

Atonement Quarterly

Spring 2016

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

A THEORY OF EVERYTHING

GUT (the Grand Unified Theory)--alias the Theory of Everything-- is the elusive jewel in the crown of today's modern scientists. Physicists, cosmologists, and evolutionists alike are all pouring record amounts of time and money into discovering that one theory that makes all of life make sense.

"To discover the grand unified theory (GUT) or the theory of everything (TOE)," says Christian scientist and author Dr. Richard Swenson, "would bring world-wide fame and assure a Nobel Prize. It also would bring world-immortalization similar to that enjoyed by Einstein's name. Yet such a discovery," he continues, "has proven elusive. Even Einstein himself searched the last twenty-five years of his life for this theory without success."

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Swenson goes on to relate the following exchange with famed British physicist, Dr. Stephen Hawking (a heralded voice in the anti-God scientific community): "When ... Hawking was asked his opinion about the biggest unsolved problem in physics today, he did not equivocate: "The theory of everything. ... We feel that we are near, but we never get there. It always seems just over the rainbow's edge." When asked if the task will be finished soon, Hawking replied: "My money is on it."

Hawking's concluding paragraph in his best-selling A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME reads: "If we do discover a complete theory, it should in time be understandable in broad principle by everyone, not just a few scientists. Then we

shall all, philosophers, scientists, and just ordinary people, be able to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the universe, exist. if we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason-- for then we would know the mind of God." Ironically, Swenson points out that Hawking often makes reference to God, though he is quick to say that he does not believe in a personal deity, an intentional designer, or in an afterlife.

There is indeed a GUT (Grand Unified Theory), a TOE (Theory of Everything), a discovery that answers the elusive questions of life, and It's right under our noses, immortalized in the pages of Scripture. "For by him [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is he head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent." (Colossians 1:16-18)

As Hawking suggests, a theory of everything can be "understood in broad principle by everyone, not just a few scientists." Indeed, Jesus makes it possible for "philosophers, scientists, and just ordinary people...to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the universe, exist . . . [and to] know the mind of God."

Board of Outreach

On Saturday, February the 20th; five members visited the Museum of Creation and Earth History. It was very informative. Next month we will be canvassing the nearby neighborhoods, watch for more information!



LWML News

March 13 - SPRING CRAFTY BAKE SALE

Don't miss our delicious, mouth-watering goodies after church. We will be downstairs and goodies will go fast!. We will also have crafty items for sale. We will accept any items you make - including items made by our crafty men!

April 30 - MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Reserve the date for our tea at 10 am.

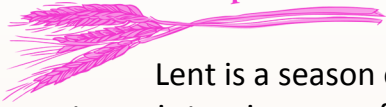
There is still space
to sign up for
flowers in 2016.
The suggested
donation is \$30
and the flower
chart is hung in
the narthex.



Flowers & Fellowship



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



Lent is a season of repentance.

Repentance is turning away from sin, while we turn toward God for the forgiveness of sins. During Lent, we hear the Word of God and consider our lives in light of it. We confess our failures, and receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, and then commit ourselves to do better.

What does God say about giving to the Church? The Bible tells us. Our giving should be first fruits giving (Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9). Our giving should be regular, on the first day of week, which has the Divine Service in mind (1 Corinthians 6:1–2). Our giving should be proportional: according to our income (1 Corinthians 16:1–2), according to what we have been given (2 Corinthians 8:12; Luke 12:48), our giving should be given with a spirit of eagerness and enthusiasm (2 Corinthians 9:2), generosity and liberality (2 Corinthians 8:20), cheerfully without compulsion (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our giving should be directed to those who teach us (Galatians 6:6–7) because a laborer is worthy of his hire, and we all know the going rate of such laborers in our communities (Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:18).

Now consider your own giving in light of the Bible's teaching. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? Are you giving with eagerness and enthusiasm? Are you giving to your local congregation, sharing all good things with the one who teaches you? If your answer to any of these is "No," then repent. Turn away from your sin and toward God for forgiveness. Confess your failure. Receive absolution. And commit to do better. We know that the Spirit is willing but our flesh is weak. We believe, and we pray that God, through Word and Sacrament, would help our unbelief, our lack of trust in His ability to provide.

And this is precisely what God promises. This is what St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth: "The

point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. Everyone benefits. We will be blessed in our giving, and it will produce thanksgiving to God in those who receive it.

Giving to the church is not a burden, just like all of God's teaching (1 John 5:2–4). They are not a burden because of He who gives it: the God who loves us and gave His only Son to die so that we may live. He loved us in that He sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons. . . . So we are no longer slaves, but sons, and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:4–5, 7). We are heirs. We receive the full rights of sons, a status that Christ our Lord achieved for us by His death, resurrection, and ascension.

So we strive to do what He asks because we are His children. And when we don't, we repent. We confess our sins. We receive absolution. We desire to do better, praying that God would work in us both to will and to do according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

The Final Week

Almost one-third of the Gospel account are taken up with the final events leading to the execution of Jesus. There is more detail available to us than any other week of His life. This week is also called the "Holy Week" and is celebrated with solemnity through-out the world.

Six days before the Passover, while enjoying a quiet supper in Bethany, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anointed the feet of Jesus with a very costly perfume/ointment and dried them with her hair. It was almost as if done in preparation for His burial.

The next day Jesus rode into Jerusalem in triumph. We call it "Palm Sunday." The crowd was made up of pilgrims of the Holy City, as well as residents, who greeted Him as the promised Messiah in the hopes He would seize political power and lead the rebellion against Rome. Instead He preached His message of heavenly kingdom which challenged the Jewish religion establishment. These leaders enlisted the aid of Judas to arrest Jesus while at prayer and away from the crowd in the Garden of Gethsemane. This followed the Last Supper, or The Passover meal, with His disciples.

The trial began with false witnesses enlisted to testify against Him, and the religious authorities were able to quickly get the death sentence from the Roman procurator, Pontius Pilate. Finally. . . this week ended with excruciating, humiliating death on the Cross. This was followed by His disciples fleeing in despair. His opponents gloated with the satisfaction that this radical, fanatical, upstart rabbi from Nazareth had been finally eliminated! SUNDAY, however, began a new day! ! !

From the Pews

Noble Things

Let's think about some of the leaders found in the Bible, then take a look at the things they prayed for. Many were given the opportunities to express these directly to God, the Father, who said in essence: "I will give you whatever you ask." As I compiled the following list, I also discovered they all asked for more noble things of life . . . not for personal needs or desires

Abraham requested: "Help me follow you."

Moses requested: "Help me set your people free."

David requested: "Help me kill the giant of oppression to free your people from bondage."

Esther requested: "Help me save my people from annihilation."

Solomon requested: "Give me wisdom."

Isaiah requested: "Give me lips that are clean so I can speak your words."

Peter requested: "Help me to care for and feed your sheep."

Jesus requested: "Help me to show them your love and be their perfect sacrifice."

Isaiah, the prophet who requested clean lips also wrote, "But, the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands."

Jesus . . . the noblest of all, asked for noble things! ! !

The Workout

Taken from “An Exercise in Laughter”

by Tina Krause



Single file, I followed the other choir members to the choir loft. The organ accompanied our procession, our robes swaying with each step. Church was about to begin, so I put forth an effort to look my Sunday best.

But I had one problem: before the service another choir member and I had engaged in some lighthearted jesting and now I had a serious case of the giddies. Everything struck a humorous chord: the minister’s slight hop to the platform, the choir director’s mannerisms, the child squirming in the front pew.

Facing the congregation, I tried to restrain my laughter as my face flushed and tears formed. Church members peered over the top of their hymnals, looking at me. For a moment I was fine until I noticed a fly land on top of Mrs. Baker’s head. She swatted the pest; then it landed on her face. She flinched and shooed it away, then it landed again. Her eyebrows furrowed as she stared at the pest, waiting for it to take flight. When it did, she waved her hands like a flagman at the Indy 500 race.

Instantly, my shoulders shook as laughter bubbled up within me like a volcano about to erupt. My friend alongside me put her hand over her mouth and stared at the floor. Meanwhile I prayed that I could regain control.

All eyes were on the front. *Quick, think sad thoughts!* I thought to myself in desperation – anything to cure the giggles. But nothing worked. The minister’s mispronunciation of a name set me off again as waves of unrestrained chuckles rippled from my mouth.

Finally, the worst – an unexpected snort. Eyebrows lifted with frowns of disapproval. I wanted to disappear. How could I allow myself to get so out of control? What must everyone think? What must the pastor think? What must God think?

In an instant the giddies disappeared and embarrassment gripped me like two giant bear claws. I bowed my head, my face now flushed for a different reason.

To my relief, the pastor whipped around and quipped, “If a merry heart works like medicine, as the scripture says, someone in the choir is the healthiest person in here! Laughter filled the sanctuary and I was comforted. My pastor’s gracious lightheartedness had rescued me.

Most of us go to church dressed in our Sunday clothes and our Sunday smiles. We want folks to applaud our spirituality. But occasionally something occurs to expose us for who we really are: human. When our human frailties breakthrough in waves of the ridiculous, God’s mercy prevails. After all, to be human isn’t a sin. But to pretend we’re not is really something to laugh about!

“Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my daysthat I may know how frail I am”

Psalm 39:4

(And should I forget, Lord, give me a case of the giddies to keep me in check!)



Carlee's Celebrate Spring Cupcakes

"Cupcakes with creamy chocolate surprise centers and a cute little bird's nest on top of creamy chocolate frosting"



Prep time: 30 min
Cook time: 20 min
Ready in: 1 hr 20 min

Ingredients

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package chocolate cake mix
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 (3.9 ounce) packages instant chocolate pudding mix
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 tablespoon chocolate sprinkles
- 72 mini chocolate candy-coated Easter eggs

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
2. Grease 24 muffin cups or line with paper liners.
3. Place chocolate cake mix, water, vegetable oil, and eggs in a mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until thoroughly combined, about 2 minutes.
4. Fill prepared muffin cups 2/3 full with batter.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of a cupcake comes out clean, 19 to 23 minutes.
6. Allow cupcakes to cool thoroughly.
7. Beat the 2 packages of pudding mix with milk in a bowl using an electric mixer until thickened, about 2 minutes.
8. Beat thawed whipped topping into pudding mixture to make a creamy filling.
9. Spoon about 1 1/2 cup chocolate pudding filling into a pastry bag fitted with a large piping tip.
10. Press the piping tip into the center of each cupcake and fill cupcake with about 1 1/2 tablespoon of pudding mixture.
11. Spoon a heaping tablespoon of remaining pudding mixture about 1 1/2 inches across into the center of each cupcake to make a nest. Press chocolate sprinkles into edges of the nests; place 3 mini chocolate eggs into each nest.

Recipe By: CC<3's2bake

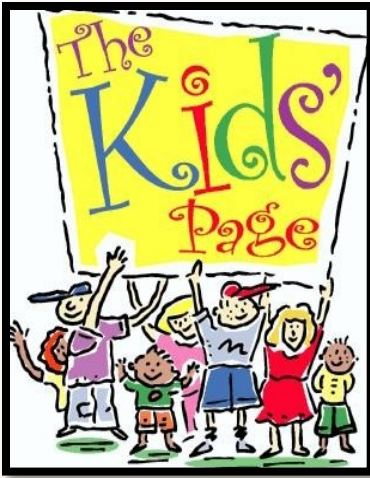
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Your
Recipes



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

Emily and her brother, Ethan went with Dad to the ballpark. It was a big game and thousands of people were gathering. They

each held hands with their dad as they made their way to their seats. It felt good to know that by holding hands they would stay together. In Baptism, Jesus takes your hand and promises to never leave you. That promise was

made on the cross when Jesus said, "It is finished!" That means He will always be near and care for His children. And nothing can ever take that away.

Bible Verse

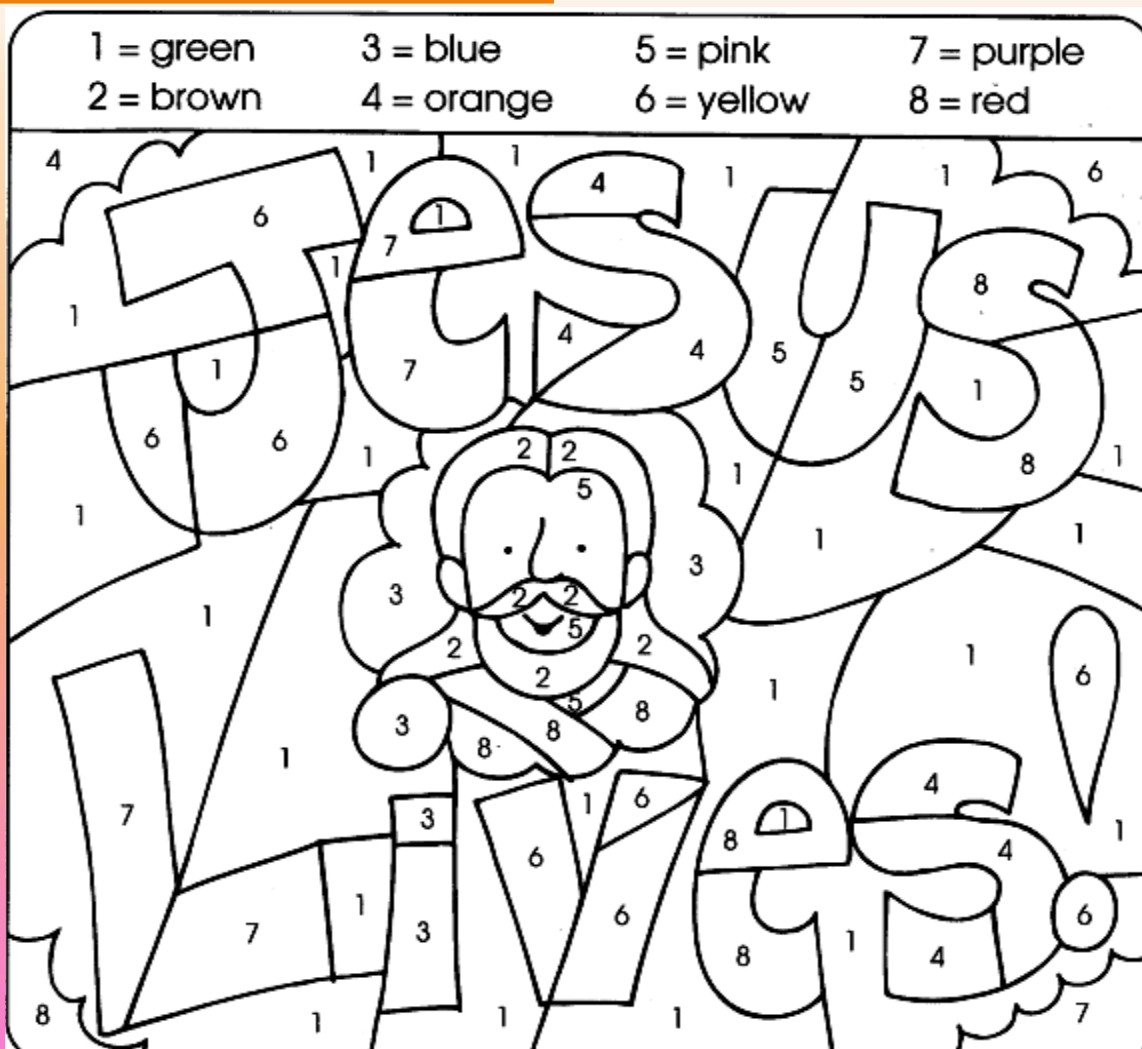
Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that the promise of eternal life through faith in You can never be taken away. In your name I pray. Amen.

Activity Page



TEEN TALK

The iPhone and iPad have so many apps that can help enhance your faith and strengthen your Christian walk. From having the Bible at your fingertips to streaming your favorite Christian music, there are a ton of iPhone and iPad apps to choose from:

- **Bible**

Cost: *FREE*

This app for iPhone and iPod Touch offers 41 translations of the Bible. It has Bible reading plans and you can read in 22 languages. Created by LifeChurch.tv, you can bookmark pages, reference keywords, and interact with others. There is also a version called "Bible HD" for iPad.

- **Dance Praise**

Cost: \$4.99

If you're looking for a game that combines fun with Christian music, this is it. It has four levels from Easy to Expert, and there is a practice mode for you to develop your tapping skills.

- **iChristian**

Cost: *FREE*

If you are looking to become a Christian and make connections, this iPhone/iPad app is like your own personal missionary, preacher, and evangelist in one. You can register as a Christian and receive a certificate of being a Christian.

- **iTalk to God (NIV)**

Cost: \$1.99

What are you feeling right now? This iPhone/iPad app generates bible verses specific to how you are feeling. You can mark your favorites or post the verse to your Facebook wall. It allows you to be encouraged and to encourage others.

- **Prayer Warriors - Armor of God**

Cost: \$1.99

This application guides you through Ephesians 6:10-18 and teaches us how to put on the Armor of God every day. It goes through each piece of the armor and offers us ways to apply it on a daily basis.

- **Prayer List**

Cost: \$1.99

Prayer List is an iPod/iPad app that allows you to create a prayer list including requests and images. It can be password protected and allows you to drag and drop the requests. There are editable categories and you have the ability to sort the list by date or category.

- **Prayer Journal - Daily Prayer App**

Cost: \$.99

This app allows you to write out your prayers and keep track of the people you pray for. You can use the Social Prayer Network to ask others to pray and even read prayers from others for inspiration.

- **Questions to God**

Cost: \$.99

This app has over 200 thought-provoking questions ranging from the touching to the humorous. The questions allow you to have guided meditation and prayer over some of the issues we all face every day as well as the overarching mysteries inherent in our faith.

Check These Out!



www.facebook.com/LCMSYouthMinistry



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



LCMS Young Adult Ministry
Empowered to lead.



Atonement Monthly

2016

March 2016




Anniversaries

17 Steve & Rhonda Nelson
26 Ludi & Janet Graf

Birthdays

4 Joanne Luther
5 Todd Martens
12 Bobby Riess
19 Sandee Boelter
21 Dart Moody
24 Melissa Smith
27 Dave Moody
29 Dusty Ferreiro
30 Kristin Brann

March

Lay Ministers

6 Jim Dysart
9* Jim Dysart
13 Mike Heidtbrink
16* Mike Heidtbrink
20 Larry Betancourt
24* Mike Heidtbrink
25* Tim Hahn
27 Tim Hahn

Acolytes

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

Flowers

Melissa Smith's Birthday

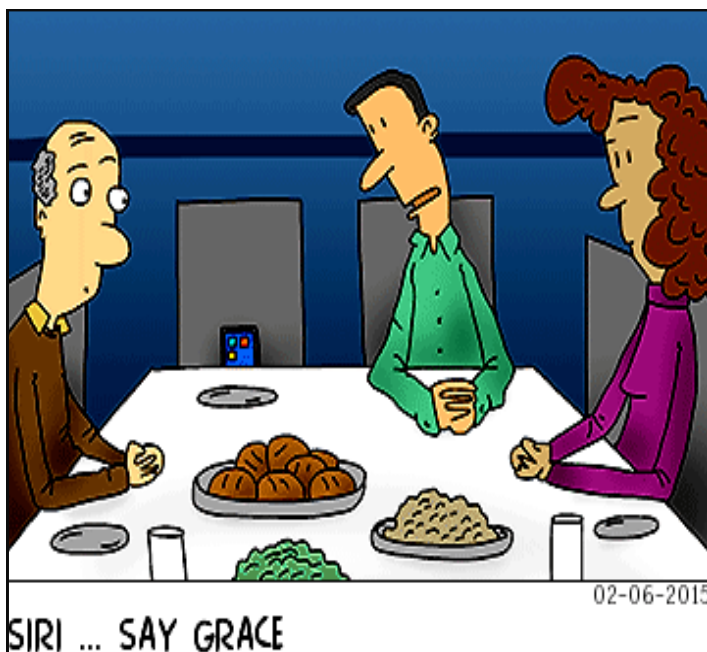
Ushers: Manny Cruz and Ken Handy

* Asterisk indicates mid week or special service

Heavenly Humor







You Might be a Lutheran If

- * When you were little you actually thought the Reverend's first name was "Pastor."
- * You hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can.
- * It takes 10 minutes to say good-bye.
- * Doughnuts are in the official church budget.
- * They have to rope off the last pews in church so the front isn't empty.
- * You're watching "Star Wars" in the theatre and when they say, "May the force be with you," the theatre replies, "and also with you."
- * You doodle on the back of communion cards.
- * You can say the meal prayer all in one breath.
- * Bach is your favorite composer just because he was Lutheran, too.
- * You hesitate to clap for the church choir or special music because "it just wasn't done that way in the old days."
- * It's time to change a lightbulb and the left side of the aisle begins a debate on "change," while the right side of the aisle musters five volunteers--one to hold the bulb, and four to turn the ladder.
- * You pronounce the word Lutheran "Lutern."





2016		APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
							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		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	2 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Lenten Service	3 11:30 am Better Life Together 6:30 pm Scouts	4	5
6 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	7 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	8 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	9 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Lenten Service	10 11:30 am Better Life Together	11	12
13 9:00 am Prayer/Praeching 10:15 am Craft/Bake Sale 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	14 6:00 pm Church Council	15 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	16 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Lenten Service	17  St. Patrick's Day 11:30 am Better Life Together 6:30 pm Scouts	18  7:00 pm Game Night	19
20  9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	21	22 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Men's Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	23 10:00 am Bible Study	24  7:00 pm Maundy Thursday	25  7:00 pm Good Friday	26 9:00 am Hiking Club 10:00 am Al-Anon Business Meeting
27  9:00 am Prayer/Praeching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	28	29 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Men's Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	30 10:00 am Bible Study	31 11:30 am Better Life Together		

2015—2016

Officers and Board/Committee Members

Executive Board

President	Todd Martens
Secretary	Shenoah Riess
Financial Secretary	Ann Duggan
Treasurer	Ann Duggan

Board of Lay Ministry

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

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Chairperson	Judy Dysart
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Member	Kathy Martens
Member	Jenny Moody

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Member	Manfred Luther
Member	Dave Brinchman
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Member	Bobby Riess
Member	Dusty Ferreiro

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Member	Donna Hurd
Member	Carol Hernandez

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Chairperson	Seth Heidtbrink
Member	Gloria Ollhoff

Board of Outreach

Chairperson	Sandee Boelter
Member	Bob Karo
Member	Remi Tufts

Flowers

Blanca Betancourt

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Robert Rotnem
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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



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Website!**

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