

The Commentator

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HOW you can HELP

- ❖ Teen Pantry
- ❖ Worship, ushers, assisting ministers, lectors.
- ❖ Sunday School, helpers, and teachers.

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
No Meal due to Ash Wednesday

Marvelous Monday
February 26th @ 6 pm
Perkins

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



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The season of Lent will begin **February 14th** with **Ash Wednesday**.

That evening, we'll offer the imposition of ashes.

I'm excited and can't believe that somehow, we are already near Lent. As we did during Advent/Christmas, we are going to utilize the resources from Sanctified Art as we wander through these days of Lent. Our series is called, Wandering Heart.

Here's a bit on the theme:

"Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way— offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love.

This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes."

Along with art, prayers, and themes, Sanctified Art has also developed not only a weekly devotional booklet that we will hand out but also daily devotionals cards with simple prayers and reflections for daily inspiration during Lent.



LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten Soup Suppers will be offered each Wednesday evening before service at 6:00pm February 21st through March 20th .

Please consider signing up to bring a crock pot of soup we will need 5 to 6 crock pots each week, Teams are also needed to serve food and then clean up after the meals. Join a team and serve a Soup Supper to your Atonement family. Please consider heading up a team - and then enjoy fellowship with team members and our congregation. Many hands make light work, and you will have fun and build relationships in the process! Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Commons. A free will offering will be taken each week to cover the costs incurred by the teams. For details contact the church office.



YOUTH NEWS



On Feb. 4th from 2:00 to 3:30 there will be a Cookies and Cocoa event in the commons. Come enjoy a variety of cookies, a hot cocoa bar and play a variety of board games. This family event is open to all so bring your family, friends and a favorite board game and come m , hang out with us. Reach out to Nikki with any questions.



On Feb. 11th and 25th, Atonement student's 3rd to 6th grade are invited to join Nikki for JAM. This is our 3rd-6th youth group and takes place in the youth room during coffee time directly following service. Bring a donut and lemonade and come play a game and share in devotional time.



Come to an Atonement luau on Feb. 18th from 5:00 to 7:30! The Atonement youth attending the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans are hosting a luau themed escape room dinner, Honolulu Heist. This event will include a pulled pork luau dinner, dessert, and prizes. There will be prizes for the team that solves the escape room first and an additional prize for the person voted "best dressed tourist." Dress up in your best Hawaiian tourist outfit and bring your family and friends for a fun filled evening at Atonement. Childcare will be available in the nursery. All funds raised from this event will go towards sending youth to the youth gathering. Pre-registration costs are \$25 per adult, \$15 for youth 11-17, and 10 and under are free. The price at the door will be \$30 per adult and \$20 per youth. To pre-register fill out the online registration form or find a paper form in the office. Please reach out to Nikki with any questions.



On February 25th at 11:00 am in the House of David Room (Sunday School classroom), there will be a *My Cross* project for all current Kindergarten students. This project is part of our Milestones Ministries here at Atonement and will be a time for the students to decorate a keepsake cross. We will discuss in simple terms the symbolism of the cross as well as what the cross means to each student. Then on Palm Sunday, March 24th, the crosses as well as a photo of the student's will be displayed outside the sanctuary so that we as a church can celebrate this milestone with them.



WELCA

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

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Heartfelt Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

Let us take a moment to enjoy all the love that surrounds us as we embark on this month of Love! February always makes me take note of all the special ways to show love and to receive love! We have been blessed in so many ways this past year and are looking forward to the next wonderful year!

Our enrollment for the 2024-2025 preschool is now open. After hearing the need, we have expand our preschool program for the coming school year! We will be offering three different classes for parents to choose from: a Tuesday/Thursday 3–4 year-old preschool class; a Monday/Wednesday/Friday 3-5 year old preschool class; and a Monday/ Tuesday/ Thursday/ Friday 4-5 year old K-Prep class. We want our ministry to thrive and continue to serve all these special young children as they learn and explore at preschool! Please remember – the best advertisement is word of mouth!

The Preschool will be hosting a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13th from 5:45 – 7:00 pm. We invite you all to attend as we celebrate with yummy pancakes, sausage, fruit, and King Cake, along with some children’s games! We will also be drawing for our three baskets we have to raffle at the conclusion of the Pancake Supper! We will also be holding our 3rd annual Butter Braid Fundraiser during the end of February to the middle of March (you will get your pastries in time for Easter!

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, it would help us are great deal!

- ♥ Large Oatmeal Containers (empty or filled)
- ♥ Multi-colored small poms
- ♥ Sandpaper
- ♥ Graham Crackers
- ♥ Vanilla Wafers
- ♥ Walmart/Target/Albertsons Gift Card

Our preschool is so blessed to have the wonderful support of our congregation for this special ministry we offer at Atonement Lutheran Preschool! Thank you for those that were able to help and thank you for your support and please keep us all in your prayers as we learn together!

Blessings,
Sara Westrope

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 2023

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with device camera

General Fund December 2023			
December Budget Expense	\$31,655.31	December Actual Expenses	\$34,705.02
December Budget Income	\$35,365.33	December Actual Income	\$58,075.93
December Net Income	\$23,370.91	Net Income YTD	\$10,559.05
Building Fund December 2023			
December Mortgage	\$5,163.00	December Actual Income	\$10,719.85
December Net Income	\$5,556.85	Net Income YTD	\$10,153.21

Tom Danielsen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council

OUTDOOR MINISTRY



The Outdoor Ministry has set the following dates and locations for camping or "glamping" trips this year. When we go on these trips, we plan to do a group breakfast and group dinners. During the day we may hike, play cards, swim, float a river, go to a museum, take a nap or anything else we may want to do. There is absolutely no pressure to do anything except enjoy being outdoors with friends and family!

May 10 - 11 Livingston, MT KOA (Pay for Friday night and Saturday night is 50% off)

July 19-22 Three Forks, MT KOA (there is a rodeo, fireman's breakfast, parade and craft fair that weekend)

August 2-5 Missoula, MT Jim and Mary's RV Park

September 6-7 Sheridan, WY KOA (Pay for Friday night and Saturday night is free)



The Outdoor Ministry would like to thank all of those who joined us for breakfast on January 21st! We thoroughly enjoyed serving you all and look forward to our summer kickoff BBQ in May. God's peace be with you all!

Prayer Shawl Ministry AKA Stitches and Scriptures

Prayer Shawl Ministries 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!

We have odds and ends of yarn that would work well for hats, we also have knitting needles and crochet hooks for more information please contact Jane Hansen at 406-861-2953 or jhansen0359@gmail.com.

TEEN PANTRY INFORMATION

Donations of money and supplies to the Teen Pantries continue to be extraordinary from the members of Atonement. We deliver food and supplies monthly to Castle Rock Middle School, Medicine Crow Middle School, Skyview High School, and Tumbleweed. Atonement members have been generous with food and money to shop for food throughout the year. The counselors who work with the students at risk for hunger are incredibly grateful for our donations they can pass on to the students. Thanks again for your support in this important community need.

Teen Pantry Needs:

Nutri-grain bars
Vienna sausages
Granola bars
Protein bars
Protein shakes
Fruit cereal bars

Cup of noodles
Cups of fruit
Pop top cans of fruit
Spaghetti Sauce
Spaghetti
Plastic Silverware packets

Underwear
Socks
Feminine products
Deodorant-any size
Colored T-Shirts all sizes
Gym Shorts all sizes

FROM THE PASTOR

The last few weeks in church we've explored some of the earliest stories in Jesus' life and ministry. These early stories have so much to teach us about being human — in particular, about being a work in progress.

Jesus said he came to bring life. To teach us about being human. And the journey of living and being fully human is a journey full of challenges and joys. As humans we make mistakes. We exist in community as so sometimes our mistakes hurt others. Or sometimes other people's mistakes hurt us. However, we can learn and grow from our mistakes and mistakes passed on to us — we can heal. We can choose love, compassion, and kindness.

One practice that has been so critical in my own "work in progress" is this discipline and prayer called the loving kindness prayer. Interestingly enough, studies have found that this discipline has many psychological and physiological benefits. I find it just helps my soul. But experts have articulated that this prayer strengthens are ability to relax, to emotionally regulate, to empathize, to be resilient, and to decrease our bias' and lesson our negative self-talk.

Here is an example of this simple and yet powerful loving-kindness prayer.

You will repeat these four phrases:

May you be healthy.
May you be well.
May you be safe.
May you be filled with peace.

You can begin by sitting comfortably. And then breathe. Allowing God's spirit to fill your lungs. And then imagine someone you love sitting with you. Holding them in heart and mind you can pray those words above.

Next you can imagine someone you struggle or have challenges with — a sibling, a co-worker, whoever. If this is too challenging, maybe start with a neutral person. And then you repeat the prayer about them.

And then you can bring to mind your church family. And repeat the prayer.

Finally, holding yourself in your mind and heart as you pray:

May I be healthy.
May I be well.
May I be safe.
May I be filled with peace.

My prayer for you is that as you pray all these words you begin to feel how deeply connected you are to God and to all kinds of people. I pray that this prayer practice empowers your relationship to yourself and to your community. And I pray this prayer hold you tenderly in God's compassionate arms of love.

So again,

May you (and I mean you reading this right now) be healthy
May you be well
May you be safe
May you be filled with peace.

Amen.



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Council Member's

Ryan Kapperud (2025)
Michel Poodry (2025)
Sarah Wald (2025)
Clint Westrope (2025)
Ellery Bolte Youth Rep (2025)
Frank Rodemer Alternate (2025)

Russell Bender (2026)
Tara Bolte (2026)
Marilyn Franklin (2026)
Lane Severson (2026)

Julie Andersen (2027)
Diane Erickson Olson (2027)
Mike Nolan (2027)
Dennis Roseleip (2027)

♥ HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY ♥



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

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

BRINGING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL