

The Commentator

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What is the “Atonement Memorial Garden”?

When Atonement purchased our current plot of land, the planning vision of a “Cradle to Grave” campus was hatched. The Memorial Garden is just one more addition to that vision.

On our campus between Wyndstone and our Church where you see the flag that honors our veterans, is our Memorial Garden which includes our Columbarium and Memorial Wall, granite benches, & pathways providing four different ways to honor & offer perpetual care for your loved ones.

1. **Niche**-a limited space around the outside of the Columbarium, each of the niches with room for up to two inurnments. Inscription of the name and date on the granite Niche cover, completed after each death.
2. **Ossuary**-the common chamber located in the center of the Columbarium, where a soft urn of cremated ashes can be inurned. The lighter colored granite band that encircles the columbarium is the Memorial Band on which the names of those inurned in the Ossuary will be inscribed. A satin bag is available for purchase.
3. **Garden scattering of ashes**-interment of cremated ashes into the soil in a designated area of the Memorial Garden.
4. **Memorial Wall** for those interred elsewhere and wish to be recognized in their connection to Atonement or those whose ashes are scattered in our garden. Memorial Wall inscription is completed as weather permits. Currently our engraver is allowing names to be added of living spouses with the plan to later add each death date. As an option for Atonement family memorials, family member’s connection to Atonement could be recognized with a Memorial Wall inscription.

All of these options for use of the Memorial Garden can be purchased as each family plans ahead for their end-of-life or at the time of death. Only cremated human remains are interred in the garden or inurned (in a sealed container) in the columbarium within the Garden. A Christian commitment ceremony is held in connection with each interment or inurnment.

HOW you can HELP

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

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
August 14th @ 6 pm
Guadalajara

Marvelous Monday
August 26th @ 6 pm
Perkins

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

Continued page 2

If you have attended funerals in the Billings Heights, you may be familiar with funeral processions often to a west-end cemetery between the funeral/memorial service and the family gathering. Currently, there is no cemetery available in a Heights location for the public. Atonement members feel our Memorial Garden fulfills this vacancy by providing a place of eternal rest for cremated human remains within our campus. The Memorial Garden is not just for Atonement members but for anyone who recognizes faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and belief in God's grace and eternal life. The planning committee's goal was to provide a unique and economical choice for cremated remains.

Our Memorial Garden has 100 Niche spaces in the Columbarium, 172 spaces for satin bags in the Ossuary. For the living, it provides a garden spot for visitation, remembrance and prayer as well as a place where one can sit and just reflect. Currently we have 49 available niches. As you can see our Memorial Wall already has 20 loved ones memorialized on it with room for maybe 30 more.

The Memorial Garden is NOT supported by the general budget of Atonement church but is rather a self-sustaining entity totally supported by the proceeds from sale agreements of Niches and Ossuary spaces, sale of memorials, and donations to the Memorial Garden Fund.

The pricing below includes maintenance & expansion of the inurnment or interment site and the garden in general and the cost of maintaining records and administration of the Memorial Garden.

CURRENT PRICING*

- Columbarium Niches\$2,000
- Ossuary and name on band.....\$600
- Ossuary Satin urn.....\$30
- Scattering of Ashes in Garden.....\$100

(If Memorial Wall inscription is purchased, there is no additional charge for scattering of ashes)

Memorial Wall Inscription.....\$300

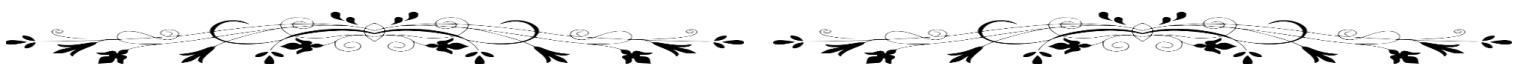
*All prices are based on current costs and may increase.

Purchase now to "lock in" your cost.

DONATIONS TO THE "MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND" ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!!

If you have a vision you wish to share with the Memorial Garden Committee, please reach out to one of the current Trustees: Butch Morse, Judy Lawrence or Rose Steiner.

Please contact the church office to obtain an informational packet or other information, 406-245-7004.





Summer Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

Our preschool is gearing up for a fun-filled school year! Open House will be on August 6th from 5:45 – 6:45. Our incoming students will have their picture taken for the upcoming preschool year and we will send the parent packet home with parents to be completed and brought back to our Orientation on August 28th at 11:30.

Our enrollment for the 2024-2025 preschool is still open and we do have a couple 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!

The start of the preschool year is just around the corner... September 4th! Our theme for the 2024-2025 preschool year is "Discovering Treasure!"

We would love to have some help getting items off our Wish List Bulletin Board in the commons area or these items below are some other items we are looking for to help during the school year...

- ♥ Goldfish
- ♥ Animal Crackers
- ♥ Pretzel Sticks
- ♥ Popcorn
- ♥ M&Ms
- ♥ Raisins
- ♥ Cheese Sticks
- ♥ Veggie Sticks
- ♥ Graham Crackers
- ♥ Nilla Wafers
- ♥ Walmart/Target/Albertsons Gift Card

Thank you to those that were able to help and thank you for your support and please keep us all in your prayers as we are on break for the summer!

Blessings,

Sara Westrope

Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director

Preschool Aide Position Available

We are looking for a dedicated and compassionate Preschool Aide to join our team.

- **Hours:** Approximately 17 hours per week for 36 weeks
 - **Schedule:** 8:30 am to Noon
 - **Pay Rate:** \$14.00 per hour

If you are interested, please contact Sara Westrope at 406-245-7004.

FROM THE PASTOR

Recently staff from our denominational headquarters (ELCA churchwide) came to visit our campus as they heard we are an impressive and innovative congregation.

We are:

- ❖ Did you know that our 2nd Sandwich crew has made nearly 3000 sandwiches in 2024 so far?
- ❖ Did you know that our Teen Pantry provides thousands of dollars' worth of food, hygiene products, and undergarments for our local junior highs and high schools every month?
- ❖ Did you know we've provided shelter for over a dozen families with Family Promise just this year?
- ❖ Did you know our quilting group made nearly 2400 quilts for local hospitals, animal shelters, St Johns, Lutheran World Relief, and foster agencies this year?
- ❖ Did you know that WELCA's plant drive brought in over \$4000, and that this money was given to the preschool and church to redesign and improve our playground?

Think about how extraordinary it is that we have on our campus, a preschool and Wyndstone. How many churches embrace the full spectrum of human life?

Think about how many churches embrace a worship service that fully incorporates traditional hymns and contemporary music with a pastor who never robes and preaches the most strange and difficult passages in the Bible on purpose.

Think about how many Lutheran churches have growing children and youth ministries.

Think about how many churches have a handyman ministry team that helps people winterize their lawns, sprinklers, and just helps our church members out with all kinds of home projects.

The staff from churchwide heard and learned so much more than what I just shared. And they are eager to help connect us to future grants to empower our church to keep innovating and growing.

Honestly, I cannot think of a time I've been prouder to serve a church.

Love you Atonement. We've been together a year. Let's keep growing.

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 2024

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with a Device Camera

| General Fund | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Income | \$33,191.20 | Expenses | \$43,122.93 |
| Net Income | (\$9,931.73) | Net Income YTD | (\$24,570.69) |
| Building Fund | | | |
| Income | \$5,492.48 | Mortgage | \$5,163.00 |
| Net Income | \$329.48 | Net Income YTD | \$8,115.04 |

There were 2 large expenditures in June \$6,735.17 for property taxes, and \$3,362.58 for quarterly insurance. This made us quite upside down in a normally slow month.

Julie Andersen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church



ADOPT-A-PLOT

Currently 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.



PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped with the playground project. Your dedication and hard work have made a tremendous difference, and we are deeply grateful for your time, effort, and contributions.

We are excited to announce that we will be receiving the mulch for the playground in the very near future. Please be on the lookout for an update on when we will need additional help to finish up this project. Your continued support is invaluable, and we look forward to completing the playground together. Thank you once again for all you do!

SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

for middle school & high school students:

August 4th Frappe & Friends @ heights City Brew from 2-3 pm for games, treats and fun! **August 21st** Ice Cream & Lawn Games @ Atonement from 7-8:30 pm.

August 2024

Information for our Congregations

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for the last sessions of our 73rd season. We hosted over 500 campers so far this season including youth, families, adults and at-risk youth. We have retreats scheduled through mid-October. Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon. We look forward to our congregational and family retreats scheduled this fall. A few retreat times are still available.

Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to camp, our staff, and our campers. Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and your generous donations. We are grateful!

Please visit <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon/> and continue your support.



It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

WELCA is once again collecting items to fill school kits for LWR. Each kit contains the following:

- 4-70sheet spiral bound notebooks
- 1 box 24 count crayons
- 1 ruler with centimeters
- 5 #2 pencils
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 blunt tip scissors
- 1 -2 1/2" eraser
- 1 small pencil sharpener.

We currently have 150 bags we would like to fill.

If you would like to make a contribution, but do not like to shop, just drop your donation marked for this project in the offering collection or the office and we will shop for you. Thanks, Atonement, for everything you do!

Julie Leno

ELCA YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

Hi, my name is Emma Quinn! I grew up in Billings Montana, where my family has been for generations. I love being outside, hiking, floating in the river searching for cool rocks, and playing my mandolin. I studied nursing at MSU and after graduation, returned to Billings to work as an RN.

In the past 6 years I have had a few different nursing roles, Ortho/Trauma, PACU, and most recently School nursing. This career has been very fulfilling, but after much prayer and discernment, I have answered a call to be part of the ELCA's



My placement is in Edinburgh Scotland, where I will be volunteering with a program called Bethany Christian Trust, a program devoted to ending homelessness in Scotland. This next year will be full of new experiences and challenges, but I am excited for the chance to grow in my faith.

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you"

If you would like to donate to my fundraising goal.

Emma Quinn GCS3588

https://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1086154&pg=personal&fr_id=1181&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3616eCcomWTm_lttR8zO3F-FXaynMNASKggBOVlts2BQ8rJxnoLmFw58_aem_2Z56mO9v7DofVeTk0mFnug

DIRECTORY UPDATE NOTICE

We will be updating our directory very soon. Now is the time to submit any changes to your address, phone number, and email address. Please contact Christina at 406-245-7004 or simply email your new information to office@atonementbillings.org.



Connect @ALC!

406-245-7004

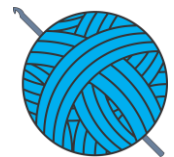
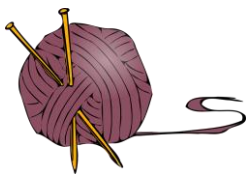
office@atonementbillings.org



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!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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 were blessed with a large donation yarn this month. We have kits available, and 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.



DRUM CAMP

Drum Camp August 8th-9th at Atonement from 9:00-11:30 am. All ages welcome but we'll be focusing mostly on youth from ages 5-16. Younger kiddos will learn basic percussion instruments and beats, and older youth can try out and learn some beats on the trap-set. We'll be preparing some music to share with the congregation. Snacks provided! No cost or registration. Come as you are!





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 (406) 245-7004
 atonementbillings.org

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 Vice President.....Ryan Kapperud
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 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)



BRINGING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!