
Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

RED LODGE, MT

PASTOR BEN CHERLAND



We are well into Pentecost, the season of the church year that begins on Pentecost Sunday. In the Spirit of that day - the day when the Spirit came, opened the mouths of the disciples who spoke in tongues, and people from many places and languages understood what they spoke - I have invited individual members to speak of their faith to our congregation during worship. While some of you miss my usual Sunday Sermons, I want to offer some of the reasons these “sharings” are such a good thing, especially for us today.

As you might recall, the true miracle of the Day of Pentecost is not only the disciples' speaking in tongues, but the *hearing of those who listened*. *When one of us gets up and speaks about our faith, we hear them as one who has been drawn by the Spirit into doing so. I issue the invitation, but the Spirit beckons them and brings them before us. The Spirit moves in both their speech and our listening.*

By the Spirit, the words of our speakers “work on us.” Our understandings and responses are “set off” like little fireworks inside us, lighting up perhaps differences or similarities in the way we might have responded to the prompt. Emotion might bubble to the surface. Memories might come to mind. Listening well to these brave volunteer apostles shapes our listening beyond these conversations. It shapes our hearing and speaking of the liturgy, but it also shapes our hearing and speaking outside of church - indeed, good listening shapes us! And even more, this faithful listening is the fertile ground of relationship, which is the bedrock of true evangelism. The Spirit moves not only in church, but in our relationships and chance encounters everywhere in our lives. And the Spirit is continually seeking your hearing, again and again.

But it's also seeking your speech. At the most basic level, the person who sits with me to speak their faith is modeling for all of us how to speak our own. This is key. So many people are in need of hearing the gospel - they need to hear of our faith, of your faith. They need to hear your hope and the particular hope we have in Christ. For in the end, faith is not only for us, but for us to share with others. This is loving our neighbor, and these people who stand to share their faith with us are showing us how to do it well.

In fact, they are practicing their own “faith speak”. But they are also practicing their faith. It is a faithful act to submit to the opinions and reactions of a room full of people. Speaking of faith is vulnerable because it is often so private. But, with great faith in God's love and grace, these brave apostles open up before you and make public what God has done in their lives.

For those who are longing for a real sermon, the preaching of the gospel on Sunday mornings, I will begin preaching again soon. But in the meantime, I invite you to listen for proclamation in the words these members speak. Lean in and overhear the way the gospel lives in each person. For it lives in you too - a saint and sinner in this priesthood of all believers. We support each other in calling it forth, through the Spirit - calling forth our speech, but only in the wake of our good and faithful listening.

Pastor Ben



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

I have been thinking a lot about the parable of the [good Samaritan](#) lately (Luke 10:25-37). Parts of it are so familiar—the unfortunate victim, the robbers, the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan—that I miss points of deeper meaning. We all know the compassion and generosity of the Samaritan has become the standard by which we measure our response to suffering. Hospitals are named Good Samaritan. All 50 states have a Good Samaritan law on the books. I always imagined (or hoped) that I would act like the good Samaritan were I ever in a similar situation.

There are two other characters connected to this story that I don't always think about: the lawyer and Jesus. Theirs was not a casual conversation. The lawyer was looking to test Jesus. "Teacher, he said, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus answers with a question: "What is written in the law?"

Being a good lawyer the man answered from Deuteronomy and Leviticus: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Case closed. Conversation over.

But the lawyer couldn't let it go: "Wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"

We know the man wanted to test Jesus and justify himself so his question was not an earnest inquiry about the Torah. Are some people my neighbor and some people not? How far does hospitality have to extend? Can there be limits to compassion? What is reasonable: Family? People on my block? My congregation? Fellow citizens? And, conversely, whom can I exclude? People across town or around the world? [Who is my neighbor?](#)

It's in answer to this question that Jesus tells the parable—a parable designed to be as provocative as possible.

We call the Samaritan "good" but that word is not found in Scripture. No Jew would call a Samaritan "good" nor would any Samaritan call a Jew "good." Samaritans and Jews regarded each other as ceremonially unclean, socially outcast and heretical. They would not have come up automatically in the neighbor category.

It's not clear that the beaten Jewish man would have been entirely thrilled that he had been helped and touched by the Samaritan. (Think of the *All in the Family* episode where Archie Bunker realizes he has received a blood transfusion from a Black doctor.)

Now it's Jesus' turn to ask a question: "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

This becomes the question for us and for these times. When we ask, "Who is my neighbor?" we sort people into categories. Is the refugee my neighbor? Is the Muslim my neighbor? Is the Jew my neighbor? Is the Latina my neighbor? And on and on. This makes for increasingly smaller neighborhoods. And this question can be driven by fear and suspicion. Left to ourselves we turn in and away.

Thank God that God has not left us to ourselves. Our new life in Christ leads us to ask and answer a different question. Not, "Who is my neighbor?" but "How are we neighbor?"

The world is a dangerous place—just check any news source or social media. There are people who mean to do harm to our country. Fear and the threat of danger divide us and constrict us. But we live in the hope of the resurrection and in the certainty of the redemption of the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We no longer ask, "Who is my neighbor?" The question is now, "How are we neighbor?"

The lawyer answered Jesus' question about who was neighbor to the man beaten by robbers with: "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, and to us, "Go and do likewise."

August 2022

August Special Offering:



MISSION & VISION

VISION

All migrants and refugees are protected, embraced and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities.

MISSION

As a witness to God's love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.

CORE VALUES

Welcome

"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me." Rooted in faith, LIRS believes that we are called to welcome those fleeing persecution and seeking refuge in the United States.

Prophetic Witness

Not all are prophets, but all are called to be prophetic witnesses. At LIRS, this means we are committed to speaking out boldly and standing up for the just treatment of those we serve.

Integrity

Driven by a desire to serve vulnerable refugees and migrants, we refuse to compromise our moral, economic, and political integrity as we carry out our mission to that end.

Innovation

Committed to bold action and continuous learning, LIRS invites others to join our mission, eager to embrace fresh perspectives and explore new ways to engage in this work of welcome.

Interdependence

LIRS depends on a diverse network of community partners, faith-based groups, and private entities to magnify our reach and impact – and they rely on our expertise and leadership.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Grounded in our faith, we believe that everyone should be celebrated, and valued for their unique life experiences. We believe that diverse opinions, ideas, and beliefs are the foundation of a healthy organization and a flourishing society. Our history of welcome is the inspiration for our creation of a workplace that honors and supports everyone.

August 2022

Church Council Meeting

July 19, 2022

Council Corner:

Council met on Tuesday, July 19th. Full minutes and financials can be found on the member section of our website or by email request. Please note that during our transition, we will not post minutes on our bulletin board. Also, please note that things are moving quickly, so this month, we have noted more recent updates since the time of the council meeting, so everyone is kept abreast of what is occurring.

Most of our discussion centered around the transition of selling/moving/building. The buyers have an offer on their home and will close as soon as possible. At the time of the council meeting, our close was believed to be on Sept. 1. However, this week we learned the buyers are able to move more quickly and wish to close early in order to be here by the time school starts. Since we discussed this option at our congregational meeting when we accepted the offer, council is moving forward with a close date of August 15. That said, we will also sign an agreement that allows us to use the church that week so we can keep to our already planned schedule with August 21 being the last day in the church.

Also, at the time of our council meeting, we had not heard back from the Mission Investment Fund, pertaining to the loan we will need to finish our build. This week we heard back from them that we are approved, so council will be discussing this at our August meeting which will be moved to Aug 2 to accommodate their timelines.

We have not heard back from RLACF regarding the childcare grant.

In terms of transition to Calvary Episcopal, Pastor Ben and Dianne were to visit with the leaders there to discuss office space, shared coffee hour and worship time. They have since done this and will begin moving items over during the week of August 8th, to be fully there by August 15. New office hours will be communicated once they are finalized.

Our moving sale will be held on August 6th. Please bring in any items you wish to donate to the church to sell. All proceeds will go toward the new building. Other dates to remember: August 21st is our last day of worship in our current building. We will then move any remaining items to Belfry/Bridger and celebrate at the home of Linda and Todd Daily. All are welcome! If you are not able to help with the move, please join us for the BBQ anyway! If you need a ride to/from Red Lodge, please call the church and let Dianne know.

We meet again August 2 at 4:30

Christikon Clips

August, 2022

Information for our Congregations

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for the last sessions of our 71st season. We hosted over 500 campers so far this season including youth, families, adults and at-risk youth. We have retreats scheduled through August.



Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational and family retreats scheduled this fall. A few retreat times are still available.

Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to camp, our staff, and campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and your generous donations. We are grateful!

Please visit <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon/> and continue your support.

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

August 2022

BUILDING UPDATE—ALL HANDS ON DECK!!



Walls are going up this week and next. Siding, roofing and metal will be ordered next. The kitchen design and colors will be finalized next week. We are looking to move the shed and sign from our current building and place it temporarily (or permanently if it's not in the way of the builder) on the new land.

Items are slowly moving out of the building. All of the Christmas Kids Shoppe items have been moved to the parsonage - thanks Al Stuber and Pr Ben! A few car/trailer loads have been moved to our temporary storage space in Belfry/Bridger. You will begin to notice things coming off the walls and shelves. You will notice the basement being emptied, the kitchen being packed up and the piano and organ being moved. Please make sure you check in with the building oversight committee if you have any questions or concerns or want to HELP!. Don't wait to be asked! Only with your help will we make this a smooth transition for all!

HELP!

We are in the final countdown of our days in our present location. There is a lot of work to be done. Please don't wait to be asked to help. Call the church (406-446-2430) and offer your time, talent, equipment. Let us know what you can do and when you are available. Many hands make the work lighter. Thank you so much!

August Birthdays

- 8/01 Andrea Holmen
- 8/02 Joel Hardy
- 8/03 Jeff Gildehaus
- 8/04 Jim Johnson
- 8/10 Jeff Clark
- 8/19 Don Lindall
- 8/23 Bill Miller
- 8/26 Dennis Christ
- 8/27 Kim Elsberry
- 8/28 Gina Farnham
- 8/29 Karen Young

August Anniversaries

- 8/17 Andy and Laurie Grygiel
- 8/22 Jane & Denny Chatlain
Howard & Barbara
Marquardt
- 8/31 Dennis & Kathy Kreatz

Carbon County Health Department says Covid is still out there. They do not recommend wearing masks at this time but advise that you stay home if you are feeling at all sick.



Messiah Choirchimes Ensemble Update:

Messiah Chimes will ring Sunday, August 21.

Martha and Dick Crofts are contacts for more information.

We are so fortunate to have Dick and Martha Crofts sharing their choirchimes and their expertise in playing them. An excerpt from the internet explains a little more about what they are:

Choirchimes[®], developed in 1982 by Malmark, was the first American-made, hand-held chime instrument. They are very light-weight square aluminum tubes with fixed external clappers. The comfortable, rounded exterior corner produces the purest and cleanest sound. Shape does matter. In order to create the purest tone, the tube must have the 90 degree angles to avoid undesirable untuned overtones and extraneous “buzzing” vibrations. Our Choirchimes[®] are designed to produce a pure fundamental pitch described by Dr. Thomas Rossing, past President of the Acoustical Society of America, as “the purest sound of any known musical instrument”.

August 2022

**A VERY WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER,
PAUL SCHAUER!**



CHRISTMAS KIDS SHOPPE IS BACK!!!

We will be having our Christmas Kids Shoppe again this December in the Old Roosevelt Community Center. More details to come.

PLEASE KEEP THOSE PICTURES COMING!

Susan Leaverton is keeping a photo journal of the progress on our new building. If you have pictures , please share them with her at seleaverton@nemont.net. Thank you!

Women's Safari Book Club

Date: August 18, 2022

Time: 3:00

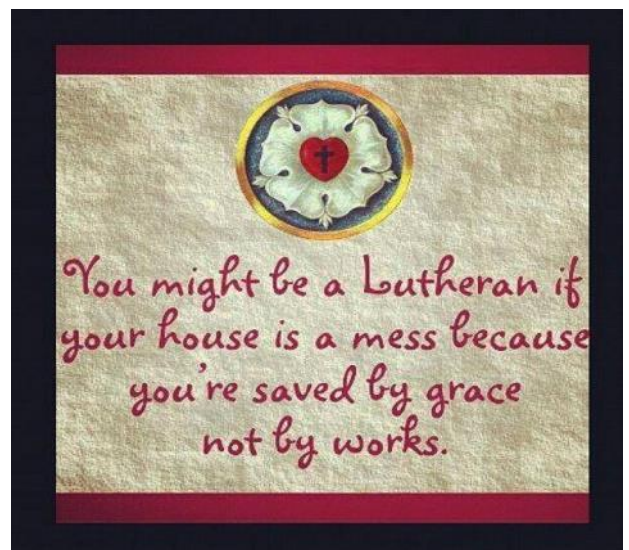
Book: Exiles

Author: Christina Baker Kline

Facilitator: Martha Crofts

Location: Mary Ames's house

**Contact host, Marla Ebel, at 406-426-8277
if you need more information.**





Hello Messiah Lutheran Church,
Greetings and happy summer to everyone!

We wanted to remind everyone that the food bank is now open for in-person service. The hours of operation will continue to be Monday 11:00-1:00, Thursday 3:00-5:00, and Saturday 9:00-11:00. Also, anyone who would prefer to continue using "call in" orders is still welcome to do so.

With summer in full swing, we're counting down to the 19th Annual Fun Run for Charities. More details will be forthcoming soon.

As always, we value the fantastic support we get from this community and encourage our volunteers and donors to continue their support into the future.

If you have something you'd like to be included in our monthly newsletter, please send an email to redlodgemessiah@gmail.com with the blurb you want included, no later than the 25th of the month.

ONE MORE CONCERT THIS SEASON

St. John's United

2022
**SUMMER
CONCERT
SERIES**

FREE • 7PM THURSDAYS
ST. JOHN'S UNITED CAMPUS • CORNER OF RIMROCK & SHILOH

JUNE 30	THE CROSSINGS, LAUREL • BRIGID & JOHNNY REEDY OPENER: JOHN ADAMS
JULY 7	SJU CAMPUS • KYLE SHOBE & THE WALK 'EM BOYS OPENER: JESSICA EVE
JULY 14	SJU CAMPUS • YOUNG DUBLINERS OPENER: JESSICA ALLESTAD
JULY 21	SJU CAMPUS • EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE OPENER: DANIEL KOSEL
JULY 28	SJU CAMPUS • WOOD BELLY OPENER: JIM BAUM & TAMMY STAPLES
AUGUST 4	SJU CAMPUS • THE JIMMY CARPENTER BAND OPENER: PARKER BROWN
AUGUST 11	WYNDSTONE, HEIGHTS • ROB & HALLADAY QUIST OPENER: HALLADAY QUIST

WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC DINNER. FOOD TRUCKS AVAILABLE.

August 2022

Every Tuesday
Women's Group
at Messiah until August 16th
at Calvary Episcopal Church after August 21
10:00 a.m. In person and online via Zoom
Contact Andrea Holmen at 406-425-2657 if interested

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Lowell Anderson	The family of Myrna Hunt	Rachel Roberts
Emma Balsam	Jim Johnson	Vanessa Reyes
Manuel Cabanas	Jim Koski	James "Bud" Ridenour
Lenny Erickson	Rick Koski	Dick Rosekelly
The Family of Sean Erickson	Sandy Koski	DJ Rosekelly
Brooke Feister	Neil Laird	Christian Strickland
Larry Fry	Jim & Linda Lian	Al & Dolly Stuber
Nathan Green	Ray Loyning	Josh Wilker
Andrea Holmen	Howard Marquart	Eva Wilker
	Lois Miller	Jim Zenz
	Shilo & Kingston Moncada	

PRAYER REQUESTS

**For prayer requests, contact the church office at
406-446-2430 or redlodgemessiah@gmail.com
with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.**

August 2022

Messiah Calendar—August 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1	2 10:00 Women's Bible Study 12:30 Hospice Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship Choirchimes Following Fellowship	8	9 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study Building Committee Meeting 4:00 PM	10	11	12	13
14 8:30 Choirchimes 9:30 AM Worship	15	16 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	17	18 Safari Book Club 3:00	19	20
21 9:30 AM Final Worship in our present Facility Begin moving furnishings to Belfry. BBQ	22	23 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study Church Council 4:30	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship at Calvary Episcopal Church Choirchimes Following Fellowship	29	30 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	31			

Messiah's Mission:

“Live by Faith, Share Christ's Love, Be a Voice of Hope”

HOW TO CONTACT US AND STAY IN TOUCH:

Church Office: 406-446-2430

Office Hours: Administrative: Mon-Thurs. 10 am - 2 pm

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
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com

Facebook: Messiah Lutheran

Email: General: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Prayer Requests: messiahprayers@gmail.com

Pastor Ben: pastorbencherland@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service:

9:30 AM at 723 Adams Ave.

Red Lodge, MT

August 28

9:00 at Calvary Episcopal Church, 9 N. Villard, Red Lodge, MT

September 5 and ongoing

9:30 AM at Calvary Episcopal Church

9 N. Villard, Red Lodge, MT



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.