



# Atonement Quarterly

Spring 2018

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

## Seagulls

By Pastor Chet Scherbarth

Often times we like to come up with a word picture to help us describe the reality of sin and salvation. And after wandering the beaches of San Diego this is my offering.

Do you ever pay attention to Seagulls? After growing up on the farm and living in family of hunters, I have been exposed to the flavors, personalities,

uses, value of animals and birds. The barn swallow makes his muddy mess of a nest in the barn but he eats his weight in bugs. Even the lowly sparrow with only his little tweets and chirps eats his share of bugs. But then there is this creature called a Seagull. Big as duck but without the fun.

They have this outside appearance of beautiful white feathers with greys and blacks contrasting with the yellow of their beaks and feet. I have yet to observe a seagull that is dirty looking but they always look pristine not like a ruffled chicken or parrot who has been plucked revealing the nakedness of



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their bodies. If a person was to judge a sea gull by just his appearance we might say it is a beautiful and mighty bird, like the eagle.

I do not dismiss the creativity of the seagull being wise to grab clam or crab and drop it on the rocks to get to the tender delicious bits. Yes, they are indeed clever. If we were to judge a seagull from its creativity we would say they are a smart bird. Unfortunately from my observation the creativity of a Seagull is from a purely selfish motivation. They think nothing of their fellow gulls. They will steal food from the mouth of another. Dodging and wheeling performing aerobatics of great display all for their own gain. Seagulls are the Ferengi of the avian community. If we were to judge the seagull from its actions we would label it nuisance, pest, self-seeking, rude, all things that sin relishes in. I have heard of rats that behave with more dignity than seagulls.



No the seagull is the perfect picture of a sinner who looks good on the outside but is rotten within. And what comes from a seagull but smelly nastiness.

Though my sensibilities are offended by the actions of seagulls there is something to be said. God created them and he loves them. And he provides for them. And as all creation groans under the sin that has corrupted it perhaps they too groan in their calls. What is the potential of the seagull? Can I judge or better said should I judge? Perhaps my own white feathers hide a heart of darkness that yearns to be made wholly clean. If I were to look at my actions I see the selfishness and know that the dirt is on the inside. I can only cry out with the call of repentance, and trust that the Lord Jesus Christ loves even a bird such as I.

Perhaps the seagull I see today will be tomorrow's eagle.





There is still space  
to sign up for  
flowers in 2018.  
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



Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it.

God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned, "on the mount of the Lord it will be provided" (Gen. 22:14). The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return. Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him.

When budgetary discussions pop up, our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance.

It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts are taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron. 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans, but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



## From the Pews

# Only Christ Can Calm Our Storm – Tossed Life

-by Remi Tufts

The disciple turned to Jesus for help in the Gospel of St. Matthew, “Lord, save us; we are perishing!” Where in this upside down world can we find deliverance if not of the same Savior whose invitation always remains unchanged through the centuries.

“Come unto Me, all that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” This is one spiritual blessing which can finally make us understand that we cannot carry on successfully without Christ. Some of us are over confident as the almighty God has to take away every human prop to show us that without God, life cannot be worth the living nor death worth the dying.

After we have been crushed and humbled, then the Holy Spirit can capture our cold hearts and direct us to Christ as our only Hope. This makes us kneel before Him to cry out “Lord, save us; we are perishing!” If we have been overtaken by sorrow and mental anguish too deep for human consolation; if in all the world we can discover no way to escape from our misery; and if we feel that if another heartache is added to our burden we will collapse, then we must cling to Jesus to find His unfailing help.

At first, the desperate disciples were shocked to learn that Jesus continued to sleep soundly. The destruction was close at hand and the Savior slumbered. The disciples did not understand and reached a wrong conclusion. This applies to us too. We forget that the almighty God is with us. He gave Himself for us on Calvary. We are precious in His sight. So every moment, waking and sleeping, we are under His constant protection.

My fellow believers, lock this promise in your heart, “I am with you, always, until the end of time.” And with the Savior’s help, keep it safe and secure forever!



# From the Pews

## I MET THE STRAGEST MAN

Selected from Worldwide Evangelist  
Submitted to Atonement Newsletter by Remi Tufts

He said he believes the Bible  
*-- but he never reads it.*

He said he thinks well of the church where he is a member  
*-- but he rarely attends services there.*

He said a man should be honest with God in money matters  
*-- but he never tithes.*

He said the younger generation needs the Lord  
*-- but he isn't leading them in that direction.*

He said the church needs dedicated Christians  
*-- but he isn't one himself.*

He said the church should minister to people more  
*-- but he never offers to help.*

He criticizes some of the workers in the church  
*-- but he never participates in church work.*

He says the Lord is surely going to return  
*-- but he lives as though the Lord will never come.*

He says prayer changes things  
*-- but he never prays.*

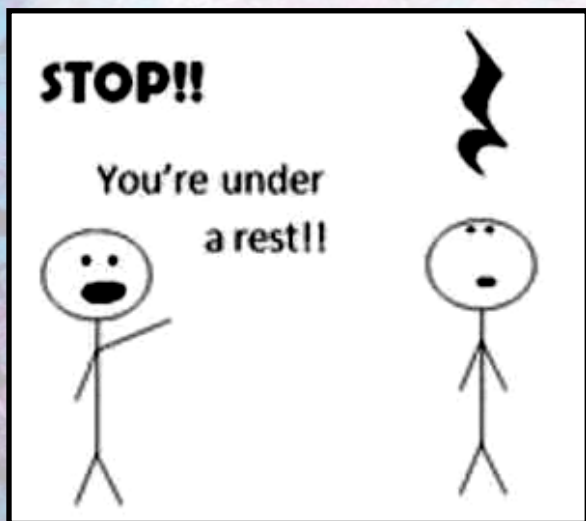


## A Choir member's Guide To Keeping Directors In Line *From the Thornbury Choral Society*



The following rules are intended as guides to the development of habits which will promote the proper type of relationship between singer and director. (If you don't understand the humor, come join us on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm. We're a fun(ny) bunch and you'll fit in in no time! (:)

1. Complain about the temperature of the rehearsal room, the lighting, crowded space, and of a draft. It's best to do this when the director is under pressure.
2. Bury your head in the music just before cues. Be sure to hold your folder directly in front of your face. If possible, block the face of the person standing behind you as well.
3. Ask for a music selection or seating change. Ask often. Give the impression you're about to quit. Let the conductor know you're there as a personal favor.
4. Loudly clear your throat during pauses. Quiet instrumental interludes are a good chance to blow your nose. Rustle your pages loudly and, if you can manage, drop a page or two. Make sure to pick it up immediately in the middle of the song.



5. Long after a passage has gone by, ask the director if your C# was in tune. This is especially effective if you had no C# or were not singing at the time.



6. At dramatic moments in the music , be busy marking your music so that the climaxes will sound empty and disappointing.
7. Wait until well into a rehearsal before letting the director know that you don't have the music.
8. Look at your watch frequently. Shake it in disbelief occasionally.
9. When possible, sing your part either an octave above or below what is written. This is excellent ear-training for the conductor. If (s)he hears the pitch, deny it vehemently and claim that it must have been someone else.
10. Ask the conductor if he has listened to the online professional recording of the piece. Imply that he could learn a thing or two from it. Also good: ask, "Is this the first time you've directed/ played this piece?"
11. If your articulation differs from that of others singing the same phrase, stick to your guns. Do not ask the conductor which is correct until just before the church service in which it is performed.
12. Find an excuse to leave the rehearsal about 15 minutes early so that others will become restless and start to fidget.
13. Make every effort to take the attention away from the director and put it on you, where it belongs!







### Laura's Unbelievable Chicken and Pasta

"This is a dream for families...Kids love it and so do adults. My family literally begs me for this!"



Prep time: 10 min

Cook time: 20 min

Ready in: 30 min

### Ingredients

- 4 (6 ounce) skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 1 inch strips
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can chicken broth
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 (8 ounce) package cold cream cheese, cubed
- 10 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 (16 ounce) package dry penne pasta

### Directions

1. Bring large pot of water to a boil, and stir in penne pasta.
2. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, cook chicken cubes in broth; simmering until done, about 10 minutes. Stir in cubed cream cheese and spinach. Return to simmer, and cook about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in cherry tomatoes, and cook about 3 minutes more.
3. In a large bowl, mix together cooked, drained pasta and sauce. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

Recipe By: OURGANG

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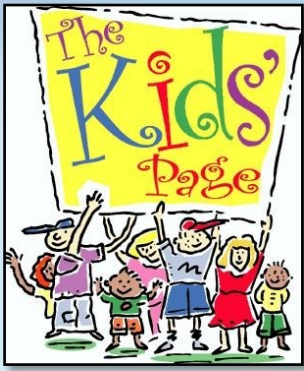
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Submit  
Your  
Recipes



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





## The Easter Jelly Bean Prayer

**RED** IS FOR THE BLOOD HE GAVE.

**GREEN** IS FOR THE GRASS HE MADE.

**YELLOW** IS FOR THE SUN SO BRIGHT.

**ORANGE** IS FOR THE EDGE OF NIGHT.

**BLACK** IS FOR THE SINS WE MADE.

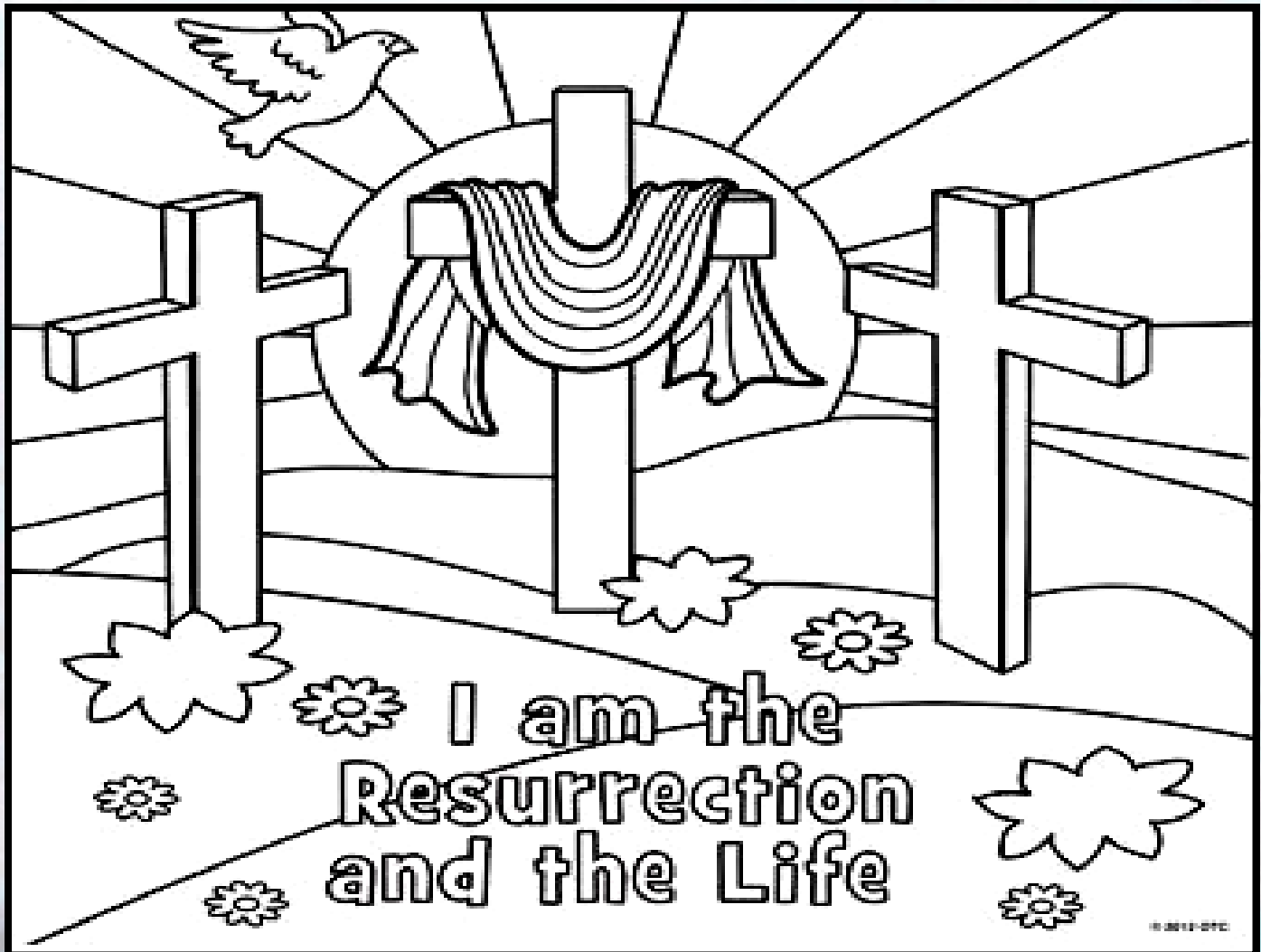
**WHITE** IS FOR THE GRACE HE GAVE.

**PURPLE** IS FOR HIS HOUR OF SORROW.

**PINK** IS FOR A NEW TOMORROW.

A HANDFUL OF JELLY BEANS, **COLORFUL** AND SWEET,  
IS A PRAYER, A PROMISE, A LOVED ONE'S TREAT!

## Activity Page







## What is Lent?

### Why do we celebrate it by giving things up?

Lent is a time of self-reflection and self-denial in preparation for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection during Holy Week.

Before Jesus began his earthly ministry, he spent 40 days in the wilderness (Luke 4: 1-13; read this with the youth if you like).

We don't know much about that time, other than the fact that he fasted and prayed and was tempted by the devil.

So, in the same way, we ought to spend time fasting and praying in preparation for our ministry of bringing the good news of the risen Christ to the world.

Traditionally, Christians will fast from something (usually certain foods or drink or certain activities) during the 40 days of Lent.

This is to remind us of the great sacrifice that Christ made for us.

Jesus gave up so much to restore our relationship to God (Philippians 2), is it too much to ask of us to give something up for 40 days?

### Ideas for Lent: Fasting & Feasting

#### Things you can Fast from

*Social Media:* Giving it up altogether may be difficult since many use social media for school or athletic purposes, but perhaps limiting your use is a good start.

*Texting:* Like social media, texting does have its practical purposes and is necessary in many situations, but be encouraged to call their friends and family members rather than texting them. A phone call is much more personal and meaningful.

*Junk food:* If you are in the habit of buying a soda or candy bar or coffee drink on a regular basis, encourage them to give that up for

Lent. Also be encouraged to use the money you would have spent on junk food to help others. Perhaps they can treat a friend to a soda or coffee drink, or they can donate the money to Heifer International or some other charity.

*Sleeping in:* You should not do this for its own sake, but should use that extra time on Saturday mornings to do something meaningful and productive, like .....

#### Things you can Feast on

*Reading the Bible:* Be encouraged to set aside time each day for reading your Bibles. The Gospels are a good place to start during the Lenten season.

*Memorizing Bible Verses:* You can memorize a verse a day, or a verse a week.

*Prayer:* Set aside a time each day for prayer, whether in the morning when you first get up or at night before bed. Or perhaps during passing period between classes.

*Time with family:* It can be difficult for families to connect with all the busyness in everyone's schedules. Parents will appreciate the initiative if you want to set aside time for family.

## Check These Out!



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



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



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





# Heavenly Humor

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



03-09-2015

I PRAISE TOO MUCH AND NOW I'M STUCK

I'M TELLING YOU,  
BEING ON  
FACEBIBLE  
MAKES FOLLOWING  
(JESUS EASY.

I CAN'T  
IMAGINE



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

EVERY TIME SOMEONE  
DOES SOMETHING WRONG,  
TO ME, I CLICK ON THIS  
"FORGIVE" BUTTON  
NEXT TO THEIR  
PROFILE PICTURE.



\* 490 TIMES WITH THE KJV PLUG-IN INSTALLED

IF I CLICK IT MORE THAN  
77 TIMES\* FOR ANYONE,  
FACEBIBLE AUTOMATICALLY  
REMOVES THEM FROM  
MY "FRIENDS LIST"  
I DON'T EVEN HAVE  
TO THINK ABOUT IT!

LORD  
HAVE  
MERCY.



MATTHEW 18:21-35

© WETZELSTEIN 11-09-06

WHY DOES  
THAT FARMER  
WASTE  
SO MANY  
SEEDS?

THE SOILS  
DESCRIBE  
ALL THE WAYS  
THAT PEOPLE  
RESPOND TO  
GOD'S WORD.

I'M THE BEST DIRT  
EVER! THE MOST  
FERTILE SOIL JESUS  
EVER SAW!

WELL—JUDGING FROM  
THE "FERTILIZER"  
YOU'RE SPREADING NOW,  
YOU'RE OFF TO A GOOD  
START.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG



MATTHEW 13:1-9

© WETZELSTEIN 02-07



# Atonement Monthly

2018

March 



## Anniversaries

17 Steve & Rhonda Nelson

26 Ludi & Janet Graf

## Birthdays

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



### March

#### Lay Ministers

#### Acolytes

#### Flowers

4	Jim Dysart	Phillip Brann	
*7	Jim Dysart		
11	Larry Betancourt	Junior Betancourt	
*14	Larry Betancourt		
18	Mike Heidtbrink	Rebecca Moody	
*21	Mike Heidtbrink		
25	Tim Hahn	Sheree Moody	Dave Moody's Birthday
*29	Tim Hahn		
*30	Jim Dysart	Rebecca Moody	








\*Asterisks indicate midweek or evening services





2018 APRIL

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 6: 20 pm Joining Jesus	2 5:00 pm AYOP	3
4 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Tutor Center Opportunity Drawing & Chili Cook-Off 	5	6 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	7 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup & Salad 7:00 pm Lenten Service	8 6:30 pm Scouts	9 5:00 pm AYOP	10
11 9:00 am Prayer/Preaching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School 4:00 pm Game Day 	12 6:00 am Church Council	13 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup & Salad 7:00 pm Lenten Service	15 6: 20 pm Joining Jesus	16 5:00 pm AYOP	17 10:00 am Pinewood Derby   <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>
18 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am LWML Spring Craft & Bake Sale 	19	20 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	21 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup & Salad 7:00 pm Lenten Service	22 6:30 pm Scouts	23 5:00 pm AYOP	24
25 8:15 am Lay Meeting 9:00 am Contemporary 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	26	27 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	28 10:00 am Bible Study	29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday 	30 7:00 pm Good Friday 	31 9:30 am Choir Easter Rehearsal 



## 2017—2018

### Officers and Board/Committee Members

#### Executive Board

President	Manny Cruz
Secretary	Shenoah Riess
Financial Secretary	Ann Duggan
Treasurer	Nancy Riley

#### Board of Lay Ministry

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

#### Board of Stewardship

Chairperson	Judy Dysart
Member	Lynn Chiaravalle
Member	Jenny Moody

#### Board of Properties

Chairperson	Curtis Duggan
Member	Manfred Luther
Member	Bob Imig
Member	Bobby Riess

#### Board of Fellowship

Chairperson	Jennie Green
Member	Carol Hernandez
Member	Donna Hurd
Member	Sierra Heidtbrink

#### Board of Education

Chairperson	Kristin Brann
Member	Gloria Ollhoff

#### Board of Outreach

Chairperson	Beth Scherbarth
Member	Remi Tufts

#### Flowers

Judi Cruz

## 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

### 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**

**Mail:** 10245 Loma Rancho Drive  
Spring Valley, CA 91978

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



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