

April 2020

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The Commentator

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.
- ❖ **Errand Runners**
- ❖ **VBS 2020 – Volunteers**
- ❖ **WyndStone Driver – Sunday Volunteer**

ATONEMENT FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friendship group will meet **May 6th** at noon for our potluck and a short meeting. Hope to see you there. Contact Sandi Gonzalez 348-3707.

FROM THE PASTOR

This April newsletter catches me by surprise. About half of the plans that we had made for March did not come to fruition. And making plans for April is proving to be an exercise in futility. Never before has the saying “We don’t know what tomorrow brings” been truer.

Regardless, time is moving on. The buds on the trees are announcing a coming season. The snow in the shadows is giving way to spring blossoms. The grass is promising new days of growth and life. We knew these days of new life were coming. Time continues to move forward.

Isaac Watts, in his great hymn O God Our Help in Ages Past writes,

“Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all the years away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.”

Time continues to march on. Seasons come and go. I started to think about time differently, including thinking about a day when we will look back on these days of coronavirus and we will be thankful for God bearing us safely through these days. I pray that we will make it through with protection and relative good health. God’s grace and peace to you in these days.

As Isaac Watts continued,

“Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

While plans and preparations are important, even more essential is embracing our God who has helped us in ages past, and trusting in the promise that this same God is our hope for days, months and years to come.

✚ Pastor Darren

MEN’S MINISTRIES

On Saturday, April 18th will be the Atonement Property Grounds Clean up Day. Please come to the church and help us in cleaning up the property and preparing it for Confirmation, and spring activities. For those that signed up for a section as part of Adopt A Plot, this would be a great time to work with the Property Committee and learning how to take care of your needs of your plot.

We will start activities at 9 AM. You can come at any time. Bring gloves, a bucket, maybe even a rake. We hope to see you there. The next Men's Square will meet 6:30am on Friday May 1st at the church. Come and enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and devotions.

Ryan Kappreud – Atonement Property Committee



WELCA NEWS

WELCA has been advised that Lutheran World Relief is not accepting just bars of soap this year, so they have decided to collect items for Personal Care kits instead. WELCA has a goal of collecting items for 100 Personal Care Kits! This collection will take place throughout the Lenten season and will be shipped with the Lutheran World Relief School Kits and quilts. We currently need **94 nail clippers** to complete our goal. A collection bin is available in front of the church office. Thanks for all your continued support of LWR!

Atonement WELCA Board

FAMILY PROMISE

Once again the Atonement Family gave a hearty welcome and hospitality to the four families that are currently working with Family Promise at our church from March 8-16. We had 5 adults and 6 kids staying with us this week. They were with us an extra night as the FP Staff needed extra time to develop sleeping accommodations at the FP Day Center during this current situation with COVID-19. The families were so appreciative of the great meals and kind hearts that greeted them daily. Thanks so much for your continued support over the past 15 years doing God's Work with Our Hands. Please step up again in the summer when they will visit, June 28th -July 5th.

Janie Fitch-Danielsen

NEED HELP? Pick up a few Groceries, or Rx delivered, a visit (*phone call*)? Call the office 245-7004.

WANT TO HELP? Call the office 245-7004.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Spring is here! We are in a unique situation at the preschool with everything that has been happening. We are praying for our students and their families and have been trying to meet their needs to see them through this time of unknown. We have made activity kits and have been sending out fun project ideas they can try at home. We hope to reopen the preschool when it is safe to do so, but we

appreciate the understanding of our preschool families.

We are currently taking 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

OUTDOOR MINISTRY 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!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Keeping the Mission in Motion! Now more than ever we need to remember the theme of last fall's stewardship appeal. Our doors may be temporarily closed to gatherings, but our ministries endure. Nearly 500 years ago when Martin Luther lived through a plague in Wittenberg, he encouraged pastors, doctors, and those in public service to remain within the city to care for the sick. Just as in those days, we rely upon our clergy and staff for guidance, comfort, and strength in times of great need. To this important end, we must not forget our responsibilities to the church. Staff and bills must still be paid. Therefore, for those members who are not set up with electronic giving, the Stewardship Committee respectfully asks that you consider mailing in your regular offerings rather than waiting to catch up when this pandemic passes. Together, we can keep the mission of Atonement in motion! Thank you.

Atonement Stewardship Committee

ATONEMENT FINANCE REPORT

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

General Fund		Building Fund		Building Fund	
	February 2020		February 2020		February 2020
Income:	\$ 40,060.19	Income:	\$ 17,757.00	10/31/19:	\$ 21,225.37
Expense:	\$ 34,710.03	Expense:	\$ 7,925.00	11/30/19:	\$ 19,017.24
Net Income:	\$ 5,350.16	Net Income:	\$ 9,832.00 *	12/31/19:	\$ 16,898.97
Net Income YTD	\$ (742.35)	Net Income YTD	\$ 8,780.00 *	01/31/20:	\$ 15,848.52
Budget Expense:	\$ 33,279.54	Budget Expense:	\$ 7,925.00	02/28/20:	\$ 25,680.52

All April 2020 Activities, Services and Meeting are **TENTATIVE**.

Updates will be posted on the church webpage atonementbilling.org

Wonderful Wednesday Meal April 8th – CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Marvelous Monday Meal April 27th – CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We Bring The Hope We Share In Christ To All!

THANK YOU!

... for supporting our family during this difficult time.

The Braaten Family

Dear Atonement Lutheran Church, thank you for your cash donation of \$500 on behalf of vulnerable and homeless youth served by Tumbleweed. Your contribution helps Tumbleweed provide safety, assistance and hope for our community's at risk youth, creating lasting life changes. To accomplish that, we provide: Crisis Prevention and a 24 hour help line, Drop-in Center for homeless youth, Support to young victims of human trafficking transitional living and Chafee Foster Care Independence programs.

Erika Willis-Executive Director

Wednesday's Adult Bible Study

No Adult Study until Further Notice!

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

Sunday's Adult Forum 9:15am

No Adult Study until Further Notice!

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



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



Behold, I make all things new.

Let there be light.

God unseen is taking form.

Let there be life.

The first and last is surging forth.

Becoming life.

Behold, I make all things new!

Alana Levandoski

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday, April 5th we continue Online Worship. We are asking members to find your own palms, perhaps clip a branch off a tree or bush in the backyard, or the “palm” that you have at the end of your hand. Get a picture of yourself in your yard, in front of your house, out in our community (*at a safe social distance of course*) to show that God has triumphantly entered into your life, into this community, into this world. After you have taken that picture send it in to the church office office@atonementbillings.org or to Pastor Darren pastor@atonementbillings.org. We would like to compile those pictures for Palm Sunday and have our own virtual procession of all of you with your palms posted in all of those places where God has entered into your world. We are looking for an individual who would be able to create an Apple video using those pictures for the online service Palm Sunday. Stringing together all the faces that would typically fill our sanctuary and create a virtual Palm Sunday processional. The Palm order should be delivered the week of March 30th and Pastor will be handing out the live palms Sunday, April 5th at noon in the round about in front of the church. Enter the parking lot from the south (by the digital sign) exiting the parking lot to the north on Sierra Granda Blvd. For more details watch the video on our Atonement Lutheran YouTube Channel.