

The Commentator

What's INSIDE?

- 2 WELCA Blood Drive
- 2 Festival of Trees
- 2 Property Committee Happenings
- 2 Financial News
- 3 From the Pastor
- 3 Thank You!
- 4 Calendar Highlights
- 4 Youth News
- *Insert

Columbarium News

Bazaar 2019



- ❖ Billings Food Pantry Needs –**See list posted in foyer above NEW food bank shelf.
- ❖ Hospitality Ministry – Ushers

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

Recently the Personnel Committee met with Pastor Darren to finalize two new job descriptions for future additions to the Atonement staff. One job description is for **Director of Youth, Family and Education Ministries**. This position is similar to the full time position that we once had, but this is a part time position which we hope can grow into a full time staff position with benefits. Currently this position will be funded from a portion of the funds raised by the Capitol Campaign and later from our debt reduction from the campaign.

Position Summary: Foster a Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry which engages youth, parents and the intergenerational congregation of Atonement Lutheran Church which allows the love of Jesus Christ to be lived, learned, and witnessed in the lives of all those who are engaged in our church community.

The second job description is for **Volunteer Coordinator**. This is a new part

time position which we would like to add to the Atonement staff. There is becoming more of a need to coordinate our volunteers who do many of the tasks around the church that are part of our church life. This position will be added to the 2020 budget and will need to be approved by the congregation at our meeting in January.

Position Summary: The Volunteer Coordinator is the primary contact person for recruiting, training, and arranging participation by volunteers for church events and programs. This position is part-time and reports directly to the Pastor.

Both positions have been approved by the Personnel Committee and the Church Council and feel they are worthy additions for our future growth.

If you are interested in either position or know someone who might be, please contact Pastor Darren.

Personnel Committee

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

November is a month where we take a moment to step back, reflect, and remember all the things we are thankful for. God has given us so much to be thankful for. Our preschool students are a wonderful group of kids and are a joy to teacher! We are looking forward to our Thankful Feast the youth make for their families. We extend an invitation to our Atonement family to join us in our day of thanks on Monday, November 25th at 10:45 am. Thank you for your support when we made our plea to help with our scholarship fund, your generous giving helped us be able to fund our scholarships for the next two months. We are in continued need for support for our scholarship fund. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a student this school year. We are thankful we can count on our Atonement family to help get our school year off with the supplies we need! 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. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and support! Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

Sara Westrope

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
November 13th

Play Inn

Marvelous Monday
November 25th

Montana Jacks
6PM



FAMILY PROMISE OF YELLOWSTONE VALLEY

"Everything was so nice, friendly hosts, good food, the room we were in was so nice. We felt blessed to be guests here! Atonement Lutheran showed us Jesus."

"Your volunteers will be blessed for being a blessing."

"My family enjoyed our stay. Thank you to everyone who helped this week."

These are some of the written comments we received from the three families who stayed with us this past month. Many thanks go out to the over 80 plus Atonement volunteers who helped with this ministry in October. We are a part of why Family Promise in Yellowstone County is so successful with over 90% of the families living independently 2 years after going through this program. We are making a difference with homelessness while we do the work of God.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY

November 3rd 5PM Youth Dinner provided by Outdoor Ministry. Youth, parents, & friends please come & enjoy Breakfast for Supper. Outdoor Ministry meeting to follow at 6PM, all are welcome.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Group will meet Wed Nov 6th with a potluck at noon. We will be learning & discussing our Capital Campaign. Please plan to attend & let us hear your thoughts & questions on this important issue. Questions call Sandi Gonzalez

FINANCE THIS MONTH

WELCA COMMITMENTS THIS FALL

Atonement WELCA is hosting "**Vitalant**" formerly *United Blood Services* for a Blood Drive at Atonement Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 6th from 4-7pm. Vitalant, one of the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit community blood service providers. Donating blood is one of the easiest ways to give back to our community. If you've never donated blood before, we encourage you to try! The actual donation time is only about 10 minutes. Be a part of something bigger than yourself! Sign up as soon as possible as donation times are limited. Thank you for transforming lives with your blood donation. Contact June Canfield for more information.

34rd Festival of Trees! Dec. 5th – Dec. 8th. The WELCA committee is asking for donation of hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for our "Festival of Trees" tree, we will sponsor this year. There is a container located in the Commons for your donations. If you have any questions please contact June Canfield.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

The first year of Adopt-a-Plot was highly successful and the church grounds have never looked better thanks to all of the volunteers who selected plots. Those assigned areas will continue to be maintained going into next year. For the remainder of the fall, the recommendation from the Property Committee is to trim down the bushes making the spring cleanup day less burdensome. The entryway into the church has had bushes trimmed so you see how much to trim in your area. Tall grasses should not be cut and they remain trimmed down anyway because of the hail storms. Day lilies get cut down all the way. If you would like advice or assistance on how to manage your area, please contact anyone from the Property Committee for guidance. If you are unable to maintain your area for the coming year, please contact Todd Koepp and your area will be put up for adoption. Again, thank you to all the volunteers who selected a Plot and kept your areas well-groomed throughout the year.

During the next several months as Christmas decorations are utilized, Property will be thinning out unused decorations. The storage of Christmas decorations continues to be a hazard from a fire safety standpoint. If you know of decorations that should not be permanently removed, please contact anyone on the Property Committee.

Please join me in thanking all of the mowing crews who worked so diligently on all areas of our Property. With the addition of 15 new assistants through the Time and Talent Sheets this past year, mowing was easier to manage (but the additional moisture, although needed, kept the growing season lengthened). Thank you to all Atonement members who expressed an interest and participated. If you have further interest in helping with mowing, please check off the box on the new Time and Talent sheets in November. We can't have too many volunteers and next year we will assign teams again to complete mowing. No question that many hands make less work for our mowing needs. If you are interested in helping with snow removal this winter, please contact Todd Koepp.

General Fund September 2019		Building Fund September 2019		Building Reserve	
Income:	\$ 35,812.44	Income:	\$ 5,105.00	05/19	\$21,243.11
Expense:	\$ 35,141.80	Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	06/19	\$23,286.46
Net Income:	\$ 670.64	Net Income:	\$ (3,045.00)	07/19	\$30,192.70
Net Income YTD:	\$(14,638.75)	Net Income YTD:	\$ (13,637.36)*	08/19	\$26,930.10
Budget Expense:	\$ 45,109.97	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	09/19	\$23,893.88

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

FROM THE PASTOR

A BHAG is a “big, hairy, audacious goal.” Our Growing the Seeds of Faith Capital Campaign could qualify as a BHAG. Setting an objective of \$550,000 for a 3-year debt reduction campaign is bold, daring, and courageous. Out of curiosity, I clicked on the thesaurus function for each of these descriptors and other words appeared, like “foolhardy, risky, impudent.” I’m not certain which words you might embrace as you have received information on the campaign. Perhaps it’s a little of all of the above.

But I have my own words:

Responsible – When we took the “leap of faith” years ago to expand our mission in this growing community by relocating to our new campus, we took on some debt to accomplish this dream. It’s time to reduce our debt. Servicing our debt is straining our current capacity to fund ministry, mission and growth – and by reducing principal debt, we will be eliminating future interest payments, releasing even more funds for ministry!

Vital – A portion of the funds are committed to support a part-time youth ministry position. Often, the youth are described as the “future of the church.” Well and true... however they are also the “church, right here – right now” and for the health of our current church – as well as offering a vibrant ministry to prospective members – this ministry position is essential.

Inspirational – If the church has the audacity to ask people to make “first-fruits tithes” to support God’s work in this world, then we as a church should also model that for you, our members. A full 10% of our campaign receipts will be used to bless other ministries – which makes our campaign...

Missional – We are reaching beyond our walls into the community to assist local organizations who extend our capacity to care for children and families. We have deep and rich histories with the three identified recipients: Christikon, Family Promise, and Friendship House. In addition to the tithe, we are strengthening our youth and family ministry as a way of serving the needs of our primary growth demographic in the neighborhood: the young families filling the “starter homes” all around us.

Those are my descriptive words of the BHAG setting before Atonement in the coming years. As challenging as it may appear to us, I consider it small compared to the BHAG God has established from the foundations of the world.

Scripture tells the story...

- that – starting in Genesis – through God’s people, all nations will be blessed and shall come to know God’s name.
- that God so loved the world that he sent His only begotten Son.
- that the Spirit breathed life into the frightened disciples and transformed them into courageous apostles.
- that the message of hope and salvation should reach every generation of every time and every place.
- and... that WE are active participants in God’s plan. (Yeah... “Whoa!” is right!)

God’s BHAG is indeed bold, daring, and courageous. Through the centuries, some have called it foolhardy, risky and impudent. However we want to describe it, God remains faithful, Christ is always present, and the Holy Spirit carries us into an indescribable future. Whether you know it or not, you are already a part of God’s BHAG!

Peace in Christ,

✝ Pastor Darren

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:15am in the Jerusalem Rm. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

Nov. 3 Stewardship Bible Study – Cheerful Sacrifices (Study of John 6:1-13)

Nov. 10 Financial Peace University Information Session with Jamie Haas

Nov. 17 No Forum

Nov. 24 We are CHURCH (First session of a four part series)



A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with this year’s lefse making. Your hard work and fellowship are so appreciated! Atonement really is blessed!

Rane Paulson & Judy Belden

A very special **Thank You** goes out to Shirley DeMars for the beautiful handmade Baptismal Towels she skillfully created for our baptismal recipients.

Atonement Lutheran

Thank you to all congregational members for the great support (and prayers) that the Property Committee/Handyman’s Ministries receive throughout the year, including especially the Sprinkler Blowout every October. With your help “We bring the Hope we share in Christ to all”.

Todd Koepp-Handyman Ministry

Atonement Lutheran’s Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for discerning how each of us will contribute to the Capitol Campaign, Growing the Seeds of Faith. In addition, we also want to remind everyone of the “**Keeping the Mission in Motion**” Annual Fall Stewardship Campaign. This will sustain our commitments to our General Operating and Building Funds. Keep an eye out for a post card with details. Time, Talent and Estimate of Giving Sheets will be handed out on November 24th, Commitment Sunday, during church services.

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue supporting the day to day Atonement ministries to “Bring the Hope We Share in Christ to All”.

Atonement Lutheran Memorial Garden



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Christian faith teaches that the beginning and ending of physical and spiritual life rest with God. Atonement Lutheran Church has long been committed to a “Cradle to Grave” ministry. As part of that ministry, we have announced the plans for a memorial garden, which will include a columbarium, ossuary, scattering garden, and memorial wall. We feel that this is a valuable way to work toward that ministry goal. The Atonement Memorial Garden will serve as a final resting place for the cremated remains (cremains) of loved ones. It is both comforting and strengthening to have such a place of remembrances. The beautiful and serene columbarium and garden will be a place to draw close to God, to give thanks, and to remember loved ones.

Planning for the future is an important part of all of our lives, and planning for our deaths is an immeasurable gift we can give to our loved ones, so that they won’t be faced with unanswerable questions in a time of extreme stress. Many people have difficulty in facing the inevitable, but we believe that putting plans in place well in advance will save our loved ones a great deal of heartache, and we can be confident that our desire to remain a part of this community will be honored.

There is a brochure available describing the columbarium to be located on the campus shared by Atonement and WyndStone. It describes the options wherein columbarium niches may be secured for the permanent placement of cremains, usage of a common inurnment chamber (the ossuary); or scattering of the ashes in the Memorial Garden. There will also be a Memorial Wall where names may be inscribed to honor loved ones whose remains rest elsewhere.

Please consider prayerfully how this ministry can help you in your future plans. Appointments can be arranged by calling the Atonement Office at 245-7004. If you have any questions, or are interested in learning more, please ask anyone on the Columbarium Committee:

Tom and Janie Danielsen

Marva Drain

Marilyn Franklin

Bob Holloway

Judy Lawrence

Butch Morse

Paul Mueller

John Olson

Del and Rose Steiner

Roger and Carol Young



ATONEMENT

Lutheran

FALL BAZAAR 2019

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 2, 2019
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

1290 Sierra Granda Blvd Billings, MT

(West Wicks and Sierra Granda Blvd)

406.245.7004 | atonementbillings.org

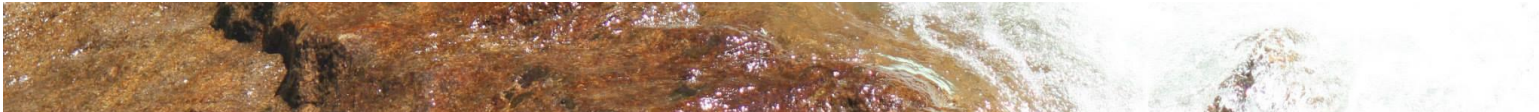
Crafts, Quilts, Baked goods!
Homemade Lefse, Garden produce,
Vintage items, Quilt Raffle and
Silent Auction!

Presented by Atonement Lutheran's WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Church of America)



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 atonementbillings.org

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NOVEMBER 2019

- ☞ Nov 1 Men's Square Breakfast
- ☞ Nov 2 WELCA Annual Fall Bazaar
- ☞ Nov 3 All Saints Sunday
- ☞ Nov 6 Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ Nov 9 **NYG BINGO**
- ☞ Nov 10 Evening Worship @ SJU
- ☞ Nov 16 HS Youth-**Grand Escape**
- ☞ Nov 16 **Capital Campaign Prayer Vigil**
- ☞ Nov 17 **"Growing the Seeds of Faith"**
Capital Campaign
Commitment Sunday
- ☞ Nov 19 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Nov 21 Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study
- ☞ Nov 24 **Fall Stewardship Drive**
"Keeping the Mission in
Motion" Commitment Sunday
- ☞ Nov 24 Advent Decorating
- ☞ Nov 25 Preschool Friendship Feast
- ☞ Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day
- ☞ Nov 29 Office Closed

Coffee Servers for November 2019
Mark Halvorson – Church Council

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

June 29-July 3, 2021



Every three years, 30,000 high school youth (completed grades 8-12) and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. Please look for more information to come!

Come & be part of the excitement of ALC Youth Ministry!

NYG Bingo will be held on Saturday, November 9th starting at 4:00 pm. There will be fun, food, and fellowship! Come enjoy an energetic game of BINGO! (Cost is \$1/card)

High School Youth @ the Grand Escape Room. Saturday, Nov 16th. Please contact Sara if you are interested to reserve your spot.

MUSIC NOTES *Chapel Choir Performance Schedule*

November 3rd - 8:00am Service - **All Saints Sunday**

November 17th - 10:30am Service - **CC Commitment Sunday**

NO CHOIR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27TH