

# The Commentator

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**Another Record-Breaking year of giving!**

**May 15, 2023 to May 11, 2024**

## HOW you can HELP

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

### MENU



Wonderful Wednesday  
June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm  
Guadalajara's

Marvelous Monday  
June 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm  
Pizza Ranch

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

- 871 Quilts given to Lutheran World Relief.
  - 169 School Kits given to Lutheran World Relief.
  - 1,169 Quilts with 21 matching pillows, 49 floor pillows and 125 baby bibs/shoulder pads given to Billings Family Services.
  - 22 Quilts given to Family Promise at Christmas time.
  - 50 Crochet Hats made for the Cancer Center.
  - 77 Quilts given to Riverstone Health Clinic.
  - 517 Dog and Cat beds, 330 dog pull toys and 347 cat toys (made from scraps) given to the animal shelter.
  - 28 Quilts and 20 floor pillows given to Atonement Preschool.
  - 100 Quilts sold at Atonement Bazaar.
  - 60 Quilts given to various other organizations.
  - 28 Towel sets (each set consist of 6 bath towels, 6 hand towels. 12 wash cloths, and 1 bathmat) put together for Family Promise.
  - 65 Quilts and 13 floor pillows to Billings Young Families Org.
- This brings our total of 2,392 QUILTS and 2,371 other items for a Grand Total of 4,763 items given away!
- Kudos Atonement Members and all who have donated items! We couldn't do it without your support!
- Quilters you are an awesome group, full of laughter and fellowship!
- This group meets, every Tuesday at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. Coffee and treats are provided (usually!)
- Thank you, Lord, for all that you have provided us!
- Eleanor Andersen and Julie Leno

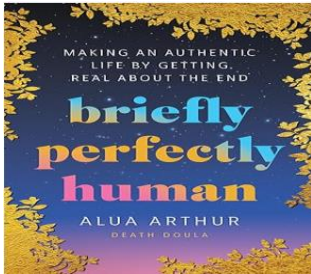


## HOPE CIRCLE



This circle/bible study meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month, 9:30 AM, at the church. We meet for fellowship and study God's word. Our meeting this month will be June 20<sup>th</sup> and you and your bible are welcome to join us. For more info call Bette, 406-245-5054

## JUNE BOOK STUDY

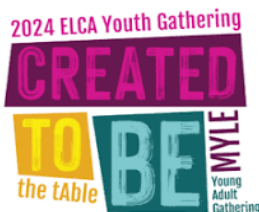


"Briefly Perfectly Human: Making an Authentic Life by Getting Real About the End" by death doula Alua Arthur. Join Intern Deacon Kristin La Ve' on each Wednesday in June as we talk about living and dying well through the eyes of a death doula. Gather with us at **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd** 1008 24th Street West at **6:30 pm, June 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th** in the Fireside Room. The book is available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Billings Public Library, and Kindle and Audiobooks.

## YOUTH NEWS

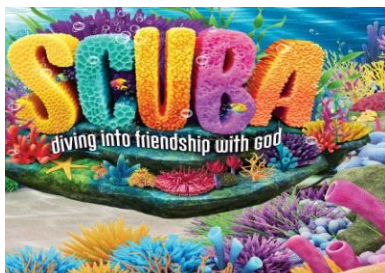


Thank you to the Atonement choir for their concert on May 19<sup>th</sup> and for the donations gathered to help support Atonement Youth attending the Gathering in New Orleans this July. The youth will be using these donations to purchase their in-kind donations supplies to help put together disaster relief kits in New Orleans. The goal during the gathering is to assemble 3,000 relief kits which help New Orleans residents in the aftermath of storms that leave them without electricity.



On Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, following service the parents and youth attending the gathering will meet in the youth room to discuss plans and details for the upcoming gathering trip.

## VBS - JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to Noon



Join us for a meaningful VBS week! Volunteer, donate, or register now: Volunteer: Be part of the action! Donate: snack items! Register: Secure your spot! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church at (406) 245-7004 or our VBS director Cassie McKenney at [sundayschool@atonementbillings.org](mailto:sundayschool@atonementbillings.org).



## ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Summer Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

We have finished a season here at the preschool with the 2023-2024 Last Day Celebration and Graduation Program. We celebrated with family and friends as 15 students received their Preschool Diplomas, and 13 students received their Preschool Certificates for a preschool year well done!

I am so thankful for our wonderful staff and preschool board without which our preschool program would not be able to run. Mrs. Erin, Mrs. Shannon, and Mrs. Hannah, our dedicated staff; and Grandma Susan, who volunteered her time in our snack room; I am so grateful for the love and care these extraordinary women put into our preschool program! We have so much fun together! Pastor Ryan and Nikki made Chapel Time a fantastic experience for the students this year; Christina was always willing to lend a helping hand; the Preschool Board members have been a wonderful support to us and without we would not have been able to do all that we did; and our Atonement Family, thank you for all your loving support you have shown the preschool! Our preschool is so blessed to have the wonderful support of our congregation for this special ministry we offer at Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

Our enrollment for the 2024-2025 preschool is still open and we do have some 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 will be having some upcoming events: Open House and Orientation this summer... please look for those dates and times later this summer!

Blessings,

Sara Westrope

Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director



### Summer Project coming soon!

We will be breaking ground on Atonement’s new playground this summer! Many groups have helped raise/donate funds for this endeavor; Preschool, WELCA, Memorial, and generous other individuals have helped in the efforts to make this possible alongside all those who participated in the fundraisers! We still have a little way to go so if you feel called to help with your time (especially during the construction of the project) and talents (monetary) that would be greatly appreciated! Many Blessings and thanks to our Atonement Family!

# FROM THE PASTOR

Do Not Be Daunted By The Enormity Of The World's Grief. Do Justly, Now. Love Mercy, Now. Walk Humbly, Now. You Are Not Obligated To Complete The Work, But Neither Are You Free To Abandon It. -The Talmud

This piece from the Jewish sacred writings in the Talmud is everything.

Do you ever feel daunted by enormous challenges and obstacles and griefs our world faces? (Politically? Socially? Communally? Globally?) Good grief, just this moment week I can feel overwhelmed just by thinking of the Israel/Palestine deadly conflict. Not to mention elections. Or inflation. Or the economy.

And what about personally? Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the challenges, obstacles, and griefs in your own world?

When I feel overwhelmed I look this Talmudic quote up. I sit with it. I practice lectio divina with it and I read it out loud over and over and over again. Allowing Spirit to work through me.

And then I ask myself, what is mine to do today? I jot down that list. I breathe. And then I freely go to do my work. Not all the work. Just what is mine.

Please pray with me and the church below (that is something all of us can do when daunted by the enormity of the world's grief).



## SUNDAY @9:15 AM!

The Bible is full of strange and colorful stories. Like colorful. What do we do with these stories? How do we read the colorful stories of the Bible? And what do they have to say to us today?

Join us for a new series, **Colorful Stories of the Bible**, as we begin a, well, colorful sermon series.

## CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2024

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with device camera

General Fund			
Income	\$35,136.06	Expenses	\$35,575.41
Net Income	\$(439.35)	Net Income YTD	\$(10,779.32)
Building Fund			
Income	\$7,369.48	Mortgage	\$5,163.00
Net Income	\$2,206.48	Net Income YTD	\$7,019.08

*In April we had a high insurance premium that came due. Property Taxes are due in May.*

*Julie Andersen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council*



Connect @ALC!

406-245-7004

office@atonementbillings.org

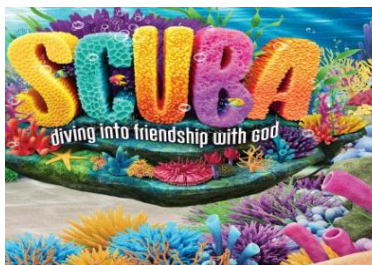


**WE NEED YOU** to volunteer for Assisting Minister, Lectors, Ushers, Transportation, and to help cover the office for Christina’s vacation days. Contact the church office @ 460-245-7004.

Are you a High School or Middle School youth looking for service hours? Atonement Lutheran Preschool could use your help preparing for next school year! Please contact the church office @ 406-245-7004 OR Sara Westrope if you are interested!

**ST JOHNS CONCERT:** Is looking for a few volunteers: four people to hand out bulletins/water, two people to drive St. John’s golf carts, five to six (possibly more) for parking. Contact Christina at 406-245-7004. The concert is June 20th a volunteer dinner will be served from 4:15 to 5:15 pm. Opener Cory Leone Johnson with a Ronnie Milsap tribute.

## SAVE THE DATE



VBS  
June 10 – 14  
9 am - Noon



ALC HOSTS  
June 16 – 22  
Sign-up board  
In the commons



SUMMER YOUTH  
EVENTS!!!  
middle school & high school students  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>** Frappe & Friends  
@heights City Brew 2 – 3 pm  
for games, treats and fun!





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

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Permit # 904



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**

No Bible Study for Wednesday's  
until we resume our fall schedule  
September 4th.

**Happy  
Father's  
Day!** 🎉👔👔👔

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