


Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.

Colossians 3:17

FriciaGoyer.com

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us Give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Dear Messiah,

As I write this, I am working on the order of service for the funeral of our sister in Christ, Dolly Stuber. I am stuck at a certain spot. Appropriately, Al has asked that we have communion as part of the service. So into the order of service I went to insert the liturgical parts that we include in the way we celebrate communion. I have pared it back a little bit – we won't be doing the Preface or the Holy, Holy, Holy. But the one part I can't bring myself to erase is The Great Thanksgiving (see above).

In a post-Christian society, it would be smart to get rid of this too, as most people probably don't know it. Why make people uncomfortable at a funeral, after all? This should be a moment to relax and remember, not worry about what else they should know but don't. But I'm deciding to keep the Great Thanksgiving in the service, for a few reasons.

The first thing the Great Thanksgiving does is it sets a new tone, demarking the beginning of the central rite of our Christian worship. Dolly was a Christian for whom communion mattered a great deal. As something most folks don't encounter in daily life, I think its singing opens a momentary experience of wonder for people uninitiated. In this way, treating Communion with the reverence Dolly did makes good sense.

The second thing it does is that it puts great words in our mouths. Three days from Saturday, a divisive, contentious national election will be decided. But on Saturday, all in attendance will bless each other - *the Lord be with you, and also with you* (That last 'you' is not for 'me', but indeed everyone else in the room). And together, regardless of party affiliation, we lift our hearts to the Lord our God who promises to receive them. Finally, we acknowledge our gratitude and that it's important and appropriate to be thankful, not because God needs it, but because we do, especially in the face of death.

The problem remains: Most people in attendance won't know the Great Thanksgiving. This brings me to something I've been mulling over for a number of months that I'd like to share with you.

At a church like ours, a funeral is an act of ministry. We provide a form in which people can process their grief. We walk with them in that grief through a story that holds it all and confesses that the 'last word' belongs not to grief, but to God. This act of ministry is ours to make on behalf of our guests this Saturday. That's why I think we'll get through the Great Thanksgiving, because you'll be there to sing it (death be damned) for all those who don't know the words, but need them more than ever.

Pastor Ben

November, 2024

**The funeral service for Dolly Stuber will be held here
at Messiah Lutheran Church on Saturday,
November 2 at 1:00 pm**



We are going to miss you, Dolly.

Christikon Clips

November 2024

Information for our Congregations



Our 2025 summer calendar is set and, on our website, (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2025 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday November 17th at 3:30pm. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2025 season, construction, and much more. Our meeting will be a hybrid – meaning that we would love for you to come in person but if you cannot attend, you can join on Zoom. The in-person meeting will be at the Big Timber Lutheran Church.

We ask for prayers for our Executive Director Call Committee as they do their work and as we prepare to welcome a new director. We trust that God is present in this process.

We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year

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Thank you as always for all the ways you support 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 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

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

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



We don’t have all the answers, but we love to ask the hard questions. Some of us are firm believers, some doubters, and some come for the good food and company. We talk about what’s important in life and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

We make a point to serve others and to give space for soul-tending and personal growth within the rhythms of school, work, and everything else. We support each other, become friends, and have fun. Mostly we are a community that eats well, laughs a lot, is open with each other, and cares about people and the Earth.

November, 2024

Messiah's November Special Project is the Campus Ministry at the two university campuses: U of M at Missoula and MSU at Bozeman. The "Brawl of the Wild"—the annual football clash—is on November 23 so Messiah's "Brawl of the Wild" will be on Sunday, November 17. Who will win our "Brawl"?

On that Sunday we will pass the plates in support of Campus Ministry. Please mark your check on the memo line with Bobcats or Grizzlies so we can determine Messiah's "Brawl of the Wild" winner.

Following is the response from the MSU campus pastor from my inquiry as to what is happening in Bozeman.

Barb Ostrum

Recent Newsletter Article from LCM Campus Ministry @ MSU

1 message

JP Carlson <jp@lcm-bobcats.org>

Wed, Oct 23, 2024 at 10:45 AM

To: hobin727@gmail.com

Barb,

I heard through Kay Wittman in the Synod office that you'd like a campus ministry update. Here is one of our recent ones.

Also, feel free to visit our website lcm-bobcats.org to sign up for our monthly email newsletter and see what we're up to. You can use info, pics, etc. on our site in order to share what we're up to with your congregation.

Contact me any time with questions. Thanks for supporting us!!

Peace,

JP

Title: These Are A Few of My Favorite Things

What do the following things have in common?

Coffee, donuts, pizza, fire pits, hiking trails, labyrinths, nature journals, pics, s'mores, Bibles, soup kitchens, bowling balls, Buddhist singing bowls, card games, hay mazes, dinner church, Taize prayer services, and coffee (gotta include that one twice).

If you guessed "They're all awesome," "They're essential for existence," or "It's a bunch of random and unrelated, yet really cool stuff," you're not wrong. The best answer to this question, however, is that these glorious things were all a part of the first couple months of LCM Campus Ministry this school year. Add a group of gifted, creative, vibrant, and all around rad students to this list of things and you have something good going.

As the school year progresses even more things will be added. Violins, pianos, guitars (more Taize services to come), passports (trip to Costa Rica in May), skis (winter retreat with Emmaus Campus Ministry from University of Montana), Thanksgiving dinner with Professor Mary Alice Carlson, and yes, more coffee.

With "things" on the brain I am reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 6, "...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all *these things* shall be added to you." At the center of all *these things* is the Christ who brings everything together. At the core of our community is a Spirit who makes *these things* and these people come alive.

Thank you for your part in making *these things* and this ministry happen.

Yours in Christ.

JP Carlson, Campus Pastor

Emmaus Campus Ministry has been proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students since 1952 on the campus of the University of Montana! Originally the ministry of the Lutheran Church, our organization has grown to be supported by the Methodist, Episcopal, and UCC churches. Based out of two houses on University Ave., right across the street from the edge of campus, we house 15 student residents on our properties as well as welcome many others living on and off campus to join in our programs and rituals. The foundational programming that we offer to an average of about 15 students weekly is our Wednesday Night Dinner and Spiritual Conversation where students take turns cooking for one another followed by ritual or presentation based on many different topics. Emmaus also offers both an Autumn and Winter Retreat as well as a Spring Break Faith and Service Trip. This year, we will be taking students on Spring Break to Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, in El Paso, TX where we will learn about the faithful work that is being done with welcoming immigrants at the US border.

Eric Huseh

(He/Him)

Campus Pastor at University of Montana

COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Below are the highlights. You can find full minutes and financial statements on our website under the member section.

- Cracks in the parking lot were filled and we are on the schedule for re-sealing next spring. Elk n Pine will blow out the sprinklers this fall. Bridges will be set by the end of October.
- We accepted Katrin's resignation from Education Chair, effective Feb 1. The nominating committee will seek out a new chair, along with the other open slots - these will be voted on at our annual meeting in February.
- We discussed the proposed Mission Spending Plan and documents will be prepared for the the annual budget meeting on November 24th.
- an AED (automatic defibrillator) was purchased using Thrivent funds. If you are interested in being trained on how to use this, please sign up with Dianne. Training will be held on Sunday 24th at 9:10am. Training will take about 20 minutes and is not complicated; however, the more people who know how to use it the better off we all are.
- Further discussion on church use; kitchen use specifically for Megan's new business and impact to taxes, if any.
- Christmas Kids Shoppe is set for Saturday December 7 from 9-3. See Barb or Jeri with questions.
- Messiah is going to participate in an ELCA survey. This is optional, but you will see an email regarding this in October.

Opportunities for Ministry

Do you want to become more involved in the Messiah family? There are many opportunities here for service just waiting for your energy and commitment.

Following are a few to consider...

Diaper making for Lutheran World Relief, Charity Quilters, Cleaning of the Church building, Yard work, Providing Sunday morning treats, Writing notes to visitors, Banner Making, Singers and Musicians to participate in services, Sunday School teachers, Nursery Attendants, Prayer warriors, Participating in the Congregational Care committee. Some of these ministries are presently on hold, just waiting for you to step up. Please consider where your talents could best be used for our Lord here at Messiah.

Dianne Milleson

What's Going on at Messiah



Christmas Kids Shoppe is Coming! Gather your treasures to donate and drop off at Messiah after Thanksgiving.

Christmas Kids Shoppe at Messiah is on Sat Dec 7 from 9 am to 3 pm

Here is where we need your help...

1. **November 12** at 10 a.m., please gather at the church to staple and sort parent and merchant letters. If you have a stapler, please bring it with extra staples.
2. **November 12 and 14**, we will need you to help deliver letters and posters to merchants.
3. Mark your calendar to help set up in our sanctuary **December 5**. More information on this will come later.
4. **December 6** meet at the church at 9:00 am to sort and display the gifts on the tables.
5. If you see good gifts for boys and girls and dads and grandpas, please buy and donate them. We generally have enough gifts for moms and grandmas.
6. And if you see a great price on gift tags, curly ribbon, and tissue paper, please buy and donate those.
7. **Saturday, December 7**, plan on being a personal shopper, wrapper, or tag writer. Sign up for these and other tasks will be toward the end of November.
8. If you have questions, contact Jeri Kyner (406-208-4422), or Kathy Kreatz (406 -425-1595).

Thanks for your help. Here we go!

Meadowlark Tweets

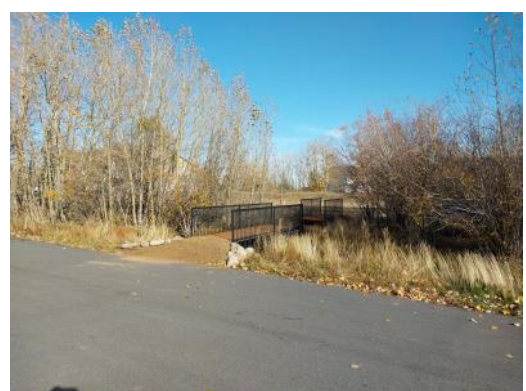
Happy Fall!

We'll be doing another round of cookie dough sales this year with Cattail Bakery! This year, you can order and pick up at Cattail Bakery downtown. Tubs are \$38 each and will make 2-3 dozen cookies- depending on how big or small you bake them. Orders are open now through November 18th , you can choose from Lemon Sugar Cookie, Classic Sugar Cookie, or Chocolate Chip, and orders will be available for pick-up December 7-9th! All profits raised will go to our Tuition Assistance Fund and to support our teacher's professional development, as well as purchasing learning materials. Thanks in advance for your support!

Megan Strong



Hey, everybody, We have bridges, and yes, that is Linda Daily driving the forklift!



What's going on at Messiah?



The Pastor's Tuesday evening Bible Study group just waiting for you to join us!

Ladies Tea Party

The afternoon of Saturday, October 12, the ladies gathered at the church for "high tea" and fellowship. It was a lovely event, enjoyed by all. Pastor Ben and Dick Crofts brewed the tea and waited tables.



The Teddy Bears Picnic it was not but there definitely was a party here last night involving bears. This is the scene that greeted us Thursday morning. It looks like they stole a pumpkin from a neighbors porch and brought it along. Just be sure the garbage can lids are securely shut after you deposit garbage. Thanks!



Happy Birthday!

11/11

Leanne Domonosky-
Kellar

Reagan Yates

11/16

Jessica Kinzley



Happy Anniversary!

11/11 Dan and Brooke
Yates



A new ministry here at Messiah Cotton flannel diapers

We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage to be made into diapers. In January 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.

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

Most every Sunday following worship, you'll find the Messiah Chimes ensemble brushing up their ringing skills and concentrating on Christmas music. Listen for us in worship and around town as we prepare for the Festival of Trees and Stroll.



WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: November 21

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: The Kitchen Front

Author: Jenifer Ryan

Facilitator: Kim Elsberry

Location: Home of

Jeri Kyner

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



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—November 2024

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
					1	2 Dolly Stuber Funeral 1:00 pm
3 Back to Standard Time Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	4 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	5 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	6	7	8	12
10 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	11  Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	12 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	13 Church Council 2:06 pm	14	15	16
17 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	18 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	19 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	20	21 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm	22	23
24 Worship 10:00 am	25 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	26 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	27 	28	29	30

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, Frank B., Doug Beckman, Melinda Berry,
Hank D., Brook Feister, Jim and Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,
the family of Howard Marquart, Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva,
the family of Brian Simmons, the family of Dolly Stuber, Bev Urbaniak,
Marcy Wilrich, and Good Weather

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			
Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	flynnquilt@gmail.com
Treasurer	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	pschauer62@gmail.com

Education	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	katregcha@gmail.com
Family Life/Volunteer			
Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	marthacrofts@gmail.com

Outreach	Barb Ostrum	406-446-4121	hobin727@gmail.com
Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	kkreatzgmail.com

Stewardship			
Worship	Dianne Milleson	406-425-3222	dmille46@gmail.com

Other Important Contact Information

Computer	Gwen Williams	406-425-2401	(Text Gwen Only)
Ministerial Ass'n.	Bryan Lowen	406-860-5571	(financial assistance to the community).

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.

