



# Atonement Quarterly

Fall 2019

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

## Big Brother, bigger God

by Erin Mackenzie

I didn't even have to scan my passport. I just looked at the camera, pushed the "Take Photo" button, retrieved the print-out and got in line. How the latest iteration of Global Entry kiosks knew who I was is a mystery to me. The US Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) streamlined immigration program has been a godsend given the number of connections I've had through Miami in the past year, but their latest technological upgrade?

Borderline creepy.

### In This Issue

From the Pastor .....	1-3
Flowers, Fellowship .....	4
Stewardship Article .....	5-6
From the Pews .....	7-8
Church Kitchen .....	9
Kids Page .....	10
Teens Ministry .....	11-14
Heavenly Humor .....	15
Atonement Monthly .....	16
Calendar .....	17
Officers/Boards .....	18
Contact Us .....	19

Many of us interact with similar innovations daily. Apple launched Face ID with its iPhone X in 2017, and Google Display Network is a digital Big Brother. Recently, it picked up on my frequent travel and showed me a Facebook banner ad for something called "CheapOair." After I voted on a T-shirt design for our upcoming regional conference, it thought I might wish to place a bulk order from Custom Ink while scrolling through my MSN homepage. Yes, my browser's "cookies" leave a trail of crumbs that are a feast for marketers, who can learn much about my lifestyle, preferences and habits based on my online actions.

Psalm 139 begins: “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar” (vv. 1–2).

Google’s algorithms, surely, have searched us. Google Maps can pinpoint our location with astounding exactness, so it might as well know when we sit down and rise up. My iPhone long ago learned the answers to the first questions we typically ask to get to “know” someone: hometown, occupation, interests. With our devices silently gathering so much information about us, we might feel like strangers to those around us by comparison!

But the fact remains that neither Apple nor Google really knows us. To them, we’re faceless statistics. I’ve always wondered what the CBP agents’ screens show as they ask me a series of questions they can probably answer themselves. The contours of my cheekbones clue them in to a wealth of information. Even still, they don’t know me.

There are two Spanish verbs that both mean “to know,” but with different implications. Saber is used for factual knowledge. I “know” Spanish in this sense. Unlike before I moved to the tropics, I now “know” how best to cut a mango. Conocer conveys a deeper sense of familiarity. After almost a year on the field, I’m starting to feel like I “know” my city, Santiago. At least, visitors I chauffeur around tell me it looks like I do! I’m getting to “know” the people around me better and better and vice-versa. On my most recent of four trips to Jamaica, a member of the local church told me with a wide grin, “You’re not a visitor anymore!”

Apple, Google, and the professionals who tap into Google Analytics have factual knowledge about me. The CBP has more. God, too, sabe many things about me. In Psalm 139:2, “know” is commonly translated into Spanish using “saber.” God knows our whereabouts at all times! Later in Psalm 139, the RVC and many other Spanish Bible versions use “saber” to convey that God knows our thoughts and what we’re going to say before we even think to say it. But God knows us more profoundly, in a way that corporate America and



government agents don't and never will. "Know" in Psalm 139:1 is almost always translated using "conocer." God knows us. He's familiar with every atom of our physical being and every quirk of our personalities. The Creator who knit me together in my mother's womb knows more about me than I know about myself. Oddly, it's not creepy in the least, this being known by an all-knowing God, because I am also deeply loved by the same, abundantly-merciful God. More than Google can, more than any of my friends can, more than I myself can, God knows me truly and fully: He created me, and He loves me with perfect love.

The intimate knowing is also mutual. God invites me into a cherished, familial relationship with Him through Baptism. John records these words of Jesus: "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me" (10:14). What a privilege to know the Heavenly Father so fully! I can list many facts about each of the three persons of the Trinity, but, perhaps most importantly, I can say with Job: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth" (19:25).

*Erin Mackenzie is a career missionary in the Dominican Republic. When she's not traveling around Latin America overseeing the regional short-term team program — too often, according to her cat, Freddy — Erin enjoys reading, trying new recipes and challenging anyone who claims they can beat her at*



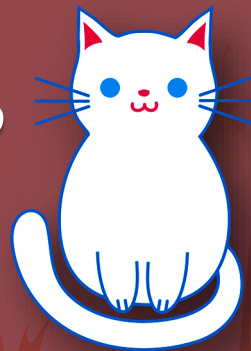
There is still space  
to sign up for  
flowers in 2019.  
The suggested  
donation is \$30  
and the flower  
chart is hung in  
the narthex.



## Flowers & Fellowship



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





# Stewardship News

What is a steward? Most people will say a steward is a manager.

That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him:

"For we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Tim. 6:7)

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner.

This is not only because He created all things; He is also the redeemer. He has redeemed – that is, purchased – and won all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege.

Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage his possessions on His behalf here on earth.

And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

But what a responsibility!

"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48b).

We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God?

We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will is for all of His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing we have that doesn't belong to Him.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – managers and custodians – are to manage His property.

# Stewardship News

The background of the page is a soft, warm-toned illustration. It features a variety of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, some of which are falling or blowing in the wind. A single stalk of wheat is positioned near the top left, just below the title. The overall aesthetic is peaceful and seasonal.

And that is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.

As St. Paul said,

“Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13).

So, let's dive into God's Word, and listen to what He desires from His stewards.



# From the Pews

## JOHN

-by Remi Tufts

John and his brother James received their call to Jesus' service as they mended their nets in their fishing boat. Their response to this call was immediate. Leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they followed Him, to spend the rest of their lives as "fishers of men." John refers to himself in his Gospel as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." There are a number of indications bearing out John's claim that the Master held him in special esteem. But perhaps the strongest evidence of it is the incident that occurred on Calvary, while Jesus lay dying on the cross: He committed Mary His mother to the care of John, the only one of the Twelve present.

John was one of a special group of disciples who on three occasions were chosen by Jesus to accompany Him. He permitted only Peter, James, and John to go with Him to the home of Jairus, whose child He raised from the dead; at the Transfiguration Jesus chose these three to go up the mountain with Him; He took Peter, James, and John with Him at Gethsemane when He went to pray, and bade the other disciples to stay some distance away. After Pentecost John worked closely with Peter in preaching Christ's message, and Paul in his letter to the Galatians states that the three outstanding Christian leaders in Jerusalem were Peter, James, and John. There is a strong and early tradition that, after many years in Jerusalem, John went to Ephesus. Another tradition has it that he was taken to Rome to be martyred, but miraculously escaped and was banished to the island of Patmos, but later returned to Ephesus, where, it is said he died peacefully about the year A.D. 100.

# From the Pews

## SIMON PETER

-by Remi Tufts

Simon and his brother Andrew were partners in a fishing business on the Sea of Galilee. The Gospel of John tells us that Simon was introduced to Jesus by Andrew. At this first meeting Jesus named him Peter, meaning "rock"; He saw in this generous-hearted fisherman qualities of leadership that would contribute greatly to the spreading of His gospel. Throughout Jesus' ministry and after His death we find Simon Peter exercising his leadership qualities with characteristic energy and initiative. His name leads all the lists of the apostles given in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and in the book of Acts. He is spokesman for the Twelve and acts as their leader in many other ways. For instance, at Caesarea Philippi he spoke for the Disciples in professing Jesus to be the Messiah; he rallied them after Jesus' arrest; he proposed the selection of a new apostle to take the place of Judas; on Pentecost his preaching led to the conversion of three thousand people. Simon Peter's leadership and initiative have established him as one of Christianity's greatest heroes. Yet, in the moment of weakness Peter had denied his Master. It is heartening thought that human weakness, when overcome and repented of, is no obstacle to true greatness. According to tradition Peter eventually went to Rome and no doubt helped to supervise the missionary efforts of the early Church from that center of empire. When exactly he went to Rome and how long he labored there is not known. He was martyred in Rome some time during the reign of the emperor Nero (A.D. 54-68). Tertullian, an ancient Christian writer who died about 225, says that he was crucified, and Eusebius, the early Church historian, adds that he suffered head downwards, at his own wish.





## Recipes FROM THE Church Kitchen

### Pumpkin Pancakes

"It's fall. It's time for hot cocoa, cozy blankets, and lazy Sundays spent watching movies. In



honor of the season, this is a recipe I love for Sunday morning pumpkin pie pancakes. They're tasty, perfect for the season, and pretty healthy for you too! These are the best in town."

Prep time: 10 min

Cook time: 10 min

Ready in: 20 min

### Ingredients

- 1 cup oats
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 3/4 cup egg whites
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup skim milk
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- cooking spray

### Directions

1. Blend oats, cottage cheese, egg whites, pumpkin puree, milk, pumpkin pie spice, honey, and cinnamon in blender until batter is smooth; pour into a bowl.
2. Heat a pan or skillet over medium heat; spray with cooking spray.
3. Scoop batter, about 1/4 cup per pancake, into the hot pan; cook until bubbles form and the edges are dry, about 2 minutes. Flip pancakes and cook until browned on the other side, 1 to 2 minutes. Repeat with remaining batter.

Recipe By: Anna Duffy

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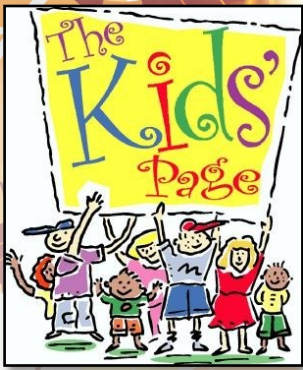
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Recipes



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](mailto:Atonement.sv@gmail.com)





## Read: Isaiah 43:1-5

## FEAR NOT

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 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.

Let's Pray: Lord, please come and be with me when I feel afraid. Take my fear away from me and fill me with more faith.

## Activity Page





# What We Learn About God from The Force

by Dare 2 Share Ministries

A long time ago in a movie theater far, far away...

I went to see the original Star Wars movie. I was a young kid at the time, but in retrospect it has become one of my most cherished memories. Up until the unveiling of this film, the whole genre of fantasy/science-fiction/adventure was a veritable wasteland of cheesy endeavors that made you want a refund. Ah, but in Star Wars we have an opening scene with a rebel ship being pursued and fired upon by an Imperial Battle Cruiser, and from that moment on, your eyes and senses are glued to this fantastic universe where good battles evil in the context of The Force.

Now, 38 years later (like I said...a long time ago), one of the biggest movie release perhaps in the history of the celluloid industry is The Force Awakens. A whole new generation of Star Wars aficionados will be generated, and we will anxiously anticipate the final two installments of this immortal series. But in the meantime, have you ever thought about what we can learn about God from The Force? Many may quickly dismiss even considering this possibility, but I would like to offer a few thoughts that might alter that perception.

First, if you look deep enough into the dialogue of the series, there are some really cool parallels with Biblical truth. For example:

**Luke Skywalker:** May The Force be with you.

***The Bible:*** *May the Lord be with you.*

**Obi-Wan:** The Force will be with you...always

***Jesus:*** *And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age* (Matthew 28:20).

Watching and reflecting on Star Wars through the years, and particularly focusing on the constant and abiding presence of The Force has been an ongoing reminder of the great truth that God will never leave us or forsake us.

Still, there are some stark and significant differences. One of these is the personal nature of the God of the Bible vs. the impersonal nature of The Force. By this I mean that it is one thing to be comforted by a Force that “surrounds us and binds us together,” but it is a much greater and more profound thing to know that our Triune God indwells our hearts through the Holy Spirit, and because of that, we are never abandoned or alone in this world.

Here’s the way King David expressed this certainty:

*God, investigate my life;  
get all the facts firsthand.  
I’m an open book to you;  
even from a distance, you know what I’m thinking.  
You know when I leave and when I get back;  
I’m never out of your sight.  
You know everything I’m going to say  
before I start the first sentence.  
I look behind me and you’re there,  
then up ahead and you’re there, too—  
your reassuring presence, coming and going.  
This is too much, too wonderful—  
I can’t take it all in!  
Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit?  
to be out of your sight?  
If I climb to the sky, you’re there!  
If I go underground, you’re there!  
If I flew on morning’s wings  
to the far western horizon,  
You’d find me in a minute—  
you’re already there waiting!*





*Then I said to myself,  
“Oh, he even sees me in the dark!  
At night I’m immersed in the light!”  
It’s a fact: darkness isn’t dark to you;  
night and day, darkness and light,  
they’re all the same to you (Psalm 139:1-12, The Message).*



And speaking of dark and light, that is the other critical reality that the Star Wars series has brought to center stage. That’s why George Lucas made this statement: “All I was trying to say in a very simple and straightforward way is that there is a God and there is a good and bad side” (Source: Cinema & New Media Arts). One of his motivations in making the Star Wars series was to counter the pervasive morally relativistic thinking of that generation—which obviously is still alive and well in the 21st century.

And the Bible makes it very clear that there is a “good side and bad side” as well, and you are either engaged in one or the other at all times. Check out Jesus’ words to the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus:

*“I’m sending you off to open the eyes of the outsiders so they can see the difference between dark and light, and choose light, see the difference between Satan and God, and choose God. I’m sending you off to present my offer of sins forgiven, and a place in the family, inviting them into the company of those who begin real living by believing in me” (Acts 26:17-18, The Message).*

I hope you enjoy The Force Awakens. But even more so, I hope you realize that we have a God who is with us...always. And we fight in an intense battle between darkness and light. So as you step out of the theater, step into the very real storyline that makes a very real difference both for now and into eternity!

**This week**, reflect on the truth that the Holy Spirit indwells your heart so that you can be aware of God's presence and full of His power to follow His will. Keep your eyes open to the battle around you, and live like a Christian Jedi!

**Pray:** Father, thank You for Your constant love and abiding presence. Empower us to open the eyes of our friends so they can enter into a relationship with You. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Read:** 1 Peter 2:9. But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light (NLT).

### **Discussion Questions:**

What is your favorite Star Wars movie? Why?

How does the truth of God's presence make you feel?

What other parallels do you see between Christianity and Star Wars?

What other differences do you see?

### **Check These Out!**



[www.facebook.com/LCMSYouthMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/LCMSYouthMinistry)



@lcmsyouth



LCMS Young Adult Ministry  
Empowered to lead.







Thanks to Josiah Gilman

05-02-2007

LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS

HYPOTHETICALLY. DO YOU THINK THAT SHEPHERDS ACTUALLY DO THAT? LEAVE ALL THEIR SHEEP JUST TO FIND *ONE*? THAT SEEMS *IRRESPONSIBLE!*



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

MAYBE IT IS. BUT THE GOOD SHEPHERD ALWAYS *SEEKS YOU.*



OH, THAT'S NOT *NECESSARY!* I WAS JUST ASKING FOR A *FRIEND!*



LUKE 15:1-10

© WETZSTEIN 19-09-10

THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE IS GOING TO *JUDGE ME!* I'M FREE TO FOLLOW MY OWN *PATH!*



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

MAYBE YOU ARE,

BUT IF PAUL WERE WRITING TODAY, HE'D PROBABLY IDENTIFY THAT NOTION OF PERSONAL MEANING-MAKING AS AMONG THE "EMPTY DECEITS" OF OUR TIME.



INSTEAD, CONSIDER THAT YOU WERE BURIED AND RAISED WITH CHRIST.

THE ANSWER'S *ALWAYS* "JESUS" ISN'T IT?

YES IT IS.



COLOSSIANS 2:6-19

© WETZSTEIN 16-07-19

# Atonement Monthly

2019



BIRTHDAYS



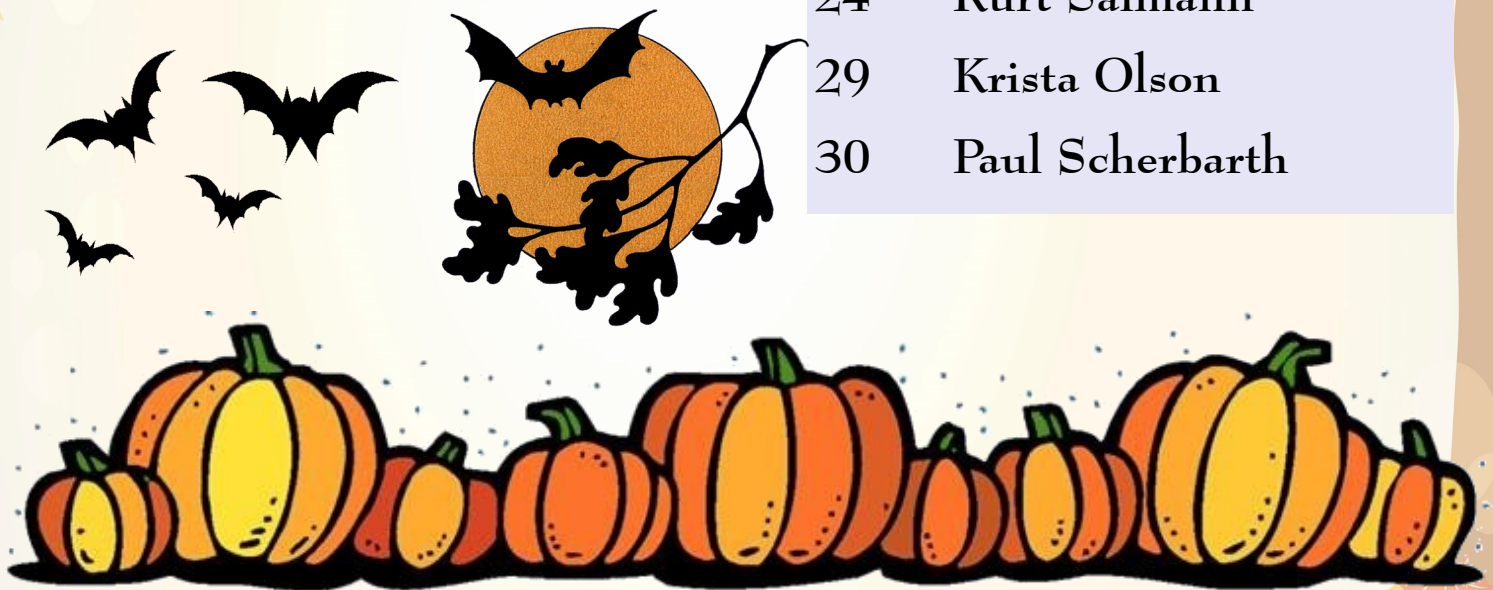
& ANNIVERSARIES

## Anniversaries

14 Larry & Blanca Betancourt

## Birthdays

2 Larry Betancourt  
5 Bob Imig  
6 Matthew Lewallen  
14 Steve Nelson  
16 Jim Dysart  
19 Chet Scherbarth  
24 Kurt Salmann  
29 Krista Olson  
30 Paul Scherbarth



## Septemeber

### Lay Ministers

### Acolytes

### Flowers


1	Mike Heidtbrink	Johnathan Moody	Jean Vandewalker's 84 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
8	Tim Hahn	Elizabeth Brann	
15	Jim Dysart	Rebecca Moody	
22	Larry Betancourt	Chloe Scherbarth	
29	Mike Heidtbrink	Elizabeth Brann	



# september

**OCTOBER 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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
<b>1</b> 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 am Prayer/Praising 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:00 pm AYOP	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm LWML Business Dinner	<b>17</b> 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Scouts	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5:00 pm AYOP	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:15 am Lay Meeting 9:00 am Contemporary 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:00 pm AYOP	<b>28</b> 10:00 am AI-Anon Business Meeting  Hiking Club
<b>29</b> 9:00 am Contemporary 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School 	<b>30</b>					

## 2019—2020

### Officers and Board/Committee Members

#### Executive Board

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Secretary Shenoah Riess  
Financial Secretary Ann Duggan  
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Member Remi Tufts  
Member Dee Moody

**Flowers** Ann Duggan

## 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

### First Communion Class

Sunday at 10:30 am

### Bible Studies

Sunday at 10:30 am

Tuesday at 6:00 pm (Men's)

Wednesday at 10:00 am

Thursday at 6:20 pm - Joining Jesus  
- *Every other Thursday of the month* -

### Confirmation

Friday's at 3:00 pm

### Membership Classes

Wednesdays at 8:00 am

### 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 9:30-12:30pm*

**619-670-7174**

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



**Write/E-mail**

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**E-mail:** [Atonement.sv@gmail.com](mailto:Atonement.sv@gmail.com)



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