

The Commentator

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A publication of Atonement Lutheran Church

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Atonement Sanctuary

Sunday's at 9:15am

Sunday School to follow!

ATONEMENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School started September 27, 2020. Please follow the usher's directions on how to leave the Sanctuary after the Sunday service. Please reenter the building by using the playground entrance door to drop your child (children) at their Sunday school room. Each teacher will have registration forms available, please fill one out for your child (children). Prepackaged snacks and juice boxes will be provided.

Thank you

Christina Kapperud – Atonement Sunday School Superintendent

HOW you can
HELP

- ❖ ****See list posted in the Commons at the Food Bank shelf.**
- ❖ Sound & Tech Booth Volunteers
- ❖ Disinfecting Wipes.

LWR SCHOOL KITS UPDATE

We currently have 203 complete kits and have some supplies to complete 93 more kits. To complete these kits we need:

- 93 rulers with centimeters,
- 455 #2 pencils,
- 460 black or blue pens,
- 92 blunt tip scissors,
- 388-70 count spiral bound notebooks.

Julie Leno

J.A.M.

3rd - 6th Grade
Youth Group
Sundays!
4:00 – 5:00pm.

FAMILY PROMISE OF YELLOWSTONE VALLEY

Family Promise of Yellowstone County is still not having the families come to the individual churches during the pandemic, to help keep everyone safe. The families continue to be in the program, working on strategies to overcome their financial problems and working for independence. They are housing the current families at the FP Day Center as well as the Transition Housing apartments. There is a current need for diapers (any size), diaper wipes and baby formula. You can drop these items off at the church and we will transport them to the day center. For questions, please call Janie Fitch-Danielsen



WELCA ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR

Saturday, November 7th, 9am to 3 pm
Masks will be required at all times and social distancing will be observed! Please help with the Bazaar when you can!

Set up will be Thursday, November 5th, starting at 8:30 a.m. and continuing on Friday, November 6th at noon.

Take down and reset for Sunday services will be Saturday, November 7th at 3pm.

We will need the following items to sell: Craft Items, Canned Goods, Garden Produce, Baked Goods, Silent Auction items.

There will be no lunch, pie or coffee served. There also will be no Lefse or Granny's Attic (garage sale).

If you have any questions please contact: the Church office or Eleanor Andersen, Julie Leno.



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

We are one month into our preschool school year with our limited class size of 9 students! This past month we have been working with the students to learn the rules of the classroom and to learn the daily skills for preschool; lining up and walking in the hallway, crisscross applesauce, how to hold a pencil, scissors safety, taking turns, and so many other fun skills that we use every day!

In October, as we start working with the alphabet, we will also explore our spiritual ABC's. We are also going to discover how God provides for us by taking a field trip to a Pumpkin Patch.

The preschool is always looking for extra hands to help in many different ways... if you are willing to take a prep cutting project home, volunteer to help sanitize after class, or help during recess time. The preschool is still in need of additional resources. If you wish to help, here is the link to the Target Registry: tgt.gifts/alcpreschool.

Thank you for your support and please keep us all in your prayers as we learn together! Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and support!

Blessings from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,
Sara Westrope

SPRINKLER WINTERIZATION

Scheduled for **Saturday, October 3, 2020**. Forms for sign up are available in the Commons area or the church website. Deadline for registration is Wednesday September 30th. Please contact the church or Todd Koepf with any questions. Thank you for your support of Atonement Lutheran Handyman's Ministries.

MENS SQUARE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

All men regardless of age are invited to join us on the first Friday of each month for our Men's Square Breakfast. We gather for a meal, a short devotion and fellowship. For more details please contact Todd Koepf. Beginning Friday, October 2, 2020 6:30am. See you there!

FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST 2020

| General Fund July 2020 | | Building Fund July 2020 | | Building Reserve |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Budget Expense | \$30,646.20 | Budget Expense | \$7,925.00 | 06/20 \$36,156.60 |
| Actual Expense | \$30,312.16 | Actual Expense | \$7,925.00 | 07/20 \$32,643.60 |
| Income from Members | \$26,105.17 | Income from Members | \$5,399.00 | 08/20 \$30,117.00 |
| Net Income (loss) Member August | (\$4,206.99) | Net Income (loss) Member August | (\$2,526.00) | |
| Net Income (loss) Member YTD | (\$11,438.28) | Net Income (loss) Member YTD | \$4,569.83 | |

*These figures reflect the Church finances based on member contributions only.
Federal PPP money not used after the month of June.*

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!

FROM THE PASTOR

"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two." (Mk 6:7)

When our kids were little, one sentence that could guarantee a wrinkle in my patience was, "I do it myself!" I appreciated their independence, but sometimes they chose the most impossible tasks for a toddler to try solo, and they always seemed to do it when we were in a hurry. They just didn't understand the importance of asking for help.

This passage from Mark's Gospel reminds me of that very same lesson I tried to teach my kids so many years ago – we don't have to do it ourselves. God sent the apostles two by two. The "original evangelization" was so important it took a pair or a team. The "New Evangelization" is just the same. We are all called to live the Gospel and to share the Gospel by combining our gifts with those of others to do the work he has planned for us. Lucky for us, the instructions Mark wrote about are as relevant today as they were when he wrote them.

We need to work together, sharing our talents, knowledge and skill to build his kingdom here on earth. We need to trust in God's provisions and his plan. God loves us too much to leave us stranded or ask us to do an impossible task. We are called to meet people right where they are and share the way Jesus has worked in our life. Our faith doesn't begin with facts and doctrine. It starts with the story of how he has loved us.

In writing this, I'm keenly aware of the escalating messaging that we're hearing in this election cycle. Candidates are pitting themselves against another. Misinformation campaigns are abounding to elevate the one (and the voice of my child echoes in my ear "I do it myself!") and to discredit the other. Phrases like "wedge politics", "deep partisanship", "divided more than ever" are flooding the airwaves. Tensions are high – not only among the candidates, but in conversations with friends, families and co-workers. In days like these, we need to be assured more than ever of the love that God has ...for all of us. Yes, Christians are called to engage in the political life to – as Martin Luther would argue – ensure the peaceable kingdom that God intends for all. However, Luther also knew that, as difficult a process it is, we cannot build that kingdom without "the other." We need each other. And as Kristin LaVe' recently shared in a daily devotion, we are more alike than we are unlike.

Which brings us back to our starting point, and to this vital truth: we need the help of the Holy Spirit to unite us and to guide us. If we work together (as a family, a church, a community or a nation), steeping our efforts in prayer, we can be assured that we can do what he's asking. Sometimes, our work is simply planting the seeds of his love and then stepping aside so he can finish the work. We have been called; now it's time to respond – together!

✝ Pastor Darren

Reformation Sunday

October 25th 9:15am

Make plans to join us as we celebrate the spiritual milestone of the 3rd Grade Bible Presentation!

WEDNESDAY'S ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 10:00AM

These are anxious times. We live in a time of pandemic... a pandemic of fear and unease. Waiting for things to return to "normal" ...or maybe "the other shoe to drop." Our defenses are up. Watching out for others. Most of us relate in some way to these feelings. Anxiety is that vague feeling that something isn't right, that something bad may happen. Worry becomes an all-consuming part of life. We'll engage in this eight-session Bible Study written by Skip McDonald and look at a variety of Old Testament and New Testament Scripture passages that cover experiences of general anxiety, worry, and panic. Email the church office to receive the Zoom link. office@atonementbillings.org

Oct. 7th

Rest - Matthew 11:25-30

Oct 14th

Strength - Isaiah 40

Oct. 21st

Refreshment - Psalm 23

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club will meet at Pizza Ranch at 12PM on Wednesday, Oct. 7th. Please wear your mask. Please RSVP to Sandi Gonzalez

THANK YOU FROM THE HEART...

Dear Quilter's
Thank you the COVID-19 face masks.
Thank you for all you do for humanity and for our church! God bless you!

Carol Young



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OCTOBER 2020

- ☞ Oct 3 **Sprinkler Winterization**
- ☞ Oct 4-6 **Confirmation Retreat**
- ☞ Oct 7 Friendship Club 12pm
- ☞ Oct 20 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Oct 25 **3rd Grade Bible Presentation**
- ☞ Oct 25 Reformation Sunday
- ☞ Oct 31 Trunk or Treat 6:00-7:30PM

Trunk Or Treat, on Halloween evening from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Trunks will be safely distanced apart and trick or treaters will be asked to keep within their family units and space 6 feet apart from others. Face masks or Halloween mask will be required. Those handing out candy will be required to wear masks and gloves. Candy donations for the event can be dropped off at the church during regular office hours.



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Atonement Senior High Youth (Grades 9-12) meeting now on Wednesday evenings 7-8pm at the church. All are invited and bring a friend! For more information please reach out to Nikki Groshans at

doyfam@atonementbillings.org

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

A special service will take place for the 2020 Confirmands, their families, and invited guests. Prayers of blessing and congratulations to each of these fine young members!

Lily Dawn Adams Callie Ann Carter Kinley Anne Crane

Ryan Todd Denowh Solana Marie Garcia Archer Albert Picchioni

Anthony Ethan Schacht