

The Commentator

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HOW^{you} can HELP

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

MENU



Wonderful Wednesday
No meal due to Advent Services

Marvelous Monday
December 23 @ 6 pm
Montana Jack's

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

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.

ANGEL TREE

*And they wrapped him in swaddling clothes....
Help those in need with diapers (especially larger sizes) and wipes. Place them under the Angel Tree in The Commons through December. Evangelism will get them to Family Promise who will distribute them to organizations that help those in need with babies and infants.*



The church choir is caroling on December 15th and would love others to join in the fun! We will meet in the sanctuary at 11:00am following the service to discuss the houses we will be stopping at. We will carpool and be gone anywhere from 60-90 minutes. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join!

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 December 19th and you and your bible are welcome to join us. For more info call Bette, 406-245-5054



YOUTH NEWS



On December 14th, the Youth and Family + Education Committee will be hosting a free Christmas Movie night. The doors open at 6:30 and Elf will begin showing at 6:45. There will be free concessions, crafts and Santa photos!



The Christmas Bake Sale will be held after service on December 15th. There is a pre-order form online for anyone who wants to order ahead of time or arrange for pickup on Saturday the 14th. All funds raised from the bake sale help Atonement student's 3rd to 12th grade with the cost of summer camps and/or future youth gatherings.



The Youth Group and Confirmation Christmas party will be happening December 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Nikki's house. There will be no Wednesday evening programming during Christmas break. Youth group and confirmation will resume on January 8th.



THANK YOU!

The WELCA board would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helped with this year's bazaar. It's a huge event that could not happen without the support of the congregation donating items to sell, helping with set up and tear down, cooking and serving food, advertising, and shopping! This year we asked for extra help with resetting the church on Saturday and you showed up, Atonement! It's pretty amazing to see what we can accomplish together! We are excited to announce that we broke another record this year, earning over \$20,000 profit that will help support church ministries!



THANK YOU!

The Evangelism Committee wants to give a big THANK YOU to our congregation for their support during SOCKTOBER. Over 350 pairs of socks were collected and distributed to: FUMC, Veteran's Independence Hall, Bench Elementary, Wander Woman, Crisis Center, Rescue Mission.



COAT DRIVE

As the cold weather sets in, we are collecting clean, warm coats to help those in need. Donations can be dropped off at the church office during regular hours. Your generosity can make a big difference in someone's life this winter! If you have any questions, please contact Doreen Shewmaker at 701-290-6821. Thank you for your support!



Season's Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

Advent is a time to prepare! It is indeed time to prepare at Atonement Lutheran Preschool! As we prepare for Christmas in our homes with our families; we are also preparing for the joyous season that celebrates Jesus' birth in preschool as well!

In December, we will have many things planned for the preschool students! Santa's Workshop will be set up in our dramatic play area, our little elves are working hard to wrap presents, make cards, play with our manger scene, decorate the Christmas tree. To prepare for Christmas our students will be working hard on fun Christmas crafts. Atonement will be going to Wyndstone two times; once for Christmas craft on Friday, December 6th and another to perform our Christmas Program for the residents on Monday, December 16th. We will have two Christmas program performances at Atonement for family and friends on Wednesday, December 19th and on Thursday, December 20th both at 10:30 am with cookies and beverages to follow. On Wednesday, December 11th & Thursday, December 12th we will be having a Polar Express Day, the students have fun wearing their pajamas! We will have a Birthday Party for Jesus – Tuesday, December 17th and Friday, December 20th wearing ugly Christmas sweaters! No preschool for Christmas Break from December 23- January 1st.

We could use your help with some of the supplies we will be working with in the coming months. If you can find and donate these items below, that would be a great help during the school year...

- ♥ Colored Tissue Paper
- ♥ Oatmeal Large Containers
- ♥ Goldfish snack crackers
- ♥ Cheerios (any flavor)
- ♥ Pirate Booty
- ♥ Regular Applesauce pouches
- ♥ Ritz crackers
- ♥ 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! Merry Christmas!

Blessings,
Sara Westrope

Atonement Lutheran Preschool Director

FROM THE PASTOR

Words create worlds.

As Christians we know this as we read scriptures telling us about creation itself — a God poetically speaking existence into, well existence. But you know this just in your everyday life. How often has a word of encouragement completely changed your day? Or week? Or year? Or life?

Some seasons in life we need words spoken over us and to us. And I think Advent/Christmas is one such season. The holiday season can be rather chaotic and stressful AND YET, we are invited into stories of hope against despair, joyous relationships springing forth from tales of sorrow, defiant peace against the strain, and a transformative Love enduring.

Our worship series this Advent/Christmas is designed to place us into transformative stories—surrounding us with words that offer encouragement and warmth. The kind of words that feel like a quilt wrapped around a newborn.

Words of the Beginning.

As the liturgists and creatives at Sanctified Art put it, this series is crafted to be *“filled with blessings, with the scriptures and reminders we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. These reminders root us in the fundamental truths of our faith. Many of them are life lessons we teach to children—lessons that adults continue to learn and relearn. They may resemble the blessings we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies like weddings, graduations, or baptisms. And so, we invite you to move through this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.*

“As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.”

This year we are also providing devotionals and Advent calendars for adults, families, and children. There will be so many opportunities — easy and accessible — to just fully immerse yourself into this holy season.

I hope you join us this Advent/Christmas season enthralled and enraptured by these comforting words of love.

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT OCTOBER 2024

QR Code for easy giving!



Scan with a Device Camera

General Fund			
Income	\$42,024.64	Expenses	\$41,035.25
Net Income	\$989.39	Net Income YTD	(\$1,893.27)
Building Fund			
Income	\$3,650.36	Mortgage	\$5,163.00
Net Income	(\$1,512.64)	Net Income YTD	\$2,090.84

We had another great month for income, and no large expenditures. Thanks everyone!

Julie Andersen – Treasurer, Atonement Lutheran Church Council



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.



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

December 2024

Information for our Congregations



As we move into the dark days of winter, and in the midst of a world weary of brokenness, division, natural disasters and war, we look yet again towards the promise of the coming Christ child. As the gospel writer proclaims, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it."

Shine, Jesus, shine...in our hearts and homes, our community and world.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you and yours from your Christikon family.

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

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406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

PROPERTY COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO PURSUE GREEN FUTURE FOR ALC

The Property Committee has submitted to the Finance Committee and Congregation for approval of funds for a conversion to LED lighting in our parking lot before June 30, 2025. This retrofit conversion to LED lights also falls under NWE's Electric Lighting Rebate Program. With the estimated expense of \$1800 for the retrofit lamps and another \$800 in expenses doing the install through the Property Committee, the rebate eligibility will amount to about \$400 if we simply change lamps. We continue to research other parking lot LED options that include changing out the entire top arms with LED arms and larger rebates up to \$200 per arm.

After our first application to Northwestern Energy for adding solar panels in early 2024, we have rolled our application over to the next evaluation period with a deadline of November 1, 2024. The applications will be evaluated over the coming 6 months and projects are accepted on an ongoing basis. With the assistance of YellowBall Solar, we will update our application to NWE and continue to rollover as necessary. This project indicated a 25% savings to our current electrical expenses.



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Sara Wald (2025)
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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
December 24 - 27 in observance of
Christmas. Normal business hours will
resume December 30.

Thank you for your understanding!

BRINGING THE HOPE WE SHARE IN CHRIST TO ALL!