

March, 2025

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



Lent is a time for self-examination, for looking at our lives honestly and seeing where we need to make changes.

Dear Messiah,

I want to take this opportunity to tell you about the Assistant Minister role we may begin incorporating in the coming months. The presence of Assistant Ministers is quite common practice among the churches I've attended in my life. Whether it's as simple as a lay parishioner coming up front to do the Prayers of the People, or as "involved" as helping to organize and serve communion, the presence of a congregation member in the work of leading worship is important.

One reason it's important is that it establishes in clarity the fact that church is done by its people, not by its pastor. I have a particular role to which you, by the power of the Spirit, have called me to. But seeing me in that role (and me alone) can lead you to unconsciously believe church happens because of me. But worship is the work of the people, and the presence of lay leadership in it is a powerful reminder that this is our work.

The role is simple enough. The Assistant Minister would lead the Prayer of the Day, the Psalm, the Creed, the Prayers of the People, and help in the Communion Liturgy and the serving of the Eucharist. There are two things on this list that I believe most people are uncomfortable with. Serving Communion (I'll be addressing this in a later newsletter article) and writing the Prayers of the People (Yes, we'd like these prayers to come from you, the people of this community). As far as the prayers go, we are providing two "safety nets". Susan Leaverton has offered to help coach individuals in the writing of the prayers and I am willing to take your ideas and write prayers that incorporate them. The Prayers of the People are not as scary to prepare as they might seem, and you will have help - primarily the help of the Spirit, but also the support of Susan and myself. The Prayers of the People coming from voices of the congregation is a special thing. In no other place in the service does the particularity of this community shine through than in these prayers. It becomes a grace-filled practice the more often you approach the task. And this* is another reason I offer this role to you, that it might bless you as it does me.

Pastor Ben

March, 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 as part of the baby kits. These are fun and easy to make.

03/01 Martha Crofts

03/04 Denny Chatlain

03/05 Kirsten Cabanas-Holmen

03/10 Jim Kyner

03/19 Jack Prather

03/20 Molly Kreatz

Felicity Cramer

03/25 Bob Holmen

03/29 Robert Leaverton

03/31 Julie Ann Lindgren

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.

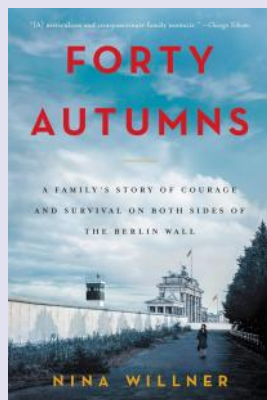
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.

Chime Practice resumes March 9th. For more information, please contact Dick Crofts at 239-784-426



WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: March 20

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: Forty Autumns

Author: Nina Willner

Facilitator:

Location: Home of Carol Boyum

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.



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

Council Corner

Greetings and Blessings!

The Messiah Lutheran Church Council met on February 12th, and we welcomed our two new council members: Sandy Moe and Maria Gibson.

You can find the full report, including financials, in the member section of our website or by requesting a copy from our Administrative Assistant.

The highlights of our meeting are as follows:

- We are in the process of completing our Messiah Photo Directory.
- We are installing additional equipment for the streaming of our worship.
- We are sharing the midweek Lenten services with the Episcopal Church and Community Congregational Church.

We need volunteers for weekly cleanings of our Church (Friday, Saturday or early Sunday). The Property Committee Chair, Kathy Kraetz, has started a to-do list and sign-up sheet for members and is also looking into the hiring of a cleaning company to do a deep cleaning two to four times per year.

Our next regular Church Council Meeting is on **Sunday, March 16th at 8:00 am.**
We are still in need of a Church Council Vice-President.

Katrin Chandler

Tuesday, March 18th at 2:00 pm. **Lanette Dally** - the Beartooth Billings Clinic Hospice Social Worker - will be speaking here at Messiah. ***Legal Challenges Faced by the Elderly: Navigating health and Longterm Care Obstacles*** is what she'll be presenting on. Lanette is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a PhD. in Social work. You will come away from this talk with resources and greater knowledge of the challenges facing many, including some of our own parishioners.

MARDI GRAS BONFIRE

We have a brush pile to burn! Come at 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 4th and watch it get lit, or anytime afterward to enjoy the light and warmth before Lent begins with its ashes.



**Sunday School is offered for
children during the adult
worship service**

Messiah Calendar—March 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 Mardi Gras Bonfire 5:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	5 Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 pm Community Church	6	7	8
9  Daylight Savings Time Begins Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	10 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	11 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	12 Worship Committee 11:00 am Lenten Service 5:30 pm Messiah	13	14	15
16 Council Meeting 8:00 am Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30 am	17 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm 	18 Legal Challenges Faced By the Elderly Forum 2:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	19 Lenten Service 5:30 pm Calvary Episcopal	20 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm	21	22
23 Worship 10:00am Chimes 11:30 am	24 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	25 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	26 Worship Committee 11:00 am Lenten Service 5:30 Community Church	27	28	29
30 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30 am	31					

This Lent, Messiah is joining forces with Calvary Episcopal and the Community Church to provide a Midweek Lenten Service with a Soup Dinner to follow. Each Wednesday we'll gather at one of these three churches for a simple Taize service at 5:30 with dinner to follow at 6:00. This is a great way to connect with our ecumenical siblings in Christ and you are warmly encouraged to come.

March 5th - Ash Wednesday at the Community Church

March 12th - Messiah Lutheran

March 19th - Calvary Episcopal

March 26th - the Community Church

April 2nd - Messiah Lutheran

April 9th - Calvary Episcopal

The hosting church will provide soup and bread for dinner. So we are looking for soup makers. We are also hoping that the Prayers of the People can be done by lay members of the hosting church. If you'd be willing to read some prayers please let Pastor Ben know.

A message from DSVS and ways of exercising your voice in our civic life.

Contact our legislators in Washington – let them know how you feel and what you think: A few key points you could use if they resonate with you:

- DOJ federal grants have traditionally been the most reliable sources of support for our work providing violence prevention programs and direct services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence
- With these federal funding sources now under threat, DSVS's mission is placed in jeopardy along with the safety and well-being of the survivors we serve
- Without DOJ funding, DSVS will be forced to eliminate 80% or more of the services we provide, including
 - 24 hour free and confidential helpline for victims fleeing violence
 - Advocacy support to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence establish safety, pursue orders of protection, or seek medical care
 - Childcare, rental assistance, legal advocacy, mental health counseling and other services for area survivors
 - Violence prevention education that teaches our children how to be safe and how to ask for help if someone is abusing them
- Threats to DOJ funding immediately cause harm to everyone in our community, make our community less safe, embolden perpetrators to continue their abuse
- These are YOUR representatives – they were elected to bring your voice to the legislature and your values to these conversations. What you have to say matters

Senator Daines: <https://www.daines.senate.gov/services/email-steve/> or (202) 224-2651

Senator Sheehy: <https://www.sheehy.senate.gov/> or 202-224-2644

Representative Zinke: <https://zinke.house.gov/contact/offices> or (202) 225-5628

Representative Downing: https://downing.house.gov/address_authentication?form=/contact/email-me or (202) 225-3211

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 United

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

St. John’s United

St John’s United is a leader in retirement living for older adults and a provider of human services across the whole arc of life. From independent to assisted living, outpatient physical therapy to transitional care, pregnancy support to adoption; they offer their community a variety of services to meet changing needs.

St. Johns United is one of the regions most well-known and trusted providers of senior living and healthcare. St. Johns has a long and faithful history of providing the best care and quality that combines comfort, convenience and value. For 54 years, St. John's has served the Billings community by living our mission of providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity, and love each and every day. Over 600 residents call St. John's home and enter the continuum of care at different levels from independent living, to assisted living, skilled nursing and memory care.

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

Carl and Meredith Cherland, Cassidy Flynn, Pat Keifert, Dolly Koski,
Rick and Sandy Koski, Rob Loney, Julio Morales, Carlos Ramalho, Jeff Vaughn



NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

*“Those who sleep under a quilt,
sleep under a blanket of love.”*

MARCH 15, 2025, IS NATIONAL QUILTING DAY, and we at Lutheran World Relief have a LOT to celebrate!

For 80 years, compassionate people just like you have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts — **over 28 MILLION QUILTS!** These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict. THANK YOU.

Host your own National Quilting Day (NQD) event to celebrate 80 years of comforting the world with quilts! Here are some tips for organizing a quilting celebration in your community.

Want to see a timeline of your 80 years of Quilt and Kit compassion? Visit lwr.org/80.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

800 597 5972 | [LWR.ORG](https://lwr.org)

Caregiver Support Group



Join us for the caregiver support group in Carbon and Stillwater Counties

These support group meetings will be filled with various information and provide caregivers with the chance to connect with others!

Join us Virtually or In person

In Person Locations:

MSU Extension Carbon
County Office
202 State Street
Joliet, MT 59041

or

MSU Extension Stillwater
County Office (next to the
library)
17 North 4th Street
Columbus, MT 59019

RSVP: Carrie Guderjahn:
(406)962-3522

RSVP: Haley Barker:
(406)322-8035

Wednesdays:

February 26
March 26
April 30

From:
2-3 PM

***To join virtually, contact Carrie Guderjahn at (406)962-3522 or carrie.guderjahn@montana.edu, to get the virtual meeting link!**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Montana State University and Montana State University Extension prohibit discrimination in all of their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status.





January 28, 2025

To: Congregation Quilting Groups, Quilt Makers,
Congregational Delegates, Artists, &
All others interested in helping to support Christikon

Re: **Christikon Benefit Auction** -Quilts and a whole lot more...

It's time for the annual Christikon Benefit Auction!

On behalf of the Christikon Benefit Auction Committee, we plan to host our in-person event at the Billings Depot on **April 27th** with LIVE and silent auctions. Watch for more details to come on our website at <https://christikon.org/annual-auction/>.

Once again, we're inviting Christikon enthusiasts to donate items for both the auction: Quilting Groups in our congregations, area quilt artists, congregational Delegates to Christikon along with youth groups, and any other supporters who have items they would consider adding to the exciting auction listings. We greatly appreciate all that has been given over the years, and hope you consider donating this year.

We feature beautiful quilts, but additional items such as tickets to sporting events, vacation get-aways, hand-crafted items, theme baskets, original artwork, jewelry and other items are encouraged to attract interest (and bidders!) What do you like to bid on?

Will you help us?

To donate: Fill out the Item Description Form found here <https://christikon.org/annual-auction-donate/> and submit it to the Christikon office by **March 15th**. This form can be printed from the link on the page as well.

To deliver: Donated auction items must be delivered by **March 31st** to the Christikon office (located in Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Billings). Other arrangements can be made with Kerry. The address is 1108 24th St W in Billings, MT.

Please call ahead to deliver to ensure that someone will be there to receive your items. You can call the Christikon office 406-656-1969.

Thanks for considering a contribution to the Christikon Benefit Auction. Watch for more details and updates to come on our website at <https://christikon.org/annual-auction/> and our facebook. Don't forget to like us on <https://www.facebook.com/Christikonbenefitauction>.

Christikon Benefit Auction Committee

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ — exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

1108 24th Street West
Billings, Montana 59102-3810
406 656-1969

Heather Wigdahl, Director
<http://www.christikon.org>
director@christikon.org

summer: 4661 Boulder Road
McLeod, Montana 59052-8839
406 932-6300

An outdoor ministry of Lutheran congregations in southern Montana and northern Wyoming. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Christikon Clip March, 2025

Information for our Congregations



Christikon is an extension of your congregation's ministry.

Come and meet our new Executive Director Heather Wigdahl on March 4th from 6:30-8:00pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We will have an ice cream social in her honor!

Annual Benefit Auction is on April 27th at the Billings Depot. We are looking for items for the auction such as: fishing trip, weekend getaway, dinner out, themed baskets, artisan items. Have an idea? Let us know! Watch for more details as they become available on our website.

Are you registered for camp, yet? Registration is online at www.christikon.org.

We are excited about our new registration process! We believe you will be, too!

Adults and families: Work Weekend is a great time to get to camp and help us prepare for the 2025 campers. Our Continuing Ed Retreat and Mountain Weekend speaker is Dr Dave Ellingsen and the program: Go Outside and Play. Come play at Christikon this summer!

Register for camping for adults and families online at www.christikon.org.

Bus Attendants needed for 2025 – Would you or someone you know be willing to ride with youth on their way to Christikon? Yes? Please call Kerry in the office at 406-656-1969 or email at secretary@christikon.org for details. It pays a daily rate as well!

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

How Many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

Charismatic: Only one. Hands already in the air

Pentecostals: Ten. One to change the bulb and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Presbyterians: None. Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

Roman Catholic: None. Candles only.

Baptists: At least 15. One to change the light bulb and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad.

Episcopalians: Eight. One to call the electrician and seven to say how much they liked the old one better.

Mormons: Five. One man to change the bulb and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Unitarians: We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb; however, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

Methodists: Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved—you can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Church wide lighting service is planned for Sunday, October 14. Bring bulb of your choice and a covered dish.

Nazarene: Six. One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

Lutherans: None. Lutherans don't believe in change.

Amish: What's a light bulb?

Quakers: Shhhhhhh.

Submitted by Mary Ames



Messiah Church Council

P.O. Box 1330 912 Lower Continental Dr.

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Church Phone: (406) 446-2430

Church email: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Pastor's email: pastorbencherland@gmail.com

Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com

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

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

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

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.

