



# Atonement Quarterly

Spring 2019

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

## Stewardship Allergy

By Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador

A recent read of the 2018 book *The Coddling of the American Mind* by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt sparked an interesting stewardship thought. In the book, the authors seek to identify and address serious issues on college campuses. They observe that many of the ideas that percolate on college campuses stem from the environments in which the students were raised. One of the identified parenting patterns is one of “antifragility,” or an

aversion to risk. Despite the rise of extreme sports like The X Games, most current college students were taught to avoid all risk growing up. This “antifragility” comes at great expense. When one of the authors’ sons started preschool, food that might include peanuts was strictly forbidden at school, due to the rise in peanut allergies among children. This is nothing new; starting in the 1990s, a series of studies concluded that eliminating the presence of peanuts would help prevent peanut-related allergic reactions. However, this precaution also had unexpected consequences. A study by proponents of the practice concluded that 17% of the children who were protected from peanut products from infancy developed a

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peanut allergy, but of those who were exposed to peanuts from an early age, only 3% developed an allergy. Although well-intended, the protective measure actually made the situation worse. God made the human body with the remarkable ability to adapt to allergens and germs. To withhold those stressors for safety's sake makes the body weaker.<sup>1</sup> The stewardship allergy A comparison can be drawn between this phenomenon and the situation faced by steward leaders in the church. Have steward leaders, in trying to address the antifragility in their congregations, actually made matters worse? Have they been complicit in making people allergic to a Biblical and confessional practice of stewardship? Anecdotal evidence may well suggest that this is the case. Individuals who follow robust patterns of faithful stewardship in their lives most often come from families and congregations that exposed them to these patterns early and often in childhood. Whether through parents or grandparents, pastors or teachers, most faithful stewards today saw that stewardship in action, conversation and proclamation. This exposure is necessary because faithful stewardship goes against sinful human nature. From early on, children exhibit this anti-stewardship mentality in expressions like "NO!" and "MINE!" Without exposure to a creative baptismal identity, this "allergy" to stewardship will continue to develop throughout a child's life, becoming so ingrained in the individual that the response to a call to stewardship will be an allergic reaction rather than baptismal obedience. Putting stewardship back on the menu Often, this antifragility mentality is more about the steward leaders than the stewards in the pews. Whether they didn't receive the steward formation they needed growing up or are afraid of how their congregations will respond to being challenged, steward leaders must repent of approaching stewardship from a place of self-preserving antifragility. How, then, can steward leaders avoid becoming complicit in the unchecked rise of this stewardship allergy? The first step would be to reject the antifragility mindset altogether. The practice of faithful stewardship does not make the steward weaker. It makes him stronger! This is the call of the steward leader as well. Both pastoral and lay steward leaders have been tasked with clearly teaching the truth of the steward's identity, failures,





redemption and restoration! This teaching goes beyond the annual stewardship pledge drive. To return to the peanut-allergy analogy, these efforts are like putting peanut butter sandwiches on the menu. This is good, but there are other, more proactive ways to prevent the stewardship allergy. Pastors can, and should, exegete the stewardship texts in the lectionary. This is like adding peanuts to regularly-served recipes, with the intent of exposing the hearers to the means of grace, which the Holy Spirit uses to form the steward. The more exposure to stewardship in Word and Sacrament ministry, the greater the opportunity for this spiritual formation! Stewardship in the home and beyond While pastors are instrumental in preventing an allergy to stewardship, further invaluable instruction takes place in the home. Parents and grandparents should reinforce the identity and practice of the steward on a regular basis. Include children in the process of preparing offerings for church, teach them how to serve with their talents, and introduce them to the concept of first-fruits giving that flows from God's radical generosity in Jesus Christ. In this way, you can provide your children with a steady diet of stewardship and ward off the stewardship allergy. Admittedly, this is a human analogy, and so it breaks down. A peanut allergy can be a serious, even lethal medical condition, which should not be minimized. As stewards of the lives of others, faithful Christians will seek to care for those around them by refraining from anything that might do them harm. When it comes to stewardship, though, antifragility goes too far, preventing other stewards from hearing the faithful teaching of God's Word. This weakens them instead of strengthening them for the journey of life that is called stewardship. This sets up the next generation of stewards for failure, with consequences that could be devastating to the work of the Gospel in the world.



There is still space  
to sign up for  
flowers in 2019.  
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



“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out” (Deut 28:3-6).

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the Lord your God” (Deut 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deut 28:2a).

If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in His ways (Deut 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised

to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit; died for us – in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit.

By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and thereby it becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings but because in Christ we already have.

It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).



## From the Pews

# IS OUR FAITH DIFFICULT TO SHARE?

-by Remi Tufts

Some followers of Christ seems to find it natural to talk to others about their faith. Normal conversation, even with strangers turn into spiritual encounters. They get along the way, graciously answer objections and often end up with a story of another charged heart.

Many of us envy such persons . We wish we have the ability to talk about the One who died for us. We hear others say that if they can do it, anyone can. Few thoughts are more disturbing than the suspicion that , if we are not leading others to personal faith in Christ, we are ashamed of Him or don't really love others.

In addition, we know that the Bible says, "Go ... and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20).

But what if we are not personally making disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to do all that Jesus told us to do? Does that mean we are not taking seriously the Great Commission of Jesus?

When we ask the questions that way, the answer is obvious, Jesus asked His followers to make disciples of all nations together . rather than as individuals. In the process , He also made it clear that it is only the Holy Spirit that can be kind of witness He is asking us to be (Acts 1:8)

One of Jesus closest friends learned the hard way not to think that being faithful to Christ is easy. Within hours of saying that he was ready to suffer and die for his Teacher. (Luke22:33), he not only cared into his fears but also repeatedly denied that he had anything to do with Jesus (Lk 22:54-62)



## From the Pews

A few weeks later, the same apostle discovered that what he could not do in his own strength, he could do by the power of God. After being empowered by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Peter risk his life and fearlessly spoke to large crowds on behalf of his Lord (Acts 2:14-40)

So Peter conclude that if a failure like him could confront religious leaders with their needs for Christ everyone else should be able to as well. Actually, Peter's own writings seem to call for a witness that leads by example rather than by fearless confrontations. He urged followers of Christ to endure tough circumstances with attitudes that would give others reason to begin asking questions (1Pet. 3:15)

Peter taught the principle of using what we have been given as variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another so that God's generosity can flow through you. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God Himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. Amen.







## Recipes FROM THE Church Kitchen

### 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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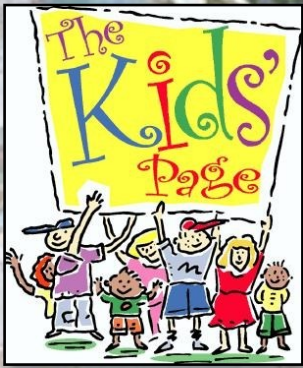
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Submit  
Your  
Recipes



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.

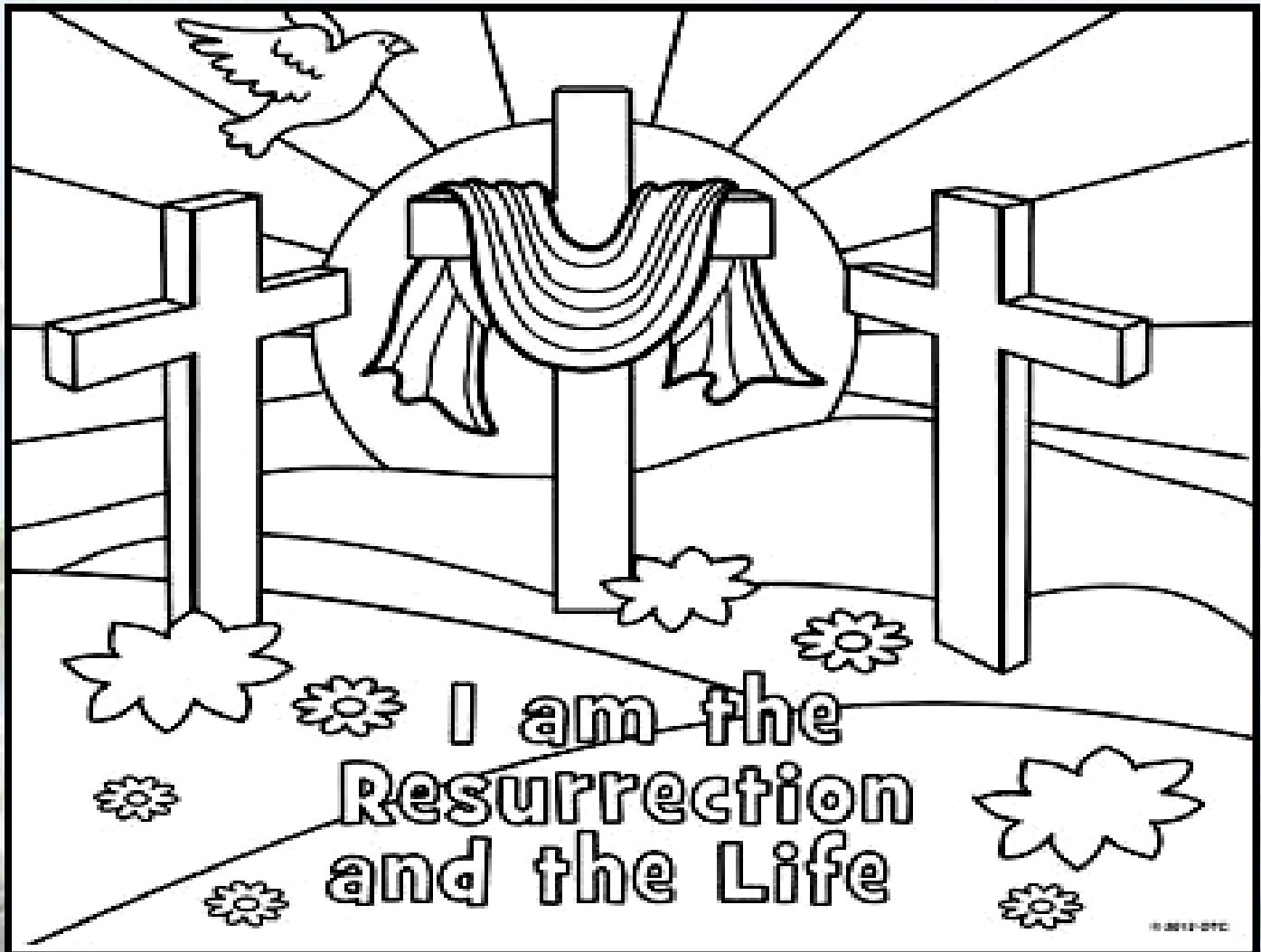
**WHITE** IS FOR THE GRACE HE GAVE.

**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





# TEEN TALK

## 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)



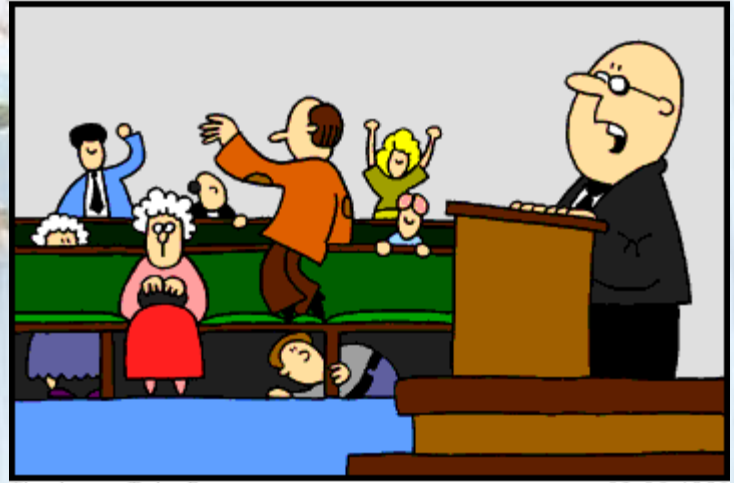
@lcmsyouth



LCMS Young Adult Ministry  
Empowered to lead.







Thanks to John Ramsey

03-06-1998

I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE SHEPHERD OF THE FLOCK ... BUT I'M REALLY STARTING TO FEEL LIKE KEEPER OF THE ZOO

THE WHOLE TRANSFIGURATION SCENE SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF WORK JUST TO FREAK OUT THE DISCIPLES.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

EVERY PART OF IT IS ABOUT HOW JESUS IS THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF MOSES AND THE PROPHETS.



AH! WELL MOSES AND ELIJAH WERE CERTAINLY NOT STRANGERS TO THE GRAND GESTURE!



LUKE 9:28-43

© WETZSTEIN 16-02-03

YOU KNOW, SOME OF THE STUFF PAUL WRITES IS JUST CRAZY.



WWW.AGJUSTIN.ORG

REALLY?



YEAH, LIKE THIS "NEW CREATION" THING. IF IT'S TRUE, YOU'D THINK I COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE FROM MY "OLD CREATION."



2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

© WETZSTEIN 10-02-10



# Atonement Monthly

2019

March 



## 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

## Anniversaries

17	Steve & Rhonda Nelson
26	Ludi & Janet Graf



## March

### Lay Ministers

### Acolytes

### Flowers

3	Jim Dysart	Gracie Scherbarth	Memory of Geneva Mello
*6	Jim Dysart	Sheree Moody	
10	Larry Betancourt	Phillip Brann	
*13	Larry Betancourt	Chloe Scherbarth	
17	Mike Heidtbrink	Rebecca Moody	
*20	Mike Heidtbrink	Johnathan Moody	
24	Tim Hahn	Sheree Moody	
*27	Tim Hahn	Gracie Scherbarth	
31	Jim Dysart	Johnathan Moody	Vandewalker





\*Asterisks indicate midweek or evening services





**APRIL 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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 5:00 pm AYOP	2 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
3 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	4	5 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	6 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup & Salad 7:00 pm Lenten Service	7 6:30 pm Scouts	8 5:00 pm AYOP	9 10:00 am Pinewood Derby 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
10 9:00 am Prayer/Predaching 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School Spring Forward 	11 6:00 am Church Council	12 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	13 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup & Salad 7:00 pm Lenten Service	14	15 5:00 pm AYOP	16 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
17 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am God in the Movies <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 	18	19 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup & Salad 7:00 pm Lenten Service	21 6:30 pm Scouts	22 5:00 pm AYOP	23 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
24/31 8:15 am Lay Meeting 9:00 am Contemporary 10:30 am Movie Discussion 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Game Day 	25	26 10:00 am AI Anon 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	27 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup & Salad 7:00 pm Lenten Service	28	29 5:00 pm AYOP	30  Hiking Club



**2019—2020**

**Officers and Board/Committee Members**

**Executive Board**

President Tim Hahn  
Secretary Shenoah Riess  
Financial Secretary Ann Duggan  
Treasurer Nancy Riley

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Member Larry Betancourt  
Member Jim Dysart

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Member Judy Dysart

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Member Jobana Weber

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Member Remi Tufts  
Member Dee Moody

**Flowers** Ann Duggan

**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

Thursday at 6:20 pm - Joining Jesus  
- *Every other Thursday of the month* -

**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**

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



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