

January 2020
Volume 64 - Issue 1

The Commentator

What's INSIDE?

A publication of Atonement Lutheran

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As we prepare for the

ATONEMENT ANNUAL MEETING

January 31, 2021 at 1:00pm

Meeting Format: ZOOM Video Communications

Limited seating will be available at the Church for those who are not able to participate using ZOOM



- ❖ **Billings Food Pantry Needs –**
See list posted in the Commons at the **Food Bank Shelf.

STITCHES AND SCRIPTURES

Happy New Year! Stitches and Scriptures will begin again on January 10th, at 6:00pm. We will be meeting in the Nursery and will be strict with the COVID-19 guidelines. Masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer – required! It doesn't matter if you are a brand-new stitcher or a seasoned veteran, all are welcome! We have several who are willing to teach those who want to learn a new stitching craft! The new contact person for this group is Jane Hansen. Please send her an email at jhansen0359@gmail.com to be added to the communication list.

Jane Hansen

From the Council:

1. We recommend that each individual who wishes to participate in the meeting establish a ZOOM account.
2. Watch your emails, follow the Atonement Webpage and Facebook page for further information and details about how this meeting will work. You will find directions for setting up a ZOOM account and a link to Annual Meeting Documents and Reports.
3. The link to the Annual meeting documents should be available by January 17, 2021. Arrangements can also be made to pick up a copy at the Church Office.
4. office@atonementbillings.org or call 406-245-7004.

Atonement Church Council

GROWING THE SEEDS OF FAITH YEAR 1

Atonement members - We have completed an amazing first year of the Growing the Seeds of Faith Capital Campaign. To summarize this first year (through November 17, 2020) with some rounded numbers (nearest \$100): Total giving for year 1 - **\$165,000!!!**

\$2,100/mo. set aside to fund the Youth and Family director position (**\$27,300** total - 13 months/2 Novembers)

\$13,500 set aside to distribute to tithe gift recipients (Christikon, Family Promise and Friendship House). This means that each of these tithe gift recipients will receive a gift of **\$4,500** from Atonement's members through this Capital Campaign!!

\$124,000 for debt reduction resulting in a reduction of **\$678** in our monthly mortgage payment!!

The members of Atonement are to be commended for your deep commitment to both the General and Building Fund giving and your support for this additional giving to the Capital Campaign. You have done this in the most challenging of times. We will celebrate these accomplishments with a video update at our January 3 (Epiphany Sunday) service. Please tune in on-line!

Growing the Seeds of Faith - Capital Campaign Committee



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will now be coordinated by Christina Kapperud. We have enough shawls for the 2021 graduates so keep working on shawls! Please let Christina know you are a part of this ministry by emailing her at ckapperud@gmail.com. The shawls are available for everyone to give to someone in need or just to show we, at Atonement, love them. All shawls in the "Shawl Closet" are numbered and there is a list with all the numbers on it. Please, when you take a shawl, mark down the name of the person receiving the shawl next to the correct number on the list. This helps us keep track of the shawls.

We have a select few crochet kits with yarn and a pattern included for anyone to use. You just supply the hook! If you don't crochet or knit but would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, we will always take donations of yarn or for yarn!

Christina Kapperud

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Happy New Year from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

We are starting the 2021 year remembering where we have been, looking forward to the future, and having fun right where we are at!

We look back to remember where we have been; we are so grateful for all the support of our parents, and volunteers and to the members of Atonement for stepping up with supplying our preschool with the extras requested in the newsletter. In December, our month was packed learning the letters I and J, making fun Christmas crafts, learning Christmas songs, and our Christmas program... the students did such a good job!

In January, we look to the future, as we will be opening enrollment for the 2021-2022 preschool year to the current students in January. Please remember word of mouth is our best advertisement.

Also in January, we look to the now! This month we are going to be working with the letters K – N, discover arctic giants,

look through my winter window, and learn about hibernation.

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!

- ♥ Mini Marshmallows
- ♥ Large Boxes
- ♥ Oatmeal
- ♥ Bags of Rice
- ♥ Salt
- ♥ Clorox Wipes

Thank you for those that were able to help last month in donating items on the list. Thank you for your support and please keep us all in your prayers as we learn together!

Blessings, from your Director of Atonement Lutheran Preschool,
Sara Westrope



ATONEMENT FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

| General Fund | | Building Fund | | Building Fund Reserve | |
|--|---------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Budgeted Expense | \$35,339.68 | Budget Expense | \$7,925.00 | 9.30.2020 | \$27,369.60 |
| Actual Expenses | \$28,093.17 | Actual Expense | \$7,240.00 | 10.31.2020 | \$24,798.60 |
| Income from Members | \$28,215.37 | Income from members | \$6,303.00 | 11.30.2020 | \$23,861.60 |
| Net Income (loss) from Members October | \$122.20 | Net Income (loss) from Members October | (\$937.00) | | |
| Net Income (loss) from Members YTD | (\$14,542.87) | Net Income (loss) from Members YTD | (\$8,888.24) | | |

Note:

- 10% reduction in payroll expense for November, \$5,240
- Handyman's fund donated \$1,610 to General fund.
- WELCA paid \$3,600 property tax bill for November.

Federal PPP (\$61,545.60) money used March, April, May and June only.

*Thank you for your
Generous support!*

Tom Danielsen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council

FROM THE PASTOR

Never in my life...

Never in my life have I wanted a year to come to an end like I have for 2020. It was filled with thwarted plans, profound disappointments, unwelcomed adjustments, anxious dis-ease, and heartbreaking disease. While I have been chief among the optimists that have tried to sew silver linings into the inky clouds, I've long since lost both my energy and appetite to do so. There have been some mornings that I've unfurled the paper and the bad news du jour has been either met with a shrug or at most a sighing mutter with the words, "What now?" And the thought of doing anything resembling long-range planning still feels like an exercise in futility.

I'm not alone. If you have found yourself in that spot, then you are also with me in my eager hope for the coming year. While we won't be through the days of pandemic until late spring (if the predictors of such things are correct), I'm confident that by the time we turn the next year's calendar, we'll have resumed some semblance of normalcy. That excites me. It's part of what keeps my moving forward.

But the greater motivation has been found in the words of the Apostle Paul.

While writing to the church in Corinth, he offered words of encouragement to a community also languishing in troubled days. Their dis-ease was different than ours, but dis-ease nonetheless. And in the midst of it, they were feeling sorry for themselves – like they were suffering some great injustice – acting as if God had abandon them – and it was each person for themselves. They were tending to their own personal interests and had been reluctant to sacrifice of themselves for the common good.

All of this led the Apostle Paul to write a powerful treatise on the resurrection of the body where in the middle of it, he makes this stunning observation, "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." (1 Cor. 15:19) Paul is calling me to name my self-centered pity, call it out, and let it... die. Yes, the life of the year 2020 will come to an end – it will die. But 2021 will have sorrows of its own.

What I am being called to do is to let that Old Adam in me die. Bury the cynicism. The grievances. The indifference. The sense of personal inconvenience. The self-pity. All of it. Let it die. For in Christ there is a resurrection, and that cannot happen until I turn the page, let go of the things of this world, and let the hope that is in Christ open my heart to a new life, a new day, a new joy... and a New Year.

Anyone else want to join me?

✝ Pastor Darren

May the New Year ring in lots of Love,
Happy Tidings, Good Health and Loads
of Blessings for you and your family!
Happy New Year! - ALC Staff

WEDNESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

We'll begin a new study of the Revised Common Lectionary – doing a deeper dig into the prescribed readings for Sunday's worship service. We'll explore liturgical themes, theological connections, as well as study the narrative contexts of the individual lessons. You will discover the richness of these lectionary selections and find greater insights to enhance your worship experience.

Jan. 6 - Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29,
Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 13 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20],
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

Jan. 20 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31,
Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 27 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

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

JANUARY 2021

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 👉 Jan 1 | Church Office Closed |
| 👉 Jan 6 | Wednesday Zoom Bible Study |
| 👉 Jan 6 | Youth Group |
| 👉 Jan 10 | Stitches-N- Scriptures |
| 👉 Jan 19 | Church Council |
| 👉 Jan 31 | Business Meeting |



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YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who purchased bake sale items or donated to the Atonement Youth Bake Sale this last month. We saw tremendous support and had great success with the online sales. The total amount raised was \$1,500. Thank you for supporting our youth in such a big way!

Youth grades 9th through 12th are all invited to join us for **Senior High Youth Group** on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm January 6th. Bring a friend, your mask and let's have some fun! For more information please contact Nikki doxfam@atonementbillings.org

Nikki Groshans - Director of Youth and Family

Dear Atonement Church Family, Thank you hardly seems enough for all you've done for my family and me during my bout with COVID. Your prayers and cards are so thoughtful. All the food was so greatly appreciated-you keep Don fed while I was in the hospital for all that time. I can only say that I don't know how anyone can make it through something like this without the support of our Christian Family. Thank you!

Marva, Don and Family

Atonement Lutheran, Thank you for your great generosity! We at Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley appreciate your donation of the handmade quilts. We are confident that every child will receive a quilt for the holiday. You're the best! Thank you for your continued support for families in need in our community. What a blessing for so many!

Lisa, Felicia and Michelle – Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley

Thank you staff! On behalf of all of the members of Atonement, the Council would like to extend its thanks to all of our staff for their commitment to Atonement during this most challenging year. They have worked tirelessly, adjusted their programs and sacrificed personally to help Atonement be as vibrant and vital in our community as possible during this difficult year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take any opportunity that you can to extend your own appreciation to our Atonement Staff.