

The Commentator

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If you would like the name of a loved one lost this year on Sunday, November 3rd Service, please notify the church office by Thursday, October 31st @ 406-245-7004 or office@atonementbillings.org

ATONEMENT CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

Last chance for you and your family to get their picture taken. Pictures will be taken in the snack room. Just show up for your picture to be taken by Butch Morse. We hope to have EVERYONE participate!
Picture time:
Sunday, November 3, 10:30 – 11:30 am

ATONEMENT FALL BAZZAR



Will be Saturday, November 2nd, 2024, 9:00am-3:00pm. Please help with the Bazaar when you can! Set up will be Thursday, October 31st starting at 8:30 a.m. and continuing Friday, November 1st. Take down will be Saturday, November 2nd at 3pm and Sunday, November 3rd at noon. We will need the following items to sell: Craft Items, Canned Goods (we have jars if you need some),

Garden Produce, Baked Goods (especially pies), Garage Sale Items (PLEASE NO CLOTHES OR ELECTRONICS). Items can be brought to the church starting Monday, October 28th. Please designate if your items are for the bazaar or the garage sale. If you have any questions please contact: the church office, Eleanor Andersen @ 406-855-1401, or Julie Leno @ 406-248-5359.

HOW you can HELP

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

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
November 13th @ 6 pm
Pizza Ranch

Marvelous Monday
November 25 @ 6 pm
Play Inn

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

J.O.Y. BIBLE STUDY

Coffee, tea, laughter, and scripture with fun thoughtful life discussions. Meeting at 6:30 am every Wednesday morning at Montana Jack's on Hansen Lane. Contact Michel Poodry at 406-855-8446 for more information.



HOPE CIRCLE/BIBLE STUDY



This circle/bible study meets the 3rd 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 November 21st and you and your bible are welcome to join us. For more info call Bette, 406-245-5054



YOUTH NEWS

Milestone happening in November are the 2nd grade Apostle's Creed class with Pastor Ryan at 10:45 am on November 3rd and the 1st grade Lord's Prayer class with Pastor Ryan at 10:45 am November 17th. Both classes will be held in the Nursery. Please reach out to the office if you would like to be included or have any questions.



On November 13th, middle school students and confirmation students will be going to the Lutheran Youth Collective Event at Good Shepherd Church. Students will meet at Atonement at 5:45 pm for rides and will leave the event at 8:00 to be picked up back at Atonement around 8:15 pm.

The Atonement high school Youth Group will be doing their Christmas service project on November 6th. Students will meet at the church at 6:00 pm for dinner and then leave for Target around 6:30 to shop for Operation Christmas Child. All students will return to the church by 8:00 pm. The students will meet back for youth group the following week, November 13th, to assemble and wrap the gift.



FUNDRAISER Drawing



Gift Card Wreath!



On November 24th, directly following service, the Atonement youth will announce the winner of the Annual Gift Card Wreath fundraiser. The funds raised from this help send youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering which takes place every 3 years. The next gathering will be happening in 2027 in Minneapolis, and we have a group of youth who have never been and have not yet been able to fundraise. This annual raffle is a great head start to their fundraising which makes attending the gathering possible and affordable for families.

THANK YOU



Thank You sincerely to all who helped in any way with lefse making this year. The movement and fellowship were constant with members and families and people of all ages which made the work seem easier and go faster. Special thanks to Mike Noland for the 200+ lbs. of potatoes. It was amazing!
Atonement is blessed!

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday November 6th from 4-7. It will be in the blood drive mobile unit in the parking lot and not in the building. Please contact June Canfield for an appointment @ 406-690-7212. Donating Blood Makes an Impact, Your Role in the World Matters! When you give blood with Vitalant, you have the potential to help hospital patients within your community and, when the need arises, others across the country.





Thankful Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

We have many things to be thankful for as we enter the month of November. Atonement Lutheran Preschool is so thankful for our wonderful students and their families! We are also thankful for our extended Atonement family; we are truly blessed to be surrounded by a loving and supportive community!

This November we are blessed to have our neighbors at Wyndstone to visit and share fun crafts with on Veterans Day. We will be collecting food items for the teen pantries at our Middle and High Schools in the Heights. These items will be our groceries in our dramatic play grocery store, then donated at the end of the month! We will also be having a Thankful Feast with our classmates and doing many fall crafts and activities.

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 below, that would be a great help during the school year...

- ♥ Googly Eyes (all sizes)
- ♥ Christmas Wrapping paper
- ♥ Tissue Paper
- ♥ Christmas Cupcake Liners
- ♥ Pompom (white)
- ♥ Dial Foaming Hand Soap Refill
- ♥ Walmart/Target/Albertsons Gift Card

Thank you for all your prayers and support as we continue our journey through the school year! We are blessed to have your support and generous hearts!

Blessings,

Sara Westrope

Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director

FROM THE PASTOR

The other night Confirmation students and I looked at the story of Moses and the Burning Bush.

It's layered with depth and meaning.

But to get to those layers and depth of meaning we had to backtrack.

Where was Moses born? He was born into an enslaved Hebrew family in the foreign lands of Egypt. His birth was not welcomed by the Egyptian empire as Pharaoh — fearing the growing number of Hebrews in the empire — had just decreed that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed.

But then, Moses' mother — in a move of sheer desperation — puts him in a basket and sends him down the river.

Because somehow that was the safer option.

Miraculously pharaoh's daughter sees this basket filled with a baby and draws him out of the river. And rather than turning the baby in, she decides to raise the baby with the help of a Hebrew nurse (actually, Moses' own mom gets to do this...in a twist of irony).

So Moses grows up, saved by the pharaoh's daughter, in this complicated and heartbreaking childhood.

One day he sees a slaver beat a Hebrew slave.

Enraged and CONSUMED WITH ANGER Moses kills the slaver. But then flees for his life.

Do you imagine that Moses had some identity issues? Some childhood trauma? Some wounds to work out in therapy?

So when God shows up in a burning bush (an important tangent here in a moment about the bush) and God implores Moses to work with God to free the Hebrews, how does Moses respond?

Well, how would anyone with identity issues and childhood trauma respond?

Moses asks God, "Who am I?"

We call that imposter syndrome.

You don't even need to have had trauma like Moses, to know this feeling of "who am I?"

Parents often feel this deeply. Who am I to mother or father or care for this baby? There's no manual! Who am I to navigate middle school or hormonal changes or dating or.....or, well anything that comes along.

Or, think about folks in new jobs.

Students at new schools or in new classes.

What am I doing here?

Who am I.....

To be honest, one of the reasons I have a Spiritual Director is to work through this nagging feeling. Who am I to lead our awesome church? Who am I to pastor a church during such divisive political times? Who am I to help shepherd and walk us through the challenges we face as a dynamically growing church?

But what my spiritual director reminds me time and time again and what I reminded our confirmation students (and will do every single week) is that God knows you. God knows you better than you know yourself. And God believes in you. God is calling you to make some difference in the world. Or some difference in some people's lives. (Also, the problems in the world aren't all yours to fix either.)

It's so easy to become consumed with imposter syndrome. And that brings me back to the Burning Bush.

When Moses is angry at the slaver beating an enslaved Hebrew, Moses is consumed by that anger.

When God shows up in the bush, the bush is burning "yet not consumed."

FROM THE PASTOR

Continued....

Feeling anger isn't wrong. Feeling anger as a result of seeing that things in this world are not as they can or should be is hardly wrong at all.

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Feeling anger isn't wrong. Feeling anger as a result of seeing that things in this world are not as they can or should be is hardly wrong at all.

But being consumed with anger...that just hurts and often, like Moses, leads to isolation.

Feeling like an imposter isn't even necessarily wrong. Our feelings aren't the problem. Our feelings just tell us how we're, well, feeling. They alert us. They inform us of what is going on in our interior world.

But being consumed with imposter syndrome...that just hurts and again often just leads to isolation.

Can we feel without being consumed with our feelings? One thing I've learned is to name my feelings rather than letting my feelings name me. Here's what I mean: Rather than saying, "I'm angry," I say, "I'm feeling angry," or "I'm feeling anger." There's a healthy distance. I'm not my feelings. They're important and helpful and life-giving, but I'm not my feelings.

These are strange times we live in.

You might be feeling anger, or anxiety, or tension, or stress, or oh maybe all the feelings.

Our scriptures remind us that our spiritual ancestors in the Bible also lived in strange times. And God calls each of us — regardless of our background (and sometimes especially with our unique backgrounds) to respond.

How is God calling you to respond to our world in need? How is God calling you to do something about the things in this world that are maddening? How are you going to address imposter syndrome?

God is calling you. God is calling me. God is calling us.

I love you. And more importantly, God loves you.

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with a Device Camera

General Fund			
Income	\$57,962.48	Expenses	\$39,470.78
Net Income	\$18,491.70	Net Income YTD	(\$2,423.95)
Building Fund			
Income	\$4,618.98	Mortgage	\$5,163.00
Net Income	(\$544.02)	Net Income YTD	\$3,603.48

September was a great month, Pre-School income brought us out of the deficit! Thanks Pre-School!!

Julie Andersen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry currently meets at 10:45 after church in the snack room and we would love to have you! We are working on prayer shawls and hats/scarfs for our local school children. We have many prayer shawls available for you to give to anyone in need of a little bit of lifting up! Feel free to take one! Each prayer shawl is numbered and listed on the clipboard in the

cupboard. If you would please just fill out the information on the clipboard, this helps us track how many prayer shawls we have made/given away! If you have any questions, please reach out to Jane Hansen at 406.861.2953 or

jhansen0359@gmail.com.

Christikon Clips

November 2024

Information for our Congregations



Our 2025 summer calendar is set and, on our website, (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2025 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday November 17th at 3:30pm. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2025 season, construction, and much more. Our meeting will be a hybrid – meaning that we would love for you to come in person but if you cannot attend, you can join on Zoom. The in-person meeting will be at the Big Timber Lutheran Church.

We ask for prayers for our **Executive Director Call Committee** as they do their work and as we prepare to welcome a new director. We trust that God is present in this process.

We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year.

Thank you as always for all the ways you support Christikon.

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



HANDYMAN MINISTRY SPRINKLER BLOWOUT WRAP-UP 2024 AND ALC CAMPUS WINTERIZATION

Thank you to all who supported the Handyman's Sprinkler Blowout 2024. The teams completed requests for service for 54 properties this year, surpassing last year's requests by 4. Thank you to all those who assisted in anyway this year as we made rounds to all the properties city-wide. We again were able to open appointments for two weekends and several days in between also. Thanking all who supported our efforts, we received over \$3400 in donations. We ask that those that have adopt a plant area to please clean those areas as appropriate, so they look good and are ready for winter. We will be looking for assistance with the final push to get the grounds ready for winter, helping set up/tear down the bazaar, and preparing for the advent season. If you have any questions, please call Todd Koepp, 406-855-2158. Thank you again for all your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friendly Reminder: Men's Square Breakfast, Friday, November 1, 6:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Property Committee Meeting: Monday, November 4, 7:00 p.m. - Agenda includes 2025 Budget Proposal.

DECORATING FOR ADVENT



On November 24th we will decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. This is also our pledge Sunday; you should be getting the time and talent sheet in the mail, and we will have copies in the commons if you should forget your time and talent sheet at home.

MIDWEEK ADVENT 2024

On Wednesday, December 4th we will hold our first Midweek Advent service beginning at 6:30pm. We will meet this year in the Little White Church on the WyndStone Campus. The Holden Evening Prayer will be our guide as we prepare our hearts for the Light of the World! Join us weekly through December 18th.

WOMEN OF ATONEMENT



Please join us for our annual WELCA Christmas Dessert on Monday, December 2, at 7 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening of entertainment and fellowship. Bring a friend and share the joy.

TEEN PANTRY NEEDS

The Atonement Lutheran family continues to be very generous in giving for the Heights Teen Pantries, located at Skyview, Castle Rock, Medicine Crow Schools and Tumbleweed. All food is put to good use, and the Teen Pantries have some specific needs, especially Skyview, where there are teens who are homeless, are couch surfing with friends, and even living in cars. Please continue to support these vulnerable families and kids.

Teen Pantry Needs:

Nutri-grain bars
Granola bars
Fruit cereal bars
Pop tarts

Cup of noodles
Pop top cups of fruit
Fruit Leather
Spaghetti sauce and noodles

Packets of cheese or peanut butter crackers
Feminine products
Deodorant
Underwear



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

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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)



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us Wednesday mornings starting at 10 am in the Jerusalem room
as we engage in a Bible study.



Please note that our office will be closed on
November 11 in observance of Veterans
Day and **November 28** in observance of
Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your understanding!

BRINGING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!