

The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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- ❖ Billings Food Pantry Needs – **See list posted in foyer above food bank barrel.
- ❖ Hospitality Ministry – Ushers
- ❖ Worship – Readers & Assistants
- ❖ Christian Education – Teachers, VBS Crew Leaders

UPDATING THE PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

Atonement's Evangelism Committee is working on an updated picture directory. In the next few weeks you will receive a postcard in the mail which you are asked to complete and return to the church office with a deadline of July 1, 2019. Submissions can also be sent directly to the church office via email:

office@atonementbillings.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Atonement Lutheran Church 2019 VBS "Roar" *Life is Wild, God is Good!* will kick off on Monday, June 10th at 9:00am. Roar, an African adventure, a wild ride through the African Savannah to reveal God's character of goodness – and we're not lion! At Roar, kids will learn a new mix of modern worship songs, explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. While Rhinos, Giraffes, and Lions illustrate true stories from the Bible that display how good God truly is and that He will stay with them forever. (Nahum 1:7). Registration is available online at www.atonementbillings.org.

CONFIRMATION CAMP

Attention ALL incoming 7th Graders enrolling in our Confirmation Ministry program! We will prepare for Confirmation with a camp session June 23-28 at Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp. Lessons will be taught by Pastor Darren, but we'll otherwise enjoy the leadership of the trained camp counselors with games, music, campfires and other outdoor fun! Hopefully, you received the mailing in April – but if not, please contact Pastor Darren for more information.

FAMILY CAMP AT CHRISTIKON – AUGUST 2-4, 2019

Looking for some quiet renewal... meaningful family time... relaxation in the beauty of God's creation? There will be camp staff-led activities for the kids, free-time for rest or recreation, worship around the campfire – and much more! Brochures are available in the Commons Area at church or go online to www.christikon.org for more information. Scholarship dollars are available if you need some financial assistance!

FESTIVAL OF TREES COORDINATOR

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.



FAMILY PROMISE

Thanks to all our Atonement congregation members who made our March 24-30, 2019 Family Promise visit such a positive experience for the four families, with a special shout out to those who host supper on Tuesday of our week. The FP adults in the program have special classes that night throughout the year, so there is a double supper to host: one with the children and extra volunteers, but then also for the parents when they return at about 7:30 after class. The class they attended this past winter on Tuesdays was the Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University for 10 weeks at the Day Center. This includes not only current families but also others including graduates who returned to class every week to work on goals for their future. Ten people received certificates of completion this spring. During the time of the budgeting class those attending paid off \$13,500.00 in debts and saved \$22,829.00 in their savings accounts. Michelle, the FP social worker, discussed how this isn't just a class but a life changing movement and it couldn't occur without all the volunteers at all the churches, including Atonement. The Family Promise families will be returning to stay with us June 30-July 7. Please consider how you and your family can take 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. Call Janie Fitch Danielsen at 861-9349 for questions.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

After the first Adopt-a-Plot day in April, the past month's moisture is now providing additional opportunities for landscape and yard maintenance, especially weeding. If you have not reviewed your assigned area for needed attention, please do so as soon as possible and at regular intervals throughout the spring and summer (before the June 20 WyndStone concert would be especially helpful). If you would like advice on how to manage your area, please contact anyone from the Property Committee for guidance. During June, the posters with assigned areas will be displayed during church services. Please note that if the Property Committee recognizes a Plot that needs attention, we may contact you and offer assistance. Again, thank you to all the volunteers who selected a Plot. Your assistance is greatly appreciated to keep our grounds looking well groomed. Storage clean-up opportunities continue, especially in the attic area. Thank you to all of those groups who reviewed and cleaned up their area, enabling us to closer meet fire code. On May 13th, the Property Committee made a walkthrough of the area and the areas still needing some attention are being shared with the Council. Property Committee will continue to monitor storage areas regularly and should any concerns arise, you may be contacted. Should you have

questions about storage, please contact any member of the Property Committee for guidance. Mowing responsibilities have been assigned after 15 new members expressed interest through the Time and Talent sheets. With the large increase in area requiring mowing, 2-4 members are being assigned to each week. A primary Property Committee member will make contact with the other assigned team members in advance of the assigned date. The assignments have been distributed and if you cannot meet your date, we ask that you make a trade with others for a date that will work for you. The primary assignee can be contacted about any trades. Mowing occurs somewhere between Thursday and Saturday depending on weather. Most needed equipment is available in the maintenance building and mowing heights have been preset to avoid sprinkler heads. Thank you to all Atonement members who have expressed an interest and participate. No question that many hands make less work for our mowing needs. Completion of the Mall area irrigation and sodding has been delayed due to poor weather. The Property Committee will reschedule and try to get back on track for the June WyndStone concert. Please watch your emails for further requests for assistance or a new date for this project.

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
June 12th - Guadalajara

Marvelous Monday
June 24th - Bull Mountain Grille
6PM

This month from the Finance Committee

General Fund April 2019		Building Fund April 2019		Building Reserve
Income:	\$ 35,742.44	Income:	\$ 5,240.93	12/18 \$35,280.73
Expense:	\$ 35,225.70	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	01/19 \$31,759.06
Net Income:	\$ 516.74	Net Income:	\$(2,909.07)	02/19 \$28,370.10
Net Income YTD:	\$ 2,353.09	Net Income YTD:	\$(11,525.07)	03/19 \$26,738.79
Budget Expense:	\$ 35,359.95	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	04/19 \$23,829.72

**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

Pentecost is about mission, and witness, and expanding God's kingdom, and spiritual renewal, and empowering energy and... Hopefully by now you've caught my drift that it's kind of a big deal!

At Pentecost, we celebrate God's Holy Spirit blowing into the lives of – not just those disciples of old, but – us today. It's simultaneously invigorating and disorienting, enlivening and unsettling, expanding and unnerving. Just think of those first would-be apostles who were gathered in Jerusalem waiting for... well, to be honest, they weren't certain.

I believe uncertainty can be for us, like them, a good thing. It can mean an openness to direction. It can admit a limited vision and willingness to be stirred by another's (or, in this case, God's) inspiration. Uncertainty can be that fertile soil for the Holy Spirit to work wonders. As we continue to ponder where God is leading us as a congregation in the coming months and years, we eagerly await God's inspiration to invigorate our ministry.

Pentecost Sunday is on June 9th this year! We too will share in the expanding witness of God's church as we welcome **New Members** into our congregation. These are folks who are excited to Bring the Hope We Share in Christ to All! Please make a point of attending and sticking around that morning to welcome them.

On that same day, we will also welcome **Pastor Adam Tlaisego Khunou of the Cape Orange Diocese in South Africa**. Pastor Khunou is currently serving as the Diocesan Executive Secretary of the ELCSA-Cape Orange Diocese and will be in Montana in conjunction with our Montana Synod assembly the previous weekend in Great Falls. We are privileged to have him with us as the guest preacher on Pentecost Sunday – a day when the first apostles heard the Good News proclaimed in every language known (and unknown!) to them. A **free-will offering** will be collected that day to support the costs of travel for him and Bishop Motsomai Manong of the ELCSA-Cape Orange Diocese.

As you worship this summer (in this liturgical season of Pentecost), you will hear scripture give witness to God's Holy Spirit stirring and unsettling the early church and moving them into something always exciting and new. Make no mistake... that's not just an old story of what happened "way back then," but it is what God is continuing to do right here. Right now.

✝ Pastor Darren

PS – on Pentecost Sunday – Wear Red!

HEAVENLY HARPS CONCERT & WORKSHOP

Join us for the Heavenly Harp concert, "God's Story in Our Lives," Thursday, July 25th, 7pm, Atonement Lutheran Church. Enjoy sharing, healing and peaceful music featuring harp and vocals along with wonderful stories of God's presence and provision. No ticket fees: a free will offering will be accepted. CDs and DVDs will be available and author, Karin Gunderson, will be signing her book, "Encounters with Heaven~ Stories of God's Surprising Presence." See you there!

Want to feel happier, freer and more joyful than you have in years? Join us as we empower "God's Story in Your Life - past, present & future" at the "God's Story in Your Life" workshop Saturday, July 27th 10am. Bring a dish to share for the meal. Suggested donation \$40. Remember, this is the perfect thing to invite family, friends & coworkers to join. Find friendship, community-building, activities, harp music, singing & more.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This fall, we will be launching a Capital Campaign to accomplish three things:

- Debt Reduction: allowing us to reduce our monthly mortgage payment and free up funds for ongoing ministry. The biggest priority is staffing our youth and education ministries.

- Capital Improvement Project: an exciting investment in our campus that enhances the usable space for our congregation and community

- Tithing: blessing ministry beyond our walls as an expression of our faithful call to outreach and mission

Please begin giving prayerful consideration to some above-and-beyond ways that you can provide financial support to this aspirational goal. No gift is too small as we – together – work together as we move into our future!

FROM THE HEART...

Dear Congregation, Thank you so much for your generous \$300 donation to the Skyview High School Food Pantry. Sadly there are so many students that are in need here. Please know that 100% of your donations go directly to the students. Your support is greatly appreciated. Sincerely,

Nicole Sholley, Skyview
Tumbleweed Counselor

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Group will take a break over the summer. Hope to see you all in September. Thinking about going for lunch in Red Lodge September 4th, if we have enough drivers. Please call Sandi Gonzalez 348-3707. Have a wonderful summer.



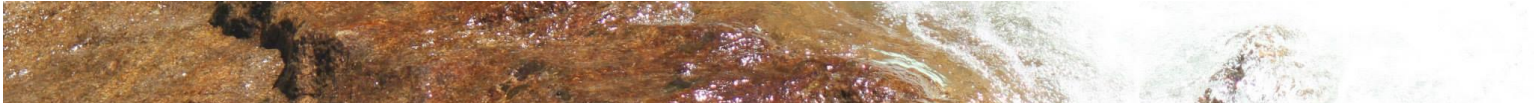
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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

HOPE CIRCLE LADIES BIBLE STUDY
Hope Circle will take the summer months of June, July and August off for break see you back on September 19th the third Thursday of September!



WYNDSTONE EVENTS...

Join us for a free informational seminar **Let's Talk About...Paying for Senior Living** on Wednesday, June 5th, at 4:00 pm at WyndStone Little White Church. Rachel Simonson, SJU Gift Planner, will talk about how to plan strategically for the future giving helpful information for older adults as well as family members.

WyndStone Outdoor Summer Concert, June 20, 2019

6:00 PM Opener: Pierre & Kristin LaVe'
 7:00 PM Headliner: Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs
 Join us for the free annual outdoor Summer Concert on the green area between the Little White Church and Atonement. A variety of food trucks will be available. Atonement is the sponsor and if you are willing to volunteer, please call Vivian at 655-7700. It'll be a great show! Bring your friends and your lawn chair and have fun!

- June 2019**
- ☞ June 1-3 Montana Synod Assembly
 - ☞ June 5 Archery 6:30pm
 - ☞ June 7 Men's Square
 - ☞ June 10-14 Atonement VBS 9am Daily
 - ☞ June 12 WW Meal- Guadalajara
 - ☞ June 14-16 Camp Out – **Location Pending Suggestions Needed**
 - ☞ June 18 Church Council Meeting
 - ☞ June 25 MM Meal- Bull Mountain Grille
 - ☞ June 30 Atonement Hosts FPYV

Coffee Servers for June 2019
Tina Williams – J.O.Y. Bible Study

10 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Attend Regularly
✓ | Give Generously
✓ | Love Radically
✓ | Bring Others Consistently ✓ | Volunteer Joyfully
✓ |
| Share Jesus Willingly
✓ | Fellowship Purposely
✓ | Show up Energetically
✓ | Pray Fervently
✓ | Encourage Faithfully
✓ |