



**Atonement
Lutheran
Church**

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



May 2026

Voice of Atonement

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Pastor's Message

A Song to Remember:
*"Worship, Witness, Learning,
Service and Support;*

*All of us; all of us; all of us are ministers;
All of us; all of us; in many different ways."*

As I shared recently with our Confirmation Students ~ Elin Blair, Ian Hepler, and Sophie Bock (see picture below) ~ there are five essential areas of a congregation's Mission and Ministry:

Worship, Witness, Learning, Service, and Support. One of my mentors when I was an Intern Pastor at King of Glory Lutheran

Church in Arvada, Colorado taught me this song, which she taught to all of King of Glory's Confirmation students. I've carried this song with me ever since, throughout my 38 years of pastoral ministry. It beautifully captures what it means to be the church together.

As members, and regular visitors, of a congregation, we're called to be involved in all these areas of Mission and Ministry. That's how we show our discipleship, service, and love for God and for one another. That's how we demonstrate that we're part of the whole body of Christ.



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

(continued on next page)



IN OUR PRAYERS

Current

Tom Strunc (nephew of Mary Campe); Lee Eisert (brother of Mary Abbott); Kris (sister of Lez Kelpis); Karen Strott (daughter of Donna Zentenr); 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; Ramona and Vonnice (Pam Peschel's aunt and friend); Randy Updike; Ricardo (Gayle Gunderson's son-in-law); friends and family of Mary Lemke; friends and family of Dolores Sparkman

Ongoing

Dean Moody; Guy and Carol Markle (Barb Krug's brother & sister-in-law); Jean (Mary Campe's friend); Jean Viste; Kelly Amedee (Ruth Zartman's son-in-law); Marin (Annie & Charles Adkisson's daughter); Mary Alice McDougal; Melanie; Pio Zambrano (Trish Sander's friend); Sharon Krebs; Walter Beekman

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!

(continued from previous page)

Christian discipleship, service and love isn't just reserved for adult members of a congregation, our young people are ministers too! Check out our newest, and youngest, members of the Praise Team ~ Julie singing and Josie on the drums ~ what a blessing they are to our worship at 9am!

We are also grateful for our Youth Leader ~ Erik Williams ~ who gathers our young people for Bible Study twice a month and for Youth Group. Stop in sometime and see how faithful they all are. It will warm your heart!

Martin Luther called it "the priesthood of all believers," meaning that God calls every single person to faithfulness and discipleship ~ not just the ordained pastors, not just the long-time members, but every one of us. What new ways might each of you find to be involved, or to begin being involved, as your church needs you?! Look at the Newsletters and the Announcement Sheets to discover where your gifts and time can make a real difference. All are needed to help grow this congregation.

And more than anything else ~ please show up in person for weekly worship

whenever possible. Visitors notice when the worship room is full, and a full worship room ~ filled with adults and young people (see pictures on previous page) ~ makes visitors far more likely to return and become part of our community of faith. Did you notice that in the little Confirmation song above, the word "Worship" comes first? There's a very good reason for that. Everything else flows from our gathering together in God's presence.

See you on Sundays ~ and thank you, truly thank you, for being part of the Mission and Ministry of this congregation!

Happy Mother's Day and warmest wishes to all Mothers, and to all who are loving and "motherly" to others. For those whose Mom's who have gone before us to their heavenly homes, cherish your memories!

In faith and gratitude,

—Pastor Kristi Beebe



Columbarium

The Columbarium Garden Team has been busy this spring. Lot's of digging, planting, transplanting , hauling and washing rock. One of the big projects was putting in a low stone wall that holds back sliding soil and rock plus provides additional seating. Very nice looking and lots of hard work. Thank you team!



Graduates 2026

Join us in celebration of our graduates on May 17th between services:

Owen Bock: I'm graduating from Lakewood High School, I'm attending Gonzaga University in Spokane Washington, majoring in political science with a concentration in foreign relations.

Gavin Whitt

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

Hannah Alspach (University of Redlands, CA),

Hailey Alspach (Oberlin College, Ohio),

Meaghan Alspach (Escondido Charter HS) Proud nieces of Marilyn Heitmann

May Birthdays

- Nathan Blair
- Margo Crabb
- Amy Eden
- Ralph Hill
- Barbara Krug
- Lois Levstik
- Lily Reinfort
- Stuart Stanley
- Darrell Wiedman

Youth Group with Erik Williams

As school winds down, Erik is planning summer activities. We will meet for Youth Group on Sunday, May 17 at 6:30 PM.



Bible Study continues on Wednesdays, May 6 and 20th at 6 PM

Watch for Summer News in Eblasts and June News.

In and Out Reach Committee

Can it really be the end of another school year for so many and the beginning of vacation planning or just wondering how the hot and dry summer months are going to play out this year?! But things are "cool" at Atonement and many things are planned to keep us engaged in our mission as summer approaches.

We always need Greeters to be at the front doors when services are about to begin - when we don't have those volunteers in place, they are definitely missed and we may miss an opportunity to greet someone who is visiting for the first time or looking for a worship place. There are sign up sheets where you can pick the service time and date if you are able to provide this "first impression" at Atonement. It's important that we get visitors to sign the Guest Book so that we may follow-up on their worship needs. As of the end of April, 38 birthday cards have been sent to members and

please do let the church office know if you did not receive one on your special day so that we can make sure your birthday is in our records. The coffee cafe continues to be a popular opportunity for fellowship with fellow worshippers. A big thank you to Judy Bauer and Mary Campe who seem to be setting up almost every Sunday and a thank you to those who have assisted them. We really would like to have more volunteers to help with clean up after cafe and putting away the things that can be used the next Sunday. Sign-up sheets are available at the podium near the entrance to the kitchen.

We've not yet made a donation of gently used eyeglasses to the Lions' Club this year as the donation box only contains a few. Please consider giving any gently used eyewear to this worthy cause.

—Barbara Krug

DAY CAMP AT ATONEMENT, JULY 20-24, 2026



What is Day Camp?

RTLCL Day Camp is a unique partnership designed to provide congregations with a vibrant and faith formative experience that nurtures relationships between the adults and children within the church, and provides an outreach

opportunity in the local community. Day Camp is a relational and high-energy ministry similar to a VBS program. Each Day Camp is tailored to the unique context of the hosting congregation, with volunteers and staff from the host congregation working with staff from RTLCL throughout the planning and implementation of the program. RTLCL staff lead energetic worship, games, singing, and lead or provide guidance in leading Bible study and arts and crafts. Volunteers from the church work with RTLCL staff in all of these areas and have the opportunity to participate and play along side of the kids. This dynamic and flexible partnership allows for learning and relationships in the congregation to continue even after RTLCL staff have departed.

Day Camp is...

- Relational – Camp staff, along with required congregational volunteers provide a staff to camper ratio of 1 adult to 8 youth.
- Renewal – The experience is renewing for the adult volunteers, as well as for day campers. Day Camp can also revitalize a Bible School or Sunday School program with fresh energy and new ideas.
- Outreach – The enthusiasm and excitement of Day Camp can reach out and minister to the local community, as well as the congregation's members. Day Camp can be an ecumenical experience by inviting other local churches to participate.

A Day at Day Camp

One of the uniqueness of RTLCL Day Camps is the flexibility. We want to work with you to create a Day Camp program that will meet the specific needs of your congregation. This means that no two of the Day Camps we work with are the same. However, there are some components that are common across the congregations

that we serve. If you choose to Day Camp with our, our staff will work with you to create a program and schedule that meet your needs.

- Sondance – Each day begins with an interactive time to introduce the daily theme through use of scripture, song, drama, puppets, etc. This experience is a great place for Pastors or church staff to participate in fun and meaningful ways.
- Bible Study – The Bible Study and week's theme will unfold in small groups – (led by RTLCL staff and/or adult volunteer teachers). Bible stories and experiential learning activities are stressed.
- Music – Music is an integral part of the Day Camp program. RTLCL encourages you to incorporate music into worship as well as provides it as one of the daily activity sessions.
- Recreation – Fun, non-competitive, outdoor games appropriate to each age group.
- Arts and Crafts – The campers make something each day that ties in with the daily theme and provides them an opportunity to bring Day Camp home to their family. Arts and crafts are generally “from scratch,” not pre-fab workbook material. Materials are provided by the congregation for the Arts and Crafts projects.
- Devotions/Rest – This is a quiet time to review what was learned during the day. Counselors may use picture drawing, journal writing, or stories to help in this time for reflection.
- Lunch – Each day children brings a sack lunch for the noon meal. The church is responsible for a drink and for other snacks desired. The congregation will also provide lunches for the camp staff.
- Special Activities – Many congregations choose to offer special activities, like visits to parks or pools, or visits from the fire or police department during the week. These most often happen as part of the afternoon schedule.
- Closing – This is a wrap up of the day filled with more singing and fun. It's a great way to review the theme of the day and send kids home excited about what they've learned.

Watch for registration information.

Email, atonementlakewood.org if you are interested in day camp.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

We have been so fortunate to have many new faces at worship. We invite those who are interested in learning more about Atonement Lutheran Church or to join in mission with ALC to meet on May 17th following the 10:45am service. We invite you for a light lunch and great conversation. Please RSVP to the church office, 303-985-1122 or email to churchoffice@atonementlakewood.org.

Faith in Action had several Earth Day related activities in April, because they were at the end of April look for accounts of those in your June Atonement newsletter.

Did you know that the city of **Lakewood** has begun to offer **composting**?

1. Thanks to a partnership with Compost Colorado, Lakewood residents can subscribe through Compost Colorado for \$5/month. Inquire about picking up a composting caddy.
2. Receive a personal access code to unlock any CoCo drop-off cart.
3. Drop off food scraps at any time, at any CoCo location. There are nine drop-off locations in Lakewood. Sites are available at the Carmody and the Lakewood Link Rec Centers, for example.
4. CoCo services and cleans the carts regularly.
5. Food scraps are processed into compost at CoCo's local facility here in Denver.
6. In spring, subscribers receive some compost back for their yards and gardens, completing the compost loop.

Check out the Lakewoodco.gov Food Scrap Drop Off Program! You can view brief virtual videos to help explain how easy it is to participate.

Acceptable compostable items

- Food/meat
- Food soiled paper
- BPI/CMA certified items

Not acceptable items for Trash/Recycle

- Shredded paper
- Plastic- coated paper
- Twist ties
- Gloves

- Plastic
- Glass
- Stickers

CONSIDER that food waste comprises about 24 percent of municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills. Due to its quick decay rate, food waste in landfills is contributing to more methane emissions than any other landfilled material! METHANE, a powerful greenhouse gas, is emitted from landfills, resulting from the decaying of organic waste over time under anaerobic conditions.

Eco-Cycle is introducing an online tool called Reuse **Hub**.

“Eco-Cycle and the City of Boulder have partnered to create this hub of resources and information for reuse in Boulder County and beyond. Our interactive map highlights businesses—including refill groceries, repair services, thrift shops, and secondhand stores, used furniture stores, and restaurants with reusable to-go containers—that are helping reimagine community systems to make reuse the new norm and disposables a thing of the past.”

FIA Picks:

***Weathered*, Streaming on PBS on assorted platforms**



Now in its 7th season, *Weathered* is a series of short clips (approximately 10 minutes or so) of full feature

documentaries that focus on one weather related question or research from Antarctica sea ice decline, to LA Firestorms. Using these short snapshots to look at what happened and why, its impact (almost always not good) and what can be done to reverse or end it.

Hosted by Maiya May, a meteorologist and climate nerd, and relying on worldwide experts, each segment examines the crucial area of climate events. Suggestion: Begin with “The Worst Drought in 1200 Years,” about the Colorado River Basin, Season 1, Episode 3; then, “Why are Winters Worse When the Planet is Getting Warmer” (Season 1, Episode 5); “This is the Safest Place to Live in 2030”; (S2, E9) ; “The Heat is On” (S5,E3) Information at your fingertips!

Prince: Beauty For Ashes

Do you know who the cockroaches were? Why did the Hutus want to kill the Tutsis? Do you remember the 1994 genocide in Rwanda when an estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000 Rwandans were killed in 100 days? Germany was the colonial power ruling Rwanda from the 1880's until World War 1. After World War I, Belgium was in power. They promoted racism and power. The noses of the Rwandans were even measured to see if a person was probably a Tutsi.

Prince was “a 15-year-old (Tutsi) boy, named Prince Kayigire. He was in the middle of that hell (genocide). This is his story. Through circumstances that seemed insurmountable he lived to tell it. There were unbearable losses.....It is a well-researched history as well.” Bruce McDonald.

Prince operated the Cultivar Café on the corner of West Yale and South Wadsworth in Lakewood until recently. He is looking for a new location for his café. We were very fortunate to have our Book Discussion and snacks provided at his café during our Book Club this month. Prince even joined our discussion and shared with us how life was as a Tutsi during this genocide. Eye opening. (Barbara Kaare-Lopez)

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Nate Blair

Stewardship

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Women's Ministry

Toni Jung-Brack

Worship & Music

Eileen Koppenhaver

IRAs and Your RMD

If you hold Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and are over the age of 71½, you must make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from those accounts each year by December 31. Failure to make this required distribution by the end of each year may result in significant tax penalties.

When you make distributions from your IRA accounts, those monies are generally considered to be taxable income when you file your tax return. Therefore, you will need to pay income taxes on the monies you withdraw (distribute) from your IRAs.

However, there is one way that you can avoid having to pay any taxes on these monies. If you gift the money (distribution) as a Qualified Charitable Distribution **directly** to a charity (Atonement?). Then money will **not** be considered to be taxable income.

- The money goes from your account **directly** to the charity.
- The charity must receive the monies before December 31st of the year.
- You must be 71½ or older at the time the gift is made.
- You do not have to pay taxes on the distribution amount.
- You cannot, however, then deduct the Qualified Charitable Distribution as a charitable deduction if you itemize on your tax return.
- When instructing your plan custodian to make the gift, request that your name and address as donor be included with the check to the charity.
- Your plan custodian may ask you to complete a form instructing them to not deduct taxes from your Qualified Charitable Distribution (since this is a tax -free distribution).

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

Information provided from an experienced Atonement donor. Thank you!



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303-985-1122

churchoffice@atonementlakewood.org

www.atonementlakewood.org



MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8am - Straight Street 9am - Praise Worship 10:45am - Liturgical Service	27 Office Closed 1pm - All Hands Around 6pm - Praise team practice	28 10am - Office open 9am to 6:30pm - Mountaineers	29 10am - Office open 9am to 11am - Mid-WeekMusic (via 5pm - Straight Street	30 10am - Office open 9am to 6pm - Square Halos Lessons	1 10am - Office open 10am to 2:45pm - FB Music Prac &	2
3 8am - Straight Street 9am - Praise Worship 10:45am - Liturgical Service	4 Office Closed 6pm - Praise team practice	5 Cinco de Mayo 10am - Office open 10am to 11am - Community Ministry 1:30pm - Ensemble prac. 6:30pm - Mountaineers	6 10am - Office open 10am to 11am - Mid-WeekMusic (via 5pm - Straight Street 6pm - Youth Bible Study	7 10am - Office open 10am to 6pm - Square Halos Lessons	8 10am - Office open 10am to 2:45pm - FB Music Prac & 6pm - Square Halos	9
10 Mother's Day 8am - Straight Street 9am - Praise Worship 10:45am - Liturgical Service	11 Office Closed 1pm - Hands All Around 6pm - Praise team practice	12 10am - Office open 10am to 1:30pm - Ensemble prac.	13 10am - Office open 10am to 11am - Mid-WeekMusic (via 5pm - Straight Street	14 Ascension Day 9am - Foot Clinic 10am - Office open 10am to 6pm - Square Halos Lessons	15 10am - Office open 10am to 2:45pm - FB Music Prac &	16
17 New Member Class 8am - Straight Street 9am - Praise Worship 9:45am - Grad Celebration 10:45am - Liturgical Service 6:30pm - Youth Group	18 Office Closed 6pm - Praise team practice	19 10am - Office open 10am to 1:30pm - Ensemble prac.	20 10am - Office open 10am to 11am - Mid-WeekMusic (via 5pm - Straight Street 6pm - Youth Bible Study	21 10am - Office open 10am to 6pm - Square Halos Lessons 6:30pm - Church Council	22 10am - Office open 10am to 2:45pm - FB Music Prac & 6pm - Square Halo's	23 9am - Hill Anniversary 10am - Columbarium service
24 Pentecost 8am - Straight Street 9am - Praise Worship 10:45am - Liturgical Service	25 Memorial Day Office Closed Whit Monday 1pm - All Hands Around 6pm - Praise team practice	26 10am - Office open 10am to 1:30pm - Ensemble prac.	27 10am - Office open 10am to 11am - Mid-WeekMusic (via 5pm - Straight Street	28 9am - Foot Clinic 10am - Office open 10am to 6pm - Square Halos Lessons	29 10am - Office open 10am to 2:45pm - FB Music Prac &	30
31 Trinity Sunday 8am - Straight Street 9am - Praise Worship 10:45am - Liturgical Service	1 Office Closed 6pm - Praise team practice	2 10am - Office open 10am to 11am - Community Ministry 1:30pm - Ensemble prac.	3 10am - Office open 10am to 11am - Mid-WeekMusic (via 5pm - Straight Street	4 Corpus Christi 10am - Office open 10am to 6pm - Square Halos Lessons	5 10am - Office open 10am to 2:45pm - FB Music Prac &	6



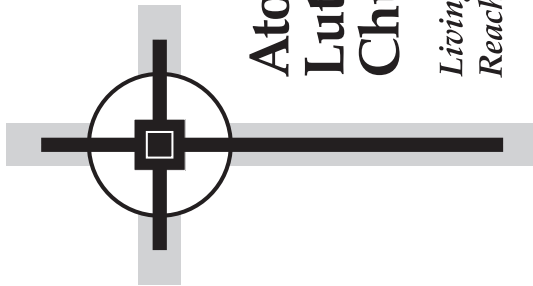
**Atonement
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Church**

6281 West Yale Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80227
303-985-1122

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

May NEWSLETTER

You are invited-attend



**Atonement
Lutheran
Church**

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

Founded in 1966

JOIN US SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AT ALC!

- + 9:00 - 9:50 AM Indoor Praise Worship
- + 9:00 AM Sunday School
- + 10:10 AM Adult Education
- + 10:45 AM Liturgical Worship
- + Fellowship for all between services

Both services will be streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube

Information: 303-985-1122 • www.atonementlakewood.org

Pastor Kristi Beebe

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