

Atonement's News

June 2014

A Monthly Publication of Atonement Lutheran Church

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.



During our annual voters' meeting in May we voted to adopt a strategic plan for ministry in the next one to three years. During the next few months I would like to take some time in this newsletter article to "unpack" each component of our strategic plan. This month we will consider our **mission statement**. A mission statement answers the question, "Why do we exist as a congregation?" Our adopted mission statement is this: "We are a Christ-centered congregation that cares for the whole person with the good news of Jesus Christ." Let's break down our mission statement and reflect on each part.

- **Christ-centered congregation**—We are a people of God who are baptized into Christ and his death and resurrection (Rom 6:4-11). As individual baptized Christians we are "in Christ" (Rom 8:1). When we gather together for Worship as a congregation, we gather around God's Word and his Sacraments (Acts 2:42-47). This is to say that Christ is also in the center of our life together.
- **That Cares**—We are people who care. We are people who love and show compassion as God first loved us (1 Jn 4:19-21). We are people who witness. We are people who show mercy.
- **For**—For whom do we care? We care for people. We care for people in the place where the Lord has called us. As Christian fathers and husbands we care for our wife and children. As Christian mothers and wives we care for our children and husband. As a Christian neighbor we care for our fellow neighbors. As a congregation we seek to care for the needs of the people within the immediate community where God has placed us. We care for people right where we are.
- **The Whole Person**—We are called to care for the whole person. We are called to care for their spiritual needs and physical needs. For their whole body. We are created and recreated as people who have bodies and souls. The Church has always been a people that meets needs and cares for people (Acts 2:45; Acts 4:34-37).
- **With**—We have an instrument, a tool, that we use to care and show compassion to people. We care and show compassion with the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ. It is the power for salvation (Rom 1:16)!
- **The Good News of Jesus Christ**—The Gospel of Jesus Christ is *good news*. In a world filled with bad news, our God gives good news of

forgiveness, life, and salvation through the person and work of his Son that is for all people.

By the grace of God and through the gift of his Holy Spirit may we always be who God has called us to be in Christ. We are a people who matter to God and so the needs of others matter to us, as God's people. In boldness we go forth to do what God has called us to do as the Church. We lead with the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Picturing the Bible



Halo

Christian artwork often shows a halo around the head of Jesus, the apostles, or other saintly persons. The early Christian artists borrowed the concept from pictures of Roman emperors. No one actually believed that saintly people really had visible halos.

Salvador Dali (1904-1989)

Noted for his surrealist paintings, the Spanish artist enjoyed his reputation as an eccentric. Hardly religious, he did paint a few biblical scenes. Like their creator, they are peculiar. His *Sacrament of the Last Supper* shows a beardless, pale-skinned Jesus presiding over His disciples in white robes in a sort of glass room. His *Christ of St. John of the Cross* shows the crucified Jesus from directly overhead – an unusual view, but, one might say, the divine view.



Rembrandt (1606 – 1669)

This Dutch master was, some say, the greatest artist of all time. He was certainly one of the best where paintings of Bible scenes are concerned. Like most Dutch painters, Rembrandt excelled in

realism, making everyday objects and people seem interesting. He used himself, his wife, his son, even street people as models in his paintings, and even used a beggar as a model for a king of Israel. In *The Raising of the Cross*, he shows himself as one of the people helping to crucify Jesus. *The Return of the Prodigal Son* is filled with a deeply felt humanity. He painted dozens of other Bible scenes: *The Supper at Emmaus*, *Joseph Accused by Potiphar's Wife*, *Belshazzar's Feast*, and many others.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

2012 Sunday Average: 63.22

2013 Sunday Average: 70.90

2014 1st Quarter: 71.46

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She . . . put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. We give small gifts precisely because we don't trust the Lord to

provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant, who must give a tithe. We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that was done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). And what proportion is that? We are free, for we are not slaves but sons. Nevertheless, ten percent, the amount demanded for those under the Old Covenant, is a good starting point, unless there is a reason not to. For we have received more from God in Christ, and we are free now to give more also. So use ten percent unless there is a reason to use five percent or fifteen percent.

But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)! We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, without resources for the poor and needy—in short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love

because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your ten fingers spread apart. You catch with your hands God's gifts for what you need so that the rest may fall through your fingers to your neighbors—your family, your friends, your community, your church.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT



For the month of April we received offerings in the amount of \$11,486.60

BOARD OF EDUCATION

For the summer Sunday School will take a break from the Growing in Christ curriculum. Each grade level will focus on lessons chosen by their teachers.



Stay tuned for information regarding this summer's Vacation Bible School: **Gangway to Galilee!**

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

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



BOARD OF OUTREACH

The Board of Outreach welcomes Bob Karo to the board. Remi Tufts remains on the Board. Board Chair is Sandee Boelter.

The game night on May 23rd was cancelled because of low participation. Carol Hernandez indicates that we will possibly reschedule in July.


Saturday, June 21st we will be going out on another neighborhood outreach from 10-12pm. This will include an invitation to church and VBS. Everyone is invited to join the youth and Sunday School children. You will be truly blessed when you join this group. A lunch will be served.

VBS July 21-25.

The Prayer Chain, chaired by Carol Hernandez and helped by Jennie Green and Jo Ann Luther is very active. We have seven people who are greeters. Two persons help out at Loma Portal Grade School weekly. Several people offer rides to others.

Thank you all for your service.

Respectfully submitted, Sandee Boelter, Chairman



PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Carol Hernandez if you would like a prayer on the Prayer Chain. Carol can be contacted by phone at (619) 334-8015 or by e-mail at catseyedesigns@cox.net. If you can't get a hold of her by phone, you can call Joanne Luther at (619) 461-6366 or Jennie Green at (619) 465-6051.

FROM THE PEWS

This ancient Jewish festival of "Pentecost" took its name from the Greek meaning "fifty". It was celebrated 50 days following the offering of the barley harvest on the second day of Passover. It took place seven weeks after barley offering, so it came to be known as the "Festival of Weeks".

As the Jewish people celebrated Pentecost it was a happy time of rejoicing which commemorated the wheat harvest. It was one of their three annual festivals when every able-bodied male was required to appear at the temple or main sanctuary. There, each one was to present at least two loaves of bread made from the newly harvested grain along with other offerings which were to be made. It was a huge gathering marked of joy.

For the first Christians of the church, Pentecost took on a whole new meaning of significance. The account can be read in the "Acts of the Apostles" when 120 disciples gathered in an Upper Room following Jesus' death and resurrection. When day arrived, Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of violent wind and sat on each of them. The account continues that each of them began speaking another language, which they had not learned (Acts2:2-4). It was a supernatural visitation of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of a new era. Jesus had commanded His followers to wait in Jerusalem until this outpouring from heaven was experienced. This was the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those believers and this phenomenon is still happening today! Jesus had previously told them that when He went away He would be sending the "Comforter", the Holy Spirit, to dwell within them to lead and guide them in His absence.

- Remi Tufts

ATONEMENT'S HIKING CLUB

We will hike on Saturday, May 31st. Stay tuned for more information!

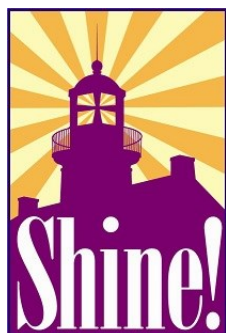


I am so thankful to everybody for supporting me for my mission trip and I am overwhelmed with all of your help. I am thanking my family and friends for planning

the fundraising brunch as well. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

- Remi Tufts

ATONEMENT'S LWML



LWML Convention

June 13-14

All are welcome to join us at the LWML convention for the opening service. The service begins at 7:30 pm. The opening service will take place at Double Tree by Hilton in Mission Valley. You do not need to be registered for the convention to attend the opening service. All are welcome!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Manfred Luther
- 4 Shirley Tobin
- 6 Jan Stalman
Hanne Hartwig
- 12 Lynn Chiaravalle
- 14 Ludi Graf
- 17 Guida Rueger
- 22 Bonnie Geisinger
- 24 Stephen Cruz
- 25 Jonathan Munnik
Dave Boelter Jr.
- 29 Tony Blaettler

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Curtis and Ann Duggan
- 24 Manny and Judi Cruz



There is still space to sign up for flowers in 2014. The suggested donation is \$30 and the flower chart is hung in the narthex.

JUNE

Lay Ministers

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

Acolytes

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

Flowers

- Elizabeth Brann's 8th Birthday [OPEN]
- Puls—In remembrance of Regina Eastman and Gloria Puls
- Manny and Judi Cruz's Anniversary and their Grandkids birthdays [OPEN]

Usher: Larry Steele

Altar Guild: Remi Tufts

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

Sunday School

Sunday at 10:30 am

Confirmation

Tuesday at 5:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal

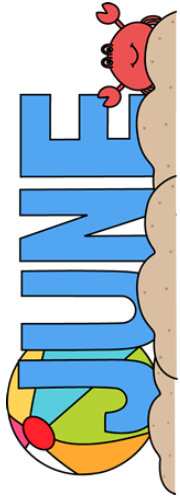
Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Atoner's Bell Ringers

Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Hiking Club

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



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 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	4 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	5 11:30 am Better Life Together	6	7
8 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Social Ministry	9 6:00 pm Church Council	10 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	11 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	12 11:00 am Lay Ministers 11:30 am Better Life Together	13	14
15 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	16 6:30 pm LWML Ladies Night Out	17 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	18 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	19 11:30 am Better Life Together	20	21
22 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	23	24 10:00 am AI Anon 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Men's Group 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	25 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	26 11:30 am Better Life Together	27	28
29 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	30					