

The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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It's not too early to prepare for fall – Ministry Opportunities

Atonement Lutheran Education Committee

“The role of the church is to equip the people to serve and use their gifts,”

And do we have an exciting opportunity for you to do just that! Atonement Lutheran Church is the spiritual home to approximately 111 Billings youth Kindergarten through 12th grade. These individuals come through our doors on any given Sunday morning, Sunday or Wednesday evening or as we saw just last month, during our community outreach through Vacation Bible School which saw 80 youth alone. Yes, you already have the talents and gifts that can make the difference in these young lives. Our mission statement, “We bring the hope, we share in Christ to all” gives clear instruction and insight how you can prepare not only the next generation of Atonement Lutheran Church, but our future neighbors right here in Billings, Montana, tomorrows leaders. Partner with us and simply share the hope you have in Christ. Through the various ministry opportunities offered through this body you can bring hope as you teach a Sunday School class, serve a Confirmation small group leader or mentor, join us for Youth and Family activities, volunteer during Vacation Bible School. If you are reading this article then consider this is your personal invitation to serve these people and use your gifts.

As we look forward to our plan for Sunday School this fall we have multiple ways you can join in the ministry to our youth. We offer weekly classes to our students Pre-K - 6th grade. The curriculum we use is super user friendly and we will offer you both training and all the tools you will need. We hope to have enough volunteers that we could possibly share duties! We ask that you prayerfully consider a contribution of your time to the education of our youth. If this is a role you would be willing to partner with us please contact Nikki Groshans at 839-1083.

Nikki Groshans – *Atonement Sunday School Superintendent*

HOW you can HELP

- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs** – Canned fruit & vegetables, bottled water, granola bars, laundry soap. **See list posted in foyer above food bank barrel.
- ❖ Hospitality Ministry – Ushers
- ❖ Worship – Readers & Assistants
- ❖ Christian Education – Teachers

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
July 11th

Bull Mountain Grill

Marvelous Monday
July 23rd

Guadalajara
6PM

ALC Outdoor Ministry July 2018 Campout

The second campout of the season is now just a couple weeks away. We will be camping at “**Itch-Ke-Pe Park**” in Columbus, MT July 20th - 22nd. Sign-up sheets are available in the Common's, for more details contact Jane Hansen at 861-2953 or jhansen0359@gmail.com.



St John's Lutheran Ministries Summer Concert Series 2018

ALC Outdoor Ministry

We will continue to shoot archery on the second Thursday of each month through the summer at 6:30pm. We will be shooting at Superior archery until we get the archery range built at the church. To all the outdoor ministry members, we will need some help getting the range set up and built. God bless and good shooting!!

Gene Arneson – ALC Outdoors

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Open House

There will be a party to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Roger and Carol Young on July 1, 1:30 pm here at Atonement Lutheran Church. Please come and help us celebrate with our family, church family and friends. No gifts please. Your presence is our present!

Atonement Lutheran Preschool

We are midway through the summer and halfway through our Schwan's-Cares Fundraiser. The fundraiser started on June 10th and is running through July 25th. You are able to order yummy treats and meals and they are delivered right to your door! Use the link: <https://www.schwans-cares.com/c/39949> or use Atonement Lutheran Preschool ID: 39949 when you order.

I will be putting up a Wish List again for the new school year please look for that starting the end of July. Our preschool is so blessed to have the wonderful support of our

congregation for this special ministry we offer at Atonement Lutheran Preschool! Thank you!

Our enrollment is almost full, 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

Vigil Volunteer Program

Pastor Elisabeth from St. John's has contacted Atonement Lutheran Church in regard to establishing a Vigil Volunteer Program for WyndStone in the Heights.

Vigils offer a comforting presence to a dying elder when the elder does not want to be left alone. The Vigil Coordinator works directly with the Pastoral Care team to schedule vigil shifts by emailing and calling volunteers. Vigils are sporadic and unpredictable. A volunteer website offers ease in signing up and creating a profile. The website is

also used by the Coordinator to send out a mass recruitment when the need for a vigil has been established. Volunteers may also be contacted by phone if they don't have computer access.

Volunteers are asked to make a 1 year commitment when signing up for this vital ministry. Leave your name with Nancy at the church office or call Julie Amundson 245-0592 if you have questions or if you wish to become a volunteer.

This month from the Finance Committee

| General Fund May 2018 | | Building Fund May 2018 | | Building Reserve |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Income: | \$ 30,347.95 | Income: | \$ 4,526.00 | 01/18 \$61,227.11 |
| Expense: | \$ 45,787.49 | Expense: | \$ 8,150.00 | 02/18 \$57,595.17 |
| Net Income: | \$ (15,439.54) | Net Income: | \$(3,624.00) | 03/18 \$54,121.39 |
| Net Income YTD: | \$ 1,911.04 | Net Income YTD: | \$(17,835.00) | 04/18 \$50,599.35 |
| Budget Expense: | \$ 51,097.20 | Budget Expense: | \$ 8,150.00 | 05/18 \$46,995.34 |

*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 the prior year.

From The Pastor

We are blessed! This past month, Atonement hosted VBS with 80 children and over 20 volunteers providing loving leadership. The building was buzzing with energy as the Good News of Jesus was not only taught, but experienced. The majority of the children were NOT Atonement members, but their friends, relatives... or just neighborhood kids. VBS has long been considered Evangelism as we reach out with the love of Christ to plant the seeds of faith in our community. That's what Evangelism is... teaching, reaching, loving, serving, welcoming. It's at the core of our Education and Youth Ministry.

This summer, we are retooling our Youth Ministry program. Starting in the fall, Youth Ministry will be held on Sunday evenings with the following schedule:

- 4:00-5:00 Children's Ministry (Grades 3-6)
- 5:00-5:30 Community Meal (With ALL Youth programs and open to congregation)
- 5:30-6:00 Combined Game with Confirmation and High School Youth
- 6:00-7:00 Confirmation (Grades 7-8) in Jerusalem Room
High School Youth (Grades 9-12) in Youth Room

We are currently crafting our program leadership for each group with part-time paid staff. One role that is needed is a Meal Coordinator since we are serving many kids, plus members of the congregation. So... why a Community Meal? Principally, the strength of our youth ministry at Atonement has always been an intergenerational approach – connecting the generations with one another. Additionally, the long history of the church has been centered on feeding – not only the spirit, but – the body as we gather with friends and strangers alike for fellowship, conversation, laughter and love. Please give prayerful consideration to this leadership role of Meal Coordinator.

This summer, the Campus Planning and Property Teams have been busy preparing for some property improvements, in part to alleviate some unexpected taxes assessed on our undeveloped acreage, but principally to enhance our mission and ministry with usable and beautiful outdoor spaces. The two high priority projects are 1.) Finish landscaping with irrigation and grass around the new connectivity paths between WyndStone and Atonement, and 2.) Recreational lawn space just south of our sanctuary with seeding and irrigation. Both projects will require funding and the budgets are being finalized as I am writing! A rough estimate of the two projects is \$8,000. Outdoor Ministry is also making plans for an archery range backstop, horseshoe pits and a picnic shelter.

While we have some reserve funds that could pay for these improvements, we are also aware that we are entering into the summer months where regular giving to the General Fund often lags. In the past, we have drawn from our reserves to make it through the summer... so if we commit these funds for the improvements, we will run into some "cash flow" issues in these late summer months as we're preparing to launch our fall ministries. So, please consider making the effort of continuing your contributions in these busy summer months ...or sign up for Simply Giving, which is a secure form of electronic giving to ensure consistent financial support. Call the office for more information.

Finally, at the time you receive this newsletter, I'll be in Houston, TX with Jane Hansen and 8 youth as we join about 30,000 other youth and adults at the ELCA National Youth Gathering. I'm excited for this time away with our youth – and hopeful about what they will learn and experience during our time together. Thank you for all your support, prayers and encouragement as we have been preparing for this event. We'll be sharing with the congregation what we've learned, how we've grown, what has challenged us, and where we have seen God at work in and through His amazing Church! We are blessed!

Pastor Darren

From the heart...

I would like to thank everyone who helped me make my move to my new home. The parents and kids from the youth group raising money for their trip this summer put together the most amazing garage sale and helped me clear out my house. This was no small feat! Teague and Sara Westrope and their girls, Lance and Nancy King, Tom and Janie Danielsen, Pastor Darren and Trudi Paulson, Jason Beckwith and Julie Leno all really worked hard to make my move much easier. I can't thank everyone at Atonement enough for your help and prayers!

Kay Bollinger

Thank you Atonement members for all your support, prayers, cards and concern while I was in the hospital and rehab. Thank you Pastor Darren for all the visits, my family also thanks all of you for thinking of them and offering prayers and concerns. It was a tough time but I made it. I hope to get back to some of the activities soon. I am getting stronger every day. God Bless all of you!

Myrtle Lane

Vacation Bible School 2018 we want to extend a huge thank you to each and every one who helped in every way, the decorating crew, crew leaders, helpers, kitchen volunteers, financial donations, supplies donated etc. You made such a wonderful difference in the lives of the 80 castaways we hosted.

Nikki Groshans

Thank you for the use of Atonement Lutheran Church for my piano recitals. It was wonderful and so appreciated!

Charlene Waddingham



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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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July 2018

- ☞ July 1 Roger & Carol Young 50th
- ☞ July 4 Independence Day
Office Closed
- ☞ July 11 Wonderful Wednesday Meal
- ☞ July 12 ALC Archery 6:30pm
- ☞ July 16 Newsletter Deadline
- ☞ July 20-22 Camp Out - Itch-Kep-Pe Park
Columbus, MT
- ☞ July 17 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ July 23 Marvelous Monday Meal

Coffee Servers for July 2018
Tina Williams – WELCA

Youth & Family Updates

July 18 - Middle School/High School Activity – We will meet at the Little White Church at 6:30pm for “Christmas in July”! Come sing Christmas Carols with the residents of WyndStone. If you have questions please contact Michel Poodry at 406-694-6364.

Looking Ahead: All youth (entering grades 7th - HS Graduates) are invited to the Summer LOCK-IN! Saturday August 11-Sunday August 12. Fun, games, food and maybe a little sleep! Any ideas for activities? Contact Sara Westrope or Trudi Paulson.

Nikki Salveson was the winner of our YETI Cooler and Gift Card raffle. Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and Congratulations Nikki!

Youth & Family Committee meeting - July 9, 6:30pm.

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

Atonement Lutheran Church offers electronic giving for all members. If you have plans to travel this summer, electronic giving provides you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. Complete and return an electronic giving authorization form to get started. Forms available in the Commons or upon request.