

# *Light in the Beartooths*

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



Love One Another as I have Loved you.  
So you must love one another.  
John 13:34,35

## February, 2025

Pastor Ben has been in Regina Saskatchewan to support his family during his father's recent brain surgery. His father has survived the surgery and is doing well but it will be a little longer before the pathology will be available and a plan of treatment will be adopted. Please continue to pray for him and the family during this difficult time.

## Council Corner

Council met on January 8th. Below are some highlights. As always, you can read a full copy of the minutes, along with committee reports and financials on our website under the member section, or by requesting a copy from our Admin Assistant.

- Council agreed to put \$25,000 toward principal of our building loan. \$15,000 will come from the General Fund surplus, while also putting \$10,000 to our Vanguard account. \$10,000 will come from our LIB accounts and we will close out our LIB money market account in doing so.
- Discussed uses for Fellowship Field and a path forward. The desire is to have something in place for the community to use. We will speak with the city and the HOA to gather ideas.
- Discussed the annual meeting and topics to cover. We reviewed the 2024 report card and goals for 2025.
- Discussed the need to put in place a cleaning schedule, including periodic deep cleaning.
- We thanked Barb for her 20 plus years of service on Council. She will be stepping down but remain active with various committees and other activities.

February, 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.

2/02 Shannon Downing

2/05 Mark Owan

2/07 Kevin Kinzley

2/11 Dolly Koski

Dustin Downing

2/12 Sonya Owan

2/20 Barbara Marquardt

2/20 Melinda Berry

2/27 Jeri Kyner

### 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.

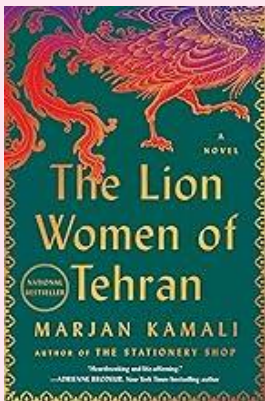


2/12 Linda & Todd Daily

2/14 Karen & Howard Young



### WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: February 20

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: The Lion Women of  
Tehran

Author: Marjan Kamali

Facilitator: Kim Elsberry

Location: Home of Jeri Kyner

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

Dear Friends,

Pastor Ben, Dianne, Jennifer and Dick thank you for your very generous Christmas gifts to each of us. It is a privilege and a blessing to serve you here at Messiah!

Chimes are on hiatus for the month of February.  
Practice will resume March 9.

### 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.



February, 2025

## God's Love Knows No Boundaries

I am happy to be a Messiah ELCA (Red Lodge, MT) member, where we celebrate the truth that God does not discriminate and believe that no factor — age, ability, background, or circumstance — can separate us from the love of Christ. In a world that often divides people into categories, the Gospel unites us in the most profound way: as beloved children of God.

Throughout Scripture, we see God's heart for inclusion. Jesus welcomed the outcast, touched the untouchable, healed the broken, and restored dignity to those whom society overlooked. He didn't see barriers — He saw people. And His love extended to all, regardless of ability, status, or age. In John 3:16, we are reminded that *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life."* No conditions. No exceptions.

The Body of Christ is at its strongest when every person is valued and given the opportunity to contribute. Just as each part of the body has a unique purpose (1 Corinthians 12), so too does every individual, regardless of ability. Aging does not diminish our worth; disability does not define our identity. We are all made in the image of God, and our calling remains the same — to love, serve, and lift one another up.

I pray that we, as a church, will continue to be a place where everyone is welcomed, supported, and empowered to live fully in the grace of God. For in Christ, there are no barriers — only boundless love.

**Let us walk together, lifting each other up, as we follow the One who gave Himself for all.**

**Happy February 2025!**

Submitted by Carlos Ramahlo

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 Meadowlark CC

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



## MEADOWLARK CHILDREN'S CENTER

**"Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day everyone!**

**Thank you so much for making Meadowlark your special offering this month. We are so fortunate to be able to provide care for the littlest in our community and it would be impossible without your support and generosity. All offerings collected will go toward our operating costs, staff trainings, and learning materials. Thank you for all each of you do for our community and for all you accomplish together."**Meadowlark Children's Center

### **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, the family of Jim Koski, Dolly Koski,  
Rick and Sandy Koski, Rob Loney, Carlos Ramalho, Marcy Wilrich,  
and David Tilton

# Messiah Calendar—February 2025

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

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.



## Christikon Clips

February, 2025

*Information for our Congregations*



**Welcome to Pastor Heather Wigdahl as our new Executive Director. She will be on-board the middle of this month.**

She begins with us on the recruiting trail with Taryn.

We are currently **recruiting staff** for the upcoming season. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to <https://christikon.org/employment/> for more information and/or to apply.

**Register NOW** for camp and don't forget to invite a friend!

Go to: <https://christikon.org/registration-individual-information/>.

**Family Adult opportunities** can be found at our website. Our speaker for the Continuing Ed Retreat and Mountain Weekend is Dr. Dave Ellingsen. Register and see details at: <https://christikon.org/adult-family-programs/>.

**Work Weekend** is May 23-26, 2025. Join us in readying the camp for the 2025 season. All are welcome! Register NOW!

**Donate online!** You can use the Internet to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org).

**Save the dates: The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot** is coming on **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. Do you know of an item, service or getaway that would be a great auction item? Please contact the office!

Watch for further updates on our website or notices at your church.

**Our plans for the 2025** season are going forward and we are excited to welcome you to Christikon this summer! Watch for updates on our website.

**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)



# 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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**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.**

