

Atonement Quarterly

Fall 2016

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

Reformation Relevance: Justified by faith

Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560) and Martin Luther were the most significant theologians and architects of the Lutheran Reformation. Melanchthon served alongside Luther at the university in Wittenberg, and was the chief drafter of the Augsburg Confession. In the following writing, Melanchthon articulates what it means to be justified by faith according to the New Testament.

— Editor

We must carefully consider the term “faith” and see what Paul is doing when he says that we are not justified by our works but by faith in Christ. This is new language to Roman ears, and we must at the very beginning seek the genuine and simple interpretation of it. To be justified by works means to obtain forgiveness of sins and to be righteous or accepted before God by reason of our own virtues or deeds. On the other hand, to be justified by faith in Christ means to obtain remission of sins, to be counted as righteous, that is, accepted by God, not because of our own virtues but for the sake of the Mediator, the Son of God. When we understand this word this way, then we can see how this proposition that we are justified by faith, which is the voice of the Gospel, is used by Paul in opposition to the other concept, which is the voice of human reason or the Law, that we are justified by works. As the Baptist cries, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;” John 1:29, so Paul wants to present this doctrine to us, and he teaches that remission of sins and reconciliation are given to us for the sake of the Son of God and not for the sake of our virtues. Thus, when he says that we are justified by faith, he

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wants you to behold the Son of God sitting at the right hand of the Father as the Mediator who intercedes for us, and to understand that your sins are forgiven you because you are considered or pronounced just, that is, accepted, for the sake of His own Son, who was the Sacrifice. Therefore, in order that the word “faith” may point to this Mediator and apply to us, “faith” refers not only to historical knowledge but also to trust (fiducia) in the mercy promised for the sake of the Son of God.

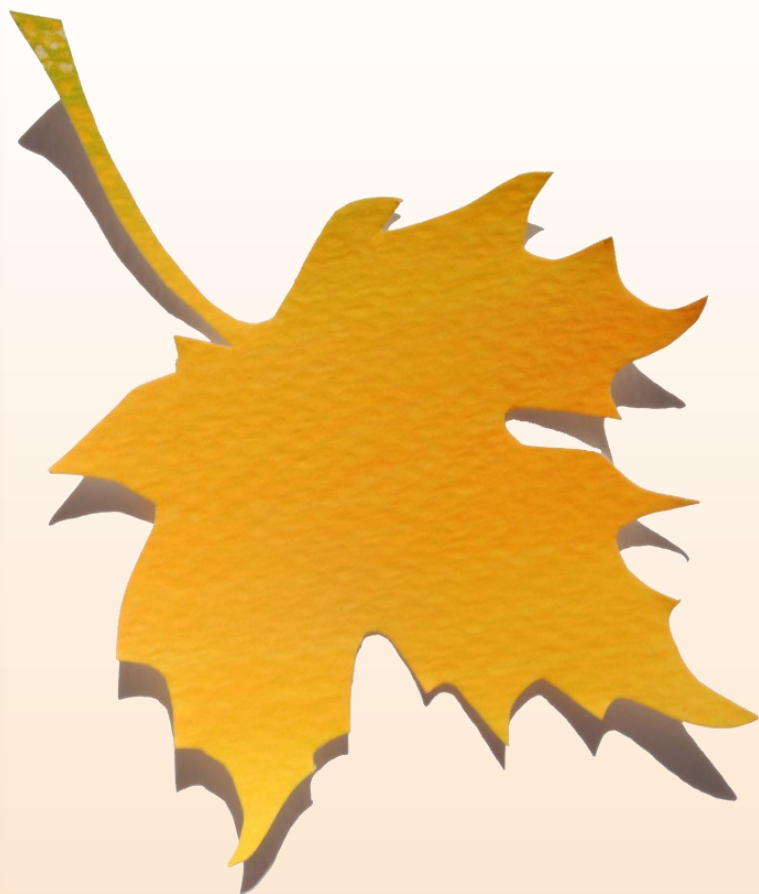
Thus, this statement that we are righteous by faith must always be understood as correlative, that is, connected with being righteous by trusting that we have been received by mercy for the sake of Christ, and not because of our virtues. This mercy is laid hold on by faith or trust. Paul says this in order that he may present to us this Mediator and Lamb, take away from us our glorying in our own righteousness, and testify that we have been received by God for the sake of this Propitiator.

There is no doubt that this is Paul’s thinking, and it is absolutely clear in the church that his opinion is correct and true. All the saints confess that even if they have new virtues, yet they do not receive remission of sin or reconciliation because of them but only for the sake of the Son of God, the Propitiator. Therefore we must understand the statement, “By faith we have remission;” to mean that by this trust we are received for the sake of God’s Son.

But there are those who reply to this discussion that it is absolutely ridiculous and meaningless to say that “having been justified by faith we have peace with God;” Rom. 5:1. They do not understand what it is to have a struggle of conscience with fears and doubts, when one is anxious about the remission of his sins; and they do not know the tremblings which take place in true repentance. If they would consider these things they would know that terrified hearts seek consolation outside themselves, and this consolation is the trust with which the will rests in the promise of mercy given for the sake of the Mediator. Faith embraces both trust in the mercy of God and knowledge of the historical events, that is, it looks to Christ, of whom it is necessary to know that He is the Son of the eternal God, crucified for us, raised again, etc. The historical facts must be applied to the promise or the effect of His work, as it is set forth in this article, namely: “I believe in the forgiveness of sins.” Again this article warns that faith must be understood as trust. For to him who does not trust that his sins are forgiven him, the words, “I believe in the forgiveness of sins” are useless.



There is still space to sign up for flowers in 2016. The suggested donation is \$30 and the flower chart is hung in the narthex.



Flowers & Fellowship



Please remember that donations to the 'kitty' help fund our Sunday morning fellowship snacks and coffee.

The devil, though defeated by the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, remains a very capable and clever foe. He is smarter than we are. He's been watching us and taking notes for a very long time. He knows what we want, and he knows how to lure us away. And he does this by telling us what we want to hear. That's what makes it so difficult.

To us who are greedy, he says: "You are not greedy. You are prudent. You are frugal. You are a good steward with your money. God doesn't want you not to have all the things you want. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to have the latest and greatest toys for both young and old." So if you consider yourself to be wise in the way of money and finances, beware of who just might be telling you these things.

Satan is a liar. He tells us what we want to hear. He lures us away from repentance and confession and faith, so that we harden our consciences and place our souls in peril. We must not underestimate the enemy. We have all taken his bait. We have all failed in this. None of us can say that we have fought this temptation to hold back with everything we have and won.

And we must repent. Yes, God wants us to be happy. But this happiness is never at the expense of faithfulness. We have a calling. We are a member of His family, the church. That relationship places a duty upon us: to give a generous proportion of the first fruits of the income He provides.

Only God is true to His Word. Only God is true to His promises. His promises never fail. His Word endures forever. His mercies are new every morning. He is faithful. He provides everything that we need. He provides food and clothes, house and home, everything that we pray for in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer.

There are a whole host of things that we have that we do not need. The question that we need to ask ourselves is whether these have come at the expense of our faithful, generous proportion of the first fruits of our income. If they have, then we must repent, turning away from our selfishness to Him who is faithful by giving His Son into death so that we are reconciled to Him and justified in His sight.

The devil will always tell you what you want to hear. But God tells us and gives us what we need to hear. With law and gospel, he cuts us to the heart, so that we will repent and believe His Word and promises. He is faithful. He is good. He will not forsake you, or leave you destitute. So believe and trust in Him. And you will not only be happy. You will be blessed.



It's What's Inside

There was a man who was a vendor of balloons in an amusement park. Whenever business slowed down he would released one of the balloons and as it floated upward, prospective customers would notice and buy balloons. Children especially loved the balloon man. They crowded around as he walked with a huge bouquet of them tethered by the strings. He sent up all kinds of colors; green, blue, yellow, orange, and red.

One day a small African-American boy watched the various colored balloons bob their way skyward. Finally, he came up to the balloon man and said, "Mister, do you think if you let one of the black balloons go it would go up in the air like all the others?" The balloon man looked down and smiled. "Son, of course it will go up! It is not the color of the balloon. It's what in it that makes it rise!" And with that he released the black balloon as the two of them watched it sail over the crowd.

According to Jesus , it's not who you are, where you have come from, how bad you have been or the circumstances that surround you that determines whether or not you will rise! It's what you have inside of you. Jesus said:" I have made you known to them in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (John 17:26)

There you have the secret! If Christ is in you, you are in the rise! Because the Bible also says: "Greater is HE that is in you than he that is in the world" (1John 4:4).

From the Pews

Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down Life's Highway a long time ago, One day I saw a sign that read Heaven's Grocery Store,

As I got a little closer the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself , I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels standing everywhere,
One handed me a basket and said:
My child shop with care.

Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store; All you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.

First I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row.

Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH; I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race.

By then, my basket was getting full, but I

remembered I needed some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION, for salvation was free.
So, I tried to get enough to share with you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill;

For I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put it in,

For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf;

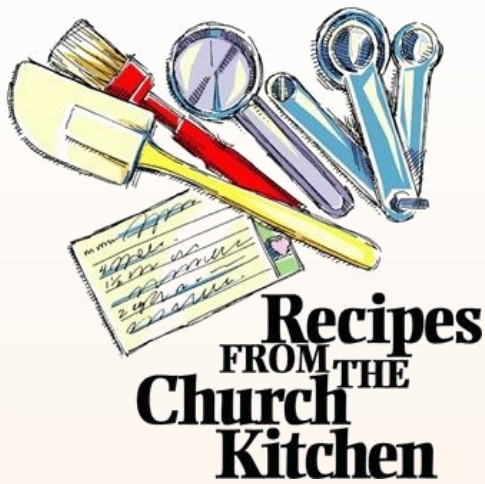
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then, I said to the Angel: Now, how much do I owe?

He just smiled and replied: Just take them everywhere you go.

Again, I smiled at him and said: How much, now do I really owe?

He smiled again and said, "MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG TIME AGO".



Fall-Infused Mashed Potatoes

"The bounty of Autumn--soft and creamy acorn squash--is mixed in subtle ratio with mashed potatoes for a seasonal kick on an old favorite "



Prep time: 10 min
Cook time: 50 min
Ready in: 60 min

Ingredients


- ∞ 1 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- ∞ water as needed
- ∞ 5 white potatoes, diced
- ∞ 2 tablespoons butter
- ∞
- ∞ 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ∞ 1/2 teaspoon dried dill weed
- ∞ salt and ground black pepper to taste
- ∞ 1/2 cup milk, or as needed

Directions

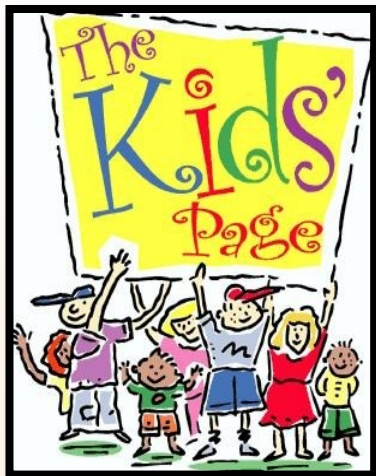
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Place the halved acorn squash cut-side down in a glass baking dish; add 1/2-inch water.
2. Bake in the preheated oven until soft and tender, about 30 minutes. Remove squash from oven; scoop out flesh.
3. Place potatoes in a saucepan with enough water to cover; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until soft and tender, about 20 minutes. Drain potatoes.
4. Mash potatoes partially in a large bowl; stir in squash flesh, butter, mustard, dill, salt, and pepper. Add milk gradually, mashing to desired consistency.

Recipe By: BLONDIEPEREZ
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Submit Your Recipes



If you would like to have your recipe featured in Atonements next news letter, please send a picture, name and instructions for your recipe to Atonement.sv@gmail.com



Our Devotional

When you're sick, don't your parents usually take you to see the same doctor? You probably go to the same dentist every time to have your

teeth checked. When things need fixing, doesn't your mom or dad often call the same people as before? That happens when you get to know someone. You know their name and something about them. And, they know you too! When people know

each other it helps good things to happen. That's why Jesus is your personal Savior! He knows you, your name and all about you. And you know Him too, don't you?

Bible Verse

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

John 10:14

Prayer

Lord Jesus, just as you know me and always take care of me, I also know you as my Savior. Thank you. In Your Name I pray. Amen.



Activity Page

S	R	L	F	O	W	O	R	D	S
N	P	E	E	H	S	C	E	S	C
O	D	P	W	D	I	R	H	D	A
D	E	E	A	O	I	E	T	N	T
N	A	E	V	H	P	F	A	A	T
A	L	S	C	H	F	I	F	M	R
B	A	L	E	I	F	L	G	M	E
A	T	R	I	O	O	D	O	O	G
R	D	L	L	W	I	V	O	C	S
S	R	E	T	T	A	C	S	D	K

GOOD SHEPHERD SHEEP WOLF

VOICE ABANDONS FATHER LEAD

FLOCK WILL POWER COMMAND





2,617 Times A Day

Is it surprising to learn that that's the average number of times we touch our smartphones throughout any given day?

That's about 18,000 times per week or 1,000,000 per year. Never before in the history of mankind has a single item been so intimate and ever-present.

These devices have only existed for 20 years or so and only been part of our everyday lives for the last 10, yet now we can't go anywhere without them. And younger generations are only becoming more and more addicted to their devices, having never known a time when they didn't exist. But it's never too late to begin modeling and creating wise smartphone habits! To help, here are ...

Four ways to find quiet

1. *Choose "zones" that are unavailable.*
Driving, obviously, is the number one. Find other spaces to choose to say, "I'm not listening." Mealtimes. An hour before sleep. Make a commitment to "just saying no" to interruptions and demands.
2. *Make other plans.* If you're not around a screen, you can't use it! So choose to make plans to go out with friends to do something active (don't go to a restaurant with TVs or a movie.) Volunteer somewhere. Get outside and take a hike or clean up a playground. Make a list of things to do when you know you should get away from that screen.

3. *Choose a fast.* Every once in a while, decide to go on a fast from electronics (have sane exceptions, like you will return your parents' texts when they ask if you're still alive). You pick for how long—a day, a week, a month. The point is to do it. You'll be surprised at how free you start to feel after the first hours of panic pass. You can make this competitive, too. Do it with a group of friends!
4. *Talk about it.* Talk to your parents, or someone you trust, about anything you find uncomfortable in media. Especially talk about it if you see, or are a victim of, cyber bullying. You're definitely not alone. Talk to your parents if you feel like they are spending too much time staring at screens and not enough with family. Talk about holding each other accountable for being unplugged.

Check These Out!



www.facebook.com/LCMSYouthMinistry



[@lcmsyouth](https://twitter.com/lcmsyouth)



LCMS Young Adult Ministry
Empowered to lead.



Atonement Monthly

2016



Birthdays

- 2 Larry Betancourt
- 5 Bob Imig
- 6 Matthew Lewallen
- 14 Steve Nelson
- 16 Jim Dysart
- 17 Ken Handy
- 24 Kurt Stalman

Anniversaries

-None-



September

Lay Ministers

- 4 Larry Betancourt
- 11 Larry Steele
- 18 Mike Heidtbrink
- 25 Tim Hahn

Acolytes

- Becca Moody
- Sheree Moody
- Junior Betancourt
- Phillip Brann

Flowers

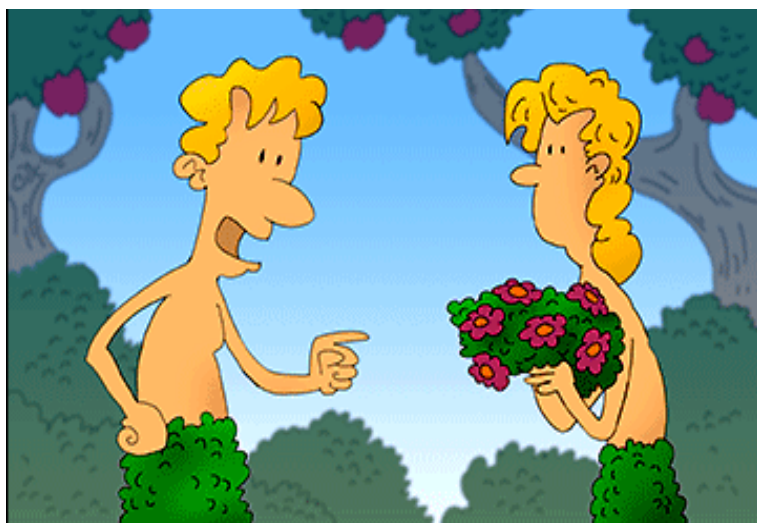
- Jim Dysarts Birthday
- Kurt Stalman's Birthday

Ushers: Manfred Luther

Heavenly Humor

You Might be a Lutheran If

- * you can't get into heaven without a casserole.
- * you notice the Kool Aid stock shoots up during the Vacation Bible School season.
- * you wonder why bread and wine are used for Communion instead of coffee and donuts.
- * Commandment #11--If it's never been done that way before, don't do it.
- * you make your hotdishes with cream of mushroom soup and your salads with Jell-O.
- * you sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
- * a line item in the trustee's budget is "coffee maker maintenance."
- * your idea of an affirmation is "This is most certainly true."
- * you feel guilty about not feeling guilty.
- * it's 110 degrees outside and you still have coffee after services.
- * change means wearing your brown suit instead of your blue suit to church.
- * every time something changes, the old one was better.
- * your biggest fund-raisers are bake sales instead of bingo



01-09-2015




NEW OUTAT?



01-02-2015

IT'S NOT MOURNING WHEN YOUR SACKCLOTH HAS A FLUFFY COTTON LINER, MESH SIDES FOR BREATHABILITY, AND A SNACK POUCH

OCTOBER 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
		2	3	4	5	6
		7	8	9	10	11
		12	13	14	15	16
		17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25	26
		27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Divine Service	5 	6 9:00 am AI Anon Tutor Center re-opens 5:00 pm AYOP	7 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Prayer/Preaching 10:30 am Voters Meeting	12 6:30 pm Church Council	13 9:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm AYOP 6:00 pm Men's Group	14 10:00 am Bible Study	15	16	17 10:00 am AI-Anon Business Meeting
18 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	19 6:00 pm LWML End of Summer Dinner	20 9:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm AYOP 6:00 pm Men's Group	21 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	22	23  7:00 pm Game Night	24 9:00 am Hiking Club 
25 8:15 am Lay Ministers Meeting 9:00 am Prayer/Preaching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	26	27 9:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm AYOP 6:00 pm Men's Group	28 10:00 am Bible Study	29	30	

2016-2017

Officers and Board/Committee Members

Executive Board

President	Manny Cruz
Secretary	Shenoah Riess
Financial Secretary	Ann Duggan
Treasurer	Nancy Riley

Board of Lay Ministry

Chairperson	Mike Heidtbrink
Member	Tim Hahn
Member	Larry Betancourt
Member	Jim Dysart
Member	Larry Steele

Board of Stewardship

Chairperson	Judy Dysart
Member	Lynn Chiaravalle
Member	Patti Wilshusen
Member	Jenny Moody

Board of Properties

Chairperson	Curtis Duggan
Member	Manfred Luther
Member	Dave Brinchman
Member	Bob Imig
Member	Bobby Riess

Board of Fellowship

Chairperson	Jennie Green
Member	Donna Hurd
Member	Carol Hernandez

Board of Education

Chairperson	Seth Heidtbrink
Member	Gloria Ollhoff
Member	Kristin Brann

Board of Outreach

Chairperson	Sandee Boelter
Member	John Wilshusen
Member	Ken Handy

Flowers

Judy Cruz

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

10245 Loma Rancho Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91978
(619) 670-7174

Rev. Robert Rotnem
atonementspringvalley.org
atonement.sv@gmail.com

Weekly Service

Sunday at 9:00 am

Bible Study

Sunday at 10:30 am

Tuesday at 6:00 pm (Men's)

Wednesday at 10:00 am

(On Break)

Wednesday at 6:30 pm (Women's)

Sunday School

Sunday at 10:30 am

Confirmation

Tuesday's at 5:00 pm
(On break)

Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday's at 7:00 pm

Atoner's Bell Ringers

Tuesday's at 6:00 pm

Hiking Club

Last Saturday of each month. Location and times to be announced

Contact Us



Call us!

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-12:00pm

619-670-7174

Pastors Hours: Weds.-Thurs. 9:00-12:00pm

Write/E-mail

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