

April 2019

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The Commentator

A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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HOW you can
HELP

- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs** -
**See list posted in foyer above food bank barrel.
- ❖ VBS 2019 – Volunteers
- ❖ WyndStone Driver – Sunday Volunteer

ATONEMENT FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friendship group will meet April 3rd at noon for our potluck and a short meeting. Hope to see you there. Sandi Gonzalez 348-3707.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

We will review the efforts made to church storage cleanup campaign that will end March 30, and make any recommendations. Thank you to all who have put in time and effort to reduce our storage issues. All the work done to protect crucial areas and consolidate storage has been appreciated.

On Saturday, April 13th will be the Atonement Property Grounds Clean up Day. Please come to the church and help us in cleaning up the property and preparing it for Easter, Confirmation, and spring activities. For those that signed up for a section as part of Adopt A Plot, this would be a great time to work with the Property Committee and learning how to take care of your needs of your plot.

We will start activities at 9 AM. You can come at any time. Bring gloves, a bucket, maybe even a rake. We hope to see you there. It will be our first community outdoor event of 2019. Expect to hear ideas of suggested improvements to our grounds in 2019.

The next Men's Square will meet on Friday April 5th at 6:30am at the church. Come and enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and devotions.

HOLY WEEK 2019 ATONEMENT

Maundy Thursday "The Last Supper" and First Communion Service April 18th
7:00PM

In 1494, when Leonardo Da Vinci' was forty-two, he was commissioned by the Duke of Milan to decorate the dining room of the convent Church. As an appropriate theme for this dining room, the painter chose THE LAST SUPPER. His painting was not intended to be a faithful reproduction of the original scene as it had taken place in first century Palestine, but as it might have taken place in fifteenth century Italy. He chose what he considered the most dramatic moment of THE LAST SUPPER. In this living dramatization, the twelve apostles speak their minds to themselves, to each other and to the Lord in the light of the words which they have just heard Jesus speak, "One of you will betray me." In addition to the drama, the First Communion students will serve and partake in Communion and the Brass Ensemble will perform.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 19th 8:00PM

Join us at Atonement for our Good Friday Tenebrae Service with special music featuring solos sung by Gary Dunmeyer and Betsy Holte, and the Chapel Choir.

Easter Sunday Services April 21st

Sunrise Service @ Little White Church - 6:15AM

Pancake Breakfast 7:00AM

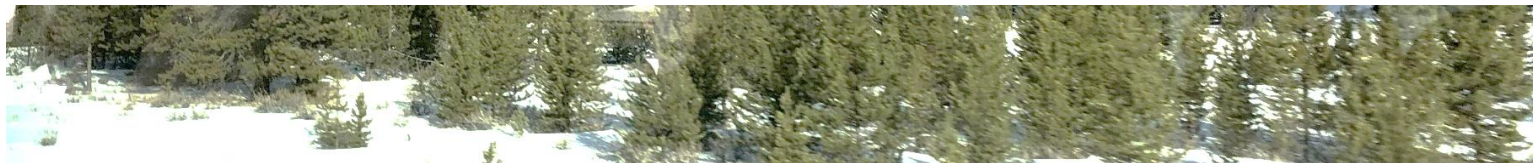
Easter Pancake Breakfast will be served in the Commons beginning at 7:00am until 10:15am a freewill offering will be collected and proceeds will benefit Atonement Youth.

Resurrection Celebration Easter Sunday - 8:00 AM & 10:30AM

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Children through the 5th grade are invited to join in the fun and excitement of our Annual Easter Egg Hunt which follows the second service on Easter morning.

Ryan Kappreud – Atonement Property Committee



WELCA NEWS



Thank God it's Spring!

Mark your calendars! Women of all ages are invited to a **WELCA Spring Luncheon Saturday, April 6th, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Atonement Lutheran.** 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 perhaps win a door prize! Bring a friend!

Do you love to help others? Christmas time...or to decorate trees? WELCA is looking for someone to be in charge of Atonement's tree in the 2019 Festival of Trees. This is a fun, wonderful service project that supports many community families. Please contact Tina Williams or any WELCA board member for more information.

During Lent WELCA is collecting new wrapped bars of bath soap for Lutheran World Relief. Any size will be accepted, but bath size is preferred. This collection will take place during Lent and will be shipped with the backpacks and quilts. A collection bin is available outside the church office in the Commons area.

Atonement WELCA Board

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

I want to start off thanking you for your support and turn out at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We served over 100 people and raised over \$670 to go the preschool and scholarship fund. Thank You!

In April, our preschool will continue its travels to Asia: India, China, Japan, and Mongolia. If you have anything from your travels abroad, please consider sharing it with our students. It has been fun to be able to show the students items from your travels!

We have purchased 25 copies of the book "Oh! The Places You'll Go!" by

Dr. Seuss to give to the student. If you are willing to help off-set the cost of the books (\$7/book) we would be thankful for any donations.

The Atonement Lutheran Preschool is 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!

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and support!

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

Sara Westrope

CHRISTIKON APRIL 2019

The annual Christikon Benefit Auction – "**Peak of Hospitality**" will be held on Sunday, April 7, 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, original art work, gift baskets, Livingston Condo Weekend, jewelry, CAT Skid Steer Rental, Big Sky Condo and much, 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!

Adults and families: Spend some time in a lovely mountain setting with some of the most-fun-to-be-with people, at our Work Weekend May 24-27, Continuing Education Retreat for rostered ministers, interested lay people and their families, July 29-Aug. 1, Mountain Weekend August 2-4. It's also possible for adult groups to schedule a backpack trip – just call us at 656-1969 to schedule. Watch for your brochures in the mail and at your church soon.

www.christikon.org

ATONEMENT FINANCE REPORT

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

General Fund	
	February 2019
Income:	\$ 29,182.30
Expense:	\$ 29,406.78
Net Income:	\$ (224.48)
Net Income YTD	\$ (734.28)
Budget Expense:	\$ 35,109.95

Building Fund	
	February 2019
Income:	\$ 4,727.00
Expense:	\$ 8,150.00
Net Income:	\$ (3,423.00)
Net Income YTD	\$ (6,959.00)
Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00

Building Fund	
	February 2019
10/31/18:	\$ 36,894.45
11/30/18:	\$ 33,817.46
* 12/31/18:	\$ 35,280.73
* 01/31/19:	\$ 31,759.06
02/28/19:	\$ 28,370.10

FROM THE PASTOR

This last month, I was given a gift from Rex and Bonnie Lewis. It's a desk plaque with one of my favorite poems. As we navigate our way through the remainder of this Lenten season, this poem is a beautiful reminder of the Easter joy we have in Christ. I'd like to share it with you as a focal image as we journey through these days of prayer, repentance, discipline and hope. May you also be enriched by it...

When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost sometimes That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian" I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble – needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian" I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are far too visible but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache which is why I seek God's name

When I say, "I am a Christian" I do not wish to judge
I have no authority; I only know I'm loved

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✚ Pastor Darren

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!

Wednesday's Adult Bible Study

The Book of Acts is sometimes called the "Acts of the Apostles" ...but really it's the Acts of the Holy Spirit! As we journey through this book, we will find inspiration and encouragement as we learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church, and the exciting – and troubled – growth of Christianity. *(For those that have a Serendipity Bible, it may be a helpful resource as we are using some materials from the study notes.)*

- April 3** Jesus Ascends Into Heaven (*Acts 1:1-11*)
- April 10** The Day of Pentecost (*Acts 2:1-13*)
- April 17** The Community Shares and Grows (*Acts 2:42-47*)
- April 24** No Study – Pastor's Retreat

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

Sunday's Adult Forum 9:15am

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

- April 7** The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Loving – and Being Loved by – the "Unlikelies"
- April 14** A Deeper Dive into Palm Sunday
- April 21** No Forum – Easter Sunday
- April 28** Where are We Going? A Strategic Plan for Atonement Lutheran

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my Path.*



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Wonderful Wednesday (WW) Meal

April 10th - Atonement

Lenten Soup Supper

Marvelous Monday (MM) Meal

April 22nd - Pizza Ranch (Heights)

6PM



Montana Synod

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



April 2019

- ☞ April 3 - Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ April 3 - Archery @ Superior 6:30pm
- ☞ April 3 - Soup Supper 6:00pm
- ☞ April 3 - Lenten Mid-Week 6:45pm
- ☞ April 5 - Men's Square 6:30am
- ☞ April 10 - Soup Supper 6:00pm
- ☞ April 10 - Lenten Mid-Week 6:45pm
- ☞ April 13 - Atonement Campus Cleanup
- ☞ April 16 - Church Council Meeting 7pm
- ☞ April 18 - HOPE Circle 9:30am
- ☞ April 18 - May Newsletter Deadline
- ☞ April 18 - Maundy Thursday 7pm
- ☞ April 19 - Good Friday 8pm
- ☞ April 21 - Sunrise Service LWC 6:15am
- ☞ April 21 - Easter Breakfast 7pm
- ☞ April 21 - Children's Egg Hunt
- ☞ April 22 - Church Office Closed
- ☞ April 22 - MM Meal – Pizza Ranch 6pm

Coffee Servers for April 2019

Youth & Family Ministry – Sara Westrope

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

During the Season of Lent there will be a Countdown to Easter! You can find the countdown board with envelopes with dollar amounts \$40 - \$1; select an envelope and insert the amount in. It is that easy! The proceed will be divided 50/25/25: 50% to Youth doing Summer Activities (such as Christikon Youth Camp and Christikon Confirmation Camp) / 25% to the local middle schools' food banks / 25% to the ELCA World Hunger God's Global Barnyard. Thank you for your support!

The Annual Easter Breakfast will take place on Easter Morning, Sunday, April 21st, from 7:00 AM – 10:15 AM. Please join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior! Be on the lookout for the food and volunteer sign-up sheets.

THANK YOU!

... to the ladies of the church for serving luncheon for Cody's service as well as the congregation for all of the prayers and encouragement that continues to pour out to our family. Also Jacoby Holte for his beautiful voice "He Raised Me Up" Pastor Darren — what a wonderful person.

Vicki, Kelly, Holly, David, Hayden and Ellie Pleas ... to the ladies for the great lunch you served us after Marvin's Memorial. I do appreciate that so much. I hope to get to know all of you in the future! God Bless!

Hulda Oelkers