

May 2018

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The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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Vacation Bible School 2018

"Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus" Atonement Lutheran VBS 2018 is schedule for June 11th through the 15th from 9:00am to 12:00pm daily. Registration will be available online at www.atonementbillings.org.



If you would have a few spare minutes and would like to offer a helping hand there are a variety of ways you can participate. This community outreach takes a village, please prayerfully consider volunteering this year. For details or for more information please reach out to Nikki Groshans.

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

WELCA Annual Spring Plant Sale 2018

Wait to order those plants!

Atonement Plant Sale

May 18th from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

May 19th from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

May 20th following 2nd service

Gift certificates available now!

....remember MOM 😊

Helping hands always welcome!

Contact Julie Andersen, Becky Lujan or Judy Belden for info.

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday

May 9th – Montana Jacks

Marvelous Monday

May 28th – The Vig (patio)

6PM

The Gideons International *presentation at Atonement*

On Sunday, May 6th during both the morning worship services we are pleased to announce that we will have Brother Durward Sobek of the Billings East Camp Gideons here for a brief presentation and share what God is doing through their worldwide Scripture distribution program. A Gideon offering will be taken that morning.



Atonement Lutheran Preschool

May is the last month of school before summer break and there is so much still to do and learn! We are preparing for our end of the year celebration, May 23rd, which I mention in the April Commentator (there is still a need for volunteers to help with the luncheon and the hardcover "Oh! The Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss book.)

Our enrollment is starting to fill, but there is still room in the 2018-2019 classes, the Atonement Lutheran Preschool is still taking enrollment. If you know of any children preschool age, 3-5, word of mouth is the best advertisement. Register now to hold your spot!

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

Sara Westrope



Remember that Family Promise families will be our guests June, 24th-30th. Please mark your calendars to be able to serve in whatever way you can. Sign up will begin the end of May.

St John's Lutheran Ministries Delegate Learning Day

Carissa Welsh, St. John's new Volunteer Coordinator, gave a presentation on the volunteer opportunities available at St John's Lutheran Ministries. They are as follows:

Bingo Host

Personal Shopper

Wii Bowling Host

Comfort Cart Attendant

Volunteer Driver

ElderGeek Technology Support

Social Media Ambassador

Elder Khaver, Friendly Visitor

Shopping Companion

Social Hour Host

Adults, youth (13 and above) and groups are welcome to contact Carissa for more information at www.sjlm.org/volunteer or call her at 655-7727. Additionally, they are looking for volunteers for a Spring Planting Party on May 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. (ages 15+) – must be able to bend, stoop, squat and lift up to 25 lbs. Bring own gloves – **Lunch Provided**.

Summer concerts start at St. John's July 12th and end August 9th. They are looking for congregational teams of 14 people to volunteer at a concert. Positions would be Bus Stop Greeter (1); Bus Driver (1); Golf Cart Drivers (4); Dining Service Cashiers (2); Dining Services Drink Servers (3) and Parking Lot Attendants (3). Tom Schlotterback, VP of Mission Advancement, Margie Prokop, Community Events Coordinator, and Rachel Simonson, Gift Planner gave presentations relating to St. John's Foundation Advancement. You can contact any of the 3 for information on growing funds for St. John's Foundation.

David Trost, President/CEO of St. John's closed out the meeting with a presentation on repositioning advancement; i.e., changes at St. John's that could help manage the flow of money/space more economically to balance the budget and maintain quality care of residents. St. John's will be celebrating their 20th anniversary all year long – be watching for events!! Their annual meeting is scheduled for May 6th at 4 p.m.

Atonement Delegates - Donna Slater, Joyce Nitschke, Trudy Paulson



Friendship Club will have our monthly potluck at noon on May 9th.

We are scheduled to serve coffee during fellowship hour the month of May. Please plan on working one Sunday from 9-10:30am.

This month from the Finance Committee

General Fund Mar. 2018		Building Fund Mar. 2018		Building Reserve	
Income:	\$ 32,982.52	Income:	\$ 4,657.50	11/17	\$ 66,741.67
Expense:	\$ 32,604.76	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	12/17	\$ 64,727.02
Net Income:	\$ 377.76	Net Income:	\$ (3,493.00)*	01/18	\$ 61,227.11
Net Income YTD:	\$ 4,787.14	Net Income YTD:	\$ (10,668.00)*	02/18	\$ 57,595.17
Budget Expense:	\$ 33,491.12	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	03/18	\$ 54,121.39

*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.

Special Congregational Meeting – Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 9:15am

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in January, Atonement Lutheran reaffirmed our commitment to ministry with Youth and Families by retaining the full-time Director of Youth and Family staff position in the annual budget. As a church, we certainly have the vision and resolve to make this a priority as we position ourselves for growth. However, as we came to the end of 2017, shortly after the departure of our previous Director of Youth Ministry, financial contributions were not sufficient enough to support the addition of the full-time position. We delayed the addition of the staff position until there was evidence of financial support.

While setting the 2018 budget, the Council leadership determined that this needed to come back to the congregation at the Annual Meeting to determine if our vision and resolve would be matched with financial support. We received a resounding “Yes!” However, it was emphasized that we would need to see an additional \$4,000/month to prove we have the financial commitment to support and sustain this staff position. It was decided that in April, we would review our financial position and determine whether we could proceed with the hiring process. We have not yet met that financial goal of \$4,000/month – in part, due to some loss of membership.

An additional issue that we will need to discuss at this congregational meeting is an unexpected, significant increase in our property tax assessment, which will come due on May 30, 2018. This increase is related to an assessment of the use of the Atonement properties and involves our status as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. This assessment is under appeal, but it will not likely be determined before the due date. If it is not resolved before May 30, we will need to pay the increased amount due. We hope that the appeal is successful and that the fair portion of the taxes will be refunded. We will need to discuss our options for covering this increased tax bill at the congregational meeting. We do not have reserve funding available to cover this increase and will most likely need to use some designated funds to cover this expense.

We invite all members – particularly those with elementary thru high school aged children – to attend the Special Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 9:15am** in the Sanctuary to discuss the future direction of this ministry which is vital to the faith formation programs to our youth and families – and the health and growth of our church. Please make it a priority to attend!

Atonement Lutheran 2018 Church Council Members

Wednesday's Adult Bible Study

The letter of James enters us into dialogue about the gift of God that enables God's people to live and grow in responsible maturity. This advice for responsible, faithful behavior is scattered throughout James. This study will engage in tough questions about wisdom, growth and maturity in a rich, vibrant format.

May 2 What Is Wisdom? (James 1:1-18)

May 9 Wisdom: Faith and Action (James 1:19-2:26)

May 16 Wisdom: God's Sustaining Care for the World (James 3-4)

May 23 Wisdom: Healthy Habits that Sustain Christian Hope
(James 5:7-20)

May 30 New Summer Study on Luther's Small Catechism

Meet at the Little White Church, begins at 10:00am.

Led by Pastor Darren.

Sunday's Adult Forum 9:15am

May 6 Our Mission: Who Is Our Neighbor

May 13 TBD

May 20 Special Congregational Meeting:
*Funding for Youth and Family Ministry
and New Property Tax*

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

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!

Luther's Lodge - Delegate Report *aka The Lutheran Center*

The Lutheran Center is now known as the Luther's Lodge. More information can be found on their Facebook page and they have a new website that you are invited to visit lutherslodge.com. Luther's Lodge is located at 2902 Glenwood Lane here in Billings. The office number is 256-5756. Luther's Lodge is handicap accessible and is available to friends, family and patients that are visiting medical

facilities in Billings. The lodge offers convenient, clean, affordable rooms for rent by the night. It is a non-profit organization working with churches, medical practitioners and social workers. Atonement partners with Luther's Lodge with financial donations and by cleaning the Lodge every May, and with our delegates. Financial donation and supplies are always welcome.

Luther's Lodge Delegate- Joan Siemers



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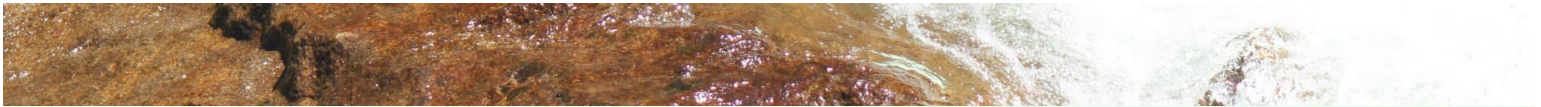


SPRING CLEANUP DAY: The Property Committee has scheduled a Spring Clean-up Day for May 12th at 8:30 AM. All bushes and grasses need to be clipped, weeds pulled, the parking lot gutters all need to be swept, the sprinkler system needs to be tested and repaired as needed, and some dirt needs to be moved around preparing for some more landscaping. Bring any yard equipment you have, clippers, brooms, wheel barrows, hedge trimmers,

blowers, etc. Should it rain this day, the Property Committee will work in the maintenance building do some organizing and the Clean-up Day will be moved to May 19th. With all of the landscaped areas, there is lots to do, so please prayerfully consider helping us prepare the grounds for the summer months. For more information, please contact Todd Koepp at 256-1569.

NEWSFLASH

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER EVENT: The National Youth Gathering 2018 attendees will be selling raffle tickets in May and early June for a chance to win a YETI Roadie cooler with lots of gift cards and a few other goodies included in the cooler! The drawing will be held on Sunday, June 17 FATHER'S DAY!! Look for attendees to be selling tickets beginning MAY 13TH, as well as the cooler and goodies being on display in the Commons on Sundays!



May 2018

- ☞ May 3 – VBS Volunteer Meeting 7pm
- ☞ May 4 - Men's Breakfast Square 6:30am
- ☞ May 6 - New Members Reception
Gideons International
- ☞ May 9 - Youth & Family Meeting 6:30pm
- ☞ May 9 - Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ May 9 - Wonderful Wed. Meal 6pm
- ☞ May 10 - Archery 6:30pm
- ☞ May 15 - Church Council Meeting 7pm
- ☞ May 17 - Hope Circle 9:30am
- ☞ May 18 - Newsletter Deadline
- ☞ May 18 - WELCA Spring Plant Sale
- ☞ May 19 - WELCA Spring Plant Sale
- ☞ May 20 - Senior Recognition/Last Day
Sunday School/Kite Flying
- ☞ May 27 - Summer Worship Schedule
Begins (one service 9:15am weekly)
- ☞ May 28 - Marvelous Monday Meal 6pm

Coffee Servers for May 2018

Youth & Family – Trudi Paulson

Youth & Family Updates

- Let's Go Fly a Kite! EVERYONE is invited to create & fly kites on **Sunday, May 20th** following the 10:30 service. The Youth & Family Ministry will provide lunch as well as supplies to create your own flying object. If you have a kite, bring it and show off your aerodynamic skills!
- Wednesday Night Youth Group will meet weekly through May 23rd and then take a break through the summer. ALL YOUTH 7th grade & up (including recent HS grads) are reminded to save the following summer date: June 13, July 11 & Aug 11/12. There will be special youth activities that are gonna be a blast! More information to come.
- If you aren't receiving Youth Group emails/texts....you should be! This is the primary method of communication for youth activities. To get on the list, contact Trudi (trkpaulson@gmail.com, 690-4351).

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

Attention middle and high school youth! We're planning an escape! Do you like to find hidden clues, solve riddles, or just want to be part of a team working together to accomplish these things? We will be scheduling an escape room outing in June (tentatively June 13th) so if you are interested, see Nikki Salvesson or any of the Youth and Family committee members. We need a good idea of how many are interested so we can make reservations.