
Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ESV

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

October, 2023

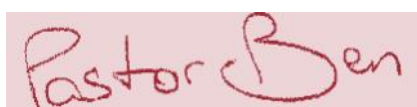
Dear Messiah,

In my former life as a Youth and Family Minister, I worked with kids in 5th grade to 12th grade, as well as some college aged young adults and parents. My mentor in this work began every gathering of whatever age group it was with a time of sharing. We called it Highs and Lows. Each person would share what was going well in life that day or a welcome experience they were having (Highs), and they would share what was weighing them down that day, whatever was “in the way” of life (Lows).

I’ve found that this practice of sharing is both simple and powerful. It’s an uncomplicated way for people to share the substance of their lives - the things they’re dealing with, whether hard or gladening. In this way it’s incarnational, taking into account the “here and now” of people’s lives. Hearing from those who wanted to share changed the purpose for the gatherings, changing its focus from the work that needed doing to the people who gathered to do it. Whether the substance of our lives is shared or not in such gatherings - committee work, bible study, council meetings, or worship - it is all present with us. Sharing it though, opens our eyes to the social and spiritual landscape that might otherwise be overlooked.

And in fact, this practice of sharing highs and lows is old. It has roots deep in the spiritual practice of St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556 CE) who, after a decorated military career, turned to religious life. His is a full story of conversion, but his contribution to Christian religious practice is the development of his Spiritual Exercises - a set of meditations, contemplations, and prayers that include a method of reading scripture. And one of the exercises he introduced was this practice of contemplating one’s highs and lows - or, in his words, consolations and desolations. (This is all simplified but you get the point).

I have had a number of conversations recently that have pointed to the way we sometimes communicate here at Messiah, where the substance of people’s lives are subservient to the work that needs doing. I see this practice of sharing as one way to live out our call of loving God and neighbor. By beginning gatherings this way, we might better “keep our eye on the ball,” so-to-speak, recentring our lives on Christ, present in the lived experience of the people with whom we gather and share life in community. Our most basic Christian call, and a simple practice indeed.



Pastor Ben

What are Highs and Lows (Consolations and Desolations)?

...see Pastor Ben's article...

Desolation

- Turns us in on ourselves
- Drives us down the spiral ever deeper into our own negative feelings
- Cuts us off from community
- Makes us want to give up on the things that used to be important to us
- Takes over our whole consciousness and crowds out our distant vision
- Covers up all our landmarks [the signs of our journey with God so far]
- Drains us of energy

Consolation

- Directs our focus outside and beyond ourselves
- Lifts our hearts so that we can see the joys and sorrows of other people
- Bonds us more closely to our human community
- Generates new inspiration and ideas
- Restores balance and refreshes our inner vision
- Shows us where God is active in our lives and where God is leading us
- Releases new energy in us

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/consolation-and-desolation-2/>

October, 2023

Meadowlark Tweets

Hello church family!

Meadowlark is officially up and running! So far we have four kiddos attending care and hopefully one more starting in November. Thank you for the blankets and support as we get things started. We are going to be doing cookie-dough sales as a fundraiser this winter with Cattail Bakery- so keep an eye out for more info!

Megan Strong

Early Childhood Education Director

Meadowlark Staff

Yolanda, Amanda, Cathy and Megan



SPECIAL OFFERINGS 2023

January.....Baretooth Cupboards

February.....Red Lodge Ice Rink

March.....St. John's United

AprilRed Lodge Pool

May.....Christikon

June.....Boys & Girls Club

July.....Lutheran World Relief

August.....Red Lodge Fun Run

September...Pastor's Discretionary

October.....DSVS

November....Campus Ministries

December....Prison Ministries

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.



Attention all Crafters & Vendors

St. Agnes Parish Council of Catholic Women – Altar Society
Invite you to participate in our 26th Annual Craft Fair on Saturday October 21, 2023
9 am - 3 pm at
St. Agnes Catholic Church
corner of 11th & Word Street
Red Lodge MT

For registration forms & information contact: Kathy at
406-446-1628, leave a message if no answer, leave a message with your name & number.
Your call will be returned.

October, 2023



September 06, 2023

Messiah Lutheran Church of Red Lodge
PO Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068-1330

Dear Ben,

YOU are making a difference! Thank you for your gift of \$556.80 on 08/30/2023 to the 20th Annual Fun Run for Charities. Your gift will go to support Carbon County 4H in their charitable efforts.

Because of you, the "spirit of giving" is thriving

The Fun Run for Charities event reflects the spirit of Carbon County. A spirit that celebrates collaboration, compassion, giving, FUN, and resilience. This year, 64 charities are participating in the event and working together to fundraise, create awareness, and celebrate the impact of their work. The collaboration of such a large number of organizations has taught us more about one another and is contributing to a large increase in streamlining existing resources. This work benefits everyone!

Thank you for believing in the spirit of the Fun Run and generously supporting this event. Together, we are building a strong community (and having FUN while doing it!).

Warm regards,

Tracy Timmons,
Executive Director

"Where FUN Benefits Everyone"

October, 2023

Stewardship

You all should have or will receive our Stewardship ‘ask’ for 2024 this week. Included with the letter are:

A **Giving Plan card**, folded into the Stewardship letter, on which we ask you to consider your planned financial support of Messiah Lutheran for 2024 as well as indicate where you might wish to serve on worship teams, leadership teams, fellowship teams, and mission/service project teams. Think big! And feel free to share your dreams and ideas.

A **Giving Statement** showing contributions through August 31. This allows you to review your commitment for this year, to verify that all your contributions have been recorded correctly, and to use this information when determining a Plan for 2024. Folded into this is your Pledge Card for this year just as a point of reference. **Please know that we do not track this information individually, making no judgement regarding your participation.**

I do wish to emphasize how much I appreciate how many have stepped up to facilitate worship, fellowship, and outreach. We have accomplished much in the past twelve months because many are participating, and some have carried the load seemingly weekly. Thank you all many times over. And if you haven’t yet, please find a place to dig in. We need you all.

I also want to recognize the faithful financial stewardship of each of you. While we do face challenges with our Operating funds, completing our new facility and funding payments to our to MIF for our building loan have had full support. Again, thank you many times over.

While I do represent the Council, this article reflects my perception of our financial situation. Please feel free to share thoughts and questions with me directly or with other Council members.

Allen Hansen

Stewardship Chairperson

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OCTOBER
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

Special Offering Sunday, October 15

Our Special Offering for October will go to Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Montana, a Red Lodge based social service organization. We have supported them for many years, and they have joined us at worship and Sunday Forum several times. This year the directors will worship with us on October 15th for a special service addressing this sensitive topic. An introduction to the Apocryphal text, Susanna, will inform our discussion. Sunday Forum will follow Worship with a presentation by DSVS and a light luncheon afterwards for further discussion. We hope you will join us.



Domestic *and* Sexual Violence Services

EVERYONE DESERVES HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

With immediate assistance and lasting solutions, DSVS is there for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF HOPE

Our holistic services empower survivors in their individual journeys to restoration, and our prevention programs aim to stop relationship violence through education and youth mentorship.

Ultrasound Screening Event October 20

Granite Peak Ultrasound will be offering affordable, high quality preventative screening ultrasounds here at Messiah Lutheran Church October 20th from 8:00 am—4:30 pm.

We are excited to be able to offer our facility to provide this service to our community.

For more details, please contact Dianne in the office or call Amy Hover at 406-290-3302.



LIST OF SERVICES

- Screening carotid ultrasound
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening
- Ankle brachial index (ABI)
- Abdominal organ screening ultrasound
- Screening thyroid ultrasound
- Vascular package
 - Screening carotid ultrasound
 - Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening
 - Ankle brachial index (ABI)
- Comprehensive screening package
 - Screening carotid ultrasound
 - Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening
 - Ankle brachial index (ABI)
 - Abdominal organ screening ultrasound
 - Screening thyroid ultrasound



ABOUT US

Granite Peak Ultrasound is a small, family-owned business that provides quality, compassionate care to clients who want to take control of their own health.

Amy is a sonographer with over 14 years of experience in the ultrasound industry. She is registered with the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) and is a Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT). She has experience in hospitals, outpatient clinics, vascular centers, and breast centers.

COUNCIL CORNER

Council Corner:

Council met on Tuesday, September 19. Below are the highlights. You can find our minutes in the members section of our website.

- Our constitution is reviewed every 3 years. We have started the process to incorporate required edits from the ELCA and to review the Our Congregation section for any desired updates. If you are interested in reading and commenting on our constitution, please see Brooke or Linda
- The audit committee finished their audit of our 2022 records and found them to be in satisfactory condition. A couple of recommendations were given to make the process better.
- A Building Use booklet is in the works and we agreed that monies collected from the use of the building will go toward the building mortgage.
- We looked at a draft of the 2024 budget and will finalize at our October meeting
- We want to put together a Photo Member directory. Stay tuned for dates
- The well and pump are in place for landscaping. We will now collect bids and schedule work for next spring. This fall work is needed to place small rock around the building. Please contact Linda if you can help.
- A Council Retreat will take place on October 14th. We will discuss Communication, 2024 planning, Growing Involvement and Concerns of the People.
- We are still looking for someone to clean the church. Calls will continue to be made to get bids. For now, multiple people will take on small jobs (vacuuming, bathrooms, filling supplies, dusting windows, wiping down kitchen). Please contact Martha if you can help.

A “get acquainted” luncheon is being planned for prospective members. Details will be announced when they are confirmed.



You are invited to join us on Mondays here at the church from 1:00 to 3:00. Come and learn to quilt.

October, 2023

What's going on at Messiah?

Children's



Children have a new opportunity beginning October 15. They will be with their families in the sanctuary until The Children's Sermon, after which they are dismissed to Sunday School. They return to the sanctuary during The Sharing of the Peace to celebrate Communion with all the church family.

Worshiping with children is often an exercise of patience. Bringing children to worship is similar to dining with the family. Even though manners may not always be elegant, we do it because our children are fully members of the family and they need to be fed. In the same manner, worship reminds them they are part of God's family; and, as they participate in their own way, they grow in their understanding of God's love while being fed in the language of worship.

The number 940 is the number of weekends from the time a child is born until they graduate from high school. When a child is in third grade, there are only 468 weekends left. In addition, research shows that most children form their idea of who God is and choose whether they will have a relationship with him before leaving fifth grade. These are important weekends for your children. We will be prepared and ready to help them discover and embrace a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Martha Crofts

October, 2023



EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AND TALENT SHOW

Saturday, October 14 at 6:30

Make your plans now to attend **Everybody's Birthday Party** on **Saturday, October 14 at 6:30**. Have an early dinner; then, join us for a variety of homemade **cakes and ice cream** at tables decorated for each birthday month. Join others at your month or simply join friends at theirs.

The evening concludes with a short talent show featuring our own children and adults. Please call or text Martha Crofts (239) 643-3027 if you'd like to share a talent, provide a cake or ice cream, or decorate any month. We are in for a tasty and fun evening. Mark your calendars for an evening not to be missed.



The Men's Breakfast is BACK!

We gathered on September 25th and after figuring out how to use the stove top we ate our fill of pancakes and fellowship. Savory conversation about the coming Sunday's gospel reading was filling! We meet again on Monday October 23rd at 7:00 AM. The more men we gather, the more often we can gather!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 10/03 Nani Clark
Todd Daily
- 10/04 Alecia Benton
- 10/07 Kathy Benton
- 10/20 Manuel Cabanas-Holmen
- 10/22 Vance Thuesen
- 10/23 John Clark
Kathy Kreatz
- 10/24 Al Stuber
- 10/31 Willie Clark

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 10/03 Vince & Mary Ames
- 10/04 Leanne & Mark Mullaney
- 10/15 Laura & Harry Hollman
- 10/26 Chris & Kathy Benton

*****50th Anniversary Party*****

for

John and Nani Clark

At the Senior Center in Red Lodge

Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 pm

Potluck and BYOB

WOMEN'S SAFARI



BOOK CLUB

Date: October 18

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: I Was Anastasia

Author: Ariel Lawhon

Facilitator: Carol Erkens

Location: Martha Croft's Home

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

**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.

CHIMES IN THE AIR

Messiah Chimes are ringing once again with October Worship plans, an ensemble for the Talent Show, and Christmas music preparation. Interested children and adults are urged to make themselves known to Dick and Martha Crofts. Most rehearsals take place on Sundays.



INNKEEPERS FOR THE BALANCE OF 2023

July

Kathy Kreatz

Shannon Downing

Donna Downing

Dianne Milleson

Dick & Martha Crofts

Allen & Suzi Hansen

August

Marla Ebel

DJ Rosekelly

Jim & Jeri Kyner

Robert and Susan Leaverton

Peter & Carol Boyum

Beverly Urbaniak

September

Lavonne Ervin

Bob & Andrea Holman

Karin Harridge

Kim Elsberry

October

Sue Leaverton/Katrin Chandler

Jim & Dolly Koski

David Jurkovich

Lauri & Andy Grygiel

Linda & Todd Daily

Barb Ostrum

November

John & Brook Flynn

Mary & Vince Ames

Rob and Brandi Mettes

Don Lindall

Chris & Kathy Benton

December

Kathy Kreatz

Shannon Downing

Donna Downing

Dianne Milleson

Dick & Martha Crofts

Allen & Suzi Hansen

*Those members with highlighted names are “captains” for their designated month

Innkeepers Update....In 2024 we will be issuing a new Innkeeper list. So we will need your input. Soon Marla Ebel will be distributing a sheet that we are asking each Messiah member and regular visitor to complete conveying how you can help Messiah on Sundays and other times . Thank you all for your input.

October, 2023

Every Tuesday
Women's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. In person and online via Zoom
Contact Andrea Holmen at 406-425-2657 if interested

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Lowell Anderson, Emma Balsam, Manuel Cabanas,
Jackie Cordill, Lenny Erickson, Brooke Feister,
Jesse Graves, Andrea Holmen, Jim & Dolly Koski,
Rick & Sandy Koski, Jim & Linda Lian,
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 Calendar—October, 2023

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
1 Sing through Budget Forum 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Stewardship Choirchimes	2 Great Books 9:30am Quilters 1:00 pm	3 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm	4	5	6	7 Shirley Overton Funeral 11:00 am
8 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am Choirchimes	9 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	10 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm	11	12	13	14 Everybody's Birthday Party and Talent Show 6:30 pm
15 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am DSVS Forum and lunch Choirchimes	16 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	17 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Hospice 12:00 noon	18	19 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm	20 Ultrasound Screening 8:00am— 4:30 pm	21
22 Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am Choirchimes Prospective Members Luncheon	23 Men's Breakfast 7:00 am Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	24 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am	25	26	27	28
29 Reformation Sunday Sing through Hymns 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am Choirchimes	30 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	31 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am 				

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	406-656-7593	flynnquilts@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 <u>community</u>)

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.



Fragrance Free Zone
Please help us to accommodate those who are chemically sensitive to fragrances and other scented products.