

The Commentator

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Palm Sunday March 24th @ 9:15 AM



Maundy Thursday March 28th @ 7:00 PM

Good Friday March 29th @ 7:00 PM



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES March 31st

HOW you can HELP

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



Sunrise Service - 6:30AM (Little White Church)

Easter Breakfast 7:00 AM to 10 AM

Atonement Youth 4th – 12th grade

Free will offering proceeds will go to the youth for camps or the gathering.



Easter Services 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM



Children's Easter Egg Hunt after service

Children through the 6th grade are invited to join in the fun and excitement.

EASTER FLOWER CROSS!

We want to remind you to bring your favorite cut flowers to the church on Easter Sunday March 31st to decorate the Flower Cross.



MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
April 10th @ 6 pm
Bull Mountain

Marvelous Monday
April 22nd @ 6 pm

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



YOUTH NEWS



Wednesday Evening youth nights will start back up on April 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm with youth group and confirmation both meeting for a meal, games, and studies.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH T-SHIRTS, HOODIES AND HATS ON SALE

Following service during the month of April the Atonement youth will be selling Atonement T-shirts, hoodies, and hats. The sale will begin April 7th following service. Prices are \$20 for T-shirts, \$35-\$40 for hoodies, and \$22 for hats. Cash or check will be accepted. All funds raised from these sales will go towards travel expenses for the youth attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16th-20th.



On April 28th from 5:00-7:00 pm Atonement youth will be hosting a Bingo and Chili Dog Dinner. Come enjoy good food and fellowship while playing Bingo and winning prizes! There is no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted. Bingo cards will be \$20 for 10 cards. The funds and donations from this event will go towards sending Atonement youth to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July.

MEMORIAL WALL IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN



If you are interested in adding a loved one's name to our Memorial Wall in the Memorial Garden, now is the time to make those arrangements. Engraving can only be done in warm weather and the monument company waiting list for that quickly becomes very long. Having at least four lines for inscriptions to do at a time is most cost effective so our policy is to have them come when we have at least four persons or family names to engrave. Now is the time to consider this beautiful way to honor loved ones. Contact Marilyn Franklin at (406)373-2224.



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Easter Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

He has Risen! He has Risen, Indeed! We start out again this month with a BIG Thank You for the loving support during our Butter Braid fundraiser!

Our enrollment for the 2024-2025 preschool is still open and we do have so openings available! We now offer 3 different classes for our preschoolers:

3–4-year-olds preschool on Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 – 11:30

3–5-year-olds preschool on Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 – 11:30

K-Prep 4–5-year-olds on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 9:00 – 12:00

If you know of anyone wanting to register, please let them know soon! Word of mouth is the best advertisement!

We are going to have a Preschool Open House Fiesta for all to come and tour our preschool as they have fun with outdoor activities, face painting, yard games, and of course yummy food on Sunday, May 5th from 4:30 – 7:00! Come and invite all to tour, meet of staff, and have fun!

This month we will be working with the letters W, X, Y, Z! The preschool will also have a fun field trip at Zoo Montana on April 26th! As the Seasons of the Year change, we will be discovering more about Spring!

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!

- ♥ White Cardstock
- ♥ Colored plastic spoons
- ♥ 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

Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director



Christikon Clips

March, 2024

Christikon is an extension of your congregation's ministry.

Annual Benefit Auction is on April 21st at the Billings Depot. We are looking for items for the auction such as: fishing trip, weekend getaway, dinner out, themed baskets, artisan items. Have an idea? Let us know! Watch for more details as they become available on our website.

Pick up your **Christikon Camping Program Brochure** at your church. If you would like one mailed to you contact the office. Registration is online at www.christikon.org.

We are excited about our new registration process! We believe you will be, too!

Adults and families: Watch for the special focus for each of the family/adult weekends next summer at Christikon: work projects, faith formation, and Bible study will be woven together with worship, meal fellowship, re-creation, folk dancing and much more. Check out camping for adults and families online at www.christikon.org.

Bus Attendants needed for 2024— Would you or someone you know be willing to ride with youth on their way to Christikon? Yes? Please call Kerry in the office at 406-656-1969 or email at secretary@christikon.org for details. It pays a daily rate as well!

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 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

CHILD BRIDGE

Atonement received an email request, and we are passing the information along to our congregation. If you are interested in helping with the following event, please reach out to Lindsey Casterline @406-399-0650.

Peace be to you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are Child Bridge, a Christian Non-profit organization specializing in finding foster families and equipping them to care for at risk children in Montana. We are so thankful for the churches that are partnering with us and sharing God's love in this way. We would like to get to know you and let you know all the ways that churches can support Foster-loves (kids) and families.

We here at Child Bridge are so thankful for our churches and people who support the mission of loving kids and supporting families. We find, coach, support, and educate Foster/Adoptive Families. Child Bridge hosts a once-a-year event called **Hope For The Journey**. It is an all-day training that helps equip our foster families for what God has put in front of them. This year **Hope For The Journey is on April 20th at Faith E Church**. We will be servicing approx. 35 adults and 50-60 children. **We need support in 2 areas.** We believe all of us can support at-risk children, this is a tangible way to show God's love to these incredible families. If you and your church are able and willing, provide a meal with dessert and the second being volunteers. If we can gather enough volunteers, we can do morning shift and afternoon shifts. The time is from **8:30 am to 5:30 pm**. We look forward to talking soon. Thank you for being part of the Kingdom in this way.

Also – get to know us at our website Childbridgemontana.org

Blessings,

Lindsey Casterline 406-399-0650 And Latrisha Larson



St. John's United

BE A PART OF THE YOUTH SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM!



15 SPOTS AVAILABLE

OPPORTUNITIES:

- ① One-on-one time with an elder
- ① Group activities, games & crafts
- ① Coffee Shop Barista
- ① Administrative Aid
- ① Transitional Rehab Entertainment Trolley
- ① Musician
- ① Grounds crew
- ① Technology Aide
- ① Lu the Lab
- ① Share your unique skills & interests

**11 WEEKS:
June 10th -
August 23rd**

**Ages 13 - 18
(Must turn 13
by June 1st)**

MANDATORY ORIENTATION:

Wed., May 29th from 5 - 7 pm **OR** Sat., June 8th from 10am - Noon

Apply online by: Wednesday, April 26th

www.stjohnsUnited.org/volunteer/

More Information: 406-655-5390 or volunteer@sjlm.org

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

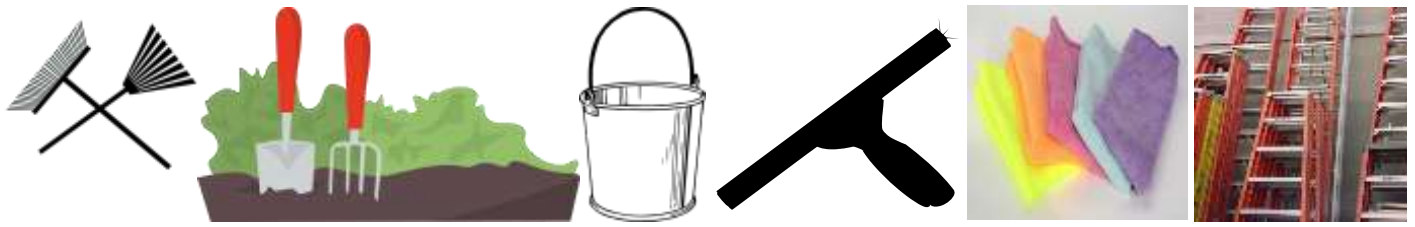
QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with device camera

General Fund February 2024			
February Actual Expenses	\$41,500.68	February Actual Income	\$35,180.33
February Net Income	\$(6,320.35)	Net Income YTD	\$(20,796.63)
Building Fund February 2024			
February Mortgage	\$5,163.00	February Actual Income	\$7369.48
February Net Income	\$2,206.48	Net Income YTD	\$3977.43

Julie Andersen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council



ADOPT-A-PLOT NEEDS & ATONEMENT CLEAN-UP DAY INFORMATION

Be watching the weekly announcements for the first Clean-up Day of the year. It will be a Saturday in April at 9 AM. We have many areas needing attention including washing windows, trimming shrubs, weeding, or removing dead day lily leaves, mowing if needed, fertilizing, cutting down tall grasses, sweeping gutters and rotating summer equipment forward while putting winter equipment to the rear in the shop. If you plan to wash windows, squeegees, buckets, rags, and step ladders would be helpful.

The Adopt-a-Plot program offers members an opportunity to take charge of landscape areas around the church to assist the mowing teams and Property Committee with caring for the growing landscaped areas. Volunteers get assigned areas (at their choice) and are asked to tend to their areas throughout the summer months as they need care (weeding, trimming, etc.). Several areas still need foster families to “adopt” and care for some landscaping. Please sign up on displayed posters if you wish to take over an open area.

Areas available include:

- SW Corner of Church – White Rock next to the guest parking (S3)
- SW Corner of Church - White Rock (S5)
- The area around the archery range could use some TLC, if a family is willing (N5)
- West Sidewalk power box (no designation on poster 2)

Posters will be displayed in the Commons for several weeks after Easter as a reminder of all areas assigned. On Clean-up Day, please bring lawn tools including bush trimmers, brooms, shovels, etc. to deal with your areas.

Thank you to all members that are willing to volunteer to keep our church grounds looking well groomed.

Questions can be directed to Todd Koepp at 406-855-2158

SAVE THE DATES



ALTAR GUILD

Next meeting is, April 9th @ 4:30 pm



FAMILY PROMISE

April 7th through April 13th
Sign up board in the commons.

May 2nd Blood Drive

May 5th Confirmation Sunday, Preschool Open House Fiesta

May 12th Mother's Day

May 17th & 18th WELCA Plant Sale

**May 19th Pentecost, High School Senior Sunday,
and Sunday School Last Day**

May 22nd Last Day of Preschool

May 27th Office Closed

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please join us on Sunday's @ 10:45 am, in the Snack room! Bring your coffee and a doughnut. Yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks are available. Men, women, or kids are all invited! Please contact Jane Hansen @ 406-861-2953 with any questions.

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	Cup of noodles	Underwear
Vienna sausages	Cups of fruit	Socks
Granola bars	Pop top cans of fruit	Feminine products
Protein bars	Spaghetti Sauce	Deodorant-any size
Protein shakes	Spaghetti	Colored T-Shirts all sizes
Fruit cereal bars	Plastic Silverware packets	Gym Shorts all sizes

FROM THE PASTOR

One of the parts of worship services I often struggle with is the offering — it can feel like an interruption. A time to say, okay let's pay the bills.

Whenever I feel that way I am reminded to pause.

One seminary professor Mark Powell articulates that the "Offering" is actually the high point of the worship service.

What if the Offering isn't a break in our regularly scheduled program, but the portion of our worship gathering in which we are most deeply invited to fully participate? What if the Offering is an essential part or act of worship?

We've started giving our kids about a dollar a week to add into the offering plate. Of course, they'd rather keep the dollar and save up for another Lego set or baby dolls. And here's the thing, I honestly believe that playing with Legos and baby dolls can be an act of worship. Whenever we engage in play or are playful, we are filled with worship.

It's also worshipful to take time to say, I'm so grateful for play AND I don't need more Lego and I don't need more baby dolls; rather, what I need is to give from my heart.

This is a way of worshiping the God who loves and cares for us. And worship at its greatest depth is about you and me moving beyond or transcending our ego into greater awareness. It's a waking up to the magnificence of God. This, it turns out, is precisely what the time of Offering can be. A moment to sit, listen, sing, reflect, and allow God to move you beyond you into greater depths of awareness and care. We move from us as singular selves to the greater community and the very kingdom of God.

So, may you join me — whether you worship in-person or online — during the time of Offering moving, transcending, and gratefully giving as you wake up to God's magnificence.

*Inspired by the book "Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity."

Pastor Ryan



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 atonementbillings.org

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Council Member's

President.....Dennis Roseleip
 Vice President.....Ryan Kapperud
 Secretary.....Sarah Wald
 Treasurer.....Julie Andersen

Michel Poodry (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)

Diane Erickson Olson (2027)
 Mike Nolan (2027)



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