

Atonement Quarterly

Winter 2016

10245 Loma Rancho Drive, Spring Valley

619.670.7174

Christmas Message of Hope

In a Christmas message, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison offers a greeting expressing joyful hope for the future and thanks for LCMS pastors, teachers, members and benefactors:

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11 ESV).

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“Martin Luther preached many Christmas sermons. He liked to emphasize that in the Christmas Gospel texts, we hear of Christ being born *for and unto us!* ‘*His name shall be Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.*’ Then Luther would preach that because we have a Savior we learn from the lowly, kind and loving way our God comes to us in a manger to save us, how we are to act toward others in our family, our church and our community.

“We are all sinners — ‘real hardboiled sinners,’ as Luther described himself. But we have a Savior. And how we need Him in these ‘gray and latter days’ of challenges aplenty! I assure you that the words of the angel to the shepherds at

the very first Christmas hold good today, exactly for you, no matter what you face at this very moment.

“Don’t be afraid.” Together and individually The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod faces many challenges. But we are blessed richly, nonetheless. Pastors, thank you for your tireless work proclaiming the Gospel and seeking out the sheep. Teachers and church workers, thanks for your exemplary love and service to the ‘little ones’ and all the others among us. Folks of the LCMS, thanks for your generous and record giving! Thanks for loving your pastors and church workers! Thanks for praying for them, and even praying for your Synod! And thanks especially for sharing the Christmas Gospel throughout the year with those around you. You are an inspiration to us! Our Synod has had a great year of blessings from above, and we thank our God for you.”

Article from the “Reporter Online”. [Reporter Online](#) is the Web version of Reporter, the official newspaper of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Content is prepared by LCMS Communications.



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



Flowers & Fellowship



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

Stewardship News



Every Christmas present that sits wrapped under your Christmas tree will wear out. It will break or go out of style. This fact was there, somewhere, in the back of your mind even as you bought them, but you bought them anyway. For you love the person you bought them for, you wanted to see that look of joy it brings to their face.

So also God gives to you. But greater. What He gives will never wear out, break down, or go out of style. For what He gives is His eternal and only-begotten Son, wrapped in your flesh, and placed upon the tree of the Cross. He gives His Son for you. He gives that you may have everlasting joy. He gives because He loves you. This is why the Word became flesh to dwell among you.

And that is who is given to you. The Word who is God yet was with God from all eternity. The Word through whom all things were made. The Word who is the only-begotten Son of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, being of one substance with His Father. The One who called all things into existence, the One who spoke to Moses from the bush that burned yet was not consumed, the One whose glory filled the tabernacle to dwell among His people, God Himself, has taken on your flesh.

Even though the Word is made flesh, even though God became Man, His Divinity is not lessened. His Divinity is not changed. His Divinity remains, pure and unchanging, but your flesh, your human nature, is exalted. Your flesh and humanity is assumed into God. God became man so that you would become

like unto God—holy and righteous, without sin, without death.

And so it is that the Son given to you wrapped in your flesh is placed upon the tree of the Cross. And no tree was ever adorned more beautifully. Its ornaments were nothing less than the Blood of God, poured out as an atoning sacrifice for your sins. Its garland the Body of God, hanged in death that you may have life. Its light the incarnate Light of the world, strung up to call you and all men unto Himself, to enlighten you, to make you His own. He gives you His life, He gives you joy and peace—peace with God in heaven and peace with one another on earth.

And from the tree of the Cross the Lord Jesus places another gift for you upon the Altar. It is the Fruit of the Cross, His crucified and risen, living Body and Blood, the Fruit of the Tree of Life, wrapped in bread and wine and given to you. He fills you with His Glory. He makes your mouths and your hearts His manger. He abides in you and you in Him.

The Word became flesh to be placed under the Cross for you. You are forgiven. This is why we give. We give because He has first given to us. And just as it was a joy for Him to give all He had to us. It is a joy for us to give to one another and His church so that this message of forgiveness, life, and salvation may be proclaimed.



THERE WAS NO ROOM

Thank God through Christ Jesus for all of your God-given time, talents, money to assist us to witness to the world about the "Good News" of the Incarnate King.

"There was no room for Christ (Luke 2:7) and yet there was room for us." (Luke 14:22).

Although "there was no room" for Christ at Bethlehem's inn, "yet there is room" for you and me in His heart of love, in His Kingdom of Grace and in His Father's heavenly mansion. When we come to Jesus in faith and He comes to us in His mercy, He removes the curse of our sin. At His manger's crib "there is room". The power of His presence purifies our heart and strengthens our life. Yes, at the Manger "there is room" for all, regardless of race or color. "There is room" for friends and foe, since the Infant Jesus is surely the world's Savior. He was born and He died so that all men, regardless of how completely we are segregated into opposing groups, might be served. "There is room" at Bethlehem for the poor, unnoticed, not acclaimed. "There is room for those who feel themselves lonely and forsaken. Our Savior's birth has graciously dawned for us with a great assurance that through Christ "Our sorrow shall be turned into joy."

As I wish every one of you not a Merry Christmas but a blessed, CHRIST-centered Christmas in your soul and family circle. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men". For through the Christ child for whom "there was no room", we have found room eternal.

From the Pews

SHEEP

It would be difficult to exaggerate the number of sheep in the land of Israel. For example, when Moses defeated the Midianites he received over 600,000 sheep; when Solomon dedicated his temple, he sacrificed 120,000 sheep and goats; during the reformation of Asa, 7,000 sheep were sacrificed. This might give us just a bit of an inkling as to their numbers. Also, it helps us to appreciate that the word "sheep" appears more than 500 times in the Bible.

It's a specific breed distinguished by a broad tail which can weigh 10-15 pounds and was considered prime eating. If a particular sheep wandered away too often, the shepherd might tie one leg to its tail. In Israel, black, red or spotted. The disposition of sheep is between meek and dumb. They lack aggression and make easy targets for predators. Their very vulnerability makes them totally dependent upon a shepherd. Because of their disposition, sheep are quite affectionate and this accounts for some of the close relationship between sheep and shepherd. The dependency on a shepherd is one of the major themes in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament. Jesus pictured people as sheep who are tired and wondering aimlessly without a shepherd. When Jesus spoke of believers as sheep, He particularly emphasized their need for help. But He also insisted that we are worth much more than sheep.



Recipes FROM THE Church Kitchen

Aunt Teen's Creamy Chocolate Fudge

"This was my aunt's recipe for fudge, passed down through the family. It's better than any fudge I've ever had at the Jersey shore, and easy enough to whip up in 15 minutes or so."

Prep time: 10 min
Cook time: 20 min
Ready in: 30 min

Ingredients

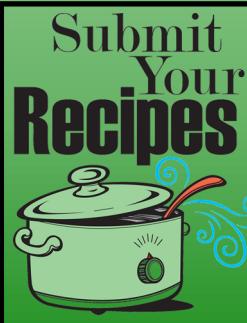
- ✿ 1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow creme
- ✿ 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- ✿ 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- ✿ 1/4 cup butter
- ✿ 1/4 teaspoon salt
- ✿ 2 cups milk chocolate chips
- ✿ 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- ✿ 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- ✿ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



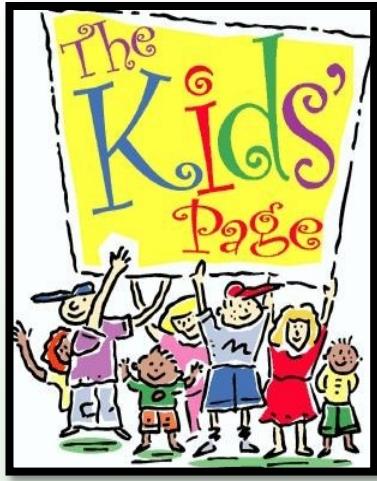
Directions

1. Line an 8x8 inch pan with aluminum foil. Set aside.
2. In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine marshmallow cream, sugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt. Bring to a full boil, and cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.
3. Remove from heat and pour in semisweet chocolate chips and milk chocolate chips. Stir until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in nuts and vanilla. Pour into prepared pan. Chill in refrigerator for 2 hours, or until firm.

Recipe By: BLONDIEPEREZ
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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

"That was your Uncle Lenny," Mommy said as she hung up the phone, "He just got back from helping his friend." "How did he help?" Jaylen

wanted to know. "He drove his friend to the doctor," Mommy answered.

"Uncle Lenny is like the good Samaritan," Jaylen said. "Indeed he is,"

Mommy smiled as she nodded in agreement. Jaylen was remembering the story Jesus told about a man who was hurt lying on the side of the road.

Two people walked by,

Activity Page



ignoring the man's needs. But a third man - a Samaritan - took the hurt man to an inn and gave the innkeeper money so the man could stay there and get better. Jesus does not leave us helpless. His life and death showed God's love to a hurting world.

Bible Verse

And Jesus said to him,
"You go, and do likewise."
Luke 10:37

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for your love. Help me to share that love with other people so they can know your love,



5 Ways Teens Can Put Christ in Christmas

1. Bake cookies and bring them to your neighbors (offer to pray for them as well)
This one is tried and true. Almost everyone likes holiday treats and you never know what your neighbors might be going through. A small act of kindness from you could make their day. When they answer the door, introduce yourself, explain why you made the treats and offer to pray for them (right that minute or later if they'd prefer). Praying out loud with someone you don't know too well might seem a bit scary, but once you've done it once it gets easier.

2. Pray with your family/friends as often as possible and focus on giving thanks
The Bible tells us in Matthew 18:20 that wherever two or three gather in the Lord's name, he is there with them. Praying with others is a pure and simple way to feel God's presence. During the advent/Christmas season this year, pray and give thanks with others while He is there. It has helped me to not take for granted this wonderful season.

3. Light candles for each Sunday at the dinner table My family likes to remember Advent by putting our own set of candles out on display at the dinner table. Every meal we eat together we light the candles up, adding another with every passing Sunday.

4. Start a journal and use it to keep track of God sightings. Maybe you hear your little brother humming "Away in a Manger" or the neighbor you never talk to wishes you a Merry Christmas. The works of God aren't always big and loud, and a great way to see them is by paying attention. Open your eyes and ears this season and who knows what you'll notice.

5. Go Christmas caroling in your neighborhood This is a great way to do something with your friends/family this time of year. If you already go caroling, try switching up the music. Instead of singing "Here comes Santa Claus", (which, for the record is a great song) try singing some more religious songs like "Joy to the World". Feel free to sing some non-religious Christmas songs if you like, but don't forget a few that spread the message of God.
Have a Merry Christmas!

Check These Out!



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



@lcmsyouth



LCMS Young Adult Ministry
Empowered to lead.



Atonement Monthly

2016



Anniversaries

- 3 Kurt & Jan Stalmann
- 16 Dave & Dee Moody
- 23 Tim & Sue Hahn

Birthdays

- 2 John Munnik
- 3 Jan Stalmann
- Art Puls
- 5 Patti Wilshusen
- 23 Beth Puls
- 25 Larry Steele
- 29 Zenaida Villa
- 30 Mary Weber
Jennifer Stalmann

September

Lay Ministers

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

Acolytes

- Phillip Brann
- Sheree Moody
- Junior Betancourt
- Phillip Brann
- Rebecca Moody

Flowers

- Jan & Kurt Stalmann's Anniversary
- Mary Ann Silverio (for Mother)
- Larry Steele's Birthday

Ushers: Ethan Bowen



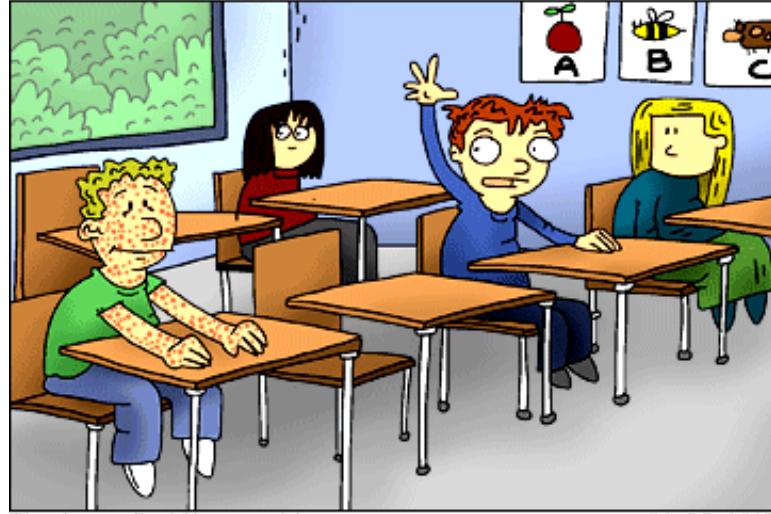
You Might be a Lutheran If

- * you can't have a meeting without having a meal.
- * you refer to your trip to Minneapolis as a pilgrimage.
- * sharing the peace during the

service takes more time than the sermon.

- * all of your casserole dishes have your name on the bottom.
- * you're willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
- * the third service each Sunday is coffee hour.
- * all your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia.
- * potluck dinners are your favorite indoor sport.
- * you ask for "A Mighty Fortress" on the love song request line.
- * you automatically sing 'amen' at the end of every song you sing.
- * you count coffee among the sacraments.
- * you actually understand the folks from Lake Wobegon.
- * your coffee cup is permanently stained.
- * you consume some form of Jell-O at every holiday meal.
- * you don't question why the seat you sit in at church is called a pew.
- * you wish MTV, VH1 and CMT had hymns.

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NOW IS IT OK IF WE PRAY IN SCHOOL?



MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
DOING LAST YEAR



2017 JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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
4 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	5  9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	6  9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	7 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts	8 10:00 am Bible Study	9 10:00 am Bible Study	10 6:00 pm Living Nativity Rehearsal
11 9:00 am Prayer/Preaching 10:30 am Voters Meeting	12  9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	13 9:00 am Al Anon 6:30 pm Church Council	14 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	15 9:00 am Al Anon 6:30 pm Scouts	16 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	17 9:00 am Al Anon 6:30 pm Scouts
18  9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Congregational Meeting 1:30 pm Caroling	19  9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	21 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	22 9:00 am Al Anon 6:30 pm Scouts	23 9:00 am Al Anon 6:30 pm Scouts	24  7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
25  9:00 am Prayer/Preaching 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship	26  9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	27 9:00 am Al Anon 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	28 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study	29 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study	30 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study	31 New Year's Eve
						 Welcome 2017!

2016-2017	
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
Member	Larry Steele
Board of Stewardship	
Chairperson	Judy Dysart
Member	Lynn Chiaravalle
Member	Patti Wilshusen
Member	Jenny Moody
Board of Properties	
Chairperson	Curtis Duggan
Member	Manfred Luther
Member	Dave Brinchman
Member	Bob Imig
Member	Bobby Riess
Board of Fellowship	
Chairperson	Jennie Green
Member	Donna Hurd
Member	Carol Hernandez
Board of Education	
Chairperson	Seth Heidtbrink
Member	Gloria Ollhoff
Member	Kristin Brann
Board of Outreach	
Chairperson	Sandee Boelter
Member	John Wilshusen
Member	Ken Handy
Flowers	Judy Cruz

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

10245 Loma Rancho Drive
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

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

Mail: 10245 Loma Rancho Drive
Spring Valley, CA 91978

Write/E-mail

E-mail: Atonement.sv@gmail.com



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Facebook!**



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atonementspringvalley](http://www.facebook.com/atonementspringvalley)



**Check out our
Website!**

www.atonementspringvalley.org