

MISSION

Atonement Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered congregation that cares for the whole person with the Good News of Jesus Christ

VISION

To be a strong leader of our community in caring for its needs with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES

Witness

We are God's redeemed people who bear witness to Jesus Christ

Mercy

We are God's redeemed people who show mercy to those who have physical needs

Life Together

We are God's Redeemed people who gather together around the life giving Word and Sacraments and have fellowship with one another.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This month I would like us to consider the following question: How do visitors view Atonement?

Do visitors and outsiders to Atonement view us as warm and welcoming? Do they view us as friendly? I think so. At least, I have heard as much from visitors. This is good.

It is difficult to enter a new community. It can be intimidating. A visitor to a new community is not just entering a new place. They are among new people. They are engaging a new culture. They are experiencing a new kind of language native to that culture and people. In a word, entering a new community is an *adjustment*. That is why it is important to communicate a warm, welcoming, and friendly attitude for outsiders and visitors. Atonement does this very well.

But what about another adjective. Do you think that visitors and outsiders to Atonement would describe us as 'helpful'? Wouldn't it be great if our congregation and its members had a resounding reputation of being a 'helpful' people? For, a helpful people is a servant-hearted people. Wouldn't it be great to have the reputation of being '*helpful, Christ-centered servants*'?

I want to challenge us to also make an extra effort to be even more helpful to visitors and outsiders. So what are a few ways we can do this?

If it is true that outsiders and visitors might feel intimidated because they don't know new people, then maybe we can make an extra effort to introduce ourselves and introduce those visitors and outsiders to other people. Maybe we can get to know more about them. Where are you from? What do you do for a living? Do you have a church home? Do you have any questions about our Church?

If it is true that outsiders and visitors might feel intimidated because they don't know the culture of Atonement, then what can we do to help them understand who we are and why we do what we do? Are there ways that we can help them navigate the *Lutheran Service Book* better? Are they looking for a place to sit? Can we invite them to sit next to us? Can we help them find their way to the location for our fellowship hour? Can we invite them to Sunday School and the Adult Bible Study after the Divine Service?

If it is true that outsiders and visitors might feel intimidated because they don't know the language of Atonement, then maybe we can be sensitive and explain some of the words and acronyms that we might take for granted— Church Council, Lay Ministers, LWML, etc.

As God's redeemed people in Christ, the Spirit of God is at work in us

producing all kinds of fruit. As we seek to be God's redeemed, Christ-centered people here at Atonement, it is my prayer that we continue to be sensitive to how visitors and outsiders might be feeling. It is my prayer that in addition to being warm and welcoming, that we also be *helpful*, Christ-centered servants.

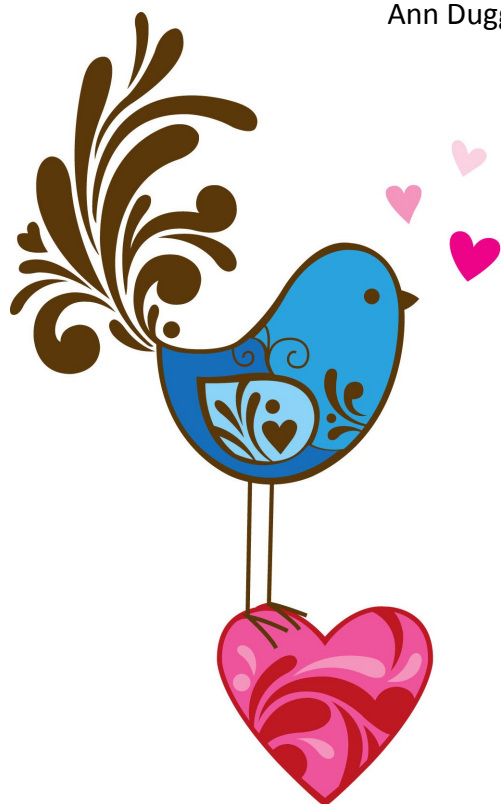
In Christ,

Pastor Josh

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

For the month of December receipts totaled \$15,956. To meet the approved budget, we need \$10,768. Fiscal year to date, receipts total \$78,258 vs budget of \$83,452 which puts us \$5,194 behind budget. A total of \$445 has been received through December for Advent folders that will be given to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. Contribution statements have been placed in your mailbox for the year 2014. If you have any questions, please call me at 619-729-2931.

Ann Duggan



BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Bible paper

This is the thin but durable and relatively expensive paper used in Bibles and some other books. It's also called "India paper." In our own day, acid-free paper means that most books will hold up well as they age. But, as a look at old books in libraries will prove, earlier papers aged horribly, yellowing and falling to shreds – except for Bible paper, which did and does last.

Study Bibles

Some Bibles are "just Bible," the text of the Old and New Testaments and nothing else. But most contain some aids to the reader – at the minimum, footnotes explaining difficult phrases. Study Bibles with extensive footnotes and introductions to the various books in the Bible are very popular now, and they have been popular ever since the printing press made Bibles available to the general public. The Reformation in the 1500s opened the Bible to the laity, and most readers like some notes to aid their understanding. The trend today seems to be "niche markets" for study Bibles – geared for mothers, fathers, teens, senior adults, and so on.

Red-letter Bibles

In a "red-letter Bible", the words of Christ are printed in red (presumably because they are of special importance). The first red-letter Bible appeared in 1928, and they are still available. In recent years one Bible publisher decided (correctly) that red print is hard to read, so a new "green-letter Bible" was published. It has yet to replace the old standby, the red-letter.

Musical Instruments

In our Worship Services at Atonement our goal is to embrace the traditions of the Church while re-presenting them for this present time. One of the ways we re-present those traditions is through variety in musical instrumentation.

The musicians that our Music Director recruits for the special services such as Christmas Eve and Easter greatly enhances the celebration of these services. The special music praises our love and glory to the Lord. The added music is enjoyed by



everyone. However, when the musicians are requested, it is necessary to contact them early prior to the event to ensure their availability. Also, contacting the musicians early is important so they are able to practice the music and with the choir. Finding someone available is one thing, and then paying for their services and time is something else.

For these reasons, a special “musical instrument fund” has been setup. This fund was started with a \$500 donation. To ensure this music that has been enjoyed by the congregation is maintained and these special musical additions to the services can continue, please help by donating any amount you wish. We are asking that an extra \$5, \$10, or \$15 be put in the offering once a month. Note on the check or the offering envelope that the amount is for the musical instrument fund. The envelopes in the pews may be used.

We thank God that together we can continue to support the work of the Church and advance his Kingdom!

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

“Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful” (Luke 6:36). The word for mercy that Jesus uses here has a more concrete meaning than what we typically associate with mercy. It means more than just being kind. It means to be concerned about your neighbor’s state and well-being. Thus, Jesus taught that we are to care, to be concerned about our neighbor’s state and well-being even as our Father in heaven cares for and is concerned about our state and well-being.

How has our Father in heaven cared for our state?
How has He shown His concern for our well-being?
How has He showered this mercy upon us?

He gave of Himself. He sent His only-begotten Son in human flesh, to become one of us—a man—and to suffer all that we suffer and to endure what we endure—a fallen world full of sinful people, temptation, the attacks of the devil, and death. He

took upon Himself what rightfully belongs to us—sin and death—in order that He could give to us what rightfully belongs to Him—righteousness, purity, eternal life, and victory over the temptation of Satan and this fallen world. That is how He cared for our state. That is how He was concerned for our well-being. He entered into our state for the sake of our well-being, died in our place, rose for our justification, redeemed us to make all things new. He entered our state so that by water and His Word we would be granted entrance into His state as children of our Father in heaven. In other words, He had empathy toward us, which resulted in true sympathy.

Jesus, therefore, calls the church to empathy and sympathy for her neighbors. “Be merciful even as your Father in heaven is merciful.” He asks the church to give of herself, to enter into her neighbors’ state for their well-being. And the church gives of herself the only thing in her that is worth giving. As the Body of Christ, she gives Christ to her neighbors. She gives out the same mercy that she has received. She gives the mercy that the heavenly Father poured out upon her through the sending of His Son. And she does it through the preaching of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed, in Word and Sacrament. For this is how the church lives—in the forgiveness of sins received in the means of grace—and, therefore, this is what the church does. What else can she do? And since this is how the church lives



and what the church does, this is likewise how Christians live and what Christians do. That is why giving to the church is so important. It ensures that the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed continues. It ensures that our neighbors' state and well-being is cared for and attended to. It ensures that our neighbors have access to our heavenly Father's mercy just as we have received it here in time for all eternity.

Therefore, I say, let us be merciful even as our Father in heaven is merciful.

LWML

***LWML Lutheran Women's Missionary League –
Women in Mission at Atonement Lutheran Church***

February 1, 2015

Super Bowl Sunday Junk Food Sale – The money raised or donated will go toward a defibrillator for Atonement Lutheran Church

February 15, 2015

Fat Sunday – Money donated through a free-will offering will go towards a defibrillator for Atonement Lutheran Church

Reminder: Every 2nd Sunday during the coffee hour the LWML table is available for collecting MITES and giving out free items.

Women's Bible Study – Our study of the book "Pew Sisters" will be put on hold during the Lent season. Our last class before the break is February 11, 2015. They will return in April after Easter on Wednesday's at 6:30pm.

Why a defibrillator? Many churches have them for that one moment when a defibrillator is needed in an emergency for a fellow member or guest! We are considering having a CPR/First Aid class with instruction on using an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in April or May.

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

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



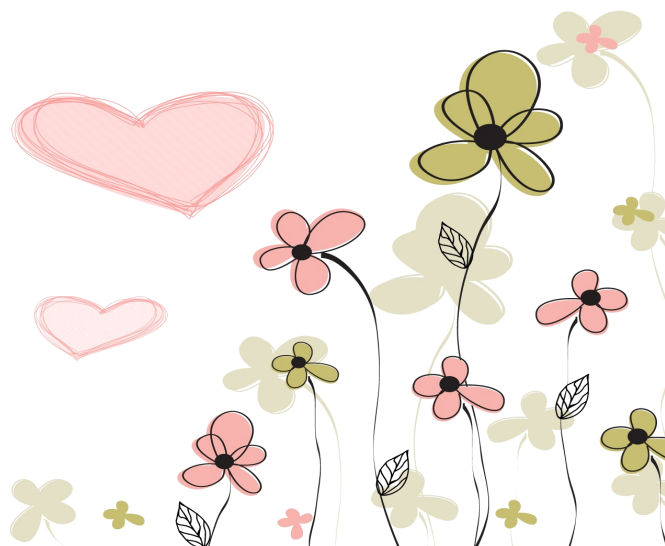
FROM THE PEWS

PRAYER

Jesus was raised in a Jewish home and so it would have been natural for Him to pray. He was taught to pray as a young child. He was taught to pray frequently, at specific times during the day. This example of Jesus' prayer life in the Bible reminds us that prayer can be defined simply as communication with God. Because God is personal, all people can offer prayers and speak to God as dear children to their dear father.

The model prayer which Jesus taught us to pray, "The Lord's Prayer" (Luke 11: 1-4; Matt. 6: 5-15), occurs in the Sermon on the Mount. Through that prayer Jesus emphasized that prayer is an expression of our needs to our Heavenly Father. God speaks to us through his Word and Sacraments and we in turn speak to Him in our trustful, believing prayer.

-Remi Tufts





FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Interested in keeping up to date with Atonement on a regular basis?



Find us on Facebook for updates, devotional links, and church news.

You can find us at

www.facebook.com/atonementspringalley



There is still space to sign up for flowers in 2015. The suggested donation is \$30 and the flower chart is hung

*** THIS MONTH'S *
birthdays**

- 6 Katie Duggan
- 10 Shirley Ferguson
- 17 Andrew Jay
- 18 Fred Rueger
- 19 Nancy Riley
- Christian Betancourt
- 20 Jared Weber
- 28 Geneva Mello

February
anniversaries

- 2 Fred and Guida Rueger
- 9 Ken and Virginia Camp
- 14 Mark and Lynn Chiaravalle
- 17 Todd and Kathy Martens
- 23 Manfred and Joanne Luther
- 25 Larry and Teresa Steele

February

Lay Ministers

- 1 Jim Dysart
- 8 Larry Betancourt
- 15 Robert Bryant
- 22 Don Geisinger

Acolytes

- Rebecca Moody
- Junior Betancourt
- Sheree Moody
- Philip Brann

Flowers

- Rueger—61st Anniversary
- Sandee Boelter—David Sr. B-day
- Vandewalker 59th Anniversary

Usher: Larry Steele

Asst. Usher: John Munnik

2014—2015

Officers and Board/Committee Members

Executive Board

President	Todd Martens
Secretary	Shenoah Heidtbrink
Financial Secretary	Ann Duggan
Treasurer	Nancy Riley

Board of Lay Ministry

Chairperson	Manny Cruz
Member	Don Geisinger
Member	Jim Dysart
Member	Robert Bryant
Member	Larry Betancourt

Board of Stewardship

Chairperson	Judy Dysart
Member	Lynn Chiaravalle
Member	Kathy Martens
Member	Jenny Moody

Board of Properties

Chairperson	Art and Beth Puls
Member	Manfred Luther
Member	Bobby Riess
Member	Dave Brinchman
Member	Bob Imig

Board of Fellowship

Chairperson	Jennie Green
Member	Donna Hurd
Member	Carol Hernandez

Board of Education

Chairperson	Seth Heidtbrink
Member	Gloria Ollhoff

Board of Outreach

Chairperson	Sandee Boelter
Member	Bob Karo
Member	Remi Tufts

Flowers Carol Hernandez

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

10245 Loma Rancho Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91978
(619) 670-7174
Rev. Joshua LaFeve, Pastor
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

Wednesday at 6:00 pm (Women's)

Thursday at 6:30 pm (Young Adult)

Sunday School

Sunday at 10:30 am

Confirmation

Tuesday's at 5:00 pm

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

FEBRUARY

March 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	2	3 7:00 am Properties 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Choir	4 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's Group 6:30 pm Scouts	5 11:00 am Lay Ministers 11:30 am Better Life Together	6	7
8 9:00 am Prayer/Preaching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Sunday School Meeting	9 6:00 pm Church Council	10 9:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Choir	11 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's Group	12 11:30 am Better Life Together 6:30 pm Thrivent Budgeting Workshop	13	14 <i>Valentines Day</i> 
15 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	16 <i>Presidents Day</i> 	17 9:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bells 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Choir	18 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 11:30 am Better Life Together	20 7:00 pm Game Night	21 10:00 am AI-Anon Business Meeting
22 9:00 am Prayer/Preaching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	23	24 9:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Choir	25 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service	26 11:30 am Better Life Together	27	28 4:00 pm New Member Dinner