhone in 2015 to create “Freedom From What?” a photographic compilation he made based on Mr. Rockwell’s “Freedom From Fear.”

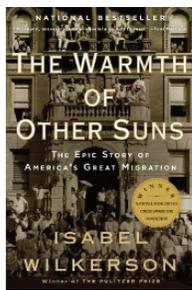
In Mr. Peterson’s interpretation, a black man holds a newspaper with the words “I Can’t Breathe,” a reference to Eric Garner, the unarmed black man from Staten Island who died in 2014 after he was placed in a chokehold by the police.



Peterson is an artist from Hillsdale, NY, about 20 miles from Stockbridge, where the Norman Rockwell Museum is situated.” (NYT, November 8, 2018)

It is the contemporary reimagining that makes this exhibit resonate and brings Rockwell’s work into the present day.

—Suzanne Rouso



FIA Chooses Next Book for November. Now scheduled for Sunday, November 15th, at 12:30pm via Zoom.

“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.” Reserve now at your library, it’s in high demand!

## SEASON OF CREATION 2020 UNDERWAY.

“Renewing, repairing, and restoring our commitments to God, to one another and to all of creation. Each year, Christians around the world join in celebrating the Season of Creation. This is a time of renewing, repairing and restoring our commitments – relationships at the heart of Christian discipleship. It is also a time for deepening and expanding our work and witness for climate justice and environmental care. Weekly devotions are available on the ELCA website.

### FIA Picks:

#### Events:

- Denver Art Museum, Imagining Freedom, until September 7th
- Denver Art Museum, Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and Mexican Modernism. Look for info for a group event sponsored by FIA. Opens October 25, 2020

### Movies/TV/Streaming

❖ **The 19th\***: A nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom reporting at the intersection of gender, politics and policy. “We aim to empower women—particularly those underserved by and underrepresented in American media—with the information, community, and tools they need to be equal participants in our democracy.”

A part of their story: “Today, women make up more than half of the American electorate and are more engaged than ever in our politics — marching on state capitols, voting at higher rates than men, and running for local office and seeking the presidency in record numbers. Yet they remain underrepresented in government and in the nation’s executive ranks. Women and gender diverse people are also under-represented in politics and policy journalism

and in newsroom leadership, which influences what stories are told, how the news is covered and whose voices are elevated.

In short: The 19th Amendment remains unfinished business, a fact we acknowledge in our logo with an asterisk — a visible reminder of those who have been omitted from our democracy. The expansion of the franchise continues today, and The 19th aims to capture this ongoing American story.” <https://19thnews.org>

### Books/ Articles/ Blogs

- ✓ *Whiteness Lessons*, NYT Magazine, by Daniel Bergner. “Robin DiAngelo and her Book “White Fragility” have become a national phenomenon. But do the approaches taken by her and other antiracism trainers really serve the cause of racial equality?” So asks the writer.
- ✓ *The Long Blue Line*, The New Yorker, July 20, 2020, subtitle: Inventing the Police. Ever wonder where the whole idea of a police force or department ever came from? Here is a history of policing that spans centuries.
- ✓ *Experts in de-escalation*, High Country News, July 2020, subtitle: How Eugene, OR, avoids unnecessary policing. Learn about CAHOOTS.
- ✓ *Lethal law enforcement*, High County News, July 2020, subtitle: Police from Western states are some of the most militarized...

### Our Closing Thought:

Any one’s death diminishes me  
Because I am involved in Humankind  
And therefore never send to know  
for whom the bell tolls,  
It tolls for thee.  
(With apologies to Donne)

Upward,  
Faith In Action Ministry Team



## Please mark your calendars, for Fall Clean-Up Day

Atonement and Mike Lewellen need your help for Fall Clean-up Day on **Saturday, September 26th, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon** to spruce up the church grounds. Please bring gardening tools to help with the clean-up. If you have any questions please contact Mike Lewellen or the church office, 303.985.1122.

## Thank You for your Generosity during these Challenging Times!!!

**Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

---

Our Mission and Ministry continues, and we thank you for your continued generosity. It is truly “God’s work” that can only be done with “Our Hands”.

### Drop in the Bucket – focus for September - Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

During the month of September, our “Drop in the Bucket” (DitB) focus brings us closer to nature. Please help support “Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp”. You can continue to give donations using the following methods.

### Mail a check to the church

Yes, we still take checks and cash ☺

### Giving by TEXT Message- directed to “General Operating”:

- TEXT Giving is directed to “General Operating”.
- Simply, Text the {\$ Amount of your Donation} (example: 50) to phone # **720-513-1562**
- For more information about Donating using the Text, please view this YouTube Video: Give + Text for Members Presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj7AiH6rty0>



**Online Donation via our Website:** The donation website can be reached using the following paths:

- 1) Go to the Website: <https://www.atonementdenver.org/home.html>, then, click the button.



- 2) Use the Barcode Scanner App on your Smart Phone, Scan this QR CODE:



### Donation via Mobile App:

This ‘app’ is available using Android or iPhone

- Get the App ‘Give Plus Church’ using Google’s Play Store or the Apple Store and install to the IoT Device (Smart Phone/Tablet)
- Find your home church using either address or “Find the Church Near Me” and select “Atonement Lutheran Church 6281 W Yale Ave...”
- Select the “+” PLUS Button to begin the process of submitting your donation

For more information about Donating using the Mobile App, please view this YouTube Video:

‘Give Plus Church’ Mobile App Quick Start Presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAjqUxK8YRk>



Submitted by: Mike Skaff – Finance Committee

## ShopwithScrip Now has a new Mobile App



### RaiseRight mobile app FAQs

#### What makes the app a better way to earn?

- It's easy to find, download, and use on-the-go. No more explaining, just tell people to go to the App Store.
- Use your same ShopWithScrip sign-in information and all of your information is already there.
- Easily browse brands offering bonus earnings and know when the offer ends.
- Easier login with biometrics.
- More robust search capability that gets you to the brand you want, faster.
- Gift cards and payment information automatically transfer to the app.
- Discover new earning opportunities every day.
- Add brands you love to your Favorites for faster shopping.
- Manage your gift cards in one place: your Wallet. Track balance, access your gift card even when you're offline, and more.

#### Is there a fee to use the app?

No. It's free to download right from the app store, for both Apple/iOS and Android/Google.

#### Why is there a new name for the mobile app?

A mobile app was the #1 request from our families, along with a name that better describes what we offer, something easier than "Scrip." The name RaiseRight is clear, simple, and says what it delivers—it's simply the right way to fundraise. And it's easy to make it personal when promoting to your organization. RaiseRight – simply the right way to fundraise for . For promoting, we have also maintained a connection through the RaiseRight by ShopWithScrip logo that can be used in all of your communications.

#### Can I still use MyScripWallet.com?

For now, yes. The RaiseRight app will replace MyScripWallet.com later this year because the app is a better experience and easier to use. You'll receive updates when the date gets closer so you have time to prepare. All of your information in MyScripWallet is in the app, just download and use.

#### Can I continue to use ShopWithScrip.com?

Yes. Your sign-in and account information are the same for ShopWithScrip.com and our mobile app, RaiseRight. You can use both—choose the most convenient one in the moment. Remember, you get exclusive earning opportunities in the app.

---

Shop at [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) or on your phone using the **NEW RaiseRight App**

Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) or the **RaiseRightApp** and 'Join a Program' using  
**Enrollment Code: FFA8723561822**



The merchants represented are not sponsors or otherwise affiliated with the logos other identifying marks used are trademarks of and owned by each represented company affiliates. Please visit the company's website for additional terms and conditions. © 2020



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **Atonement**

**Lutheran Church, ELCA** every time you shop. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to our church. Same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com

Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0594012](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0594012), You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

Yes, you can 'double dip' using an Amazon Gift Card from ShopwithScrip and also use AmazonSmile!!!

## 2019-2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President  
**Eileen Koppenhaver**  
Vice-President  
**Phil Pienkos**  
Secretary  
**Jan Sweeney**  
Treasurer  
**Kathy Fletcher**  
At-large Representative  
**Audrey Brack-Banks**  
At-large Representative  
**Wendy Brown**  
At-large Representative  
**Howard Folz**  
At-large Representative  
**Liz Kelpis**  
At-large Representative  
Open

## 2019-2020 MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Adult Education  
**Carol Farr**  
Building  
**Tom Ayers\***  
Grounds  
**Mike Lewellen\***  
Children & Youth Ministry Open  
Congregational Caring  
**Beverly Karika**  
Evangelism  
**Marcia Cunningham**  
Faith In Action  
**Suzanne Rousso**  
Co-Financial Secretaries  
**Jeanine Riedel**  
**Randy Cunningham**  
Men's Ministry Open  
Outreach Ministry  
**Wendy Brown**  
Stewardship  
**Randy Cunningham**  
Women's Ministry Open  
Hannah Circle  
**Betty Moody**  
Worship & Music  
**Shauna Skaff**

\*Graciously serving as interim leaders

## Why Aren't There Any Financial Reports?

Since many church growth guru's highly suggest not publishing financial records/reports in newsletters and bulletins as it is often a "turn off" for visitors, and often for some church members who do not want to hear about or see financial figures listed in such publications (Yes, we do frequently hear, "I'm tired of the church always talking about money!"), after much debate and prayer, the Church Council has decided to go with that expert advice. Instead, we would highly encourage all members, visitors, and anyone else who would like to see the financial reports for that matter, to either call or email the church office requesting a monthly (or quarterly, whichever you desire) copy of the financial information to be emailed (or sent "snail mail") to you. We would be more than happy to get these records sent out to whoever is interested as it is our goal to always be transparent in the finances of the congregation. There will always be copies of the financial reports available in the church office for anyone to pick up as well. Thank you for your understanding as we wish to be financially transparent, yet we also wish to move forward successfully with our evangelism efforts. Blessings to everyone and we hope you know how grateful we are for you, and for your continued generosity!

Keep safe, and God be with you!  
Pastor Kristi Beebe



## Shredder Truck at Atonement Returns Saturday, Sept 19th 10:00 am-Noon

Please bring your documents to Atonement's parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 19th for on-the-spot confidential shredding by Curbside Data Control. As always this event is open to anyone in the community. Volunteers are needed on Saturday to assist people unload their material! To volunteer or for additional information, please contact Kathy Stapleton—Evangelism Ministry Team, or Brandon Bill—Youth & Community Outreach Coordinator or the church office.

*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.*



Atonement  
Lutheran  
Church

6281 West Yale Ave, Lakewood, CO 80227  
303-985-1122  
churchoffice@atonement-denver.org  
www.atonementdenver.org

