



## Atonement Lutheran Church

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

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# Voice of Atonement

February 2026

## Pastor's Message

### Greetings in Christ's Name!

As we gear up for Ash Wednesday and the 40 days of Lent, many people turn to figuring out what they'll need to give up for this season of the church year. This year on February 18th, as happens every year at the beginning of the Lenten Season, Christians receive the ashes and hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." And each year, Christians promise to do better in following Jesus.

But that's not the whole of what Lent is all about. Lent isn't God saying, "You failed; do better." Lent is even more importantly God's way of drawing us closer to the heart of the Gospel ~ that Christ died for us, even though we are sinners, or maybe, because we are sinners. God is love, and God's love is for all people.

Because of God's amazing love for ALL people, God sent Jesus to show us how to love one another.

This year during the season of Lent ~ the five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday ~ as we reflect on all God in Jesus has done for us to bring us love, life, and salvation, we have the unique opportunity to truly live out the love of Jesus by joining with our ecumenical partners in the Gospel, "The Mission of Hope and Mercy," a Catholic community meeting in the Thraemoor area

of Lakewood; in other words, close to Atonement.

The lovely people of The Mission of Hope and Mercy, along with their priest, Father Andre YS Mahanna, a United States citizen, originally from Lebanon, are going to share together in the Lenten Season with us at Atonement. We will gather under the theme of "FAITH & HERITAGE: A LENTEN JOURNEY." Father Andre, who at age 10, along with his family and other families, escaped Christian massacres by living in caves in Mount Lebanon, is uniquely qualified to speak on the topic of religious freedom in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the United States. An opera-trained vocalist, Father Andre works tirelessly to encourage American leaders to keep God in the public square. He will give a short homily under the sub-

themes for each Wednesday of Lent: FAITH; HOPE; LOVE; JOY; and PEACE.

You have a choice! Worship services will be at either 12 Noon, followed by a Light Lunch (and we invite those that attend the Noon service to volunteer to prepare a lunch; talk to Eileen Koppenhaver if you are willing!), and at 6:45pm, preceded by a delicious meal at 6:00pm prepared by the community of "Hope and Mercy." What a

### ATONEMENT STAFF

Senior Pastor

**Pastor Kristi Beebe**

Youth Leader

**Erik Williams**

Office Manager

**Audrey Brack-Banks**

Choir Accompanist

**Carol Ott**

Music Accompanists

**Gayle Gunderson, Carol Ott**

FAITH



HOPE



LOVE



JOY



PEACE

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

### Current

Mary Alice McDougal; Eileen Koppenhaver; Sonja Bazard; Kelly Amedee (Ruth Zartman's son in law); Whitney Wisdom (Julie Strasser's cousin); Randy Updike; Donna Zentner; Scott Beebe; Melanie; Marjorie Sandoval; Allison (Barb Krug's sister-in-law); Walter Bekman; Nancy Henning; Grace Gillette; the family and friends of Carol Farr; the family and friends of Mary Eckberg

### Ongoing

Allison (Toni Jung-Brack's daughter); Guy and Carol Markle (Barb Krug's brother and sister in law); Sharon Krebs; Marin, (Charles and Annie Adkisson's daughter); Anna (Dee Teasdale's granddaughter); Jacque; Jeff (Charlotte Updike's son); Jean (Mary Campe's friend); Jean Viste; Pastor Kristi

### PLEASE NOTE:

Names on the Prayer List will be included for two weeks, if needed. If you desire someone to remain on the Prayer List longer than two weeks, please email or call the church office near the end of the two weeks to ask to have the person remain on for another two weeks.

\* If someone's name is removed, and should remain on the Prayers, please call the Office Staff to put them back on the list.

\*\* We also encourage all members and visitors to daily pray for these people and/or situations.

Thank you!

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treat that will be! At both services (12 Noon and 6:45pm), we will use the beautiful "Holden (Evening) Prayer" service that Lutherans have come to know and love.

Please join us as we combine with other Christians to live out the love of Jesus in our midst, in our community, and in our world!

May Faith, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace be with us!

—Pastor Kristi Beebe



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## From the President

We are basking in the light of Epiphany. All the glow following Christmas as the Three Wisemen traveled to see the Newborn King. You may have noticed most of the music after Christmas through Epiphany being light filled with happiness and positivity. Now in the second half of February, we are moving into Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 18th. We will continue with Lent for the next 5 weeks. Every Wednesday for 5 weeks, we will provide two services, Noon, with lunch following and 6:45 PM, supper Lenten service at 6 PM. Be sure to read Pastor Kristi's newsletter article about the services with Father Andre and his worshipping community. We are offering a theme *Faith and Heritage – A Lenten Journey with the Holden Evening Prayer*.

You may recognize the following author, Ann Weems, from some Christmas poems I have shared. This one is from one of her book for Lent and Easter. Many of us look for rainbows in the storm clouds and soon, in spring rain. But as I read this poem again, it spoke to me in a different way. It speaks that the Mission of the church is to walk among the suffering and give, bringing the hope of good news to the poor. It is our calling to protect and care for so many in our country, citizens of all colors, refugees of all colors. For those who take their families out of danger to a place of security, like Joseph taking his family out of Israel to Egypt. I pray that we at Atonement can spread the news, spread the promise of God as we travel through Lent.

### WALKING RAINBOWS

A rainbow is not just a symphony of colors sent to calm the storm in our souls; it is a talk with God, a mysterious, miraculous conversation with God, heart to heart, the very heart of God saying to our hearts:

“I remember I am your God. Be my walking rainbows, so that the whole world will know to whom you belong, for I am the God who keeps promises, and I have not forgotten our covenant.” This is the hope of the church: that God keeps promises. The mission of the church is to walk among the suffering and give, for we are covenant keepers, walking rainbows, bringing the hope of the good news to the poor.

Ann Weems, 1993  
*Kneeling in Jerusalem: Poetry for Lent and Easter*

—Eileen Koppenhaver  
Church Council President



## February Birthdays

Janice Bogert	2/5
Jack Ford	2/10
Jacque Bland	2/13
Brian Bogert	2/14
Bob Smith	2/17
Jenni Walcher	2/18
Jean Viste	2/25
Carleigh Ross	2/29

## Building Use

We have several new groups renting space in our building. We are happy to host groups for fellowship, learning and worship. Please check with Audrey in the church office when you want to plan a meeting or a party. She can let you know what space is available, dates, and times.

## Women's Ministry

Just before "Press Time" Women's Ministry held a planning meeting for the new year!

Possible activities include: a visit to the Center for Women's History, a "BOLD" Women's Day, a Spring Tea, and a service project of some kind.

Keep looking for details of these possible events. We're loving Women's Ministry!

## In and Out Reach Committee

I hope you have had the opportunity to "taste and see that the Lord is good" while sampling treats at our Sunday morning coffee hour! We are blessed to have so many wonderful bakers in our congregation!

As always, a HUGE thank you to the folks that continue to set up and clean up the coffee cafe each Sunday and those who bring goodies to share or contribute in other ways. This is the perfect place to speak to someone you may not know well, and perhaps attends a different service than you do. We encourage you to volunteer for set up or clean up so if you are able to do so to keep this important ministry going.

Please sign up to serve as Greeters at the

service and date of your choosing. Sign up sheets are behind the greeter's table in the narthex. It is so important to be able to identify and greet those coming to worship at Atonement who are not members and have them sign the guest book so that we can reach out to them in the hope of seeing them again at worship.

If you do not receive a mailed greeting card on your special day, it could be that your information is not in the church database (or even human error!!) and all it takes is a call to the church office to get it there. By the end of the month, 109 birthday cards will have been mailed to members this year.

—Barbara Krug

## Drop in the Bucket Benevolence Ministry

Drop in the Bucket Ministry donations for February go to the **ELCA Family Services for Refugees/Guests**. The ELCA, through Global Refuge, offers a range of services to support refugees and guests in the United States. These Services include:

**Resettlement Services:** Assisting refugees with housing, employment, English language, and cultural orientation to help them to become self-sufficient, and integrate into their new communities.

**Legal Assistance:** Providing legal counsel and support to those without legal status, including unaccompanied children and asylum seekers.

**Community Integration:** Offering pastoral and legal counsel, aiding the citizenship process, helping newcomers learn to live in a new country.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Encouraging individuals to volunteer their time, donate needed items, or become a refugee employer. The ELCA's commitment to serving refugees and guests is rooted in their belief in human dignity and the intrinsic value of every individual. They strive to provide a soft place to land and support newcomers through a complex system.



## THE CORNER DESK

Hello Friends!  
Hope you all are staying warm!  
February is a busy month here at Atonement!

Don't miss **Soup-er Bowl Sunday** on February 8th. (The date of the real NFL Super Bowl!) Bring canned soup to church to benefit Community Ministry. A donation entitles you to wear your favorite team's gear on 2/8/2026

Of course, **Ash Wednesday** is coming up on February 18th. We'll be having services at noon and 6:45pm. We look forward to Lenten services here at the church at noon starting 2-25-2026, going through March 25th. Make sure to stay for a light lunch afterwards.

If you would like to try **square dancing**, Atonement is your place! The Square Halos Square Dance Club still meets on the second and fourth Friday nights at 7:00 PM in the Community Center. We even have a new group using our facilities-- the Mountaineers Square Dance Club is giving lessons on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM. These lessons run through April.

Evenings are quite busy here at the church. Please give me a call before making plans to use our facilities!

### Remember:

"Let February be the month you choose warmth - in your heart, your words, and your dreams:

*Audrey Brack-Banks  
Atonement Office Manager*

**HELP US WIN THE HUNGER GAME for COMMUNITY MINISTRY!**

**SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 8TH**

Help Community Ministry celebrate by donating cans of soup - you can continue to donate through out February!

Soup donation entitles you to wear your favorite team's sports gear to church on 2/8!

*Ash Wednesday Services*

**February 18**  
at  
**12:00 noon**  
and  
**6:45 pm**

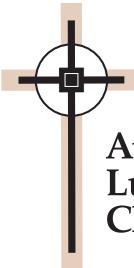
**Lenten Services, Wednesdays**  
**from Feb 25 to March 25**

**Noon services, stay for lunch afterwards**

**6:00 PM Lenten Supper**  
**6:45 PM Lenten Services**



**The Square Halos Square Dance Club**  
has a dance on the second and fourth Fridays of every month. Have fun and get a little exercise while making new friends. Meet in the Community Center at 7:00 pm.



**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.*

## Looking Ahead to March

- **Lenten Services** continue through to March 25th. We have Wednesday services at noon with a light lunch afterwards, or join us for a Lenten Supper at 6:00 PM followed by a 6:45 PM Lenten services.
- **Palm Sunday services** will be on March 29th at both 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM.
- **Maundy Thursday Services** will be on April 2nd at 6:45 PM
- **Good Friday Services** will be on April 3rd at 6:45 PM
- **Easter Sunday Services** will be on April 5th at 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM

## Stewardship

### Ash Wednesday Wake-up Call

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

With these ancient words from Genesis 3:19 and the swipe of a dirty thumb across our foreheads, Ash Wednesday propels us into the season of Lent with the proper context to understand our lives as stewards of all that God entrusts to us.

The essential teaching of Ash Wednesday – that we are just mortals, after all – crushes our ego, dispels our pretensions and drives us deep into God’s mysteries. Why are we here? What are our lives all about? What’s *really* important? Pray over these questions and profound insights emerge.

**We are dust.** Yes, but we are God’s dust. Our body consists of trillions of atoms, each one a speck of “dust” created by of God, billions of years ago. God put us together from the very stuff of the universe.

- Therefore, we are quite literally “earthy” beings, made of the same material as air, water, soil and stone. Part of creation, we work to preserve and sustain the health of God’s.
- Therefore, we have reverence for our bodies, expressed through healthy.

**We are breath.** We are “dust,” but not *only* dust. We are “dust” into which God has “breathed the Holy breath of life” (Genesis 2:7).

- Therefore, every breath we take is holy. Every breath is a prayer that reminds us of God’s life force in us.
- Therefore, we look to God to align our lives and ourselves with God’s holy reality that arcs towards peace, love, joy, justice and truth.

**Our time is brief.** Because our “dust” will return to the earth, we live a finite number of minutes on earth.

- Therefore, every hour, every second is sacred. We spend our time wisely, carefully, prayerfully.
- , we do not cling to our possessions, knowing that we only hold onto them for a little while.
- Therefore, we nourish our lives with world treasures of real value – friendships, trust, love, joy, service, generosity and harmony.

This Lent spend time in prayer, with openness and honesty. See how God will turn your heart and mind, transforming you into the person you were created to be. Reflect each day on Ash Wednesday. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

—Rob Blezard

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# Faith In Action News

## Faith in Action Focus: Weather

Please check out the FIA kiosk in the narthex! Our advocacy focus for this year is Weather and climate change impacts on weather. Not only do we have lots of fascinating



pages of information, but please notice the kiosk itself is sturdier! Suzanne Rousso and



Cathy Bajcsi did some deconstruction and repairs and managed to find (most of) the screw holes to reconstruct a braced kiosk to better serve you!



CSLC is a nonpartisan and all-volunteer organization that works to create a better future for Colorado. CSLC meets every Monday at noon while the legislature is in session and periodically in the fall when the legislature is not in session. Meetings include legislative briefings and programs in which

legislators and community professionals present information about current problems and proposed legislation. Regular meetings are free and open to everyone. Faith In Action has been a member for several years and attends the Zoom meetings or views the recordings of previous events.

The Kickoff for 2026 reflected several of the same issues raised at the 2025 Fall Kickoff:

- **\$1 Billion shortfall:** at the end of the 2025 session it was forecast that Colorado would face a budget shortfall of \$1 billion due to inflation, caseload growth and automatic program increases.
- **Another \$1 Billion shortfall:** On July 4th with the signing of the One Big Beautiful Big at the federal level, CO faced an additional billion-dollar shortfall because of its “rolling conformity” with the federal tax code. When the Federal tax code decreases taxable income that automatically decreases CO’s taxable income.
- **In addition:** CO will be facing increasing cuts to its Medicaid and SNAP benefits that flow from the Federal Government through CO to its citizens. These will continue to increase in 2027 and 2028.
- **The Math Does Not Work.** Because of these events, CO will not reach its Tabor Cap, which has more impact than no refund dollars. The lack of a cap dollars severely impacts CO “maneuverability” during the year as it seeks to fund vital programs for its citizens. There seems to be no room to make up this shortfall.
- **One proposed solution:** A Graduated Income Tax. Proposed at this time is a slight increase to those making \$500,000 or more/year and a reduction to those making \$100,000 or less /year (98% of Coloradoans). Details are all in discussion at this time, but the talk and support are growing.

To learn more about these ideas and findings, go to the CSLC website, click on “Events” and then on “2025 Fall Kickoff”. Chris Stffler of CFI covered the same ground as the CFI presentation at the 2026 event. If the 2026 Legislative Kickoff is listed, click on that as the event was recorded live. Learn more by contacting your legislator or senator. This topic will undergird the entire 2026 Legislative session.

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## FIA Picks

• **PBS “ENERGY SWITCH** (program) This program complements the upcoming FIA book review “The Great Displacement,” happening on Sunday, Feb. 1st, at noon, at Atonement!

Extreme Weather, Part 1 and 2 Available to view on PBS, PBS Passport.

The “Energy Switch” is a dynamic series about many issues regarding energy and climate. The show is a point-counterpoint talk show, featuring America’s leading experts, moderated by scientist and television host Dr. Scott Tinker. The show brings together two renowned experts from government, NGOs, academia or industry with differing perspectives on vital energy and climate topics.

The episodes about “Extreme Weather” Part 1 and 2 discuss recent IPCC data to reveal surprising trends regarding heat waves and cold spells; historic rainfall and current patterns, storm frequency and intensity.

What is the IPCC? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The United Nations body that assesses the science related to climate change, providing policymakers with regular reports on impacts, risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. The IPCC synthesizes thousands of published scientific papers into comprehensive assessments used for international climate negotiations.

The expert panel on the Energy Switch show is surprisingly easy to understand and is thought-provoking. Each episode is less than thirty minutes. Check it out!

### • *The Testament of Ann Lee* (movie)

Ann Lee, the founding leader of the Shaker Movement, proclaimed as the female Christ by her followers. Depicts her establishment of a utopian society and the Shakers' worship through song and dance, based on real events.

## Raise a Glad Sound: An A-V Capital Campaign

Help us move from  
analog to digital!



“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!” – Psalm 98:4

**The A-V Capital Campaign** is ready to go. Great plans for improved sound, both in-house and online; a new hearing assistance hardware/software for much improved sound in the worship space. Based on the funds available, we will most likely do this upgrade in phases. Of course, the best would be to do the project all at once. The next phases will include new digital projectors that will work ALL the time and provide bright clear images, microphones to replace and upgrade what we currently have;

and finally add two remote cameras for streaming better quality video/live streaming. It is an ambitious project. We have delayed these improvements for several years, but the time is NOW. Please use the QR code to give a gift towards this campaign so we can Raise a Glad Sound!

## CHURCH COUNCIL

President  
**Eileen Koppenhaver**

Vice President  
**Tracy Ford** 720-339-8338

Secretary  
**Julie Strasser** 303-988-5504

Treasurer  
**Pam Peschel**  
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Member at Large  
Open

## MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Adult Education

**Carol Farr**  
capreolar@Alo.com; 303-985-3278

Building and Grounds

**Brian Strasser** 303-988-5504

Children's Ministry

**Jenna Wagner**

Youth Ministry

**Erik Williams**

Congregational Caring - reorganize

In and Outreach (Evangelism)  
**Barbara Krug**  
720-398-9109

Faith In Action

**Cathy Bajcsi**  
**Toni Jung Bracks**

Fellowship Ministry

**Dan Bock**  
**Nate Blair**

Stewardship

**Larry Koppenhaver**

Women's Ministry  
**Toni Jung-Brack**

Worship & Music

**Eileen Koppenhaver**



# Servant of the House

## February 2026

Servant duties are as assigned below. If you are signed up for a date on which you will not be available, please contact someone to replace or trade with you, or call the church office to do so. Thanks so much!

Date	Greeters	9:00 AM	10:45 AM
2/1		Mary Campe	Mary Campe
2/8		Jeanette Hill	Barb and Bernie
2/15		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Dean and Lily Reinfort
2/22		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Nate and Laura Blair
Readers		9:00 AM	10:45 AM
2/1		Jim Ris	Audrey Brack-Banks
2/8		Audrey Brack-Banks	Johann Cohn
2/15		Audrey Brack-Banks	Caren Cohn
2/22		Dan Bock	Audrey Brack-Banks
Ushers		9:00 AM	10:45 AM
2/1		Alan and Tracy Ford	Barb and Bernie
2/8		Jeanette Hill	Barb and Bernie
2/15		Toni and Mike Brack	Dean and Lily Reinfort
2/22		Mike Brack, Toni Jung-Brack	Nate and Laure Blair
Coffee Café	(Between services only)		
	set up and clean up		
2/1	Mary Campe		
2/8	Barbara Krug		
2/15	Judi Bauer		
2/22	Barbara Krug		



Atonement  
Lutheran  
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