



Atonement Quarterly

Winter 2015

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

Do Not Grow Weary

by Rev. Kevin D. Robson
Chief Mission Officer, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Looking around at our contemporary culture, it is disturbingly easy for us Christians to become weary. We suffer the exasperation of an unending stream of bad news; increasing hostility toward the Church; and perplexing, blatant rejections of God's magnificent goodness. Sometimes it seems as though He has forgotten, or simply doesn't care, to intervene.

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Our good works — the splendid fruit of the saving faith given and nurtured in Word and Sacrament — often appear to come to naught. Does such discouragement sound familiar? We think, "What little difference can it make that I love and care for my neighbor, when I am swamped in a worldly tsunami of sewage? Everything is headed for ruin!"

In such moments of angst, we are like little toddlers who have an ever-watchful parent — one who gently prods us to venture forth, no matter how tentative our steps. The Spirit of life has set us free from sin and death (Rom. 8:2); thus, we walk by faith, not by sight.

So, "if we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25). We desperately and continually need His work — Jesus Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification — preached into our ears and hearts. By grace alone, not by our weary works, we stand righteous before God. Such a precise, powerful Word of encouragement fortifies us against the enemy.

Therefore, as we are presented with the "opportunity" (Gal. 6:10) — *kairos* in the original Greek, meaning the "right moment" or "apt season" — the Spirit's descriptive prescription is this: By faith, let's get to it. Perceive the *kairos*; don't be distracted by the chaos. Surely you will see the

harvest, for it is eternal life.

"Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart" (2 Cor. 4:1). "Let us

consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ... encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Heb. 10:24, 25b).

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"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:9–10)

Board of Lay Ministry

When the Wise Men found Jesus and Mary, they would have been living in a normal house in Bethlehem, because by this time Jesus would have been aged between one and two. Then they gave their gifts to him. The gifts seem quite strange to give to a baby, but Christians believe that they had the following meanings:

- Gold: is associated with Kings and Christians believe that Jesus is the King of Kings.
- Frankincense: is sometimes used in worship in Churches and showed that people child worship Jesus.
- Myrrh: is a perfume that is put on dead bodies to make them smell nice and showed that Jesus would suffer and die.

The gifts are also all things that come from the east of Israel in Arabia.

**"And you,
Bethlehem,
... from you shall come
a ruler who is to shepherd
my people Israel."**

Lay Minsters Report

The Lay ministers will now be meeting every 2nd Sunday of the month, before service, at 8:15 am.

Call Committee

The Following members are on the call committee:

**Seth Heidtbrink, Sandee Boelter,
Ann Duggan, Judy Dysart, Todd
Martens, Mike Heidtbrink, and
*Manny Cruz,**

**Manny is the coordinator & Contact with
the Circuit Visitor & District*



There is still space
to sign up for
flowers in 2015.
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



Our Lord Jesus Christ healed the man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). He is the great physician of both body and soul. The paradoxical symptom of dropsy was an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body was over inflated with fluid, a craving that when indulged served not to ease but to feed the disease. And so if a man drinks a great deal, but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, Consolation to His Mother Helvia, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for ten, or the owner of ten tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress? For this is not want or lack, but a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches . . . the more eagerly he desires them” (The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, Vol. 4, 135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us on taking care not to be overmuch consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and money” (Matt 6:24; Luke 16:13). The point is that our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We always think, if I just had this much then I would be happy. But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, that happiness evades us. For the

desire for more of these things is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy—either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician’s diagnosis and a physician’s remedy. And our Lord, Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, like the man healed of dropsy, applies His Word to us. He shows us how we have put our fear, our love, and our trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things. In essence, He says, “Stop it! Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. For you cannot have two masters. Repent!” And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace, that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has done? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways. That way is dead to us and leads us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy, and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us. So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society, and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way round. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.



Final Board of Properties report from Pastor Art and Beth Puls.

After prayerful consideration, we have submitted our resignation from the Board of Properties Chairman position as of December 31, 2015.

Two final actions pending implementation: (1) Carpet Cleaning the pews and carpets in the Sanctuary and (2) Cutting back and balancing the Ficus Tree located at the SE corner of the property (our neighbor has asked us to do this as it is impinging on their property) and removal of the dead Pine tree. Both will be presented to the December Church Council meeting for consideration.

There are still several other major maintenance items that need to be addressed. They are: repairing the deck to the right of the Church entrance; repair and replacing the wood on the back stairway where needed; Repairing the parking lot. There are several other areas that could be readily identified as well.

It was challenging and also a blessing to serve in this position. We are so appreciative of the help and hard work that was given in support by a good number within our congregation, and we believe you know them well.



The Name of Jesus

The name "Jesus" was very common in the first century and was usually tagged with "of Nazareth" or "son of Joseph" which was used to make the distinction between one Jesus or another. The name "Jesus" comes from the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua" which means "Yahweh is salvation." The angel predicted to Joseph that "he will save his people from their sin" (Matt. 1:21) These words were the confirmation of something highly unusual. If the name "Jesus", or more literally Joshua, means "Yahweh is the source of salvation," then the angel is saying that Jesus himself will assume this activity which was previously assigned to God alone!

We should also know that long before the Christian era, Jews had banned anybody pronouncing the four consonants "YHWH" because this was the most sacred name of God revealed to Moses. The secret pronunciation of this name was given by Jesus to His disciples which confirmed the meaning on the divine name as "He who is". The Gospels substitute the Greek "Kyrios" or Lord for "YHWH" which followed the practice of the Septuagint, which was translated in the third century B.C.

Jesus said to God that "I have made known to them your name." Such activities were prayer, baptism, exorcism, receiving a child, giving a cup of cold water and healings. It was an identification with the power, authority, and glory that is associated with Jesus!

From the Pews

Alpha and Omega

Alpha and Omega are the words for the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Their meaning becomes very clear as Jesus gives it, "The beginning and the end, the first and the last." He is alpha! The beginning, the first! First... before creation, before mankind, before the ancient world empires of Babylon, Egypt, Greece, Medo-Persia, and Rome! First... before time began, before geology, before the polar system! First ... beyond the imagination of our finite minds! FIRST ! ALPHA!

He is omega! The end, the last! After everything is finished, He is the exclamation point in all eternity! Jesus has no beginning or ending. He is eternal! The alphabet, whether ours or the Greek -- alpha to omega or a to z --- are the same letters used to write the Bible. These same letters make up the lofty proclamations or guidelines given by parents to a child.

As the alpha and the omega, He is the Lord of beginnings as well as being there in all our endings. There is comfort in this title. There is courage which can be derived from this title. He is God of all of our beginning and endings. Jesus Christ is the alpha and the omega!

History Of Carols That Are Still In Tune Today

By Mike Flanagan
Chicago Tribune



More regular than Halley's Comet and Capistrano's swallows, certain Christmas songs return every year to play in the top 40 of the mind. What makes them unique is their longevity. Of the literally thousands of Christmas songs that have been written, sung and recorded, these are the survivors. Some have lasted centuries.

Each one has its own story, sometimes touching, sometimes mundane. Many important facts concerning their origins have been lost over the years. The modern ones are more easily traced, but their endurance in the stretch has yet to be determined. What remains are those glorious songs old and new, and how they got to Christmas 2015.

Deck the Halls: A carryover from the old British Yule festival, when people celebrated with wassail bowls and Yule logs. It is of Welsh origin and had been around awhile when Mozart included the melody in one of his compositions.

Good King Wenceslas (1582): Wenceslas, the Holy was really a duke, a 10th Century Bohemian ruler who was murdered by his brother in a forgotten power struggle. His goodness led to his canonization. The song itself was originally an ode to spring, but the Rev. John Mason Neale of Sussex converted it to a carol in the mid-19th Century.

Joy to the World (1692): It started when 18-year-old Isaac Watts, the son of a Southhampton deacon, complained to his father about all the boring church music. Deacon Watts challenged the teenager to write something better, and he did. Using the 98th Psalm as his inspiration--"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth . . ."--young Isaac produced the song that still is the finale for countless Christmas programs. The success of this song set Watts on a long career of hymn writing.

Silent Night (1818): On Christmas Eve, 1818, Father Josef Mohr had a problem. Mohr was the assistant pastor at the parish church of St. Nicholas (really) in the tiny Austrian village of Oberndorf. While preparing the night before Christmas services, he noted that the church organ was on the blink. Many versions insist a mouse had eaten through the bellows, and a huge snow made it impossible to send for a repairman. More popular thought suggests that the nearby River Salzach had caused the organ to rust. Regardless, some hasty improvisation was required or it would be a very silent night.

The 26-year-old Mohr called on his organist, schoolmaster Franz Gruber and showed him some lyrics he had written. Gruber read them over and could hear angels singing in his head. He tramped home with the poem, and two hours later, he had completed the melody for "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" As the snow continued to fall that night, the small church choir gave the beloved carol its world premiere, with Gruber accompanying on Italian guitar.

The song itself would probably have been forgotten after that had not Karl Mauracher dropped by in the spring to fix the organ. Gruber showed him the piece while retelling their close call at Christmas. Mauracher flattered the pastor by requesting a copy. From there, it spread all over the world, with

no credit given its authors.

Meanwhile, Mohr, (the assistant pastor) who suffered from various bouts with the bottle, died penniless of pneumonia in 1848, unaware of the song's popularity. In 1854, authorities received a letter from the obscure school teacher who authored the song, and Gruber spent the last eight years of his life trying to prove it. He, too, never saw a nickel in royalties.

And now, on to some secular favorites:

Jingle Bells (1857): Arguably the first pop Christmas song. J. Pierpont wrote ``One Horse Open Sleigh`` for a Boston Sunday school choir and managed to do the seemingly impossible: He wrote one of the most popular seasonal favorites, and it never mentions Christmas.

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”--(1949) Rudolph was created in 1939 by Montgomery Ward copywriter Robert L. May. The copyright to the reindeer with the bright honker was given to May in 1947. That year, he wrote a book based on the exploits of his hero, and it sold 100,000 copies. The song came from brother-in-law/composer Johnny Marks, who had enough connections to have it turned down by Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Dinah Shore. Perry Como wanted to change a line, so Marks turned him down.

Gene Autry liked the song but felt it didn't fit his rugged image. His wife thought differently and urged him to record the song. He did. Rudolph was released by Columbia in September 1949 and sold two million copies before Christmas, by far surpassing anything Autry had ever recorded. The numbers since then are mind-boggling. Autry's sales are over the 12 million mark, and versions by other artists, including Paul McCartney, Willie Nelson and Cheech and Chong, have pushed the song's total disc sales to more than 130 million copies.





Recipes FROM THE Church Kitchen

Cranberry Hootycreeks

"A beautifully festive cookie in a jar recipe. These make great gifts."

Prep time: 25 min

Cook time: 10 min

Ready in: 35hr



Ingredients

- 5/8 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Directions

1. Layer the ingredients in a 1 quart or 1 liter jar, in the order listed.
2. Attach a tag with the following instructions: Cranberry Hootycreeks
 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a cookie sheet or line with parchment paper.
 2. In a medium bowl, beat together 1/2 cup softened butter, 1 egg and 1 teaspoon of vanilla until fluffy. Add the entire jar of ingredients, and mix together by hand until well blended. Drop by heaping spoonfuls onto the prepared baking sheets.
 3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until edges start to brown. Cool on baking sheets, or remove to cool on wire racks

Recipe By: Susan O'Dell

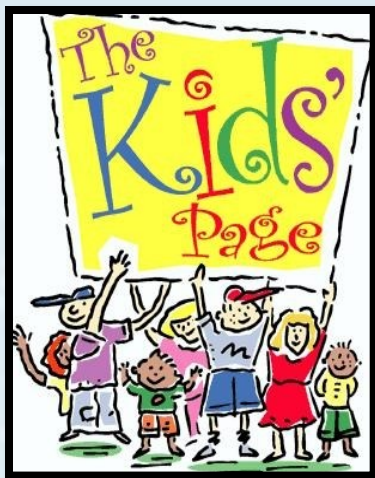
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Your
Recipes**



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

Sam's dad promised that he would get a special treat after dinner. When they finished eating dinner, Sam's dad kept his promise!

He took Sam to the ice cream shop. God has made many promises to us and kept every single one. His best promise is that we will live with Him in heaven forever, because Jesus died on the cross for us! We can always trust that God will keep His promises.

Bible Verse

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for always keeping Your promises to us, especially the promise of heaven. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Christmas Anagram

Word List:

angels, animals, frankincense, Jesus, manger, nativity, newborn, shepherds, shining star, stable

bennorw _____

ghiinns arst _____

deehhprss _____

aceefiknnrs _____

aiinttv _____

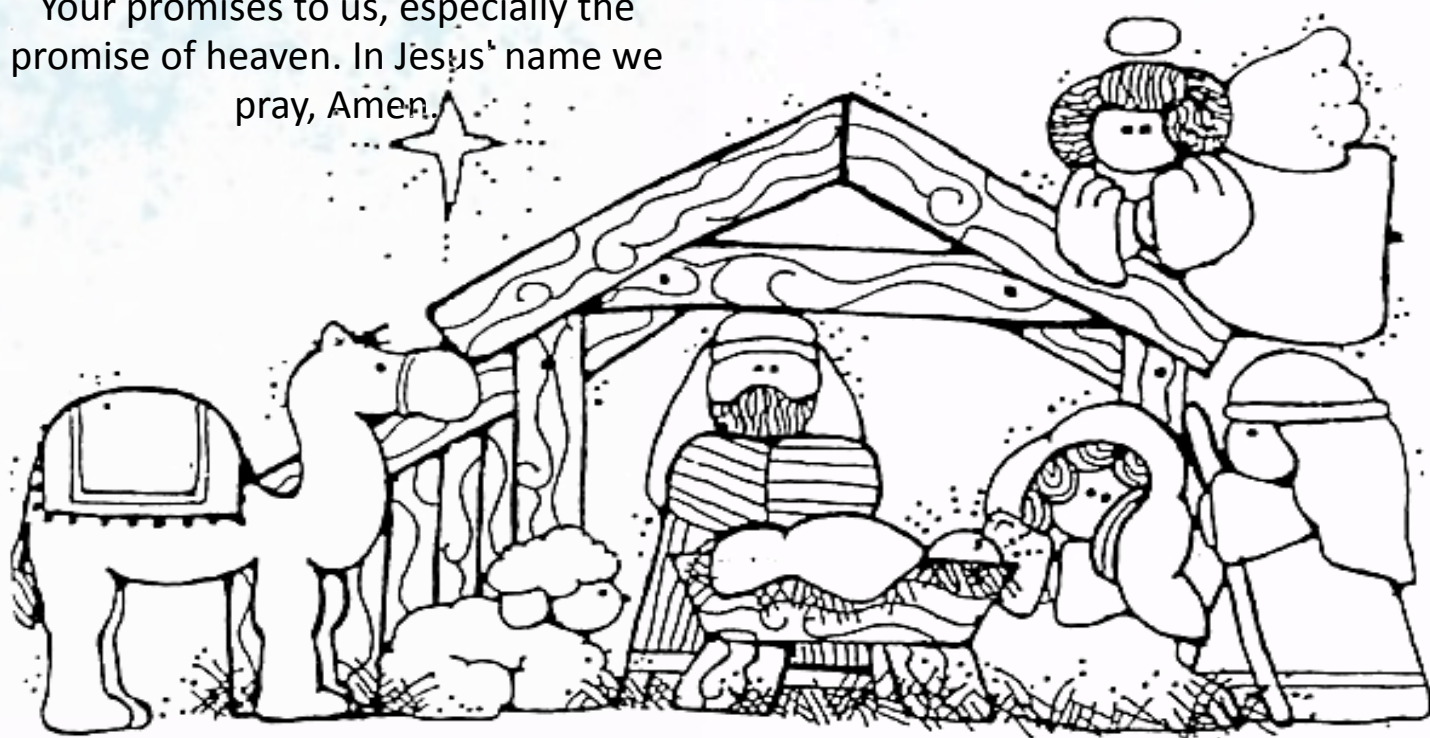
aegl _____

abelst _____

aegmnr _____

aailmns _____

ejssu _____



TEEN TALK

The countdown to Christmas is on! No matter who you are, the schedule from Thanksgiving to Christmas gets perceptibly busier with Advent services, Christmas programs, and Christmas parties, and it's even busier for teens and their families. With all the normal holiday hustle and bustle, how do you step outside of your schedules and selves to reach out to others? Below is a list of some tips/ideas for service projects during the Christmas Season!

Nationally/Internationally:

- 1) **Advent Conspiracy** (www.adventconspiracy.com): What is the advent conspiracy? It's a movement that encourages people to use money spent on presents to help end world poverty. Check out the website for more ideas.
- 2) **Toys for Tots** (www.toysfortots.org): This Marine-led organization began after World War 2 to help families by purchasing gifts for those who couldn't afford them. Check with your local Toys for Tots affiliate to adopt a family, or have youth help organize a toy drive. The organization also collects toys/gifts for teens.
- 3) **Angel Tree** (www.angel.jcpenny.com): The Angel Tree foundation works with families who are in need. Similar to the Toys for Tots program, groups or individuals can adopt families to purchase presents and food items for the family.
- 4) **Lutheran World Relief** (www.lwr.org): While Lutheran World Relief isn't Christmas-Specific, there are a lot of great programs offered that youth can connect with. Students could collect items to complete school kits, health kits, or layettes to help those in poverty overseas.
- 5) **World Vision:** (www.worldvision.org): World Vision is most well-known for its adopt a child program, but they also have a gift catalog of one time monetary donations that help purchase chickens, goats, ducks, clothing, and education for children overseas and in the USA.

- 6) **Meals on Wheels** (www.mowaa.org): Meals on Wheels provides meals to seniors, the disabled, or shut-ins throughout the country. Groups or individuals can either donate money or help provide meals to those in need.
- 7) **Charity: Water** (www.charitywater.org): Charity: Water is one of many different organizations that helps provide much needed water to those in countries where clean water is not readily available.

Locally:

- 1) Collect hats, coats, and gloves and donate them to a local homeless shelter.
- 2) Work with a church with a lower socioeconomic status to help purchase food items for a Christmas meal for a needy family.
- 3) Get connected with your local Catholic Charities on ways to help serve the needy in your community.
- 4) Serve at a homeless shelter.
- 5) Get a list of shut-ins at your church and go caroling, or go caroling at a nursing home.
- 6) Adopt a local school and spend a day helping paint classrooms, cleaning the playground, or whatever else is needed.
- 7) Bake Cookies for college students away from home and studying for finals.

What else can you think of?

Check These Out!



www.facebook.com/LCMSYouthMinistry



@lcmsyouth



LCMS Young Adult Ministry
Empowered to lead.



Atonement Monthly

2015



Anniversaries

3 Kurt & Jan Stalmann
16 Dave & Dee Moody

Birthdays

2 John Munnik
3 Jan Stalmann
Art Puls
8 Alex Contreras
23 Beth Puls
25 Larry Steele
29 Zenaida Villa
30 Mary Weber
Jennifer Stalmann

December

Lay Ministers

4 Mike Heidtbrink
11 Tim Hahn
18 Jim Dysart
25 Larry Betancourt

Acolytes

—
—
—
—

Flowers

In honor of Dave Brinchman

In memoriam of David Boelter Sr.

Heavenly Humor

You Might be a Lutheran If

- * Your dad's name is Luther N., your brother is Luther Hahn and you are Lew Theran.
- * You think butter is a spice.
- * The church is on fire, and you rush in to save the coffee pot.
- * The only open pew is up front, so you volunteer to shovel the sidewalk.
- * Ole and Lena are really the names of your relatives.
- * You know what a Lutheran Church Basement Woman is.
- * You think hotdish is one of the major food groups.
- * Your five-year-old recites the Old Testament books as Genesis, Exodus, Lutefisk...
- * Someone asks you after church if there's any "decaf coffee" and you laugh because you KNOW that if it doesn't have caffeine, it can't be coffee!
- * You think the term "Jell-O salad" is redundant.





December

January 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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
31						

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 Advent 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	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 Advent Service	10 11:30 am Better Life Together 6:30 pm Scouts	11	12 12:00 pm LWML Christmas party
13 9:00 am Prayer/Praising 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 Advent Service	17 11:30 am Better Life Together 6:30 pm Scouts	18	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 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 10:00 am Al-Anon Business Meeting
27 9:00 am Prayer/Praising 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 7:00 pm New Years Eve Service		

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

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	Dave Brinchman
Member	Bob Imig
Member	Bobby Riess
Member	Dusty Ferreiro

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

Blanca Betancourt

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Spring Valley, CA 91978
(619) 670-7174
Rev. Robert Rotnem
atonementspringvalley.org
atonement.sv@gmail.com

Weekly Service

Sunday at 9:00 am

Bible Study

Sunday at 10:30 am

(On Break for Winter)

Tuesday at 6:00 pm (Men's)

Wednesday at 10:00 am

(On Break for Winter)

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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