

February 2020
Volume 64 · Issue 2

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 Assistants 8am Service
- ❖ Lector's 8am & 10:30am Services

Wonderful Wednesday
& Marvelous Monday

MENU



Wednesday, February 12th
Guadalajara
Monday, February 24th
Play Inn
6PM



New Member Class

Monday, February 3rd 6:30pm

Memorial Wall & Garden!

ATONEMENT COLUMBARIUM & OSSUARY

A group of interested individuals has been working for the past 18 months on creating a memorial garden on Atonement's campus for a resting place for cremation ashes of loved ones, with a columbarium, memorial wall and gardens. It will provide a garden spot for visitation, remembrance, and prayer in a setting close to where we have worshiped. 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 have been available for sale since September 22, 2019 and at the end of the 2019 there were 16 niches sold. There needs to be 43 niches sold for the columbarium to be ordered. While there has been an increase of 5.94% in the construction cost in 2020, the first 50 niches will continue to be sold at \$1700.

There were numerous presentations, and opportunities to visit with committee members between services at our display during the past year. Policies and procedures have been approved by the Atonement Council and the Columbarium Trustees have been appointed, including the pastor, the Columbarium Administrator (a volunteer position from the congregation), plus 3 other members. Recognition of faith in the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit and belief in God's grace and eternal life are an essential part of services held with placement of an urn, ossuary bag, or ash scattering. The use of the columbarium will not be restricted to Atonement members.

Atonement Columbarium Committee Chairperson – *Janie Fitch-Danielsen*



Atonement Lutheran Church

ENDOWMENT TRUST

It seems to be that time of year that we are preparing to file taxes for the previous year. When you meet with your "Tax preparer" it might be a good time to ask the question? What is the tax benefit to me if I contributed money to my church endowment fund? Will it help my State Taxes?

Please feel free to call one of our Trustees from our Endowment Trust.

Donna Newell, Trustee
Gary Amundson, Trustee

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!



**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**
6:45PM FEBRUARY 26TH
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN
CHURCH

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

(ages 50+Older)

Friendship Group will meet Wednesday February 5th at noon for our monthly meeting at Pizza Ranch. Questions, call Sandi Gonzalez

FAMILY PROMISE

Four Family Promise families will be returning to stay with us March 8 through the 15, while they work on their plans for life sustainability with the FP staff. Please consider how you and your family can take part in this powerful ministry for the homeless families in our community. Volunteers are needed to set up the rooms on the first Sunday, bring food for lunches, make dishes for supper meals, host suppers and enjoy the meal with the families and clean up, stay overnight in the nursery, tear down the rooms on the last Sunday, and take laundry to do at home. It takes about 80 Atonement members to take care of these families each time. It is such a good way to get to know our fellow members and their children better, while serving in an important ministry at Atonement. Please call if you have questions on how you can help. Doreen Shewmaker or Janie Fitch Danielsen.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

A loving greeting is sent your way from the Atonement Lutheran Preschool! We are having a great year. In January, we explored the wilderness by hibernating with bears, frogs, rabbits, and many more. In February, we look forward to exploring farm life! We have opened enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year! Please encourage people to register early!

Join us on Tuesday, February 25, from 5:00 – 6:30 for the Strove Tuesday (otherwise known as Fat Tuesday) Pancake Supper with games and raffles!

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and support!

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,
Sara Westrope

BLOOD DRIVE HOSTED BY WELCA

Atonement WELCA is hosting Vitalant formerly *United Blood Services* for a Blood Drive at Atonement Lutheran Church on Wednesday, February 12th 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

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.

SHROVE TUESDAY
**PANCAKE
SUPPER**



Tuesday, February 25

Food will be served from 5:00 – 6:15 PM

Games & Activities from 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Proceeds will go toward Atonement Lutheran Preschool

ATONEMENT FINANCE THIS MONTH

| General Fund December 2019 | | Building Fund December 2019 | | Building Reserve | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| Income: | \$40,137.96 | Income: | \$5,805.00 | 08/19 | \$26,930.10 |
| Expense: | \$23,312.50 | Expense: | \$7,925.00 | 09/19 | \$23,893.88 |
| Net Income: | \$16,825.46 | Net Income: | \$(2,120.00) | 10/19 | \$21,225.37 |
| Net Income YTD: | \$(21,166.68) | Net Income YTD: | \$(19,016.07)* | 11/19 | \$19,017.24 |
| Budget Expense: | \$35,109.95 | Budget Expense: | \$8,150.00 | 12/19 | \$16,898.97 |

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Amazing. That's what I have to say to the confirmation students every time I am teaching the 10 Commandments, especially when we study the 3rd Commandment – "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." Amazing.

We have a God who abundantly provides for us – even freely giving us the gift of rest and renewal. Where else do you get that? In a world of 24/7, we continue to get the message of "faster, more, hurry, busy, rush, harder..." The message of our modern world is the same as the ancient demands of the Pharaoh. But once God delivered them from Egypt, God's people received a new message. Not only are we liberated from the slavery to a 24/7 master, but we now live in a loving relationship with a God who desires rest and renewal. Even Jesus echoes God's 3rd Commandment promises, "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavily burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart." Amazing.

Even freed from the chains of Pharaoh, the Israelites of old struggled – as do we – with this invitation to Sabbath. There are other things that draw our attention, capture our imagination, separate us from God's people, demand (not renew) our energy. Sometimes we call it "Getting out of the habit," sometimes it's "Oh, I'm just so busy," sometimes it's our willingness to say "yes" to things that eventually "enslave" us, sometimes it's as fundamental as losing sight of the gift that comes with Sabbath – being in community, hearing God's Word, receiving and lending support, being reminded of the love of Jesus, remembering who... and whose... we are.

How are you doing at remembering the Sabbath? I hope you, too, are embraced by a God who calls us to rest. To renew. To belong. To be free from the yoke of a 24/7 world.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Isn't it amazing?

✝ Pastor Darren

All Committee's



Feb 6th 6:30pm

SOAP COLLECTION

WELCA is collecting new wrapped bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief! Any size will be accepted, but bath size is preferred. This collection will take place throughout the Lenten season and will be shipped with the Lutheran World Relief School Kits and quilts.

LENT 2020 MID-WEEK SERVICES & SUPPER

March 4th we will offer our 2020 Lenten Midweek Worship Services and Soup Suppers. Starting each Wednesday evening at 6:00pm for a soup supper followed by the Midweek Lenten service at 6:45pm in the Atonement Lutheran Sanctuary. Each week we will offer a soup provided by the church and augmented with bread and dessert provided by volunteers. We are in search of a Kitchen Coordinator to oversee the weekly teams of kitchen volunteers who

will prep, serve and clean up after each meal. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving as Kitchen Coordinator for our 2020 Lenten Soup Suppers. Signup sheets will be made available in the Commons for weekly kitchen team's volunteers and volunteers who are willing to provide the bread and desserts. Please contact the church office for details.

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday mornings at 10am. We meet in the WyndStone Private Dining Rm. Led by Pastor Darren Paulson. Join us for study in the word, great discussion and fellowship.

Feb. 5 You of Little Faith (Matthew 14:13-36)

Feb. 12 Who Do You Say That I Am? (Matthew 16:13—17:9 [13])

Feb. 19 Where Two or Three Are Gathered in My Name (Matthew 18:1-22 [23-35])

Feb. 26 My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? (Matthew 27:32-56)



ADULT FORUM

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

Feb. 2

Your Sticky Faith Team

Feb. 9

The Ups and Downs of the Sticky Faith Journey

Feb. 16

TBA

Feb. 23

TBA



National Youth Gathering fundraiser at **Pizza Ranch** on **Wednesday, March 18th, 5-9pm.**



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

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For God so loVed the world, that he gAve his onLy bEgotten SoN, thaT whosoever believeth in hIm should Not perish but have Everlasting life. *John 3:16*



FEBRUARY 2020

- ☞ Feb 3 New Members Class
- ☞ Feb 5 Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ Feb 6 **All Committee's Meeting**
- ☞ Feb 7 Men's Square Breakfast
Girl Scout Troop #2038
- ☞ Feb 9 **Women's Sunday**
- ☞ Feb 10 New Members Class
- ☞ Feb 12 **WELCA Blood Drive**
WW Meal-Guadalajara
- ☞ Feb 15 **Valentine's Dinner**
- ☞ Feb 17 New Members Class
- ☞ Feb 18 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Feb 20 Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study
- ☞ Feb 21 Girl Scout Troop #2038
- ☞ Feb 23 **New Members Sunday**
- ☞ Feb 24 MM Meal-Play Inn
- ☞ Feb 25 **Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**
- ☞ Feb 26 **Ash Wednesday Service**
- ☞ Feb 26 **Altar Guild Meeting**
- ☞ Feb 28-29 Boy Scouts NYLT

Coffee Servers for February 2020
Janie Fitch-Danielsen - Stewardship

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS



It's time to start thinking about the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering! The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis, MN, from Tuesday, June 29 through Saturday, July 3. Youth currently in 7th – 11th grade are eligible to attend! The **first deposit of \$100 is due on Feb. 2, 2020.**

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

HS WINTER RETREAT

All Youth 8th – 12th grade are invited to join us for a **Winter Retreat in Red Lodge March 6th - 8th.** A fun winter get away! Play in the snow, bonfire, hot cocoa, games, friendship building. For more information and to get your name on the list please contact Pastor Darren.



Valentines Dinner

AT WYNDSTONE
 1920 Wyndstone Way

Saturday, February 15, 2020

6:30 or 7:30 seating
 \$15 singles
 \$25 couples

SPAGHETTI DINNER, SPARKLING CIDER,
 AND DESSERT IN THE BEAUTIFUL
 WYNDSTONE DINING ROOM.



Reserve your space with
 Molly at 406-861-4764

Hosted by Atonement Youth.
 All proceeds go to the
 National Youth Gathering.