

July 2022

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS



Messiah Lutheran Church

Ben Cherland, Pastor

July 2022 Newsletter



July 2022

Dear Messiah,

It's been quite a month in the life of the nation, in the life of Red Lodge, and of Messiah. The Supreme Court has repealed a half-century old law concerning abortion (The letter from Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Elizabeth Eaton included here reminds us of the Lutheran response to the issue of abortion as stated in the ELCA social statement accepted by the Church in the early 90s). Our beloved town, along with others in our region of the state, experienced massive flooding. The structural integrity of Red Lodge, its community response in giving of time, energy and money to cleanup and rebuild, and the social inequity typically behind the scenes here have all been put under a spotlight. And, even in the midst of all the shifting ground under our feet - with these events and those of our own lives and communities - Messiah's building project has continued. July 5th saw the pouring of the slab on which this church will be built.

Moments such as these are worth considering. Questions about how church matters in the face of such moments come to mind, along with our responses to them. Such moments do not last, but their impacts on us remain - they circulate in us until they become part of the stories of our lives, our communities, our nation. Considering this moment of Messiah's newly poured foundation - the drying rock on which this church builds its future - what are the stories we will tell of this moment?

Many such moments, marks on the wheel of time when change takes a step forward, go unnoted or are too quickly forgotten. The individual stories we are holding up in worship this summer are stories of faith. Moments described in these interview-style sermons are worth hearing and remembering. My newsletter articles on the experience of indigenous peoples in Montana have been trying to hold up stories too-often forgotten. Their stories and moments are part of the story we must tell about this land and us in it, even as we prepare to walk into new moments and write new stories upon it.

The story that holds all such stories, all the different moments of our lives of faith, is the story of God's great love. This story allows us to tell and hold all other stories, including the terrible ones. The story of this great love is the one we will tell in and outside that building, standing on the rock of Christ that holds, supports, and emboldens us in its telling.

Peace to you all,

Pastor Ben

July 2022

Bishop Eaton issues pastoral message on SCOTUS ruling regarding Roe v. Wade

6/24/2022 12:25:00 PM

Dear church,

Whatever personal perspective one might take on the June 24 abortion ruling from the Supreme Court, it is the legal framework in which we now minister, and I wish to speak a pastoral word at this time.

The Supreme Court has voted to overturn Roe v. Wade, removing federal constitutional protection for safe and legal abortion and leaving decisions about abortion law largely to the states. As a result, safe and legal abortion will likely not be accessible in every state. This church's 1991 social statement Abortion argues that "the number of induced abortions is a source of deep concern" but teaches that the practice should be legal (pp. 3, 9-10). In other words, "Laws should be enacted and enforced justly for the preservation and enhancement of life, and should avoid unduly encumbering or endangering the lives of women" (p. 9). Overturning Roe v. Wade and placing decisions about abortion regulation at the state level encumbers and endangers the lives of all persons who need to make decisions about unexpected pregnancies.

First, as a pastor of this church, I want to acknowledge that this decision affects many people, especially those whose pregnancies unfold in complex situations and the people who love them. Many now find their moral agency restricted because federal law no longer guarantees access to legal and safe abortion. They already face difficult moral questions, and the Supreme Court decision only adds to their anguish. As our social statement reminds us, we have both the freedom and the obligation to serve neighbors in complex situations. As a church, we are called at this moment to recognize and spiritually support people who are struggling with decisions around pregnancy.

Second, as presiding bishop, I want to remind this church that, despite this new legal landscape, we continue to depend on our social teaching for guidance. Our social statement provides the moral framework for our church's communal discernment and ministry, holding in tension both the strong Christian presumption to preserve and protect all life as well as the complex moral situations in which pregnancy sometimes occurs. Our social teaching is complex and does not hew to clear categories or labels such as "pro-abortion" or "anti-abortion."

That complexity is reflected in several points. The statement recognizes that pregnant persons have moral agency; they are the ones to make decisions about a pregnancy (see pp. 5-6). This church and its ministers trust them to decide but expect them to make such decisions in relationship—with God, self, partner, family, ministers and others.

I also want to underscore for the whole body of Christ the statement's exhortation "that those who counsel persons faced with unintended pregnancies respect how deeply the woman's pregnancy involves her whole person—body, mind and spirit—in relation to all the commitments that comprise her stewardship of life" (p. 5).

Further, our church teaching holds that there are no exclusive rights in pregnancy. A pregnant person does not have an exclusive right to abort a fetus at all points during the pregnancy. A developing life does not have an exclusive right to be born (p. 2). This church does not support abortion as a normative form of birth control but rather understands it as necessary in some morally responsible circumstances. This church does not condone late-term abortions except in extreme circumstances, which must be determined by the individual with their medical caregivers (p. 7).

This church acknowledges that individuals and religious traditions hold divergent viewpoints over when life begins. These divergent views are not only scientific but also biblical and cultural. The ELCA social statement acknowledges these ethical ambiguities and states that "the closer the life in the womb comes to full term the more serious such [moral] issues become." (p. 7).

As we live into this new legal framework, we can respond to and minister in the current situation, for instance, by ministering to individuals who seek abortions; advocating for laws that provide free or affordable health care, child care and education; providing and promoting sex education; continuing to be a community of discernment where thoughtful and diverse perspectives can be shared and heard; and advocating for state laws that provide legal, safe and affordable abortions, and against legislation that would outlaw abortion in all circumstances (p. 9).

Finally, I wish to remind everyone that this church supports peaceful means of expression within a diverse society. Peaceful protest is a crucial element of civic engagement; violent protest is not, and this church reproves it. Likewise, this church is on record against hate speech. Let us be instruments for peace where there is none. Let us listen to one another. Let us serve the needs of neighbors in all the complexities life presents. God calls us to be for others, just as God in Christ is for us.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





I'm a Lutheran: Loni Whitford Taylor via the Living Lutheran

-by Megan Brandsrud

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in Montana

Emergency medical technician, member of the Chippewa Cree Council of Rocky Boy and of the ELCA Church Council

I've been the church council president of Our Saviour for seven years. One thing I'm very proud of is that we are housing a Cree language revitalization program. There are nine trainees and two instructors. One of the instructors is my paternal grandmother, Pearl. One of my younger brothers is the program's director. It started in February, and after 14 months the trainees will be fluent Cree speakers. Those are prayers answered from our ancestors. When our tribal leaders and elders helped build this log chapel, they had intentions, prayers and hopes that our language would carry on, and now in this day, our language is being housed in the mission.

Our congregation is really small, but the community knows we are there, and they can rely on our church for different things. To me, our congregation is our community, even though they don't all come to church every Sunday. We have lots of our ceremonies at the church, and our community members utilize prayer services. I believe we all pray to the same creator, the same God.

One of my earliest church memories is of going to church with Great-grandma Minnie. I remember looking up at her in the little log chapel. She was a very calm, kind, generous lady. She would take trips with Women of the ELCA, and I remember wanting to be like her and travel to new places too.

I think being an EMT goes hand-in-hand with my faith. Almost every time you go out on a call, you're praying all the way to the scene, praying the whole time you're driving to the hospital and, even after you leave, those prayers are on your mind. You have to have faith in those prayers and in our Creator. I think my faith helped me to have a strong mind and a strong heart to be able to work in that kind of a job.

A big part of my family's life is powwows and traveling to and from them. I am a jingle dress dancer and my daughter, Aynjel'lya (Gigi), is a fancy shawl dancer. I've been doing this since I was about 7 or 8 years old, and my daughter has since she was able to walk. My dad dances and so do my brothers and their children too. It's an important part of our lives.

I've witnessed God's presence in my life the most through becoming and being a mom.

The main things I pray for are my family and our language. I was always taught that family comes first. I was raised that way, thankfully. I am always praying for my family and extended family.

I really like being on the ELCA Church Council because of all the different individuals I've been able to meet and become friends with. There are so many prayerful individuals I've gotten to know, and I'm so thankful for that. I'm also thankful for being able to learn from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the other council leaders. They're faithful and open to listening. I hope that we can have more people from younger generations be involved in our church—locally, nationally and globally.

I'm a Lutheran because of what I learned from my grandmas and my great-grandmothers—from their faith lives, prayers, beliefs and teachings. Because of them I know the Creator is with me and leading me.

Someone who has helped mentor me in my faith is one of our former pastors, Linda Webster. She introduced me to the national church. I traveled with her in 2015 for the American Indian/Alaska Native Lutheran Association gathering, where I was nominated and elected to a four-year term as the board's secretary. And in 2019, I was nominated and elected to the ELCA Church Council.

In 2019 our tribe called a state of emergency on our language. Thankfully the language program was developed and is going well. Being a tribal leader—I sit on our Chippewa Cree Council—I really believe we should be speaking our language. Unfortunately, I'm not fluent, but I've been attending classes at our tribal college because they recently created an associate's degree in the Cree language. Our language is our identity—it is who we are as a tribe.

There is a lot of historical trauma from what our ancestors went through that we as Natives still have to deal with. It probably still reaches within my daughter. We are still dealing with all of those years of surviving; it's an awful truth.

Ever since I was a young girl I have wanted to work in the medical field. Now I have been an EMT for almost 16 years. That has been my calling, and I've dedicated and sacrificed a lot of time and energy into it. I love helping people and really feel that is my vocation—helping in any way I can.

From going to church and also being part of my culture and traditional ceremonies, I see so many similarities. There are a lot of similarities between Bible stories and our creation stories, and they both go back thousands of years. I think I experience grace by being within those two worlds—by feeling the prayers from both of those sets of beliefs.



Your Church Council met on Tuesday, June 21st this month. Please find a full set of minutes and financials on the bulletin board. Below are some of the highlights from this month's meeting

Council met on June 21. The following are highlights. Please find full minutes on our bulletin board or request a copy at redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

The bulk of the meeting was spent on finances. We received \$4,000 from the Hetzel Foundation to go toward the AV/tech system that will be installed in the new church. This system will cost around \$30,000. There will be a forum on July 10th to discuss the finances of the building project. We will cover spending to date, where we sit with our finances, loan options and other sources of funding.

Thankfully, few of our parishioners were significantly impacted by the flood, but we hold those who were in our prayers. A huge thank you to those members who were able to help those in need!

We meet again July 19 at 4:30 PM



Fragrance Free Zone

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

**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.**

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.





July Special Offering: Red Lodge Area Community Foundation Fun Run

Christikon Clips

July, 2022

Information for our Congregations



We are grateful for all the hard work that our Work Weekend crew accomplished!

Great group!

Thank you to one and all!

It's not too late to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults. You can register online at www.christikon.org or call us at the camp office for further information.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. Continuing Education Retreat (July 25-28) and Mountain Weekend (July 29-31) our speaker is Rev. Dr. David Lose. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Check out topic details on the website. www.christikon.org

Remember to pray for the staff and campers.

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

Red Lodge Area Community Foundation

Even though we continue to raise money every single day, it is still not enough, and we know it. If all 300+ homes that are affected needed at least \$3K each to get just a few of the basics replaced, hot water heaters, electrical panels, structural assessments, we would have to raise \$900K, and we have not yet done that. Plus, we know the needs are much higher than \$3K. We are working hard to accomplish this! Recovery takes time, it's a long haul. There are still a lot of unanswered questions regarding other funding sources for homeowners. We are very involved in the progress of those discussions too.

My hope is that you will complete this application if you need funding and provide us with enough information to secure additional funds.

PLEASE!

Apply: If you are currently displaced or in an unsafe living situation as a direct result of the recent flood in Carbon County, funds are available through the Carbon County Disaster Relief Fund to help. We are accepting applications for up to \$3,000 at this time, if that amount will allow you to safely return to your home and/or mitigate a serious unhealthy situation at your home. If your immediate need is greater than \$3,000 please complete the application and share with us the amount needed to allow you to safely return to your home. This will help us better assess the continued needs across the county.

The Red Lodge Police Department is developing a child safety prevention education program for children and adults in the community. However, we need your help.

Our department will be providing child safety and drug prevention education material for the children, preschool and older, as well as materials on Bullying, Identity Theft, Internet Safety and safety for our senior citizens. These materials have been designed exclusively by the National Child Safety Council, a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization (38-6035290).

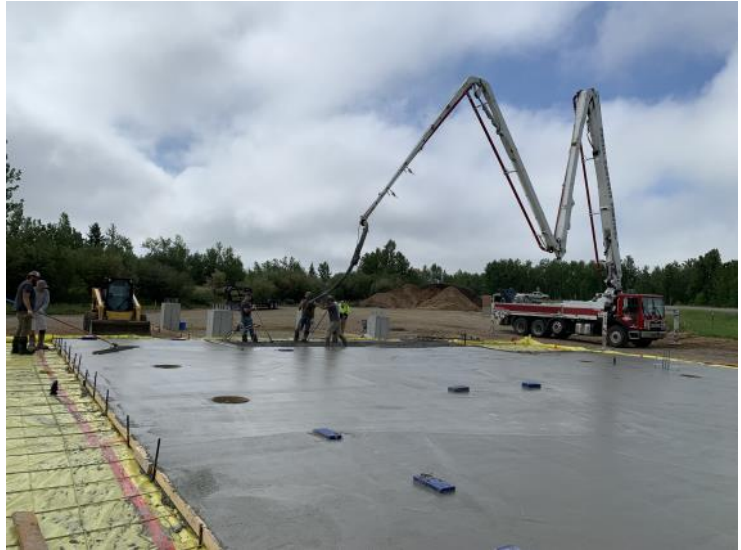
In order to help cover the cost of the materials, our department is turning to the concerned business, industrial, and professional leaders such as yourself. We are asking you to help by providing safety materials for some children at \$4.00 per child; 25 children would be \$100.00, 50 would be \$200.00, 100 would be \$400.00 and so on. As an acknowledgement of those who support this program, we will be listing them on the prestige page of all activity manuals under the heading: **“PROVIDED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY PEOPLE WHO CARE”**.

There are different options in ways you can make a donation:

- Make your donation online with a debit or credit card at <http://donate.nationalchildsafetycouncil.org> or scan the QR code at the bottom right corner of this letter and enter our program number **mt-5-c-2** when prompted;
- Call the Council with a debit or credit card toll free at 1-877-472-3377;
- Do not send cash. Make your check payable to the **National Child Safety Council** and **mail to:**
Chief Greg Srock
Red Lodge Police Department
P.O. Box 9
Red Lodge, MT 59068

July 2022

BUILDING UPDATE—ALL HANDS ON DECK!!



Building continues! The foundation is complete, electrical and plumbing is stubbed in and the slab is being poured in the coming days.

We have a signed buy/sell offer! Over the coming weeks we will be ticking off any contingencies. Closing is planned for Sept 1. In the meantime, our plan to say farewell to our current building is as follows:

July:

1. Organize Christmas Kid Shoppe items, place in bins and move to parsonage garage. Contact Jeri to help.
2. Review list of inventory items and determine which things we want to include in our moving sale and which we will take with us. This list is on the table in the narthex. If you want to have input into what stays or goes, please make notes on these sheets by the end of July.
3. Move shed from current property to new property.

August:

1. Moving Sale: Starting August 1, set up tables in sanctuary for moving sale. People can bring items they wish to donate to this sale after August first. Please only tag items that require a minimum amount. We will simply ask for a donation for everything else. All funds raised will go towards reducing the gap in our building efforts. The sale will be held on Saturday, August 6 from 9am - 2pm. If you'd like to help with the sale, please contact Barb Ostrum (waiting to hear from Barb - so put my name and number in if you don't hear otherwise). We will need a couple of people to watch over the sale, and some folks to make signage and place around town.
2. August 21st we will move remaining items from the church to a storage place on the Daily's property in Bel-fry. We will need trailers and strong bodies to move the heavier items and large vehicles for the smaller items (we will load your car). All hands on deck, please contact Linda at (406) 426-0841. We will start moving items after worship at 11am and work until finished. We will have a BBQ at the Daily's after the last load is taken out. Even if you can't help with the move, we hope you join us for the BBQ.
3. **August 28** will be the first time we worship at the Episcopal church. For this first time, we will worship together at 9am and have fellowship/coffee hour at 10am. Beginning September 4th, we will worship at 11:00am and are still invited to attend fellowship hour at 10:00am. This will be a special day and we hope you can share this time with our "host" family.



July

- 7/7 Beverly Urbaniak
7/16 Jack Ervin
7/17 Eileen Luoma
7/19 Jacob Kreatz
7/24 Mary Ames
7/25 Renee Gildehaus
7/29 Sally Gildehaus
7/30 Seth Ebel
David Jurkovich
7/31 Dianne Milleson



July

7/12 Gina & Stan Farnham

7/29 Bill & Lois Miller

Women's Safari Book Club

Date: July 21

Time: 3:00 PM

**Book: Tattooist of
Auschwitz**

Author: Heather Morris

Facilitator: Martha Croft

**Location: Jeri Kyner's
backyard, 119 W. 17th**

Messiah Choirchimes Ensemble Update:

With an ensemble of twelve, Messiah Chimes are underway rehearsing almost every Sunday following worship and fellowship. This group of quick learners is committed to sharing what they've accomplished on a Sunday in August.

While some are veteran music readers, others are brushing up skills that were packed away for a while. All have noticed weekly gains in what might easily be termed teamwork.

Perhaps some wonder what choirchimes are and how they sound. Made of aluminum, they're akin to lovely wind chimes. They are often an extension to bronze handbell choirs, providing a contrasting timbre.

The "secret ingredient" is comprised of at least eleven willing people who are focused on enhancing worship by means of musical offerings. Please contact Martha or Dick Crofts to learn more.

Email dmcrofts@gmail.com

Outing to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

Please sign up in the Narthex for our Faith, Fun, and Fellowship outing to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center July 17. We will leave the church after worship, travel to Powell for lunch and then visit the Interpretive Center Museum. Admission to the museum is \$12.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors, and children under 12 are free.

July 2022

A VERY WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER, KATRIN CHANDLER!



WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all of our friends returning to worship with us again in person. We missed you and are delighted to see you again joining us for worship at the church.

MUSIC CAMP

It was our pleasure to provide practice space for the brass section of the Music Festival camp. We noticed great improvement by the end of the week.

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!

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.

Bible Study



Every Tuesday
Women's Group
at Messiah

**10:00 a.m. In person and
online via Zoom**

**Contact Andrea Holmen if
interested**


Ongoing Prayer Concerns

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Messiah Calendar—July 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
					1	2
3 9:30 AM Worship	4 Independence Day 	5 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study Building Committee Meeting 4:00 PM	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship Forum following worship to discuss finances of building project	11	12 11:30 Hospice Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship Outing to the Heart Mountain-Interpretive Center Following worship	18	19 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Council Meeting 4:30 PM Building Committee Meeting 4:00 PM	20	21 Safari Book Club 3:00	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM-Worship 31 ₃	25	26 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	27	28	29	30

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: 723 S. Adams
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



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Red Lodge

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