

April, 2025

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland

“The great gift of
Easter is hope.”

— Basil C. Flume



Dear Messiah,

April is here! The month in which we finish the darkening walk of Lent to the cross and the death of Christ. It is also the month we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and begin the seven-Sunday season of Easter. New Life is the center of the journey we begin on Easter. And this year, that new life will take shape around learning.

Christian Education is what I've been talking about with a number of Messiah members in recent weeks. You already know about our End of Life Adult Forum Series coming in May (Not to be missed!) But what I'd like to talk about here are **two elements of our communion practice here at Messiah** – both, hopefully, changes in it.

As our Education Chair on council, Maria Gibson and I have devised a First Communion curriculum with the older kids of the church in mind. It will involve training as Acolytes and will include good Lutheran learning as well as creative projects throughout. We have scheduled it for late Epiphany through Lent, with their first communion coming on the night of Maundy Thursday, 2026.

You might be asking, we already commune our kids, whether they've taken First Communion or not. This is very true. As a congregation we have prized their receiving communion over their understanding it. At this point, Maria and I are discussing a reordering of these priorities. Pentecost Sunday, June 8th, children will receive a blessing at communion rather than the elements.

Conversations with some parents have encouraged us to help our children begin to see this simple meal as a precious gift that, though it is for all people, is more meaningful when some learning accompanies it. This may be difficult to start with, but we are confident that the mystery of this meal and a hunger to learn about it will grow when they begin to feel its absence.

If you have a strong reaction to this, please let us know your thoughts.

The second communion-related learning is quite simple. Because we have a difficult time finding people willing to serve the wine at communion, I have spoken to a few people about why they don't serve in this role. The three most common reasons seem to be "It's too complicated", "I don't want to be the center of attention", and "I'm not worthy".

As far as "complicated" goes, it's an easy enough thing to learn (5 minutes or less). The words "I'm not worthy" though not part of the Lutheran lexicon, the truth is we are not worthy, and God chooses to give us the riches of his grace, love, mercy and forgiveness anyway. This means those who don't serve in this way *should* (!) because there is no better way for this fundamental truth to "get under your skin."

What you'll find serving the wine is that no one is more focused on you more than on what they are receiving from you. Like so many things in this faith, you are not the center. God's gifts are meant to be received then served, rippling out to world thirsty for them. In this role we practice simply giving what God has first given us.

Pastor Ben

April, 2025



A new ministry here at Messiah Cotton flannel diapers

We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage to be made into diapers. Soon we will begin making diapers here in Red Lodge to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. These are fun and easy to make.

4/01 Paul Schauer
4/02 Phoebe Kinzley
4/25 Jodie Moore

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.

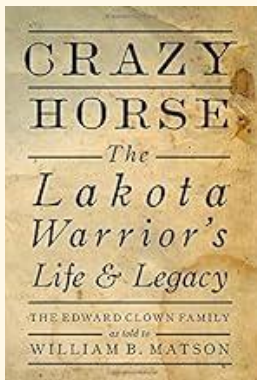
Messiah Chimes

Messiah Chimes will once again take part in proclaiming Easter's victory! Their joyful music will support the renewal of light and aid our singing of Christ the Lord Is Risen! Join the chorus as we all declare
ALLELUIA!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you are interested in making prayer shawls, please contact Pat Thompson or Mary Ames. If you are in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Pat Thompson, Mary Ames or Pastor Ben.

WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: April 24
Time: 3:00 pm
Book: Crazy Horse
Author: William B. Matson
Facilitator:
Location: Home of Mary Ames

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



Let's keep in touch!

If email is **not** your favorite way of receiving communications from the church, please talk to Dianne in the office and let her know how you prefer to be contacted.



Council Corner

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah Church Council met on March 16th at 8 am. We discussed many exciting things. You can find the full report, including financials, in the member section of our website or by requesting a copy from our Administrative Assistant.

*The Allen Hansen Memorial Bike Ride is coming up in June. Please note the information in the newsletter.

*We replaced the broken parsonage garage door, purchased a 10-foot ladder to be kept at Church, and had some discussion about the old altar and pulpit.

*Council members have been reviewing and updating Messiah's constitution, the Messiah Photo Directory is nearing completion, and the Membership Handbook is progressing with the added funeral and wedding guidelines.

*The Meadowlark Child Care Center located in our building closed its doors due to staffing issues.

Our next Messiah Church Council meeting is on April 9th at 7 pm in the Messiah Fellowship Hall.

We are still in need of a Church Council Vice President. This position is a great way to get a sense for the workings of our Messiah Church Council without a lot of extra work. If you would like to be part of our fun group of Messiah Church Members who "get things done", please reach out to any of our council members.

Katrin Chandler



"Help us spread the word about all the amazing things happening at Messiah! Our Outreach Committee is dedicated to sharing our mission, celebrating the talents of our members, and fostering growth within our congregation. If you have a passion for connecting with others and showcasing the wonderful gifts within our church family, we'd love to have you on board!

Get involved today! Contact Sandy Moe at sandra.moe@rocky.edu / 218-341-0283. Let's grow together! "

Messiah Calendar—April, 2025

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm At Pizza Co.	2 Mid-week Lenten Service at Messiah 5:30	3	4	5
6 Worship 10:00 am	7 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	8 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	9 Mid-week Lenten Service at Calvary 5:30	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Worship 10:00 am 	14 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	15 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	16	17 Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm	18 Good Friday Noon—3PM Church open for reflection	19 Easter Vigil 7:00 pm
20 Easter Sunday Worship 10:00 am 	21 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	22 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	23	24 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm	25	26
27 Worship 10:00 am	28 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	29 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	30			

April, 2025



March 9, 2025

Blessing of the new Lectern which was built by Peter Boyum to match the cross and altar built by Allen Hansen.

Meadowlark Daycare

The Red Lodge Area Community Foundation Board has voted to permanently close Meadowlark Daycare after the daycare administrator accepted another position. We will miss having them here and wish all the kids, their families, and teachers the very best.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please write your prayer requests in the prayer request book in the gathering area.
We ask that you re-submit requests at the first of each month if they are still desired
Or contact the church office at
406-446-2430 or email requests to redlodgemessiah@gmail.com
with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

This month the people of Messiah are praying for
Carl and Meredith Cherland, Felicity Cramer, Mason Daily, Dolly Koski,
Rick and Sandy Koski, Jack Kyner and his family, Doug Lair, Rob Loney,
Paul Odegaard, and Carlos Ramalho

April, 2025

March 28, 2025

Dear Friends at Messiah Lutheran Church in Red Lodge,

Carl and I miss you all very much! We watch and worship with you every Sunday on Youtube, but it's not as good as being there in person. We visited Red Lodge last September 2024, and it was one month later that Carl got sick. We have been dealing with that ever since. We missed you at Christmas, and it looks like we will be missing you again on Easter Sunday 2025.

We want to thank you for all the meaningful cards and the loving messages you have sent to us. Each one is a comfort and a blessing. We thank you too for helping Ben arrange his schedule so that he can be with us when we really need him.

Carl has recovered well from the January 30 surgery that removed most of his brain tumor. We were then referred to the Allan Blair Cancer Centre in Regina.

Carl is finishing three weeks of radiation therapy today. It has made him very tired. These days he is happiest lying down with his eyes closed. But he is still thoughtful and able to discuss ideas. He can still play the piano, and he enjoys listening to music. He just doesn't have the strength and stamina he once had.

We are not going to do any chemotherapy. A genetic analysis shows that Carl does not have the genetic marker that would allow him to benefit from chemo therapy. It would still make him sick, but it would not prolong his life.

Our daughter and our grandsons are coming to Regina for Easter. Carl is still not well enough to travel to Red Lodge, but we will come when he is able. We spend our days waiting peacefully for spring and summer and whatever lies ahead. Carl plays hymns at the piano and I sing them. We are well supported with gifts of food from our church community here in Regina, and by many old friends, some of whom have come to stay with us and help as they are able.

Like you, we are Christians who know that everything is in God's hands. We have nothing to fear. May the Lord be with us all!

In Christian love,
Meredith and Carl Cherland

April, 2025

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.

January Bare Tooth Food Bank

February

March St. John’s Ministries

April LWR Quilters

May Christikon

June Boys and Girls Club

July Red Lodge Pool

August Red Lodge Fun Run

September Pastor’s Discretionary

October DSVS

November Campus Ministries

December



In 2024, 370,818 quilts were created and collected in the US and distributed around the world. 13,794 were distributed in the US and 78,854 were disbursed in Ukraine, for example. This year Messiah has made 80 or so quilts which we will place on the sanctuary chairs and bless them later in April. Then we will pack them up in boxes, weigh and label them and drive them in the Flynn van to Billings to be loaded onto an 18 wheeler for hauling to the Minneapolis collection center. That collection date is May 10.

This year Lutheran World Relief has sent out a request for financial assistance to offset shipping fees. Each quilt is shipped out at a cost of about \$2.50 each. If you can help, please make your check out to Messiah and write "ship LWR quilts" on the memo line. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you from the quilters...Mary Ames, Brooke and John Flynn, Cindy Runtzler, Carol Erkens, Barb Ostrum, Vicki Kittle, Jeri Kyner, and Suzi Hansen


life is never unfinished,
Yes it can be hard, but
all of us girls will get through
it!

We are all the
Same inside
(Kind of.)



however
who ever found
this, think about
it.



We are all different!
that  is good



god loves us!



Christikon Benefit Auction In Person and Online



Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday April 27th at the Billings Depot.

Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, getaways, jewelry and so much more.

Raffle Tickets on sale now! 1995 Yamaha Motorcycle! Go to <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon-one-time/>, choose gift: other and put raffle in the text box. Do not have to be present to win. Tickets sell for \$10 each, 3 for \$20 or 10 for \$50.

Online auction begins April 20th at noon.

Watch for the link to our auction platform on facebook at www.facebook.com/Christikon or on our website www.Christikon.org

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks! Online auction ends on Sunday the 27th – be present and you can pick up your items at the Depot.

Campers: Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer!

How about Work Weekend? Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to www.christikon.org and register!

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ - exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

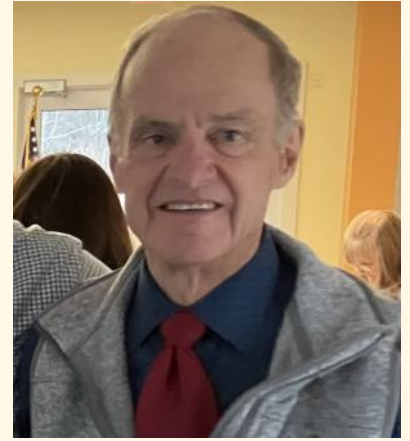
CHRISTIKON

1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

406 656-1969 • director@christikon.org • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Looking Forward to the Allen Hansen Memorial Bike Ride

The **Allen Hansen Memorial Ride** is co-chaired by Suzi Hansen and Pastor Melissa Johansen. It is a fundraiser for the Montana Hungerfund of the Montana Synod. The bike ride is scheduled for **June 14th starting at 6 am at Messiah Lutheran Church** in Red Lodge and ending at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Laurel.



Some of the riders might arrive Friday and spend the night at our Church. We need to prepare a meal (supper) for those riders who will spend the night at our Church and offer a light breakfast prior to the start of the Allen Hansen Memorial Ride. Suzi would gladly help with the organization of these meals.





Community Poverty Simulation | Friday May 2, 2025
9:00 am – 12:00 pm | United Way of Yellowstone County

The Shoes of Our Neighbors

Join us for an immersive Community Poverty Simulation, where participants experience the difficult decisions and challenges that individuals and families facing financial hardship navigate every day.

This interactive event is designed to build empathy, challenge assumptions, and inspire action by providing a glimpse into the realities of financial instability.

How It Works:

- Participants are assigned a real-life scenario of someone facing financial hardship.
- Community partner agencies will serve as key resources—banks, employers, schools, health centers, and more.
- Over four 13-minute sessions (representing four weeks), participants must navigate daily life—finding employment, paying bills, caring for family, and accessing vital services.
- A guided debrief will follow, fostering meaningful discussion and collaborative action.



Why Participate?

- Gain a new perspective on the struggles faced by many in our community.
- Engage with local organizations working to address the needs of neighbors.
- Learn how you can take action to make a difference.

This event is open to all community members. Whether you are a business leader, nonprofit professional, student, or concerned citizen, your participation matters!

What past participants say...

"I was surprised at how angry I was... I was like whoa, I bet if this was something in real life, it would be unimaginably difficult."

"Just eye opening..."

Register Today!

Scan or click
the QR Code



For more information, contact **Maia @**
mdickerson@uwyellowstone.org | 406.272.8506

April, 2025

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: Off

Tuesday : 9:00-4:00

Wednesday: 9:00-3:00

Thursday: 9:00-3:00

Friday: 9:00-4:00

Saturday: Off

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.



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
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President	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	katregcha@gmail.com
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Vice President			
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Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	flynnquilt@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	pschauer62@gmail.com
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Education	Maria Gibson	727-744-4630	mgibson@wdmoffice.com
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Family Life/Volunteer

Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	marthacrofts@gmail.com
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Outreach	Sandy Moe	218-341-0283	sandra.moe@rocky.edu
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Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	kkreatzgmail.com
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Stewardship	Linda Daily	406-426-0841	lindatodd94@yahoo.com
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Worship	Dianne Milleson	406-425-3222	dmille46@gmail.com
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Other Important Contact Information

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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