

June, 2026

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



Dear Messiah,

Last week, a small group of council members had a conversation with a marketing professional named Suzi. We met for the purpose of updating our website. We talked about many, many things, but the website was not one of them. Suzi had questions and the rest of us didn't really have answers.

Her questions are also mine. Who is Messiah? What is our identity in the larger community of Red Lodge? What do we bring that no other church in Red Lodge does? If Messiah disappeared overnight, what would our little town miss?

These are questions about purpose and questions about who we are as a community of faith. And they get to the heart of a disquiet that's been growing in me since we left our old building and moved into this one. I think we have changed and are struggling to find our feet - our purpose and identity - in this new place.

There are good and understandable reasons for this, of course. With the arrival of new faces, families, and friends-made-members, this congregation looks very different from the one that left 723 S Adams Avenue in August of 2022. Also, we have debt on the loan that allowed us to build. Debt does interesting things to "people who owe". What it has done to us is tamp down our imagination for ministry.

Not entirely of course. There have been rays of light that have broken through, that give us great hope. Like Fun Fridays last August, when great numbers of our members gave a great time to kids in our community whose parents had a gap in their childcare. It was an absolute success! We served a community-wide Thanksgiving meal after a packed Thanksgiving service. We have deepened our connection with Calvary Episcopal and Community UCC. And there is the tremendous enthusiasm at church of hearing loaned handbells this year that turned into enthusiastic generosity, allowing us to purchase our own!

These are remarkable signs of the life that stirs here at Messiah - the risen life of Christ, who enlivens our lives with hope at the new thing he is doing. These signs of hope tug at our sleeves, asking the question, "Who are we becoming, and does it still resemble who we've been?"

Rather than seeking to fit the mold made by the forebearers of this church, it is time to turn to these questions in earnest and articulate for ourselves the core values, identity, purpose, and vision of who we are becoming. Conversations lie ahead, because the clearer we can be in response, the clearer our outreach becomes, and the clearer our proclamation will be to a world in need of Christ.

Pastor Ben

June, 2026



- 6/1 Kallie Audet
Ella Kinzley
6/14 Patrick Audet
6/30 Maria Gibson



- 6/02 Brooke & John Flynn
6/19 Jeri & Jim Kyner
6/21 Kallie and Patrick Audet
6/27 Dick & Martha Crofts

Do you want to help mothers and babies through Lutheran World Relief?

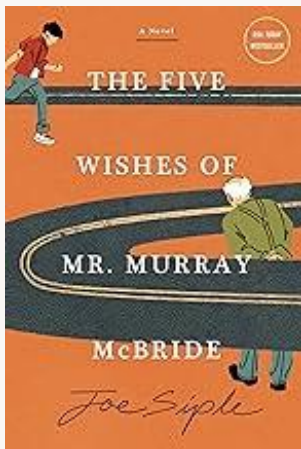
We have been collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage to be made into diapers. These diapers then become part of the baby care kits which are donated to Lutheran World Relief. Heretofore, Pastor Paul and his wife, along with Sunne Lutheran Church in Wilton, North Dakota, have been doing the sewing and assembling of these kits. We would like to begin making diapers and assembling the baby care kits here in Red Lodge. The diapers are fun and easy to make, no sewing experience is necessary. Everyone can help, including kids! Please contact Dianne (406-425-3222) and we'll get rolling.

PRAYER SHAWLS

If you would like to help knit prayer shawls, please contact Pat Thompson.
If you need a prayer shawl, please contact Pat Thompson or Dianne Milleison.



WOMEN'S SaFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: June 18
Time: 7:00 pm
Book: The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride
Author: Joe Siple
Facilitator: Marla Ebel
Location: Home of DJ Rosekelly

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



Messiah Charity Hand Quilters need your help to continue this ministry. We meet from 1pm—3 pm each Monday. Please bring a thimble, small scissors and a quilting needle. We will teach you what you need to know. If you don't have any of these things, come anyway and We will help get you set up.



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.



June, 2026



On May 4 many Messiah volunteers packed up and boxed 94 quilts being sent to crisis areas in the US and around the world. Each quilt took about 10 hours to create. The packers spent an hour each. John and Brooke taped the 14 boxes together. Each box held 6 or 7 quilts and each box was labeled and weighed. The weight totaled about 300 pounds. Then the boxes were hoisted into Julie Lindgren's pick up and were driven to American Lutheran Church Saturday morning. These boxes will be transported to a collection warehouse in Minnesota via a semi which will also collect more Lutheran World Relief quilts from other Lutheran churches across Montana and further east along the route.

Altogether the Lutheran World Relief quilt effort here at Messiah took about 1000 volunteer hours.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE.

Plans are being made for our "Trash to Treasure" sale this summer, so as you are doing your spring cleaning, please consider saving good gently used items for the sale. Proceeds from the sale will be going to the fund to work on the Fellowship Field.

As you may be aware, we have been collecting blankets and boots for homeless people. These are being distributed through Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Billings and Pastor Kim and Teri Wilker are actively participating in the distribution. They picked up our blankets last Sunday. This is a text I received from Pastor Kim on Tuesday.

"Thanks to you and all the saints at Messiah. Some of the blankets were given out today." Blankets are needed year round so please bring any that you would like to donate. The collection bin is in the Administrative Assistant's office.

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome! We'd love to hear from you. Please get them to Dianne by the 25th of the month.

If you would like to use the church for a meeting or event, please contact Dianne in the office. She is the keeper of the schedule and can be sure there are no conflicting events. If you are planning a church function, please make sure you let Dianne know so it can be added to the schedule. Thanks!



Meet Our New Handbells is scheduled Sunday, June 21 at 11:30, following worship. It's a time to hear them and ring them. This won't be a performance; rather, it's a hands-on opportunity to learn about this beautiful musical instrument both for worship and for sharing with others throughout the area.

On this occasion, picking them up and ringing won't be required, yet it will be encouraged. No previous experience is needed; however, having OR learning music reading is essential for prospective ensemble members. Ringing members of the ensemble may include youth of middle and high school ages as well as ageless adults. What about gloves? We have plenty. While not required, they save us from frequent polishing.



June, 2026

Messiah Calendar—June 2026

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	<u>1</u> Quilting 1:00 pm	<u>2</u> Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> Worship 10:00 am	<u>8</u> Quilting 1:00 pm	<u>9</u> Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	<u>10</u> Church Council 6:00 pm	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> Worship 10:00 am 	<u>15</u> Quilting 1:00 pm	<u>16</u> Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	<u>19</u> 	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> Worship 10:00 am Meet Our New Handbells 	<u>22</u> Quilting 1:00 pm	<u>23</u> Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Worship 10:00 am	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm				

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.

Special Projects 2026

January: Bare Tooth Food Bank
February: Boys and Girls Club
March: St. John's Ministries
April: LWR Quilters
May: Christikon
June: Montana Synod Hunger Fund

July: RLACF Fun Run
August: Carbon County Arts Guild Youth Education
September: ELCA World Hunger
October: DSVS
November: Campus Ministries
December: CART

Synod Hunger Fund

The Montana Synod Hunger team seeks to support hunger-related ministries throughout Montana and Northern Wyoming. Grants, fundraising, and hunger-related programs allow the Hunger team to direct resources to places and ministries that are serving our neighbors in need.



Words of Wisdom Shared by a Member

My son called his sister a hurtful name.

My friend stopped playing and said you know the rules " three nice for one bad. Finally he came up with three nice words to say. " acting in anger never solved a problem.

God wants us to act in love in all situations.

Submitted by DJ Rosekelly

COUNCIL CORNER HIGH LIGHTS

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah Church Council met on May 13th, 2026 @ 6:00pm.

You can get the full report, including financials, by requesting a copy from our Administrative Assistant Dianne at the church office (406) 446 - 2430.

Pastor Ben will be printing a few copies of his sermon which he will leave at the back of the sanctuary each Sunday for those who are hard of hearing.

Giving statements will be available on Sunday, May 17 and mailed out to those who don't pick them up by June 1.

Linda is getting another quote for insurance.

August 23rd will be our annual Worship on the Land service.

Messiah has purchased a set of handbells. The cost was covered through donations.

The offering during the joint services (Rogation, Kaleva, Worship on the Pass) will be split three ways unless otherwise indicated.

The water fountain "fill water bottle" function will be installed.

Our next regular Church Council Meeting is on **Wednesday, June 10th at 6:00 pm.**

Please come to our meeting, if you want to find out about the workings of Messiah. Please reach out to me if there is something you would like us to discuss as your Messiah Church Council.

Submitted by Katrin Chandler, Council President

Hebrews 4:16: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

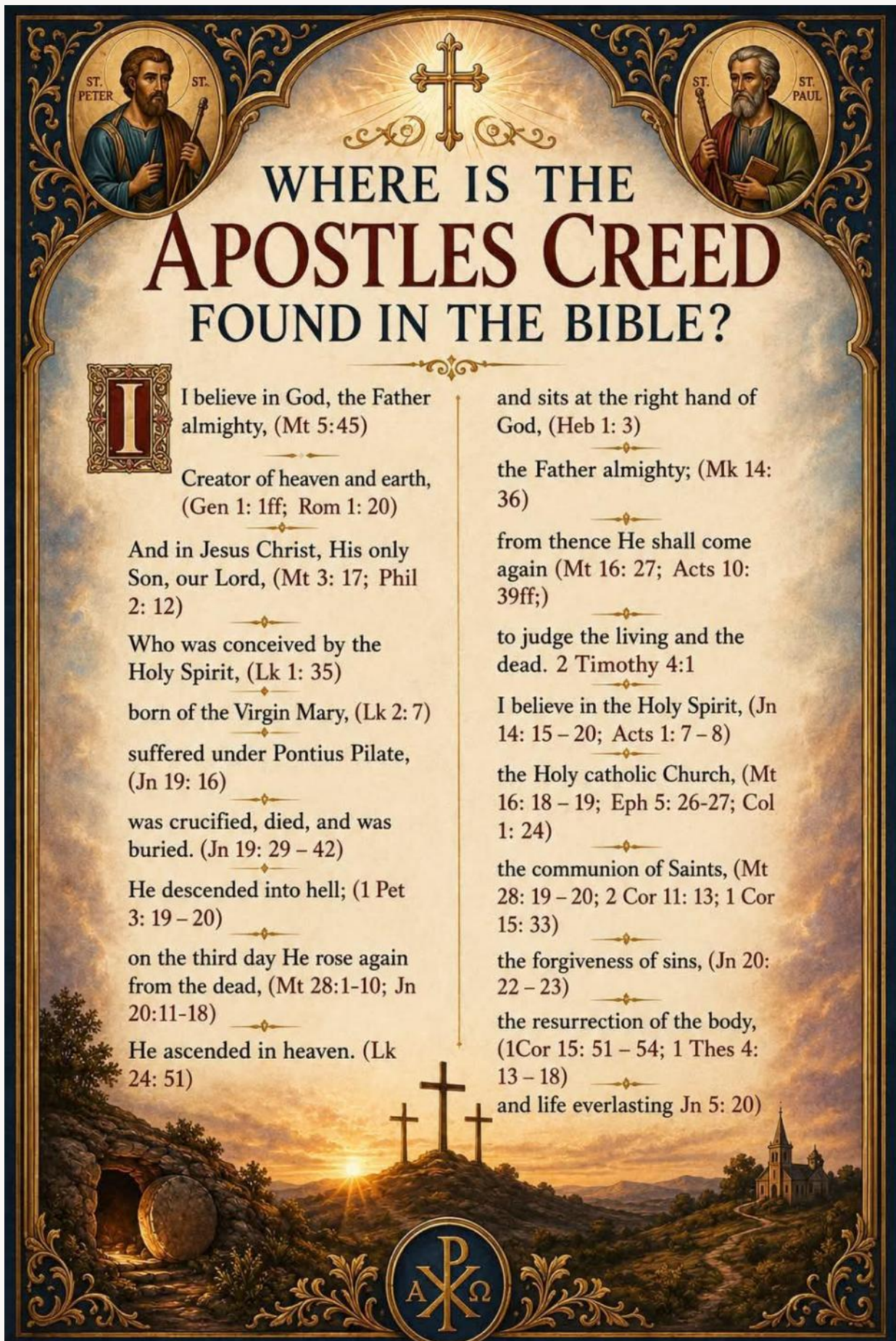
PRAYER REQUESTS

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.

Claudia B, Donna Downing, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Misty Milligan, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva, Guynema Terry, Josh Wilker, Josh Winter, and Judy Yasi

The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.



In the ELCA we use the translation He descended to the dead rather than he descended into hell.

CHRISTIKON CLIPS | MAY 2026



Several camps **still have room**. Check our website and register today—we'd love to see you at camp!

Our Spring "Housing Boost" campaign continues on into Spring. It has been exciting and many people have contributed! We already have one tent, lighting upgrades and are well on our way to new bunks! The campaign is tiered as we will add whatever we can as funds are raised. Please consider joining this effort with a gift! www.christikon.org/housingboost

A few more **Bus Attendants** needed for 2026 – Would you or someone you know be willing to ride with youth on their way to Christikon? Please contact the office! It pays a daily rate.

We still have need for **more hands at Work Weekend!** There are lots of fun projects on the list, of all levels of skill and challenge—from document assembly and cleaning to construction and plumbing. Please consider joining us for some hard work, fun community, good meals and fresh mountain air at camp. May 22-25.

christikon.org

CHRISTIKON

1108 24th Street West | Billings, MT 59102 | 406 656-1969 | secretary@christikon.org
It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ—exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

Last but not least—Check out our amazing new water bottle filler!!!



June, 2026

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:

Tuesday : 11-4:00

Wednesday: 12:00-4:00

Thursday: 11:00-4:00

Friday: 12:00-4:00

Sunday: PM

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.

