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# *Light in the Beartooths*

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

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Pastor Ben Cherland

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid Him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he would never wake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter ike the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.



April, 2024

Dear Messiah,

Easter is here. I write this Monday morning, April 1<sup>st</sup> and it feels like a dream. With services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday with the Easter Vigil, and a packed Easter Sunday service, I can barely believe it all happened! But it did, with credit going to the many volunteers, worship participants and all those who just showed up: The Spirit was at work in all of you this week and it was a blessing to the church and the community of Red Lodge. Thanks be to God.

But it's Monday. While Easter Sunday has come gone, the season will continue for the next six Sundays. This has me asking a question that I've had some trouble putting words to – basically, what do we do now? It's a question about what has changed. It's a question about our eyes, the way the world continues to look but that we see it now in a new light. It's a question about identity – who are WE now that Jesus has risen from the dead? Easter makes us a Resurrection People, and the season of Easter is for us to figure out what that means and looks like.

My Easter sermon, if you missed it, was based on the reality that people get “hung up” on the resurrection (did it really happen?) and that this shouldn't stop us from living the life Jesus taught us to live. In other words, Easter isn't theory, it's action. Jesus gave us all these ways of practicing resurrection that allows it to grow on us and form us into a new kind of people – a Resurrection People.

I'm worried. We have a presidential candidate selling Bibles that fan the flames of Christian Nationalist understandings of the world and the place of the US in it. We have wars waging across the globe threatening to spiral beyond their borders. We are facing a long hot summer here in the American West without a winter melt to keep fires at bay. And we have more to do, one year later, in this new location – landscaping is at the top of that list, with trees, bushes, rocks, and even sheds and bridges (!) on the horizon. It's exciting to be sure. But I'm afraid living even more into this place, we will lose sight of what us Resurrection People are about.

So as the Easter Season progresses, I want you to join me in thinking about the life that God opened to us when Jesus emerged from the tomb. It will take all of us to find our way in this new and uncharted territory, but the resurrected body of Jesus will guide.

I wish you Easter blessings and the promise of new life in Christ into which we now move together.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Pastor Ben". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The word "Pastor" is written in a smaller, more upright script, while "Ben" is written in a larger, more flowing cursive script.



# Happy Easter,

dear church.

Easter Message 2024, Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop

“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.” That’s where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It’s so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He’d announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word. There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear — phobos. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement — ekstasis. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means “being possessed.” So we take a look at these women, and they’ve had this miraculous appearance by an angel. They’ve heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they’re too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus’ dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it’s all the same. Sometimes I think we feel like nothing’s changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the resurrection really didn’t make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement — this is this ecstasy, ekstasis — they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn’t reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed. And because of the resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, phobos, phobia we get from that. But it’s really a sense of trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe — not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe. And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means “possessed.” And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed. When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it’s very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times. My favorite hymn is “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song.” It’s ELW 808. And the last verse goes like this: “I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we’ll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey.”

Be well, dear church. Happy Easter.

## Christikon Benefit Auction In Person and Online



### **Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Billings Depot.**

Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, getaways, jewelry and so much more.

**Raffle Tickets on sale now! Camp Suburban! Go to <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon-one-time/>, choose gift: other and put raffle in the text box. Do not have to be present to win.**

### **April 19<sup>th</sup> Online auction begins at noon.**

Watch for the link to our auction platform on facebook at [www.facebook.com/Christikon](http://www.facebook.com/Christikon) or our website [www.Christikon.org](http://www.Christikon.org)

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks! Online auction ends on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> – be present and you can pick up your items at the Depot.

**Campers:** Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer!

**How about Work Weekend?** Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) and register!

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 • [director@christikon.org](mailto:director@christikon.org) • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

April, 2024

# Christikon Benefit Auction

Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 4-7<sup>pm</sup>  
The Billings Depot

Live auction begins at 5:30<sup>pm</sup> - Admission \$25 at the door

Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by *Basil and Bloom*



Proceeds support the outdoor youth ministries of Christikon Bible Camp Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) for details.



April, 2024

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. This month our special offering is for Meadowlark Childrens Center

January.....Baretooth Cupboards

February.....Red Lodge Ice Rink

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

April .....Meadowlark 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



Quality. Connection. Care.

Meadowlark Children's Center is a childcare center located in the Messiah Lutheran Church. We are dedicated to providing quality care to children 0-6yrs of age. As a small facility, we can provide individualized care for every child.

Care is offered 8AM-5PM, Monday through Thursday at

Messiah Lutheran Church

912 Lower Continental Drive, Red Lodge, Montana 59068

Come meet Megan Strong, the Meadowlark Day Care Center Director here at Messiah, on Sunday April 14 at 9:30. Get a cup of coffee at 9:15 and something to eat and be on hand for the Forum. Megan will talk about the operation that is now 7 months old. She also is developing plans for a summer session.

Messiah's special project for April is the Meadowlark Childrens Center. Contributions are appreciated all of this month.

April, 2024

## What's Going on at Messiah Meadowlark Tweets



Happy Easter!

It's springtime! We're welcoming two new friends to our MCC family this month, bringing us up to nine kids! We'll be revamping our nap room into a classroom so our friends can explore even more during their days here. We've got a new crawler and some of our friends are trying to run now too! Thanks for all your support and love as we've continued to watch our program grow alongside all our friends. Megan Strong



Jeri Kyner and her charity quilters, Town and Country Quilt Guild, have prepared 42 quilt kits for their members to make into quilts for the Billings hospitals Nic Units and other charities.

## COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on Monday, March 26. You can find full minutes and financials on the member section of our website. Below are the highlights:

- Agreed to have financial secretary accountability fall under Stewardship and continue to have multiple people count income each Sunday.
- Discussed the need to send a letter each time a donation is made of \$250 or greater. More research will be done and hopefully our annual statements will suffice.
- Agreed to allow Meadowlark Childrens Center test out an outdoor summer program M-F 7:30 am—12 noon for children 5 and older. Use of the church building will be limited to bathroom use unless weather changes unexpectedly that day.
- Agreed to accept the landscaping bid from Elk N Pine, per the recommendation of Jeri and Rob.
- Agreed to move accounting from Vickie (who is no longer able to serve us) to Paul Schauer and purchase the cloud version of Quick Books and Payroll.
- Agreed to purchase a new computer for our admin. assistant, whose computer has been having serious issues. Thanks to Paul for contributing \$500 to cover a portion of this.
- Agreed to try having coffee hour before church from 9:15 am to 10:00 am. Forums would be held in our gathering space before church.
- Kathy, Paul and Linda to work on building costs in preparation of a new MOU with Meadowlark Children's Center.

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### HELP WANTED

We need more people to sign up for helping with Sunday Worship Services. Ushers, readers, treat providers, communion servers, and greeters are needed.



Children have Sunday School during the adult worship service.



Pity the nation whose people are sheep,  
and whose shepherds mislead them.

Pity the nation whose leaders are liars,  
whose sages are silenced, and whose bigots haunt the airwaves.

Pity the nation that raises not its voice,  
except to praise conquerors and acclaim the bully as hero  
and aims to rule the world with force and by torture.

Pity the nation that knows no other language but its own  
and no other culture but its own.

Pity the nation whose breath is money and sleeps the sleep of the too well fed.

Pity the nation —oh, pity the people who allow their rights to erode  
and their freedoms to be washed away.

My country, tears of thee, sweet land of liberty.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti (Book: Ferlinghetti's Greatest Poems)

Submitted by Barb Ostrum

## Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Dianne Milleson has used one of her \$250 Thrivent grants to purchase fabric and thread for fabric kits to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. With her \$250 grant money, Dianne was able to purchase fabric and thread for 8 sewing kits. Each kit consists of two pieces of coordinating fabric, 3 yards each and 2 large spools of coordinating thread. The Fabric Kits make it possible to train and support students and individuals, especially at-risk young women, and facilitate their access to employment.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



## FABRIC KITS

### SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

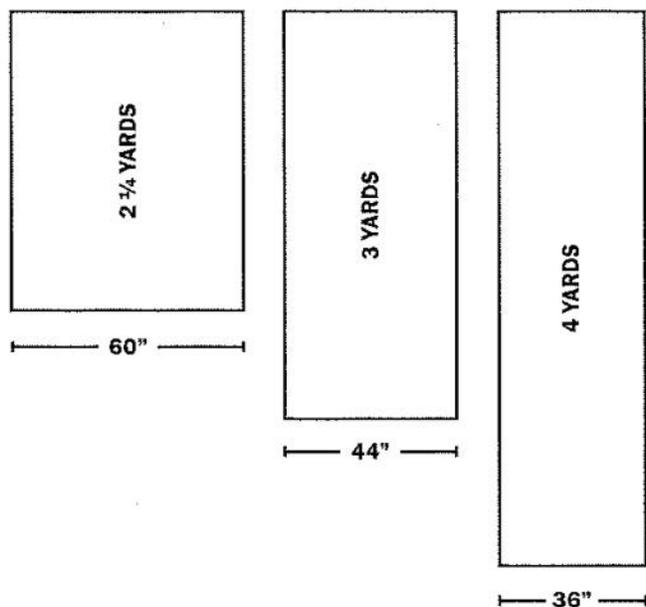
- Fabric should have no stains or holes.
- Pieces do not need to match in size or color/pattern as long as they fit into one of the three size options.
- Each spool of thread should match one of the pieces of fabric included. Neutral thread is also a good option.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags

### HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS

- Wrap one piece of fabric and spools of thread inside the other piece of fabric, ensuring nothing will fall out. Secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents.

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH FABRIC KIT

- TWO** spools of neutral-colored, general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each
- TWO** pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Each piece should match one of the sizes below:
  - 2 ¾ yards of 60" wide fabric
  - 3 yards of 44" wide fabric
  - 4 yards of 36" wide fabric





### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 4/1 Paul Schauer
- 4/2 Phoebe Kinzley
- 4/25 Jodie Moore

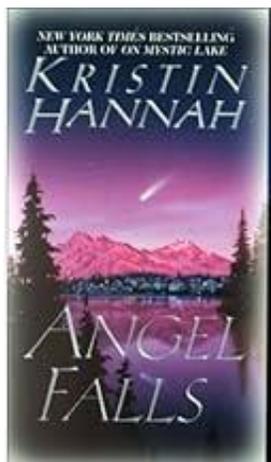
### Cotton flannel sheets and yardage are still needed

We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage for Pastor Schauer's wife, LeeAnn, to make into diapers. The diapers will be shared between Sunne Lutheran Church and Messiah and will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Sheets can be used and stained because they will be cut up and the unusable parts will be discarded.

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:** APRIL 18, 2024  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Book:** Angel Falls  
**Author:** Kristin Hanna  
**Facilitator:**  
**Location:** Carol Boyum  
**Contact host, Marla Ebel,**  
**at 406-664-3178 for more information.**

### COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP TIME CHANGE

Starting in April, we are moving the Fellowship Hour to 9:15. Get a cup of coffee and a goodie and visit before worship starts at 10 am.

We are trying this out to see how it works for us. It will be a good time to host forums and the people in Chime Choir will have more of a Sunday afternoon.

Let's all give this a GO.

In case you missed it in the January edition of Yellowstone Valley Woman magazine...



**EAT WELL BY ADDING NOT RESTRICTING**

"Be aware of what the \$75 billion diet industry is selling this time of year and avoid fad diets. Instead, emphasize non-weight wins and think of what you can add to your life instead of what you can restrict. Add colorful foods, add fiber, add mindfulness, add protein, drink more water."

~ Sandy Moe, registered dietitian

# Messiah Calendar—April, 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
7 Fellowship 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	8 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	9 Hospice Noon	10	11	12	13
14 Fellowship 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	15 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	16 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am	17	18 Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	19	20
21 Fellowship 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	22 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	23 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am	24	25	26	27
28 Fellowship 9:15 am Worship 10:00 am	29 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm Church Council 4:15 pm	30 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am				

April, 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**

## *Ongoing Prayer Concerns*

The people of Messiah are praying for  
Jackie Cordill, Brooke Feister, Dolly & Jim Koski,  
Rick & Sandy Koski, Phyllis Kreatz,  
Eugene Rosekelly, and Shirley Petersen

### **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.

# 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>
President	Linda Daily	406-426-0841c	<a href="mailto:lindatodd94@yahoo.com">lindatodd94@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Rob Mettes	972-922-9909	<a href="mailto:rmettes@live.com">rmettes@live.com</a>
Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	<a href="mailto:flynnquilt@gmail.com">flynnquilt@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Kim Elsberry	406-425-0967	<a href="http://kelsberrybresnan.net">kelsberrybresnan.net</a>
	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	<a href="mailto:pschauer62@gmail.com">pschauer62@gmail.com</a>

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Education	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	<a href="mailto:katregcha@gmail.com">katregcha@gmail.com</a>
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Family Life/Volunteer

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Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	<a href="mailto:marthacrofts@gmail.com">marthacrofts@gmail.com</a>
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Outreach	Barb Ostrum	406-446-4121	<a href="mailto:hobin727@gmail.com">hobin727@gmail.com</a>
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Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	<a href="mailto:kkreatz@gmail.com">kkreatz@gmail.com</a>
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Stewardship	Allen Hansen	508-269-0925	<a href="mailto:allenrosshansen@gmail.com">allenrosshansen@gmail.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

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Bookkeeper	Vickie Elfering	406-425-1952c	<a href="mailto:vickieelfering@gmail.com">vickieelfering@gmail.com</a>
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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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Revised 02/01/2024

April, 2024

**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: 9:00-4:00

Tuesday : 9:00-4:00

Wednesday: 9:00-3:00

Thursday: **OFF**

Friday: 9:00-4:00

Saturday: 12:00-4:00

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.**



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