Atonement Lutheran
the COMMENTATOR

November 2026 / Vol. 71/ Issue 10



WELCA NEWS



Bazaar

By: Julie Leno, WELCA Board Member

Atonement's Fall Bazaar will be Saturday, November 7th, 2026, 9:00am-3:00pm. Please help with the Bazaar when you can! Set up will be Thursday, November 5th starting at 8:30 a.m. and continuing on Friday, November 6th at 8:30am. Take-down will be Saturday, November 7th at 3pm and Sunday, November 8th at noon. We will need the following items to sell: Craft Items (we have fabric if you need it), 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 Tuesday, November 3rd. Please designate if your items are for the bazaar or the garage sale. If you have any questions please contact: the church office or Julie Leno @ 406-248-5359.



Lefse Thanks

By: Judy Belden and Rane Paulson, Atonement Volunteers

A heartfelt thanks to our amazing lefse crew! We appreciate your hard work, teamwork and joyful spirit in keeping this wonderful tradition alive. A special thank you to Mike Noland for getting the 200 plus potatoes.



Atonement Lutheran Church
1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.
Billings, MT 59105
406-245-7004
office@atonementbillings.org
www.atonementbillings.org



Thankful Greetings from Atonement Lutheran Preschool!

By: Sara Westrope, Preschool Director

As November begins, we are reflecting on our many blessings. Each preschool student is a treasure, and we are grateful for the time we share with them. We also appreciate our extended Atonement family and the loving, supportive community that surrounds us.

We look forward to several special activities this month:

- Veterans Day visit: We will visit our neighbors at Wyndstone and share songs with them.
- Teen pantry collection: We will collect food for the teen pantries at the middle and high schools in the Heights. The children will first use the items to stock our dramatic-play grocery store, and we will donate them at the end of the month.
- Thankful Feast: Before Thanksgiving, classmates will enjoy a Thankful Feast, along with fall crafts and activities.
- Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Friday, Nov. 27: No Preschool

Throughout November, we will host a fundraiser featuring pasta in a variety of fun shapes and colors.

Thank you for supporting our Pie in the Face Fundraiser! We had a wonderful time-sharing time laughter at the Fall Festival. A special thank-you goes to Pastor Ryan and Mike Noland for being such great sports, taking pies to the face, and supporting our preschool.

We would also appreciate your help gathering supplies for the coming months. If you are able to donate any of the items below, your contribution will support classroom activities throughout the school year:

White Flour Sack Dish Towels	White Cardstock
Sponsor A Student Donation	Dial Foam Soap Refill
Gift Card Walmart/Target/Albertsons	

Thank you for your prayers and support as our adventure awaits us. We are grateful for your generosity and caring

---

Gathering for Games

By: Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee invites you to join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and games! We gather on the first Thursday of each month from 3:00–4:00 PM for a chance to visit, laugh, and enjoy time together.

Upcoming Dates:

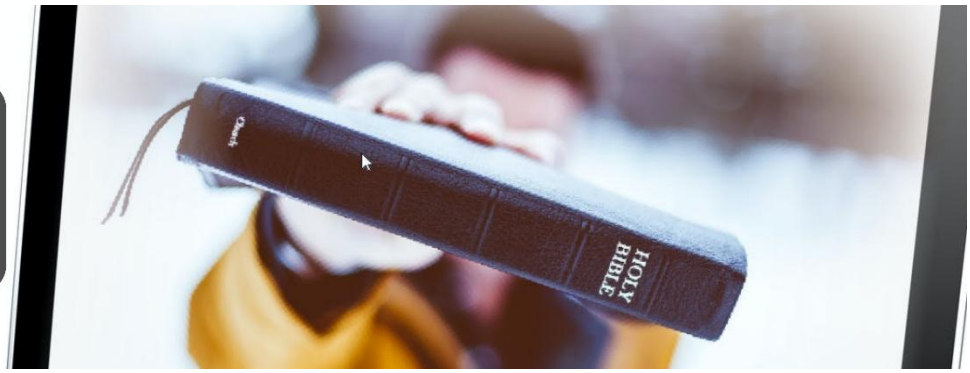
Thursday, November 5 Snack room due to the bazaar prep.

Thursday, December 3

Bring a friend and come enjoy some games, good company, and wonderful fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!



From the Pastor



By: Ryan Chaddick, Pastor

I was recently chatting with a colleague. They were shaking their heads as I spoke about how in a recent sermon I discussed a newer popular sci-fi/fantasy series, Popeye, Olive Oil and Brutus, 20th century theologian Walter Wink work on the myth of redemptive violence and Samson using a donkey jawbone to slay thousands.

I admit. Sounds worthy of head shakes.

"I could never get away with preaching with all that," my colleague said.

"No," I said. "And you shouldn't. Because it wouldn't be organically from you. I could never preach like you where you genuinely are writing the sermon as you preach...live."

That's what works best and is most organic for them. I am my most effective as a communicator when I am congruent with who I am and tapping into my great care for others. Both are God given.

And the same is true for my colleague.

And yet we preach very, very differently.

It reminds me of what Melissa and I learned in grad school and teaching credential classes: one of the greatest, if not the greatest, factors that predict student outcomes is what we might call teacher authenticity or, the teacher being most fully themselves. Even more important that teaching styles, techniques, methods, assignments...the warmth and care and realness of the teacher.

It blew our minds but then the more Melissa and I talked about it, we realized it was true in our own education. We both had teachers who did nothing but lecture for like an hour, maybe even just sitting behind a computer and yet it was riveting and you just knew they cared for all of their students. And we both had teachers who never lectured and only gave out group project after group project. What mattered in our own experiences wasn't the teaching practice or style, what mattered most was the teacher. Their authenticity. Their values. Their love. Their passion.

But why does this matter to you dear reader? If you aren't a teacher or a preacher, what does this possibly have to do with you?

Well, have you ever wondered, how could I be a better husband, wife, spouse, parent, co-worker, employee, employer? My assumption knowing that you all care so deeply...is that yes, you have. And because you're human my other assumption is that you have compared yourself to someone you know, or even a celebrity. "Ugh, if I only could do this like they did!" If only you could parent like that parent. Or if only you could show up to work with that person's energy.

And while learning from others can be helpful and while certainly books and workbooks and seminars can be amazing, I wonder if the first step isn't just wondering, how do I do this? How does the fullest version of me parent or work or lead? How has God created me for this? The best way for you to parent is probably not like anyone else. Because you aren't like anyone else. You are you. The best way for you to manage is probably not like anyone else. Because, again, you aren't actually anyone else. You being you. You bringing your fullness to the people in your sphere. You bringing your love, your care, your passion, your you'ness is what your relationships, family, work, and the world needs. God created you. To be you. As a crazy Irish writer (maybe) once said, "Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken." My prayer for you this month is that you can continue to lean into you being you — a beloved child of God.

HOW you can HELP

TEEN PANTRY

WORSHIP
usher/asst. minister/read/driver

SUNDAY SCHOOL
helpers & teachers



Wonderful Wednesday – November 11, 6pm
@Godfathers 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



Easy Ways to Give!

In-person, Online, Mobile or Scan QR

ALC Financial Report September 2026

Ministry Budget			
Income	$44,398.40	Expenses	$40,953.64
Profit/Loss	$3,444.76	Net Income YTD	$6,461.10

Mortgage Fund			
Income	$46,389.83	Mortgage	$5,163.00
Profit/Loss	$1,226.83	Net Income YTD	$896.16

Even though our General Net Income was in a positive position this month our membership giving was off $10,614.40 from what we had budgeted. The main reason we are showing positive income is because a large percentage of Pre-School income comes in early. Also our expenses YTD are $12,238.30 below what we budgeted.– 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



By: Nikki Groshans, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Grade 3 – A Bible of Their Own on Sunday, November 1st

On September 27, our third-grade families received a new Bible for their child. Families were invited to spend the following weeks making these Bibles even more meaningful by asking family members and friends to add personal messages, favorite Bible verses, prayers, and words of encouragement. These personalized Bibles will be officially presented to the children during worship on Sunday, November 1st, marking an important step in their faith journey.

Grade 2 – The Life of Martin Luther on Sunday, November 8 | 11:00 AM | Jerusalem Room

Second graders and their parents are invited to discover the life of Martin Luther and learn how his courage, faith, and ideas helped shape the Lutheran Church. This engaging lesson will include a story and a fun, hands-on activity. Each participating child will receive a special Luther Rose gift during worship on Sunday, November 22nd, as a reminder of their Lutheran faith and growing faith journey.



Grade 1 – The Lord's Prayer on Sunday, November 15 | 11:00 AM | Jerusalem Room

First graders and their parents are invited to explore the meaning and importance of the Lord's Prayer. Together, we will discover why this special prayer is such an important part of our faith and how it connects us to God throughout our lives.

Children who participate in this milestone will be recognized during worship on Sunday, December 13th, just before the congregation joins together in praying the Lord's Prayer.

We look forward to celebrating these meaningful milestones with our children and families as we continue growing together in faith!



The Handyman Ministry extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our 2026 Annual Sprinkler Blowout! Your generosity, time, and willingness to help made this event a success, and we are truly grateful.

We are blessed to be part of such a caring and supportive church family. Your support helps us continue our ministry of service and care for Atonement. Thank you for being part of this effort and for sharing your time, talents, and generosity!

With heartfelt gratitude and appreciation.

FamilyPromise
of Yellowstone Valley
A Community Response to Homelessness.

October 15, 2026

Atonement Lutheran Church
Pr. Ryan Chaddick
1290 Sierra Granda Blvd
Billings, MT 59105-5440

Dear Atonement Lutheran Church,

As summer comes to an end and children head back to school, I want to take a moment to simply say thank you. Because of your generosity, families in our community have found hope, stability, and a path toward a brighter future.

So far this year, your support has helped more than 370 people experiencing housing instability. These are families with children who were struggling to find safe, affordable housing. Thanks to you, they found more than a place to stay, they found people who believed in them.

This year, Family Promise expanded our services to not only help families find housing, but also help them stay housed through eviction prevention, case management, financial education, goal setting, and wraparound support. Because of this expansion, 104 families with children have remained in their homes, preventing their children from experiencing the trauma of homelessness at all.

Just last week, a mom sat in my office as she prepared to move into her family's permanent home. With tears in her eyes, she said, *It was hard, but it would have been impossible if I hadn't found Family Promise*. Moments like these are only possible because of compassionate supporters like you.

Thank you for standing beside families in our community. Together, we are creating a future where every child has a safe place to call home and every parent has the opportunity to build the life they dream of.

With sincere appreciation,

Felicia Burg

Thank you.

Felicia Burg
Executive Director

This letter serves as a receipt of your gift of $279.02. Your contribution may be tax deductible. No goods or services of any value were provided to you in exchange for this donation. These gifts are never placed in a donor advised fund or supporting organization. Tax ID: 20-0323622.

10 South 26th Street, Billings, MT 59101 406-294-7432 www.familypromiseyv.org

By: Christina Kapperud, Office Administrator

I'm sharing the letter we received reflecting our donation from last month. We receive a letter each month acknowledging our contribution, but I thought this one was especially meaningful to share because of the additional information it provides. I hope you find it as informative as I did!

1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.
Billings, MT 59105

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Billings, MT
Permit # 904

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.)



Office Closed November 11, 2026

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services *(Augsburg Fortress, 2013), p. 66.*