

The Commentator

What's INSIDE?

- 2 Children's hat & gloves collection
- 2 "Tin" Year Anniversary
- 2 Youth Events
- 3 Preschool letter
- 3 Stitches & Scriptures
- 3 Church Finances
- 4 Stewardship, Finance, & Pastor letter
- 5 Pastor's Page

HOW you can HELP

- ❖ Billings Food Pantry Needs—
***See list posted in the Commons at the Food Bank shelf.
- ❖ Worship, ushers, assisting ministers, lectors.
- ❖ Sunday School, helpers, and teachers.

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
November 8th
Applebee's 6 PM

Marvelous Monday
November 27th
Pizza Ranch 6 PM

Come and join the conversation.

(Any questions call Debbie
406-248-5313 or 406-696-7029.)

Handyman's Ministry's Sprinkler Winterization Wrap-up 2023

Thank you to all who supported the Handyman's Sprinkler Blowout 2023. The teams completed requests for service for 50 properties this year, surpassing last year's requests by 25%. Thank you to all of those men who assisted in anyway this year as we made rounds to all of the properties city-wide. This year we did not have to rent a compressor and squeeze requests into a long weekend (thank you to Craig Canfield). We were able to open appointments for two weekends and several days in between also. Thanking all who supported our efforts, we received over \$3000 in donations. Some of the funds this year will go to resealing cracks in our parking lot, avoiding a complete resealing for several more years. Again, thanks everyone.

The Property Committee

MIDWEEK ADVENT 2023

On Wednesday, November 29th we will hold our first Midweek Advent service beginning at 6:30pm. We will meet this year in the Little White Church on the WyndStone Campus. The Holden Evening Prayer will be our guide as we prepare our hearts for the Light of the World! Join us weekly through December 20th.

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!



Atonement's Fall Bazaar will be Saturday, November 4, 2023, 9:00am-3:00pm. Please help with the Bazaar when you can! Set up will be Thursday, November 2nd starting at 8:30 a.m. and continuing Friday, November 3rd at noon. Take down will be Saturday, November 4th at 3pm and Sunday, November 5th at noon. We will need the following items to sell: Craft Items, Canned Goods (we have jars if you need some), Garden Produce, Baked Goods (especially pies), Garage Sale Items (PLEASE NO CLOTHES OR ELECTRONICS). Items can be brought to the church starting Monday, October 30th. Please designate if your items are for the bazaar or the garage sale. If you have any questions please contact: the church office, *Eleanor Andersen* @ 406-855-1401, or *Julie Leno* @ 406-248-5359.



CHILDREN'S WINTER HAT COLLECTION

Atonement WELCA will again be collecting **NEW** children's hats, gloves/mittens at the church and then donating them to local elementary schools for children in need. The elementary schools are especially in need of gloves for the kids because they are lost so easily. Please drop off your donations in the box outside of the church office.

June Canfield – Atonement WELCA



"TIN" YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of being in this building for ten years we are collecting tin food cans throughout mid- November. We will be delivering them to Family Services so they can be delivered by to families by Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for please help us pass it on. Cans may be dropped off in the commons area by the tin man. Thank you. Evangelism Committee

ATONEMENT YOUTH GIFT CARD WREATH



Atonement youth attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans will be selling Gift Card Wreath Raffle tickets until November 19th. Tickets can be purchased from youth directly or by reaching out to Nikki. Participating youth will be selling tickets before service on the 19th and the winner will be chosen and announced immediately following service. All funds raised from the raffle will go towards sending youth to the gathering in July.



Frappe and Friends - Atonement youth 9th-12th grade are invited to come hang out, play games, and have a treat at heights City Brew on Sunday November 12th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Please bring money for drinks or treats and as always feel free to invite a friend.

Milestone Ministry Events Happening in November: On Nov. 5th at 11:00 am in the Jerusalem Room, 1st grade students and parents are invited to come learn about the Apostle's Creed and its meaning and importance. Student's participating in this milestone will be invited to help lead the congregation in the Apostle's Creed on December 3rd during service. Then on Nov. 19th at 11:00 am in the Jerusalem Room, 2nd grade students and parents are invited to come learn more about the Lord's Prayer. Children participating in this milestone will then be invited to help lead the congregation in the Lord's Prayer on December 17th during service. If you have any questions or would like your student to participate, please contact Nikki.

STITCHES & SCRIPTURES

Stitches and Scriptures are meeting on Sunday's 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 at 406-861-2953 or jhansen0359@gmail.com.

DECORATE FOR ADVENT

Atonement Worship Team is extending an open invitation to **ALL** as they prepare our beautiful sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. Please make plans to join us on Sunday, November 19th immediately following the worship service. We will deck the halls with boughs of holly because it is 'Tis the season to be jolly! We look forward to seeing you!

Atonement Worship Committee

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Thankful Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

Atonement Lutheran Preschool is so thankful for our wonderful students and their families! We are also thankful for our extended Atonement family; we are truly blessed to be surrounded by a loving and supportive community!

In November, our students will be heading over to Wyndstone to help celebrate Veteran's Day with the residents. We plan to work with the letters: G, H, I, & J; making crafts to go along with each letter! We will be setting up our grocery store in the dramatic play area; to go along with the pretend grocery store we are asking students to bring in non-perishable food items that we can donate to the Billings Food Bank.

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, that would be a great help during the school year...

- ♥ Small Jingle bells
- ♥ Jelly beans
- ♥ Ice Cream Cones (both cake cups and sugar cones)
- ♥ Lace
- ♥ Walmart/Target/Albertsons Gift Card

Thank you for all your prayers and support as we continue our journey through the school year! We are blessed to have your support and generous hearts! Also, a big thank you for helping us with our Pumpkin Festival, it was a great success!

YEAR END REPORTS

It is never too early to start those year-end reports! As the holidays will be quickly upon us a simple reminder that all Atonement ministry committees and leaders will need to have their Annual reports submitted to the church office Friday, December 1, 2023. Thank you in advance!

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with device camera

General Fund September 2023			
September Budget Expense	\$30,240	September Actual Expenses	\$33,543
September Budget Income	\$28,915	September Actual Income	\$37,965
September Net Income	\$4,423	Net Income YTD	\$395
Building Fund September 2023			
September Mortgage	\$5,800.00	September Actual Income	\$5,425
September Net Income	(\$375)	Net Income YTD	\$4,524

Tom Danielsen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council

Dear Atonement,

Over the past few years, we embarked on a significant journey together through our capital campaign, "Growing the Seeds of Faith." We witnessed God's **abundance** pouring into our community, as we collectively contributed our time, talents, and financial resources — expanding and enhancing our youth ministries and greatly reducing our mortgage by over a half million dollars.

Your generosity and sense of God's **abundance** made that happen. You are a testament to God's extravagant and lavish Love.

Now as we near the completion of our capital campaign, it is time for us to consider the next steps in our stewardship journey. It is with a heart full of faith and a deep sense of trust in God's **abundance** that we invite you to prayerfully consider transitioning your offerings from the capital campaign to our general fund.

In doing so, we acknowledge that our work in building and paying off our building expenses has allowed us to create a more welcoming and nurturing environment for our congregation. And now it is time to direct our financial resources toward the broader mission and ministry of our church. By supporting the general fund, we can ensure that our ongoing ministries (especially our children, youth and family), outreach, and community support continue to flourish.

This is an affirmation of our commitment to serve, love, and support one another, as well as our wider community. It is an opportunity for us to share the abundance we have received with those who are in need, just as God has abundantly blessed us.

As we embark on this new phase of our stewardship journey, let us remember the words of 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to bless you **abundantly**, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in (good)."

The Stewardship Team and the Financial Committee encourage you to join us in prayer as we all discern how our God of **Abundance** is calling each of us in our offerings of time, talent, and financial resources. You will receive this letter with an additional form for you to prayerfully fill out committing your time, talent, and resources. Our Pledge Sunday is Nov 19, 2024.

We want to express our gratitude for your unwavering dedication and generosity. Together, we have witnessed God's **abundant** grace, and together, we will continue to be vessels of God's love and **abundance** in this world. Oh, and in case it wasn't clear, our Stewardship theme this year is...**ABUNDANCE**.

With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,

Stewardship Team, Financial Committee, and Pastor Ryan

FROM THE PASTOR

I'm sure by Lent and Easter I'll be singing a different tune, but I really think that November-Christmas Eve is my favorite season in the life of the church. And, I am overwhelmed with anticipation in being able to share this season with you all for the first time.

It's certainly one of the busier seasons.

But I find our worship gatherings in this season to be sublime. We make room within our worshipping life on All Saints Sunday to grieve and to feel the wounds of loved ones and saints who have passed on. And then in Advent we spend an entire season learning to wait, to prepare, to embrace the present even while we anticipate the future.

And, Holden Evening prayer midweek services? How beautiful are those meditative services? They are these special reminders to slow down and to remain calm in the midst of a busy holiday season.

Finally, I'm not sure I've experienced more holier moments than standing in a dark sanctuary illuminated only by flickering white candles and the sounds of voices singing "Silent Night" celebrating the birth of our Savior.

These are such profound life lessons — ways in which our worship teaches us simply how to be human.

So join me this late fall/early winter as we delve into these rich liturgical experiences. Join me in the grieving, the waiting, the hoping, the loving, and the celebrating.

Here are some worship highlights to calendar:

November 5, All Saints Sunday

Nov 19, Christ the King Sunday as a special "Christcella" music and liturgy festival.

Nov 26, first Sunday of Advent.

Dec 24, Christmas Eve services.

P.S. As a side note, this past weekend I went to see my favorite band (U2) play in a brand new "Sphere" in Las Vegas. Again, the word sublime comes to mind. But that's not really what I want to share. Here's the nugget of my heart that I want to offer: flying back to Billings, I realized in my bones I was flying home. In a short period of time, this has just become home. I simply wanted to share that with you all. Thanks for your love and welcoming. I know in my soul, we're home.

Pastor Ryan

TEEN PANTRY NEEDS

The Atonement Lutheran family continues to be very generous in giving for the Food Bank and the Heights Teen Pantries, located at Skyview, Castle Rock, and Medicine Crow Schools. All food is put to good use, and the Teen Pantries have some specific needs, especially Skyview, where there are teens who are homeless, are couch surfing with friends, and even living in cars. Please continue to support these vulnerable families and kids. Teen Pantry Needs:

Nutri-grain bars

Vienna sausages

Granola bars

Protein bars

Fruit cereal bars

Packets of cheese/crackers or peanut butter/crackers

Cup of noodles

Cups of fruit

Pop top cans of fruit

Spaghetti

Pop tarts

Underwear

Feminine products





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

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Billings, MT
 Permit # 904



ATONEMENT FALL BAZAAR 11.04.2023!!!

November 2023

- ☞ Nov 3 Men's Square
Bazaar Set Up
Christikon Camper
Roundup King of Glory
- ☞ Nov 4 Bazaar
- ☞ Nov 5 Daylight Savings
Chapel Choir Rehearsal
2nd Grade Milestone
Heavenly Harps
- ☞ Nov 8 WW Meal Bull Applebee's
- ☞ Nov 10 Office Closed
- ☞ Nov 12 Chapel Choir Rehearsal
2nd Sunday Sandwiches
Frappe & Friends City Brew
- ☞ Nov 16 Hope Circle
- ☞ Nov 19 1st Grade Milestone
JAM 3rd-6th grades
- ☞ Nov 21 Church Council Meeting
- ☞ Nov 23 Office Closed
- ☞ Nov 24 Office Closed
- ☞ Nov 27 MM Meal Pizza Ranch
- ☞ Nov 26 Chapel Choir Rehearsal



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Jerusalem room as we engage in a Bible study exploring the stories in the Narrative Lectionary.

WE BRING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!