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HOW you can HELP

- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs** –**See list posted in foyer above the food bank shelf.
- ❖ Sound & Tech Booth Volunteers

- ❖ Disinfecting Wipes.
- ❖ Diapers (any size)
- ❖ Diaper Wipes
- ❖ Baby Formula.

You can drop these items off at the church and we will transport them to the Family Promise Day Center.

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED



Atonement WELCA is hosting “Vitalant” for a Blood Drive at Atonement Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, November 11th 4-7pm.**

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OPENINGS

The Council and Finance team have been working on activating a Memorial Committee that we will need volunteers for in the near future. As a starting point, two council members, Jake Ketterling and Dallas Kucera have expressed willingness to help out with the start of this committee. The following is a description of the scope of this committee that is in the Atonement Bylaws.

The committee shall have general jurisdiction over memorial and special gifts given to the congregation. Pastor(s) are ex officio members of the committee with voice, but no vote. The committee shall have at least 3 members, who will serve a 3 year term. They will select a chairperson.

The council is currently reviewing this description and the roles and responsibilities of this committee. Any changes will be posted in council minutes, bylaws updates or in a future Commentator article. Please contact Pastor Darren, a council member or the church office if you would be interested in serving on this committee.

Atonement Church Council



COVID-19 UPDATE

The surge in COVID-19 active cases in Montana and Yellowstone County and the guidance from local health authorities has informed our Council leadership to discontinue in-person worship services, including weddings and funerals. Last month, we have returned to online-only worship, Bible studies, education, and youth ministries. We see this not only as a way to protect our members from exposure, but also supporting our broader community efforts to curb the rise of infection and to support our burdened medical community. This is one way we “love our neighbor” in these unique times. We will continue to monitor the progress of active cases and resume on-site ministries as we see a 4-week decline in active cases. Thank you for your support of our congregation and our mission to improve and enhance the lives of people in our community!

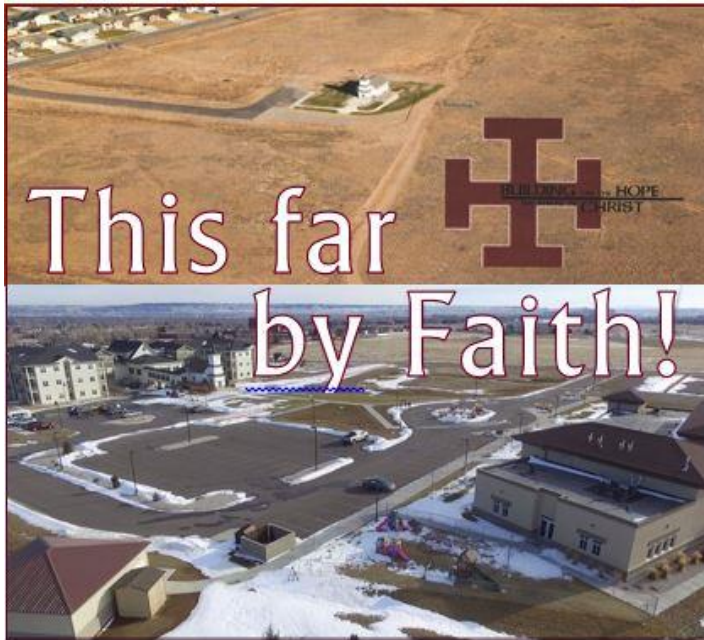
Pastor Darren and the Atonement Church Council



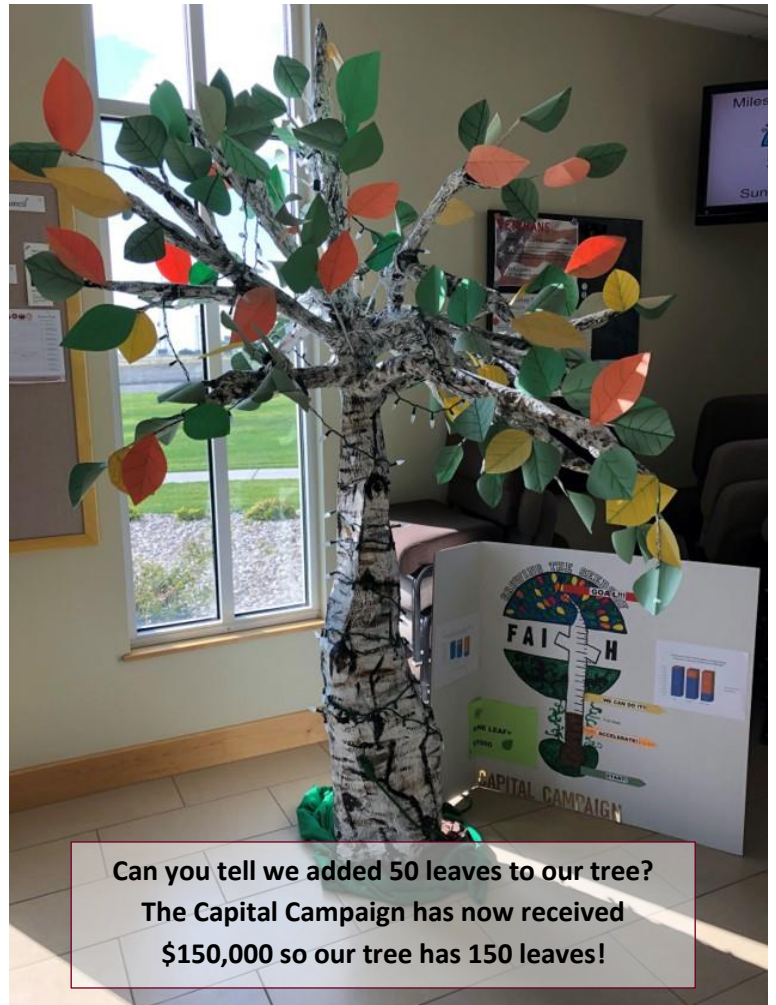
2021 PLEDGE DRIVE

Look for a letter and pledge card from the Stewardship Committee in a couple weeks for our giving in 2021. Our pledge cards will have to be mailed out instead of handing out in person, as I'm sure everyone understands. Please return Estimate of Giving Cards by **Friday, November 20th** for our **Commitment Sunday on Nov. 22th**. We are so grateful in this time of distancing for the ability to worship online and see everyone on ZOOM for meetings. Please support Atonement as you are able so when this crisis is over we will have our church home and staff and will be able to once again meet together.

Atonement Lutheran Stewardship Committee



GROWING THE SEEDS OF FAITH



ATONEMENT FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020		September 2020	
General Fund		Building Fund Reserve	
Budgeted Expense	\$33,151.09	Budget Expense	\$7,925.00
Actual Expenses	\$33,120.95	Actual Expense	\$7,240.00
Income from Members	\$27,915.17	Income from members	\$4,492.00
Net Income (loss) from Members September	(\$5,205.78)	Net Income (loss) from Members September	(\$2,748.00)
Net Income (loss) from Members YTD	(\$14,939.73)	Net Income (loss) from Members YTD	\$1,821.83
		7.31.2020	\$32,643.60
		8.31.2020	\$30,117.60
		9.30.2020	\$27,369.60

These figures reflect the Church finances based on member contributions only. Federal PPP (\$61,545.60) money not used after the month of June. Member giving has covered church expenses only 3 of the 9 months, through September 2020. August total shortfall (General and Building funds) from members **(\$6,732.99)**. September total shortfall (General and Building funds) from members **(\$7,953.78)**.

Tom Danielsen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council

FROM THE PASTOR

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:1-5

I would be stating the obvious if I were to say that this has been a particularly challenging year. From pandemic to politics, economic instability to environmental disasters, protests/riots to counter-protests/violence, prolific disinformation to polarizing divisions. And then there are the personal struggles that are particular to your own life. From a major medical trauma to failed personal relationships, job loss to the death of a loved one, profound loneliness to elevated stress, manic demands to accept technological realities to depression associated with modern living. (I hesitated to even begin identifying these particulars for fear of omitting your specific adversity!) It feels as if this has been a year where all these forces have conspired against us to become an unrelenting adversary.

So. What do we do as people of faith?

First of all, it would serve us well to remember that we’re not the first generation of Christians to face adversity. Actually, it was the first generation of Christians who not only faced difficulties but it was because of their hardships that their proclamation of faith, in fact, prospered! The Apostle Paul said (in Romans 5:1-5) to this group of believers facing adversity (Paul offered his own list of adversity in Romans 8:35-39.), a peculiar thing... that we can “boast” (or in the NIV “rejoice”) in our sufferings.

“Inconceivable!” we cry!

To that, Paul would say, “Exactly!” (As in... “in-“ = not + “conceive” = thinking.)

Which brings us to our second response. Paul points us to a way by which we can move through life’s troubles. Rather than being psychologically crippled and embittered by life’s difficulties, he reveals God’s plan to face the storms of life. Paul lifts our gaze from the short-term (sufferings) to the long-term horizon of hope (glory). Can you see the up-lifting and ever-expanding movement in Paul’s message (suffering... endurance... character... hope!)? So, we can focus on our problems... or focus on the big picture – and let us not forget that the believer’s big picture is very big! Rather than dwelling on our present struggles, do the “inconceivable” (stop thinking about these things) and look towards the future God is presently laying out before you!

Then it is our response to live in peace. It’s no escapist kind of peace, but rather a peace that allows us to fully stand and engage our world with a new message of love that has been lavishly poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. We don’t have to rage and foment against that which (or those who) assail us! It’s a peace with God, fueled by compassion.

Finally, Paul encourages us to do something rather unlikely. Boast. Now, this isn’t a braggadocio litany of how we have prevailed over the troubles of this world, rather is a testimony to our God who has given us this peace through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Paul often speaks of this work of Jesus as God himself reconciling those who once were enemies, or adversaries. It’s a speaking of grace to a world of troubles. It’s a message that those around us need to hear. With God as our ally, there are no adversaries. Just opportunities for us to bring the hope we share in Jesus to all. (Hmmm. That sounds familiar!)

✝ Pastor Darren



Thank everyone for all the prayers, calls, cards, food and memorials to Atonement, following the passing of my husband, Harry and brother Roger. Everything was greatly appreciated. A special Thanks to Pastor Darren and Nancy. They were awesome and very helpful. God bless all.

Lorraine Theurer and family.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Fall Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

What a unique fall we are experiencing! In October, we were able to go to a corn maize & pumpkin patch, experiment with pumpkins and apples, learn about the letters A-E, and play in the snow. As we look into the month of November, we are thankful for the young people learning with us! We will be learning about the letters F-I, about leaves (I am hoping I will not have to dig them out from the snow!), discover more about turkeys, and harvest. We could use your help with some of the supplies we will be working with this month. If you are able to find and donate these items, it would help us are great deal!

- ♥ Acorns
- ♥ Oatmeal
- ♥ Large Oatmeal Canisters
- ♥ Corn Stalk with field corn on it
- ♥ Clorox Wipes

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

*Sara Westrope-Atonement
Lutheran Preschool Director*



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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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NOVEMBER 2020

- ☞ Nov 1 All Saints Sunday
- ☞ Nov 6 Men's Square Breakfast
- ☞ Nov 17 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Nov 22 Advent Decorating
- ☞ Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day
- ☞ Nov 27 Office Closed
- ☞ Nov 29 1st Sunday of Advent

The **QUILTER'S ONLINE** Bazaar

The WELCA Annual Fall Bazaar is going virtual this year! Quilts and crafts will be sold on Facebook. On November 1st the Bazaar will go live and run through the 20th. Go to the church website and follow the link! Share the link with your friends and neighbors. If you want to contribute craft items please contact Julie Andersen, Julie Leno or Eleanor Andersen.

WEDNESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY GROUP - Revelation

Many people avoid reading Revelation due to fear or confusion. Some of the imagery is violent and fearsome, as even the very foundations of the world are shaken. Making matters more difficult are the various ways the book is read and interpreted in our culture. Ultimately, Revelation is not about providing a road map or predictions for the "end of days." Instead, it describes a way for us to relate to God and to one another today. It invites us to trust in God and God's work, to look to Jesus' return with hope for a new world, and to read, study, and listen for God speaking to us through these words today.

- Oct. 28** Revealing Revelation – *Rev. 1:1-20*
- Nov. 4** Life and Faith in Pergamum and Laodicea – *Rev. 2:12-17; 3:14-22*
- Nov. 11** Visions of God and the Lamb – *Rev. 4:1-6a; 5:1-10*
- Nov. 18** Destruction and Protection – *Rev. 6:15-7:17*
- Nov. 25** The Great "Battle" – *Rev. 12:1-17*

Email the church office to get the Zoom link and join us Wednesday mornings at 10am, facilitated by Pastor Darren.