



**Atonement  
Lutheran  
Church**

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



June 2026

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*Pastor's Message*

**Greetings!**

Worship on Pentecost is always a wonderful service, even though after asking you all to wear red, I forgot to wear my own red suit! There's only three opportunities all year (Pentecost, Reformation, and Christmas Eve) I have to wear my favorite red suit I purchased while in Spain at Mango's Department store, and I forgot. Oh well, the running joke at our house is: "Blame it on my Antiphospholipid Syndrome and Micro Brain Bleeds!" (Actually, not so much of a joke, but we make it one as it's far better to laugh than to cry!)

This past Pentecost we sang "The Church Song," by Jay Beech. It's a great Pentecost song as it talks about the whole church, and Pentecost is known as the Birthday of the Christian Church. You may recall some of the lyrics:

**REFRAIN:**

*We are the church, the body of our Lord;  
We are all God's children. We have been restored.*

**VERSE 1:**

*The church is not a building, where people go to pray;  
It's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay.*

**VERSE 4:**

*The church, it is the people, living out their lives,  
Called, enlightened, sanctified, for the work of Jesus Christ.*

It's so true, isn't it? We are ALL the church... not just at Atonement Lutheran, not just in the ELCA, not just in any other denomination. ALL people who confess Jesus as Savior are

members of the body of Christ...including our young people who are all too frequently seen as those to whom a congregation talks into making the Easter Breakfast, has to do the Christmas Program or a Youth Led Worship service once a year, or who some people "Shhhh" in worship. Yet our young people in the Christian church should be thought of as much more than that! They are the church along with every single one of us! So how about we encourage them in their Christian faith and support them in their activities.

I'm sure you know the song: "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world..." ~ so this summer, here are some ways for all of us to love, nurture, encourage, and walk alongside the children and young people of our church community, ways that will make a real difference in their lives:

1) VBS Day Camp ~ We Need YOU to support this great opportunity for them! July 20-24 is Day Camp where we are blessed to have Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Counselors leading the way, organized by our own Cheri Kruger! But they can't do it alone ~ although they do most of it ~ and that's where you come in. We are looking for Adult, High School, and Middle School volunteers to help, whether you have an hour to give of your time, or all week!

- **Crafts** (they'll show us what to do, and we just help the young people in making a project they'll treasure); **Snacks** (both bringing them and/or setting them up); **Games** (bring your energy and assist the Counselors in these fun events); **Bringing**

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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**



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Tom Strunc (nephew of Mary Campe); Lee Eisert (brother of Mary Abbott); Kris (sister of Liz Kelpis); Karen Strott (daughter of Donna Zentner); Adam Howard (Katy Brakeen's son); Alajandro Chacon (Pastor's friend); Audrey Brack Banks; Grace Gillette; Iris McKenzie Ford (Carmen Cohn's sister); Kurt Kohls; Nancy Henning; Vonnie Jones, prayers for faith and healing (Pam Peschel's cousin); Randy Updike; Ricardo (Gayle Gunderson's son-in-law); friends and family of Pio Zambrano (Trish Sanders friend); friends and family of Kenneth Harding; the family and friends of Leslie Crowe

### 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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in **Lunch for our Counselors**, or **Gift Cards** for them to buy lunch in advance; **Providing Dinner at your home** or **Gift Cards** so Counselors can go out for Dinner; sometimes they even like movie gift cards to go to the theater in the evenings; **Give to a Scholarship Fund** (helping financially assist families to come to camp); and/or **Provide Housing for 3-4 Camp Counselors** (it doesn't have to be a Hilton type of accommodation, just a room with a bed, or sofa beds; or even a blow up mattress on the floor ... they aren't picky!)

2) Support our young people GOING TO Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Hillside, CO for a week (or half week for Intro to Camp). Those going for the first time: Molly Malysko will attend Junior Camp June 14 - 20th; Hazel Malysko and Julie Muhle will attend Intro to Camp June 14 -17th; and for those returning: Sophie Bock, attending High School Camp along with a friend. Ways we all as a church family, can support them:

- Send cards in advance so they get there while our young people are there (RTL; person's name; 3056 Co Rd 198, Hillside, CO 81232), or give cards to me at worship on June 14th (or prior) and I'll personally take them with me after worship on my way to serve as Camp Pastor June 14-20th.
- A special Happy Birthday shout out for Hazel whose birthday will be while she is at camp! Send, or give me to personally deliver, **Birthday Cards for Hazel** ~ a perfect chance to make her day extra special, especially since it'll be the first one she's not celebrating with her parents. Imagine how her face will light up

receiving birthday wishes from her church family. Let's make it a celebration she won't forget!

- 3) Summer is full of opportunities to build relationships with our **Middle School and High School Youth!** Talk to Erik Williams, our Youth Director, for ways you could be involved.
- Maybe you could be like my parents always were when I was in "Luther League" (youth group), and be drivers and chaperones for various events. My parents loved it, and my friends (and I) loved having them as well, since they were so much fun! Maybe it could be this way for you as well. Reach out to Erik if you're interested.
  - Or, since Owen Bock just graduated and will soon be journeying off to Gonzaga University in Spokane WA, and Gavin Whitt also just graduated, if you haven't already, you could send/give them a card celebrating their High School Graduations.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cherished church friend ~ young people are one of God's greatest gifts to all of us, and each of you have something to offer them: your time, encouragement, a card, or just showing up ~ it can change a child or youth's entire day, maybe even change their lives! "It takes a village ..." ~ let's be that village, this summer, and always, for ALL the children and youth who are a VITAL part of our church family. In Christ's Service,

—Pastor Kristi Beebe



### E-Blast – what is it?

We use Constant Contact for sending out ALC news between newsletters and Sunday bulletins. If you would like to opt in let the church office know a good email address for you. If you want to opt out the E-Blast will give you that option. Send your email to churchoffice@atonementlakewood.org with Eblast in the subject line.

## Spring Congregation Meeting June 28

The Spring Congregation Meeting of Atonement Lutheran Church is scheduled for Sunday, June 28, at 9:50 AM between worship services.

The primary business of the meeting will be the election of Church Council members. As preparations continue, the Nominating Committee is prayerfully discerning who the Holy Spirit is calling to serve in leadership within our congregation.

Please keep the Nominating Committee and all potential candidates in your prayers as we seek God's guidance for the ministry and future of our church. All members are encouraged to attend this important congregational meeting.

## President's Corner

I know — “The Corner Desk” usually belongs to Audrey! Since our Office Manager suffered a broken leg just before Easter, we have truly missed her presence around the church office. In the meantime, that corner desk has become home to many helpful volunteers stepping in wherever needed.

I've been trying to help coordinate and manage some of the projects Audrey normally handles. Experience helps a little, but as we all know, times and systems keep changing! Each day, generous volunteers answer phones, greet visitors, and take on tasks as they arise. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to help. A special thanks as well to our Ministry Team members who have graciously helped

carry the load during this season.

The good news is that Audrey has now begun physical therapy using both legs and is finally able to put pressure on her injured leg. We continue to pray for healing, strength, and patience as she recovers. We deeply miss her gentle presence in the office, her welcoming voice to those who call, and the support and beautiful voice she shares with the Praise Team.

Please continue to keep Audrey in your prayers.

*“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”* 3 John 1:2 (NIV)

—Eileen Koppenhaver  
Church Council President

### Update:

On June 3 ListenUp will be installing part of the first phase of our new sound system and the Auri Assisted Listening System providing the latest in Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) transmissions.

The microphones will be tested with the new audio system before we order needed replacements and updated needs. We pray that we will continue to raise funds for the remainder of Phase 1. Use the QR code to give directly to this Capital Campaign or any other method of gifting ALC is welcomed. Please direct to “Worship Tech Fundraiser”. Soon we'll be able to “hear a glad sound”.



## Drop in the Bucket Benevolence Ministry



### Drop in the Bucket for June,

Love INC mobilizes local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ because we envision a world where Christian churches are united in purpose and fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their communities. Love INC of Littleton is one of more than a hundred Love INC locations across the United States and Kenya, who

partner with over 7.800 Christian churches to serve hundreds of thousands of people in need. Our local Love INC of Littleton partners with 43 churches to serve families who reside in the South Metro of Denver or attend one of our Love INC partner churches. We provide all of our services free of charge to our clients. Those services include diapers/wipes, transportation to appointments, furniture, clothing, food and life skills classes. We tap into the collective resources of 43 local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.



## Graduates 2026



**Owen Bock**, Lakewood High School on May 16th  
Attending Gonzaga University in Spokane Washington  
Majoring in Political Science with concentration in foreign relations

**Gavin Whitt** graduated from Columbine High School. Will attend Warren Tech in Precision Machining in the fall.

**Josie Muhle**, graduating from Preschool

### RELATIVES OF MEMBERS

**Jackson Hill**: graduating from CU, Degree in Computer Science and Communications  
*Congratulations! From Grandparents, Ralph & Jeanette Hill*

**Hannah Alspach** (University of Redlands, CA),

**Hailey Alspach** (Oberlin College, Ohio),

**Meaghan Alspach** (Escondido Charter HS)

*Nieces of Marilyn Heitmann*

## 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 database and are not getting cards. Please, if you are one of these, let the church office or me know your birthday!  
—Barbara Krug

### Donating Stocks to Atonement Can Be Easy

If you own stocks, bonds, or mutual funds in a taxable account they can be transferred as gifts to Atonement (or other charities). This can be used to:

1. Support our church's mission
2. Can result in savings on taxes for you
  - a. You don't have to pay the capital gains tax on this donation.
  - b. The full market value on the date of transfer can be used as a charitable deduction if you itemize on your taxes.

The stocks, etc., must be:

- Currently in a taxable account.
- Must have been held for over one year.
- The actual stocks, etc., must be transferred

directly to Atonement.

For example:

You purchase 10 shares of a stock in July 2009 for \$55.89 per share (\$558.90). You have your broker transfer those stocks directly to Atonement in December 2021. The stock's value at that time of transfer is \$270.51 per share (\$2,705.10). The result is:

- Atonement receives a gift of \$2,705.10.
- If you itemize, you get the full value (\$2,705.10) as a deduction.
- You don't have to pay capital gains tax for the sale of the stocks. That would be taxes

on the capital gains of \$2,146.20.

- If, by chance, you do not itemize on your taxes and donate the stock directly to Atonement, you still avoid having to pay capital gains taxes on the stock you've donated.
- You paid \$558.90 originally for the stock and you transfer it at a value of \$2,705.10.

Atonement has a brokerage account specifically for the purpose of receiving stock donations. If you plan to donate stock, etc., to Atonement:

- Call our treasurer or the church office to get our account information to give to your broker to make the transfer.
- Remember, the stock must be transferred directly from your brokerage account to Atonement's stock account.
- Notify Atonement when the transfer is to be made so they can liquidate the stock, etc., once it has been transferred.
- It's easy, and you will have contributed to our church mission.

As is always a good idea, you should consult with your tax advisor when you begin this journey to see if this is the best path for you to follow.



**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.*

# YOGA CLASSES

## STARTS 3 JUNE AT 10 AM

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

### \$10 PER CLASS

**Tony Hansen, Instructor**

**FIND BALANCE, BREATHE DEEPLY,  
LIVE MINDFULLY**



## **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp**

We have some of our younger members attending RTLC this year!

**Intro to Camp** is an action-packed 3-day camp for kids open to adventure and making new friends. Activities include Bible study, arts & crafts, nature adventures, archery, games, and hiking. Fee includes a special "Intro to Camp" t-shirt and RTLC water bottle.

Hazel Malyszko and Julie Muhle will have their first experience at camp.

AGE REQUIREMENTS- Entering 2nd or 3rd grade

**Junior Camp** is an adventurous week full of building relationships with new friends and staff members through worship, Bible study, hiking, games and much more in God's great outdoors.

AGE REQUIREMENTS- Entering 4th-6th grade

Molly Malyszko is attending Junior Camp

**Camp Pastor** for June 14-20th is Pastor Kristi Beebe. Pastor Kristi says that one of the highlights for campers is getting mail. Bring some greetings to each camper to church before/by June 14 so "mail" can be delivered to our kids. There is a "Pop Shop" at camp. If you want to include a couple of \$\$ it is fun for the kids to shop.



Hint: it is Hazel's birthday during camp.

# Youth Updates

## The Rains Keep Falling!

Colorado has been a rainy place the last couple of weeks and it has been a perfect reflection of our youth group. Not so much the sad and mopey but the deep in thoughtfulness. Whenever the clouds roll in I tend to drink my coffee a little slower and slip into some deeper thinking.

The Youth group has been rather similar the last couple of weeks. We have had hard discussions on how the 4 gospels are similar but NOT identical. To tell the story of Christ slightly differently so that we have a balance of slightly different focus points for the story. The Gospels give us the tools to seek out the deep and meaningful answer based on how we need to hear them.

We have had a fun and meaningful game of Code names where we had to have people guess the words we are thinking, without having our teammate guess the word we want to avoid. We discussed how we sometimes have deep and meaningful conversations with people who don't know anything about the gospel. So, throwing out terms like Grace, crucifixion, and trinity and they look at us like we are speaking Mandarin. So learning how to open up about faith without being confusing or misunderstood.

During Bible studies, we have been able to talk about sibling rivalries of Cain and Able. The personal sacrifice of

giving up our choices for the choices of Christ and his selfless call. Finally, a silly discussion about talking animals in the Bible. If you didn't know the story of the donkey that tried to save his master from the angle of death, I highly suggest a read of Numbers 22.

Finally, we are trying to make plans. Getting excited for summer events. On Saturday June 6th at 1pm (weather permitting). Taking some time to play in the river and share some food. Cheer for each other's adventures with family and friends. Find time to slow down and have Bible studies together on a Wednesday night. Summer is starting to come together.

- June 6th at 1pm – Broken Tee Golf Course – River Run Park – tubing and lunch. I will provide lunch and you can pick up a tube at Target or 5 Below. I do have a pump and a couple extra tubes.
- Wednesday Night Bible Studies will continue through summer at 6 PM.
- Sunday night youth groups will be on hold as we try to find more out of church activities.

—Erik Williams

## Day Camp is Coming to Atonement Lutheran Church!

Get ready for a week of faith, fun, music, games, crafts, and new friendships as Day Camp returns July 20–24 at Atonement Lutheran Church! We are excited to welcome the energetic and caring counselors from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, who will lead an unforgettable week for children in our community.

Children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade will enjoy a full day of activities Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM. Each day will include Bible adventures, songs, skits, outdoor games, crafts, teamwork activities, and plenty of opportunities to grow in faith and friendship.

Our youngest campers, ages 3 and 4, are invited to join a special half-day program from 9:00 AM–Noon designed just for them, with age-appropriate activities, music, stories, and fun in a safe and welcoming environment.

The cost for Day Camp is \$50 per child, with a family maximum of \$100. We hope this affordable program will allow many families to participate and invite friends along for the adventure.

Day Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children to build confidence, make friends, and experience the love of Christ in joyful community. Whether your child has attended before or is joining us for the first time, this promises to be an exciting and meaningful week!

Mark your calendars now for July 20–24 – and invite friends and neighbors to join the fun at Atonement Lutheran Church!



## Water and Weather Linked Before and After the Storm

Join Faith in Action on Sunday, June 14th at noon for a light lunch and Table Talk by **Aldis Strautins**, hydrologist with the National Weather Service at NOAA Boulder. A senior member of the Boulder Weather Team, Strautins will provide an overview of his major duties, introducing the connections between hydrology and meteorology in forecasting weather and weather events (flooding, debris flows, evacuations). He has a varied background with NWS and will be giving us a “birds-eye view” of this unique specialty within the service.

Hydrology is the scientific study of Earth's water. Hydrologists study the occurrence, circulation, distribution, and properties of waters of the Earth and atmosphere. Their work involves analyzing large amounts of data, such as precipitation amounts and river gauge measurements to model and predict flooding. (Think FEMA flood maps) Hydrologists also collect data; provide guidance to other federal, state and local agencies about flooding events; conduct research, and develop methods for integrating new science and technology into the forecast process. (Think flood and debris flow events over burn scars! Think predicting evacuation timings!)

Consider joining us for this opportunity. Register in advance by notifying the church office or signing up on the sheet in the narthex. Lunch will be provided so we need a head count.

## Celebrating Earth Day/Month 2026

On Sunday, April 26, Faith in Action team members helped with a climate-related Earth Day blessing at both worship services. Small blue plastic balls or blue marbles representing our fragile planet were given to worship attendees to hold and contemplate and prayers were offered for action and awareness of environmental challenges. Thanks to all who shared this activity!

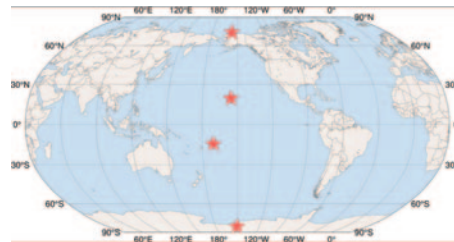
## Faith in Action at NOAA

On Tuesday, April 28, FIA sponsored a trip to Boulder to tour the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 10 members from Atonement were in this group and we learned a lot! Here are some of our take-aways:



## Global Monitoring Laboratory: Taking the Pulse of the Planet

Another stop along the guided tour of NOAA was the Global Monitoring Laboratory. We were not allowed inside the lab, but there were numerous exhibits for viewing.



NOAA/GML operates staffed atmospheric baseline observatories from which numerous in situ and remote atmospheric and solar measurements are conducted. The overall scientific programs and administrative functions of the observatories are handled from Boulder with on-site station chiefs caring for day-to-day station activities. The 4 starred points in the photo denote the stations at Barrow, AK; Mauna Loa, HI; American Samoa; and South Pole, Antarctica.

Since the beginning of the atmospheric measurement record, annually-averaged CO2 concentrations have risen without interruption. This continuous increase is driven by the burning of fossil fuels. The

two significant exceptions to this steady increase in emissions are both attributable to major global economic disruptions: emissions fell from 2008 to 2009 as a result of the global economic recession, and from 2019 to 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. These small decreases are not large enough

to significantly slow the growth of atmospheric CO2 concentrations. It is estimated that fossil fuel emissions would have to be reduced by about 80% to halt the growth in atmospheric CO2.

The other major source of CO2 is wildfires, wildfire CO2 comes principally from tropical and southern land. 87% of wildfire emissions are in those regions.

Offsetting these sources are natural sinks on land and in the ocean. Together, these sinks absorb about half the anthropogenic CO2 emitted into the atmosphere. Over the period 2001-2020, the global sum of “natural” fluxes (fire emissions, the land biosphere sink, and the ocean sink) is 46% of fossil fuel emissions over the same time period. The atmospheric CO2 growth rate would be about twice the observed rate without these sinks.

Along the wall opposite the GML offices is a timeline from -1,000,000 BCE to today. Here's a photo of the end of the display. It is tracking CO2 emissions. It has long been considered that 350 ppm of CO2 (parts per million) is “maximum safe upper limit for atmospheric carbon dioxide to avoid catastrophic climate change. Exceeding this level risks major climate tripping points, such as rapid Arctic ice melt.

In 1989 the planet exceeded this limit, and now as of 2026, atmospheric CO2 has



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surpassed 420ppm, now making 350 ppm a target for long-term climate restoration.” (Goggle, key facts about 350ppm.) At the time of writing this article the Estimated Global Daily Emission was 427.68ppm (its updated daily on GML website.)

GML tracks carbon using not only data from the four stations above but also through a cooperative air sampling network. The NOAA/GML cooperative air sampling network effort began in 1967 at Niwot Ridge, Colorado. Today, the network is an international effort which includes regular discrete samples from the NOAA GML baseline observatories (see above), cooperative fixed sites, and commercial ships. Air samples are collected approximately weekly from a globally distributed network of sites.

Every year 15,000-20,000 flasks of air are shipped to and from the Boulder Central Facility. When the filled flasks arrive back at the flask logistics lab, they are assigned an event number that is unique to that particular air sample and is used to identify the sample in a relational database. Sample flasks are on display at GML and videos are available on its website. (Thanks to Education Outreach guide; website; and personal observations of Suzanne Rousso)

### **Moana Loa Observatory**

The recent field trip to the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) site in Boulder was fascinating! What does NOAA do? “NOAA supports research, data collection, programs, and operational weather forecasts of Earth’s atmosphere and the space environment.” NOAA collects data from many different sources. There are Global Monitoring Labs that the Boulder site administrates; Barrow, Alaska, American Samoa, the South Pole, Antarctica, and Mauna Loa, Hawaii.

Most of us have heard of the observatories on the Big Island of Hawaii. There are two sites. NOAA works closely with the University of Hawaii. Mauna Kea Observatory, at 13,796 feet elevation. This site hosts the world’s largest astronomical research facility, operating 10

independent telescopes. Mauna Loa Observatory, at 11,141 ft. elevation. Charles David Keeling, in 1956, considered Mauna Loa a prime location to measure atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), as it is far from local pollution and is above the inversion layer. It has been collecting and sharing data continually since its operation began. The observatory is operated by the Global Monitoring Laboratory of NOAA. Research from Moana Loa was temporarily relocated to the Mauna Kea observatory during the 2022 volcanic eruptions. Road repairs have been recently completed. This site is not yet reopened to the public. The two observatories are about 35 miles apart.

The Global Monitoring Laboratory does the following-

- 1) Tracking Greenhouse Gases and Understanding Carbon Cycle Feedbacks.
- 2) Monitoring and Understanding Trends in Surface Radiation, Clouds, and Aerosols.
- 3) Guiding Recovery of Stratospheric Ozone.

Recent data shows historic high measurements of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, above 431.12 parts per million! These levels are rising due to continuous fossil fuel emissions and climate-driven phenomena like wildfires. The ocean and land ecosystems (often called carbon sinks) have been absorbing less carbon, exacerbating this accumulation and trapping more heat.

Have you heard of the Keeling Curve that tracks the ongoing accumulation of carbon dioxide in the Earth’s atmosphere? It is a foundational piece of evidence for human-driven climate change. The Keeling Curve can be relevant today by helping us understand whether our actions are making a difference. Please consider what measures you are taking to help lower atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. The future of our planet depends on it!

Places to learn more:

- Look at the NOAA Boulder website! There are options to learn more, tour the Boulder facility online, and

student resources.

- On YouTube- check out “Ask a Scientist, NOAA”
- The Mauna Loa website
- How Scientists Measure Carbon Dioxide in the Air – You Tube Scripps Oceanography
- GreenAmerica.org – Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

### **NOAA Monitors Space Weather**

The tour to NOAA opened with a very interesting presentation of the section on space meteorology. We viewed the laboratory with multiple huge displays of the sun and listened to a lecture on the many effects of the sun’s activity on the weather on Earth. The information shared by this department is not only invaluable to weather forecasting for world populations, but also for information for satellites in space and for communication devices. What is happening in space enables forecasters to predict and prepare for the consequences of solar activity for the weather on our planet.

### **Colorado Weather Events**

The following are weather focused events that occurred in Denver and/or other areas of Colorado. Some of them were listed at NOAA; others were found on Google. They will be listed chronologically. There have been at least 75 climate disasters, costing over \$1.0 billion, that have impacted Colorado in the past 44 years.....since 1980.

1921, Pueblo Flood. 1965, flooding of S. Platte River that occurred in Denver. The Chatfield Dam was constructed after to aid with flood control. In 1976, the Big Thompson flood caused 144 deaths. In 1982, Christmas Eve Blizzard in Denver; 24 to 28 inches of snow fell. In 2002, the Hayman Fire. In March, 2003, 32 inches of snow fell. In 2013, there was flooding in the Front Range. In 2008, the Windsor tornado. In 2021, the Marshall Fire that was wind driven. Many other events have occurred that were not listed and were climate disasters. (Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

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## Furloughs canceled at Boulder NOAA Global Monitoring Lab after 4 million dollars in federal funding released

Furlough notices for about half the staff at Boulder's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Global Monitoring Lab, which were issued early this month in response to the White House not distributing federal funding appropriated by Congress, were rescinded April 16. Work is resuming after more than \$4 million in funding was released.

The scientists, who track greenhouse gases, solar radiation and the recovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica, are employed through CU Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and funded with federal grants to NOAA. On March 24, federal funding ran out, and on April 1, CIRES informed 42 employees that they would be furloughed without pay in May unless federal funding came through. (Cathy Bajcsi)

## National Faith & Climate Forum 2026

Once again, 3 members of Atonement's Faith & Action Committee attended the National Faith & Climate Forum, this year in 2026. Last year we attended the forum at Augustana Lutheran; in April of 2026 we attended it at Advent Lutheran in Westminster.

There were many similarities to the 2025 Forum. Rev. Carol Devine led both forum discussions. The following were topics that were covered both years: Disaster Preparedness Checklist; How To Start a Green Team at Your Congregation; Congregation Green Assessment. NOTE: We helped lead an Earth Day service both years. Also, Energy Efficiency Savings and Worksheet for Congregations were covered both years.

In 2026, Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, whose book "What If We Get It Right?" we read for a Table Talk, was the Keynote Speaker. Unfortunately, she read from her book, which distracts from a

presentation. We later viewed her Ted Talk, which she did not read; that was very interesting. We were to envision "a restored creation in balance, a world where communities flourish because faith and climate action are deeply intertwined".

In 2026's Forum, a New Candidate Climate Assessment was included. It suggested to preview your ballot before voting.....go to 411.org to review it. It was suggested to, "preach with the Bible in one hand, and the newspaper in the other", quoted by Pastor Carol. Other suggestions include: "Don't start a creation group alone. You don't have to do large projects. Do one thing.....Do Something!" "Teach the Green Gospel." "You are not called to do everything; you are called to do Something." "Pick something you care about."

"Totally....." was a word most of the youth used frequently in their presentation. I enjoyed their enthusiasm with the Youth Visions. Youth have anxiety about the climate. It is a problem that they did not create.

Tikkun Olam is a Jewish or Hebrew phrase which was used to signify "to repair the world." To help one person is like helping all people. And how can trees inspire us? What can we learn from trees? Redwood trees' roots go outward, not down. They have to be connected to other trees. And both Forums ended with, "We Have A Common Calling" hymn. "We have a common calling, O God of love and grace.....to care for your creation.....O God, as congregations, we don't act out of fear....."

NOTE: We were planning to address a



Green Audit with the Church Council in 2025. Why didn't we? We were asked to do a different project. How can we implement what we learned at the 2026 Forum at Atonement?

(Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

## FIA Book Group – Here's Your Summer Read

Simon Winchester attempts to answer the new question:

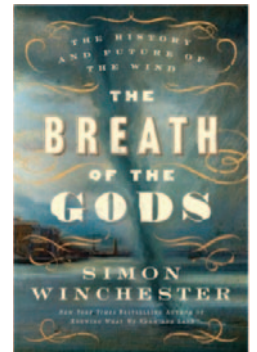
"What is going on with our atmosphere?"

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



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**Toni Jung-Brack**

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**Eileen Koppenhaver**

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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!

### FIA Picks

**The Stars We Do Not See: Australian Indigenous Art** is the largest exhibition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art ever presented in North America. This landmark exhibition is the product of an unprecedented cultural partnership between the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) in Melbourne and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Denver Art Museum will be its second venue. The exhibition introduces audiences to customary forms and styles in Indigenous Australian art, including the conceptual map paintings of the Central and Western Deserts, ochre bark paintings, and experimental weavings. It also highlights the work of new-media artists, who build on tradition with groundbreaking works in neon, video, and photography. Public tours are available Sun/Tue/Thur at 1:30 and on M/F/Sat at 3:00.

*Abundance* by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson explains that our problems today are not the results of yesteryear's villains. Rather, one generation's solutions have

become the next generation's problems. Rules and regulations designed to solve the problems of the 1970s often prevent urban-density and green-energy projects that would help solve the problems of the 2020s. Laws meant to ensure that government considers the consequences of its actions have made it too difficult for government to act consequentially. In the last few decades, our capacity to see problems has sharpened while our ability to solve them has diminished.

Progress requires facing up to the institutions in life that are not working as they need to. It means, for liberals, recognizing when the government is failing. It means, for conservatives, recognizing when the government is needed. In a book exploring how we can move from a liberalism that not only protects and preserves but also builds, Klein and Thompson trace the political, economic, and cultural barriers to progress and propose a path toward a politics of abundance. At a time when movements of scarcity are gaining power in country after country, this is an answer that meets the challenges of the moment while grappling honestly with the fury so many rightfully feel.



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