



THE COMMENTATOR

"We bring the hope we share in Christ to all!"

MAY 2013

VOLUME 57—ISSUE 5

* History Wall *

You will soon notice the "history wall" in the gathering room of our church. This is an interactive reflection of Atonement Lutheran's journey from inception to present day. This journey can only be revealed with the help and participation of - **YOU** - members of Atonement. This chronological timeline will allow **YOU** to bring our history to life. Will **YOU** - with pictures and short written comments - share events and times that make Atonement special to **YOU**. Weddings, confirmations, funerals, picnics, VBS times - **YOUR** special times have played a role in shaping our congregation. There are so many important stories to share. Please help by graciously sharing your stories as we bring our church's history to life with pictures and words.



Mark your calendars ...

ATONEMENT PLANT SALE

Friday, May 24th 12:00 P.M.— 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 25th 10:00 A.M.— 6:30 P.M.

407 Wicks Lane (front parking lot)

Annuals, perennials, hanging and potted plants, tomatoes,
zucchini and more!

Gift certificates available (in the church office)!
A great idea for Mother's Day!

There will be a sign-up sheet for those who would like to help.
Funds raised will go for the purchase of furniture for the new church.

Questions? Call Julie Andersen 860-7213 or
Becky Lujan 252-6611





“Because of you ...”

Because of you - God's mission is flourishing at Atonement! How else could it be? Mission and ministry are always a partnership, always lived out in relationship, always with a purpose. The energy flows from God to you and through the entire world. As members of the Body of Christ and heirs to the gifts of the Spirit, your role and work as friend, neighbor, parent, spouse and citizen gives shape to God's mission. Because of you ...

If we will take seriously the “you” in each of us (God does! - After all, God talented each of us differently), then how well do you know each ‘you’ around you? How well do you know people at church? How well are you known by others? Have you talked about your deepest longing? Your most vexing hurt? Do you tell others when you're full of giggles and just want to play? What are your hopes? What are your fears? Have you wondered what God is up to in your life; in the life of that other ‘you’?

It can be a challenge to take the risk to be authentic, to talk about who you are and how you think and feel and see God's presence in your life. It can be hard work to listen - really listen to someone who seems to see or think about life so differently from you. You ought not to wonder then that God gives you a whole life time to practice and grow in the holy work of conversation - listening and speaking from and to the heart.

One of the great privileges of the time of interim is that all the “yous” who gather at Atonement are invited to take the time to join and revel in the holy work of conversation about the mission and ministry of the congregation. Starting this month, the Transition Team will be inviting your conversation and sharing about a wide range of ministry and leadership items. Your honest, thoughtful and authentic sharing will help to shape the way that Atonement prepares as you call new pastoral leadership.

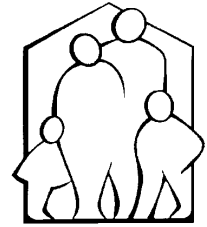
The deep wisdom of community can only be discovered through conversation. Perhaps the most important asset a community - a congregation - has as they face change is the opportunity to talk and to listen. Wisdom is not the possession of one individual or one group. A wise community emerges out of the work and joy and discipline of holy conversation. Who'd have thought that it all comes down to ‘talking’? Not just idle talk, but real talk, honest talk, and real listening.

It may feel as if all we do is ‘talk’ during the transition time. Actually, a lot more is going on, and even if the only thing we notice is that more people are talking, then that is a good start to your ongoing journey to listen to and follow God's call to mission through Atonement to this community and beyond!

Enjoy the holy conversations, especially when the coffee is warm and the wine tastes just right! And let the person across the table from you know how delighted you are to have this conversation with them. You might even find a moment to say, “Because of you ... God keeps me connected to this place!”

IHN Volunteer List.

Many thanks go out to all of you who have volunteered to make this program a success!!! God Bless You!!!



- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Julie Andersen | Sandi & Jesse Gonzalez | Sharlene Molyneaux | |
| Stacy Arneson | Debbie Goodheart | Karen Mayhall | |
| Eleanor Andersen | Shannon Guse | Michelle Morgan | Holly Rensvold |
| Julie Amundson | Deb Heyd | Kim Mangels | Bridger & Tom Rust |
| Judy & Bill Belden | Beth Hoff | Charmaine Meador | Rose Steiner |
| Jack & Vivian Beals | Lisa & Barry Hammond | Joe & Lindsey Meszaros | Milo & Kay Sather |
| Ed & Clara Baker | Sarah Holte | Penny Morse | Marianne Sorenson |
| Maggie & Brooks Beler | Sara Hull | Maria & JoAnn Martin | Lillian Schaefer |
| Vonnie Bell | Jeanne Heine | Phyllis Newton | Nikki Salvesson |
| Jo Bott | Shelia & Gary Howe | Lynn Noland | Daren & Amy Severson |
| Conrad & Phyllis Burns | Chris & Karla Hofer | Doris Noland | KayDel Shelton |
| Mary Belden | Shirley & Mark Jennings | Joyce Nitschke | Patty Struck |
| Diane & Dale Cunningham | Brent & Stormie Jokela | Donna Newell | Joan Seimers |
| Donna Christensen | Ryan & Kyle Jokela | Rane Paulson | Steve & Donna Slater |
| Craig & June Canfield | Kyle & Tammy Johnston | Kim & Louis Plaggemeyer | Dee Dee Stanich |
| Liz Clark | Dorothy Johnson | Terri Porisch | Mary Sutter |
| LaVerna Conard | Erin & Todd Koepf | Gwynn Pederson | Tessa Shelton |
| Merri Clifton | Nancy & Lance King | Jenna Pulkowski | Sue Vold |
| Marva Drain | Donna Kembel | Elinore Quander | Betty Wolff |
| Cindy Dunbar | Julie & Marlon Leno | Debbie Rensvold | Dottie Weagel |
| Shirley DeMars | Linda Lange | Ruth Robillard | Sara Westrope |
| Shellie Ermantraut | Becky Lujan | Janet & Mike Rubich | Shirley & Mark White |
| Dot Erickson | Judy Lawrence | Ed & Rita Reeve | Claire Webber |
| Rita Emond | Dave Larsen | Jean & Don Richard | Terri Wagner |
| Vickie Evans | Liz McClellan | Bunny Robbins | McKenna Wagner |
| Janie Fitch-Meszaros | Linda & Kelly Michaelis | Chris Roedocker | Katy Williams |
| Linda Fiene-Quinn | Di Moser | Larry & Kay Rossow | Pat Zellar |

ALL OF THOSE WHO PRAYED FOR IHN AND OUR GUESTS!!!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts - Julie, Lorraine, and Betty Jo

YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS!!!!

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Shawn Severson | Amanda King | David Hull |
| Erika Severson | Sage Delser | Hailey Johnston |
| Lane Severson | Haylee Hammond | Marissa Delser |
| Olive Manning | Erin Barta | Ben Higgins |
| Abby Quinn | Haley Roedocker | Zach Mangels |
| Nicole Hammond | Roxann Cope | Adam Howe |
| Arielle Tommerup | Dawson Mangels | Emma Quinn |
| Annika Peterson | Angela King | Casey |
| Eric Hansen | Kenna Hofer | Anthony |
| Ian Quinn | Kenton Hofer | |

The young people set-up, tore down, and were “teachers friends” of the IHN guests’ children when their parents attended parenting class.

Great job, all of you!!

Greetings Atonement,

As many of you may have heard, during our Lenten season a group from Atonement met to read and discuss together the book *Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church From Its Lutheran Core* by Kelly Fryer. The intent in choosing this book was to use it as a jumping point into our congregation's Lutheran heritage, and what it means to be a Christian who just so happens to be Lutheran. Does claiming our Lutheranness help us—or does it sometimes hinder us from growing into God's plan for us? Fryer writes that, "The truth is, MOST of the things that many of us associate with being 'Lutheran' are, when you come right down to it, nothing but adiaphora (a-dee-A-fora)" (Fryer, 31). *Adiaphora* is the Greek word for the non-essentials—things that neither help nor hinder people from meeting "the God who always comes down" to us (31).

If a tradition, ritual, or other practice from the church helps people to meet the God who always, always, ALWAYS comes down to us, then it's essential and needs to be in the church. Reading the word, proclamation of the gospel, the sacraments—these are essentials.

Practices like wafers or bread, intinction or common cup, albs, incense, media and technology, music style, which worship hymnal we use, chairs or pews, altar rail or not...these, dear brothers and sisters, are non-essentials, the *adiaphora*. Fryer's point is that when our practices and rituals, examples of which I just listed, get in the way of people meeting the God who loves us so much that he came down to us, then they become hindrances.

What I have come to understand for myself is that what makes us Lutheran is that we proclaim the good news of the crucified and risen Christ, and that there is nothing that will ever help us to get to God. Nothing. No amount of liturgy, contemporary or traditional worship styles, worship space, church membership, or good works will ever allow us to reach God. God comes to us, and the world needs this good news!

I encourage you to discuss these things and more with the members of the book group: myself, Linda Michaelis, Cindy and Gary Dunmeyer, Kim Plaggemeyer, Jack and Vivian Beals, Vicki and Alie Evans, Stacey Arneson, and John Olsen. There are also several copies of the book still available if you would like to read it for yourself.

Let us boldly proclaim that it is by grace through faith alone that we have been saved, by the God who lovingly comes to us.

Peace,
Vicar Jenna

**INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY
NETWORK:
MAY 5TH THROUGH MAY 12TH**

Our guests will be arriving at 5 p.m. Sunday the 5th. We have 3 families so far and maybe we will have one more by the time they arrive. Please volunteer in some way to help host our guests. The pink clipboards will be passed around during church. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please call

Betty Jo @ 248-4498.

Check the newsletter and thank our volunteers that we so much appreciate so far this year We also would be thrilled to have someone who has not volunteered.

It is a great service!!!



Caregivers,

Just a note to thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. It is made so nice and so soft, it's so wonderful. I used it in the hospital getting wheeled to treatment. And at my sister's, I have it on my bed. The colors are so nice too, I have had lots of compliments on it. Thanks again!

Very Sincerely,

Joan Baker



Giving Our Time & Talents to God - Page 1

Communion Preparers

May 5: Judy & Bill Belden
 May 12: Diane Cunningham
 May 19: Betty Jo Furstenberg
 May 26: Tammy Johnston

Communion Bread

May ~ Donna Kembel
 June ~ Gwynn Pederson



Lectors



	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>9:45 AM</u>
<u>May 5:</u>	Tina Williams	Angela King
<u>May 12:</u>	Lora Pederson	Gary Dunmeyer
<u>May 19:</u>	Pat Zellar	Marilyn Franklin
<u>May 26:</u>	Janet Rubich	Todd Koepp

Acolytes



May 5:
 8:00 a.m. David Hull
 9:45 a.m. Deyon Dixon

May 12:
 8:00 a.m. Nicole Hammond
 9:45 a.m. Trisha Johnson

May 19:
 8:00 a.m. Kenna Hofer
 9:45 a.m. Dawson Mangels

May 26:
 8:00 a.m. Kara White
 9:45 a.m. Armani Murrell

Hospital Visitation



May ~ Erin Koepp
 June ~ Betty Jo Furstenberg

Sharing Flowers for Worship

May 5: Joyce Nitschke
May 12: Todd & Erin Koepp
May 19: Kim & Louis Plaggemeyer; Vivian & Jack Beals
May 26: Linda & Kelly Michaelis



The 2013 Flower Chart is on the table outside the office at the back of the sanctuary. Cost is \$25.00 per Sunday for two bouquets given in honor or memory of a loved one.

Van Drivers

<u>May 5 :</u>	Mark Jennings	248-8044
<u>May 12:</u>	Marlon Leno	248-5359
<u>May 19:</u>	Stan Newton	245-8465
<u>May 26:</u>	Kyle Johnston	256-1980



Common Grounds Time & Talent List



May: Peanut Butter

Giving Our Time & Talents to God - Page 2

2013 Atonement Lutheran Church Council

Lance King, President	656-1183
Vivian Beals, Vice President	248-7930
Kim Plaggemeyer, Secretary	860-0365
Gary Dunmeyer, Treasurer	724-552-6693
Tyler Westrope, Past President	670-3878
Linda Lange	245-4766
Dave Mangels	256-2029
Doug Harper	373-6384
Sara Hull	245-6414
Debbie Rensvold	259-2485
Jesse Gonzalez	698-7709
Don Richard	248-9934
Alie Evans - Youth Representative	896-0310



8:00 AM Ushers

- May 5:** Mike & Janet Rubich; Dale Molyneaux; Debi Goodheart
- May 12:** Lora Pederson; John & Bertha Olson; Karen Underwood
- May 19:** Vicki Leatherberry; Del & Rose Steiner; Francesca Lees
- May 26:** Bill & Judy Belden; Ed & Rita Reeve

Cantors

May 5 :

- 8:00 a.m. Gary Dunmeyer
- 9:45 a.m. SONO ME

May 12:

- 8:00 a.m. Linda Michaelis
Kelly Michaelis
- 9:45 a.m. Charlie Plaggemeyer
Louis Plaggemeyer

May 19:

- 8:00 a.m. Terri Porisch
- 9:45 a.m. Becky Lujan
Joe Conard

May 26:

- 8:00 a.m. Elinore Quander
- 9:45 a.m. Lisa Hammond
Emma Quinn

9:45 AM Ushers

- May 5:** Mark & Shirley Jennings; Louis Plaggemeyer; Kelly & Linda Michaelis; DeeDee Stanich
- May 12:** Jesse & Sandy Gonzalez; Donna & Dennis Newell; Joan Siemers; Betty Jo Furstenberg
- May 19:** Daren, Amy, Lane & Shaun Severson; Gene & Stacey Arneson
- May 26:** Dale Cunningham; Steve & Donna Slater; Craig & June Canfield; Cindy Dunmeyer

Piano Schedule ~ 9:45 a.m. Worship

- May 5:** Briana Guse
- May 12:** Elinore Quander
- May 19:** Sara Hull
- May 26:** Sara Hull



Prayers for Members of our Congregation

Pray for blessings, health, safety and general well-being of these members of Atonement. Give thanks for all who are workers with us in the mission we share.

May 5: Michael, Jamie & Robert Hass; Chais Heaston; Bernie & Debbie Hedrick; Jeanne Heine

May 12: Jacob & Parker Henning; Randy, Beth, Katie & Alex Henning; Clyde & Debbie Heyd; Mary Ann Hickman; Benjamin Higgins

May 19: Melissa, Kyra, Alex & Lily Hilario; Stacey Hindman & Teron Newell; Mary Hinkley & Joshua Kelly; Ed & Susan Hoem

May 26: Chris, Karla, Keaton & Kenna Hofer; Howard Hoff; Howard & Cindy Hoff; Mitchell, Beth, Jennifer, Katie & Michelle Hoff



PRAYERS
of the
WEEK

Counted Cross Stitch

If there is anyone doing this hand work, and they would like all of the supplies, call Eleanor Andersen

259-8467



Looking for Adventure?

Look no further than this summer's Vacation Bible School! **KINGDOM ROCK!** Where Kids Stand Strong for God.

Mark your calendars now for
July 28th - August 2nd.

If you are willing to help with VBS please sign up on the clipboards which will be available on the back table of the worship area. We are looking for all kinds of helpers! If you have any questions please contact Sara Westrope at 860-7664.

We need your help!

With our new leader firmly in place, the **Care Team Ministry** has been working on rebuilding our committee in order to continue to provide our services where they are needed. Here are just some of the things we do:

- delivering baskets to people who have been ill, hospitalized or suffered the loss of a family member
- delivering baskets to parents of new babies
- delivering meals (pre-funeral or post hospitalization)
- light housekeeping
- miscellaneous shopping
- visiting shut-ins (playing cards, reading or for companionship)



Our greatest challenge is identifying individuals in need of our services. We are asking you, our church family, to help us with this task. If you know anyone who is sick, has had a new baby or just needs a little help, please contact us through the church office at 245-7004 or call our chairperson, Rita Emond, at 696-7910 or 896-0107. In addition, if you feel called to assist this vital ministry as a volunteer we would happily welcome you. There is no minimum expectation regarding your level of commitment. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!

Christikon:

The number of youth going to Christikon this summer is very low, and we hope to see this number increase! For every child going to Christikon, WELCA is gifting them \$50. There is also more money available, and we want as many youth to be able to go as possible, so please let us know how we can help you! Don't forget about the bring a friend program: If you bring a friend that has never been, they only pay HALF the cost!

Hope Circle

After the meeting on May 16, 2013, Hope Circle will recess until September 19, 2013. Hope Circle does not meet during the summer months of June, July, and August.

TUMBLEWEED CLOTHING DRIVE

Atonement Youth is putting on a clothing drive for the Tumbleweed program, a non-profit, community-based agency which provides services to runaway, homeless, and otherwise at-risk youth and their families. They are in great need of clothing for their closet, and since it's spring cleaning time again, it is a perfect time to go through our own closets. The program is also in need of laundry detergent pods and dryer sheets, so that the youth can wash their clothing. Please drop your donations off by May 26th in the labeled box at the back of the church.



The Love Offering for May~ Lutheran Social Services - MT



Love Offering envelopes can now be found on the two tables at the back of the sanctuary.

Christikon Clips



May, 2013

Information for our Congregations

It's not too late to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults, including the Work Week-end, May 24-27. You can register online, or use the forms distributed with the youth and family/adult brochures in your congregation. Or call us at the camp office for further information.

Christikon covers the full costs for each at-risk kid participating in Sojourners Camp. (We expect to have 24 this summer) We invite individuals, congregations and their auxiliaries to consider special giving for camp scholarships this summer.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Mountain Weekend 1 (July 5-7) we feature **Steven Loy**, pastor of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Billings. During both the Continuing Education Retreat (July 30-Aug. 2), and Mountain Weekend 2 (Aug. 2-4), we are joined by **Sarah Henrich**, who teaches New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and **John Henrichs**, who works as a psychologist/therapist and ministry development professional. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us.

Remember to pray for your congregation's ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ—exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West •
Billings, MT 59102

406 656-1969 • christikon@aol.com •
www.christikon.org

Financial Report

March 2013 Income \$34,413.54
 March 2013 Expenses \$27,414.52

April 2013 Offerings & Income

April 7, 2013 \$3634.32
 April 14, 2013 \$4604.72
 April 21, 2013 \$5851.00
 April 28, 2013 \$4915.53
 Simply Giving through
 04/30/13 \$5244.00

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

04/21/13 Hannah Lucille Waldron
 04/27/13 Christian Michael Edwards
 04/28/13 Claye Grant Peterson

Funerals:

04/12/13 Diane Lynn Weil

Friendship Club

Speaker:

Amy Grandpre from Yellowstone
 County Extension Office

Program:

If you wish you could still garden,
 Or you would like to make
 gardening a little easier ...



May 8, 2013 11:30 AM

JOY Bible Study



Bible Study

The JOY Bible Study is a
 women's study group that
 meets every Wednesday at
 6:30 a.m. at City Brew.

Hope Circle

*Hope Circle meets May 16th @ 9:30 a.m. @
 Atonement. The Bible study is from Gather mag-
 azine (formerly Lutheran Woman Today).*



Wonderful Wednesday -

**May 8th @ 6PM at
 Montana Jack's**

Marvelous Monday!
 Wonderful Wednesday!

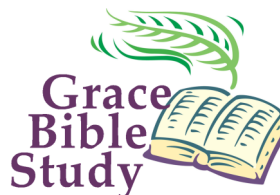
**Marvelous Monday -
 May 20th @ 6 PM at
 The Vig**

Thursday Bible Study



Thursday Bible Study ~
 9:30 a.m. ~
 Novak Room
*Reading through the Old
 Testament*

GRACE BIBLE STUDY



will not meet until further
 notice.

For information,
 contact Tina Williams at 256-7761.



407 Wicks Lane • Billings, MT 59105

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Billings, MT

Permit #904

Atonement Lutheran Church

406-245-7004 Fax: 406-245-6951

www.atonementbillings.org

pastor@atonementbillings.org

joann@atonementbillings.org

vicarjennap@gmail.com

Atonement Staff

Interim Pastor	Philip Reitz
Pastoral Intern.	Jenna Pulkowski
Office Manager	Joann Estal
Organist	Gwynn Pederson
Chapel Choir Director	Emily Prouty



**... just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may **live a new life.** ROMANS 6:4**