

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends.

¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Dear Messiah,

2024 is officially underway with January now under our belts. We started the Season of Epiphany early and well with a bonfire that took three days and sub zero temperatures to stop smoldering! We also had a memorable visit from the Bishop of the Montana/Northern Wyoming synod of the ELCA, Laurie Jungling - the first of her tenure as Bishop and at least 10 years since our last Bishop visit. It was a joy to show her around our new location and what God is up to here and among us. And what a pleasure it was to do so in the midst of welcoming 21 new members.

February is now here. This is the month when church seasons change again - from Epiphany to Lent. We end the season of Light on Transfiguration Sunday, February 11th, and begin the long walk of Lent the following Wednesday - Ash Wednesday and, in fact, Valentine's Day. It seems somehow appropriate that on the day we celebrate love we are reminded of the cross we bear through baptism - the mark of God's great love for us, the sign of God's call to us. We receive that mark again, not with water and words of promise, but with ashes and a stark reminder of our mortality. As Christians, we are aware that each cross is received in view of the other.

Ash Wednesday is a somber, serious service. But the next five Wednesdays, we will gather for a simple soup supper and a different kind of service - this year, we'll be doing Holden Evening Prayer, a short liturgy without a sermon. Holden Evening Prayer carries echoes of the Christmas story in the Magnificat, or Mary's Song, even as we make our way to Passion Sunday and the death of Christ.

Two things are important for me to remember during Lent. The Sundays of Lent (and the midweek evening gatherings - reflections of Sunday worship) are celebrations. The forty days of Lent we'll travel together actually don't include the Sundays in Lent because every Sunday throughout the Church year is a celebration of the resurrection - "...on this day he overcame death and the grave...", we hear in the Preface of the communion liturgy. So even during this serious season, the Lenten journey of discipline and introspection, worship and fellowship will buoy our spirits.

Second, even as Easter comes early this year (Sunday, March 31), Lent is a season in which the light is growing. As we go, even now, day ends later and dawn breaks earlier, as though the cosmos and the coming of spring (in our slow, planetary tilt toward the Sun) reflect the hope toward which we travel. May this hope keep you company during your wilderness walk toward resurrection.

Pastor Ben

Christikon Clips

February, 2024

Information for our Congregations



Christikon Camp Brochures have been mailed to your congregation. Be sure to pick one up for information on our camp season.

Register NOW for camp and don't forget to invite a friend!

Go to: <https://christikon.org/registration-individual-information/>.

We are currently **recruiting staff** for the upcoming season. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to christikon.org/employment for more information and application materials.

Family Adult opportunities can be found at our website. Watch for updated topics and speakers. Register at: <https://christikon.org/registration-adult-family/>

Donate online! You can use the Internet to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org .

Save the dates: The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on **Sunday, April 21st**. Do you know of an item, service or getaway that would be a great auction item? Please contact the office!

Watch for further updates on our website or notices at your church.

Our plans for the 2024 season are going forward and we are excited to welcome you to Christikon this summer! Watch for updates on our website.

**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

Christikon — Serving on behalf of
Messiah Lutheran Church
Red Lodge, Montana

Christikon was founded and continues to operate as an arm of ministry for the Church. As a member of Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc., your congregation shares in owning the camp.

What a great year for ministry up the Boulder!

Christikon was blessed beyond measure again this year-the numbers below reflect something of the Spirit at work in and through this place and people we love:

- 1**...new Assistant Director. Taryn Hauglie started June 1 and got to "drink out of a firehose" all summer long. She brings a host of gifts to bear, including 12 years Youth Directing experience as well as being a former staffer and camper. As we move into fall her focus turns to connections with owner/area congregations, heading up our ACA Accreditation process, guest and staff recruiting, and "other duties as assigned" (basically everything else the Director doesn't want to do :).
- 1**...continuing Office Administrator. Kerry Ellertson is all kinds of awesome and remains the only reason the Director gets anything done :
- 10+**...inches of rain that fell this summer (we average 5-6). June into early July was very wet, and then 3 weeks or so of warm and dry (which coincided perfectly with our backpack season), followed by a return to rain for the typically dry August and September months.
- 28**...summer staff this year, hailing from Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, California, Missouri, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Washington. 17 new, 11 returners.
- 1**...camper health event during DD camp that resulted in helicopter evacuation from our meadow. Thankfully, due to the cool-headed actions of our staff and extensive medical training we undergo each season, she responded quickly and well to treatment and made a full recovery.
- 35,000+**...miles Mark flew to preach, visit donors, new and existing user congregations, trainings and other camp-related events.
- \$22,000**...amount spent on food for staff and summer guests.
- 3**...Continuing Education Retreat leaders. Theologian Dr. Eric Meyer (Carroll College, Helena MT) helped us connect theology and ecology and consider our place as part of God's big, broad creation. Rev. Kent Gubrud (Christus Victor, Apple Valley MN) introduced us to the gifts and blessing of Spiritual Direction. Artist, teacher and former staffer Paul Waldum led a session on the

history and characters of the Boulder's history, including pictures and audio of his month living with miner and camp friend Charlie Rasnick in the mid-1970's.

73 (and counting)...years Christikon has served God's people faithfully and well; we consider ourselves an arm of ministry to congregations and the larger Church, both near and far.

4...number of volunteers from King of Glory/Billings who helped us design and build a new deck on the Boy's Dorm

\$400,000...funds available to start phase two of the Capital Campaign. Like last year, we hope demand and worker shortages will lessen and allow us to find companies to bid the project and other projects in 2024.

18...number of trails groups that went out in three different sessions

1 of 3...camps in MT accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA accreditation indicates that a camp meets rigorous industry-wide standards for camp safety, administration, health care, site adequacy, programming, and staffing)

Christikon is blessed by its member congregations who also provide ongoing annual **support** for the camp's work. Together with gifts from individuals, this support enables ongoing facilities renewal and helps keep camper fees within reach of nearly everyone. In 2024, Messiah contributed \$50. Thank you!

And we're grateful for those from your congregation who share in offering leadership for Christikon's work: Karin Harridge, Dianne Milleson and Kathy Kreatz who served as Corporation Delegates.

We remain deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, support, and dedicated work of all involved in the Christikon life. Thank you for all the ways you support this ministry we love and share.

Blessings
Mark Donald, pastor/director



January, 2024

Each month Messiah Lutheran supports a designated charity. If you would like to contribute to this cause, please designate “special offering” on your check or with your online gift. This month our special offering is for Red Lodge Ice Rink

Red Lodge Ice aims to provide Red Lodge with a quality Ice Skating Rink year after year. We have built a group of committed volunteers that do fantastic work for the good of the community.

We strive to enhance the rink every chance we get. Each year we build on the foundation by adding new equipment, new features to the rink, additional tools to teach kids to skate, and much more!

There is a Town Hockey League, a beginner hockey league, a Blades program for kids hockey and figure skating. The rink is open to the public and run solely by volunteers.

Red Lodge Ice is a part of the Mettes family. We are on the ice a couple times a week and we look forward to the opening of the rink every year!



January, 2024

What's Going on at Messiah

Welcome, new members!

Charlie Brummer and Sandy Moe, Hank and Pearl

Maria Gibson

Brian and Sheena Langeliers

Brent and Jodie Moore, Aiden and Liam

Roy Olpin and Nova Gabbard

Kevin and Joan Owens

Carlos Romalho

Dan and Brooke Yates, Reagan, Owen, and Hays

We welcome you as brothers and sisters in Christ, and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in his name.

Meadowlark Tweets

Hello church family,

We've grown to seven kiddos and have had a couple of them take their very first steps! Our youngest are close to crawling and we're so excited and blessed to be able to watch this stage of growth and development. We survived the cold, and are ready for springtime with mud, flowers, and maybe a little more snow to play in.

With gratitude,

Meadowlark staff and families



January, 2024



Cotton flannel sheets and yardage are still needed

We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage for Pastor Schauer's wife, LeeAnn, to be made into diapers for Lutheran World Relief. Sheets can be used and stained because they will be cut up and the unusable parts will be discarded. Let's see if we can help out with this very worthy endeavor.

February

- 2/2 Shannon Downing
- 2/5 Mark Owan
- 2/7 Kevin Kinzley
- 2/11 Dolly Koski
- Dustin Downing
- Steve Thuesen

Messiah Charity Quilters would love your help from 1pm—3 pm each Monday. Everything is provided except your sewing needle and a pair of scissors. We will teach you what you need to know.



WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: February 22, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: A Street Cat Named Bob

Author: James Bowen

Facilitator: D J Rosekelly

Location: Mary Ames

Contact host, Marla Ebel,
at 406-664-3178 for more

Messiah Chimes

Messiah chimers are on hiatus for the month of February.



January, 2024

Council Corner

Council met on Tuesday, January 16. We said thank you and farewell to those moving off council (Kim, Marla and Lavonne). We appreciate their service! Megan gave an update on the childcare center. Both teams like the process of keeping the doors locked during the day, so we will continue with that. Anyone needing to enter the building during office hours can call the church to be let in. We will order a 2nd garbage bin to accommodate both of our groups needs.

We discussed the financial results of 2023. We agreed to move money from LIB checking (earning no interest) to the LIB money market (interest earning). We will continue to monitor donations and will make extra principal payments as we are able. We also noted that we were not able to make the full donation to Christikon and St. John's in 2023 because our expenses were greater than our income. We did not commit to any donations in 2024, but will make these groups a priority if we have excess funds toward the end of the year. We agreed to use Thrivent dollars to offset the piano key donations that have come in such that we can fully pay off what is owed on the piano. We discussed the proper reporting of assets and determined that since we operate on a cash basis (vs accrual), we do not depreciate assets. More discussion to follow.

We discussed the Andrea Holmen Music for Messiah Memorial Fund. Pastor Ben will follow up with the family to understand its intention and we tabled further discussion to next month.

We reviewed the annual report booklet and changes were noted. We discussed the bishops visit and reviewed the New Member folder, both taking place the following Sunday.

Three items were tabled due to the length of the meeting: confirming special offerings, exterior signage and use of Messiah for the music festival.

We changed our meeting times/days to the 4th Monday of the month, starting at

HELP WANTED

We need more people to sign up for helping with Sunday Worship Services. We need ushers, readers, treat providers, communion servers, and greeters. Please call Katrin Chandler or Susan Leaverton to volunteer or sign up in the gathering space.



Children have Sunday School during the adult worship service.

January, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Members signed in prior to the meeting and were given copies of the Annual Report, available on 1/18/24

Pastor Ben Cherland gave our opening devotion, as found in the Annual Report.

Linda Daily, Council President, called the meeting to order at 11:52 am.

Members of Messiah's 2024 Council were introduced and thanked as were 2023 Council members who are retiring.

Volunteers who will review the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes are Katrin Chandler, Laurie Grygiel and Kathy Kreatz.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Congregational meeting (Annual Meeting) on February 3, 2023 and the Annual Budget Meeting on November 19, 2023 be approved as presented in the Annual Report. Motion passed.

The Pastor's Report, including the Statistical Report, the Letter from the Council President and the Reports from Committee Chairmen, the Financial Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Reports were presented in the Annual Report and discussion was invited. There were no questions or discussion.

The 2024 Ministry Plan (Budget) was also in the Annual Report. This information had been presented to the Congregation earlier and there was no further discussion.

There was no old business.

Linda Daily, President, explained the 2024 Ballot compiled by the Nominating Committee. There are positions on the Council, for Christikon Representatives, on the Audit Committee, for St. John's Representatives, for Delegates to the Montana Synod, and on the 2025 Nominating Committee. The Treasurer is appointed annually by the Council.

It was moved that the Congregation cast a unanimous ballot to fill all positions as presented on the 2024 ballot. The motion was seconded and passed.

Linda Daily reported on Messiah's 2023 accomplishments and progress on current goals. Out of twelve of goals, seven have been completed, two are in progress and three are not active yet. (Some goals for 2024 were actually completed in 2023). The goals for 2024 and later years were described briefly. As contributions allow, we may be able to pay down some of the principal on Messiah's mortgage. Landscaping is a priority for 2024 and planning is underway.

Linda emphasized the opportunities available for Messiah members to help on various committees. There are many benefits from helping on a committee, both to the Church and to those who can help.

The meeting was opened to questions and comments. Pastor Ben led the meeting in thanking those retiring from delegate positions, from Council and the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Allen Hansen reported on the food collected so far for Beartooth Cupboards. Linda Daily announced Church Council will now meet at 4:15pm on the last Monday of the month. Next Council meeting is February 26. We closed with a prayer for good courage.

Messiah Calendar—February, 2024

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3
4 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	5 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	6 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 pm	7	8	9	10
11 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	12 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	13 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Hospice Noon	14 Ash Wednesday Midweek Service 6:00 pm 	15 Safari Book Club 3pm	16	17
18 Lent 1 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	19 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm 	20 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am	21 Midweek Service 6:00 pm	22	23	24
25 Lent 2 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	26 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm Church Council 4:15 pm	27 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am	28 Midweek Service 6:00 pm	29		

January, 2024

Every Tuesday

Women's Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

Contact Martha Crofts, 239-643-3027

or

Marla Ebel, 406-664-3178

for more information

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Lowell Anderson, Emma Balsam, Manuel Cabanas,
Jackie Cordill, the family of Lenny Erickson, Brooke Feister,
Jesse Graves, the family of Andrea Holmen, Jim & Dolly Koski,
Rick & Sandy Koski, Jim & Linda Lian,
The family of Lynn Langeliers
Lois Miller, Shilo Moncada & Kingston,
Dick & DJ Rosekelly,
Al & Dolly Stuber,

PRAYER REQUESTS

For prayer requests, contact the church office at
406-446-2430 or redlodgemessiah@gmail.com
with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

Messiah Church Council

P.O. Box 1330 912 Lower Continental Dr.

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Church: (406) 446-2430

Church email: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Pastor's email: pastorbencherland@gmail.com

Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com

Pastor	Ben Cherland	646-708-1389c	pastorbencherland@gmail.com
President	Linda Daily	406-426-0841c	lindatodd94@yahoo.com
Vice President	Rob Mettes	972-922-9909	rmettes@live.com
Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	flynnquilt@gmail.com
Treasurer	Kim Elsberry	406-425-0967	kelsberrybresnan.net
	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	pschauer62@gmail.com

Education	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	katregcha@gmail.com
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Family Life/Volunteer

Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	marthacrofts@gmail.com
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Outreach	Barb Ostrum	406-446-4121	hobin727@gmail.com
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Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	kkreatz@gmail.com
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Stewardship	Allen Hansen	508-269-0925	allenrosshansen@gmail.com
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Worship	Dianne Milleson	406-425-3222	dmille46@gmail.com
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Other Important Contact Information

Bookkeeper	Vickie Elfering	406-425-1952c	vickieelfering@gmail.com
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Computer	Gwen Williams	406-425-2401	(Text Gwen Only)
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Ministerial Ass'n.	Bryan Lowen	406-860-5571	(financial assistance to the community).
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Revised 02/01/2024

January, 2024

Messiah's Mission:

“Live by Faith, Share Christ's Love, Be a Voice of Hope”

HOW TO CONTACT US AND STAY IN TOUCH:

Office Hours: Administrative: Mon-Thurs. 11 am - 3 pm

Messiah Lutheran Church phone: 406-446-2430

Administrative Assistant, Dianne Milleson's cell phone:

406-425-3222

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00-4:00

Tuesday : 9:00-4:00

Wednesday: 9:00-3:00

Thursday: **OFF**

Friday: 9:00-4:00

Saturday: 12:00-4:00

Sunday: 8:00-12:00

Pastor's Cell Phone: 646-708-1389

Church Address: P.O. Box 1330

912 Lower Continental Dr.

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com

Facebook: Messiah Lutheran

Email: General: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Prayer Requests: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Pastor Ben: pastorbencherland@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 a.m. Worship



In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming for everyone we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes.

Thank you.

