

The Commentator

What's INSIDE?

- 2 Atonement Lutheran Preschool
- 2 WELCA Fall Bazaar
- 2 Financial News
- 3 From the Pastor Darren
- 3 Bible Studies
- 4 Calendar Highlights
- 4 Youth News



- ❖ ****See list posted in the Commons at the Food Bank shelf.**
- ❖ Sanitation Team Members
- ❖ Sound & Tech Booth Volunteers

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club will meet at 11:15am Wed. October 6th for lunch at Billings Heights Senior Alliance located at 935 Lake Elmo Dr. You must call for a reservation before noon Oct. 5th at 406-606-1170. For more information and details please call Sandi Gonzalez with any questions.



CHAPEL CHOIR & SPECIAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OCT.

- Oct. 3rd Special Music
- Oct. 17th Special Music
- Oct 31st Chapel Choir 10:30am



Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

Pastor Darren is leaving us at the end of September to engage in a new challenge of ministry at St. John's United. We will miss him (and Trudi) tremendously after excellent service to our congregation for the last seven years. Thank you for being a major part of our faith journey.

We will savor memories of the many services, events, and gatherings we experienced together at Atonement Lutheran. Our thoughts, prayers and support are with you in your new career path.

Church council and staff are moving forward in preparing for this transition time between pastors to maintain stability and continuity. We are in contact with the Montana Synod and excellent local resources to schedule pulpit supply and support. A call committee is being named to spearhead the call for our next pastor. Thank you to all involved in this process and thanks to our congregation for your support and patience.

The past eighteen months with the COVID-19 and Delta threat has been challenging and unsettling. Pastor Darren likened it to slipping and sliding on black ice. Council continues to monitor and respond to the ever-changing situation. Thanks to everyone for responding positively to the various conditions requested of you.

Prayerfully,

Dennis Roseleip-Atonement Council President

ALL COMMITTEE'S MEETING

All committees, committee chairs and ministry leadership are asked to make plans for our bi-annual meeting on Thursday evening, October 14th starting at 6:30pm. It is important for all attendance as we will have discussion regarding the Strategic plan and more. For details, please contact one of the Executive Committee. *Dennis Roseleip, Dallas Kucera, Mark Halvorson, or Tom Danielsen.*

Reformation Sunday

October 31st

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



WELCA FALL BAZAAR

Due to the extreme rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in Yellowstone County, The WELCA board has decided to hold an online bazaar again this year. There will be a link on the Atonement website. If you have anything you would like to sell in the bazaar, please contact Julie Leno or Julie Andersen.

If in the next month, there is a dramatic decrease in the COVID case numbers WELCA will consider bringing the bazaar back inside the Church building.

Please check the November commentator for more details.

Atonement WELCA Board

LWR SCHOOL KITS

Lutheran World Relief School Kits update Thanks to the generosity of the members of Atonement and a service grant from Thrivent financial, we were able to fill 277 LWR school kits this year!

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

We are now one month into the new school year and having a fun time getting to know one another! This month we are starting to work on our ABCs with the letters A, B, C, & D. We will be doing fun arts & crafts, all sorts of projects with apples, bubble painting, going on a field trip to the Corn Maize and Pumpkin Patch, exploring dinosaurs, and more! We also will be learning more about the Fruits of the Spirit with Patience.

During the month of October, we will be having a Krispy Kreme Doughnut Fundraiser for our Preschool. October 3rd – 18th we will be selling dozen original glazed doughnuts gift certificates along with Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.



We are looking for some help with finding some of the supplies. We are looking for...

- ♥ Buttons
- ♥ Cotton balls
- ♥ Google eyes
- ♥ Feathers
- ♥ Elbow Noodles
- ♥ Marshmallows
- ♥ Plastic Spiders
- ♥ Albertsons, Target, or Walmart Gift cards

Doesn't preschool sound like fun? If you would like to volunteer some of your time, please let me know! Thank you for your prayers and support! Blessings,

Sara Westrope-Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director

SPRINKLER BLOWOUT/ADOPT-A-PLOT GUIDELINES

The Annual Sprinkler Blowout will take place October 2 & 3 with Atonement members, friends, and neighbors welcome to sign up for irrigation winterization. It is essential that systems have water turned off and drained back into the house prior to our arrival on sight. Accurate contact and address information on the sign-up forms will assure that you will be contacted just prior to our arrival. Because the event spans two days (Saturday and Sunday), we cannot guarantee which day your property will be completed on, but the majority of homes will be done on Saturday as two compressors have been reserved for that day. As this is our fundraiser, any donation will be accepted, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide you this service. Questions can be directed to Todd Koepp.

Adopt-a-Plot volunteers may begin trimming down bushes and plants in their areas during October. Tall grasses can be left, but bushes can be cut down to 12-18 inches high. Weeding would be helpful to minimize growth in the spring. Grass infringing on rock areas should be pulled out up to the edging. Day lilies can be cut down to 3-4 inches removing all dead leaves. Again, if you have questions, please direct to any member of the Property Committee. Thank you for your continued maintenance of your Adopt-a-Plot areas this year. The grounds continue to look well groomed, even though this pandemic year.

FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST 2021

General Fund August 2021		Building Fund August 2021		Building Reserve	
Actual Expense	\$33,604.09	August Monthly Mortgage	\$7,240.00	05/21	\$22,794.05
August Income	\$26,917.79	August Income	\$6,071.00	06/21	\$21,047.05
Net Income August	(\$6, 866.30)	August Net Income	(\$1,169.00)	07/21	\$19,181.05
Net Income YTD	\$5,484.97	Net Income YTD	(\$8,926.00)	08/21	\$18,012.05

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!

FROM THE PASTOR

God is good. All the time.

These words come as both an affirmation and a reassurance to us. When all is well, and the skies are blue then it is usually easy to punctuate this announcement with an "Amen!" However, when things are uncertain, when we are ill-at-ease, when we receive disappointing news, then this comes as an encouragement. It invites us to reflect on the times we have clearly seen the goodness of God, bringing abundant blessings when we least expected it. Whenever I read scripture and see the numerous litanies of "I am the Lord your God", "the God of Jacob and Isaac", "the God who brought you out of the wilderness", "the God who brought manna in the desert", etc., this isn't just a narrowing of God's identity, rather it is an expansion of our hope by reminding us of what God *has done*, and of what God *is doing*, but is also a promise of what God *will do*!

It has been my privilege to witness the things that God has been doing as we have walked together for 7 years. Together, we have had spiritual mountaintop experiences, and we have slogged through some valleys. All the time, God has been good. I've even recalled with you some of your deeper history of the ups and downs, the joys and challenges, of life together over your nearly 60 years of history. Every page of that history, it is clear to see what God has done... what God is doing... and affirms the promise of what God will continue to do! I'm excited to see what the future will unfold.

So my final word of affirmation and assurance as you, God's people of Atonement, navigate your way through the challenges that the days and years ahead will bring, cling to the promise that God is good! All the time.

✝ Pastor Darren

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!

GROWING THE SEEDS OF FAITH - CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Breaking News!!! The Growing the Seeds of Faith Capital Campaign has generated contributions sufficient that Atonement will qualify for a second mortgage payment reduction. The request for this adjustment (*a significant decrease – preliminary estimate of \$740*) is being processed now. This adjustment will be applied to our mortgage payment starting in November. The Campaign Team will communicate the full details in an email blast or in the November Commentator. Thank you all for your continued support of this Capital Campaign effort!

Tyler Westrope and Mark Halvorson – Capital Campaign Chairpersons



SANITATION TEAM

With the increase of two weekly worship services and the need to provide additional sanitation in the facility. We are in need of **volunteers** to help with **Sanitation Team!** Sanitizing between services and after the 10:30 service on Sundays will tax the small team of volunteers we have now. Please consider helping in this ministry by contacting Vivian Beals, Teresa Beals or the office for more information and to find out how you can volunteer.

WEDNESDAY'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00AM

Oct. 6th

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Oct 13th

Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Oct. 20th

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Oct. 27th

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

THANK YOU FROM THE HEART...

Dear Atonement, WELCA thank you for your donation of \$300. We were able to purchase 18 (6 queen, 12 twin) blankets. This marks our 39th year in ministry. Luther's Lodge is open 365 days every year providing lodging to many through stressful times of long stays away from home for medical visits. Thank you for entrusting us with your generosity.

Yvonne Eckhardt-Luther's Lodge



1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.
 Billings, Montana 59105
 (406) 245-7004
 atonementbillings.org

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Billings, MT



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



OCTOBER 2021

- ☞ Oct 2/3 Sprinkler Winterization
- ☞ Oct 3 J.A.M. Youth Group (3rd-6th)
- ☞ Oct 6 Friendship Club 11:45am*
- ☞ Oct 8-10 Confirmation Retreat
- ☞ Oct 10 Milestone Ministry Pre-K
- ☞ Oct 14 All Committee's Meeting
- ☞ Oct 17 J.A.M. Youth Group (3rd-6th)
- ☞ Oct 19 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Oct 21 Hope Circle Bible
- ☞ Oct 24 Chapel Choir 10:30am
- ☞ Oct 31 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
- ☞ Oct 31 Reformation Sunday

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

On Sunday, October 31st (Reformation Sunday) during the 10:30 service 3rd grade students will be presented with their Bible. This is after their loved ones have had a chance to personalize it with prayers, blessings, and highlighted verses. Parents, family, godparents, and friends are all welcome to come and celebrate in this faith milestone.

Starting October 31st, Atonement youth attending the 2022 National Youth Gathering will be selling raffle tickets for a Gift Card Wreath. This wreath is made up of hundreds of dollars' worth of gift cards from local small businesses as well as chain stores. The winner of the raffle will be announced on November 21st during the 10:30 service.

October 8th -10th, Confirmation Leaders and students will be at Christikon Bible Camp for the Confirmation Retreat. Students will leave from the church at 2:30 pm on Friday and return to the church at 2:00 on Sunday the 10th.

Nikki Groshans – Director of Youth and Family Ministries



On October 13th, Atonement youth will be having a fundraiser with Panda Express. By using our special coupon code with your purchase Panda Express will donate 20% of each purchase to our youth cause of attending the National Youth Gathering next summer. Stay tuned for the announcement of our special code via announcement and handouts during Sunday services.