

# The Commentator

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Time to plant...

## WELCA ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 6 pm

## HOW<sup>you</sup> can HELP

- ❖ Teen Pantry
- ❖ Worship: ushers, assisting ministers, lectors, transportation.
- ❖ VBS, helpers, and teachers.

### MENU



Wonderful Wednesday  
May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm  
Godfather's

Marvelous Monday  
May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm  
Guadalajara's

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



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

The 2024 Workday has been scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. Adopt-a-Plot owners are asked to utilize this day for your area clean-up and weeding. Posters will be set up and updated reminding adopters of their areas as well as some opportunities for unassigned plots. Work will begin around 9am, weather permitting. With the overlap of the Plant Sale, work will be limited to outside only. Bring rakes, clippers, etc. Contact Todd Koepp with any questions (855-2158). Additional movers and especially trimmers are needed for summer volunteering. Please let Todd know if you would be interested in this opportunity. Thank you.



## OUTDOOR MINISTRY SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ AND POTLUCK



May 19th after church! The Outdoor Ministry will provide the hamburgers and hotdogs. If you could please bring a side dish or dessert to share, that would be great! We would love to share this meal with you all!

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## THE CHURCH CHOIR IS PUTTING ON A CONCERT!



Please consider attending on May 19th at 2:00PM at Atonement. There will be a free will offering to help fundraise for our youth going to New Orleans. We look forward to singing some songs, new and old!

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## ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT TRUST

The Trustees wanted to let our congregation aware of who received the funds for 2024. We were able to give a *Charitable Gift* of \$3,500. To three different outreach programs.

1. Skyview High School Teen Pantry \$1,166.66
2. Castle Rock Middle School Pantry \$1,166.66
3. Medicine Crow Middle School Teen Pantry \$1,166.66

Thank you, Atonement Lutheran Church congregation, for your genius gifts to our Endowment Trust. You are making a difference in our community in which we all live in.

At this time most people have completed their income taxes for last year, and now we want to consider tax ideas for next year.

The State of Montana has made a change for 2024 for gifting to a Charitable Endowment which Atonement Lutheran Church Endowment Trust qualifies for.

Montana taxpayers can reduce or eliminate your state income taxes up to \$15,000. Gifts must be made to a qualified endowment to capture the tax credit. This transaction needs to be made before 12-31-2024 and work with our Trustees to complete paperwork.

Another tax idea is on your IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's). The Qualified Charitable Distribution is available to all IRA owners over 70 1/2 or 73. The amount rolled over satisfies the IRA owner's RMD and is not included in the donor's adjusted gross income.

We would suggest you discuss this with your tax preparer or CPA as everyone's taxes are different.

If you have any questions about the Endowment Trust or how your gift can help grow our Endowment Trust, please talk with one of our Trustees of our Endowment.

Donna Newell, Trustee or Gary Amundson, Trustee



## ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

End of the Preschool Year Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

The month of May brings the final days of the preschool year! The students will be finishing their "All About Me" projects they started at the beginning of the school year. We will be working on our Last Day Celebration program we will be hosting along with our graduation ceremony for our preschool students on May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:00 am!

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 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
- ♥ 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 your support and prayers!

Blessings,

Sara Westrope, Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director

## FAMILY PROMISE

Starting in 2004, Atonement Lutheran became a charter member of Family Promise of Yellowstone County. Back then local churches and the synagogue came together as a network to work on the issue of inadequate housing for families with children and were known as Interfaith Hospitality Network. (See the metal sign outside of the main kitchen door, IHN.) For twenty years we have served homeless families, and by blessing them, we ourselves have been blessed. The average age of the people who we work with in Family Promise is 9 years of age!! 80% of the adults have jobs when they come to FP. Our recent families became homeless because of a mobile home park being sold and the owners planning to build housing; a family who had two incomes lost one of the people earning money and the housing cost was not doable with only one income; another had rent increased at an apartment and income was not enough to cover the costs. These people have been living in cars, in rundown motels, and with others with questionable safety for all involved. FP helps families who do not currently have housing and are working with the staff at FP to become financially independent. Families who have worked with FP have had extraordinary success over the years at getting secure housing and active employment after their intense efforts to change their lives. They have an over 90% success rate with stable housing 5 years after completing the program. This past year we have been hosting more often as we work with getting more churches in the community active with FP and hosting themselves. We appreciate all the work that ALC volunteers have given as we continue to support these deserving parents and children. ALC is on the calendar to host the families June 16-22 and hope you will prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this important ministry.

*Janie Fitch-Danielsen*



# Christikon Clips

May 2024

*Information for our Congregations*

**There is still room to register for camp this summer!** Space remains in most youth sessions and families/adult sessions, including the

**Work Weekend, May 24-27. Families register online.**

**Remember there is no cost. Just bring your willing hearts and hands! See you there!**



**Special guest speakers** become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 29-Aug 1) we feature **Professor Jason Mahn. Session Topic: Gifted and Graced: Christian Discipleship in the Anthropocene** - creation-centered discipleship that helps heal our relationship with earth.

Watch for more details on our website for both Continuing Ed and Mountain Weekend. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org).

**We covet your prayers for Christikon's** this summer, for our summer and fulltime staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

**CHRISTIKON • 1108 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102**  
406 656-1969 • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)



## 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 a good time to make those arrangements. We have acquired enough names to schedule and inscription date, and we are on the waiting list with hopes of completion prior to Memorial Day. Now is the time to consider this beautiful way to honor loved ones who may have found there resting place elsewhere. Contact Marilyn Franklin at 406-373-2224.

## TRANSITIONS: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIVING AND DYING WELL

Hosted by: Kristin La Ve' (Intern Deacon and Chaplain) at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (1108 24th St West, Billings) the first four Wednesdays of May at 6:30 pm.

May 1st--"Conversations" end-of-life conversations and wishes

May 8th--"We Belong to God" a Christian perspective of living and dying well

May 15th--"Your Healthcare Choices and Completing Important Documents"

May 22nd-- "Arrangements" funerals, memorials, celebrations of life

No need to RSVP, please join as you are able. Guest professionals will also help lead us for the last two sessions.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for ways to give back to your community and make a positive impact? Consider volunteering at our church! We are seeing dedicated individuals who are passionate about serving others and spreading kindness. Whether you're interested in helping with Sunday services: assisting minister, lector, usher, transportation, tech booth, office coverage, VBS, there's a place for you here. Join us in making a difference and building a stronger, more connected community. Volunteer with us today! Contact Christina Kapperud @ 406-245-7004, email [office@atonementbillings.org](mailto:office@atonementbillings.org) or stop by the office.





## St. John's United

### BE A PART OF THE YOUTH SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM!



#### 15 SPOTS AVAILABLE

##### OPPORTUNITIES:

- One-on-one time with an elder
- Group activities, games & crafts
- Coffee Shop Barista
- Administrative Aid
- Transitional Rehab Entertainment Trolley
- Musician
- Grounds crew
- Technology Aide
- Lu the Lab
- 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.stjohnsunitd.org/volunteer/](http://www.stjohnsunitd.org/volunteer/)**

More Information: 406-655-5390 or [volunteer@sjlm.org](mailto:volunteer@sjlm.org)

## CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT MARCH 2024

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with device camera

General Fund March 2024			
March Income	\$45,131.54	March Expenses	\$34,699.88
March Net Income	\$10,431.66	Net Income YTD	\$(10,364.97)
Building Fund March 2024			
March Income	\$7,976.17	March Mortgage	\$5,163.00
March Net Income	\$2,813.17	Net Income YTD	\$6,790.60

*January had a loss because of 3 payrolls for an additional expense.*

*February has a loss because of 2 large, planned expenditures.*

*March made up some of the deficit with Lent/Easter giving.*

*Julie Andersen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church*

# FROM THE PASTOR

For thousands of years sailors and adventures have looked to the North star for guidance and orientation. For many this is an app metaphor in life. There are goalposts or goals or places that we want to be or kinds of people that we want to be.

Recently, I have been pondering the idea of South stars. Perhaps thinking of South stars as the kinds of goals we don't want to set. Thinking of South stars as places we don't want to be. Understanding south stars people we don't want to be like.

This spring, I invite you into the spiritual reflection with me. What don't you want to be like? Where don't you want to head? What are some goals you keep thinking about that aren't actually healthy goals for you?

The Psalmists that God gives us the deepest desires of our hearts. I wonder how often we are in touch with our actual deepest desires and the ones we think we're supposed to have but are actually South stars.

May you be blessed this spring by leaving South stars.

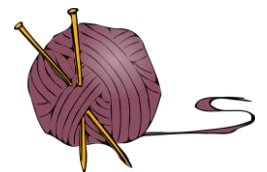
Pastor Ryan

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## 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](mailto:jhansen0359@gmail.com).



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## SAVE THE DATES



### FAMILY PROMISE

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Sign up board will be in the commons.



### VBS

**June 10<sup>th</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup>**

Volunteer sign-up sheets are in the office.



## 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
Packets of cheese or peanut butter/crackers	Pop tarts	Black Leggings all sizes

## YOUTH NEWS



Confirmation Sunday will be taking place during service on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will be confirmed and profess their faith to the congregations with a prepared faith statement. Also on May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be giving thanks and recognition to our Confirmation volunteers for the time and care they have given to support faith growth in our young people. A celebration with cake and refreshments will follow service.

High School youth come join us Wednesday May 15 from 6:00-8:00 pm for the Last Day of Youth Group Party! We will be having games, Taco Bell dinner and of course cake! Come hang out one last time until we start back up in the fall.



On May 19<sup>th</sup> during service, we will be recognizing the graduating seniors with a photo slideshow, blessing and the gifting of a prayer shawl. This is a great way to honor our students in their high school endeavors and send them into the future surrounded by support and prayer from their Atonement family.

May 19<sup>th</sup> will be the last day of Sunday School until the fall. Be sure come join in the fun! The last day party will also feature a sneak peek of this year's 2024 VBS theme! We hope to see lots of smiling faces for this wrap up to another amazing Sunday school year. Also on May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be giving thanks and recognition to our Sunday School volunteers for the time and care they have given to support faith growth in our young people.



Following service on May 19<sup>th</sup>, parents, and student's registered for the Youth Gathering will be meeting in the Jerusalem Room to discuss trip details, complete the gathering materials for Unit 3 and make trading friendship bracelets for the gathering.



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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. TeleBible Study @ 8:20 pm.  
May 15<sup>th</sup> will be the last Wednesday Bible Studies until Fall!!

**BRINGING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!**