

MARCH 2020

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The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran

Atonement Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

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AN UPDATE FROM THE TEAM!

ARCHERY

We will meet at 6:00 on the following Mondays:

May 4 June 15 July 13 August 10 September 14

We especially would like to invite the 7-12th grade youth to come build their skills. Then we can have a little friendly competition with other youth groups in the city! The date to be determined! Contact Gene Arneson or Jane Hansen.

CAMPING

June 5-8: Medora, ND – Contact Ryan or Christina Kapperud

July 10-12: Columbus, MT – (usually includes a float on the river) Contact Jesse or Sandi Gonzalez

August 14-16: Spring Creek Campground, Big Timber – Contact Betty Jo Furstenberg or Erin Koepp

September 18-20: Still in the works! We are looking at someplace close to Yellowstone Park - Contact Ryan Kapperud or Todd Koepp

When we camp, we do community meals on Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday night and Sunday morning. Lunch is on your own on Saturday. We ask that you bring your own camping gear, lawn chairs, drinks, snacks, meat for Saturday night, and a salad or side dish that can be shared at the community meal on Saturday night. We add up all the food receipts (from the shopping for the community meals) and split them equally among all who camp.

Other Ideas we have had but need someone to head up:

Trapshooting

Fly fishing

Atonement trip to Christikon

Backpacking trips

Horseshoe Tournament at Atonement



What would you like to see added to the Outdoor Ministry? Anything fun that takes place outdoors so we can all experience fellowship and God's beauty! Please contact Gene Arneson, Jesse Gonzalez, Jane Hansen or Ryan Kapperud with suggestions or questions!

LWR – BATH BAR 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. A collection bin will be available in the commons area. Thanks for all your continued support of LWR!

Julie Leno – Atonement WELCA



- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs** -
**See list posted in Commons at the New Food Bank shelves.
- ❖ VBS 2020 – Volunteers
- ❖ WyndStone Driver – Sunday Volunteer

ATONEMENT FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friendship Club will meet at Atonement March 4th at noon with a potluck. We will have a guest speaker from Family Tree. Contact Sandi Gonzalez 671-7199.

Wonderful Wednesday

Mar 11th – Atonement
Lenten Soup Supper

Marvelous Monday

Mar 23rd – Pizza Ranch
6PM



LENT & HOLY WEEK

2020 SCHEDULE

Each Wednesday, March 4th – April 1st we will offer a Lenten Soup Supper at 6:00pm. Supper will be served in the Commons and our weekly Midweek Lenten service will follow at 6:45pm. Atonement will provide the soups and member volunteers will augmented the meal with bread and desserts.

Maundy Thursday “The Last Supper”
A Living Drama - April 9th 6:45pm

Good Friday “A Journey to Hope”
Cantata - April 10th 8:00pm

Sunrise Service at the Little White Church - April 12th 6:30am

ADOPT-A-PLOT YEAR 2

From the Stewardship Campaign in November and review of the Time & Talent sheets, the Property Committee will be continuing the Adopt-a-Plot program. The program is aimed at having congregational members take ownership of landscaped “plots” for weeding, trimming, and general upkeep. The plots are sized to allow for completion of a section in several hours. The plot is owned by an adopting member or family and needs to be kept up throughout the year. The Property Committee can supply guidelines for the upkeep, such as how far to cut down the grasses and how much of a bush should be trimmed, providing consistency from one plot to another.

The Atonement landscaped property has been divided into 35 plots. Over 25 congregational families take care of these plots. The Property Committee is asking members to continue their assigned plots for 2020. If you are unable to maintain your plots, please inform any member of the Property Committee and we can assign another family. At this time there are about 8 plots that do not have anyone assigned to maintain. During the months of March and April, the assigned area posters will be displayed on Sundays with the open areas identified. Tentatively, 9:00am on April 18th has been set for the first Clean-up Day and will be a great opportunity to spiff up the grounds before Confirmation. With the enormous increase in grass areas requiring mowing, the Property Committee Mowing Team would like to thank each and every volunteer for their commitment to keeping our grounds in great shape. Should you still be interested in a plot, please contact Todd Koepf or Ryan Kapperud and we will find a location for you.

ATONEMENT FINANCE REPORT

General Fund		Building Fund		Building Fund	
January 2020		January 2020		January 2020	
Income:	\$ 31,011.63	Income:	\$ 6,873.00	09/30/19	\$ 23,893.88
Expense:	\$ 37,104.14	Expense:	\$ 7,925.00	10/31/19	\$ 21,225.37
Net Income:	\$ (6,092.51)	Net Income:	\$ (1,052.00)	11/30/19	\$ 19,017.24
Net Income YTD	\$ (6,092.51)	Net Income YTD	\$ (1,052.00)	12/31/19	\$ 16,898.97
Budget Expense:	\$ 35,346.28	Budget Expense:	\$ 7,925.00	01/31/19	\$ 15,848.52

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



Ages 3 - 5
Small student-to-teacher ratio
Experienced Teachers and Staff

Online registration and information available at:
<http://www.atonementbillings.org/preschool/index.html>
1290 Sierra Grande, Billings • 245-7004
preschool@atonementbillings.org



Mon / Wed / Fri
9:00am - 11:30am

Tuition: \$160/month
Registration Fee
until April 1: \$50
after April 1: \$75

Greetings from your partners in ministry!

We have opened enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year! Please encourage people to register early! Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and support!

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,

Sara Westrope

WELCA SPRING LUNCHEON 2020

Mark your calendars! Women of all our Atonement women attending the ages are invited to the **WELCA Spring Luncheon 11:00am – 1:00pm Saturday, March 14th**, at Atonement Lutheran. Family Services. Come, join us, learn more about Family Services, eat great food, visit with our neighbors and maybe win a door prize! Bring a friend! other area churches, we ask that all of



FROM THE PASTOR

New Director of Youth and Family Ministry! We welcome Nikki Groshans into this new role as Director of Youth and Family Ministry! She is undoubtedly familiar to you as our current Sunday School Superintendent and Vacation Bible School Coordinator. Nikki is married to DJ Groshans (you might see him playing drums during worship on occasion!) and have three children; Ella, Grady and Cora. Nikki received her Bachelors of Social Work degree from the U of M in Missoula and has worked in a variety of non-profit organizations with children and families. Please join us on Sunday, March 15th at the 10:30am worship service as we formally install her into this new ministry position. We will invite all children and youth to participate in the service with a prayer of support and blessing as she begins a new chapter of ministry among us!



✝ Pastor Darren

SUNDAY'S ADULT FORUM 9:15AM

Mar. 1 "A Framework for Living God's Grace: Five Prayer Practices" – Presented by Pastor Larry Strenge. Exploring with us a meaningful faith practice meant to help us live into God's Grace during Lent and beyond. In 2006 Larry began these practices after a Bible study with Montana native, Eugene Peterson. Since then the simple prayer practices have deeply impacted his, and numerous others', faith pilgrimage as they have been lived and meaning evolved. Larry says it this way, "Through these practices the Spirit carried me through one of life's deepest sorrows--the death of a child. Now that same Spirit is opening them up to learn to live into God's generosity." Come and join us for a special time together!

Mar. 8 "Let Your Gentleness Be Evident to All" Part 2 of a 5 part video series **Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World**. Featuring pastor and inspirational author Max Lucado. While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate life. We'll explore the Apostle Paul's wisdom from Philippians 4:4-8.

Mar. 15 "Present Your Requests to God" Part 3 of 5

Mar. 22 "The Peace of God Will Guard Your Heart" Part 4 of 5

Mar. 29 "Mediate on These Things" Part 6 of 5

Grab a quick cup of coffee and join us every Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour for our Adult Forum.

WEDNESDAY'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Mar. 4 *I Am with You Always* (Matthew 28:1-10 [11-15], 16-20)

Mar. 11 *What Is Our Standard of Living?* (Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23)

Mar. 18 *Are We Singing the Standards of Wisdom?* (Proverbs 1:20-33)

Mar. 25 *Are We Raising God's Standard?* (Proverbs 31:10-31)

*Meeting at the WyndStone Private Dining Rm, begins at 10:00am.
Led by Pastor Darren.*



National Youth Gathering 2021
Fundraiser at **Pizza Ranch** on
Monday, March 16th, 5-9pm.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Congregation, Thank you so much for your generous \$500 donation to the Skyview Teen Food Pantry. The teen pantry is totally funded by community donations. Please know that 100% of your donations go directly to the students. Your support means so much to us! Sincerely,

*Nichole Sholley-Skyview
Tumbleweed Counselor*

We are incredibly thankful for your generous donation of \$500 to our Teen Pantry. We feel truly blessed to be able to use these funds to assist our struggling students and families. We could not make the impact that we do without the amazing support of our community! Thank you so much!! Sincerely,

*Tawnya Catron-School Counselor
Jolene Laughery-School Counselor
Nikki Holmann-Principle
Becky Carlson-Associate Principle*



save the date!

church grounds cleanup day
saturday, april 18th 9:00am!



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 Billings, Montana 59105
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 atonementbillings.org

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

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

March 2020

- ☞ Mar 4 - Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ Mar 4 - **Soup Supper 6:00pm**
- ☞ Mar 4 - **Lenten Mid-Week 6:45pm**
- ☞ Mar 6 - Men's Square 6:30am
- ☞ Mar 6-8 – **Youth Winter Retreat**
- ☞ Mar 8 - **Host FPYV (8th – 15th)**
- ☞ Mar 11 - Soup Supper 6:00pm
- ☞ Mar 11 - Lenten Mid-Week 6:45pm
- ☞ Mar 16 – **Pizza Ranch (NYG21Fundraiser)**
- ☞ Mar 17 - Church Council Meeting 7pm
- ☞ Mar 18 - Soup Supper 6:00pm
- ☞ Mar 18 - Lenten Mid-Week 6:45pm
- ☞ Mar 19 - HOPE Circle 9:30am
- ☞ Mar 22 – **First Communion Chalice**s
- ☞ Mar 25 - Soup Supper 6:00pm
- ☞ Mar 25 - Lenten Mid-Week 6:45pm
- ☞ Mar 28 – **SJU Delegates Day 9:15am**

The youth will be hosting a fundraiser at **Pizza Ranch** on **Monday, March 16th**, from 5-9pm to earn money to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis the summer of 2021. Please come enjoy a meal and tell them you're there for Atonement's youth! You will see some of our youth clearing tables and working hard!

Education and Youth and Family Committees will be meeting **Monday March 9th** at **6:30pm** to stuff Easter eggs. Extra hands are always needed to fill the eggs so please feel free to join in the fun. Candy donations are also helpful and a donation bin will be available in the commons area the 1st through the 8th.

4th graders will be painting **First Communion chalices** in the Jerusalem Room on **March 22nd** directly following the 10:30am service. Letters will be sent out to families of 4th grade students regarding further First Communion details.

Coffee Servers for March 2020
Outdoor Ministry – Jane Hansen