

May 2019

Volume 63 · Issue 5

The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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HOW you can HELP

- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs** – See list hanging above the barrel in the foyer for current needs.
- ❖ **Hospitality Ministry** – Ushers
- ❖ **Christian Education** – VBS Crew Leaders, Kitchen Coordinator, and helpers.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR'S
RECOGNITION SUNDAY**
Sunday, May 19th
10:30am Worship Service.

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
May 8th – Play Inn

Marvelous Monday
May 27th – Applebee's
6PM

Vacation Bible School 2019

"Roar! – Life is Wild, God is Good!"

Atonement Lutheran VBS 2019 is scheduled for June 10th through the 14th 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 neighborhood outreach takes a village, please prayerfully consider volunteering this year. For details or for more information please reach out to Nikki Groshans.



WELCA ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE 2019

Wait to order those plants!

Atonement Plant Sale

May 17th & 18th

Gift certificates available now . . . remember Mom!

Helping hands always welcome!

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





ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

In May, our "travels" will take us to the Oceans of the world; and we will discover the many adventures of the deep blue waters. This month we start out on a field trip to the Montana Zoo and our school year ends on May 22nd with our End of Year Celebration and Graduation at 10:00 am with a meal to follow! Everyone is welcome to join us for this special celebration!

We have purchased 25 copies of the book "Oh! The Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss to give to the students. 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

LUTHER'S LAGER'S

Men's Ministry – Wednesday, May 22 @ 6:30pm. Pastor Darren's House – 644 Aries Ave. Brewing beer was a regular occurrence in the Martin Luther household – typically done by Katie. But since we're modern guys, willing to adapt to the times, we'll gather as a group of men to brew a batch of beer. If you're a seasoned veteran or a curious novice, you're welcome to join us for a night of fellowship, conversation and beer brewing (and some tasting)!

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN LAY VISITATION

Making A Difference

An old man, walking the beach at dawn, noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Catching up with the youth, he asked what he was doing. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish," countered the old man. "How can your effort make a difference?" The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves.

"It makes a difference to this one," he said.

May each of us do what we can in our corner of the world. We can't do it all but we can make a difference--one person at a time--one day at a time! God's Blessings!

Julie Amundson -Lay Visitation Minister



Friendship Club will meet Wednesday, May 1st at 12:00 p.m. for a (NO HOST) luncheon at Pizza Ranch in the Heights. We are scheduled to serve coffee during fellowship hour the month of May. Please plan on working one Sunday from 9-10:30am.

WEEKLY WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Sunday, May 26th we will begin our **Summer Worship Schedule** with a weekly combined worship service beginning at **9:15am** through Labor Day weekend September 1st.



Remember that Family Promise families will be our guests June, 30th- July 6th. Please mark your calendars so you can be available to serve in whatever way you can. Sign up will begin the end of May.

from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

General Fund March 2019		Building Fund March 2019		Building Reserve	
Income:	\$ 35,707.36	Income:	\$ 6,493.00	11/18	\$ 33,817.46
Expense:	\$ 33,142.85	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	12/18	\$ 35,280.73
Net Income:	\$ 2,564.51	Net Income:	\$ (1,657.00)*	01/19	\$ 31,759.06
Net Income YTD:	\$ 1,836.35	Net Income YTD:	\$ (8,616.00)*	02/19	\$ 28,370.10
Budget Expense:	\$ 36,319.95	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	03/19	\$ 28,382.65

**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.*

PASTOR'S PAGE

The Good News echoes into these coming months – “Christ is Risen!” – as we celebrate that which God has accomplished. Christ is Risen! as we celebrate Affirmation of Baptism for our Confirmands. Christ is Risen! as we complete yet another year of Sunday School education. Christ is Risen! as we bless the High School Seniors upon their graduation. “Christ is Risen, Indeed!” And Christ is Risen! not only serves as a victorious proclamation upon the completion of our tasks, but also offers a challenge into the future. Imagine the wonder, amazement and fear of those first followers of Christ as they considered what uncertainties the days and years ahead of them would hold!

This Summer, we will be preparing for challenge with a Capital Appeal Campaign in the Fall. At our Annual Meeting in January, we discussed the need and timeliness of this appeal. Our Council is considering three parts to the Capital Campaign Appeal:

1. Debt Reduction – which will allow us to reduce our Building Fund Debt (currently \$1.2M), reduce our monthly mortgage payment, and free up funds for program ministry – namely resuming our Youth and Family staff position.
2. New Capital Improvement Project – which is not yet identified, however we are considering some projects that will

permit us to expand usability of our property for ministry and reduce our tax obligation for the unused acreage.

3. Tithe – Atonement has a long history of blessing ministries and programs beyond our walls and are planning to do this as part of our Appeal to both practice and model benevolence in our financial stewardship.

We will be using the services of Mission Investment Fund – Capital Campaign Services with Rev. Dana Petersen as our resource person. We will be assembling a Leadership Team thru the Summer in preparation for a Kick-Off Sunday on October 13 and a Commitment Sunday on November 17. Please begin prayerful consideration as to your involvement and support of this wonderful challenge before us.

We even proclaim Christ is Risen! as we move into new patterns and schedules with the beginning of our combined Summer worship at 9:15am beginning Memorial Day Weekend. It has been our opportunity to celebrate our unity as the Body of Christ as we connect with those who worship at the alternate times.

Blessings to you as you proclaim that which has been accomplished by God in your life – and rise to the challenges in the days ahead – with Christ is Risen!”

✝ Pastor Darren

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 1 No Study – Pastor in Chicago

May 8 Acts 2:42-47: The Church Shares and Grows

May 15 Acts 3:1-16: Healing in the Church

May 22 Acts 4:1-22: Facing the Sanhedrin

May 29 Summer Break session begins – See you in September

Meet at the **WyndStone Private Dinner Room**, begins at 10:00am.

Led by Pastor Darren.

Sunday's Adult Forum 9:15am

May 5 Habitat for Humanity

May 12 TBD

May 19 No Study - Join us for our End of Year Celebration!

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

May 19th is the last day of the 2018-2019 Sunday school year. There will be games, prizes and cookie decorating during the Sunday school hour.

Nikki Groshans – Atonement Sunday School Superintendent



NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New Members Classes will be offered for all who are interested in joining Atonement Lutheran Church. The next session will begin on Monday, May 6th at 6:30 pm. Classes will be held May 6th, May 13th and May 20th. New Members will be received on Sunday June 9th. We are happy to provide child care for any who request it in advance. Please contact the church office to reserve your spot at **406-245-7004** or by email at office@atonementbillings.org.



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MEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

Men's Square will take place at 6:30 AM on Friday, May 3rd at the church. Property Committee will meet on Monday, May 6th at 7:00 PM. On Friday evening May 17th, and Saturday/Sunday, May 18th & 19th assistance is requested to help prepare the mall area between the churches for sod and rock. We will install the irrigation and weed barriers. On June 1st, volunteers will also be needed to install the sod. See the weekly announcements for updated information or contact a person on the property committee if you can assist. Thank you to all who came out on April 13th to help clean up the church grounds!



May 2019

- ☞ May 1 - Archery 6:00pm
- ☞ May 1 - Friendship Club 12pm **Pizza Ranch Heights**
- ☞ May 3 - Men's Breakfast Square 6:30am
- ☞ May 5 - **Confirmation Sunday**
- ☞ May 6 - **New Members Class** 6:30pm
- ☞ May 8 - Wonderful Wed. Meal 6pm
- ☞ May 13 - **New Members Class** 6:30pm
- ☞ May 16 - Hope Circle 9:30am
- ☞ May 17 - **WELCA Spring Plant Sale**
- ☞ May 18 - **WELCA Spring Plant Sale**
- ☞ May 19 - **Senior Recognition/Last Day Sunday School**
- ☞ May 20 - **New Members Class** 6:30pm
- ☞ May 21 - Church Council Meeting 7pm
- ☞ May 26 - Summer Worship Schedule
***ONE SERVICE 9:15AM WEEKLY**
- ☞ May 27 - Marvelous Monday Meal 6pm
- ☞ May 27 - Memorial Day - **Office Closed**

Coffee Servers for May 2019
Altar Guild & Friendship Club

CONFIRMATION 2019

On **Sunday, May 5th**, 4 young men and women will be Affirming their Baptism at the 10:30 worship service. The past two years of confirmation classes have prepared them to take further ownership of their Christian faith and life. We also wish to celebrate the Confirmation Mentors who have supported, visited and prayed for these youth over the past year. Thank you for the love and commitment you extend to the confirmands. We will have a dress rehearsal on Friday, May 3rd at 6pm. Group and individual photos will be taken at that time.

8th Grade Student:

Kaylee Morgan
Simon Morse
Dash Nugent
Ava Williams

Mentor:

Shellie Ehrmantraut
Tina Williams
Mark Halvorson
Stacey Arneson

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BATH SOAP COLLECTION 2019
During Lent WELCA collected 1,250 new wrapped bars of bath soap for Lutheran World Relief. Our goal was to donate 1000 bars of soap! Thank you for your generosity and for helping us exceed our goal.