

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



Joshua 1:9

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

January, 2024

Dear Messiah,

We have just crossed over into a new year. Well, as Christians we're nearly a month into our new year, but the world has finally caught up. For Messiah, it's been a year of firsts, and it's good to remember such things when turning "the page." Especially for you, Messiah, this has been a year to remember.

I've shared a lot of thoughts about this history making year for us. But at this point in a fresh new year, I want to look forward.

From the book *Keep Going: The Art of Perseverance* by Joseph M. Marshall III,

Grandfather says this: "Being strong means taking one more step toward the top of the hill, no matter how weary you may be. It means letting the tears flow through the grief. It means to keep looking for the answer, though the darkness of despair is all around you. Being strong means to cling to hope for one more heartbeat, one more sunrise. Each step, no matter how difficult, is one more step closer to the top of the hill. To keep hope alive for one more heartbeat at a time leads to the light of the next sunrise, and the promise of a new day."

It was a hard way to close 2023 - for me personally but for all of us as well. Lenny Erickson's death was the end of a period of learning for me. As I said at his funeral, he taught me a great number of things. I take those lessons with me into this new year but it's a lesson itself, walking into this new year with his absence.

And Andrea. I was reminded at Andrea's funeral that such celebrations mark the start of grief, not its end. It has been some days since her funeral – simply the biggest funeral in Messiah's history – but I am only coming to terms with her absence now, today.

"Be strong" is not what I'm trying to say here. Rather, keep going, Messiah. We have come a long way in a year, but in the words of another writer, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep / but I have promises to keep / And miles to go before I sleep / And miles to go before I sleep."

It was an historic year for you, Messiah. And here is another – one that promises more celebration, more loss, and more hills that need climbing. So we keep going, one step at a time, knowing that Christ goes with us, even as he goes on ahead us, leading the way.

Pastor Ben

Christikon Clips



January, 2024

Information for our Congregations

New January 2, 2024 – Camp registration will be online along with the camper information, health forms, permission forms, etc.

Go to our website www.christikon.org in January and check it out!

Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction is scheduled for April 21st.

Too few of our nation's young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience within intentional Christian community that helps open people to the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...

**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

director@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

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 Baretooth Cupboards, our local food bank.

Items Food Banks Need the Most

Taste of Home recommends these items as those most needed at Food Banks based on their shelf life, nutritional value and flexibility, and taste. Lower sodium products and easy open containers (pop tops) are recommended.

Baretooth Cupboards is our local food pantry and Messiah’s special offering focus in January. We are hoping to collect thirty boxes containing \$25 in grocery items plus a \$10 donation for a voucher to be used by clients for laundry detergent and coordinated with **Beartooth Market**. You may make up your box with any combination of these products. As an example, those items highlighted in **yellow** would collectively cost about \$25 for one each.

We will use a Thrivent grant to purchase one each **applesauce, pasta, chili, and stew** for each box.

1. Applesauce

Plastic jars or cups of unsweetened applesauce

2. Canned Beans

High in protein and complements several other choices.

3. Canned Chicken

Its versatility and high protein content make it a popular item at food banks.

4. Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon)

Food banks are most in need of canned tuna and salmon.

5. Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)

It’s shelf-stable, doesn’t require much prep or equipment to eat, and delivers a quick hit of protein.

6. Canned Vegetables (3 cans)

Colorful, nutrient-dense, and fiber-rich – vegetables are always in high demand, and canned varieties last the longest on a food bank’s shelves.

7. Cooking Oils (Olive or Canola)

Food banks rely heavily on these essential and pricier items being donated.

8. Crackers

Perfect as a snack or as a base for canned meats. Whole grain crackers are the best bet.

9. Dried Herbs and Spices (2)

It’s hard to cook a tasty meal without herbs and spices like oregano, basil, cumin, pepper, rosemary, thyme, garlic powder, and cinnamon.

10. Fruit (Canned or Dried)

Fruit, whether dried, canned or in plastic cups, makes excellent snacks for kids and adults and provide some nutrition and fiber.

11. Granola Bars

Food banks are always in need of quick and easy items that families can toss into lunches.

12. Instant Mashed Potatoes

Instant potatoes last longer and require minimal tools and ingredients to whip up.

13. Nuts

A handful of nuts provides protein and nutrients in a hurry and is perfect for snacks and lunches.

14. Pasta

This is a food bank staple since it’s easy to turn into a meal.

15. Peanut Butter

Kids and adults like it, and it’s high in protein, making peanut butter one of the most popular items at food banks.

16. Rice

Brown rice is filling, versatile and easy to prepare and store.

Quinoa is also a great item to donate.

17. Shelf-stable and Powdered Milk

Because no fridge is required to keep this milk fresh, it’s accessible for everyone.

18. Evaporated Milk

Versatile with a long shelf life.

19. Soup, Stew and Chili

These canned or packaged items acts as a warm and filling lunch or dinner and often come complete with protein (meat) and veggies.

20. Whole Grain Cereal

Here’s another popular item with all ages, since whole grain cereal makes a healthy breakfast or snack.



Let's Spice It Up!!

Please include spices in your box.

Meadowlark Tweets

Happy New Year!

Even though the holidays just ended, we're still celebrating! Not only do we have a new family beginning this month, our little ones are quickly becoming not so little! Two of our babies have taken their first steps, and are well on their way to Toddlerhood. We've also got three birthdays this month! We hope you all had a restful holiday and were able to spend time doing whatever is important to you.

Megan Strong

Early Childhood Education Director



We are still working on our new Directory with photos!

If you have not yet had your picture taken for the directory, please contact Kevin Kinzley at 605-431-9889 and he will make an appointment for you at his studio. Just tell him you are from Messiah. There will be no cost to you unless you decide you would like to purchase some prints from Kevin.

Messiah Makes Merry Feast, Sunday, December 17th, was a wonderful time of great food, music, and fellowship. Special thanks to Sheena Langeliers and Maria Gibson for preparing and serving the food, to the Crofts for preparation of the gathering space, and organizing the event as well as the music and entertainment.



January, 2024

The Christmas Kids Shop was a rousing success! We had 190 kids participate and gave away 900 gifts.

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make this happen.



Kids Pajama Party was fun for all!

Parents got a night out while the kids got to hang out with the pastor, Maria Gibson, and Martha Crofts. They enjoyed pizza and then made their own ice cream sundaes, enjoyed doing a craft, played games and watched the Polar Express. The kids loved it!



January, 2024

What's Going on at Messiah

Thrivent Action Team Baby Care Kit is complete!

Thrivent Financial offers funds to churches to complete meaningful community projects. Two grants of \$250 each per Thrivent member per year are available.

Barb Ostrum and Susan Leaverton have received money to spearhead various projects, including summer lunch programs for kids and most recently, baby care kits to be sent over seas.

Barbara brought together 11 people to collect and assemble towels, diapers, etc. from an approved list. Mary Ames singlehandedly knit 8 blankets and Barb knit 2 blankets. Church members, including some men assisted by purchasing hygiene items. Ten kits are now ready to be shipped this spring along with more quilts.

Huge thanks to Barb and her team for all their efforts to complete this project!

Thrivent provides a very easy way to obtain grant money for a variety of purposes. All Thrivent members are eligible to apply. Please see Barb or Susan to learn more.

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 Barb Ostrum to volunteer @406-446-4121.

NEW MEMBERS INFORMATION MEETINGS

Pastor Ben will be meeting with people who are interested in becoming members of Messiah. Please contact him if you are interested. We will be welcoming new members into fellowship on Sunday, January 21.



Children have Sunday School with Martha Crofts during the adult worship service.

January, 2024



- 1/03 Vince Ames
- 1/12 Pastor Ben
- 1/15 Don Peterson
- 1/18 David Downing
- 1/19 John Elsberry
- Leanne Mullaney

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.

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: January 18
Time: 3:00 pm
Book: Have a Little Faith
Author: Mitch Albom
Facilitator: Mary Ames
Location: Jeri Kyner
Contact host, Marla Ebel,

January, 2024

The last note has been played.



We gathered as a congregation and assembly of friends to celebrate the life of our sister in Christ, Andrea Holmen. Andrea was a long time member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Red Lodge and served as our primary musician for the last 51 years. She will be greatly missed! Pastor Kim Wilker said that it has been confirmed that Andrea was 97% Norwegian and the other 3% was unknown. However, Amy McFadden, one of Andrea's prayer partners, said she knew that the other 3% was angel. I think she was right.

We are thankful for the time we had Andrea with us. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Farewell

Good Morning,

Jim and I have enjoyed attending Messiah since the early 2000's. We were immediately welcomed on a Sunday morning and welcomed as second homeowners from Minnesota. We primarily used our home during the ski season. Not only were we welcomed to Sunday services but included in Wednesday night dinner gatherings, Bunco games, Rummy games in church (yes we gambled with proceeds going to a worthy charity)! I was not only invited to the Women's Bible Study at Bridge Creek but ultimately asked to lead a study or two—a new event for me! The Book Club was another fun chance for fellowship! Jim was invited to the Men's Group on Mondays and looked forward to contributing his cinnamon rolls to the gathering! He was also the recipient of a lovely prayer shawl used to this day—every stitch a prayer and a reminder of our friendships and fellowship in Red Lodge. Pastor Kim and Jim shot pool and shot the breeze frequently! In short, we felt the friendliness and warmth of the Messiah congregation immediately and treasured our time in Red Lodge and at Messiah!

We recently sold our A-frame near the old church on Adams. We only feel gratefulness for our memories and great joy that the perfect buyer can engage in the Red Lodge community. We thank the Messiah congregation for being so welcoming to us and for being so inclusive! We also appreciated the times that Pastor Ben took to reach out to us by phone and personally. We wish you all the best as you continue to be God's hands and to pray with your feet in all your ministries. You are each blest to be a blessing!

Sincerely,

Lee & Jim Bujold
Knife River, MN



Dear Messiah Friends,

Pastor Ben, Dianne, Jennifer, Dick and Andrea thank you for your generous gifts this Christmas. It is a privilege to serve you here at Messiah.

EPIPHANY—THE SEASON OF LIGHT

We will be celebrating the beginning of Epiphany this Saturday evening at 6:00 pm on our adjacent lot. Bring your used Christmas trees and we will add them to our brush pile and burn them.

Dress warm, bring hot drinks and any left over Christmas Cookies.

The Drum Brothers of Missoula will be here for an evening of West African hand drumming instruction Thursday, January 18 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. If you are interested in attending this function, the cost is \$25.00 and can be paid at the door.

Messiah Calendar—January, 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	5	6 Epiphany Party 6:00 pm
7 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am Choirchimes	8 Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	9 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am Choirchimes	15 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	16 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Hospice Noon Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 pm	17	18 Safari Book Club 3pm Drum Brothers Drum Circle evening	19	20
21 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am New Member Welcome Choirchimes	22 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	23 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 pm	24	25	26	27
28 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	29 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	30 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 pm	31			

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
Education	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	marthacrofts@gmail.com
Family Life	Marla Ebel	406-426-8277c 406-664-3178	dmebel@live.com
Outreach	Barb Ostrum	406-446-4121	hobin727@gmail.com
Property	Lavonne Ervin	406-446-3086	N/A
Stewardship	Allen Hansen	508-269-0925	allenrosshansen@gmail.com
Worship	Dianne Milleson	406-425-3222	dmille46@gmail.com

Other Important Contact Information

Financial Secretary	Donna Downing	406-425-3031c	downing.donna@gmail.com
Bookkeeper	Vickie Elfering	406-425-1952c	vickieelfering@gmail.com
Computer	Gwen Williams	406-425-2401	(Text Gwen Only)
Ministerial Ass'n.	Bryan Lowen	406-860-5571	(financial assistance to the community).

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.

