

Atonement Quarterly

Fall 2017

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

Tumbleweed

By –Pastor Chet Scherbarth

Who really pays any attention to them? They seem to come from some lands unknown. An invader or perhaps an alien. They blow in on a wind, rolling and tumbling. They bounce across the street and

up the side walk until they become lodged, catch in our fences and wires, and seem to congregate together, turning one prickly plant into a large hill. Daunting to handle, they make great fuel for raging fires, especially when they are dried out and brittle, which is often the fate of these tumble weeds: they are left for fire. Those who plant things that grow know all too well that tumbleweeds are not aliens or do not come from lands unknown. They find them sprouting in their gardens or sometimes their yards. Farmers find them growing out in pasture land.

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Under their breath they curse and swear about this weed taking the resources from the fruitful crops. The farmer longs for rain to see the crops grow and he waits, anxiously watching, as the tumbleweed gets greener and bigger, oblivious to the need for water.

The tumbleweed is an adversary one fights and struggles against, one that can be beat back with enough chemicals and work. That is, until weariness comes. Then the tumbleweed blooms in all its prickly glory.

Has anyone ever asked why the tumbleweed is so? Perhaps a botanist, cataloguing and identifying different types, have arrived at theories as to why? We do know that, when the tumbleweed dries out and releases to the wind, it drops seeds all along its tumble, bumble path, leaving offspring to carry on its prickly nature.

What of the prickly nature of the tumble weed? Have you ever pondered or wondered why it so? Perhaps we should ask it.

“Why Oh Tumbleweed do you guard yourself so? Why the twisting path of thorns? Do you guard a sacred treasure, or do more sinister motivations dwell in your heart? What hurt did you endure that you must make yourself unapproachable? Why do you lash and bite any hand that comes near? Why the twisting path of branches that rival the spiders spun web?”

LWML News

September 18th

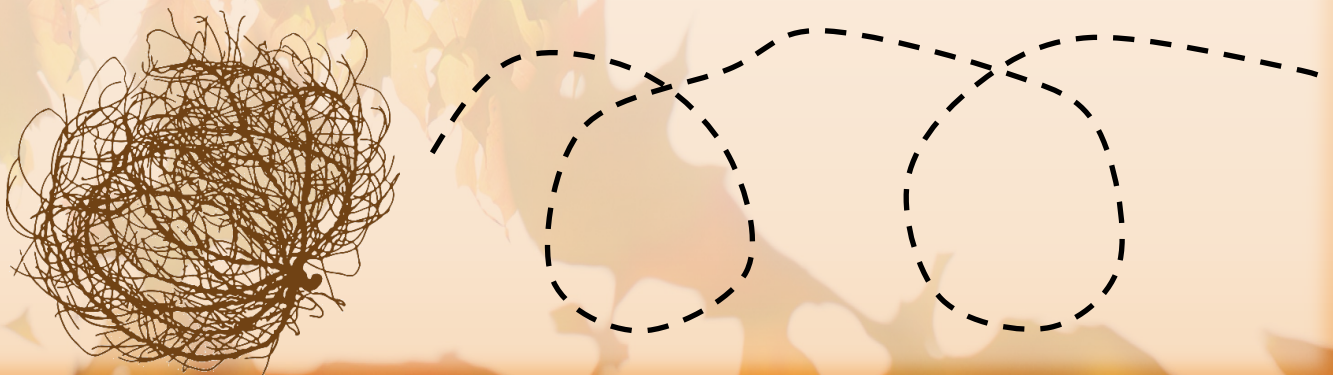
The End of Summer Salad Dinner is scheduled for September 18th at 6:30 pm. Please call or e-mail the church office for more information.

The tumbleweed would perhaps reply this if they could form words with their dagger-laced limbs.

“Oh mankind, you are the reason I am so. I came forth because of your desire. You sought to be what you shouldn’t be, and from the ground I sprang forth, bidden at the command of the Almighty, a constant and present reminder of the pain you have brought. I will prick when your conscience denies. I will be a reminder that things are not as they should be and I will spread my seed till the all-consuming fire washes away the marks of your deed.”

The response of the tumbleweed is every bit as prickly and sharp as its hands. Yet listen to the message it doesn’t say, a message of comfort and peace. The Almighty made a promise as well as a curse. In that promise He said He would send a son of man that would redeem, one that would set right the pain, and rescue from the fiery blaze that the tumbleweed looks so forward to. Even the mighty Paul had the pain of a thorn to remind him that the grace of the Almighty in Christ Jesus was sufficient.

Oh Tumbleweed, blow where you will! Prick when I get close, but know that every sting reminds me of the reason I have hope in a Savior. Continue to send out your offspring, and I will tell mine of the curse that brought you forth and of the hope of Savior promised.



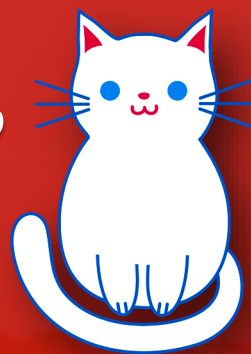
There is still space
to sign up for
flowers in 2017.
The suggested
donation is \$30
and the flower
chart is hung in
the narthex.



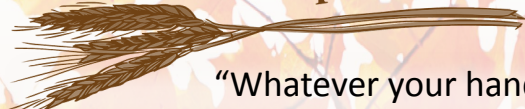
Flowers & Fellowship



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



Stewardship News



“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl. 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil—those who live contrary to God’s will—and to reward those who do good—those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will. Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so

in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are to support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God places a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence, our prayers, and on our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, for your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

WHATEVER YOUR HAND
finds to do,
DO IT WITH ALL
your might.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

From the Pews

WHY THE CHURCH WATCHES FOR GROWTH

-by Remi Tufts

Only God can grow the church! The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6, " ...I planted the seed , Apollos watered the plant, but God brings the increase..." But there are often roadblocks to growth. Church growth is a discipline which help to identify and remove roadblocks so that God can use his people most effectively for the growth of His kingdom through Word and Sacrament.

Here are some reasons I think the LCMS is a denomination ready for growth , under God's grace and by His power.

1. More adults are being involved in serious Bible Study.
2. There are a great number of back door losses being reported each year. This presents an opportunity for us to pinpoint the reason these losses are occurring and remedy it.
3. The LCMS has continued to demonstrate a conservative posture.
4. There is a shift in the goal of evangelism expressed by the Lutheran-Missouri Synod.
5. There is a strong trend toward mobilization of laity.
6. There is a very strong movement toward church planting.
7. There is a change in the ethnic makeup of LCMS.
8. There is a growing interest among both clergy and lay leaders in leadership skills.
9. There is a growing number of congregations organizing around the Great Commission.

Let us not grow weary, but instead seek the Lord's guidance as we look for ways each of us can work towards futhering His Kingdom.

From the Pews

Cross Cultural Ministry

Written by Remi Tufts

Cross Cultural Ministry is not just another program. It is a process. The pastor and people who have "cross cultural eyes" make up a church that sees the task of evangelism as an outreach process that affects the church. Every program, every budget is geared toward the challenge of evangelism. The Lord gave us this ministry. This is one way that the church can bridge to a culture different from their own.

Thank God, we have a new couple who wanted to be a member in our church, and came with their own Bible to Bible Study the following Wednesday . It was interesting to hear from the wife as she read the Bible in Arabic.

Yes, Cross Cultural Evangelism is challenging. But with our eyes on the cross and minds open to new ways of sharing the Good News, we will continue to bring Jesus to others of other cultural background.



Martin Luther: Contemporary musician (?)

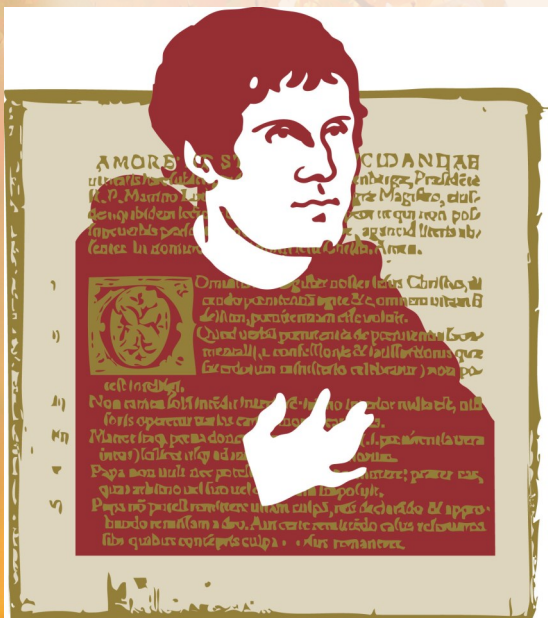
by Elaine Heidtbrink



We live in an era of change, and church worship styles are no exception. The current trend, especially in urban areas, is gravitating towards “contemporary” worship: auditorium style seating, elaborate stage lighting and sound systems, and performance-oriented concert style praise bands. This has brought with it some struggles for the Lutheran church, musically speaking. With our pipe organs, stained glass windows, and hymns written with odd timing and often in minor keys, we seem to some to be quite archaic. Change in worship style is nothing new, however, but rather a journey that’s taken 500 years to bring us to where we are today, the roots of which lie in the Reformation.

In the 1500’s, a church’s worship style often reflected the views of the reformer who founded it. John Calvin, for example, believed that individual worship was most important, therefore Calvinist music is very simple. He felt anything which “distracted” the listener with emotion would overshadow the true purpose. As a result, the music in churches which are descendants of this branch of the Reformation have single line melody’s which are sung in unison.

Another Reformer, Huldrych Zwingli, was even stricter in his views. He and his followers sought to break so completely with the Catholic Church that not only did he abolish music completely, he ordered the destruction of organs and other instruments in the churches in order that worship might be silent and undistracted



Enter Martin Luther. Of all the reformers, Luther perhaps had the greatest love for music – a fact which would become apparent in Lutheran Churches. Although Luther had a love for the ancient music of the Catholic Church and brought much of that heritage forward, he also used many songs from the secular world, arranging and setting them to scripture for use in the church. He believed that music served several purposes in worship, the primary one: through music one can glorify God and become closer to Him through the emotions it evoked.

Music was highly regarded in Germany at the time and was one of the main forms of communication. Especially among the uneducated lower class, singing was used on the streets to spread information, as well as being used as the main source of entertainment. Luther was able to tap into that by using commonly sung melodies, known by people of all ages and ranks. This made memorization easier and, as a result, Luther's ideas were now being sung on the streets and in the home to teach children. In addition, he wrote his songs in German – a truly “contemporary” idea in an era when all church music was sung in Latin.



In addition to its accessibility, Luther's music had the support of several prominent people of his time. King Henry VIII, who had split from the Catholic Church over his divorce, was a fan of Luther and agreed that music in the church needed to be written in the language of the common people. The great composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, was also a follower of Luther's, and, as a result, many of his well-known cantatas are rich in Grace-oriented, Scripture based lyrics.

All things considered, Martin Luther was truly a man ahead of his time – “contemporary”, if you will. As we in the Lutheran church look back on 500 years of growth, our challenge is to move forward with the same attitude towards worship as our founder. While he was a firm believer in bringing music to the people on a level and through means they could relate to, he also retained that which was valuable and meaningful from the past. While he understood the powerful emotion music could evoke, he also balanced this with the solid law/gospel doctrine that served as the foundation for the Reformation. God grant us wisdom and guidance as we joyfully embrace the opportunities that lie ahead! In the words of one well-known hymn, “With the Lord begin thy task, Jesus will direct it....”



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT—LCMS • SD COUNTY-WIDE

REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL



SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29, 2017, 4:00 P.M.

**COLLEGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
4747 COLLEGE AVE. SAN DIEGO, 92115**

**FREE • LUTHERAN SPONSORED
EVERYONE WELCOME**

If you are interested in singing in the group choir that is performing at the Reformation Festival, please contact Elaine Heidtbrink at 619-889-3631



Recipes FROM THE Church Kitchen

Country Apple Dumplings

"Oh my Goodness!!
Who knew that fresh
apples, crescent roll
dough, and citrus soda
could make such a wonderful treat!"

Prep time: 20 min
Cook time: 45 min
Ready in: 1 hr 5 min



Ingredients

- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
- 2 (10 ounce) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 1 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle Mountain Dew™



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
2. Cut each apple into 8 wedges and set aside. Separate the crescent roll dough into triangles. Roll each apple wedge in crescent roll dough starting at the smallest end. Pinch to seal and place in the baking dish.
3. Melt butter in a small saucepan and stir in the sugar and cinnamon. Pour over the apple dumplings. Pour Mountain Dew™ over the dumplings.
4. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.



Recipe By: docswife

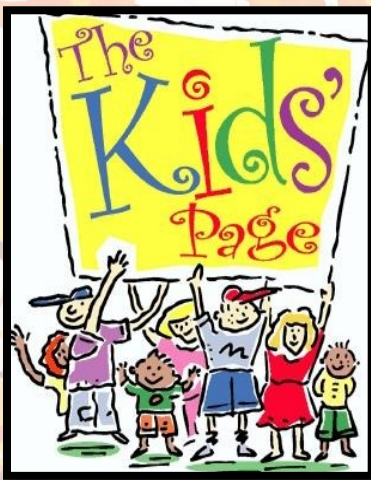
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Submit Your Recipes



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

The Lord God, the creator of the universe, tells us to, 'Fear Not', and that we are so very precious to Him. He has created us and has saved us.

He knows us and calls us by name. We are His very own children. (V.1).

Whatever we go through, we can be sure that God is always with us. He walks with us every day. Just remember the next time you feel afraid, God is standing right by your side and He will walk with you. Keep on calling out to Jesus and He will be there. He loves you

Activity Page

and you are so very precious to Him. You needn't be afraid when you know Jesus is by your side. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

Is there something you feel afraid of? Tell Jesus now how you feel and ask Him to help you not feel afraid anymore.

Bible Verse

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

- 1 John 4: 18 -

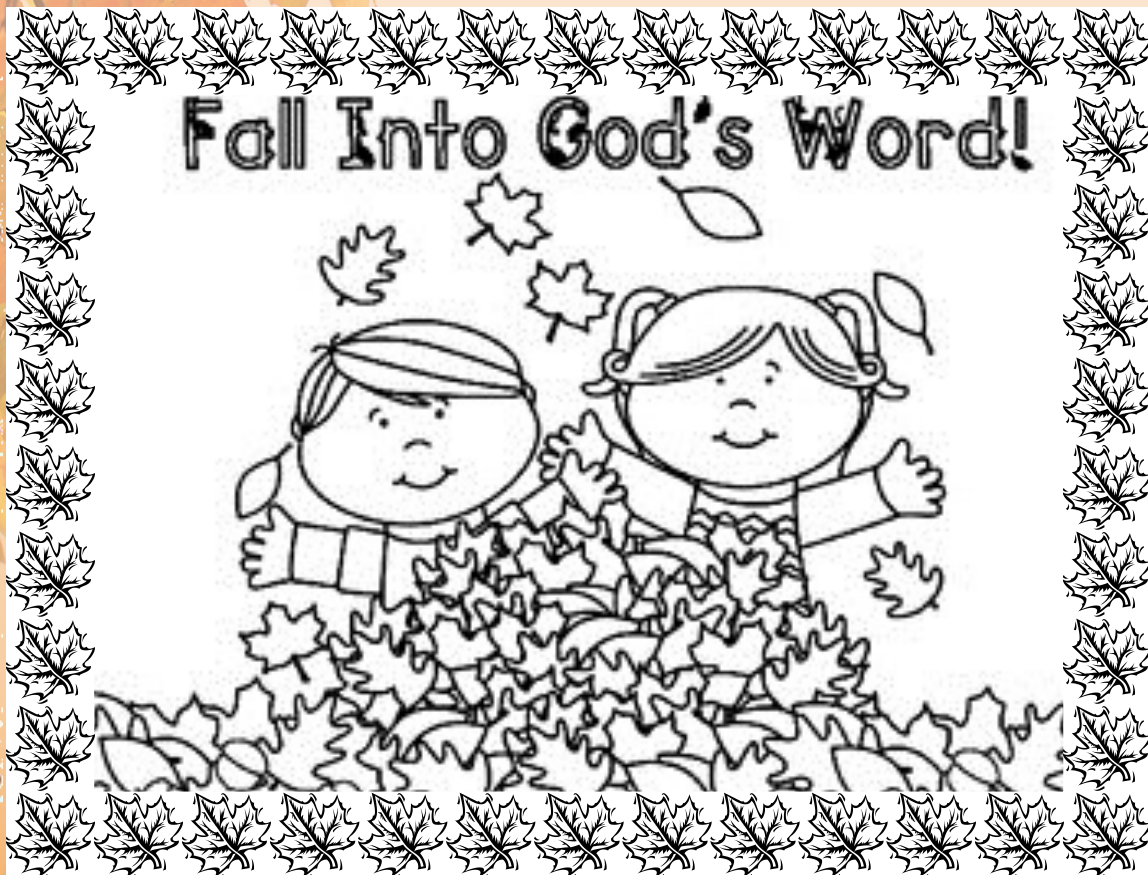
Prayer

Lord, please come and be with me

When I feel afraid

Take my fear away from me

And fill me with more faith. Amen.



TEEN TALK

God has provided for us in so many ways. All that we need to sustain us God has created! By caring for this planet God has placed us on, we show our love and gratitude to God, but we also love and serve our neighbor.

So what do we do? There are so many ways we can begin to care for God's amazing creation. Before we do, though, we know a couple things. First, we know that no matter how hard we try, we are not going to perfectly restore this broken world. That's God's job and He's going to do it someday... the day when Jesus returns as He promised to do. Second, we can't do everything. But let's start with the basics.

1) **Go Outside!**

Seriously. Go outside! Go for a walk in your neighborhood or a hike in the woods with your friends or family. What did you smell? What did you hear? What did you see that you never noticed before?

2) **Play in the Dirt.**

If you're like me, you buy most of your food at the grocery store. But what would happen if you started growing some of your own food? Start with something simple like a small herb garden. Grow some basil, chives, cilantro or something else you and your family like to cook with. From there try planting some lettuce, tomatoes, or

even some cucumbers. Pretty soon you'll have all the fixin's you need for a salad!!

Perhaps your church even has some extra space to build a raised garden bed or two. With your youth group and some knowledgeable gardeners in your congregation plant a variety of vegetables that you can donate to your local food bank at harvest time.

Want to take your garden at home or at church a step further? Compost your fruit and vegetable scraps along with leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste. Add the compost to your garden for even healthier soil!

3) **Join Your Community!**

Join in on your community's park or river cleanups and beautification efforts. This is a great way to make new friends where you live and make your city's green spaces more enjoyable for all.

Check These Out!



www.facebook.com/LCMSYouthMinistry



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



LCMS Young Adult Ministry
Empowered to lead.





LCMS World Relief and Human Care

The following is an e-mail we
received from the LCMS

If it's in your heart, please use the
gifts God has given you to help
those in need right now.

Dear Atonement

"Be merciful as your father in heaven is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

It's time to come to the aid of our LCMS friends in Texas. Hurricane Harvey is eerily similar to Katrina. The LCMS responds to disasters constantly. Since Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, we've trained 15,000 LCMS people as early responders. Every single district has a disaster coordinator. Together we have amazing capacity to help.

When we respond, we come alongside our LCMS districts, congregations and church workers as they lead the effort in reaching out to their suffering communities. We have LCMS congregations in 161 communities hit by this storm!

We've done this before. We've responded to hurricane after hurricane. We've been on site after tornados, floods and fires. The LCMS, strengthening our people in New Orleans, rebuilt 6,000 homes after Katrina. The mayor of that city said that without the Lutherans, East New Orleans would not be rebuilt even today.

We need your help to do it again. And when you support this work, you know it's going to be done in the clear confession and name of Jesus Christ, Savior of the World.

We are launching a major response to Harvey, and here's how you can help.

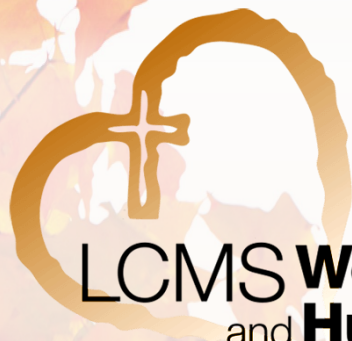
Continue to pray. Pray unceasingly that Christ's mercy and love are made known to the suffering. Pray for those who are going to share that love and mercy. Pray for our disaster response teams and our leaders, that they make wise decisions.

Give. Give as generously as you can, as the Lord allows.

If you own a smart phone you can send a text message to 414-44, and type LCMSHARVEY in the message field. After sending, you'll receive a link via return text to a phone-friendly, secure donation form.

Volunteer. Tell others in your congregation that our Synod is going to work in Texas, and invite them to join you in this response. Forward this email to others. Encourage them that there is hope, because Christ lives in them (Galatians 2:20), just as He lives in you. Specific volunteer opportunities will be communicated in the days ahead, and you can sign up to volunteer at lcms.org/harvey.

Learn more, follow the story, ask questions. Follow our Synod's response online at lcms.org/harvey, on the Synod's social-media outlets, and in our official publications.



LCMS **World Relief** and **Human Care**

You can call the Church Information Center at 888-843-5267 to speak with one of our representatives who will help answer any questions you may have. Please follow this story, because the road to recovery is going to be a long one.

I am reminded of what one person exclaimed when we were in this kind of situation before, as he saw the LCMS in action: "Thank God! The Lutherans are here!"

Will you join with others, with me, in helping people near the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana? I pray you will. I know you can.

Sub Cruce (Under the Cross),

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President

P.S. Because of the severity of this disaster, you may likely also receive an emergency appeal for donations in the mail. This effort is that important. How you choose to respond, whether to this message or to the letter, is entirely your choice. Please help, as the Lord allows.

Again, the ways to donate are as follows:

By Phone: 888-930-4438

By Web: www.lcms.org/give/hurricane

By Text: Text LCMSSHARVEY to 414-44. After sending, you'll receive a link via return text to a phone-friendly, secure donation form.

By Mail: make a check payable to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" or "LCMS". Write the gift designation on the memo line of your check (e.g. KFUD, Disaster Response, Ministry to the Armed Forces, etc.) and send to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

For updates or ways to volunteer go to www.lcms.org/harvey

Atonement Monthly

2017

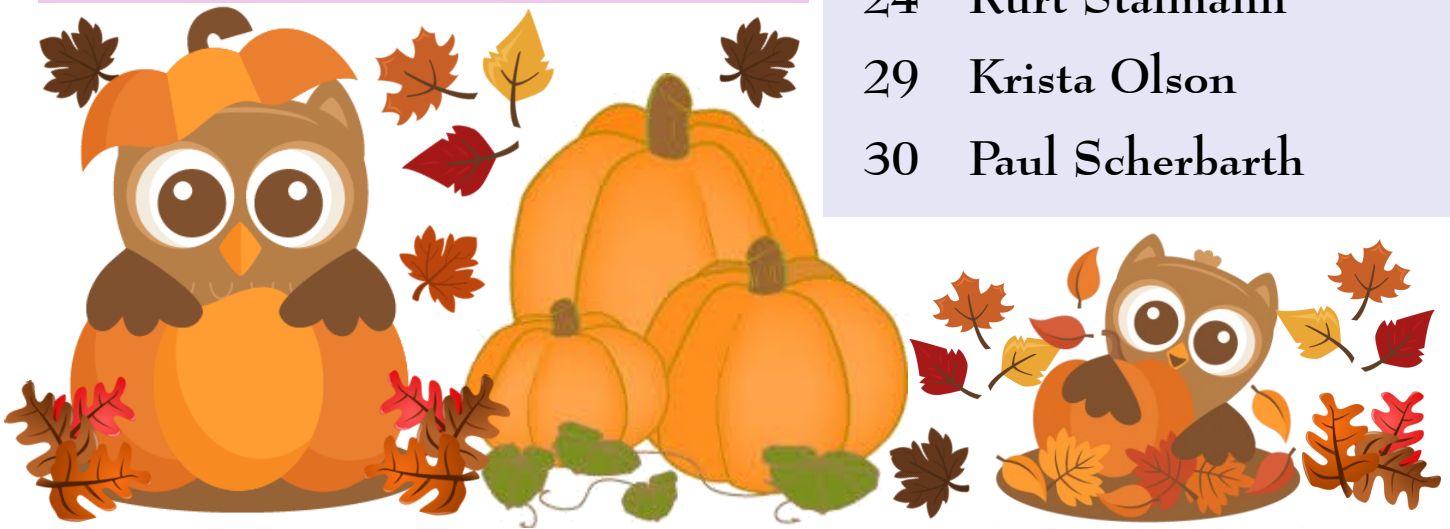


Birthdays

- 2 Larry Betancourt
- 5 Bob Imig
- 6 Matthew Lewallan
- 14 Steve Nelson
- 16 Jim Dysart
- 17 Ken Handy
- 19 Chet Scherbarth
- 24 Kurt Stalman
- 29 Krista Olson
- 30 Paul Scherbarth

Anniversaries

- 14 Larry & Blanca Betancourt



September

Lay Ministers

- 3 Mike Heidtbrink
- 10 Tim Hahn
- 17 Jim Dysart
- 24 Larry Betancourt

Acolytes

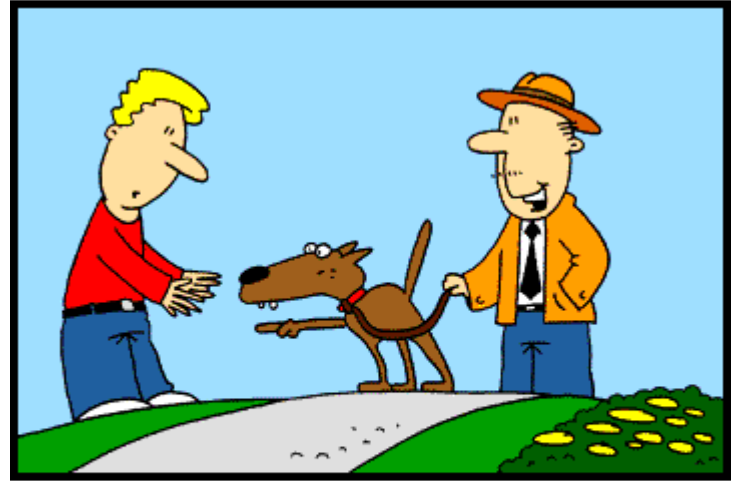
- Phillip Brann
- Sheree Moody
- Rebecca Moody
- Junior Betancourt

Flowers

Jim Dysarts Birthday

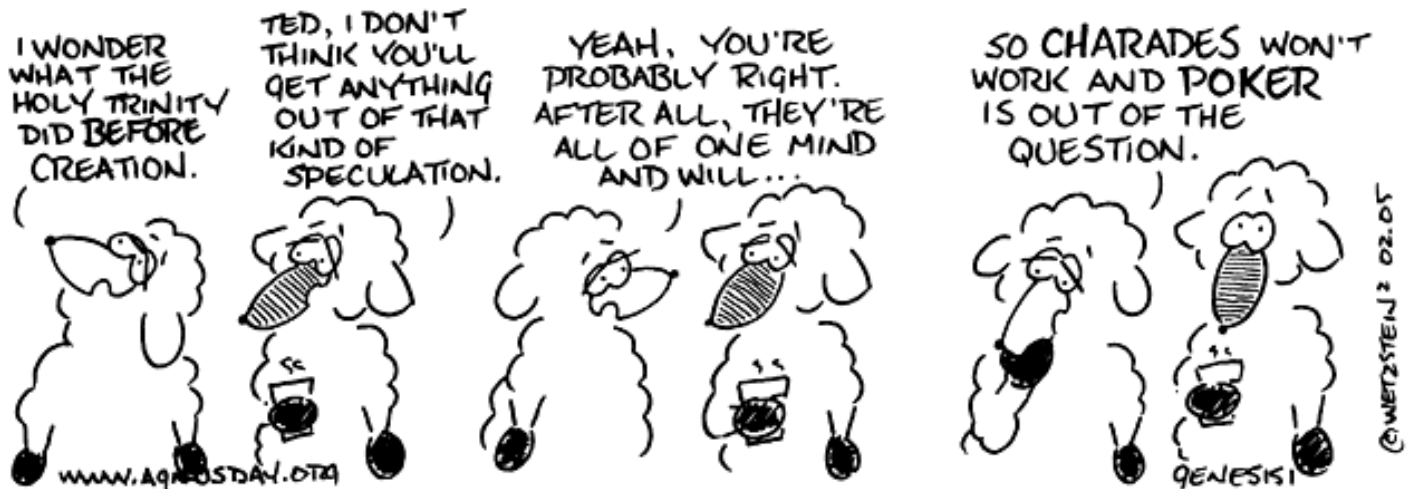
Ushers: Tim Hahn

Heavenly Humor



12-02-1998

OH DON'T WORRY ABOUT RUSTY, HE'S TRAINED TO SNIFF OUT NON-CHRISTIANS ... SAY, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO COME TO OUR BIBLE STUDY TONIGHT





October 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	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
3 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	4 	5 9:00 am AI Anon 4:00 pm Tutor Center NOW OPEN! reopens	6 10:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Tutor Center	7 4:00 pm Tutor Center 6:30 pm Scouts	1  7:00 pm Padre Night 5:00 pm AYOP	2
10 9:00 am Prayer/Predaching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	11 4:00 pm Tutor Center	12 9:00 am AI Anon 4:00 pm Tutor Center 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	13 10:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Tutor Center	14 4:00 pm Tutor Center	15 5:00 pm AYOP	16
17 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	18  4:00 pm Tutor Center 6:30 LWML End of Summer Dinner	19 9:00 am AI Anon 4:00 pm Tutor Center 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20 10:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Tutor Center	21 4:00 pm Tutor Center 6:30 pm Scouts	22 5:00 pm AYOP	23
24 8:15 am Lay Ministers 9:00 am Prayer/Predaching 10:30 am Bible Study	25 4:00 pm Tutor Center	26 9:00 am AI Anon 4:00 pm Tutor Center 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	27 10:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Tutor Center	28 4:00 pm Tutor Center	29 5:00 pm AYOP	30

2017—2018

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

Board of Stewardship

Chairperson	Judy Dysart
Member	Lynn Chiaravalle
Member	Jenny Moody

Board of Properties

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

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Chairperson	Jennie Green
Member	Carol Hernandez
Member	Donna Hurd

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Chairperson	Kristin Brann
Member	Gloria Ollhoff

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Chairperson	Beth Scherbarth
Member	Remi Tufts
Member	Sandee Handy

Flowers

Judi Cruz

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Chet Sherbarth
atonementspringvalley.org
atonement.sv@gmail.com

Weekly Service

Sunday at 9:00 am

Sunday School

Sunday at 10:30 am

Bible Studies

Sunday at 10:30 am

(Begins Sept. 12th)
Tuesday at 6:00 pm (Men's)

Wednesday at 10:00 am

Confirmation

(Begins in January)

Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday's at 7:00 pm
(Begins Sept 12th)

Atoner's Bell Ringers

Tuesday's at 6:00 pm
(Begins Sept. 12th)

Hiking Club

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

Contact Us



Call us!

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-12:30pm

619-670-7174

Pastors Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00-3:00pm



Write/E-mail

Mail: 10245 Loma Rancho Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91978

E-mail: Atonement.sv@gmail.com



**Add us on
Facebook!**



[www.facebook.com/
atonementspringvalley](http://www.facebook.com/atonementspringvalley)



**Check out our
Website!**

www.atonementspringvalley.org