

The Commentator

What's INSIDE?

A publication of Atonement Lutheran

- 2 Preschool
 - 2 WELCA Annual Fall Bazaar 2019
 - 2 Columbarium News
 - 3 From the Pastor
 - 3 Bible Study's
 - 4 Calendar Highlights
 - 4 Family Promise
- Insert – Great Big Fun Weekend

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 – Teachers

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
6pm September 11th

Applebee's

Marvelous Monday
6pm September 23rd

Guadalajara



New Members Classes will be offered this fall starting on Monday, September 23rd, at 6:30pm. Please contact the church office to get signed up.

MUSIC NOTES, UPDATES AND THANK YOU!

This fall our music department has some exciting developments. Emily Harris is taking over the Choir Director position and Stephanie Hilling will be accompanying the group. We are very blessed to add these two incredibly gifted ladies to our music department. My position as Music Director won't change but you may see new faces and as we reach out to you to help us sing, lead and play for both our 8:00 and 10:30 services. We have many gifted musicians in our church family and are looking forward to involving you all this year. For those of you missing the organ at our 8:00 service, you'll hear it a little more this fall. I have a huge thank you to give to our WELCA group as they have

gifted me with funds to start my seminary journey. This past year I have gone through the candidacy process and have been accepted to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. This road through seminary is a marathon and will take 5-6 years for me to complete, mostly online. My role here will stay the same but I will be learning and growing in ministry. Our WELCA ladies do so much to encourage this community and I am very blessed to have their support through prayer and monetary gift.

Peace, harmony and lots of excitement as we begin our new season!

Kristin La Ve' - Director of Worship & Music

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

The Property Committee has moved forward with additional landscaping needs, including around the scrolling sign, around the parking signs and around the new Black Hills spruce tree between our parking lot and WyndStone. White limestone and edging have been placed around the low-growing juniper bushes and around the spruce tree. Irrigation has been extended to both of these areas. While we had a skid steer generously loaned to us, we took advantage of cleaning up the area near where the columbarium is being planned, just off the labyrinth area, also.

The mowing teams have really stepped up and kept the church grounds and fields looking cared for. Thanks to all

of those who provided their names through the Time & Talent sheets to assist performing this task.

With the addition of more landscaping, some of the Adopt-a-Plot areas have grown and this offers a chance to assist those members who are caring for the expanded areas. If you would like to have your name added to any of these areas, please contact Todd Koepp. In addition, if you have an assigned area in need of care, please do so to keep all areas looking fresh. With the summer heat, it has been a challenge to keep the lawns green. We intend to have the mall area green for the September concert and worship service. Watch for information on those planned activities in the bulletin and newsletter.



SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Sunday, September 15th

8:00am & 10:30am

9:15am Sunday School Hour

COLUMBARIUM NEWS

Columbarium Information Meeting:

Sunday, September 22nd 9:15am

Jerusalem Room

Come and learn about the plans to install a columbarium and create a memorial garden on Atonement's campus for a resting place for cremation ashes of loved ones. It will provide a garden spot for visitation, remembrance, and prayer in a setting close to where we have worshipped.

A columbarium unit provides a choice for those wishing to securely house the cremated remains of themselves or loved ones.

The Columbarium and Garden will be a self-sustaining entity totally supported by the proceeds from selling the niches and ossuary spaces, sale of memorials, and donations. Niches will be available for sale on September 22. There will be a presentation and time for discussion and questions with the Columbarium Committee, who have been meeting almost weekly for a year on this endeavor.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Group is going to Red Lodge for Lunch On Friday Sept. 6th. Leaving from Atonement at 10AM. Please RSVP Sandi by Sept. 3rd.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

We have just started a new year at Atonement Lutheran Preschool! We have a fun theme; Wilderness Explorers: God is our Guide! *"Whether you turn to the right or the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying 'This is the way Walk in it.'"* Isaiah 30:21.

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!

We appreciate all your support with the Wish List, we have a few items that are still on 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

SUPER RALLY SUNDAY and MINISTRY FAIR

September 15th is Rally Sunday. Come register your children for the new Sunday school year while they enjoy super hero themed games, activities and prizes. Then stay and in the fun and explore all the ways you can participate in the ministries of Atonement during the Ministry Fair. September 22nd is the start of our Sunday school year. We will begin at 9:15 in the sanctuary.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

Thanks to all who have donated, we have collected enough school supplies to partially filled 300 kits! To complete these kits we need the following items: 112 -24 count crayons, 122 Rulers w/cm, 170 blunt tip scissors, 106 #2 pencils w/ erasers, 1399 ball point pens (blue or black ink, no gel).

WELCA ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR 2019

Saturday, November 2nd, 9:00am-3:00pm! Please help us prepare for the Bazaar. Right now we need: Someone to take the lead on the Raffle. Eleanor Andersen has canning jars and lots of fabric. If you need any of these items to make something for

the bazaar please contact her. Later we will need: Craft Items, Canned Goods, Garden Produce, Baked Goods, Silent Auction Items, and Garage Sale Items. (Please no clothes or electronics). Contact Julie Leno.

FINANCIAL NEWS THIS MONTH

General Fund July 2019		Building Fund July 2019		Building Reserve	
Income:	\$ 24,752.66	Income:	\$ 15,045.00	03/19	\$26,738.79
Expense:	\$ 26,042.02	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	04/19	\$23,829.72
Net Income:	\$ (1,289.36)	Net Income:	\$4,769.71*	05/19	\$21,243.11
Net Income YTD:	\$(14,671.49)	Net Income YTD:	\$(7,319.36)*	06/19	\$23,286.46
Budget Expense:	\$ 32,561.48	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	07/19	\$30,192.70

*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

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

I got to thinking about “planning” lately. Mostly, because things have been in motion for the past month (or more) in the church office, preparing for another program year: worship schedules, staffing, Confirmation, Sunday School, Bible studies, youth ministry, columbarium, property projects, God’s Work Our Hands Sunday, Rally Sunday, Capital Campaign ... on and on it goes! I am deeply grateful for all those involved in the myriad of discussions and decisions necessary to our planning. If I were to list the names of all involved... on and on it would go!

As I started to feel overwhelmed by everything in motion, these words from Jeremiah were whispered into my ear. I was reminded that somehow – somehow – God is at work “in, with and under” all the plans that are being made. Just as our sacramental theology proclaims the real presence of Jesus in the bread and wine, we have an embodied theology that declares God is also really present “in, with and under” our ministry, our planning, our programs, our welfare, our future, our hope. And God’s presence often looks like the people with whom we work and prepare and talk. Hopefully, you will catch glimpses of God in them, too.

A sizable task for our fall events is the “Growing the Seeds of Faith” 3-Year Capital Campaign to raise \$550,000 – recognizing our 55 years of ministry this year. It will largely be used for principal debt reduction, however we will also tithe to ministries beyond our walls. What we are most excited about is the dedication of a portion to help underwrite a staff position for Youth and Family Ministry. This is a vital part of our “future with hope” – tending to the current spiritual, social and community needs of youth and families, with an eye towards the years of growth ahead!

In addition, the Stewardship Team is also preparing our fall appeal to secure pledges for our General Fund and Building Fund budget. Their selected theme is “Keeping the Mission in Motion” – which is an ingenious play on words! While the Capital Appeal is intended to pay down principal debt, we are still called to support the ongoing mission and ministry to which we have been called... keeping it healthy, strong, vital – in motion! Please give prayerful consideration as to how God is at work in your plans to support these efforts.

Moreover, all these plans would be incomplete without you. There’s no greater delight than to see you growing in faith, fellowship and service as you engage in the ministries offered. Because that’s what God’s work is all about – bringing God’s people together to embody the presence and mission to which Jesus calls us. God has given us “a future with hope.” Together... we are the church.

✝ Pastor Darren

STUDIES THIS FALL AT ATONEMENT

Wednesday Adult Bible Study will be held at 10:00am every Wednesday in the Private Dining Rm at WyndStone. This study is facilitated by Pastor Darren Paulson. All are invited to join us for great fellowship and study in the Word. Watch the Weekly Announcements for study topics.

Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study will meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30am. All women are invited to join us.

Our first study will be held on September 19th. Hope Circle is facilitated by Bette Wolff. If you would like more information please contact the church office.

J.O.Y. (Jesus Others and You)

Coffee, tea, laughter, and read different books with fun thoughtful life discussions. Meeting 6:30am every Wednesday at Montana Jacks, off Main. Contact Tina Williams for more information.

FROM THE HEART...

Atonement members & Pastor Darren- Thank you for all you’ve done for Brett and me this past year. We are moving on to Rhode Island to be closer to Brett’s dad. It will hopefully be a new start for us after the deaths of my parents last July. Please keep us in your hearts and prayers as we will do the same for you. Sincerely

Brandy and Brett Hunt

Daughter & Grandson of Walt & Sharon Marten

A special “Thank you!” to those who served the bars and cookies at our Mothers Memorial Service on Wednesday, July 24 at Atonement Lutheran Church. The goodies were enjoyed and the special raves from family about some bars light in color with cherries in them!! Thank you so much and may blessings abound your way!

From the Family of Mae Glasgow

Diane Bowman

Daughter of Mae

Many thanks to Jay Schaaf for the talent and time invested in the Welcome Center in our Commons Area. It was built with new materials and some vintage steel roofing repurposed from Blackfoot Lodge at Christikon Bible Camp. We look forward to it being where visitors are greeted, members can find information, and we – as a church – can say “You are a part of what we’re doing here!”

The Evangelism Committee

Thank you to Cal & Rane Paulson for the use of their Bobcat. Their generous offer provided ease and proficiency in the job of moving rock for the landscaping at the digital sign, moving soil and cleaning up some of the area that will shortly be used for the new Atonement Columbarium.

Property Committee

GREAT BIG FUN WEEKEND!

Come join us on the Church grounds for the Outdoor Ministry Camping Weekend on the Atonement Church grounds. This event is Friday, September 6 until Sunday, September 8. Setup will be Friday evening starting at 5pm. Setup your camper or tent. Saturday we will be hosting a series of different games, between 1pm & 5pm. Saturday evening we will be entertained by an outdoor concert. Sunday morning will be an Outdoor Worship Service at 9:15 followed by the Gods Work Our Hands project, and a church Pot Luck.

If you would like to assist with organizing of one of the games of Horseshoe, Frisbee Golf, or Corn Hole, please let Gene Arneson know.

Those wanting to come and participate with the meals, please get a hold of Christina Kapperud or Erin Koepp. All meals are pot lucks, with some organization of the main course. Bring your own beverages.

Schedule:

Friday, September 6th

- 4:00 PM - Setup
- 7:00 PM - Evening meal on your own.
- 8:00 PM - Social Gathering around the fire.



Saturday, September 7th

- 9:00 AM - Campers Breakfast
- 10:00 AM - Pre-Game setup and practice
- 12:00 PM - Campers Lunch (Organized Pot Luck)
- 1:00 PM - Kids Bouncy Houses opening....
- Game Tournaments
- Adult Horseshoe Tournament
- Mixed ages Corn Hole tournament
- Frisbee golf tournament
- 5:00 PM - Campers Dinner (Organized Pot Luck)
- Entertainment begins



Sunday, September 8th

- Breakfast - on your own
- 9:15 AM - Outdoor Worship Service
- 10:00 AM - God's Work Our Hands Projects
- 12:30 PM - Lunch Burgers & Hot Dogs provided, side dish potluck
- 1:30 PM - A&W Floats at WyndStone



Outdoor Ministry is responsible for the Pot Luck Luncheon organization. All Outdoor Ministry members' participation is appreciated.




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lefse SAVE THE DATE: **Lefse Making,**
 Scandinavian Baking Oct. 13th – 15th




September 2019	
☞ Sept 2	Labor Day - Office Closed
☞ Sept 4	1 st Day of Preschool
☞ Sept 4	Adult Bible Study WyndStone Private Dining Rm 10am
☞ Sept 6	Friendship Club 10 am
☞ Sept 6	Great Big Fun Weekend
☞ Sept 7	Outdoor Concert & Backyard Campout Weekend
☞ Sept 8	God's Work, Our Hands
☞ Sept 8	All Church Potluck/A&W Float Social
☞ Sept 11	Wonderful Wednesday Meal
☞ Sept 15	Rally Sunday/Ministry Fair
☞ Sept 15	Confirmation Orientation
☞ Sept 17	Church Council Meeting
☞ Sept 19	Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study
☞ Sept 23	New Members Classes
☞ Sept 23	Marvelous Monday Meal

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise parents and kids will again be our guests October 6-13, 2019. These are families who have chosen to go into intense counseling and efforts with the staff at Family Promise Yellowstone Valley to escape being homeless. We are an important part of their success in doing this. Please sign up to help in the many ways we can serve. This is an important Atonement ministry that has several direct impacts on our church. First, we serve those who are hungry, and cold, and helpless, and second, we get to know our fellow members better. Please sign up to help as many hands make the work easier for the commitment we have given to Family Promise over the past 15 years. We will need families and singles to help with the following: setting up the Sunday School rooms to become bedrooms for our families; purchasing food for lunches; bringing food for meals; serving meals, eating with the families and helping clean up after meals; doing activities/reading with the kids; staying overnight (in the nursery, we sleep too!); tearing down the rooms on the last day and getting the rooms ready for Sunday School; and finally, doing the laundry from the week. If you have never helped in the past we can pair you with members who are experienced. Please sign up to help. Call Janie Fitch-Danielsen with any questions.

Coffee Servers for September 2019
Todd Koeppe – Property /Men's Ministries

Be on the lookout for NEW Outdoor Welcome Banners!