

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland

Plant smiles
GROW LAUGHTER
Harvest love

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Dear Messiah,

It's September. At Messiah, this means that your church council is working on Messiah's budget for 2025. You are receiving this letter as part of that process. With this letter you are also receiving a statement containing what you pledged last year and your giving to date, along with a sheet where we hope you will indicate what you plan to give in 2025. Receiving that number from you no later than Sunday, September 29th is important because October is the month when your council will take all those numbers, add them up, and build the 2025 budget. In November, you, the members of this congregation, will vote on the proposed Budget.

A good question to ask then, is this: What is a budget? In reality, it's not a budget. It's a mission spending plan.

A budget is based on the dollars and cents that we plan to spend as a church. It provides guidelines for spending, making sure we spend responsibly and with care, stewarding what has been given. But all that spending, when you come down to it, is focused on one thing, and that is mission. Our mission? No. God's mission among us in this place for the sake of the world.

As church, we seek to discern God's mission (what God is up to) and we seek to participate with God in that mission. Part of that participation requires funds to meet expenses, such as our monthly utilities and our building mortgage. Participation in God's mission isn't always flashy, but it is all pointed in the same direction. So, consider it not an electric bill, but a spending plan that allows for enough light to recognize each other, connect with visitors, do the work of the church, and worship. It's not a heating bill, but a spending plan that allows us to be undistracted from what's important, and to receive people into the warmth of this community. It's not a mortgage payment, it's a spending plan of how we meet our commitments and steward the amazing gifts of God in this place, to these people, for the sake of the world.

If the process of developing a mission spending plan begins with discerning God's mission here, you need to know that you have discerned mightily and understand what God's mission looks like in this place. Through our quilting efforts we are reaching out to people in need across the world. Through our Sunday School volunteers we are passing the foundations of the faith on to the next generation. Supporting Meadowlark Child Care, we are meeting a tremendous need, supporting young families across the county.

These are only a few examples of our commitments born of our discernment of God's mission in our lives for the sake of the world. We have a sense of what God's up to among us, within us, and for what purpose. What remains to be done is to give.

As Lutherans, we think of giving not as what we do for God, but as a response to what God has done for us. God's gifts to us are many and abundant, but God's gifts are never ends in themselves. Think of the parable of the rich fool who kept building bigger and bigger barns to store up his grain (Luke 12:14-21): The abundance of what God gave him was not given to be kept – it was given to be shared. In this way, giving is not about what we do for God, but rather about what God wants to do in us for the world.

The question is, how much should I/we give? CS Lewis once said, "I am afraid the only safe rule [for giving] is to give more than we can spare. If our giving habits do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small." What I would say is simply give a sum that is significant to you. Deciding this starts with determining what things are significant to you.

We hope that your church community is significant to you, that it is worth supporting in all its efforts to participate in God's mission in the world. If it isn't, we have a larger conversation ahead and some hard decisions to make in building our 2025 mission spending plan. But we are confident because we have found in this place a consistent generosity that seeks to reflect the generosity of God in the abundant gift of grace – given to all to be shared with all.

Thanks be to God for all that you give to support Messiah's work in the kingdom,
Messiah Stewardship Committee

Pastor Ben

Christikon Clips

October 2024

Information for our Congregations



2025 Calendar! The calendar and sessions listing is on our website (www.christikon.org). It's not too soon to start planning for next summer's trip to camp! Already accepting reservations! We anticipate a full season and encourage registering sooner than later.

Fall Retreats. We have retreats scheduled through mid-October. Start planning now to bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains in 2024!

We're thankful for all your prayers this past summer, for the summer staff, for this ministry and for all who have joined in the Christikon life. 2023 held many opportunities for ministry, connections, and time in intentional Christian community. We are grateful.

We extend a huge thank you to Mark Donald for his leadership these past 12 years and we will miss him and Julie greatly! Join us in wishing them both the best in their new adventure!

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

October, 2024

The following message was forwarded to us from

Darren Paulson

Pastor | 406-655-7786

St. John's United | Spiritual Care Department

stjohnsunited.org

There is a critical need for a low barrier shelter (one not requiring sobriety, and one that is accessible for disabled, etc) for Billings. There were many people sleeping, living outside all last winter....we saw them at the showers regularly...and it was heartbreaking. The whole community needs to come together to shelter folks...I have been harping to the City Council and other leaders for two years....but that City leadership literally turn their backs on my pleas. So I am trying to let people know of the problem and why it is not solved through the existing organizations.

Thank you,

Catherine Card



**What God wants most from us who claim
Christian faith....**

**to share our food with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into our homes...**

(Isaiah 58:6-7)

**If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food—or
shelter-- and you say to them, "Go in peace; keep
warm and eat your fill, "and yet you do not supply their
bodily needs, what is the good of that ? Faith by itself,
if it has no works, is dead.**

(James 2:14b-17)

**YET BILLINGS, A CITY WITH WEALTH AND A LOT OF
ELECTED LEADERS AND OTHER FOLKS WHO CLAIM
THEY LOVE GOD AND FOLLOW CHRIST,
HAS NO LOW-BARRIER SHELTER!**

**Note: The Montana Rescue Mission (MRM) has no low barrier shelter, only
an emergency shelter where a person can stay for only 12 days per year;
the former Motel 5(operated by Off the Streets, Inc) offers only a few free
shelter beds; the Community Crisis Center (CCC) is not a shelter.**

**If you are interested in working together NOW to develop a
well-run low barrier shelter for Billings, contact
Catherine Card 406-679-1501.**



Calling All Ladies for a Tea Party

Have a cuppa tea & finger food, with friends, here at Messiah.

Saturday, October 12 at 3:00

*Join the Family Life Committee as we
make new friendships (or renew those longstanding)
and explore ways to strengthen fellowship beyond worship.*

Please RSVP by signing up at church or
Phone/Text Martha at 239-643-3027.



This is the proposed Sabbatical Policy for Messiah Lutheran Church..

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH SABBATICAL GUIDELINES

PURPOSE OF A SABBATICAL

Wholeness and wellness are important principles in the life of the church and in the practice of its ministry. Congregations and agencies will be served best by pastors and deacons who are healthy--both spiritually and physically--and who are committed to grow both in their understanding of the faith and in enhancing their skills in ministry. A sabbatical provides an opportunity for the pastor to take an intentional, extended period of time away from regular parish demands to experience renewal, study, spiritual growth, travel, or skill development. After the sabbatical the pastor returns to the parish with new energy and resources for ministry.

LENGTH OF SABBATICAL

A sabbatical may be granted for twelve weeks (three months). The sabbatical takes the place of any continuing education time for that year. Vacation time is not included as sabbatical time.

ELIGIBILITY

A pastor may take a sabbatical after every sixth full year of service with approval by the church council.

FINANCING A SABBATICAL

The congregation will pay full salary and benefits during the sabbatical. Expenses incurred during the sabbatical – e.g. Tuition, books, supplies, travel and living expenses outside of the parsonage – will be borne by the pastor. These expenses may be covered by allotted continuing education funds.

PLANNING

Planning for a sabbatical should begin the calendar year before the sabbatical. A written proposal for a sabbatical should be submitted for approval no later than six months before the sabbatical. The timing and proposed plans for a sabbatical must be approved by the church council.

COMMITMENTS FOLLOWING A SABBATICAL

The pastor is normally expected to serve Messiah for at least twelve months following the sabbatical. The pastor will present the results/impact of his/her sabbatical to the congregation within a mutually agreed upon period of time following the completion of the sabbatical.

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.....Baretooth Cupboards

February.....Red Lodge Ice Rink

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

AprilMeadowlark Childrens Center

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

Let's honor the missions that Red Lodge Messiah supports. At the beginning of each month we will have someone briefly speak about that non-profit entity during worship. Also, a jar will be placed near the coffee in the gathering area if you wish to donate there. Certainly a check with the organization specified on the memo line is great as well. Thanks, B Ostrum



Domestic *and* Sexual Violence Services

"DSVS provides direct client services, including a free and confidential 24-hour Helpline; emergency shelter; transitional housing; food and transportation; hospital, police and court accompaniment and support; assistance in applying for orders of protection and crime victim compensation; one-on-one crisis counseling; assistance with documenting stalking or abusive behavior; legal advocacy; and referrals to other social service agencies. Our mission is to empower those impacted by violence and foster healthy relationships. We provide services in Carbon and Stillwater Counties in southeast Montana and our educators provide our violence prevention curriculum called Power Up, Speak Out! in schools across Montana and nationwide."

October, 2024

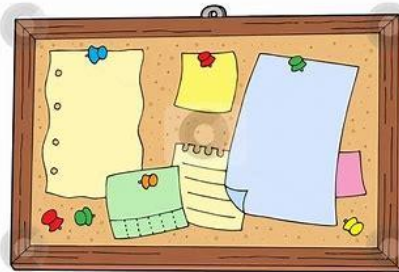
COUNCIL CORNER

Your Church Council met Monday, September 9th at 3:06 pm

Please see the bulletin board for complete minutes or email the office redlodgemessiah.com and we will send you a copy.



Children have Sunday School during the adult worship service.



Our bulletin board is the place to check for community information, thank you letters from groups that we support and many other interesting items.

October, 2024

What's Going on at Messiah **Meadowlark Tweets**



Meadowlark's playground on a sunny September day.



It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Sheila who is moving with her family to Florida.. Miss Sheila, you will be missed!

October, 2024

What's going on at Messiah?



Pastor Ben Blessing the backpacks. What does it mean when we bless the backpacks? Hank's answer, "giving them super powers". Loved that answer! Pastor Ben's answer is we are asking for God's favor and protection over each one of you as you go about your daily lives and especially your school lives. God be with you, dear ones, and keep you safe.

Happy Birthday!

10/3 Todd Daily
10/4 Alecia Benton
10/7 Kathy Benton
10/11 Aiden Moore
10/23 Kathy Kreatz
10/24 Al Stuber

Happy Anniversary!

10/03 Vince & Mary
Ames
10/26 Chris & Kathy
Benton

Cotton flannel sheets and yardage are needed

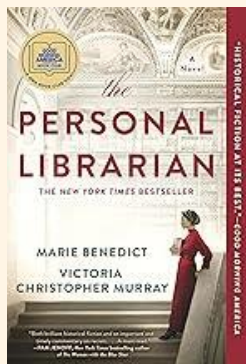
We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage to be made into diapers. Sheets can be used and stained because they will be cut up and the unusable parts will be discarded. We will begin making diapers here in Red Lodge to be donated to Lutheran World Relief at the same time we donate our quilts. These are fun and easy to make.

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.

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: October 17
Time: 7:00 pm
Book: Personal Librarian
Author: Murray and Benedict
Facilitator:
Location: Home of Martha Croft
Contact host, Marla Ebel,
at 406-664-3178 for more
information.

Pastor Ben's hours have changed. He now has Mondays and Saturdays off.



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.



Messiah Calendar—October 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 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	7 Quilters 1:00 pm	8	9 Church Council 3:06 pm	10	11	12
13 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	14 Quilters 1:00 pm	15	16	17 Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	18	19
20 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	21 Quilters 1:00 pm	22 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:30 pm	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	28 Quilters 1:00 pm	29 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:30 pm	30	31		

October, 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

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 Ilamae Akkerman,

Doug Beckman, Brook Feister,

Jim and Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,

the family of Howard Marquart, Carlos Ramalho,

Sadie Sceva, and Marcy Wilrich

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	Linda Daily	406-426-0841c	lindatodd94@yahoo.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	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	katregcha@gmail.com
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Family Life/Volunteer			
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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			
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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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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.



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