



Atonement Lutheran Church

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



July/August 2026

Voice of Atonement

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ATONEMENT STAFF

Senior Pastor

Pastor Kristi Beebe

Youth Leader

Erik Williams

Office Manager

Audrey Brack-Banks

Ensemble Accompanist

Carol Ott

Music Accompanists

Gayle Gunderson, Carol Ott

Pastor's Message

Greetings!

As everyone is well aware, this July our nation marks and extraordinary milestone: the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Two and a half centuries ago, a declaration was signed ~ a bold and costly proclamation that ALL people are created equal and that freedom is a God-given right. As we celebrate this anniversary ~ with fireworks and parades and hamburgers and all ~ and within our worship on July 5th at both 9am and 10:45am ~ we give heartfelt thanks for the remarkable freedoms so many of us have come to know and cherish in this country.

Yet, even as we celebrate, we hold in our hearts those who do not share in these freedoms. Around the world ~ and even now within our own borders ~ countless people find their lives being uprooted: by war and displacement, by poverty and injustice; by oppression and fear. We pray for all who long for safety, dignity, and peace. As the Apostle Paul writes: *"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."* (Galatians 5:1, NRSVUE). May those words be not only comfort, but our calling.

The freedoms granted by nations, however precious, are fragile. They can be threatened, eroded, or currently for so many, taken away. But there is a freedom that no power on earth can revoke. Jesus himself declared: *"If you continue in my word, you are truly my*

disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31-32, NRSVUE). THIS is the freedom that matters most ~ freedom from sin, shame, condemnation, and death. *"There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death."* (Romans 8:1-2; NRSVUE).

THIS is the freedom the prophet Isaiah foretold ~ the anointed one sent "to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives." (Isaiah 61:1; NRSVUE). In Christ, that promise is fulfilled. As Paul reminds us, *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom;"* (2 Corinthians 3:17; NRSVUE) and, *"Now that you have been freed from sin, and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life."* (Romans 6:22; NRSVUE).

THIS freedom is meant for ALL people, for "ALL people are created equal." So we've got some work to do ~ we need to remind everyone that true freedom is freedom in Christ and ALL are welcome to partake in Jesus gifts of forgiveness, grace, love, and new life. We say we are the "United" States of America, so notice true freedom is when everyone is united together in God's love. It's not just for us; it's for all people.

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**ALL
people
are
created
equal.**

GENTLE YOGA CLASS

meets every
Wednesday from 10-
11am.

Bring your own mat or
use one provided.

Yoga Teacher:
Toni Hansen
\$10/class.

It's a great activity for
body, mind, and soul!

HANDS ALL AROUND CRAFT GROUP MEETS EVERY 2nd & 4th MONDAY...

Bring a craft and come
and craft and visit
together.

All are welcome!

Sons of Norway Scandinavian Fair

July 24 & 25

10:00am-3:00pm

Admission Free, Lite Lunch from
11:30 AM-1:00 PM; A wide
variety of merchandise will be
available to purchase.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

as a new School Year begins!

Date: August 16th during
worship!

It's also the Back to
School/August Congregational
Picnic day! Lots of excitement
so come and join in!

(continued from previous page)

The words of a Traditional South African
Freedom Song remind us that in Jesus:

*"Freedom is coming; Freedom is coming;
Freedom is coming; Oh, yes, I know!"*

Those joyful words ring out with profound
truth for followers of God everywhere! This
freedom is lasting and unending no matter
what else happens in our earthly life. It
transcends borders, flags, and centuries. As
we gather this Fourth of July to celebrate 250
years of American independence, let us
celebrate even more so the freedom we have
in Christ Jesus ~ the one who gives us grace,

love, forgiveness, mercy, and eternal life. And
let us share this freedom with EVERYONE,
not just those of us in the USA. Praise be to
God ~ freedom is coming, and for those in
Christ, it's already come! Share the good
news!

In the freedom of Christ,

—Pastor Kristi Beebe



From the President

Growing Together in God's Grace

Summer has a way of reminding us that
God is always at work. We see it in gardens
bursting with color, children laughing at camp,
families enjoying vacations, and friends
reconnecting over coffee after worship. Even as
our routines change, God's love remains
constant, providing strength, hope, and peace
every day.

At Atonement, we continue to experience
God's blessings through worship, fellowship,
and the many volunteers who faithfully serve
our congregation. Whether you greet visitors,
sing and provide music, help with worship,
serve on a ministry team, prepare
refreshments, or quietly pray for others, your
gifts make a difference. Thank you for sharing
your time and talents so generously.

A special word of thanks goes to everyone
who has volunteered in the church office while
Audrey continues her recovery. Your
willingness to answer phones, welcome
visitors, prepare bulletins, and keep the day-
to-day ministry moving forward has been a
tremendous blessing to our congregation. We
are grateful for your servant hearts and the
many ways you have stepped in to help. We
continue to pray for Audrey's healing and
strength, and we are hopeful that she will be
able to return sometime in August.

As we look toward August, we'd love to

celebrate the season together with a **Summer
Picnic** for our church family and community.
Imagine an afternoon filled with great food,
laughter, games for children, conversation with
friends, and the opportunity to welcome
neighbors who may be looking for a church
home. Fellowship is one of God's wonderful
gifts, and sharing a meal is a simple but
meaningful way to strengthen relationships
and extend Christian hospitality.

**To make this picnic a reality, we need a
team of enthusiastic volunteers.** If you enjoy
planning events, organizing food, decorating,
setting up, grilling, coordinating games, or
simply lending a helping hand, we'd love to
have you on the team. No one person will do
all the work—we're looking for several people
willing to share ideas and responsibilities so
that everyone can enjoy the day.

If you would like to help plan the Summer
Picnic or serve on the planning team, please
contact the **Fellowship Team** or the church
office at churchoffice@atonementlakewood.org.
Even if you can only help in a small way, your
participation will make a difference.

Please continue to keep those in our
congregation who are experiencing illness,
loss, or difficult circumstances in your prayers.
A phone call, a visit, a note of encouragement,
or a simple act of kindness can be a powerful
reminder of Christ's love.

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School Supply & Backpack Drive

Help Local Students Start the School Year Ready to Learn!

Atonement is collecting **new school supplies, reusable water bottles, and backpacks** for the children and youth of **Cristo Rey**, our Mission Partner congregation. Your generosity will help students begin the new school year equipped with the tools they need to succeed.

Suggested Donations:

- Backpacks
- Reusable water bottles
- Wide-ruled notebooks
- Spiral notebooks
- Folders (with pockets)
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Pencils
- Pens (blue, black, and red)
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Washable markers
- Highlighters
- Dry-erase markers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Pencil boxes or pouches
- Erasers
- Rulers
- Index cards
- Pocket calculators
- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes

Please bring your donations to church by Sunday, August 9.

A collection area will be available in the church lobby.

Thank you for sharing Christ's love in a practical way and helping the young people of Cristo Rey begin the school year with confidence and hope. Every donation makes a difference!

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As summer continues, may we take every opportunity to worship, serve, and encourage one another. Together, we are building a caring community where Christ's love is shared with one another and with our neighbors. We look forward to seeing you in worship—and we hope you'll consider joining the Summer Picnic team as we create another joyful opportunity for fellowship at Atonement.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."
—Hebrews 10:24–25

May God bless you and your family throughout the remainder of the summer.

—Eileen Koppenhaver
Church Council President

In and Out Reach Committee

Have you noticed some unfamiliar faces at the worship services recently? We have had many visitors sign the church's "guest" book and are delighted that some folks have come back and recently attended a new members class with Pastor Kristi! We really would like to have greeters in place at **every** service **every** Sunday!!! If greeters are in place, in addition to welcoming members, visitors can be identified (who really cares if you are greeted and asked at the 9 am service if you are a "visitor" because you normally attend the 10:45 service!!) and we can follow up to give those who sign the book an opportunity to learn more about what Atonement has to share. It's always great to be greeted when entering the worship area even if you have been a long time member. Please think about volunteering to greet and sign the sheets provided behind the greeters' table for a date and service that suits your schedule.

In addition to serving occasionally as a greeter, grabbing a beverage and/or snack between the two services presents an opportunity for fellowship with members who attend a different service time. As always we are very appreciative of the folks who assist with making coffee, setting up the goodies that are donated, and also cleaning up.the more who do so, the faster the tasks get done. Sign up sheets are available on the stand near the entrance to the kitchen.

As of the end of May 2026, 51 birthday cards have been mailed to members to celebrate their special dates. I am aware that some folks do not have their birth dates in the church data base and are not getting cards. Please, if you are one of these, let the church office or me know your birthday!

—Barbara Krug

**Mark your calendars for a
BACK TO SCHOOL/AUGUST PICNIC**

August 16th at Noon!

**We're looking forward to gathering everyone together
for fun, fellowship, and food!**

Games for kids/adults will be a part of the event also!

If you can help coordinate this ALL CONGREGATION event, let us know.

Remember Plastic Free July!

Last summer FIA promoted Plastic Free July with examples of everyday alternatives to plastic packaging and waste. The effort continues for all of us, please keep the message and recommendations of PFJ in mind as you enjoy your summer. For more information go to plasticfreejuly.org

On June 14th FIA was pleased to host Aldis Strautins from the National Weather Service and several Atonement members for a lunch and Table Talk on his specialty hydrology, especially relevant to us here in Colorado. His presentation focused on the impacts from too much and too little rain. We learned about the ways and places flooding occurs and how the NWS monitors and alerts the public about risks. He clarified the differences between weather watches, advisories and warnings and discussed the responsibilities to communities for the decisions to implement each. He reminded us of the Grizzly Creek Fire near Glenwood Springs that spanned both sides of I-70 and how weighing the potential inconvenience and cost to close the highway for safety reasons was handled by professionals over many agencies like the NWS and C-DOT. It was illuminating to hear about the various ways weather and weather-related risks are assessed and the information disseminated. Thanks again to Aldis for sharing his time and talent with us.

Check out how weather was instrumental in history.

Faith in Action Pick:

Movie “Pressure”

Pressure is a World War II drama focused on the tense 72 hour period before the D-Day Invasion of Normandy. It is a true story. It centers on the incredible meteorological and strategic conflicts the Allied leaders faced when determining

whether to launch the attack as planned on June 5. (Google)

One meteorologist predicted good weather for that day. He used the history of weather patterns in these areas. He was the charismatic American Irving Krick. The other meteorologist was the Scotsman Group Captain James Stagg, the Chief Meteorologist Officer. He predicted severe storms by using barometric pressures that identified a massive storm approaching. This operation was called Operation Overload. There was a 72 hour window of manageable weather in the English Channel.

Who will General Eisenhower listen to? Will he listen to the charismatic American Irving Krick who predicted good weather, or listen to the Scotsman James Stagg, who predicted severe storms and wanted to delay the invasion to Nazi occupied Europe....perhaps to June 18?

D-Day was June 6, 1944. So what happened to delay this invasion only 1 day? (Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

FIA Book Group – Here’s Your Summer Read

Simon Winchester attempts to answer the new question: “What is going on with our atmosphere?” Recent headlines were filled with news of devastating hurricanes, murderous tornadoes, and cataclysmic fires affecting large swaths of America. Here, in Colorado, we note anniversaries of the Marshall, Troublesome and Hayman fires.

In 2022, a report was released by atmospheric scientists at the University of Northern Illinois, warning that winds—the force at the center of all these dangerous

natural events—are expected to steadily increase in the years ahead, strengthening in power, speed, and frequency.

Between two poles—wind as a malevolent force, and wind as savior of our planet—lies a world of fascination, history, literature, science, poetry, and engineering which Simon Winchester explores with the curiosity and vigor that are the hallmarks of his bestselling works. *In The Breath of the Gods*, he explains how wind plays a part in our everyday lives, from airplane or car travel to the “natural disasters” that are becoming more frequent and regular.

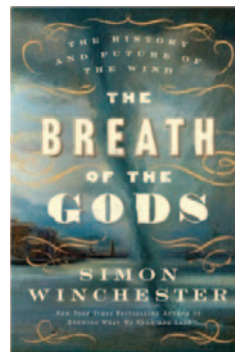
FIA will host a discussion table talk with lunch sometime in September. This a weighty book, but also a fun and compelling read. Please plan to read it and join us

Protest in Peaceful Rally with Bear Valley Indivisible on Saturdays

Faith in Action Events. I have participated in many of the peaceful protests on Saturday mornings with Bear Valley Indivisible. You can Google Mobilize/Indivisible for more information. These rallies are held on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at 3096 S. Sheridan...at the intersection of S. Sheridan & W. Dartmouth. The purpose of these peaceful rallies is to protest the war in Iran, and resist ICE brutality. They are committed to non-violence.

There are bathrooms accessible in the Bear Valley Library; there are parking spots between the church and library. As stated, these rallies are held on the northeast corner of S. Sheridan & W. Dartmouth, in front of the Presbyterian church. Everyone is welcome.

“Democracy is a messy business”, Former President Obama...plus others have used this quote. (Barbara Kaare-Lopez)





RAINBOW TRAIL LUTHERAN CAMP

DAY CAMP

HANDS WIDE OPEN

July 20~24, 2026



Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Philippians 4:6-7

We are excited to welcome your child for a fun-filled week of faith, friendship, music, games, crafts, and outdoor adventures with the counselors from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Whether this is your child's first Day Camp or they're returning for another great summer, we can't wait to share God's love together!

REGISTER IN 3 EASY STEPS!

- 1**  **COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM**
Download and complete the 2026 Day Camp Registration Form.
- 2**  **COMPLETE THE HEALTH HISTORY FORM**
Download and complete the 2026 Day Camp Health History Form.
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp requires both forms for every camper.
- 3**  **PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE**
Pay online by scanning the QR code or visiting atonementlakewood.org/DayCamp.

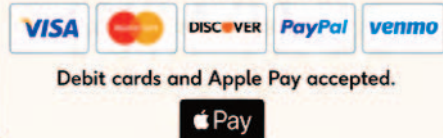
PAY REGISTRATION FEE

Scan the QR code
or visit

atonementlakewood.org/DayCamp



SECURE PAYMENT OPTIONS



RETURN COMPLETED FORMS

You may return completed forms by:

-  Email: atonementlakewood@gmail.com
-  Mail or Deliver:
Atonement Lutheran Church
6281 W. Yale Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80227



REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

- ☒ Registration Form completed
- ☒ Health History Form completed
- ☒ Registration fee paid
- ☒ Ready for an amazing week of Day Camp!



 atonementlakewood@gmail.com

QUESTIONS?
We're happy to help!

 atonementlakewood.org/DayCamp



Atonement Lutheran Church

Grace-filled. Welcoming.
Inclusive. Christ-centered.



"Hands Wide Open" reminds us that God welcomes each of us with love, grace, and open arms. We can't wait to welcome your family and share a week filled with faith, laughter, learning, and new friendships.

⇒ We look forward to seeing you at Day Camp! ⇐

CHURCH COUNCIL

President

Eileen Koppenhaver

Vice President

Tracy Ford 720-339-8338

Secretary

Julie Strasser 303-988-5504

Treasurer

Pam Peschel

treasurer@atonementlakewood.org

Financial Secretary

Eileen Koppenhaver

eileen.kopp@icloud.com

Member at Large

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dmalyszko@malisko.com

Member at Large

Eric Muhle eric.muhle@gmail.com

Member at Large

Open

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Adult Education

Open

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

UBER or LYFT gift cards are needed for a few members who cannot drive anymore.

Let's help out in giving them a ride to Worship and fellowship! OR, if you are able to give rides to people, that would be wonderful as well! Bring gift cards to the office, or put them in the Offering plates; OR, let us know in the office if you are able to provide a ride! "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." Let's fulfill that commandment by making it possible for ALL our members/visitors!



Help Make Day Camp a Success!

Our annual **Day Camp** is almost here, and we invite our church family to help make it an unforgettable week for our children and our visiting counselors. There are many ways you can share Christ's love through hospitality and service!

We are looking for:

- Healthy snacks for our campers
- Gift cards to help purchase camp supplies and food
- Volunteers to assist with children's activities during camp
- Volunteers to help in the church office during the week
- Individuals or families to provide lunches for the camp staff
- Additional support for meals throughout the week

A special thank you to **Kaare Lopez**, who is sponsoring our **Wednesday evening dinner** for the camp staff and volunteers.

We are also grateful to **Pam and Jenni** for providing a home for our visiting camp staff during the week. Your generous hospitality is a tremendous blessing!

If you would like to help in any of these ways, please sign up at the church or email atonementlakewood@gmail.com.

Every snack, meal, gift card, hour of service, and prayer helps create a joyful week where children grow in faith, build friendships, and experience the love of Jesus. Thank you for partnering with us in this important ministry!



Atonement
Lutheran
Church

6281 West Yale Ave, Lakewood, CO 80227

303-985-1122

churchoffice@atonementlakewood.org

www.atonementlakewood.org



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Information Update

Living in God's Love ~ Reaching Out with Hope

Keeping Our Church Family Connected

Please review your household information and make any updates.

Household Information

Household Member	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address

Street Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Preferred Contact Method

☐ Home Phone ☐ Cell Phone ☐ Email ☐ Text In Church ☐ U.S. Mail

Stay Connected

Weekly E-Blast: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Monthly Newsletter: ☐ Mail ☐ Online ☐ Do not receive

Text In Church: ☐ Yes

Children & Youth in Household

Name	Birth Date	Grade	School	Notes

Household Changes

☐ New address	☐ Name change
☐ New phone	☐ Added household member
☐ New email	☐ Other _____

I'd Like More Information About...

Worship: ☐ Greeter ☐ Usher ☐ Reader/Lector ☐ Communion Assistant ☐ Worship Assistant ☐ Audio/Visual & Technology

Music: ☐ Praise Team ☐ Ensemble ☐ Instrumentalist

Learning & Growth: ☐ Adult Bible Study ☐ Children's Ministry ☐ Youth Ministry ☐ Day Camp/VBS

Care & Fellowship: ☐ Prayer Ministry ☐ Meal Ministry ☐ Fellowship & Hospitality

Service: ☐ Property & Grounds ☐ Office Volunteer ☐ Crafts & Quilting

Comments

☐ No changes—our household information is current.

Signature _____ Date _____

Privacy Notice

Information provided on this form is used solely for the ministry and administration of Atonement Lutheran Church.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

6281 West Yale Ave. • Lakewood, CO 80227

303-985-1122 • churchoffice@atonementlakewood.org • atonementlakewood.org

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