

January 2019  
Volume 63 · Issue 1

# The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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*Come Partner with us in Ministry!*

## NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

New Members classes are being offered in January 2019. If you are new to Atonement and would like to learn more about our church and ministry, than the next New Members session is the perfect place for you to be in January. We will be meeting Monday evenings, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm. You will have opportunities to have casual conversations with the leadership of Atonement Lutheran in regards to how and why we do ministry in our neighborhood, in the community of Billings, and around the world in and through Missions. A New Members Reception is scheduled for Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> where you will be received as a new member to our fellowship, a reception in your honor will follow the service. Please call the church office at 245-7004 or email [office@atonementbillings.org](mailto:office@atonementbillings.org) to get registered! Childcare will be provided upon request.



- ❖ Billings Food Pantry Needs –  
\*\*See list posted in foyer above food bank barrel.
- ❖ Hospitality Ministry – Ushers
- ❖ Worship Assistants 8am Service
- ❖ Lector's 8am & 10:30am Services

**Wonderful Wednesday  
& Marvelous Monday**



**Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Play Inn  
**Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Montana Jacks  
**6PM**

## “BOUNTY OF THE FIELD” WILD GAME DINNER

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for a great evening of food, fun, and the comradery shared of the love of our great outdoors on Saturday, February 2, 2019. Atonement Lutheran Outdoor Ministry will for a second time host their “*Bounty of the Field*” Wild Game Dinner. The event will begin at 5pm with Hors d'oeuvre, dinner at 6pm and our guest speaker presentation at 7:30pm. Tickets are currently on sale for \$25 per person, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> they will be on sale for \$20.00 for that day only. We have a great line up of silent auction items and door prizes. Beverage glasses both pints and stemless wine will be available again for purchase. A portion of this year's profits will go to fund campers attending the Sojourners camp at Christikon.

Our guest speaker this year is Steve Sorenson from Russell, Pennsylvania. Steve is an award-winning outdoor writer whose column, “*The Everyday Hunter*,” appears in many outdoor magazines. He's written feature articles for many magazines including Outdoor Life, and Sports Afield, is a contributor to Deer & Deer Hunting, North American Whitetail, and more. His articles have also appeared in many other magazines and he is the web content editor for [Havalon Knives](http://HavalonKnives.com).

The Outdoor Ministry team are looking for people that would like to volunteer and help with different functions during the dinner, i.e. serving, set up, cleanup, silent auction, selling rifle raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets. If you have a calling to help, it would be very much appreciated. You can contact me at 406-671-1552 or [Geno-MT@mail.com](mailto:Geno-MT@mail.com).

*Gene Arneson-Atonement Lutheran Outdoor Ministry.*

## ADOPT-A-PLOT A BIG SUCCESS

During the Stewardship Campaign in November, the Property Committee introduced a new program called Adopt-a-Plot. The program is aimed at having congregational members take ownership of landscaped "plots" for weeding, trimming, and general upkeep. The plots were sized to allow for completion of a section over several hours. The plot would be owned by that member or family and will need to be kept up throughout the year during 2019. The Property Committee will supply guidelines for the upkeep, such as how far to cut down the grasses and how much of a bush should be trimmed, providing consistency from one plot to another.

The Atonement landscaped property was divided into over 30 plots. **Twenty-seven congregational families** signed up to take care of these plots. As spring nears, the assignments will be posted and distributed with guidelines provided. With the enormous increase in grassy areas requiring mowing, the Property Committee would like to thank each and every volunteer for their commitment to keeping our grounds in great shape. Should you still be interested in a plot, but missed out, please contact Todd Koepp or Ryan Kapperud and we will find a location for you.

## ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

The New Year is a time of new beginnings for most, at the preschool we are only half way through our school year. We are continuing our "world travels" as we head to the continent of Africa. We will "travel" to South Africa, Egypt, and Ethiopia (next month to Europe.) Our travels in January will also lead us on an adventure to Wise Wonders Children's Museum on January 18th. Please keep our

preschool and the children in your prayers as we fulfill our ministry here at Atonement. Thank you for your continued support!

A special thank you to Eleanor and Kathy as they shared from their travels with the students.

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,  
Sara Westrope

## FRIENDSHIP GROUP (ages 50+Older)

Friendship Group will meet Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> at noon for our monthly potluck. Our guest speaker will be Trudi Paulsen. All are welcome, please call with any questions Sandy 348-3707.

## CHRISTIKON 2019

A Mountain Top Experience is to be had at Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp! Join in on the fun as we explore God's creation during these different camp sessions offered at Christikon:

Work Weekend on site = May 24-27

Pathfinders on-site 4th-6th grade = July 7-10

Prospectors on-site 6th-8th grade = July 13-19

Trailblazers on-site 9th-12th grade = July 21-27

Mountaineers trails 9th-12th grade = July 13-19 or July 28-Aug. 3

Mountain Weekend aka Family Camp = Aug 2-4

All youth campers going to Christikon will receive a \$100 scholarship from Atonement and also the opportunity to fundraise to pay for your camp experience. If you have any questions please contact Sara Westrope.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is scheduled for April 7, 2019.

*Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience with a community experience that helps open people to the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...*

## ATONEMENT FINANCE THIS MONTH

General Fund November 2018		Building Fund November 2018		Building Reserve
Income:	\$ 33,076.11	Income:	\$ 5,059.00	07/18 \$39,974.86
Expense:	\$ 37,522.87	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	08/18 \$36,989.99
Net Income:	\$ (4,446.76)	Net Income:	\$ (3,091.00)	09/18 \$39,340.47
Net Income YTD:	\$ (11,792.93)	Net Income YTD:	\$ (31,099.00)*	10/18 \$36,894.45
Budget Expense:	\$ 39,641.11	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	11/18 \$33,817.46

\*Reminder: The negative amounts indicate the amount we are drawing down on the surplus in our Building Fund.

## FROM THE PASTOR

With the turn of our calendar, we have not only entered a New Year, but entered a new liturgical Season of the Church. January 6 commences the season of Epiphany – symbolized by stars and candles and lamps and other brilliant lights! They point beyond themselves to multifaceted revelations of God’s Good News emanating into this world: Jesus, the Light of the World; the Word of God bringing light into darkness; our baptismal identity which calls us to “let our light shine before others” – just to name a few.

At our staff meeting last month, Julie Amundson shared a devotion as we began our conversation. It came from her study Bible... and it struck me as being wonderfully relevant to this season of the liturgical year – and this season of life in our congregation. Based on Luke 11:33 “No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place that will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, so that those who come in may see the light.” The devotion contained a story and I’ll paraphrase the parable below:

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy to leave his townspeople. At last he decided to build them a church. Nobody saw the complete plans until the church was finished. When people gathered, they were amazed at its dimension, grandeur, and beauty. But one person noticed an incompleteness. “Where are the lamps?” he asked. “How will the church be lighted?” The nobleman smiled and opened a crate filled with lamps which he then distributed to each household. “Each time you are here, the area in which you sit will be lighted. But when you are not here, some part of God’s house will be dark.”

This simultaneously reveals a profound affirmation – that your very presence is a glimmer of light and hope for others to see – and an unassuming challenge – that your very presence is a glimmer of light and hope for others to see! It speaks of the gift of faith received, and the gift of faith given to others through you. At the same time, an acknowledgement of God’s grace, and a call to mission and purpose in and through our church.

A number of years ago, this congregation wondered what kind of legacy it would leave for our growing community. The decision to relocate to 1290 Sierra Granda Boulevard was but a symbol of that legacy. Because it’s not the building itself that is the legacy, but those who gather here... and what we do here. That’s the legacy – to be an active, thriving resource that will humbly and graciously serve our members, the neighborhood, the community and beyond! And truth be told, we cannot do it without you – again, a profound affirmation of your worth in this community, and an unassuming challenge to engage in this vibrant community.

In this New Year, may you discover fresh opportunities to boldly claim your lamp and “let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Peace in Christ,  
✝ Pastor Darren

## ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

We will be holding our Annual Meeting here at Atonement Lutheran on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> following an All Church Potluck Brunch directly after the second service. We encourage you to make definite plans to be present for this meeting. We will be voting on new council members, delegates, and sharing in the vision of future ministry opportunities and so much more.

## WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

*Lower level of the Little White Church 10am.* In January, we’ll begin a new study on the Pastoral Epistles of the New Testament. They were authored as words of encouragement and guidance to the early Christian communities struggling to embrace their identity as a faith community unified by the grace of God, yet comprised of a diversity of ethnicities, cultures, values, and practices. Nevertheless, it was the diversity of this church community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, that propelled the evangelical message into the world!

**Jan. 2**

1 Timothy 1-2

**Jan. 9**

1 Timothy 3-4

**Jan. 16**

1 Timothy 5-6

**Jan. 23**

2 Timothy 1-2

**Jan. 30**

2 Timothy 3-4



## ADULT FORUM

Sunday mornings at 9:15am. Grab a cup of something hot and join us in the Jerusalem Rm. **Introduction to the New Testament** (*facilitated video series*)

**Jan. 6**

Intro to the New Testament: *Part 6*

**Jan. 13**

Intro to the New Testament: *Part 7*

**Jan. 20**

Intro to the New Testament: *Part 8*

**Jan. 27**

Intro to the New Testament: *Part 9*





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

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

## JANUARY 2019

- ☞ Jan 1 Church Office Closed
- ☞ Jan 2 Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ Jan 4 Men's Square Breakfast
- ☞ Jan 14 New Members Classes
- ☞ Jan 15 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Jan 17 Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study
- ☞ Jan 21 New Members Classes
- ☞ Jan 27 Potluck/Business Meeting
- ☞ Jan 28 New Members Classes

Coffee Servers for January 2019

**TBA**

## YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Montana Synod Youth Servant Retreat @ Rocky Boy Reservation  
February 15-17, 2019. Come take part in a full weekend of service to our neighbors by building bunk beds for those in need. We will be learning to walk alongside our Native Brothers and Sisters in faith, taking part in a powwow and experience life on a Montana reservation. Reservation Cost: \$50, Jr. and Sr. High school students are welcome. We are looking for both youth and adults that want to join in on the experience of helping our neighbors! For more information and to register call the church office. Registration/deposit deadline January 13, 2019.

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

## THANK YOU FROM THE HEART...

A Special Thank you to all the members of our congregation that made, bought and donated, gloves, hats, mittens and scarves for the "Festival of Trees" this year. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness it is greatly appreciated. We donated 338 pieces of clothing and the winning bid for Atonements' tree came in at \$1,200.00 during the Gala. Billings Alarm Company was the high bidder and then donated the tree to "The Family Tree Center." Thank you again and don't forget about next year. Prayer to all.

*Atonement Lutheran WELCA*

Many thanks for the cards and gift cards at the end of October for Pastor Appreciation Month. I'm glad to be your Lay Pastor Associate and appreciate the opportunity to lead worship from the pulpit when asked. Thanks for all of the love you show me!

*Kristin LaVe*