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HOW^{you}can HELP

- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs** –**See list posted in Commons at the NEW Food Bank Shelf.
- ❖ Funeral Luncheon Help
- ❖ Hospitality Ministry – Ushers



MIDWEEK ADVENT, CHILDREN'S PAGEANT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 2019

Dec. 4th, 11th, 18th 6:30pm at the Little White Church

Using the Holden Evening Prayer as our worship setting. We will meet Wednesday evenings through Advent at the Little White Church. Make plans to join us for these services.

Three Services December 24th

You and your families are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve Services to be offered Tuesday, December 24th the first at 3:00pm with Kristin La Ve` at the Little White Church. Also Candlelight services at 4:30pm and a second one at 6:30pm.



Sunday School Children's Christmas Pageant

The Sunday school Christmas program will be on December 15th immediately following the 10:30 service. This year's play is *titled 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.'* It is the telling of the true meaning of Christmas to a busy mouse who is up late "stirring" the night before Christmas. Following the play gifts will be handed out to children and there will be a hot cocoa station. Please note that there will be no dress rehearsal Saturday the 14th due to scheduling conflicts. The dress rehearsal will instead be held during the Sunday school hour on the 15th. Looking forward to another fun program this Christmas!

Nikki Groshans, Sunday School Director

WELCA CHRISTMAS DESSERT

WELCA Christmas Dessert. Monday, December 2nd, 7:00 PM at Atonement Lutheran Church. Come join us for wonderful sweets and great fellowship and entertainment. An offering will be taken for Christikon scholarships. Join us! Bring a friend and perhaps win a door prize!

WELCA ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR

THANK YOU! The ladies of WELCA wish to send out a great big **THANK YOU** to each and every one who helped make the 2019 Annual Fall Bazaar such a wonderful success. This year the Bazaar generated \$16,800.00 in proceeds.

TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR* WHO IS THE MESSIAH* THE LORD*



ANGEL TREE 2019

This year's Angel Tree for the holidays will be a bit different than in the past. Our theme is WRAP THE BABE IN SWADDLING CLOTHES. We will be collecting DIAPERS, of all sizes, PULLUPS, and WIPES -if you wish to bring receiving blankets or undershirts that's Ok too, but diapers is our main focus. They will be dispersed to different agencies in the Billings community. Just grab a gift tag off the tree in the Commons area as a reminder to yourself and return your gift anytime throughout the Advent season. No need for gift bags. Any questions or suggestions of agencies contact Erin Koepp 256-1569. Thank you for your caring spirit, for those less fortunate in our community.

PHOTO'S WITH SANTA @ WYNDSTONE



Bring your camera and family to visit with Santa and snap a picture! Santa's making a special stop at the **Little White Church** on **Saturday, December 14th**! We'll have hot chocolate and cookies too! Santa's busy schedule allows him time to be there from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Free and open to all ages.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to all of our Atonement Family! December brings a month of celebrations! Our December will be full with Christmas crafts, learning the program, working on numbers, shapes, and reviewing letters. We will be having a Polar Express Day and a Birthday Party for Jesus! Please join us for our Christmas Program will be on Wednesday, December 18th at 10:45 AM, all are invited!

Thank you for all of your prayers and time you share with us; you are a blessing to our preschool. May the peace, love, and joy of Christmas fill your home this year and into the New Year!

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,
Sara Westrope



FRIENDSHIP GROUP (ages 50+Older)

Friendship Group will meet at noon December 4th for a no-host lunch at Pizza Ranch. Please call Sandi Gonzalez 348=3707 if you have questions. Merry Christmas

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

Adopt-a-Plot was very successful and the church grounds continued to look very nice all summer long. Some replacements will need to be done next spring to avoid obvious missing plants or trees. If you have not trimmed down your areas yet this Fall you still have time while the plants are dormant. Any trimming now will make Spring cleanup less burdensome. The entryway into the church has had bushes trimmed so you can see how much to trim in your area. Tall grasses should not be cut. 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. In the Spring, we will set the maps up again as a reminder prior to a scheduled clean-up day. The assigned areas will remain. 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. We still have some open unassigned plots if you are interested. Watch for the Clean Up Day to be announced in April. Again, thank you to all the volunteers who selected a Plot and kept your areas well-groomed throughout the year.

After the Sanctuary is decorated for the Christmas Season, the Property Committee will be going through remaining unused decorations stored upstairs for discarding. The storage of Christmas decorations continues to be a fire safety hazard. If you know of any of these unused decorations that should not be permanently removed, please contact anyone on the Property Committee.

ATONEMENT FINANCE THIS MONTH

General Fund October 2019		Building Fund October 2019		Building Reserve
Income:	\$ 27,795.62	Income:	\$ 5,083.00	06/19 \$23,286.46
Expense:	\$ 44,355.20	Expense:	\$ 7,925.00	07/19 \$30,192.70
Net Income:	\$ (16,559.58)	Net Income:	\$(2,842.00)	08/19 \$26,930.10
Net Income YTD:	\$ (31,198.33)	Net Income YTD:	\$ (16,479.36)*	09/19 \$23,893.88
Budget Expense:	\$ 35,359.95	Budget Expense:	\$ 8,150.00	10/19 \$21,225.37

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

FROM THE PASTOR

"My, how you've grown!"

Even when our kids were little, they got quietly annoyed with the exclamations that friends and relatives would make upon seeing them again after some time. Especially now that our youngest towers over me by a few inches, his growth is abundantly obvious and the comments are amply frequent! But it's not just our children's stature that deserves notice, but the growth in their maturity, wisdom, responsibility and character. I beam with pride the brightest when people notice not just the physical development of our children, but those other admirable traits.

There is an abiding truth in this. It is our hope that growth isn't just about getting physically bigger. It's becoming the people that God has created us to be. Growth is the fulfillment of promises past, nurturing love in the present, and the assurance of new life to come.

As true as that is for individuals, it is also true for the church. Yes, we want growth. We want more people in the pews and more children in Sunday School. We want increased budgets and more ministry opportunities filling the calendar. But numbers alone are not a measure of the abundance of life that is found in Jesus Christ. What we strive for as a church is deepened faith, vibrant hope, joyful service, authentic community, expanding gratitude, limitless generosity, humble witness, and honest outreach.

Now is the time that we, as a church, commit to our growth. Again, we strive to grow not simply numerically, but spiritually... as Jesus and the Apostle Paul might describe it. It is the task of each of us to Grow the Seeds of Faith that were planted that they may mature and produce "fruits of the Spirit." (see John 15:12-17 or Galatians 5:22-23) Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul taught that each and every one of us are not only the recipients of God's Good News in Jesus, but disciples... apostles... ministers... a people (and community) active in love. Each of us.

We have done an incredible thing when we committed funds to the Growing the Seeds of Faith Capital Campaign. The results in these first few days has been \$419,354 raised in pledges. We have "put our money where our mouth is." Now... let us commit to making this work for us. Let us engage in and celebrate the promise of spiritual growth as we move towards becoming the people God has created us to be. All of us. So when people walk thru our doors, they can say...

"My, how you have grown!" (...and want to grow with us!)

✝ Pastor Darren

CHRISTIKON CLIPS

At Christikon we learn and practice "All Are Welcome". Always. No question. As we reflect on Advent and the birth of Jesus, may we remember who we learned "All Are Welcome" from first and may Christ be with us all as we continue to practice his ministry in the world.

Blessings to you and yours this Advent and Christmas.

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

10:00am Wednesdays in the Private Dining Rm. at WyndStone. Led by Pastor Darren Paulson. All are invited to join. Advent Study of the Prophet Isaiah.

Dec. 4

Advent Study of Isaiah-
Introduction to the Prophet Isaiah

Dec. 13

Advent Study of Isaiah-
Peace for God's People

Dec. 20

Advent Study of Isaiah-
Hope for God's People

Dec. 25

(No Study – Christmas Break)



ADULT FORUM

Sunday mornings at 9:15am. Grab a cup of something hot and join us in the Jerusalem Rm.

Dec. 1

We are LUTHERAN Part 2

Dec. 8

We are CHURCH TOGETHER Part 3

Dec. 15

We are CHURCH FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD Part 3

Dec. 22

(No Class – Christmas Break)

Dec. 29

(No Class – Christmas Break)



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



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DECEMBER 2019

- ☞ Dec 2 WELCA Christmas Dessert
- ☞ Dec 4 Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ Dec 4 Midweek Advent Service
- ☞ Dec 4th, 11th and 18th 6:30pm
- ☞ Dec 6 Men's Square Breakfast
- ☞ Dec 14 Christmas Bake Sale Prep
- ☞ Dec 15 SS Christmas Pageant
- ☞ Dec 17 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Dec 18 Preschool Christmas Program
- ☞ Dec 19 Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study
- ☞ Dec 24 Christmas Eve LWC 3:00pm
- ☞ Dec 24 Candlelight Services 4:30/6:30
- ☞ Dec 25 Christmas Day Office Closed
- ☞ Dec 31 Annual Reports Due

Coffee Servers for December 2019
Pastor Darren – Confirmation

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Christmas Bake Sale

Atonement Youth will be hosting a Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday, December 15th from 9:00 - 12:00. There will be a variety of homemade baked goods and candy treats for sale! There is something for everyone!

Youth wishing to earn funds for your next youth trip: Please come on Saturday, December 14th @ 10:00 to assemble the plates of goodies. Bring your goodies so we can have a large assortment for sale! Then help with the sale on Sunday!

Please contact Sara Westrope by text 406-860-7664 or email: westropefamily@gmail.com if you are able to help on Saturday and/or Sunday!

Calling ALL YOUTH 7th – 11th grade to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, December 8th @ 7:00 pm for the 2021 NYG.

The 2021 National ELCA Youth Gathering will be taking place in Minneapolis, MN from June 29 – July 3, 2019. Those youth that have completed 8th -12th grade at the time of the event are eligible to attend this gathering. Please come if you are interested in a week of faith and fellowship with 30,000 youth!