

# Atonement Quarterly

Spring 2017

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

## Living In Real Time

By Rev. Heath Curtis

Saint Paul says that all of us who are baptized are baptized “into Christ” (Rom. 6:3). Now we live “in Christ” as a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). Now Jesus’ story is our story—as Jesus Himself told us again and again. What happened to Him will happen to us. A servant is not above his Master. If the world hates us, we know that it hated Christ first. He who would be His disciple must take up his cross and follow Him.

This great truth of our life in Christ finds no greater or more beautiful expression as the drama of Lent, Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. The whole liturgical year walks in Christ, but something is different about these days that we set apart as holy each spring. For most of the Church Year, we live in a kind of time-lapse video. In the long season after Pentecost, we walk through all of Jesus’ teaching and healing ministry. This is time-compressed: That’s three years’ worth of teaching, healing and miracles crammed into about six months. The time compression is even more pronounced in Advent—thousands of years of prophecies about the coming of Christ in four weeks. But now during Lent we slow down to real time. The time compression goes away. Now we will

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walk in Christ through the story of Christ day by day, hour by hour. Christ's story is our story now, so when we tell this story, we don't just tell it or read from the Scriptures in the few minutes that this would take. We actually slow down and live it in Christ in real time.

Christ fasted for forty days. We fast for forty days. Christ processed into Jerusalem on a Sunday. We celebrate Palm Sunday waving our branches and calling out our Hosannas to Him who has come in the Name of the Lord. Then there's the quiet intensity of Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday. Can you imagine what was building in the heart and mind of Jesus as He pondered what lay ahead of Him? The services appointed for these days are likewise quiet meditations on the Passion.

And now the Triduum, the Holy Three Days. We gather by night on Thursday to keep the New Passover, to receive the very Lamb of God who now comes to us in His body and blood. On Friday, we gather around the very hours in which Jesus hung upon the cross. Next comes Saturday, the Old Sabbath that Christ has now fulfilled by His great rest in the tomb, and as the sun goes down on that old Sabbath, we gather for the Easter Vigil, the transition from old to new, from Lent to Easter, from death to Life. And then Sunday—the empty tomb, the angels in white, the lilies, the trumpets. He is risen; we shall rise!

## **LWML News**

### **March 26- 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!

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### **May 6 - LADIES SPRING TEA**

Reserve the date for our tea at 10 am.



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.

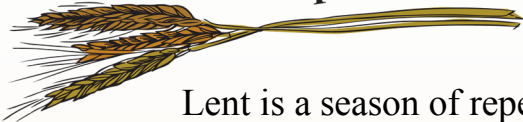


## **Flowers & Fellowship**

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



# Stewardship News



Lent is a season of repentant joy. There is joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

Thus we do well to listen to God's Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul exhorts: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal 6:6). This means that the local congregation is primary. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to our local congregation. For the local congregation is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection. The local congregation is where our spiritual needs are met when Christ's atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to this local congregation? His instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 8:12), and generously (2 Cor 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen 4:4; Prov 3:9; Lev 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor 9:7), and love (2 Cor 8:23).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is

spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that's it. That's what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God's word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God's Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turned toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father.



# Holy Laughter

An Early Church tradition holds that following the thrill of the resurrection on Sunday, these Christians gathered together on Monday to feast, sing, and dance. One author writes in commenting on this practice, "With Eastertide began the laughing of the redeemed and the dancing of the liberated," Now . . . we do not know if this tradition is true. However, we do know what was to have inspired this practice. It was the famous Easter midnight sermon of John Chrysostom, of the fourth century. In that message he described a vision of Christ's confronting the devil and laughing at him.

However, this theme has been echoed down through the ages in the Christian experience. St. Francis of Assisi advised, "Leave sadness to the devil. The devil has reason to be sad." Martin Luther wrote: "God is not a God of sadness, but the devil is. Christ is a God of Joy." John Wesley wrote: "Sour godliness is the devil's religion."

The bottom line truth is simply that the devil can't stand the sound of holy laughter which comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ!

If you want to be happy begin where you are; Don't wait for some rapture that's future and far.

Start now to be joyous; resolve to be glad; And soon you'll forget that you ever were sad.

With a resounding "Praise the Lord" filling my heart and soul, I dedicate this article to Patti Wilshusen

## From the Pews

### Why the Cross?

How old is the symbol of the cross? It may be one of the oldest human symbols. But, what if it was not the oldest? What did the cross mean to our pre-Christian ancestors? Why did the primitive people take the effort to paint and engrave it on their pottery? Was it only an ornament or a decoration? There is no definite answer but probably primitive crosses had meaning.

The Word Cross is often used figuratively for the Gospel, for Christ's suffering and for that which is suffered us, as a result of being a disciple. (Mt. 16: 24; Gal. 6:14; Eph. 2:16) Today, we use the cross in many ways; directions in making graph, needle work, land surveys to point of the compass, marking out fields and sacred places. Is the cross a sign of suffering? In a sense, yes it is. It is a sign of contradiction and also a sign of conflict, but it is more a sign of healing. In the past generations, the cross was used as a sign of safety of health and well-being.

When the Israelites fled from Egypt under the leadership of Moses, they received instructions about their departure. They were to eat lamb and the blood of the lamb was painted to mark their doorposts. The paint was two crossed lines which was name of God. Many centuries later, the first followers of Christ saw an added meaning of the cross. Nobody know if this was a coincidence that Jesus died on a cross shaped instrument of execution. The actual shape of the cross is not really important. What is important is on the cross. In His own body, He formed the primitive sign of a place which means "here and now". That is the sign of healing or salvation. It is the sign of the power of God's holy name. Many Christians still mark themselves with the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart or on the body as a whole; or wear a cross on the chest, put a cross at the doorway, window or wall, a Pastor standing at the altar opens his arms to greet people and to pray. The gesture of prayer is also a cross. The cross here marks the sacred place in the depth of the heart where God is always present in prayer.

# Beware the wrath of the church organist

Taken from "The Telegraph"  
Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017



They are the stalwart pillars of the community whose week-in, week-out dedication has kept the country's choral traditions alive for generations. But, if new research is to be believed, behind the quiet exterior the humble church organist is not someone to be crossed. While charged with providing spiritually uplifting music to worshippers, it seems many also seize the opportunity to extract subtle revenge on clerics who have displeased them or simply play pranks on congregations.

A survey of churchgoers found that at least half have noticed their organist straying from the path of musical orthodoxy at some point – slipping snippets of heavy metal classics, advertising jingles and even nursery rhymes into hymns and anthems. In some cases it can be a means of waging musical war with clerics while in others it is simply an effort by bored organists to make the choir laugh.

Christian Research, a polling and research group asked its 2,000 strong "Resonate" panel of churchgoers for their views on church music and organists. Of those who responded, half said they had noticed an organist slipping unexpected tunes into services.

Among examples cited was that of the organist in Scotland who had fallen out with some of the elders, but got his own back by inserting a thinly disguised rendition of "Send in the Clowns" as they processed in for a Sunday service. Elsewhere, a vicar sacked an organist after he played "Roll out the Barrel" at the funeral of a man known to have been fond of a drink.



In one decidedly high church congregation, an organist punctured the mood of reverence as an elaborately dressed clergyman processed back after the gospel reading – by playing the theme tune to *The Simpsons*.

Another congregation found themselves passing around the collection plate to the strains of "Money, Money, Money" by Abba, while candidates at a confirmation service were left perplexed to hear the strains of "I'm a Little Teapot" from the organ loft.

One organist who responded confessed to playing hits by Oasis, Billy Bragg and even Kylie Minogue in services but added: "Nobody notices – I do it all the time."

But when an organist played a slowed-down version of Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from *Mary Poppins*, even the most tone deaf members of the congregation eventually recognized, sending them into gales of laughter. Stephen

Goddard, of Christian Research, said: "It's an oft-repeated adage in church circles – 'What's the difference between an organist and a terrorist? -you can negotiate with a terrorist'. "Hidden from view, your local church organist may appear unassuming and self-deprecating, but like any true artist, he or she can be eccentric, mischievous and somewhat opinionated. "Mess with them at your peril – they may pull out all the stops to get their own back."



## 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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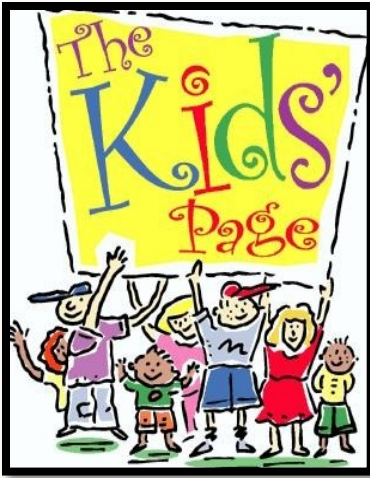
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Recipes**



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### 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

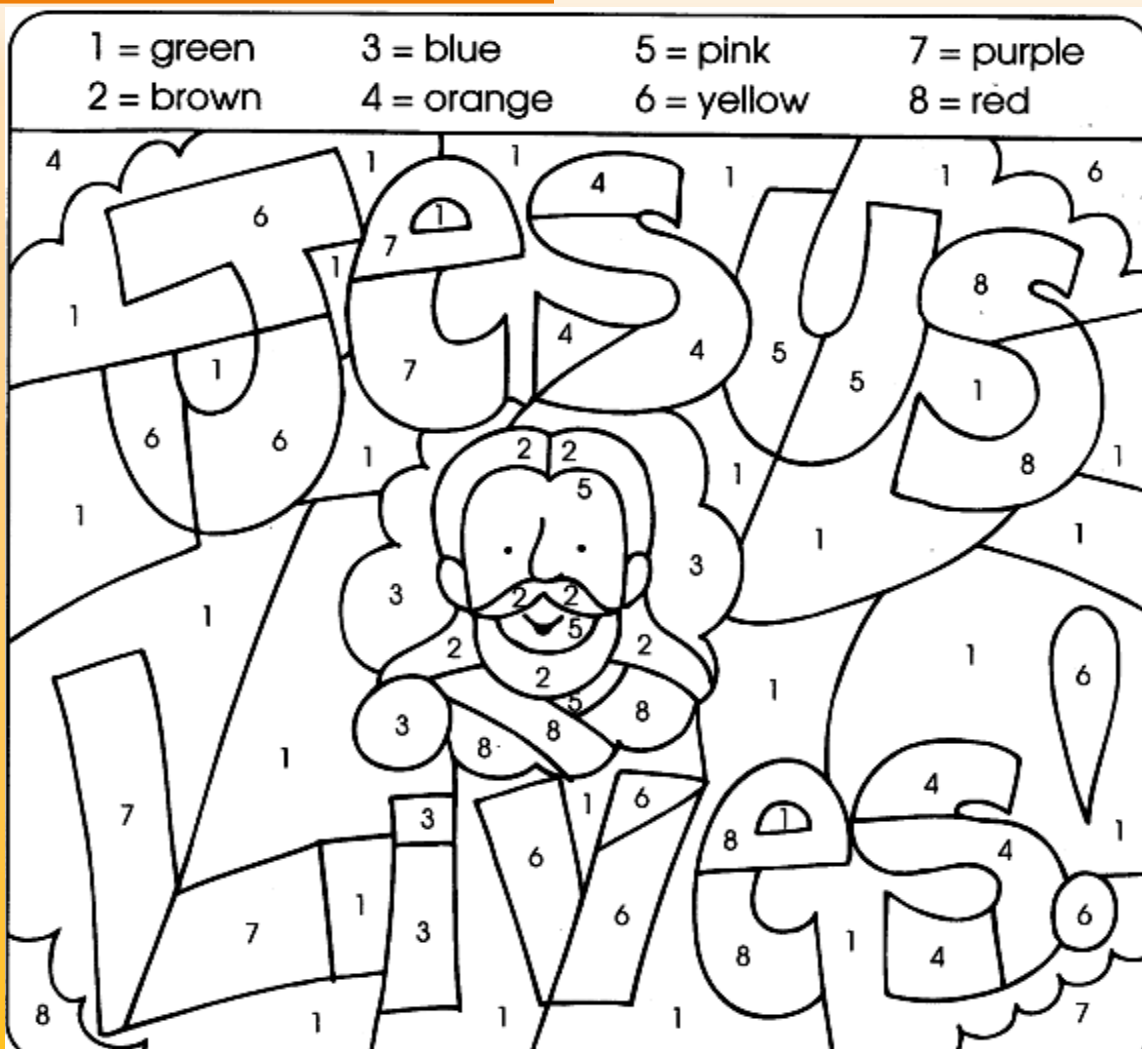
Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Lent is a time to look inward to seek how we might more fully accept God's love and peace and grace in our lives. Here are some 'true' and 'false' questions to help you learn more about this season!

- The official (liturgical) color of Lent is red. True or False? (False. It's purple – representing royalty and repentance.)
- Lent lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays. True or False? (True.)
- The word Lent comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning "midwinter." (False. It translates "springtime" since that is the time of year the season generally falls.)
- The 40 days of Lent are a reminder of the Bible story in which Jesus spends 40 days alone in the wilderness and is tempted by the Devil. True or False? (True. It also recalls the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness.)
- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when people often have the sign of the cross made of ashes placed on their foreheads. Most often, these ashes are made by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday service. True or False? (True.)
- The ash is supposed to represent the story in which Jesus places dirt or ash on a blind man's eyes to make him see again. True or False? (False. The ashes represent humility and our own mortality – from dust we came and to dust we shall return.)
- Many people give up something during Lent. The point of this practice is to show your willpower. True or False? (False. It is a practice of self-denial that allows room in your life for God to do something new.)

- Fasting is a common practice in Lent but the one day people don't fast during Lent is Sundays. True or False? (True. People traditionally do not fast on Sundays as Sundays are to be reminders or a foretaste of the coming resurrection.)
- The phrase "Glory to God" is traditionally never spoken during Lent and does not make its return until Easter morning. True or False. (False. "Alleluia" is the what many churches abstain from saying in worship during Lent.)
- The last week of Lent is known as "Holy Week." True or False? (True.)
- On Maundy Thursday, the last Thursday in Lent, we recall the last night and meal that Jesus shares with his disciples. True or False? (True.)

Did any of these surprise you? Now it's time to do your own research! What other interesting things can you discover about Lent and Easter?

**Check These Out!**



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**@lcmsyouth**



**LCMS Young Adult Ministry**  
Empowered to lead.



# Atonement Monthly

2017

March 2016




## **Birthdays**

- 4 Joanne Luther
- 12 Bobby Riess
- 19 Sandee Boelter
- 20 Myla Scherbarth
- 21 Dart Moody
- 23 Bruce Acres
- 24 Melissa Smith
- 27 Dave Moody  
Sue Hahn
- 23 Dusty Ferreiro
- 30 Kristin Brann

## **Anniversaries**

- 17 Steve & Rhonda Nelson
- 26 Ludi & Janet Graf

### March

#### **Lay Ministers**

#### **Acolytes**

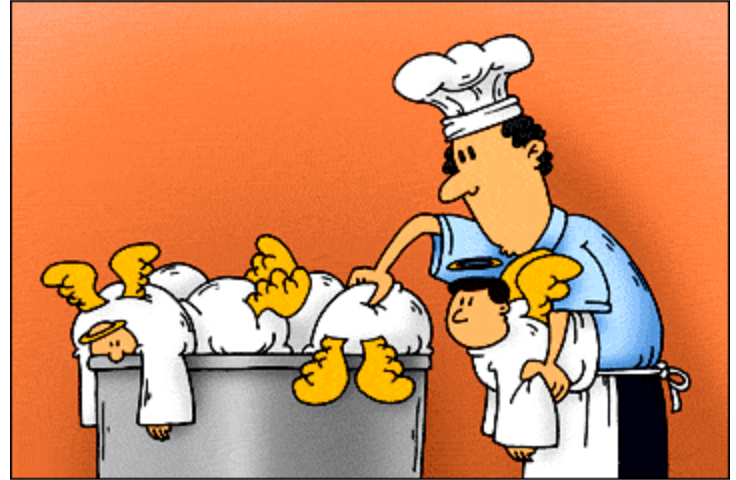
#### **Flowers**

5	Jim Dysart	Junior Betancourt	Installation—Carol Hernandez
8*	Jim Dysart	Rebecca Moody	
12	Larry Betancourt	Junior Betancourt	Talitha's Birthday-Remi Tufts
15*	Larry Betancourt	Sheree Moody	
19	Mike Heidtbrink	Philip Brann	Melissa Dysarts Birthday
22*	Mike Heidtbrink	Rebecca Moody	
26	Tim Hahn	Rebecca Moody	Dave & Dart Moody's Birthday
29*	Tim Hahn	Sheree Moody	

**Ushers:** Manfred Luther

\* Asterisk indicates mid week or special service

# Heavenly Humor



Thanks to Brian Pikkaart

12-09-1997

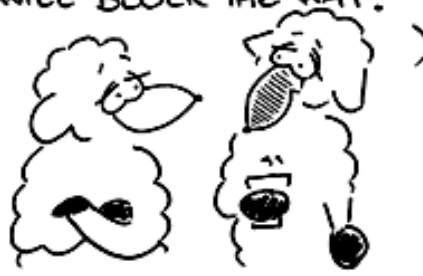
HAVING LOST THE RECIPE, DON TRIES TO MAKE AN ANGEL FOOD CAKE FROM MEMORY

THERE'S GOT TO BE AN EASIER WAY FOR JESUS TO GET A DRINK THAN HANGING OUT WITH THIS TRASHY WOMAN! IT'S LIKE HE STUMBLED INTO A BIKER BAR!



WWW.AGULUSTAY.ORG

OH BUT THAT'S THE POINT! JESUS WELCOMES EVERYONE! NOT EVEN HER LIFE'S FAILURES OR HISTORY'S CATASTROPHES WILL BLOCK THE WAY!



\*2 KINGS 17:6

OH, THAT'S FINE—JUST AS LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM IN THERE.



JOHN 4:5-42

CONVERTS 05.02

THE POWER OF CHRIST COMPELS YOU!

I'M AFRAID TO ASK...



WWW.AGULUSTAY.ORG

WE WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW JESUS, RIGHT? THE DEMONS KNOW—LET THEM DO THE WORK!



WAIT A MINUTE—YOU'RE SAYING THAT PERFORMING AN EXORCISM IS EASIER THAN DOING EVANGELISM? IS THAT WRONG?




MATTHEW 23:23

CONVERTS 06.01



April 2017

28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Scouts	<b>3</b> 5-8 AYOP	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School 3:30 pm Installation	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5-8 AYOP	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  9:00 am Prayer/Predaching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm Church Council	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>15</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Scouts	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 5-8 AYOP	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Men's Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5-8 AYOP	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Hiking Club 10:00 am pinewood derby
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Prayer/Predaching 10:15 am Craft/Bake Sale	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Men's Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>29</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5-8 AYOP	



## 2016—2017

### Officers and Board/Committee Members

#### Executive Board

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Secretary	Shenoah Riess
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#### Flowers

Blanca Betancourt

## ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

10245 Loma Rancho Drive  
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(619) 670-7174  
Rev. Chet Sherbarth  
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

(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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