

APRIL 2018

Volume 62 · Issue 4

The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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Confirmation 2018

On Sunday, April 29, 13 young men and women will be Affirming the Baptism at the 10:30 worship service. The past two years of confirmation classes have prepared them to take further ownership of their Christian faith and life. We also wish to celebrate the Confirmation Mentors who have supported, visited and prayed for these youth over the past year. Thank you for the love and commitment you extend to the confirmands.

8th Grade Student:

Grace Adams
Easton Boyles
Madisen Carter
Aubrey Hagerty
Ashley Kapperud
Bella Garcia
Ian LaVe'
Paige Mayhall
Trae Rickman
Daylon Rinebarger
Lauren Rodacker
Jenna Salvesson
Jensen Weatherford

Mentor:

Gene Arneson
Stacey Arneson
Betty Jo Furstenberg
Rose Steiner
Erin Koepp
Jane Hansen
Phyllis Burns
Cindy Osland
Jesse Gonzales
Gary Dunmeyer
Sara Westrope
Nancy King
Todd Koepp

HOW you can HELP

- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs** – Peanut Butter, Soup, Mac & Cheese, One Can Meals, and canned fruit.
- ❖ **Transportation Ministry** - Drivers
- ❖ **Hospitality Ministry** – Ushers
- ❖ **Worship** – Readers & Assistants
- ❖ **Christian Education** – Teachers

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday

April 11th – Golden Phoenix

Marvelous Monday

April 23rd – Applebee's

6PM

Thank you!

Dear Atonement Family,
It hasn't been hard to be prayerful, and contemplative this lenten season..... Thank you to all who have offered words of encouragement, cards and the delicious meals these past few weeks while we start to recover from the tragic fire and loss of most of our business of 29 years. Not only your support but the "power within" which we all share in Christ, sustains us daily. Thanks be to God and all of you! In Christ's Love,

Cal and Rane Paulson

Thank You! Just two small words to express so much gratitude. Thank you for letting us use your church.

Randy Henning, the Staff and Parents of Boy Scouts of America, NYLT



Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley

God's Work, Our Hand's

Thanks to the over 70 Atonement members who signed up to welcome the Family Promise families, March 18-25. This ministry is a powerful way to live out the mission of helping others, with setting up their bedrooms, wonderful meals, company at supper, and staying overnight. This time we paired first time members helping with those who have taken part for over 14 years. Please consider how you can be involved the next time Atonement is host to these families, June 24-30. For information call Janie Fitch Danielsen, 861-9349.

ATONEMENT FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friendship Group will meet Wednesday, April 11th at noon for a potluck. We will have a guest speaker. Hope you will be able to attend. If you have any questions please contact Roger & Carol Young 256-0796.

New Member Classes coming in April

New Members Classes will be offered for all who are interested in joining Atonement Lutheran Church. The next session will begin on Monday, April 9th at 6:30 pm. Classes will be held April 9th, April 16th and April 23rd. New Members will be received on Sunday May 6th. We are happy to provide child care for any who request it in advance.

Please contact the church office to reserve your spot at 406-245-7004 or by email at office@atonementbillings.org.

Atonement Lutheran Preschool

Easter Greetings from your friends at Atonement Lutheran Preschool! It is hard to believe that there are only two more months of school left. So that means we are making plans for the end of the year celebration, which will take place on May 23, 2018. We are looking for help to serve lunch that day, so if you are available please let me know. Also, please note I have add items to our wish list that we will need before the end of the school year, please take a

look (one item is the book "Oh! The Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss we will be needing 20 copies.)

The Atonement Lutheran Preschool is still taking enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year! If you know of any children preschool age, 3-5, word of mouth is the best advertisement. It is never too soon to register!

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

Sara Westrope

WELCA Spring Luncheon 2018

Mark your calendars! Women of all ages are invited to a WELCA Spring Luncheon Saturday, April 7th, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. at Atonement.

This is an event where we will be hosting women from other area churches, so all attending

Atonement women are asked to bring a large salad. A free will offering will be taken. Come, join us! We will have a guest speaker, eat great food, visit with our neighbors and maybe win a door prize! Bring a friend!

Tina Williams - WELCA

Christikon Clips

The annual **Christikon Benefit Auction – "The 4 R's – Restore, Rebuild, Renew, Re-Create"** will be held on Sunday, April 29, at the **Billings Depot, 4-7 p.m.** Food and beverages will be available, and of course, some of the finest artistry in both a live auction and a silent auction, including a variety of hand-

made quilts, art work, gift baskets, Vikings Football Package, jewelry and much more. We'll also be seeking special support for our Sojourners Camp for at-risk youth. Admission at the door is \$15. *Hope you will come and join the fun!* 406-656-1969 www.christikon.org.

This month from the Finance Committee

	General Fund Feb. 2018	Building Fund Feb. 2018	Building Reserve
Income:	\$ 34,197.34	Income: \$ 4,498.50	10/17 \$ 68,472.56
Expense:	\$ 33,234.47	Expense: \$ 8,150.00	11/17 \$ 66,741.67
Net Income:	\$ 962.87	Net Income: \$ (3,651.50)*	12/17 \$ 64,727.02
Net Income YTD:	\$ 4,409.38	Net Income YTD: \$ (7,175.00)*	01/18 \$ 61,227.11
Budget Expense:	\$ 33,551.11	Budget Expense: \$ 8,150.00	02/18 \$ 57,595.17

**Reminder: The negative amounts indicate the amount we are drawing down on the surplus in our Building Fund. Donations to the building fund exceeded our needs in a prior year.*

From the Pastor

At the break of day on the first Easter morning, the command to those first witnesses to the resurrection was “Go... tell...!” Here’s the thing – that command has never been retracted. For those of us who have “seen” ...are now sent to “share.” From the outset, the church has never been a spectator event – there are no mere observers – or as a friend of mine once put it “we aren’t called to be pew potatoes!” It’s about mission. It’s always been that way.

Sometimes we can get distracted from this primary task of mission by a variety of things. Discouragement. Apathy. Fear. Conflict. Uncertainty. Did you nod your head at any of those items? Or have you got a few additions of your own? Yep – we can own it. But before we start feeling insecure in our mission, take courage in the knowledge that these things (and more!) have been the challenge of the church from the beginning. Read the Book of Acts and the letters of Paul to the early churches. If our

experience is even a dim reflection of the disorder that they experienced attempting to live out their mission ...then the timeless grace, mercy, forgiveness and inspiration of the Holy Spirit is more powerfully relevant for us today!

In this Easter season, I invite you to join in some conversation about our mission as the people of Atonement Lutheran Church. We’ll be answering some questions: Who Are We? Why Are We Here? Who is Our Neighbor? As we explore these questions, we’ll gain a clearer understanding about our identity, purpose and context. Make a point of attending the Adult Forums in the month of April to participate in these discussions – as we explore the Bible and offer some reflection on what it means for us as a church. As stated above – there are no spectators – the input of everyone is vital to our conversation. See you there!

Pastor Darren

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!

Wednesday’s Adult Bible Study

April 4 (No Study)
April 11 John 13:1-35
April 18 John 17:1-26
April 25 John 20:11-31

*Meet at the Little White Church, begins at 10:00am.
Led by Pastor Darren.*

Sunday’s Adult Forum 9:15am

April 1 (No Forum)
April 8 Our Mission: Who Are We?
April 15 Our Mission: Why Are We Here?
April 22 Guest Speaker (TBD)
April 29 (No Forum)

Grab a quick cup of coffee and join us every Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour for our Adult Forum.

Open House at WyndStone

You are invited to gather great information at our *Open House* on Thursday, April 5th from 2:00 to 3:30 PM. Tour available apartments. Explore amenities that you’ll love! And meet remarkable people! For more information please call 406-655-7700.

Israel Trip Registration Deadline

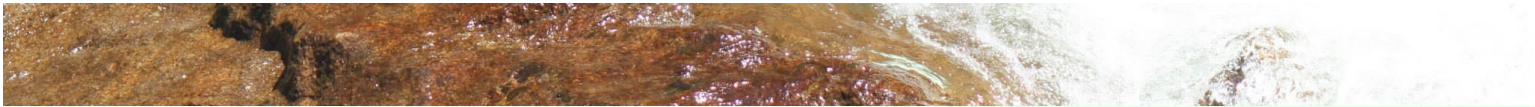
If you are planning on traveling with us to Israel this fall you will need to have your \$300 deposit paid by April 22nd. Please make checks payable to **GOODSHEPHERD TRAVEL** and submit them to Pastor Darren.



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Youth & Family Updates

April 2018

- ☞ April 6 - Men's Breakfast Square 6:30am
- ☞ April 7 - WELCA Spring Luncheon 11am
- ☞ April 9 - Youth & Family Meeting 6:30pm
- ☞ April 9 - New Members Classes 6:30pm
- ☞ April 11 - Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ April 11 - Wonderful Wed. Meal 6pm
- ☞ April 12 - Archery 6:30pm
- ☞ April 14 - All Church Talent Show 7pm
- ☞ April 16 - New Members Classes 6:30pm
- ☞ April 16 - Newsletter Deadline
- ☞ April 17 - Church Council Meeting 7pm
- ☞ April 19 - Hope Circle 9:30am
- ☞ April 23 - Marvelous Monday Meal 6pm
- ☞ April 23 - New Members Classes 6:30pm
- ☞ April 29 - Confirmation Sunday

Coffee Servers for April 2018
Youth & Family – Trudi Paulson
 Hospital Visitation for March 2018
Betty Jo Furstenberg

Wednesday Night Youth Group resumes the regular schedule of dinner & discussion/activity from 6:30-8:30 pm. All youth grades 7-12 are welcome & encouraged to attend! If you are interested in providing a meal, sign up via the church website or contact Kim Mangels (670-7878)

Youth & Family committee meeting - Monday April 9, 6:30pm. We welcome all who want to support youth & family ministry at Atonement! Any questions? Talk with a committee member during Sunday morning coffee time - we will be serving donuts and drinks!

Talent Show: Saturday, April 14, 7pm: Come one, come all to the greatest show on earth! You will be amazed by the talents & skills of the members & friends of Atonement Lutheran Church.

Coming Events in Spring/Summer: MAY: Family Kite Building/Flying event, JUNE: Middle School/High School Escape Night, JULY: Patriotic Caroling. Detailed information will be shared via newsletter, Facebook & worship announcements. Contact a member of the Y&F committee to find out more!

CHRISTIKON Bible Camp - Atonement members will be going to various sessions June 26-29, July 30-Aug 5, Aug 3-6. Contact the church office for information about scholarships and a registration brochure.

Any questions or concerns, contact *Trudi Paulson, chair of Y&F committee (690-4351)*