



Join Us for Holy Week: Tell Me Something Good

Holy Week is here, and we invite you to be part of these most meaningful days of the Christian year. Come and experience the journey from the table, to the cross and to the joy of resurrection.

Maundy Thursday – April 2 @ 6:30pm

A time of worship and Holy Communion as we remember Jesus' command to love one another.

Good Friday – April 3 @ 7:30pm

A quiet, reflective service centered on Christ's sacrifice and God's deep love.

Easter Sunday – April 5

Celebrate the joy of new life and resurrection!

- 6:30am Sunrise Service at the Little White Church
- 8:30am Traditional Worship
- 10:30am Contemporary, Family-Style Worship
- 7:30–10am Easter Breakfast (served by our youth)
- After 10:30am Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!

We also invite you to bring your favorite cut **flowers on Easter Sunday to help decorate the Flower Cross**—a beautiful symbol of new life and resurrection. Come celebrate the hope of Easter with us:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Atonement Lutheran Church

1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.

Billings, MT 59105

406-245-7004

office@atonementbillings.org

www.atonementbillings.org

**LEARN
LIVE LAUGH**

Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

By: Sara Westrope, ALC Preschool Director

We are having a great year so far! I feel I say this every year, but it is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the preschool year! The students have been working on Spring crafts, working our way through the alphabet, singing, and playing together. During the month of April we will be learning about the butterfly's life cycle, learning about planting flower seeds and doing fun Easter crafts!

Our enrollment for the 2026-2027 preschool year is open and we have openings available! Our early bird registration goes until April 1st after which the application fee increases, so don't miss out! We offer three different classes for our students:

- ♥ Preschool.....ages 3-4..... T/TH 9am–11:30am
- ♥ Preschool.....ages 3.5-5..... M/W/F 9am–11:30am
- ♥ K-Prepages 4-5..... M/T/TH/F.... 9am–12pm

We want our ministry to thrive and continue to serve all these special young children as they learn and explore at preschool! If you know of anyone wanting to register, please let them know soon! Word of mouth is the best advertisement!

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, it would help us are great deal!

White & Black Construction Paper	White 10 x 13 Self-Sealing Envelopes
Yard Sticks	Goldfish
Ice Cream Salt	Fruit Loops
Gardening/Potting Soil	Walmart/Target/Albertsons Gift cards

Our preschool is so blessed to have the wonderful support of our congregation for this special ministry we offer at Atonement Lutheran Preschool! Thank you for your support and please keep us all in your prayers as we learn together! Blessings!



Christikon Clips

This spring we launched our **Housing Boost Campaign**, raising funds for updates and expanded housing at camp as we continue to grow. Plans include **canvas “glamping” tents**, improved **lighting**, and possibly even a **yurt** to create more welcoming space for campers. The campaign is tiered, so every gift helps us add as much as possible this spring. Learn more or contribute at www.christikon.org/housingboost.

Our **Annual Benefit Auction** is **April 26 from 4–7pm at the Billings Depot**. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and a fun



evening together (with no-host beer and wine) while supporting camp. We hope to see you there!

Summer registration is open and filling. Adults and families are also invited to join us for **Work Weekend** to help prepare camp for the 2026 season.

We are also seeking **Bus Attendants for 2026**—people willing to ride with youth on their way to Christikon. The position includes a daily stipend. Please contact the office if you're interested.

There are many ways to support camp this spring—thank you for being part of the Christikon community!

YOUTH

Youth Happenings

By: Nikki Groshens, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

First Communion 4th Grade

First Communion is considered a milestone in the faith life of our young people. On April 2, during Maundy Thursday Worship Service, all participating 4th grade students will receive their first communion and will then serve communion to their family and loved ones. Family, grandparents and godparents are encouraged to attend.



Easter Breakfast

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast on Easter Sunday. Atonement youth will be serving breakfast from 7:30-10am. All are welcome and any free will donations will go towards helping Atonement youth pay for summer camps or future youth gatherings.



Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt will immediately follow the 10:30am service for children up to 5th grade. Remember to bring a bag or basket to gather your eggs and candy in.



Panda Express Fundraiser

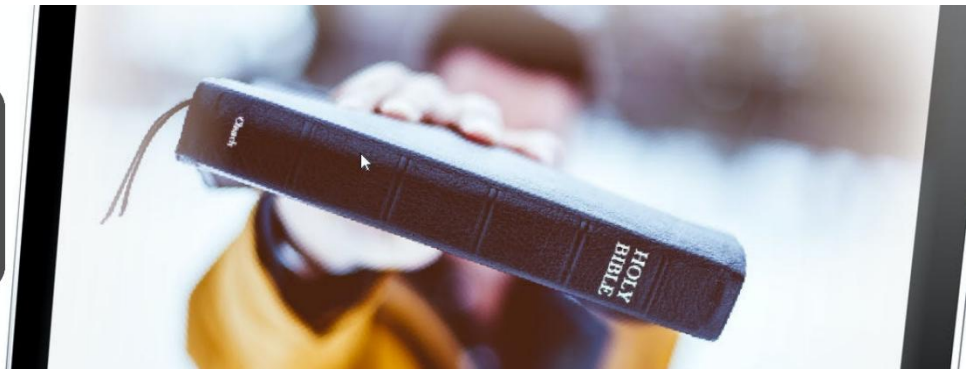
Our Panda Express fundraiser is Wednesday, April 15 to help support Atonement youth in their fundraising efforts for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Chili Dog Dinner and Bingo Night

Join Atonement youth on Sunday, April 19 from 5-6:30pm for a Chili Dog Dinner and Bingo Night. Come join in the fun, enjoy dinner and win some fun prizes! This event will help support Atonement youth in their fundraising efforts for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.



From the Pastor



Meet the Ministry Committee

Finance Committee

By: Ryan Chaddick, ALC Pastor

As I wrote last month, I'm hoping to use this space over the course of this year to help communicate and elucidate the purpose of each of our amazing committees at Atonement. I want to make sure we all know who does what and how each committee functions within our community. This month.....Finance.

Who we are

The Finance Committee is a dedicated group of volunteers who help make sure Atonement's resources are used wisely and faithfully. Think less "corporate boardroom," more "people who care deeply about this congregation and want the mission to keep moving forward."

Our current Finance Committee members are **Logan McKenney**, **Tom Danielson**, **Julie Andersen (bookkeeper)**, **Clint Westrope (treasurer)**, **Mike Nolan (president)**, **Tara Bolte (vice president)**, and **Ryan Kapperud**. This is the structure our church leadership has set. We have our treasurer leading the meetings and our council president and vice president are automatic members. We also have former treasurer and members at large. We're grateful for each of them.

What we focus on

- Reviewing monthly income and expenses so there are no surprises
- Preparing and recommending the annual congregational budget

- Monitoring giving trends and flagging anything worth paying attention to
- Advising Church Council on financial decisions that affect ministry

Is this just about cutting costs?

Nope. The Finance Committee isn't here to just find things to eliminate; rather, it's here to make sure every dollar we steward is doing ministry. The goal is always to ask: does how we spend our money reflect what we say we believe? That's a spiritual question as much as a financial one.

How we serve

The committee meets monthly, reviews detailed financial reports and brings recommendations to Church Council. Part of the monthly conversation is how to keep everything transparent and accountable to the congregation and to God.

Why it matters

Faithful stewardship is more than just a budget line. It's a practice of trust — trusting that what's been given generously will be handled carefully, and that our resources will keep creating space for God's work to grow here at Atonement.

Want to learn more?

Talk to any Finance Committee member or catch me after worship — we're always glad to answer questions and pull back the curtain a little.

All new and prospective members are invited to a New Member Orientation & Brunch on **April 19 after service** in the **Jerusalem Rm**. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our church community, connect with others and ask any questions.

Then, join us as we officially welcome our new members on **Sunday, April 26** with a special reception following the service. We look forward to celebrating and welcoming you into our church family!



HOW you can HELP

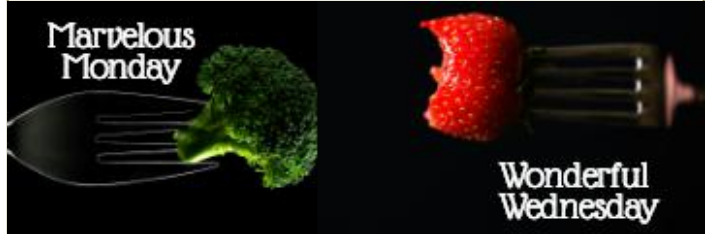
TEEN PANTRY

WORSHIP

usher/asst. minister/read/driver

SUNDAY SCHOOL

helpers & teachers



WW – 6pm No WW this month due to Easter week

MM – 6pm April 27 @ MacKenzie River Pizza

Planning to Attend? To ensure we have enough seating, please call (406-248-5313) or text Debbie (406-696-7029) at least two days in advance if you plan to attend. Thank you for helping us plan!



Easy Ways to Give!

In-person, Online, Mobile or Scan QR



ALC Financial Report February 2026

Ministry Budget			
Income	\$44,856.63	Expenses	\$44,481.26
Profit/Loss	\$375.37	Net Income YTD	\$7756.97

Mortgage Fund			
Income	\$5,223.83	Mortgage	\$5,163.00
Profit/Loss	\$60.83	Net Income YTD	\$758.66

Clint Westrope, ALC Treasurer



Grow and share your Faith through one of the many opportunities for study and fellowship that fits your schedule!

- Hope Circle - Third Thurs/month @ 9:30am – ALC
- Men's Square - First Fri/month @ 6:30am – ALC
- J.O.Y. Bible Study - Wed @ 6:30am - Montana Jack's
- Wednesday Bible Study – Wed @ 10:00am – ALC



Tumbleweed



Serving Lunch & Hope: ALC Volunteers Support Tumbleweed Youth

More than 60 homeless teens and young adults recently enjoyed a hot, nutritious “breakfast for lunch,” thanks to a team of volunteers from Men’s Square. Mike Noland, Jack Beals, Jesse Gonzalez, Bill Belden, Todd Koepf, Mike Rubich, and Tom Danielsen cooked up French toast and link sausages, then delivered the meal—along with orange juice and fresh fruit—to Tumbleweed.

The preparation began the day before, when the team picked up roasting pans from Tumbleweed. Early the next morning they gathered in the church kitchen to cook, packaging the food so it could be delivered hot and ready to serve by 10:30am.

Their effort demonstrated how this new ALC outreach can work—and now the opportunity is open for others to participate. Volunteers are needed to prepare **one lunch per month** for the young people served by Tumbleweed. Any group of ALC members can volunteer to help.

Located at **505 N. 24th St.**, Tumbleweed provides supportive services for young people ages 12–25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Assistance can include family mediation, housing support, employment help, food, clothing, and access to health care.

ALC has long supported Tumbleweed’s important work. Executive Director Georgia expressed gratitude for the church’s ongoing contributions to the Tumbleweed pantry. Those monthly food donations allow young people to take nonperishable items with them to wherever they are currently staying.

To help expand this outreach, the **2026 church budget includes funds to reimburse volunteers for the cost of food for one Tumbleweed lunch per month**, while funds remain available.

Lunch is the main meal for many of the young people who stop in during the day, so meals should be hearty and generous, with plenty of protein. Popular menu ideas include sloppy joes, lasagna, casseroles, mac and cheese, tacos, or spaghetti with meatballs. Fruit and salads are always appreciated—and desserts are a big hit.

If you or your group would like to prepare a lunch for Tumbleweed, please contact the church office and let Christina know of your interest. Someone from the lunch team will follow up with details. Lunches are needed every weekday.

To learn more about the Tumbleweed lunch program, contact Tom Danielsen at 406-876-3283.



St. John's United Foundation

Donor Appreciation-Seeds Of Kindness - Will be held on Friday, April 10 @ the Yellowstone Country Club. Social Hour: 5:30pm; Dinner: 6:15pm; Keynote Presentation & Recognition: 7:00pm. Seating is limited. RSVP by April 2 at rsimonson@stjohnsunited.org or 406.655.7783



Volunteer Appreciation Party

You're the Special INGREDIENT! - April 21 from 6-8pm at Hope United Methodist, 244 Wicks Lane. Pasta bar provided! Let's Celebrate you!



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Council Members

President	Mike Noland
Vice President	Tara Bolte
Secretary	Sara Wald
Treasurer	Clint Westrope
Diane Erickson Olson	June Canfield
DJ Groshans	Curt Wilcox
Dennis Roseleip	Lane Severson (Alt.)
Susie Barbero	Arya Westrope (Youth Rep.)
Janice Van Alstein	Dani Picchioni (Youth Rep Alt.)
Christy Fettig	Ellie Picchioni (Youth Rep Alt.)

Atonement Church — Solar Energy Report | February 2026

Our solar system produced 1.6 MWh of energy in February, a strong 44% increase compared to last month. The best single day was February 28, when the panels generated 86.5 kWh. Total building consumption for the month was 5.6 MWh, about 8% less than the previous month, with our heaviest usage day falling on February 19 at 243.9 kWh. To cover the gap between what we produced and what we used, we imported 4.3 MWh from the grid while exporting 163.2 kWh back to it. Overall, the grid supplied about 75% of our energy needs this month, with our best day of energy independence coming on February 26, when solar covered 39% of consumption. On the environmental side, our solar production offset 1.1 tons of CO₂, the equivalent of planting 18 trees. Year-to-date, the system has produced 3 MWh total.



Thank you to all our amazing volunteers for your time, dedication, and heart in serving! We are so grateful for each of you. Please join us for ice cream after the worship service on April 19 as a small token of our appreciation—we'd love to celebrate you!

Save the Dates

- Campus Clean Up Day May 2
- WELCA Plant Sale May 15-16
- Graduation Sunday May 17