

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 posted in foyer above food bank barrel.
- ❖ Hospitality Ministry – Ushers
- ❖ Worship – Readers & Assistants
- ❖ Christian Education – Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation and Youth Volunteers

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
July 10th – Pizza Ranch

Marvelous Monday
July 22th – The Vig Patio
6PM

HEAVENLY HARPS CONCERT

Do you love inspiring events? Come and find healing and renewed inspiration for living your Christian life at the Heavenly Harp concert, *"God's Story in Our Lives,"* Thursday, July 25th, 7:00pm, Atonement Lutheran Church. Enjoy sharing stories, healing and music featuring harp and vocals. 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."* Bring your friends and neighbors. This is a wonderful, non-threatening way to invite those who may not normally attend worship. See you there!

HEAVENLY HARPS WORKSHOP

God's Story in Your Life Workshop: Empowering Your Story and Your Life! 10:00am, Saturday, July 27th Atonement Lutheran Church. Come and put a new perspective on your life's most challenging stories. *"God's Story in Your Life,"* Karin Gunderson, harpist/vocalist/storyteller takes you on a journey that will open your heart more fully to God's incredible love for you. Interweaving elegant harp music and vocal harmonies with stories, Gunderson invites workshop participants to explore their own stories as ethereal harp music plays in the background. The half day experience is very interactive, including singing, sharing in pairs or small groups, eating together, maybe a few tears, laughter and joy! Partakers explore - their own "prodigal" story; how to feel true freedom; how to move out of fear and sadness; the unexpected gifts God has for them. Gunderson says most participants leave feeling empowered and with a renewed sense of purpose in their lives. Participants are asked to bring a dish to share for a meal. Suggested donation for the workshop is \$40. Gunderson's summer concert tour takes her and Amanda Pace through nine states as they travel from their home state of Arizona to Wisconsin and back. Gunderson founded her Heavenly Harp music ministry in 2004. Her ministry supports clean water to places that don't have it available and last year provided a well in Africa that serves approximately 500 families. She also personally supports students in their spiritual development and higher education. She is author of the book *"Encounters with Heaven - Stories of God's Surprising Presence."* Gunderson will be available to sign books, CDs and DVDs after the workshop.



WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!



ALC PRESCHOOL

The Atonement Lutheran Preschool is taking enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year! If you know of any children preschool age, 3-5, word of mouth is the best advertisement. It is not too late to register!

We would like to thank you for a great 2018-2019 school year! We had 20 students graduate to Kindergarten this school year with 7 students completing the school year. It was a fun year traveling around the world to with the preschool students!

Next year we plan to have another adventure! We are going to be asking for some support to help us get ready for the 2019-2020 school year with supplies for the classroom and with support to replenish our scholarship fund.

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and support! Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

Sara Westrope

OUTDOOR MINISTRY

Happy Summer!! The weather is finally getting nice and our outdoor ministry is busy! We have camping trips planned for each month of the summer. If you are interested please contact Ryan K. We now have an archery range on the north 40 at the church. We will be shooting archery once a month. We will usually be shooting on the first Wednesday of the month but since that day is July 3rd, we will be shooting the second Wednesday, July 10th at 6:30 pm. Hope to see a lot of you there. We have bows anyone can shoot and have a lot of fun. Get out this summer and enjoy God's Great Outdoors!!

The Outdoor Ministry has a campout planned for Friday, July 12th through Sunday, July 14th at Richel Lodge out of Red Lodge about 9 miles toward Cooke City. If you are interested in joining in the camping fun please contact Ryan Kapperud 218-790-4066.

Gene Arneson – Outdoor Ministry

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

The Property Committee worked very hard to have the Atonement and WyndStone properties in tiptop shape for the June 20th concert. The sod and white rock were placed with the assistance of nearly 20 congregational members and we thank every one of you for this big task. The results were extraordinary with the A&W mall area nearly complete. Unfortunately the concert had to be moved inside due to weather (which actually allowed the new sod to go unused until it begins to take root). The mowing crews with all of the new volunteers have done a great job also keeping the grounds looking beautiful. And again the Property Committee thanks all of the Adopt-a-Plot volunteers who put in many hours again cleaning up the garden areas, islands and other areas. The next defined priority for the Property Committee will be

completing landscaping around the scrolling sign. Irrigation lines have been run with only drip lines to be installed. In addition several areas are targeted for planting more trees, which remains an ongoing challenge with our poor soil conditions. Along with these goals, we have been notified about receiving another grant to work on the soft surface path in the drainage and labyrinth areas of our property. More information will be shared by the Campus Planning team.

And lastly, the Property Committee continues to work on all storage areas to achieve and maintain all regulations including fire codes, as well all general maintenance in our building. Thank you to all those who notice areas needing repair and bringing it to our attention.

Todd Koepf – Property Committee

EVANGELISM DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Atonement Evangelism Committee has received approximately 45 completed postcards with updated information for the new church pictorial directory. We plan to have the new directories printed and available early this fall. Thank you to all who responded thus far! For those who wish to have new photos taken for the new directory we will be available each Sunday morning during the month of August before and directly following the Worship Service to take those. If you haven't returned your postcard please do so as soon as possible. To make it easier you can email your information to the church office at office@atonementbillings.org.

Atonement Evangelism Committee

This month from the Finance Committee

	General Fund May 2019	Building Fund May 2019	Building Reserve
Income:	\$ 30,615.77	Income: \$ 5,552.00	01/19 \$31,759.06
Expense:	\$ 49,472.23	Expense: \$ 8,150.00	02/19 \$28,370.10
Net Income:	\$(18,856.46)	Net Income: \$(2,598.00)	03/19 \$26,738.79
Net Income YTD:	\$(16,503.37)	Net Income YTD: \$(14,123.07)	04/19 \$23,829.72
Budget Expense:	\$ 45,453.46	Budget Expense: \$ 8,150.00	05/19 \$21,243.11

**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

“A bishop? Who would want to be a bishop?” – was a question asked this past month. “The meetings. The travel. The conflict. The unrealistic expectations imposed upon you.” A good question... asked by none other than – myself. But it was an interesting process:

- being open to the Spirit’s call;
- discerning whether my gifts match the needs of the synod;
- finding courage while addressing the assembly;
- allowing the risk of rejection;
- engaging the uncertainty felt by my family – and this congregation;
- just to name a few.

As I’ve said before, the Spirit of God knows what it’s doing! Pastor Laurie Jungling is the new Bishop-elect for the Montana Synod beginning September 1 – and I’m encouraged by her election. Our friendship goes back over 25 years to “seminary days” and I’ve known her to be a gifted pastor, insightful scholar and person of deep faith. I’m looking forward to the gifts she will bring to the synod.

These July summer days are nestled into the liturgical season of Pentecost, where we hear the stories in worship about how God is doing a new thing, breathing new life into God’s people, asking us some hard questions to move us beyond the comfortable walls of our “Jerusalem.”

In these coming months, you can probably expect some hard questions asked of you. We’re gearing up for a new program ministry in the Fall of education, service, outreach and growth. You might be asked to serve – not as a bishop! – but perhaps a Sunday School teacher, confirmation leader, committee member, worship assistant – just to name a few. I ask you to be open to the Spirit’s call, discern whether your gifts will fulfill our need, find courage... just to name a few!

Or, you’ll certainly be asked in coming months to participate in our Capital Campaign. Our Council has set an achievable goal of \$550,000 with a three year commitment. We can do this! Together! In the coming months, you’ll hear more about how these funds will be used to reduce our debt, expand ministry opportunities, and bless those beyond our walls. To accomplish this, we will be asking folks to get involved in telling our story, help with the organization, explore their own generosity, and ultimately commit to the ministry that happens here. It will be an interesting process!

This season of Pentecost is the affirmation for us that the Spirit knows what its doing. And you can be sure that what it’s doing... is being done through you!

✝ Pastor Darren

A HUGE WYNDSTONE THANK YOU!

Thank you Atonement Lutheran for graciously offering and last minute housing of our Outdoor (*turned Indoor*) Community Concert June 20th! The hard work that was put into the preparation of the grounds was so appreciated. We thank each one who volunteered their time and for those who helped in countless ways to make this be such a fun evening!

The Staff of WyndStone Retirement Community and St John’s United

THANK YOU

Thank you for decorating and donating the tree “*Brrr!! It’s Cold Outside*” for our 33rd Anniversary Festival of Trees. Your tree was more than a product of creative teamwork, time and talent. It was a generous contribution to further very important work in our community. We appreciate all the time and talent you put into the hats, scarves and mittens that were on and under the tree. The Family Tree Center was blessed to be the recipient of your tree this year. Many children’s heads, hands and hearts have been warmed as a result of your generosity. On behalf of the staff, Board of Directors, and families we serve thank you for partnering with us to build strong families.

Stacy Dreessen,
The Family Tree Center
Lea Ann Yucha,
Festival of Trees

Thank you to our Atonement family. Jeremy was confirmed in your presence and we faithfully brought him to church there. Some of you have donated to purchase a tree in his memory. Thank you! I have wrapped up in the beautiful prayer shawl at some point each and every day. It calms me with the peace that passes all understanding. We have been upheld by our faith and the love from so many of you! Blessings.

Larry, Kay, and the Rossow Family





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



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS . . .

Youth and Family will be host some fun summer activities:

Intergenerational Activity:

Christmas in July! We will be making cookies on June 30th

and we will be singing at WyndStone on July 3rd.

July 31st at 5:30 pm the Middle and High School youth will meet at the church to enjoy dinner and Folf!

Back to School:

August 25th following church at 11:00 am the Middle and High School youth will be going to Town and Country Lanes for pizza and to bowl a game or two!

Intergenerational Activity:

BINGO Night! September 18th @ 5:30 pm.

July 2019

- ☞ July 1-7 Atonement Hosts FPYV
- ☞ July 4 Independence Day Church Office Closed!
- ☞ July 10 WW Meal- Pizza Ranch
- ☞ July 10 Archery @ Atonement
- ☞ July 12-14 Camp Out – Cooney Reservoir
- ☞ July 16 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ July 22 MM Meal- The Vig Patio
- ☞ July 25 Heavenly Harps Concert
- ☞ July 27 Heavenly Harps Workshop

Coffee Servers for July 2019
Tina Williams – WELCA

