
Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



Dear Messiah,

Summer is here in Red Lodge, and summer is here at Messiah. Indeed, summer – as a time of new growth, change, comfort, flourishing, and ease – is the season Messiah finds itself in these days. While rest is a good and needed part of any “summer”, your pastor doesn’t want us to “rest on our laurels”. The question I’ve been asking myself is this: Now is good, but where are we going?

The last two Sundays, you’ve heard sermons that have both leaned into certain realities in which we live, and presented a particular possibility by which we can respond to these realities. These are the three realities I am observing these days.

Reality #1 A generation ago, most church going Christians chose their home congregation first and foremost by its “brand” of Christianity – its denomination. If you’d moved to a new area 30 years ago, you might have looked up the local ELCA churches and started visiting. Today (in all humility) people choose their church, in part, based on their connection with the pastor.

We are a Lutheran church in which Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, Agnostics, Lutherans and at least one Jewish person all worship together. Chances are good that our theology isn’t why you have made Messiah your church. Messiah has many great qualities, but I for one would not attend a church where I didn’t connect well with the pastor.

Reality #2 Pastors come and go. This is true. I am not planning to leave unless the Holy Spirit has something to do with it, but the connection I have with many of you should not be the reason you stay or leave Messiah. I ask you, why do you stay?

Reality #3 I would bet money that a big reason you are part of Messiah is the relationships you’ve formed with each other. These relationships are one reason people tolerate pastors they don’t connect with. I see you, Messiah, caring about each other and seeking to connect with each other on Sundays. The strength of your relationships and the growing number of new relationships to be had have opened my eyes to the possibility I want you to see.

None of what I’ve just said makes us unique. These are realities that exist in all churches. The vision I want to hold up for you here (the possibility and promise in responding to them soberly) is not about being unique, it is about being Church.

I know that many of you have needs of which I am completely unaware. If I were able to make contact and connect with each of you every month, I would know many more of those needs.

Needs are nothing to be ashamed of – they are simply part of what makes us human. Needs can be practical, they can be spiritual, they can be social, they can be emotional. I am sad to say I don’t know more about what you need. My call is to attend where I can. Like you, I am merely human (Thanks be to God for God’s grace and mercy). My only advantage as a pastor is that the relationships within this church (the long standing and the yet-to-be) exist without me.

July, 2024

Here is the hope, the possibility, the vision, I am holding up for you today: You, getting a phone call from a church member every month – someone who wants to know how life is going and what you need for it to be a little easier. That's it. If I had to call this something, I would call it congregation care. If I wanted to be a little more 'concrete' for you, I would call it a Congregational Care Committee – a group of members who care about your needs and connecting with you. This is my hope for you, Messiah, that you can be church for each other, with or without a pastor.

If the Spirit has tickled your curiosity reading this, come to an Adult Forum I will be presenting on Sunday, July 28th at 9:15 am. I will be fleshing out the details of what I'm describing here, how it would be organized, and see if you have a desire to be the kind of church that cares for each other in this way.



Pastor Ben

July, 2024



Lutheran Disaster Response

Dear church,

In response to the horrific, ongoing violence in and around Gaza, I recently shared a new message, calling on us to continue to pray for those who suffer and grieve, advocate for an immediate cease-fire and walk with all who long for a just peace.

The ELCA is walking with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, to address the most pressing needs for people in the areas surrounding Gaza, including the West Bank and other Occupied Territories. Right now, we are helping meet many essential needs such as food, water, health care, shelter, keeping schools open, mental health care and providing medical supplies. There is so much yet to be done.

When the cease-fire comes and when, God willing, our partners can reestablish work in Gaza, our church stands ready to continue our response. A gift today will equip Lutheran Disaster Response to walk with neighbors to rebuild their lives and communities.

We pray fervently for that moment to arrive. In my recent message and again here, I reiterate that hope is possible amid this crisis:

At times a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis doesn't seem possible, yet as Christians we believe that it is. The psalmist assures us that God "makes wars cease to the end of the earth" (Psalm 46:9). At times it seems that there is nothing we can do, yet through baptism God calls us to be peacemakers. We live out this calling in many ways, including through prayer, advocacy and accompaniment.

Thanks to the faithful, generous people of the ELCA, Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of walking alongside and supporting our partners. Gifts to "Middle East Crisis" will be used to continue addressing humanitarian needs in the region.

With gratitude for your prayers and support,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

By mail

Make checks payable to

Lutheran Disaster Response.

Write "Middle East Crisis" on your
check's memo line and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

By phone

800-638-3522

Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. central time.

Christikon Clips

July, 2024

Information for our Congregations



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

Great group! Check out the pictures on our facebook page. Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/Christikon>

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 29-Aug 1) – we welcome our speakers Dr. Jason Mahn Kent Claussen Gubrud– Go to our website for topics. Mountain Weekend (Aug 2-4) – watch our website for speaker(s) and topics as they become available.. 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 as they travel to Christikon.

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



St. John's United

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

THURSDAYS 7PM

OPENERS BEGIN AT 6PM

WYNDSTONE
BILLINGS HEIGHTS

JUNE 20TH | **RONNIE MILSAP**
TRIBUTE

Opener: Cory Leone Johnson

THE CROSSINGS • LAUREL

JUNE 27TH | **LEGENDS OF THE PIONEERS**
TRIBUTE

Opener: Joe Sullivan

SJU CAMPUS • BILLINGS

JULY 11TH | **BEATLES**
TRIBUTE

Opener: Elise Dye

SJU CAMPUS • BILLINGS

JULY 18TH | **BEACH BOYS**
TRIBUTE

Opener: John Adams

SJU CAMPUS • BILLINGS

JULY 25TH | **ELTON JOHN**
TRIBUTE

Opener: Gavin Russell

SJU CAMPUS • BILLINGS

AUGUST 1ST | **PAPER FLOWERS**
6:30 PM | "REMEMBERING FLEETWOOD MAC"

Opener: John Floridis • 5:30 pm

TITLE SPONSOR:



create impact.



Langlas

create impact.

Thank you for making this concert possible.

Free Admission

Food Trucks Available

Coolers Welcome

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.....Baretooth Cupboards

February.....Red Lodge Ice Rink

March.....St. John’s United

AprilMeadowlark 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

Our Mission



Affirming God’s love for all people, we work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering.

Our Values

Inclusive: Diversity and differences only make us stronger.

Disruptive: By challenging convention, we innovate and maximize the good we can do in the world.

Interconnected: Complex problems require comprehensive, integrated solutions. Our array of expertise, resources and networks makes possible the impossible.

Agile: Because the world changes rapidly, we move at the speed of change.

Our History

Much has changed in nearly 75 years. But in thousands of congregations, in millions of offerings and in uncounted prayers, U.S. Lutherans continue to support Lutheran World Relief’s work.

Lutheran World Relief was there in the late 1940s, when 800,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes by the creation of the state of Israel ... in the early 1950s when Hong Kong, Korea and Bangladesh and much of Asia was mired in strife ... during the 1970s and ’80s, when civil wars and drought plagued Africa.

Today, Lutheran World Relief operates in East and West Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, helping some of the world’s poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive.

**Carbon County Historical
Society & Museum
Saint Olaf Church Field Trip**



July 24th, 2024

*FREE for Members
*\$10 for General Admission

10:00 AM

Join the Carbon County Historical Society for a tour of Saint Olaf Church. Meeting at the Museum at 10:00 AM and following pilot car to the site. Bring a dish to share for a picnic!



Carbon County Museum
224 Broadway Ave. North
Red Lodge, Montana
Carboncountyhistory.com

COUNCIL CORNER

Your Council met on Monday June 24 to discuss church business. Full minutes can be found in the member's section on our website or posted on the bulletin board. Highlights are below:

- Our website is getting a re-fresh (thanks Maria)
- Prayer Shawl ministry is starting up and sewers are needed to help our quilters
- Thanks to everyone who helped with clean-up day! Special thanks to Jim and Dave who care for our property (weed-wacking, spraying weeds, shoveling, etc) often!
- The shed spot is set; awaiting delivery
- Look for an adult ed class coming in Sept.
- Bibles will be purchased for our Sunday School children with memorial fund dollars.
- Approved Education committee recommendation on purchase of Sunday School curriculum.
- We are renewing our agreement with Meadowlark Children's Center. They are testing out a new "outdoor summer program" from 7-12am and we hope it is successful, filling yet another need in the community.
- Discussion on setting up a Congregation Care Committee and what that entails
- Discussed open positions on Council (VP and Stewardship) and how to fill.
- Motion to pay for landscaping from general fund as a Loan to LIB fund passed.
- Discussed need for bridge to be built or bought.
- Discussed need to revise some policies.
- Changed meeting dates to the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3:06pm

Dates to Remember:

- Worship on the LAND is on July 14 with a potluck to follow and guided walking tour of our new path.
- New Member Sunday is on July 21
- Worship on the PASS with Episcopal Church is August 18

July, 2024

What's Going on at Messiah

Meadowlark Tweets

It's summer! Our summer camp is up and running, we've got nine kiddos in our normal daycare, and we are loving all the sun so far. We hope everyone has a safe and wonderful 4th of July and Beartooth Rally!

Megan Strong



Sunday school

Our children learn about sheep and Jesus, our Good Shepherd



Cotton flannel sheets and yardage are still needed



- 7/6 Carlos Ramalho
- 7/7 Beverly Urbaniak
- 7/9 Katrin Chandler
- 7/16 Jack Ervin
- 7/19 Jacob Kreatz
- 7/24 Mary Ames
- 7/26 Hayes Yates
- 7/30 Seth Ebel
- David Jurkovich
- 7/31 Dianne Milleson

We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage for Pastor Schauer's wife, LeeAnn, to be made into diapers for Lutheran World Relief. Sheets can be used and stained because they will be cut up and the unusable

Calling all sewers (of material).....

John Flynn has created many kits to make quilt tops for Lutheran World Relief. Each kit makes one quilt top finished at 60 by 80 inches. The blocks are all laser cut and ready to sew together. Contact Barb Ostrum on a Sunday or Monday afternoon between 1 and 3 in the quilt room to pick up some kits.

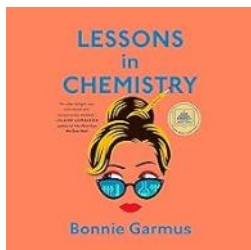
Thanks for your help!

Prayer Shawl Ministry is Resuming

If you are interested in making prayer shawls, please contact Mary Ames or Pat Thompson. If you need a prayer shawl for a loved one, please contact Mary Ames, Pat Thompson, Dianne Milleson, or Pastor Ben

WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB

- Date: July 18
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Book: Lessons in Chemistry
- Author: Bonnie Garmus
- Facilitator: Carol Erkins
- Location: Home of Jackie Cordill
- Contact host, Marla Ebel, at 406-664-3178 for more information.



Book Exchange

Books in the book case in the hallway are available to be taken and read. You may also leave books for others to read.

Our bulletin board

is the place to check for community information, thank you letters from groups that we support and many other interesting items.



Messiah Chimes begins its 3rd year this summer, sharing the joy of music here and around town. On Sunday, July 21, listen for us ringing Celebration and All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name. Please speak to Martha or Dick Crofts for more information about chiming.



Messiah Calendar—July, 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 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:45	8 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	9 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:30 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Worship on the land 10:00 am Potluck lunch Chimes 12:30	15 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	16 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:30 pm	17	18 Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	19	20
21 Worship 10:00 am New Members Welcome Sunday Chimes 11:45	22 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	23 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:30 pm	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:45	29 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	30 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:30 pm	31			

July, 2024

Temporarily suspended for the summer

Women's Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

Contact Martha Crofts, 239-643-3027

or

Marla Ebel, 406-664-3178

for more information

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 Doug Beckman, Brook Feister, the family of Allen Hansen, Sherry Houser, Dolly and Jim Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Phyllis Kreatz, Shirley Petersen the children and grandchildren of Dick and DJ Rosekelly

July, 2024

Messiah Church Council

P.O. Box 1330 912 Lower Continental Dr.

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Church: (406) 446-2430

Church email: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Pastor's email: pastorbencherland@gmail.com

Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com

Pastor	Ben Cherland	646-708-1389c	pastorbencherland@gmail.com
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President	Linda Daily	406-426-0841c	lindatodd94@yahoo.com
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Vice President

Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	flynnquilt@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Kim Elsberry	406-425-0967	kelsberrybresnan.net
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	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	pschauer62@gmail.com
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Education	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	katregcha@gmail.com
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Family Life/Volunteer

Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	marthacrofts@gmail.com
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Outreach	Barb Ostrum	406-446-4121	hobin727@gmail.com
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Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	kkkreatz@gmail.com
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Stewardship

Worship	Dianne Milleson	406-425-3222	dmille46@gmail.com
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Other Important Contact Information

Computer	Gwen Williams	406-425-2401	(Text Gwen Only)
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Ministerial Ass'n.	Bryan Lowen	406-860-5571	(financial assistance to the community).
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Revised 0/508/2024

July, 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

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.



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