



Step In, Lift Up, Make a Difference!

We'd love to have you share your gifts with our church family! We're looking for helping hands in several areas—**Assisting Minister, Readers, Ushers, Transportation, Sunday School Teachers, Nursery Assistants**, and even a few friendly faces to help cover the office while Christina is on vacation.

If you're willing to serve—or even just curious about what's involved—please reach out to the church office at **460-245-7004**. Your time and presence make a real difference in the life of our community.

St. John's Concert @ WyndStone

We're looking for **four volunteers** to help hand out bulletins and water during the upcoming concert on **June 18**.

The evening opens with **Angie Langliers at 6pm**, followed by the main act, **Goldpine at 7pm**.

If you can lend a hand, please contact Christina at **406-245-7004**.



Atonement Lutheran Church

1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.
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406-245-7004

office@atonementbillings.org

www.atonementbillings.org

**LEARN
LIVE LAUGH**

Welcome to Summer from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

By: Sara Westrope, ALC Preschool Director

Preschool is now on Summer Break! We had two excellent end of the year programs where 21 students got their preschool diplomas and will be moving on to Kindergarten next year and 17 students got their preschool certificates and will be entering another year of preschool! It was a wonderful preschool year and we are excited to see these students grow through the year!

The students may be on summer break, but behind the scenes here at Atonement Lutheran Preschool our staff is gearing up for the 2026-2027 preschool year!

Our enrollment for the 2026-2027 preschool year is open and we have openings available, but do not delay in registering our classes are starting to fill up! 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-Prep.....ages 4-5.....M/T/TH/F ..9am-12pm

Upcoming events this summer for our 2026-2027 preschool year are the Open House at National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th. Please stop anytime from 6:30 – 7:15! 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 26th at 11:30.

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!

Microban Fresh Scent Spray	Dial Foam Soap Refill
Kleenex	Clorox Wipes

Blessings!



**Atonement Lutheran
PRESCHOOL**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT
2026-2027**

**REGISTER
NOW!**

THREE CLASS OPTIONS!



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out – August 4, 6-8pm!

Atonement is thrilled to host National Night Out (NNO) again this year—a powerful evening of community-building and connection! More than just a block party, this event invites neighbors and friends to gather, share laughter and build a stronger, safer community.

We'll have food trucks and the always-popular bounce houses/play. Plus, local social service agencies and non-profits will be on hand to share resources and celebrate the ties that bind us together. Mark your calendars and be a part of this vibrant evening of fun, friendship and purpose!

If you would like to help or learn more, please reach out to Melissa Chaddick, Pastor Ryan or our church administrator, Christina.

YOUTH

By: Nikki Groshens, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Youth Fundraiser

During the month of June, Atonement youth attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering will be selling Ranch House meat sticks to help fundraise for travel expenses for the gathering. Look for their sales table set up after service on June 14 and 28. If you are interested in purchasing during June but can't make in person sales, please reach out to Nikki to order. Thanks for supporting our youth!

Frappe & Friends

On Sunday June 14 at 2:30pm come have a soda or iced coffee and a treat at 105 Brewing for Frappe & Friends. All students 6th grade and up are welcome to join for treats, conversation and board games.



REGISTER

VOLUNTEER

DONATE

VBS '26 Snowball Mountain Challenge June 8-12 @ 9am-12pm

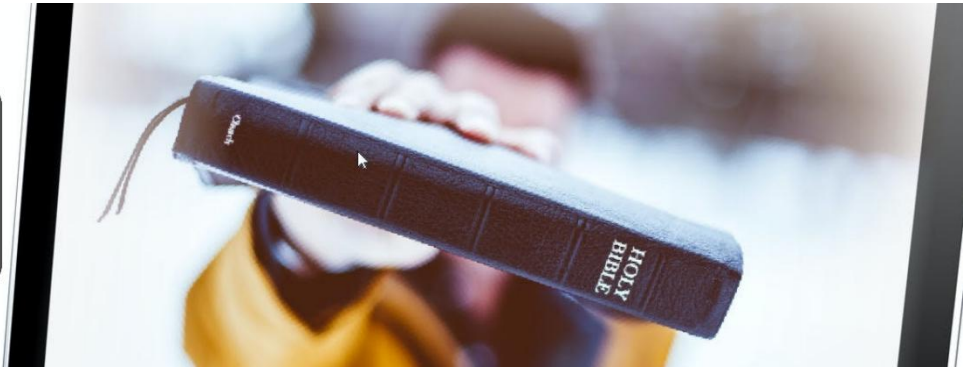
Find Your Strength in God. Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS promises a snowy winter sports adventure centered around *Phillippians 4:13*.

Preschool* through fifth grade
Volunteer roles available (grade 6-12)

Visit our website at www.atonementbillings.org to register, sign up to volunteer or donate!

*Preschooler must turn 3 years old before Sept. 10, 2026 & be potty-trained.

From the Pastor



Meet the Ministry Committee: Executive Committee

By: Ryan Chaddick, ALC Pastor

Who we are

The Executive Committee is made up of Atonement's elected council officers — Mike Nolan (President), Tara Bolte (Vice President), Sara Wald (Secretary), and Clint Westrope (Treasurer) — along with me as pastor. Here's how that works: the congregation elects members to serve on Church Council. Then, from among themselves, council members hold a vote to elect who will serve in those four officer roles.

What we actually do

We meet the second Tuesday of each month, right after the Finance Committee wraps up — which works well since three of us serve on both. That overlap lets us move quickly from the numbers into the bigger picture.

In that hour together we:

- Process the financial picture at both a practical and ministerial level
- Think through how we're communicating with the congregation
- Celebrate wins and ministry victories (this part matters more than it sounds)
- Name growing edges honestly
- Build the Church Council agenda for the following Tuesday

It's less a formal meeting, more a working conversation among people who care about the same things.

Wait...can the pastor vote?

Sort of interesting: as pastor I'm a de facto member of all committees. I hold voting privilege. There are times in which I revoke my vote. For instance, during the portion of the council meeting in which we are electing officers we suspend Robert's Rules and I actually chair that portion of the meeting. This allows me to curate greater neutrality in the process. And I get to pretend to have a gavel for a few moments. To make that work, again, council suspends Robert's Rules for that portion of the meeting. It's a small procedural thing that reflects something bigger: good governance is worth thinking carefully about.

One more thing you probably didn't know

Technically, council can elect someone who isn't a council member to serve as Treasurer. It's rare, but it's allowed. The catch: they have voice in meetings but no vote. Another reminder that these structures exist to serve the mission — not the other way around.

Why it matters

Every healthy organization needs a smaller group that can think systemically, communicate clearly, and make sure the larger body is set up to lead well. Executive Committee isn't where decisions are made: no, that's council's job alone. Council is also structured to ensure that non-executive council members outnumber the executive team. The executive committee is how and where we make sure council can do its job well.

HOW you can HELP

TEEN PANTRY

WORSHIP

usher/asst. minister/read/driver

SUNDAY SCHOOL

helpers & teachers



WW - June 10 @ 6pm Godfather's

MM - June 22 @ 6pm Montana Jack's

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!



ALC Financial Report April 2026

Easy Ways to Give!

In-person, Online, Mobile or Scan QR



Ministry Budget

Income	\$37,494.34	Expenses	\$42,596.04
Profit/Loss	(\$5,101.70)	Net Income YTD	\$5,520.28

Mortgage Fund

Income	\$8,137.83	Mortgage	\$5,163.00
Profit/Loss	\$2,974.83	Net Income YTD	\$3,863.32

Easter Sunday and Lent giving was off \$2,979.00 from the budget and April Membership giving was off \$10,788.00 from the budget. Finance Committee is monitoring this closely to see if there is a trend going forward. There was also a counting error made earlier in the year on a \$10,000.00 contribution. \$3,000.00 was to go to the mortgage and that reflects on the new Budget.

Clint Westrope, ALC Treasurer



Grow and share your Faith through one of the many opportunities for study and fellowship that fits your schedule! *Please note the schedule changes for summer below.*

- Hope Circle - Third Thurs/month @ 9:30am - ALC
Off June, July & August - Resumes September 17
- Men's Square - First Fri/month @ 6:30am - ALC
Off July & August
- J.O.Y. Bible Study - Wed @ 6:30am - Montana Jack's
- Wednesday Bible Study - Wed @ 10:00am - ALC
Off June, July & August



Teen Pantry Shopping & Hector

By: Rane Paulson

It was a slow Friday afternoon in Walmart (if there is such a thing). Sometimes I shop at the west end Walmart... for 3 reasons: A: It was more convenient on that day. B: they carry a much bigger inventory. C: our Beloved Tina Williams use to work there and I honor her memory. My Heights shopping dilemma is that I would feel guilty if I took all of something and leave nothing for other shoppers on a tight budget. I don't know how to describe a regular store grocery cart with Teen Pantry items full to the brim. You start with the heavy stuff: 2-3 cases of peanut butter, (36 small jars) plus another 36 of jelly, carnation breakfast milk (24 boxes) spaghetti & sauces (24 pkgs, & cans) Soups, canned chicken and tuna Along with boxes of chicken and tuna helper then the dollar packages of single serve tuna, rice sides, flour tortillas etc. I bet most of you don't know that there is an item limit at the checkout! Yep, after 212 items the computer will not let them scan anything more. You must pay and start another receipt. So can you imagine the people in line behind me?! I am very aware of how I must look...so I try to let anyone with just a few items go ahead of me while explaining what I am doing and how I have this incredible Atonement Church Family that budgets for these kids every month. I get lots of praise but never have I ever had anyone ask if they could donate to it. Until this month when an older gentleman in one of those electric carts with his basket as full as he could get it, in line 2-3 people behind me and he watched me let them go ahead. I offer for him to go and he said no, it is your turn. Then Hector said please let me donate as he hands me money! His overwhelming generosity was such a surprise it made me cry! Of course I thanked him profusely and ask him if he was sure and did he need a receipt. Then I insisted he tell me his name so we could pray for him... Hector Alvarado (sp?). He then tells me he used to be a teacher, and he knew all about hungry boys. The Checker had already put out her closed sign and as a lady comes up behind Hector. I tell her I'm sorry Hector is her last customer, she is supposed to be getting off work. But then I notice the lady only had 3 items in her cart... memorial flowers for the upcoming memorial day. So the checker said go catch her! So I did and then I asked her who she is

remembering this year. The flowers were for her mother, father and brother. My comment was how hard it is when both parents are gone and you become an orphan. The checker is now almost in tears as she had lost her mother this year. Hector said he was not an orphan yet because his mother is 92 and had the restaurant Mammacitas! I told Hector we loved eating there and that he not only had wings but a halo as well! I told him what a wonderful blessing he is and that we would all say prayers of thanksgiving for him and his mother. The checker said lately she is seeing more and more generosity than she ever has. My lesson for the day: Kindness begets generosity; Awareness and the acknowledgment others' feelings begets prayers; and the Good News of the Gospel is all around me.

Thanks, Atonement, for Bringing the Hope We Share in Christ to All!

Large Print Newsletter Available!

If a larger print format would make reading the Commentator easier or more comfortable, we're happy to provide one for you. Simply reach out to Christina at **406-245-7004** or email **office@atonementbillings.org**, and she'll make sure you're taken care of.

the COMMENTATOR
June 2023 / Vol. 70 / Issue 6

Parking Lot LED Light Project Complete

By: The Property Committee

The Property Committee is proud to announce that the parking lot light conversion is complete. The total of 85 LED lights were installed by Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative in mid-May. The lights cost just under \$2000. With an analysis by Cushing Terech, these lights provide an electrical savings of just over \$2000 and will pay for themselves in less than one year. In addition to the electrical savings, the lights have a 5 year warranty and a projected life of up to 10000 hours or over 20 years. Neighborhood savings and convenience is a result of \$4000 for our project through their Commercial Lighting Rebate Program.

Atonement would like to graciously thank Yellowstone Valley Electric Coop for their time and effort installing our LED lights in the parking lot. We would also like to thank Cushing Terech for their assistance with researching our electrical savings and paying us through the rebate application process at NRE.

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS 9:15am

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Another AMAZING Year of Giving

By: Eleanor Andersen and Julie Leno

WELCA had another amazing year of giving thanks to Atonement members and all who donated! From May 11, 2025 to May 9, 2026, a total of over **3,418 items** were crafted and provided to the following groups, of which **1,597** were **quilts** and **1,821 other items!**

- 439 quilts to Lutheran World Relief
- 204 school kits to Lutheran World Relief
- 129 quilts to other various agencies
- 932 quilts, 35 pillows to Family Services
- 101 hats, 194 scarves, 47 gloves to schools/organizations
- 90 crochet hats to the Cancer Center
- 437 dog/cat beds, 549 dog toys & 125 cat toys (made from scraps) to the animal shelter
- 23 floor pillows to Atonement Preschool
- 97 quilts sold at Atonement's Bazaar
- 16 towel sets for Family Promise (6 each of bath & hand towels, 6 wash cloths, 3 kitchen towels & 1 bathmat)

We couldn't do it without your support! Quilters, you are an awesome group, full of laughter and fellowship! This group meets every Tuesday at 1pm (coffee & treats generally available). Thank the Lord for all you have provided us!





Non-Profit
Organization
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Permit # 904

1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.
Billings, MT 59105

Council Members

President.....Mike Noland
Vice President.....Tara Bolte
Secretary.....Sara Wald
Treasurer.....Clint Westrope

Diane Erickson Olson
DJ Groshans
Dennis Roseleip

Susie Barbero
Janice Van Alstein

Christy Fettig
June Canfield
Curt Wilcox

Lane Severson (Alt.)
Arya Westrope (Youth Rep.)
Dani Picchioni (Youth Rep Alt.)
Ellie Picchioni (Youth Rep Alt.)

