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## HOW you can HELP

- ❖ Billings Food Pantry Needs –\*\*See list posted in foyer above food bank barrel.
- ❖ Funeral Luncheon Help
- ❖ Hospitality Ministry – Ushers
- ❖ Worship – Readers & Assistants
- ❖ Christian Education – Teachers Helpers

### MENU



Wonderful Wednesday

November 14<sup>th</sup>

**Applebee's**

Marvelous Monday

November 26<sup>th</sup>

**Bull Mountain Grill**

**6PM**

## ATONEMENT'S ENDOWMENT FUND

Have you considered a gift to the Atonement Lutheran Endowment Fund?

Did you know that you can receive tax credits for making a planned gift to our Endowment Fund? In addition to any federal charitable deductions that you may qualify for, the state of Montana allows for an additional tax credit for gifts made to permanently endowed fund. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the amount of tax owed. The Montana Endowment Tax Credit (METC) offers a tax credit up to \$10,000 for single donors and \$20,000 for married donors.

For example: a gift of \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund could earn as much as \$2,000 in state tax credits.

If the donor has \$2,000 of state income tax, the credit will eliminate the tax altogether. If the taxpayer owes \$5,000 of state income tax, the donor who receives the METC will actually only pay \$3,000 to the state.

Atonement Lutheran has partnered with the St. John's Foundation to enable our members to make the type of gift necessary to capture the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. For more information on how to make a planned gift to the Endowment Fund, please call:

Donna Newell, Atonement  
Endowment Trustee 406-690-6164

Or

Gary Amundson, Atonement  
Endowment Trustee 406-861-1313.

## BLOOD DRIVE HOSTED BY WELCA

Atonement WELCA is hosting "Vitalant" formerly *United Blood Services* for a Blood Drive at Atonement Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 7th from 4-7pm. Vitalant, one of the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit community blood service providers. Donating blood is one of the easiest ways to give back to our community. If you've never donated blood before, we encourage you to try! The actual donation time is only about 10 minutes. Be a part of something bigger than yourself! Sign up as soon as possible as donation times are limited. Thank you for transforming lives with your blood donation. Contact June Canfield for more information.

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!



## 33<sup>rd</sup> FESTIVAL OF TREES

**33<sup>rd</sup> Festival of Trees! Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.** Atonement Lutheran WELCA committee is asking for donation of hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the “Festival of Trees” tree, we are sponsoring this year. The theme of our tree is “**Brrrrr!! It’s Cold Outside**” There is a gray container located in the church office for your donations.



### Schedule of Events:

**Thursday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Gala & Tree Auction 6:30pm*

**Friday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Special Viewing for Children & Seniors*

9-11am

*Tea in the Trees 1-3pm*

*Craft & Gift Show 1-8pm*

*Public Viewing of Trees 3-8pm*

*Family Fun Night 5-8pm*

*Entertainment 5-8pm*

**Saturday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Public Viewing of Trees 9am-8pm*

*Children’s Activities 9am-8pm*

*Craft & Gift Show 9am-8pm*

*Entertainment 9am-8pm*

*Brunch with Santa 11am-1pm*

*MSUB Writer’s Roundup 12-5pm*

Thank you! If you have any questions please contact Cindy Dunmeyer at 724-986-2973.



## FINANCE THIS MONTH

General Fund September 2018		Building Fund September 2018		Building Reserve	
Income:	\$ 39,601.23	Income:	\$ 10,839.00	05/18	\$46,995.34
Expense:	\$ 32,138.16	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	06/18	\$43,841.17
Net Income:	\$ 7,463.07	Net Income:	\$ 2,689.00	07/18	\$39,974.86
Net Income YTD:	\$ 3,781.58	Net Income YTD:	\$ (25,197.00)*	08/18	\$36,989.99
Budget Expense:	\$ 32,276.40	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	09/18	\$39,340.47

*\*Reminder: The negative amounts indicate the amount we are drawing down on the surplus in our Building Fund. A generous donation of \$10,000 was received in September.*

## ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

We have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving as we take a moment to reflect on what the Lord has given us. We will be hosting a “Friendship Feast” and all are welcome to attend on Friday, November 16th @ 10:50. During the month of November our preschool will be “traveling” around the South America continent to Argentina, Brazil, and Peru. If you

have something from your own travels you would like to share with our students we would be happy to include it in our studies. (Next month Antarctica!) Thank you for your time and donations you have blessed our preschool with.

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

*Sara Westrope*

## ADOPT-A-PLOT

This Fall, the Property Committee has worked very hard making improvements in new undeveloped areas of our grounds. A new green space for future use between the gravel parking lot and sanctuary should provide the youth with ample space for fun and games. The new horseshoe pits on our north property are just the beginning and further improvements will eventually provide an archery range, an outdoor fire pit, and a large camping area. The Connector between the Little White Church and our round-about has been skirted with new sod for future use by ALC and WyndStone, with the last section to be completed next spring. Native grass has been planted around the maintenance building and should complete that area.

With all of the improvements to our grounds comes an ongoing need for maintenance. The mowing team has almost tripled the amount of grass needing mowing and we are looking for more members to join the team. Additionally, the garden areas are not receiving the attention they deserve and a great new stewardship opportunity is being offered that simply requires giving just your time. **Adopt-a-Plot** will be initiated where you can pick a small plot of the landscaping to call your own. The garden areas will be divided into small plots that you can claim as your own to take care of over the spring, summer and fall. You may claim one or more spaces as there is plenty to go around. The Property Committee will provide guidance for you, but you get to claim it and display your pride in ownership at Atonement.

During Stewardship month, posters will be displayed and you will have the opportunity to select an area(s) that you and your family can groom during the fair weather months. Please prayerfully consider “owning” your special landscaped area to keep looking beautiful throughout the year. Please contact Todd Koepp for any details in the **Adopt-a-Plot** Stewardship opportunity.

## FROM THE PASTOR

It happened. Again. The plastic tote made its journey from the storage room to the bedroom and the seasonal rotation of clothing commenced. Seems like just yesterday the shorts and t-shirts were replacing the sweaters and long sleeves. There are some new items intermingled with clothes that my kids affectionately call “vintage.” Yep, I’ve had them forever and they are just so comfy and... well... “just so me!”

Nevertheless, each article of clothing gave me an occasion to pause and ponder, “Has this gone out of style? When’s the last time I put this on? Is this something I will wear again?” Which then led to another set of questions: “Do I keep it, is worthy enough to pass along thru donation, or has it just become so threadbare and smelly that it just needs to be throw away?”

I don’t know if it was a seasonal wardrobe change that inspired the Apostle Paul or not, but what he found hanging in his closet gave him an occasion to pause and ponder.

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:12-15

Clothing is a powerful metaphor for how we present ourselves before God and how we display our life of faith to our neighbor. Imagine with me... imagine with Paul... that we’re unpacking this wardrobe provided by God. By grace, God clothes us anew by his Holy Spirit with an attire befitting God’s chosen ones. From the beginning of God’s church, what we are asked to “put on” is fashioned after the heart of Christ.

Yet, in what sometimes passes for popular Christianity, it seems these things have “gone out of style.” Compassion has been discarded for moralism. Kindness has been set aside for judgment. Humility has been replaced with triumphalism. Patience is passé. And complaining against one another is in vogue. And then there’s the stuff that is “just so me” that we have a hard time discarding – our attitudes, prejudices, hurts and resentments that are so comfortably part of ourselves.

But there is hope! Every season, every day, God breathes in us the Holy Spirit that gives us an occasion to pause and ponder what we “put on.” The gift of a new wardrobe comes to us again, and again and again which invites us to shed the old, sinful clothes that are so comfortable even though they are smelly and threadbare. We are invited to place all those at the cross of Christ who abundantly outfits (my grandma would always talk about her clothes as her “outfit!”) us with compassion, kindness, humility ...and love. This is grace begetting grace.

So I invite you... no, Paul invites you... wait a minute... Jesus invites you to pause and ponder this season your “wardrobe” as you present yourself before God and display your life of faith to your neighbor. May you discover the grace and joy of discarding the old and being brilliantly outfitted by Christ. For that, we can be thankful.

✝ Pastor Darren

## FRIENDSHIP GROUP (Recycled Teenagers ages 50+Older)

Friendship Group will meet at noon for our monthly potluck on November 7th. Our guest speaker is Rachel Simonson from St. Johns. She will speak on Estate Planning. All are welcome. Questions? Call Sandi Gonzalez 406-671-7199 or 406-348-3707.

## STEWARDSHIP 2019 & Beyond...

The goal of our stewardship ministry at Atonement Lutheran is to help God’s people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them. Financial support of our ministries is an important part of stewardship, as well as taking part in the ministry programs of our congregation. As you prayerfully consider your time and talents and estimate of giving for the coming year, reflect on the following:

### **Stewardship Prayer**

*My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is: It will be friendly if I am.*

*It will be holy if I am.*

*Its pews will be filled if I help fill them.*

*It will do great work if I work.*

*It will be prayerful if I pray.*

*It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver.*

*It will bring others into worship if I invite and bring them in.*

*It will be a place of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of*

*compassion, charity, and mercy, if I*

*who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore,*

*with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being*

*all the things I want my church to*

*be. Amen.*

Atonement Stewardship  
Team 2018



## ATONEMENT LAY VISITATION MINISTRIES

Mentor--encourage--be a positive influence!!! As my Norwegian grandmothers would say, "Uffda! Ve certainly need more of dat each day!"

The mentoring program for our Atonement Confirmation young people is a vital part of their faith journey. I began thinking of the people in my life who have mentored and encouraged me. I am so grateful for these people! I was reminded that mentoring and being mentored is important in all seasons of our lives.

I would encourage you to take time to reflect on those mentors in your life and also the people you have mentored.

As I make visits to Atonement members, I am always blessed by their encouragement and wisdom. Consider joining the visitation team and you too will be blessed as you share love and faith with our Christian brothers and sisters. We are the Light of Christ! Blessings!

*Julie Amundson, Lay Visitation Minister*

## ADULT STUDIES

**Wednesday Adult Bible Study - 10am (lower level of the Little White Church) Led by Pastor Darren.**

Philippians addresses the complexities of living out our personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ within a community of flawed people in the faith – and a culture that seems so contrary to the Gospel. Rather than despair, we encounter a message of joy, hope and perseverance in this pastoral letter delivered through the ages to us, today.

**Nov. 7 Individual Community Philippians 1:1-11, 2:14-18, 4:1-9**

**Nov. 14 Joyful Suffering Philippians 1:12-30**

**Nov. 21 (No Study before Thanksgiving)**

**Nov. 28 (No Study - Pastor in Israel)**

**Adult Forum – Sunday mornings 9:15am (Jerusalem Rm)**

**Nov. 4 Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary**

**Culture: The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair**

**New Adult Forum Series – Introduction to the New Testament (facilitated video series)**

We will be introduced to key themes and issues in the New Testament, and learn basic skills to equip them to be faithful, creative interpreters of New Testament texts. The Introduction to the New Testament DVD presents a model for interpreting Scripture that emphasizes the importance of reading New Testament texts in their cultural and literary contexts with a view to relating them to contemporary cultural and ministry contexts. This course will focus on the practice of interpreting New Testament texts. We will use the models and insights from presentations to explore questions raised by the study of specific New Testament texts and then discuss how these texts continue to shape our faith and practice in today's world.

**Nov. 11 Introduction to the New Testament: Part 1**

**Nov. 18 Introduction to the New Testament: Part 2**

**Nov. 25 (No Class – Thanksgiving Break)**

**Dec. 2 Introduction to the New Testament: Part 3**

## THANK YOU FROM THE HEART...

Dear Atonement Lutheran Members – Thank you so much for all your help cleaning out my apartment and moving stuff to my parents also, to those who helped with cleaning at my parents' house. It was much needed and appreciated. My Mom and Dad loved Atonement and this is one of the many reasons why. Much love.

*Brandy and Brett Hunt*

Thank you for all the prayers that were lifted for my family who had damage from the flooding in Florida. They are in the recovering process.

*Betty Jo Furstenberg*

Thanks to all who made our October Family Promise visit a positive experience for not only the four families, but also for our congregation members who took part. It is such a good way to get to know our fellow members and their children better, while serving in such an important ministry at Atonement. We look forward to their next visit, March 24-30, 2019.

*Janie Fitch-Danielsen, Family Promise Chairperson*

God's Work, Our Hands 2018 Day of Service Project: Thanks Quilter's! We assembled and pinned 60 quilts, tied 46 quilts and sewed 44 quilts in one glorious day! WOW!



1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.  
 Billings, Montana 59105  
 (406) 245-7004  
 atonementbillings.org

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**Montana Synod**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.



### NOVEMBER 2018

- ☞ Nov 1/2 Garage Sale Items Received
- ☞ Nov 2 Men's Square Breakfast
- ☞ Nov 3 WELCA Annual Fall Bazaar
- ☞ Nov 4 All Saints Sunday
- ☞ Nov 4 Evening Worship @ SJLM
- ☞ Nov 7 Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ Nov 11 Stewardship Sunday
- ☞ Nov 14 Wonderful Wednesday Meal
- ☞ Nov 16 Preschool Friendship Feast
- ☞ Nov 20 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Nov 22 Thanksgiving Day
- ☞ Nov 15 Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study
- ☞ Nov 25 Christ the King Sunday
- ☞ Nov 26 Marvelous Monday Meal
- ☞ Nov 28 Advent Decorating

Coffee Servers for November 2018  
**Butch Morse – Church Council**

## YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm (in lieu of the regular **Sunday Evening Youth Ministry Night**), we will be putting together care packages to send to our troops, U.S. Service men and women who are serving abroad in honor of Veteran's Day. In addition, we are also seeking names and mailing addresses of any service personal you might know who we can add to our list. All ages are welcome to come help with this project! We will end the afternoon with pizza. If you would like, you can bring a cash donation to help cover the cost of the supplies. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrope.

*Come & be part of the excitement of ALC Youth Ministry!*

## ATONEMENT WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Invites you to join in the fun! Advent decorating of the church sanctuary for the holidays on Wednesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Food will be provided.

