

The Commentator

What's INSIDE?

- 2 Adopt-a-plot
- 2 Youth News
- 3 Atonement Preschool
- 3 Playground Update
- 4 Finance Committee
- 4 Family Promise Thank You
- 4 Church Financials
- 5 Volunteer Opportunities
- 5 Christikon Clips
- 5 Drum Camp
- Insert July Calendar

HOW^{you can} HELP

- ❖ Teen Pantry
- ❖ Worship: ushers, assisting ministers, lectors, transportation.

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
July 10th @ 6 pm
Vig Patio

Marvelous Monday
July 22nd @ 6 pm
Applebee's

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



It's that time of year again!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024

Tuesday, August 6 6:00-8:00pm

Hosted by Atonement Lutheran Church

Supported locally by Centerspace

Come meet new people and show some love for your local law enforcement and emergency services.

Billings Heights | High Sierra Subdivision | 1290 Sierra Granda Blvd

FREE Inflatables!

EMERGENCY VEHICLE DISPLAYS

MEET AN OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER

Family Fun!

FREE Face Painting!

\$6 meals

Meal proceeds go directly to future National Night Out community events

NO PETS PLEASE

VBS THANK YOU

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your incredible support during this year's Vacation Bible School.

To our volunteers: Your dedication, time, and enthusiasm made a huge difference, and we couldn't have done it without you. You helped create a memorable and impactful experience for all the children.

To our donors: Your generous contributions provided the resources we needed to make this event a success. Your support is truly appreciated and made a significant impact. Thank you all for your commitment and generosity. Together, we created something wonderful! Warm Regards, Cassie McKenney VBS Director





ADOPT-A-PLOT

The Property Committee would like to again thank all the participants of the Adopt-a-Plot program for their responses to the request to clean up their adopted areas in May (and also anyone who simply came by and groomed an area). June moisture was adequate to green things up, but at this time many areas have developed weeds. If you adopted one of the areas listed on the posters displayed in the Commons, please schedule some time to spruce up your plot. Please manicure those areas to help keep our grounds looking awesome due to all your hard work. If you are interested in adopting an area, please review the posters for open areas or contact a Property Committee member for assistance. If you are interested in joining the mowing and or trimming crews, please contact Todd Koepp 406-855-2158. Again, thank you for participating in the Adopt-a-Plot ministry at Atonement. Your time and talent help us keep the Atonement grounds looking beautiful.

YOUTH NEWS



All youth middle to high school are invited to join in some summer fun on July 10th from 6:00-7:30 pm. Come have pizza, treats and play lawn games with us.



On Sunday July 14th during service, there will be a blessing and send off for the Atonement group attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans the 16th to the 20th. Please come bless our group and give them a warm send off. Then join them on July 28th during service to hear them present their experience and share photos and memories from their time at the gathering.

On Sunday July 7th and 14th during service, Atonement youth will be accepting donations to take with them to New Orleans to give as their special offering to Generation Zero-Hunger. This special offering will go to the ELCA World Hunger's Generation Zero-Hunger which is a youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. Many groups will bring their offerings to the [ELCA Youth Gathering](#) in New Orleans. Below are some examples of how different donation amounts can be used to change the lives of those receiving these donations:

- **\$50 could provide a community with five fruit-tree seedlings.** These low-maintenance trees are an investment in the community that can span generations, protecting the soil from erosion and providing nutritious fruit to children and adults alike.
- **\$50 can help a farmer grow!** With new tools, seeds and agricultural training, a family can start their own small garden, improve their daily nutrition and increase their earning power.
- **\$100 can feed 50 people** through a variety of feeding ministries, connecting guests to the resources they need.
- **\$500 can provide a family with a cow,** which can produce as many as 3 gallons of nutritious, calcium-packed milk. That milk can also be used to make cheese, yogurt, butter and other dairy products to eat and sell for a steady source of income.
- **\$500 empowers four women to build a new business** — weaving, baking or running a storefront, for example — that creates a steady source of income and helps their families escape poverty.
- **\$2,500 can provide water for as many as 500 families.** With a simple water well, spring box or other water point, communities gain access to clean, safe water. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school.



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Summer Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

Even though preschool is not in session, we are busy preparing for the next preschool year. There is much to plan and prep for and our staff is busy behind the scenes getting ready!

Our theme for the 2024-2025 preschool year is "Discovering Treasure." We plan to have lots of fun exploring the different treasures we have to offer.

One event coming up before we know it will be our Open House at National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th. Please stop anytime from 5:45 – 6:30! Incoming students will have their picture taken for the coming preschool year and the preschool parents will be receiving the parent packet to be completed and brought back to our Orientation on August 21st at 11:30. 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 look forward to seeing you all at National Night on August 6th! The preschool will be posting a Wish List to help purchase supplies for our preschool year!

Blessings,

Sara Westrope

Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director



PLAYGROUND UPDATE:

Playground construction is currently going on. Work is happening daily. Contact Todd Koepp or the office if you have any questions. All help is welcome. Help is needed with watering, raking, and assembling. Evenings and weekends are greatly appreciated. We appreciate any time you can give to help us complete these tasks. Thank you once again for your continued support and commitment. Together we can make this a fantastic experience for the children!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

It's time for an almost mid-year financial update on the ministry year 2024.

Here's the good news. Our general offerings are up over 18% over the prior year. Our total giving is incredible. What's more, our general attendance numbers are up 20% over last year too. We are growing in Christ together.

Here's the challenge. You may remember that council constructed a 2024 budget based on the ask that congregants split their offerings 90/10. That is to say, 90 percent to the General fund and 10 percent to the Building fund. As a congregation we agreed and approved this budget. We are therefore all collectively responsible for it.

As a reminder, our building funds supports paying our mortgage only. The General fund (ie. Ministry Fund) supports literally everything else at church — our worship ministries, pastoral ministries, youth and children ministries, VBS, Bible studies, visitations, our social outreach ministries (Family Promise, Teen Pantry, 2nd Sandwich Sundays etc), and administration.

At this moment, we are seeing that folks are still splitting their giving 80/20. What this means is that our building fund is running a surplus and our ministry fund is running a deficit. What we are asking for at this time is that you strongly consider reallocating your giving to reflect 90/10 model that best equips our congregation to do powerful ministry and continue to grow in Christ together! Or since we are around the mid-point of the year, feel encouraged to split 95/5.

For those of us who give online or who write physical check, it's a simple adjustment. If you need any assistance in making changes to your offerings, feel encouraged to contact our administrator during office hours (Monday-Thursday 8:30-2:30pm; Friday by appointment).

- Your Finance Committee



FAMILY PROMISE THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your incredible support with the Family Promise setup, teardown, and providing meals. Your efforts as meal and overnight hosts made a significant impact on the families we served. Family Promise will be back from August 18th to 24th. We will once again need your help to make this event a success. Your dedication and generosity are truly appreciated, and we look forward to working with you again.

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with device camera

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 2024

General Fund			
Income	\$34,256.62	Expenses	\$38,116.26
Net Income	(\$3,859.64)	Net Income YTD	(\$14,638.96)
Building Fund			
Income	\$5,929.48	Mortgage	\$5,163.00
Net Income	\$766.48	Net Income YTD	\$7,785.56

Julie Andersen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council

Connect @ALC!

406-245-7004

office@atonementbillings.org



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!

Christikon Clips

July 2024

Information for our Congregations



We are grateful for all the hard work that our Work Weekend crew accomplished!

Great group! Check out the pictures on our facebook page. Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/Christikon>

Thank you to one and all!

It's not too late to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults. You can register online at www.christikon.org or call us at the camp office for further information.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. Continuing Education Retreat (July 29-Aug 1) – we welcome our speakers Dr. Jason Mahn Kent Claussen Gubrud– Go to our website for topics. Mountain Weekend (Aug 2-4) – watch our website for speaker(s) and topics as they become available.. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Check out topic details on the website. www.christikon.org

Remember to pray for our staff and campers.

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

DRUM CAMP

Thursday and Friday, August 8th and 9th from 9:00-11:30. Learn fun percussion instruments taught by area music and percussion teachers and learn some of our favorite and new worship songs to present to the congregation! Snacks will be provided.





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

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



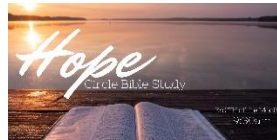
Council Member's

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

Ryan Kapperud (2025)
Michel Poodry (2025)
Sara 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 Noland (2027)
Dennis Roseleip (2027)



Hope Circle/Bible Study will not meet in
July and August.
We will be back September 19, 2024.

St. John's Summer Concert Series @ St. John's Campus Openers start @ 6:00 pm Tributes start @ 7 pm

- July 11th Beatles Tribute Opener: Elise Dye
- July 18th Beach Boys Tribute Opener: John Adams
- July 25th Elton John Tribute Opener: Gavin Russell
- August 1st Paper Flowers "Remembering Fleetwood Mac"
Opener: John Flordis @ 5:30 pm

Free Admission

Food Trucks

Coolers Welcome



BRINGING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!