

The Commentator

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HOW you can HELP

- ❖ Sunday School, helpers, and teachers

SOCKTOBER 2023—Atonement Evangelism Committee will be collecting "Winter Socks"!

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
September 13th
The Vig 6PM

Marvelous Monday
September 25th
**Perkins (on 27th) FREE Pie Day!
6PM**
Come and join the conversation.

ANNUAL SPRINKLER BLOWOUT FALL 2023

The Annual Sprinkler Blowout and Winterization will take place on October 6th, 7th & 8th, and October 14th & 15th this year. This year we will expand the event to 2 weekends so your friends and neighbors can also take advantage of the service. Some slots will be available during the week if work crews are available. Forms will be available during September at the church. We would ask that you provide forms to your friends and neighbors, so they know the preparation requirements and dates. We need their contact information, including phone number, so

we can contact them with an estimated time of our arrival. Please share that all systems are to be back drained before our arrival and that we do not take responsibility for damage that occurs because of failure to drain by the homeowners. The event is a fund raiser for the Handyman's ministry but is not restricted for inability to donate. Funds this year will be directed to parking lot crack repair. Please contact Todd Koepf with any questions. Thank you for supporting this event and our ministry.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS 2023

God's Work Our Hands is Sept 10th! The Evangelism Committee is once again taking baskets of goodies to the fire stations for GWOH Sunday. We had such a wonderful response from so many of you last year, we are planning on doing it again, but we are expanding it to the sheriff, police, and AMR. We need donations for the baskets, there will be a box for the non-perishables, and baked goods should be brought to the church either sometime Saturday or Sunday morning. We will also need volunteers to help deliver the baskets so there will be a

signup sheet posted in the Commons area. This was such a fun and joy-filled experience, please plan on joining us!



"God's work. Our hands."



Join us for a day of service



BLOOD DRIVE SAVES LIVES

WELCA will be hosting a Vitalant Blood Drive on Thursday, September 28th beginning at 4:00pm. Please contact June Canfield for details and to get signed up. Donating Blood Makes an Impact, Your Role in the World Matters! When you give blood with Vitalant, you have the potential to help hospital patients within your community and, when the need arises, others across the country.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Sept 24th, Installation of Pastor Ryan, 2:00 at Atonement

Pastor Ryan will be officially installed by the Associate to the Bishop of our Montana Synod on Sunday, September 24th at 2:00. We invite all who can join us for this very special service. During the service we'll recognize and honor those pastors and LPAs who pulpit supplied for almost two years while we were in the call process. We'll install Pr. Ryan and have invited local clergy to join in the rite of installation. We'll also celebrate after the service with food as is our tradition at Atonement. Please join us on September 24th!

ALC OUTDOORS

Outdoor Ministry possible Camping Sept. 22-24th Let Sandi know if interested 406-671-7199. Outdoor Ministry planning on elk viewing Sept. 29th -Oct. 1st. Slippery Ann. Contact Ryan Kapperud 218-790-4066.



QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with device camera

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Back to School Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

Atonement Lutheran Preschool is ready to start another fun-filled year on September 6th! We are looking forward to learning all about our students and their families. We will be hosting Pastries with Parents on Friday, September 15th at 8:45 AM for our parents/guardians and our students as a way for us to get to know each other.

During the month of September, we will be learning or reviewing some of the key concepts we will be working on during the preschool year: writing, cutting, & gluing. We will also be starting to work on the letters of the alphabet starting at the beginning with A & B!

Our theme for the 2023-2024 preschool year is "Seasons of the Year!" emphasizing Ecclesiastes 3:1 NRSV "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." With it being the end of Summer, we will be exploring that along with what the students did during their summer.

We could use your help with some of the supplies we will be working with in the coming month. If you can find and donate these items below are some other items, we are looking for to help during the school year...

- ♥ Red, Yellow, & Green Pipe Cleaners
- ♥ Red Paper Plates
- ♥ Animal Crackers
- ♥ Dried Beans
- ♥ Bubble Wrap
- ♥ Tootsies Pop Suckers
- ♥ Corn Kernels
- ♥ Walmart/Target/Albertsons Gift Card

Thank you to those that were able to help and thank you for your support and please keep us all in your prayers as we are on break for the summer!

Blessings, Sara Westrope - Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



New Members Class will be offered Sunday, October 1st, following the service. If you are new to, transferring in or just want to learn more about Atonement Lutheran please make plans to join us! Please contact the church office to get signed up.

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2023

General Fund July 2023			
July Budget Expense	\$46,951	July Actual Expenses	\$24,257
July Budget Income	\$24,533	July Actual Income	\$25,425
July Net Income	\$1,168	Net Income YTD	\$3,960
Building Fund July 2023			
July Mortgage	\$5,800.00	July Actual Income	\$5,606
July Net Income	(\$194)	Net. Income YTD	\$4,674

Tom Danielsen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council

Get connected this fall at Atonement!

HOPE CIRCLE LADIES' STITCHES & SCRIPTURES

Starting up on September 21st! Hope Circle Women's Bible Study. This group uses the "Lutheran Women Today" Bible study format. Meeting at 9:30am on the third Thursday of each month at Atonement. Contact Bette Wolff for more information.

Welcome to Fall! Stitches and Scriptures will begin again this fall on Sunday, September 10th, at 10:45am in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome! Young or old, learn how to knit or crochet a prayer shawl, or work on the stitching project of your choice. We would love to have you! For any information, please contact Jane Hansen

J.O.Y BIBLE STUDY

Coffee, tea, laughter, and scripture with fun thoughtful life discussions. Meeting at 6:30am every Wednesday morning at Montana Jack's on Hansen Ln. Contact Michel Poodry for more information.

CHAPEL CHOIR NOTES

Hello, everyone!!

Jacoby and I are excited to get church choir up and running again! Here are a couple of reminders.

1. Rehearsal will remain the same time (Sunday after the service). If this is an issue, please Contact Sydney. I am happy to hear your concerns.
2. Our first rehearsal will be September 3rd.
3. If you have names of people who might be interested in joining choir, please let me know!
4. I will have hard copies of our rehearsal schedule at our first rehearsal as well.

Sydney and Jacoby Holte

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Orientation for 7th and 8th grade students and their parents will be held on Wednesday September 13th at 7:00 pm in the Jerusalem room. We will discuss what to expect this year as well as go over the schedule and handbook.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
INFO TO COME!

LWR SCHOOL KITS

Thanks to everyone who has donated school kit items, we have 10 complete kits and have partially filled 144 more kits. To complete these kits, we need:

- ❖ 144 crayons (24ct)
- ❖ 50 blunt scissors
- ❖ 150 #2 pencils
- ❖ 30 rulers' w/centimeters
- ❖ 220 70ct. Spiral bound notebooks
- ❖ 10 2" erasers (approx.)

Thanks, Atonement, for everything you do!

Julie Leno

THANK YOU!

Dear Atonement Family, We are so touched by the outpouring of love and support you have provided to us. Prayer shawls, food, prayers, and cards have helped us as we grieve. Words cannot express our gratitude. Blessings to you all.

Kim, Angie, and Charles Plaggemeyer.

FPYV RETURNS TO ATONEMENT THIS FALL

The families without homes who are working in the emergency program of Family Promise will be Atonement's guests, in person, for the week of October 8-14. We are excited that this ministry is being able to return to our church home after several years of interruption. We encourage members to be generous with their time and volunteer to help in some way. We will first need people to help set up the Sunday School rooms for the families after church October 8. That evening, the families will arrive between 5-6pm, then we will serve and share the first meal with them. They usually go to bed soon after supper cleanup, as their days are long, and they must be out of the church by the next morning at 6am. We need ALC members to bring food for supper meals (not the whole meal, but just parts of the meals) for seven days. We also need meal hosts, who set the tables and serve/eat supper/cleanup with families from 5-6pm and night hosts (who sleep in the nurse) from 8pm until 6 am the next morning. On Sunday, October 15th, a tear down team will put the Sunday School room back in order and put away beds and supplies until our next opportunity to serve in this way in December, and finally, Atonement members take home bags of the bed linen to wash. Please consider how you and your family can take part. It's a great intergenerational activity for Atonement members to follow the message of Jesus to feed the hungry and offer housing to these families while they work on restoring their lives. Those families who complete the program have a 90% success rate at being in sustained housing after five years and our involvement helps with their success. Please contact Janie Fitch-Danielsen for more information

FROM THE PASTOR

A few months ago, I read a periodic blog that really struck me. I was reading a weekly e-newsletter from an organization that is embroiled in toxic conflict. And the leader used her periodic column in the weekly newsletter to passive aggressively call out conflict as inherently sinful.

“Really? Really? Conflict is evil?” I immediately questioned.

My second thought was that this leader has already lost. They are a leader in name only. And finally, I came to the conclusion that there’s nothing worse than a so-called leader using a column/e-newsletter blog to call out conflict. As I was reading, I couldn’t help but feel manipulated and, to be honest, it felt sad.

So, let’s actually talk about conflict. Because conflict is inevitable in any organization AND conflict is neither inherently good nor evil. It’s just natural.

Here are some observations on conflict in the Bible that I and others have made:

First, the Bible is actually full of conflict. I mean full. Most of the Bible is about people in conflict with themselves, other individuals, or nations. Good grief, most of Paul’s letters in the New Testament were written to address conflict in church (I know, you’re stunned that there were church conflicts then too). Actually, the Bible begins with conflict — conflict, or chaos, is there at the beginning of all creation.

Which brings me to a second observation, God creates the heavens and the earth out of the chaos. Conflict can be the source of something new and beautiful emerging. The Chinese symbol for conflict is a synthesis of opportunity and danger. Mirroring this symbol, all the stories about conflict in the Bible result in new opportunities or significant danger — a chance for blessings and new realities to be born or a chance for pain.

Third, conflict is also an opportunity to learn something new about God, transformation, and justice. When people in the scriptures open themselves up during conflict, they always come through blessed with some deeper understanding of God, love, and justice, and end up radically transformed. Sometimes they even end up with new names.

Fourth, Christ calls us to be peacemakers. Not peacekeepers. The Bible is filled with stories of both political and religious leaders trying to just keep the peace. And guess what? Those stories (much like all of history, especially 20th and 21st century) never end in peace. Real peace is something cultivated and made. We can never keep everyone happy. We aren’t called to just be nice. We are called to love. In love we get to facilitate spaces for peace to be made.

And fifth, really that’s all the church is called to do — come together to curate the space for God’s work of reconciliation and healing to happen. Reconciliation and healing is God’s work and God’s responsibility. Christ saves us. We do not save each other. We do not fix each other. Nor do we fix each other’s relationships or problems. God saves. Moreover, we really do not solve conflict when we talk to someone to then talk to someone else about someone else’s conflict. That — to paraphrase Taylor Swift — never ever ever works. It never ever ever brings people back together.

Finally, sixth, when conflict leads to newness it’s best to then simply manage the conflict. But when conflict leads to harm and danger, the conflict needs to be resolved. Yes, humans in the Bible and throughout time learn and grow best in times of conflict and out of comfort zones. However, when humans are pushed into harm, God intends for the conflict to be resolved.

If this felt helpful to you, please directly let me know. We can even spend some more time writing and thinking about conflict. There’s this incredible story of Sampson (not THAT one about his hair and Delilah) and foxes with their tails tied and set on fire — I’m not making that up. There’s the whole Matthew 18 discourse on making peace in churches when someone has offended you. Oh, and then there’s this entire book called Jonah about a guy — Jonah — who doesn’t want to deal with conflict at all and so ends up swallowed by a fish and then ends up miserable with a dead gourd from his Lord. Again, I’m not making that up. I mean, who knew talking about the Bible and conflict could be so fun and colorful.

Pastor Ryan



FALL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE 2023

Abundance. The Stewardship Committee and Capital Campaign folks are working hard to transition our stewarding efforts into this Fall's Stewardship drive with the theme of Abundance.

They asked me to write a little teaser about this theme, so here it is:

We are all called by God, through scriptures, songs, and our lives, to see abundance rather than scarcity. It's so easy in life to feel as if there is never enough time, never enough money, never enough resources....and yet, God faithfully and outrageously shows up through it all constantly showing and pouring out abundance.

Churches certainly can easily fall into the trap of a scarcity mindset: celebrating keeping a budget flat; seeking to survive rather than thrive; assuming we must make cuts rather than raise income.

But that is not who Atonement is. And that is not what God is calling us to be.

God is calling is towards Abundance.

So, I, and these committees, call you to look out for temple talks and chats, a non-gross sermon series on Abundance and stewardship, letters, and pledge cards. Let's celebrate Abundance.

Pastor Ryan

We Bring The Hope We Share In Christ To All!

Atonement Lutheran Church – September 2023

SUNDAY						MONDAY						TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY				
August 2023						October 2023																		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7										1		2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14											
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21											
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28											
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31															
9:15 am Worship Service Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Chapel Choir Rehearsal	3	Labor Day Office Closed 7:00 pm Al-Anon/Alateen	4	1:00 pm Quilters	5	6:30 am J.O.Y. Bible Study 10:00 am Wed. Bible Study 9:00 am 1st Day Preschool	6		7		8		9											
God's Work, Our Hands 9:15 am Worship Service Second Sunday Sandwich's 10:30 am Chapel Choir Rehearsal Stitches & Scriptures 11:30 am All Church Potluck	10	6:30 pm WELCA Board 7:00 pm Youth, Family & Ed 7:00 pm Property Committee 7:00 pm Al-Anon/Alateen	11	1:00 pm Quilters 4:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting 6:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm Evangelism	12	6:30 am J.O.Y. Bible Study 10:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:00 pm WW Meal-The Vig 7:00 pm Confirmation Orientation	13		14		15		16											
Rally Sunday 9:15 am Worship Service Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Chapel Choir Rehearsal Stitches & Scriptures	17	7:00 pm Al-Anon/Alateen	18	1:00 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council	19	Kick Off Wed. Youth Night 6:30 am J.O.Y. Bible Study 10:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:00 pm Youth Meal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Youth Group 9 th – 12 th gr	20	9:30 am Hope Circle Ladies Bible Study	21		22		23											
9:15 am Worship Service 3rd Grade Bibles Coffee Fellowship J.A.M. 3 rd – 6 th gr 10:30 am Chapel Choir Rehearsal Stitches & Scriptures 2:00 pm Installation Service	24	6:00 pm MM Meal—Perkins 7:00 pm Al-Anon/Alateen	25	1:00 pm Quilters	26	6:30 am J.O.Y. Bible Study 10:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:00 pm Youth Meal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class Youth Group 9 th – 12 th gr	27	4:00 pm WELCA Blood Drive	28		29		30											



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ATONEMENT FALL BAZAAR 11.04.2023!!!

YOUTH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

- ☞ Sept 3 Chapel Choir Rehearsal
- ☞ Sept 4 Labor Day-Office Closed
- ☞ Sept 6 1st Day of Preschool
- ☞ Sept 10 God's Work, Our Hands
Day of Service
- ☞ Sept 13 Confirmation Orientation
- ☞ Sept 17 Rally Sunday
- ☞ Sept 19 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Sept 20 Youth Night Kick Off
Youth Meal
Confirmation Classes
High School Youth Group
- ☞ Sept 21 Hope Circle Ladies Bible
Study
- ☞ Sept 24 Sunday School Begins
(Pre-K – 6th Gr)
Installation Service
- ☞ Sept 28 WELCA Blood Drive

September 17th is Rally Sunday. Following service, the Atonement Youth will be serving a free-will donation Brunch Buffet and hosting cornhole games on the lawn. If you have a corn hole board you would like to donate for the day, please reach out to Nikki Groshans. This fun event is to help celebrate Rally Sunday and the start off our program year. There will be a variety of brunch options and all funds raised will go towards helping our youth attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. There will also be a table to register students for the 2023-2024 Sunday school year as well as ice cream and party favors. We hope to see you there!

On Wednesday September 20th, Atonement's Wednesday evening youth programs will kick off. Both High School Youth Group and Confirmation will be starting at 6:00 pm and closing at 8:00 pm. We are excited to start off our program year and can't wait to see everyone. If you have any questions or a youth that would like to participate, please reach out to Nikki Groshans.

Upcoming Milestone Ministry Events: On September 17th during service, participating high school freshmen will be inducted into Atonement's Youth Group and given recognition for the milestone transition into high school. Then on September 24th during the children's chat, children will hear a children's sermon about the importance of the Bible and how we can use the Bible to guide us in daily life. At this time, they will be gifted a Bible to first be given to parents and family member to personalize. Then on Reformation Sunday, October 29th the Bible will be presented to the child during service.

JAM (Jesus And Me) is our group for Atonement student's 3rd – 6th grade. We will be meeting once a month starting on September 24th. Grab a donut, a lemonade and meet us in the Youth Room after service.

Nikki Groshans – Director of Youth and Family Ministries
doyfam@atonementbillings.org