

The Commentator

What's INSIDE?

A publication of Atonement Lutheran

- 2 **Preschool**
- 2 **LWR – School Kits**
- 2 **Thank You Notes**
- 2 **Confirmation Orientation**
- 3 **From the Pastor**
- 3 **Capital Campaign Update**
- 4 **Calendar Highlights**
- 4 **Milestone Ministry**

ELCA- Day of Service Community Outreach

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS 2019

GWOH Sunday is September 8, 2019 and Atonement will be hosting a multigenerational shindig that weekend. On Saturday evening, September 7th there will be an Outdoor Concert with music by Pierre & Kristin La Ve, a Backyard Campout. Bring your camper and tents and spend the night. Enjoy outside games for all ages, inflatables, crazy fun fellowship, and so much more. On Sunday morning we will gather for an Outdoor Worship Service at 9:15 am, then we will be sending teams out into the community to participate in a variety of service projects for the **ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service**. Return to the church at 12:30 pm for an all church BBQ provided by the Outdoor Ministry with potluck side dishes provided by you! Finish up the day when the Evangelism Committee will host an A & W Float Social with our WyndStone neighbors. Contact the church office with your suggestions for service projects. All are invited and encouraged to join us!

HOW you can HELP

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



AUTHOR READING

September 26th at 7:00 pm Juliet Cutler will be in Billings Montana at the Billings Public Library for an author reading of her memoir **Among the Maasai**.

Join Juliet for a conversation about the transformative power of education for girls in Tanzania East Africa. ...*"Prepare to be inspired by the true stories of girls who struggle against repressive traditions to become educated young women making a difference in the world."*

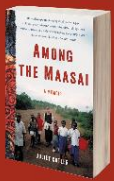
"...[an] enlightening account of teaching in East Africa."
—Kirkus Reviews

AMONG THE MAASAI

Join Juliet Cutler for a conversation about the transformative power of education for girls in Tanzania

AUTHOR READING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 7 PM

BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
510 N Broadway
Billings, MT
www.julietcutler.com



MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
August 14th

Montana Jack's

Marvelous Monday
August 26th

Play Inn
6PM



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

A new school year is almost here at Atonement Lutheran Preschool! **We still have openings for students to enroll 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! Please look for the Wish List Board in the Commons Area for items the school will need for the coming year. We are thankful we can count on our Atonement family to help get

our school year off with the supplies we need! We have been approached to ask if we are able to offer scholarships for students in need, but our scholarship fund needs support to replenish it. Prayerfully consider sponsor a student this school year. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and support! Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

Sara Westrope



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

7th & 8th GRADES

Mark your calendars for September 15 at 7pm for Confirmation Orientation gathering of both parents and students. We'll meet in the sanctuary and prepare for the upcoming year. Another date to remember is October 4-6 which will be the Retreat to Christikon!

If you have not already received a letter from the church, please contact us to make sure your student is included in our records.

BLESSING BACKPACKS

We invite all children and youth who would like to bring their school backpack on Sunday, August 18th to the 9:15am Worship Service, we have set a special time to offer a prayer of blessing as our younger members begin a new school year.

Nikki Groshans - Sunday School Superintendent

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

LWR SCHOOL KITS: The time has come once again for Back to School Sales. Each kit contains the following items. Please keep Lutheran World Relief School Kits in mind and pick up one or more of the following items:

4 - 70 sheet Spiral Notebooks of ruled paper (approx. 8X10 1/2" NO loose leaf paper).

**1 Blunt Scissor
1 (30 cm.) Ruler (inches may be on one side)**

**1 Pencil Sharpener
5 New # 2 Pencils with erasers**

5 New ball point pens (blue or black ink no gel pens please)

**1 Eraser approx. 2 1/2" long
1 Box of 24 Crayons**

A tub will be located in the commons area for the collection of these items. A school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war and may make the difference on whether the child actually gets an education. They are also used in adult literacy classes. If you do not like to shop but would like to help, specify your donation for this project and we will shop for you. Thank you for all your help. Any questions please call Julie Leno.

FROM THE HEART...

Thanks to everyone who made our recent Family Promise visit such a success. Atonement members are making a difference in creating solutions for ending homelessness in Billings. Each and everyone one of you who offered food, ate with our families, slept overnight, did laundry, or set up and took down, made an impact. Keep your calendars open for the God's Work Our Hands work event at the Family Promise Day Center on September 8th and our FP next visit on October 6-13.

Blessings.

This month from the Finance Committee

General Fund June 2019		Building Fund June 2019		Building Reserve	
Income:	\$ 32,223.05	Income:	\$ 10,184.00	02/19	\$ 28, 370.10
Expense:	\$ 29,101.81	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	03/19	\$ 26,738.79
Net Income:	\$ 3,121.24	Net Income:	\$ 2,034.00	04/19	\$ 23,829.72
Net Income YTD:	\$ (13,382.13)	Net Income YTD:	\$ (12,089.07)*	05/19	\$ 21,243.11
Budget Expense:	\$ 31,533.88	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	06/19	\$ 23,286.46

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

FROM THE PASTOR

“Summer is flying by!” I heard myself saying, with some friends nodding their heads in agreement as a non-verbal “Amen!” In a recent “Seeds for the Parish” article, I read the following... *“Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles.”* They are the ancient words that begin a prayer for the Jewish Sabbath. But they sound so contemporary! They could just as easily work as a prayer of confession for all of us who find ourselves nodding our head as we consider our opportunities for rest vanishing due to our frantic lifestyles and chronic inattentiveness to the presence of God.

So... maybe busy lifestyles and overloaded calendars are not a modern problem. Perhaps our inability to find time for Sabbath rest is not a casualty of the march of progress. The Bible tells us that our use of time to labor and rest has *always* been difficult. Perhaps that’s why the Bible speaks often and clearly to the necessity of Sabbath rest throughout scripture.

Find “Sabbath moments” – shorter time frames where you can pray, rest, watch for God’s presence and listen to God’s Word. Be intentional about stretching the moments longer. Beginning where you are, and realistically increasing your Sabbath commitment, will allow God to work in you and deepen your capacity for that enriching spiritual discipline. Block out your times of worship, fellowship and Christian community. And hold fast! God gave us the word “no” as a gift which permits Sabbath!

More importantly, the Bible teaches us that Sabbath keeping is a community practice and not simply a matter of personal devotion. It’s our American culture that convinces us that our “pursuit of happiness” is an individual enterprise... and that productivity and competitiveness are of higher value than community and justice. Scripture teaches us that our true happiness comes only from God and with God – and with the people of God. So, take time for Sabbath. Be good to your neighbor by allowing the same for them. And celebrate this gift as just that... a gift, a blessing, a sign of love and grace and acceptance.

Looking forward to sharing Sabbath rest with you!

Pastor Darren

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

With fertilizer and TLC the A&W mall sod is blending quite nicely with the existing lawn from last year. We intend to have all the grass in tiptop shape for the next concert in early September. The Property Committee has turned our focus to the scrolling sign area. Shrubs have been purchased and will be planted as soon as the weeds have been killed off and weed inhibitor fabric has been laid. Sprinkler heads and edging will be installed at that time also. Limestone white rock will then be spread around the sign. Fabric, rock and edging will also be installed around the newly planted Black Hills spruce tree, if funds are available, completing the area by the WyndStone parking lot. Several new landscaped areas are up for adoption, so if you have not had this opportunity, please contact Todd Koepf. In addition, other Adopt-a-Plot areas are needing attention, if you adopted one last year. Please contact Todd if you are unable to weed and care for your area, or need guidance. Thanks to all who are keeping up with weeding (and the newly expanded mowing teams) as the Atonement grounds are looking very nice.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This November will mark 6 years of being in our new worship and education space. I invite you to assess all the changes and developments that have occurred on our campus in that time: the addition of WyndStone, landscaping, signage, a storage building, connectivity paths and lawns, an expanded parking area, and more!

These accomplishments are a remarkable witness to our commitment to the work of Jesus Christ in this place. While bricks and mortar aid us in our work, it is the relational ministry of *“Sharing the Hope We Have in Christ Jesus With All”* that remains our mission.

Our primary goal for the upcoming Capital Campaign is to pay off a significant portion of our principle debt, lower our monthly mortgage payments, and free up dollars for funding ministry – specifically in the area of Youth and Family ministry. It would not be a simple figure of speech to say that our future depends on it!

Our goal of \$550,000 (recognizing our 55 year anniversary of ministry) is a challenge–yet attainable! Please give prayerful consideration to your participation in this endeavor–as we **Grow the Seeds of Faith!**



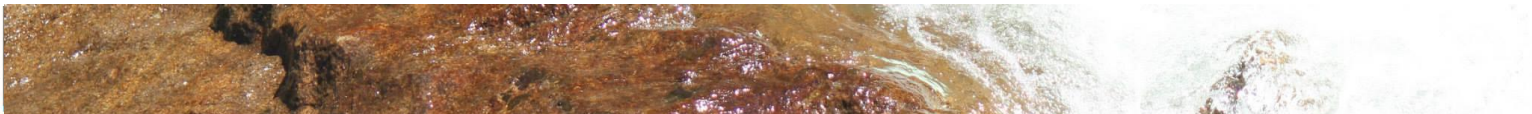


1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.
 Billings, Montana 59105
 (406) 245-7004
 atonementbillings.org

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Billings, MT



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



August 2019

- ☞ Aug 2-4 Family Camp - *Christikon*
- ☞ Aug 7 ALC Archery 6:30pm
- ☞ Aug 14 Preschool Open House
10am
WW Meal - MT Jacks
- ☞ Aug 16 Newsletter Deadline
- ☞ Aug 9-11 AOM Camp Out – Itch-Kep-
Pe, Park Columbus, MT
- ☞ Aug 20 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Aug 25 **Middle & High School
Youth Bowling & Pizza**
- ☞ Aug 26 MM Meal - Play Inn
- ☞ Aug 28 Preschool Orientation

Coffee Servers for August 2019
Kristin La Ve` – Worship Committee

GIVE+Mobile
 NOW @ ATONEMENT



MILESTONES MINISTRY

If you look on the doorframe in many family homes, you will find a series of short lines with a name and a date scribbled in pencil. The lines mark a child's height as they pass a significant milestone of development. As part of our family journey at Atonement, we want to recognize the milestones of every child's development in their faith formation.

Our belief is that every milestone presents an opportunity to celebrate new development and connect faith to life. We already recognize and celebrate many milestones, including Baptism, First Communion, Bible Presentations, Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation), and High School Graduation. However, we are expanding this ministry so we can celebrate God's work in every child's development ...at every age. Watch for more information about this intergenerational ministry coming from our Education Committee!

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club will kick off with a field trip to Red Lodge for lunch on Friday Sept. 6. We will leave Billings at 10 AM from Atonement. We will have the use of WyndStone's shuttle bus, which holds 11 passengers. Hopefully we can get some volunteer drivers & car pool. We would plan on returning by 3:30 PM. Please RSVP Sandi by August 30, 2019.