

July, 2025

# *Light in the Beartooths*

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland

## All are Welcome Here, Even

# GH**OS**T BUSTERS



July, 2025

Dear Messiah,

We have been in this new building now for over two years. One of the many financial gifts that made the building project possible was given by Ruth Urban, a longtime member of Messiah. A portion of that gift was designated for a Memorial Garden, and having celebrated three Easter Sundays in this new location, it's time to turn our attention to this project.

What is a Memorial Garden? I admit, I needed to look it up and found very little. They are generally seen as places where the remains of community or family members are kept – columbaria are not uncommon when it comes to memorial gardens. This is not a requirement, however. Memorial Gardens are more often “dedicated outdoor spaces” that honor the memory of a specific person. By honoring the wishes of Ruth, this is a place that will bring her to mind for many.

I think of a Memorial Garden as a place apart. It's place to pause in the midst of the business of life – its requirements, commitments, losses, joys – you name it. It's a place that could help people step out of their lives for a moment to pause, reflect and find some peace. Could a Memorial Garden be a haven from all the demands and uncertainties of life?

A Memorial Garden is also an undertaking – it does not spring up effortlessly. A spot on our land has presented itself (just to the right on the far side of the arched bridge) that we've chosen for what it offers naturally. A natural separation with a defined space, the sound of water, plenty of sun and shade, and the spirit of the spot – all these lend this place to rest and renewal, good things for a memorial garden to be. But making this space accessible, comfortable and engaging will be work, holy and laborious. Suggestions have been made that need to be considered wisely with knowledge of their costs. Layout, physical elements, and space requirements and proposals would take time and dedicated volunteers to help our community “find its way” in such a project. Are you someone willing to lead or be part of a team that does this work?

In the end, two things stand out to me as the most important to keep in mind. First, a “final product” is not what we are going for. A Memorial Garden develops over time. Patience might be the hardest requirement for developing such a space. It will grow and change as its community of caretakers change.

Second, as I've said with this building, I say of our Memorial Garden: It must be an offering to the community of Red Lodge. This is a congregation that has much to share, and this garden is one of them. We exist in Red Lodge to serve Red Lodge. Witnessing to the grace of God so freely given was the call of building and is the call of this Memorial Garden. Making it a space that reflects that gift, requiring nothing of its visitors to receive its blessing, is the holy calling God has laid before us. May we come to give according to all we have received.

Pastor Ben

**2025 Synod Assembly Report** Suzi Hansen - Messiah Rep.

As Representative of Messiah Lutheran Church, I attended the 2025 Synod Assembly in Great Falls, May 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. This year's theme was "Equipping For Hope". Bishop Laurie Jungling presided.

The Thursday Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women was held at Bethel Lutheran Church. All attending were given a red ribbon to wear. The sanctuary was dressed in red, and a beautiful Native American cross was on the altar. Candles were lit for each prayer offered. Various people read the prayers. Names were read of the missing or murdered. Those in attendance were invited to light their own candle from one of the large candles. A native American played and sang in his native tongue, which was very meaningful for the remembrance of those lost.

Friday the Plenary I (business) sessions began at 8:30 am. Election of a Bishop started with Ballot #1. Worship was at 9:30 am. The offering taken would be divided between the Bolivian Lutheran Church and "Helping Hands" Ministry in Great Falls. We were also asked to bring food staples and men's clothing in good condition for the 'Helping Hands' Ministry. I was able to do that having some of Allen's to contribute.

Plenary II - 2026 budget was presented. More balloting. Will say the voting process was a process, as it took 5 ballots before a Bishop was successfully voted in, which wasn't completed until Saturday. The 5<sup>th</sup> and final ballot had Bishop Juggling and Pastor Ben Quanbeck on it.

Keynote Speaker Ms. Carrie Parker, spoke on the start and ongoing ministry of "Helping Hands" in Great Falls. What an amazing ministry to the community, providing food and clothing etc. How it started and how its grown.

Friday Night was the banquet. The printed program was based on Ephesians 4:11-12 ... the gifts Christ gave were... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... During the banquet, those recognized were Pastors new to the Synod, those celebrating Anniversary of Ordination, Congregation Anniversaries, those in Memoriam and those in Retirement.

Saturday Plenary II, III, and IV - Sessions began at 8:00 am. A Bible Study on Hope was given by Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen, which I found to be very interesting. "Hope is Action!" "Hope is something we actively live as part of our faith".

The installation of Colter McCarthy as Deacon took place. He will now be Associate to the Bishop for Practical and Emerging Ministry.

During the voting process, we did hear from each of the last 4 candidates. They were each given the same three questions, one at a time. and then the final two spoke before the last ballot was cast, # 5.

Worship with Holy Communion took place. The offering was again taken and would be split between the two ministries as before.

Bishop Laurie Jungling gave very good closing remarks after the election of Pastor Ben Quanbeck, Bishop Elect, from King of Glory Lutheran Church in Billings.

During Plenary #IV - The three resolutions were presented were:

National Day of Remembrance For Indian Boarding Schools on or near September 30<sup>th</sup>,

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MM/W)

Memorial for the Commission of a Social Message on Rural Life and Ministry

All three were adopted. For full information on the Resolutions, you can go to the Synod Web. Too much for me to put into a report.



July, 2025

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If you have never attended a Synod Assembly, consider saying “yes” when asked to be a nominee to represent Messiah Lutheran Church. You learn a lot. The next assembly will have workshops, and they, too, are interesting and can be inspiring. Most likely the Synod Assembly will be in Billings, as they have been flipping the site between Billings and Great Falls.

Thank you for sending me as Messiah’s Representative.



Opening of the Synod Assembly



New LMAs, Lay Ministerial Associates being installed



Waters of Baptism



Candle light Vigil Setting



July, 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.

6\30

Happy  
BELATED Birthday  
Maria Gibson!

7/6 Carlos Ramalho  
7/7 Beverly Urbaniak  
7/9 Katrin Chandler  
7/16 Jack Ervin  
7/19 Jacob Kreatz  
7/24 Mary Ames  
7/26 Hayes Yates  
7/30 David Jurkovich  
7/31 Dianne Milleson

## 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.

## 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.

## Gentle Reminder

Before scheduling meetings, please check with the office to be sure there are no scheduling conflicts.

## Messiah Chimes

Thank you Messiah Chimes for uplifting June worship with your musical offerings! Messiah Chimes go on Summer break until September when, once again, they'll make a joyful noise here and around town.

## WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: July 17  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Book: Gold Rush Girl  
Author: Sarah Elisabeth Taylor  
Facilitator:  
Location: Home of DJ Rosekelly

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

## Trash to Treasure Garage Sale

is planned for August 9th.  
Start gathering your saleable treasures to donate.

## 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.



July, 2025

## Council Corner

Your Messiah Church Council met on June 11th at 6 pm.

You can find the full report in the member section of our website or by requesting a copy from our Administrative Assistant. Financial reports are also available upon request from our Administrative Assistant.

- We had a good turn out for our spring clean up day on June 7th from 9 am to noon. 11 members worked hand in hand to clean up around and inside the building.
- The First Allen Hansen Memorial Bike Ride was a success on June 14th. Thank you Pastor Brenda Frelsi (Associate to the Bishop for Transitions and Lay Leadership) for preaching on June 15th.
- There will be a Church Garage Sale on August 9th. Marla Ebel is organizing the event.
- Fun Fridays for children who need care on Friday mornings from 8 am to 12 pm have started on June 20th and run through August 22nd.
- The worship on the land is scheduled for July 20th on the Fellowship Field.
- The Church Directory is completed. Please pick up your copy at Messiah.
- Linda Daily is attending the HOA meeting on June 24th. Stay tuned.
- Martha will invite a potential Church Council Vice President candidate to our August Council meeting.

Katrin Chandler


Church Council President

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A huge thanks to all the folks who pitched in to make the Rogation Service a success when it had to be moved to Messiah due to inclement weather. Especially to the ladies who stepped up and managed the kitchen!



# Messiah Calendar—July, 2025

<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	7	8 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	9 No Church Council This month	10	11  Fun Friday 8:00 am— noon	12
13 Worship 10:00 am	14 Quilters 1:00 pm	15 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	16	17 Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	18 Fun Friday 8:00 am— noon	19
20 Worship 10:00 am	21 Quilters 1:00 pm	21 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	23	24	25 Fun Friday 8:00 am— noon	26
27 Worship 10:00 am	28 Quilters 1:00 pm	29 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	30 Worship Committee 11:00 am	31		



**July, 2025**

### **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](mailto: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, Neil and Alice Carver, Jackie Cordill,  
JoAnne Fox, Nancy Knudson, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,  
Doug & Mary Lair, Paul Odegaard, Guynema Terry, Josh Wilker, and Madison

### **The Urban Memorial Garden**

We are ready to go forward with the Urban Memorial Garden but we need your ideas. Please see the pastor if you would like to be included in a committee to get this project rolling. The location is across the arched bridge and to the right.

### **What is FUN FRIDAYS?**

We are providing a service to the community for families whose children attend activities at the Boys and Girls Club throughout the summer. This is limited to 12 participants and we have all 12 openings filled.

Children arrive at 8:00 am, have breakfast and activities until noon.

At noon the "Cart" service picks up the children and takes them to the Boys and Girls Club which opens at noon.

Martha Crofts , Jeri Kyner, Marla Ebel , Jim Johnson, Suzi Hansen, Linda Daily, Katrin Chandler and Pastor Ben have all volunteered to help with this project. If you are interested in helping, please contact Martha Crofts.



## Christikon Clips

July, 2025

*Information for our Congregations*



**We are grateful for all the hard work that our Work Weekend crew accomplished!**

**Great group! Check out the pictures on our facebook page. Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/Christikon>**

**Thank you to one and all!**

**It's not too late to register for camp this summer!** Space remains in our online youth sessions and in those for families and adults. Limited space in our trails sessions. Call the office for availability. You can register online at [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) or call us at the camp office for further information.

Register for our new session **Contemplative Artist Retreat** going on July 7-10. Join **John Hermanson and Dr. Maren Haynes Marchesini** for this session. Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) for more details and to register.

**Special guest speakers** become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. **Continuing Education Retreat** (July 28-31) – we welcome our speaker **Dr. Dave Ellingson also known as The Paddle Pilgrim** – Go to our website for more information. **Mountain Weekend** (Aug 1-3) – we welcome Paul Waldum, Assistant Teaching Professor, former Christikon staff and artist as our speaker. Stay tuned for topic(s) as they become available. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Watch for topic details on the website. [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

**Remember to pray for the staff and campers as they travel to Christikon.**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102**

**406 656-1969 • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)**

July, 2025

## DOUGH FOR DAILY BREAD

On Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 6 riders participated in the Allen Hansen Memorial Bike Ride, which started at Messiah Lutheran Church and ended at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Laurel.

Those participating were Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Brenda Frelsi, of Great Falls, Pastor Melissa of Livingston, Pastor Ben, Bill Morse, Suzi Hansen and Patrick Hansen. They rode for a very important cause, to raise funds and awareness of the need to help people in Montana and Northern Wyoming who simply do not have enough money to provide enough food for themselves and their families. All donations go to The Montana Synod Hunger Fund, which gives grants to congregations that have feeding programs and who work with agencies who provide food for the hungry.

Friday was a Lasagna kick-off dinner provided by Messiah members. Thanks to Martha and Dick Crofts, Jeri and Jim Kyner, and Barb Ostrum for the delicious meal enjoyed by all. It was also a time of fellowship and biking route & safety discussion. Some of us camped out in the church overnight. Brent Moore was our SAG on call as well as Sandy Moe for minor injuries. Praise the Lord!! Neither needed to be called during the ride. At 27 miles we were in Joliet for a snack stop at the gazebo, set up by Martha and Dick Crofts. Snacks were provided by a Thrivent Grant. We had enough snacks to send with Pastor Melissa for the Livingston Bike Ride/ Walk/Run event to be held July 12<sup>th</sup>. Some of us are doing that one too.

The ride went well, and we did stops for regrouping to make sure everyone was doing okay. We couldn't have asked for a nicer day, weather wise! At 47 miles we were welcomed at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We all rejoiced in our having made it!!! Suzi and Patrick continued out to the National Cemetery stopping at Allen's grave. It was his wish to do this ride last year but passed shortly before it was to take place. That's how it got its name.

Many thanks to the ladies of Our Savoir's for providing a wonderful feast of celebration organized by LMA Vicki Ripley. Thanks to Brooke and John Flynn who loaded and returned all bikes to Messiah. And thanks to Dave, who provided the CART van to take riders back to Red Lodge.

The Allen Hansen Memorial Bike Ride raised \$2,051.00 it may be higher.

Thank you to all who prayed for our safety and the weather, who gave of their time and talents and who donated funds to the cause. Can't thank you enough! God bless you all.

**Peace, Salaam, Shalom**

**Fortitudine Vincimus** (by endurance we conquer!) *Suzi Hansen*





July, 2025



**July, 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**

**Messiah members, please do not write checks to individuals and place in the offering. We can only deposit checks made out to Messiah. Thanks, Barb Ostrum**



**Now Open!**

Season Dates: June 10, 2025 through August 31, 2025

Season Dates are weather dependent

### **Admission Pricing**

Admission: \$5.00 per child (ages 5-17)

\$8.00 per adult (ages 18+)

\*Children 4 & under free with an adult who has purchased a pass

Showers: \$4.00 per person

### **Season Passes**

Individual Season Pass: \$75.00 per child (ages 5-17)

\$100.00 per adult (ages 18+)

Family Season Pass: \$200.00 per family

One Week Family Pass: \$125.00 per family

### **Swimming Lessons**

Group Swimming Lessons: \$100.00 per person

Six individual lessons (30 minutes each) Package: \$270 per person

Individual 30-minute Lesson: \$60 per person

Event Rental Fee: \$150.00 for first 20 people; additional \$5 per person thereafter

Swimming Lesson dates and sign-ups will be available soon!

### **Pool Hours of Operation**

**Tuesday - Sunday:**

Open Swim: 11:30am-5pm

T/W/TH/SA Lap Swim: 7:30am-10:30am

M/W Aqua Zumba 8am

T/TH Aqua Aerobics 8am



July, 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](http://www.redlodgemessiah.com)

**Facebook: Messiah Lutheran**

**Email: General:** [redlodgemessiah@gmail.com](mailto:redlodgemessiah@gmail.com)

**Prayer Requests:** [redlodgemessiah@gmail.com](mailto:redlodgemessiah@gmail.com)

**Pastor Ben:** [pastorbencherland@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:redlodgemessiah@gmail.com)

Pastor's email: [pastorbencherland@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbencherland@gmail.com)

Website: [www.redlodgemessiah.com](http://www.redlodgemessiah.com)

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Pastor	Ben Cherland	646-708-1389c	<a href="mailto:pastorbencherland@gmail.com">pastorbencherland@gmail.com</a>
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President	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	<a href="mailto:katregcha@gmail.com">katregcha@gmail.com</a>
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Vice President			
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Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	<a href="mailto:flynnquilt@gmail.com">flynnquilt@gmail.com</a>
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Treasurer	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	<a href="mailto:pschauer62@gmail.com">pschauer62@gmail.com</a>
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Education	Maria Gibson	727-744-4630	<a href="mailto:mgibson@wdmoffice.com">mgibson@wdmoffice.com</a>
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Family Life/Volunteer

Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	<a href="mailto:marthacrofts@gmail.com">marthacrofts@gmail.com</a>
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Outreach	Sandy Moe	218-341-0283	<a href="mailto:sandra.moe@rocky.edu">sandra.moe@rocky.edu</a>
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Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	<a href="mailto:kkreatzgmail.com">kkreatzgmail.com</a>
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Stewardship	Linda Daily	406-426-0841	<a href="mailto:lindatodd94@yahoo.com">lindatodd94@yahoo.com</a>
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Worship	Dianne Milleson	406-425-3222	<a href="mailto:dmille46@gmail.com">dmille46@gmail.com</a>
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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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