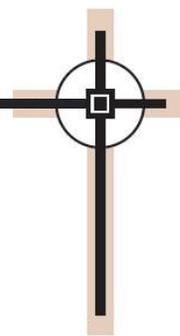


VOICE OF ATONEMENT



Happy Lent and Easter, get ready for resurrection! What a time for transition. Transitions can be difficult, but they don't need to be a negative. They offer opportunities for growth, to improve, to reevaluate, to prune away the dead things, and to move forward. In many the Church year mirrors the state we find ourselves in. Lent is a time for us to reflect upon our lives to prune away those things which do not bring life and to nurture and encourage those things that do.

We find ourselves in a time of reflection at the same time that we are preparing ourselves to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, the very core of our faith is the celebration of Christ conquering death. Christ models for us a way forward, that die to self in order to be born anew. In church life we are called to mirror that event and to celebrate new life and new beginnings.

Many of us grieve the loss of Pastor Chris, but now is a time to reflect on where we have been and to look forward and remember to celebrate the things that make Atonement what it is. Pastor Chris is only a part of that, and the new interim pastor will be welcomed, bringing a whole different set of gifts. He or she will have an impact on who we are and what we become as a church family. With the upcoming changes in Council and the Executive Committee it is easy to see why we will feel anxious about this transition in particular. New council members will mean a new start, as each member brings their own gifts to bear on the life of the congregation. That same impact is felt whenever we take on new members, the church is never the same once we take on new members in the body of Christ. Mostly that is for the good. We can also use transitions as a time to hone down our rough edges as a community. We have the chance to hit the reset button, it can be a time to celebrate.

In this time of transition in this season of Lent going into Easter, we should be about praying more fervently for one another. Let us keep that attitude as we move forward, so that more than anything else, we pray: pray for our Nominating Committee, pray for the church council, pray for the interim, pray for the staff, and above all pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ here at Atonement.

Peter Hebert



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GUESTS IN MARCH

Dear Atonement Friends,

Imagine you and I sit in an urban city classroom one day. We look at the young students and find 20 of them in the classroom with an overworked, underpaid teacher. As we think about the bright futures of these children it dawns on us - 5 of these students will be arrested and in prison at some point in their lives. Such is the reality of domestic issues concerning poverty, race, and the criminal justice system in America.

How does this happen in a country blessed with our resources? How do we care for returning citizens after their imprisonment? What systems affect the scary rates of incarceration among people of color and other Americans? How has ministry in Africa taught our guests about the need to address these issues here at home?

The Faith in Action (FIA) group at Atonement began studying these issues before I arrived as your seminarian. This subject caught my attention immediately because of my own personal experiences with the criminal justice system. Many of you know how these experiences led me to personal faith in Jesus Christ. As FIA continued discussing these issues I offered to extend an invitation to several clergy for an educational session at Atonement.

I am proud to welcome Rev. Canon Petero Sabune, Africa Partnership Officer of the Episcopal Church, Rev. J. Edward Lewis, Sr., Pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church (Newburgh, NY) and Rev. Velinda Hardy, Deacon (NC Diocese) to Atonement Lutheran Church on March 16th. Rev. Sabune and Rev. Lewis are founders of the Forgiveness and Reconciliation Project (TFRP) and Rev. Hardy joined their ministry. In addition to TFRP, Rev. Sabune and Rev. Lewis pastor congregations in New York, and work as Chaplains in the New York Dept. of Corrections. Rev. Hardy works in a number of ministries including counseling women convicted of drug offenses and overseas work with orphans and women affected by AIDS.

TFRP works with people in Rwanda towards healing after the genocide in 1994. Since its creation the ministry extended its work to include numerous other African countries and relief work in Haiti.

Rev. Sabune was born in Uganda and is the son of a priest; he came to the United States through the American Field Service (AFS) exchange program in 1969. He returned to Uganda in 1970 and, fleeing the ruthless dictator Idi Amin, came back as a freshman at Rutgers University in 1972. There he joined his brother who was then attending Rutgers Law School. Sabune has shared that Idi Amin killed his brother in 1976; and his sister was killed by one of Amin's men in 1977. Another brother died in Kenya after a narrow escape from Amin's men.

Rev. Lewis is the son of a Baptist preacher from Toledo, Ohio. As a child he sang for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He received the 2006 New York Governor's Award for Excellence in Leadership as a result of innovative ministry as a chaplain in the department of corrections. He is past-president of the New York State Chaplain's Association, Supervisor for the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, and has taught counseling and pastoral care in seminaries. He has pastored churches in Baptist, United Church of Christ, and Presbyterian settings over the last 30 years.

Rev. Hardy is ordained to the Order of Deacon in the Episcopal Church. In addition to

GUEST IN MARCH CONT.

teaching in higher education, she works as a counselor for women convicted of drug crimes in North Carolina. Internationally she works with orphans and women affected by AIDS. She serves on the Committee for Prison Ministry in the Diocese of North Carolina.

As we welcome our guests, please extend an invitation to friends, neighbors, and others. Share the newsletter with them. As the State of Colorado continues to decrease it's budget for education and other public services, it steadily increases its budget, now upwards of \$635 million per year, for prisons. This represents nearly 10% of the State budget.

Thank you, everyone, for continuing to encourage me as I complete my ordination requirements and theological education. You mean a lot to me. I pray this program may bless you and infuse you with courage to continue asking hard questions and discover innovative ways to extend the love of God in Christ.

Blessings,
Richard Gianzero
Mobile: 720-284-8991
Email: richard.gianzero@yahoo.com

EASTER LILIES

To adorn our altar with flowers this Easter, we are asking people to sponsor lilies. Each plant is \$15.00 and your check may be included in the offering made out to Atonement Lutheran Church, notation-Easter Lily. Please sign your name and indicate your dedication on the sign up sheet in the narthex. Plants may be taken home after the last service on Easter Sunday.

EVANGELISM

New Member Classes

We will be having New Members Classes on Sunday, April 3rd and 10th at 11:45 AM followed by lunch. You can sign up by **Phone: (303-985-1122)**, Email (churchoffice@atonement-denver.org), guest book, pew card or in the Narthex. We hope to see you there.

HANNAH CIRCLE

Hannah Circle meets on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 1:00 pm. We'll be studying the third session on Philippians titled "Being of one mind" The lesson is found on page 26 of the "gather magazine" There are two copies of the magazine in the church office and there will be copies of just the lesson on the table in the narthex by Sunday, the 6th. Please join us for Bible study and fellowship.

SENIORS LUNCH BUNCH

The Seniors Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Ted's Montana Grill on Wednesday March 2nd at 11:30 AM. Ted's Montana Grill is located at 330 S Teller St, Lakewood, CO. Please sign up in the narthex if you're planning to attend. Please contact the office with any questions.

ISSUES OF RACE & INCARCERATION

Join us for a presentation and discussion on

Issues of Race & Mass Incarceration

Our presenters collaborate in several innovative areas of ministry and social justice in the U.S. and abroad. They work in prison ministry as chaplains and educators. They founded The Forgiveness and Reconciliation Project, (TFRP) created after the 1994 Rwandan genocide, which gives them unique perspective on current issues related to race and incarceration. Rev. Sabune was born in Uganda and while studying in the U.S. his brother and sister were killed by Idi Amin. Rev. Lewis is recipient of the 2006 NY Governor's award for excellence in African-American leadership, only the second chaplain to receive the award. In addition to their chaplaincy roles, both Rev. Sabune and Rev. Lewis pastor congregations in Upstate New York.



Presenters:

The Rev. Petero Sabune (left)
The Rev. J. Edward Lewis, Sr. (right)
The Rev. Velinda Hardy (not pictured)

Along with TFRP work, Rev. Hardy works with women and orphans affected by AIDS, teaches in higher education, is a Counselor for women convicted of drug crimes, and serves on the Committee for prison ministry in the North Carolina Diocese. She is an ordained Deacon.

WHEN:

Wednesday, March 16th, 6:00 pm

Come early to join us for a light Lenten meal at 5:30 pm

WHERE:

Atonement Lutheran Church

6281 W Yale Pl, Lakewood, CO 80227

Questions: Contact Richard Gianzero at rgianzero@iliff.edu

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children in PreK through 5th grade are invited to a youth group for young children on Saturday, March 12th from 1-3 pm at Atonement. Children will enjoy games, crafts, and a snack. Registration BY March 10th is required so we know how many supplies are needed. Contact Lisa Hepler (720-363-8100) or Amanda Whitt (303-667-4997) with questions or to register.

ALL children are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am on Sunday, March 27. We will gather near the Columbarium (weather permitting).
(There will be NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday.)



Vacation Bible School is June 20-24

We are busy planning for a FUN week of activities that will bring Bible stories to life. Before we can begin inviting children, we must recruit enough adult and teen volunteers. Please consider your talents and how **you** can assist with VBS in one of the following ways:

SHEPHERDS (1 adult and 1 teen are needed for each group—we hope to have 5 groups) – You are responsible for accompanying a group of children to the various workshops each day. You do not need to plan any lessons, but you are asked to participate and encourage the children in your group. Your connection to your group is vital to their VBS experience.

WORKSHOP LEADERS have a chance to work with all the children as they rotate through your workshop each day. You will be provided with a guide to help you plan exciting activities related to the daily Bible lesson.

- Art Workshop Leader & assistant
- Games Workshop Leader & assistant
- Snack Workshop Leader & assistant
- Science Workshop Leader & assistant
- Storytelling Workshop Leader & assistant

If you would like to help (even if you are unable to commit to the entire week of VBS), please contact someone on the Children's Ministry Team.

Our next Children's Ministry Team Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 pm in the Education Unit. Please feel free to join us and share your ideas.

Amanda Whitt
303-667-4997
paisley615@gmail.com

FAITH IN ACTION

Help a Refugee Family

Faith In Action committee sponsored a speaker from Lutheran Family Services on Sunday, Jan. 31. We are now assessing Atonement's interest in forming a team to visit refugees when they arrive in Denver. So far, Barbara Kaare-Lopez, Cathy Bajcsi, and Michelle Healey are interested in forming a team. IF you would be interested in joining our team, please either call Barbara at 303-716-0530 or email her at bkaarelopez@hotmail.com. Please RSVP by March 13.

The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries

Book Discussions on 03/13/2016 following the 10:30 service

FIA will continue its focus on the ELCA's most recent social statement, the criminal justice system and mass incarceration with a book discussion. We will read *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, AL and tells the stories of defending poor clients in the criminal justice system.

"Bryan Stevenson is America's young Nelson Mandela, a brilliant lawyer fighting with courage and conviction to guarantee justice for all. *Just Mercy* should be read by people of conscience in every civilized country in the world to discover what happens when revenge and retribution replace justice and mercy. It is as gripping to read as any legal thriller, and what hangs in the balance is nothing less than the soul of a great nation."—Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Prison Ministries in the U.S. and Uganda

Faith in Action has invited Pastors Lewis and Sabuni, colleagues of our seminarian, Richard Gianzero, to speak about their prison ministries. They will participate in the Lenten service on March 16 and speak after it. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins and in this newsletter.

Peter Severson, Director of Advocacy for Rocky Mountain Synod

Peter will speak at the Adult Education session on 04/03/2015 on advocacy efforts in our synod, mass incarceration and the criminal justice system. He will also preach at both services.

FIA Picks

City of Thorns by Ben Rawlence:

The author interweaves the stories of nine individuals to show what life is like in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, the site of a large UNHCR base hosting 329,811 people in five camps as of October 2015, making it the largest refugee camp complex in the world. He sketches the wider political forces that keep the refugees trapped there. Rawlence combines intimate storytelling with broad socio-political investigative journalism.

50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS

As part of Atonement's 50th anniversary, we have collected hundreds of photos over the 50 years, including ones from our celebration this past December. These photos are being compiled on a special commemorative CD, which will be available for purchase (only \$5) at the end of March between Sunday services. Look for a table in the narthex, or for more details in the weekly email.



It's Atonement's story! It's OUR story! It's YOUR story!

THANK YOU

Carol Farr wants to thank everyone for your cards, gifts, prayers, and words of concern and encouragement during my health challenges these past several months. I was blessed to have seven congregations across Denver and the USA praying for me and that prayer has been heard as I was told on February 12 my PET-CT scan showed no more lymphoma affected cells. PRAISE OUR LORD! I still need to have three more two day chemo sessions, so will appreciate continued prayers.

So thankful for my Atonement family.
Carol Farr

WOMEN'S FSS 2016

Sign up to plan a Monthly Activity for FSS for 2016. Just pick a month—sign your name—and if you know the place write it in also. You don't have to pick a place right away. When your month is coming up, make a reservation and let the office know which restaurant you have picked and we will make a sign-up sheet. Any questions, call the office.

RENOVATION COMMITTEE

The renovations to the Fellowship Hall have been completed. A new projector and computer have been added, the electrical system has been reworked and several new outlets were installed. When we tally our costs we may look into the purchase of a new screen. A big "Thank You" to Carol Farr, Mike Lewellen, Tom Rupprecht, Jan Sweeney and Amanda Whitt for all of their time, effort and great suggestions.

QUILTING BEE

There will be no quilting bee meeting on March 3rd. We will be taking a field trip to a quilt show + sale on Saturday, March 5th in Longmont at First Lutheran Church. First Lutheran Church is located at 803 3rd Ave. (3rd Ave & Terry St). The quilt show will be open from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$1 and proceeds benefit safe shelter of St. Vrain Valley and O.U.R. Center. More information can be found at www.interfaithquilters.com or by calling Jan Lehnertz at 303-985-9252. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP

----- A way of life

In our approach to stewardship in the life of our church, we tend to think episodically. We associate autumn as the season for stewardship in relation to gathering pledges and preparing budgets for the next year, and stewardship as one episode in the flow of congregational life.

This point of view does not do justice to the comprehensive character of Christian stewardship. Stewardship is a way of life, a way of living in gratitude for God's generosity and remaining accountable to God for how we use our time, spiritual gifts, and possessions. The life of a steward anticipates the day when God will say: "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Matthew 25:23

Your team is looking at ways to view many other episodes of stewardship in the activities of our congregation throughout the year. Stay tuned for many seasons of stewardship at Atonement.

We welcome anyone who would like to join our stewardship team. We meet at 6:00 PM on the third Thursday of most months. If you would like more information, please see me or email me at carolfarr@aol.com.

Blessings,
Carol Farr

ADULT EDUCATION

In March Adult Ed will finish the Animate series, "Practices".

Animate sessions feature "perspectives from Christian thought leaders which are built on centrist Protestant theology that's not too liberal or too conservative.

The sessions are thoughtful, edgy, and present interesting ideas." There is no book to purchase for this series and we hope you will join us.

March 6th: MONEY, THE JOY OF SHARING-Shane Claiborne – Shane's message can easily be construed as political, but he asks us to look beyond –isms and –ologies to see financial generosity as a kingdom call, rather than a social position.

March 13th: SERVICE, THE NEEDS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU – Enuma Okoro – Enuma is a seasoned traveler, having lived and worked in countries on four continents. But she encourages us to see the needs around us. This local context can give us a new understanding of what service really looks like.

March 20th: COMMUNITY, AN UNEXPECTED FAMILY – Doug Pagitt – Doug pushes us to think of community as more than just a nice idea. He invites us to remake our communities by bringing our gifts, our talents, and our ideas with us wherever we go.

March 27th: EASTER SUNDAY NO ADULT EDUCATION

LENT SCHEDULE

5:00	Set up in the Fellowship Hall
5:30-6:30	Meal in the Fellowship Hall
6:00	Program starts in the Fellowship Hall
7:00	Worship in the Sanctuary

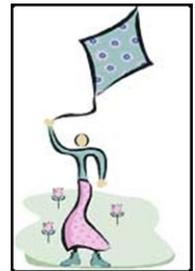
LENTEN SOUP SCHEDULE

March 2nd	Evangelism Adult Education
March 9th	Outreach Ministry Children's Ministry
March 16th	Stewardship Worship Men's Ministries

LENTEN OFFERINGS

New Beginnings Worshipping Community

New Beginnings Worshipping Community is a member of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and provides worship service every Friday to women offenders within the walls of the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. Their mission is: *Together* we are able to transform shattered lives from walking in fearful isolation to restored wholeness in a safe and peaceful worshipping community.



Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty and helps communities cope with and recover from emergencies in ways that promote lasting improvements in people's living conditions. In response to the Syrian refugee crisis LWR supports ACT Alliance members in providing humanitarian support. ACT members are providing hygiene items, winter coats and blankets, emergency shelter and psychosocial support in Hungary, Serbia and Greece.



Lenten offering envelopes are provided for your convenience in the pews. Atonement's 2016 Lenten offerings will be shared with The New Beginnings Worshipping Community, a local ministry, and with Lutheran World Relief which ministers worldwide.

<u>2016</u>	<u>January</u>
Budget Income	\$50,430
Income	\$57,246
Expenses	\$26,016
Net Income	\$31,230
Principal Payments	\$3,750
Net Cash Outlay	\$27,480

MISSION SUPPORT

Atonement received several very special gifts in January that totaled over \$20,000. In addition, we transferred over \$2,300 from the Building Maintenance Fund to cover ongoing costs for the remodeling of the Fellowship Hall and the purchase of an overhead projector as a part of that remodeling, which is being capitalized. Net income for the month was over \$31,000.

CAPITAL FUND

We have received an additional \$3,578 in mortgage reduction contributions in January. We currently have a balance of \$11,550 in the Mortgage Reduction Fund. We did not make a special principle payment in January, but will in February in the amount of \$11,550.

FOOT CARE CLINIC

Join us for our Wellness Foot Care Clinic on the second Thursday of every month from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. To sign up, please call the Visiting Nurse Association at: [303.698.6496](tel:303.698.6496). This month, we will be meeting on the 10th.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Lou & Jan Harding	-March 6
Linda Neslund	-March 13
Mike & Shauna Skaff	-March 20
Lynn & Gayle Gunderson	-March 20
Open	-March 27

VISIT US

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

John Krug
Steve Midthun
Sharon Lombard
Helen Pfnister
Shelly Slinkard
Michelle Healey
Elva Olson

Eric Anderson
Audrey Clausen
Carol Farr
Jenni Walcher
Elaine Litchenwalter
Euvonne Johnson

SECOND SATURDAY

Please join us on March 12th for this second Saturday event. This month, professional Irish dancer Martin Percival, will be returning to Atonement as our guest. Martin played the lead role of "the lord" in Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance," and he has also performed with Riverdance, as well as in the show choreographed by Jean Butler, "Dancing on Dangerous Ground." We look forward to seeing you there.

STAFF

Worship Director

Rev. Peter Hebert

Office Admin.

Linda Neslund

Communications/
Media Office Assist.

Nick Root

Choir Accompanist

Carol Ott

Organists

Carol Ott

Gayle Gunderson

Seminararian

Richard Gianzero

COUNCIL

Council President

Melissa Lemke

Vice-President

Tom Ayers

Secretary

Betty Moody

Treasurer

Ruth Ann Fleming

At Large

Amanda Whitt

Jan Sweeney

Jean Viste

Laura Buhs

Keith Goman