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# *Light in the Beartooths*

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

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Pastor Ben Cherland

This is my Father's world  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres

This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas  
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the ruler yet



Dear Messiah,

I sat down with four congregation members last night and heard some extraordinary stories. Each of us shared the story of our faith, and each of us had moments that mattered more than others. These moments took place amidst the questions, life events, and pivot points that become the stories of our lives. We each shared about our faith in the context of our life stories.

The Pastor's Bible Study (we continue to struggle with a better name) is turning toward our Sunday liturgy - the order and nature of what we do on Sunday mornings. The stories we shared are important when we take a closer look at liturgy because it truly (only?) opens up to us when we bring our stories and experiences (ourselves) into worship with us.

Do you know why we say the Lord's Prayer? Do you 'get' that long song toward the beginning that we sing right after we've just sung a hymn and I've "greeted" you? What is the deal with all those prayers? Why do we bring the offering up to the altar with communion?

The way we worship can be confusing and seem arbitrary sometimes, even though many of us have worshipped in this way for much of our lives. None of it is arbitrary, even though it feels like a mystery.

So this is an invitation. If you're curious about the liturgy, why we do what we do, come to the Pastor's Bible Study on Tuesday night at 6:00 pm.

I heard another story this week. A woman I know recently lost a loved one. She came to church on Sunday and was surprised when the words we say every week started lighting up with deeper meaning - speaking to her in a new way. The hymns seemed to be about what she is experiencing, as though God were speaking words of mercy, love, and comfort to her directly.

May, 2024

I am convinced that the stories of our lives meet the story of God - the larger story in which we all live - in the liturgy. Are you convinced? Would you like to be? Would you like a deeper understanding of and connection to what we do in worship on Sunday mornings? We're just beginning this study, there's room for more, and we would love your company.

Pastor Ben



At the passing of our brother in Christ, Allen Hansen - beloved child of God, and sinner/saint of God's own redeeming - we give thanks for the life he lived in service to God and neighbor. For the countless ways he served Messiah and communities near and far, for his good grace and generosity of self, and for all the ways he blessed our lives during his time among us, we give thanks to God who loves and receives us all.

May, 2024

Rowan, our visiting usher, welcomes David to worship



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

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

Christikon Clips

May 2024

Information for our Congregations



There is still room to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and families/adult sessions, including the

Work Weekend, May 24-27. Families register online. Remember there is no cost. Just bring your willing hearts and hands! See you there!

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 29-Aug 1) we feature Professor Jason Mahn. Session Topic: Gifted and Graced: Christian Discipleship in the Anthropocene- creation-centered discipleship that helps heal our relationship with earth.

Watch for more details on our website for both Continuing Ed and Mountain Weekend. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) .

We covet your prayers for Christikon’s this summer, for our summer and fulltime staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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



St John's United is a social ministry organization owned by 23 Lutheran congregations in Montana. St John's is a not-for-profit 501 (C) (3) organizations that provides living opportunities within a nurturing environment of hope, dignity and love. There are 22 locations located in within a several block area adjacent to Shiloh and Rimrock Rd in Billings.

St John's United is a life care community that serves 2,200 older adults each year. They provide a variety of low cost living arrangements to meet the needs of their residents. They have both independent living and assisted-living communities. St John's provides outpatient rehabilitation, inpatient transitional care, and hospice services at the end of life. They also can provide long term housing for patients and families of patients.

St John's United also provides high-quality early child care and education to promote children's development and learning. They promote parental employment and family self-sufficiency. The Center for Generations (CFG) provides affordable childcare for it's staff and community. It helps bridge the gap between low access to child care while providing meaningful intergenerational opportunities for residents and children.

Gainan Commons Evolution and Lutheran Rocky Mountains provide health and hospice family services, laboratory services, foster care, and refugee services and resettlement. All are part of this incredible organization.

St John's United has provided a summer concert series for 26 years. Please refer to the flyer for information.

St John's United depends on volunteers which helps to defray costs of their programs. If you are interested in volunteering please call 406 655 5390 or email:

[volunteer@stjohnsunity.org](mailto:volunteer@stjohnsunity.org)

## St John's United Project Advancements

- St John's United Primary Care: open in three months, presently leased by Intermountain Health.
  - Outpatient Rehab Center: relocation and development, replacement initiative, clinic will be twice as large. Requires a large amount of capital upfront.
    - Legacy building: partial demolition costs
- Ares and Centrum - development and marketing. Additional community needs 55+ and space for community in general. Construction costs of Ares project: 103,000,000. Completion scheduled for 2025.
  - Luther's Lodge needs remodeling
- First English Lutheran Church in Billings needs remodeling, \$700,000. Grant opportunities after raising 65-70% of costs.
  - Generations Educational Play Center cost: \$150,000
- Support for Sidney, Montana congregation. Community health



May, 2024

What's Going on at Messiah

## Meadowlark Tweets

Hello church family,

It's finally spring and soon to be summer and we are growing like a weed! We are up to 10 kids now in our program with a new family starting this month. The fence for our playground is up and we are working on getting woodchips spread out and starting a small garden! This summer we'll be running a half day Outdoor School program for up to 7 kids ages 5-12. The program will take place completely outside and run early June through late August. We hope to have some special guests like local community members to come do activities with the kids for things like fly fishing, ceramics, sports, and even learning about our local ecosystems! We can't wait to get started.

Thank you all for your kind donations this last April. We are incredibly grateful for the support. All funds received will go to our Tuition Assistance Fund and be used as a resource to cover tuition costs for program families dealing with unexpected financial crises.

Be well,

Meadowlark staff



Children have Sunday School during the adult worship service.

## COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on Monday, April 22

- A moment of silence and a prayer were offered in honor of Allen Hansen. He will be greatly missed on Council, in church and as a friend.
- We received Rob's resignation from council. We thank him for his service. His position, along with the vacancy left with Allen's passing are open to anyone interested in serving on Council. We will work to fill these later this summer.
- Financials look better this month. We are on par with last year for income and monthly expenses are being watched closely.
- Fellowship hour will go back to AFTER worship. Thanks to everyone for their patience as we tried something new. Adult Ed, when offered, will occur before worship. The worship committee will explore incorporating our Special Offering speakers during worship as part of a "Minute for Mission".
- The transition of our accounting services from Vicki to Paul is going well. Paul is getting up to speed on Quickbooks, organizing accounts and reconciling loose ends in the files. He should be full functioning next month. We expect this transition to save about \$2000 and allow us to receive reports and answer questions in a more timely manner.
- We passed motions to update signors on our safety deposit box, DA Davidson account, and Vanguard account and assigned Brooke to manage our Vanco online giving account.
- We reviewed costs to install exterior dawn-dusk light over door by kitchen and a remote fire alarm panel within the gathering space. We will move forward with the light and with recent education, feel the fire alarm trigger of the sanctuary doors closing is enough of a warning.
- Reviewed costs for shed and putting name on outside of building facing highway. We are getting another bid on the shed (current is around \$5000). Meadowlark may rent some space from us once built). We will move forward to have the 16" lettering done (\$950) and are exploring the cost to add a cross. Work will be done by Back Alley Metals.
- Landscaping around the building and parking lot will begin soon. Thank you for your patience if you are coming/going and they are working.
- Building use and costs will be reviewed and finalized this week and we will send to two interested parties.
- Discussed the option of having Sunday School end on May 26th and start up again Sept 1. Need to gather input from parents. Watch for special Sunday sessions during the summer.
- Council retreat was set for Saturday, Sept 14 from 9-12.



"Another year has flown past and the Messiah quilters and friends have over 70 warm and colorful quilts ready to pack up and deliver to Billings. At Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Billings, a semi truck will be waiting to load our Red Lodge quilts along with quilts from northern Wyoming and many other Montana stops. Some of those Wyoming quilts arrive in a horse trailer big enough for 6 horses; this is the West! Eventually the big truck will end up at a Minneapolis storage and distribution center.

The quilts are unpacked and baled to await transport to local and overseas destinations. Last year, Mali in Africa needed the most quilts as well as several other countries in Africa. The Eastern European nations of Georgia and Ukraine were also sent quilts last year.

Although the Lutheran World Relief group behind this effort doesn't require any kind of fee from participating quilt groups, they tell us the cost to ship one quilt is \$2.25. If you could help by sponsoring a few quilts (we counted over 70 this year), it would be appreciated. A check can be made to Messiah with a note in the memo saying "QUILTS". Thank you and the Messiah quilters and friends love their dedicated quilt room! "

## A Note from Your Treasurer

You may be aware that we have transitioned from Kim Elsberry as treasurer to me, Paul Schauer.

I want to thank Kim for all her hard work and for all of the continuing help with the transition. You may also be aware that we have transitioned from Elefering Bookkeeping, where a reduction in staff led them to a reduction in clients, to having me do the bookkeeping. This transition is ongoing as we also shifted to Quickbooks Online. I am very familiar with Quickbooks Desktop but the online version requires adjustments.

As treasurer, I want to draw your attention to the Light in the Beartooths/Mortgage account. Our pledge drive last fall indicated a little over \$49,000 pledged to help pay off the building mortgage in 2024. So far, our monthly mortgage income has not kept pace with that pledge amount. It's always difficult to tell when people will fulfill a pledge. It's also possible that circumstances have changed for some folks and they are unable to fulfill a pledge. If that is the case, please notify the office so that we are aware. As we, hopefully, move into summer, I simply want to let you know the status of the building mortgage payments.

On a personal note, I am relatively new to the congregation. My wife, LeeAnn, and I live in Red Lodge and in Wilton, North Dakota. I'm a retired pastor. My wife is the manager of the Wilton Ambulance Service and is mayor of Wilton. More importantly, as you drive down Platt Ave in Red Lodge, you may see a gold-colored house with a North Dakota State Bison sign in the window...that would be our home.

If the Bison flag is flying...that would mean that we're home.

May, 2024



- 5/5 Brent Moore
- 5/6 Joan Kyro
- 5/7 Lynn Sorensen  
Brian Langeliers
- 5/13 Sue Prather
- 5/14 Linda Daily  
Joan Skibber
- 5/27 Brooke Flynn
- 5/29 Brooke Feister  
Jim Koski
- 5/30 Barb Ostrum

### Cotton flannel sheets and yardage are still needed

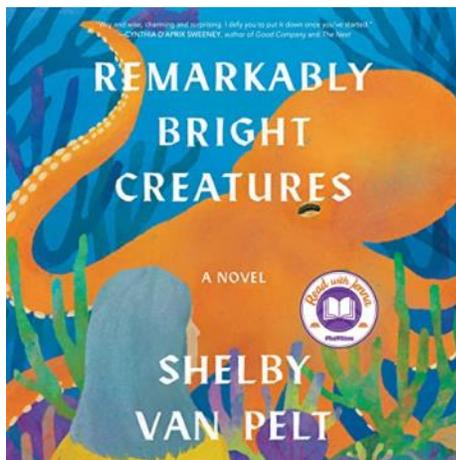
We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage for Pastor Schauer's wife, LeeAnn, to be made into diapers for Lutheran World Relief. Sheets can be used and stained because they will be cut up and the unusable parts will be discarded. Let's see if we can help out with this very worthy endeavor.

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 is Resuming

If you are interested in making prayer shawls, please contact Mary Ames.

## WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: May 16  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Book: Remarkably Bright Creatures  
Author: Shelby Van Pelt  
Facilitator: Martha Croft  
Location: Home of DJ Rosekelly  
Contact host, Marla Ebel,  
at 406-664-3178 for more  
information.

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.



# Messiah Calendar—May, 2024

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1	2	2	2
5 Audio/Visual Training 9:30 am  Worship 10:00 am  Chimes Noon	6 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	7 Women’s Bible Study 10:00 am  Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	8	9	10	11
12 Worship 10:00 am Chimes Noon   <i>Mother's Day</i>	13 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	14 Women’s Bible Study 10:00 am  Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	15	16 Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	17 DSVS Dinner 6:30 pm	18
19 Worship 10:00 am Chimes Noon  Pentecost Sunday Wear Red  	20 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	21 Women’s Bible Study 10:00 am  Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:00 am Chimes Noon	27 	28 Women’s Bible Study 10:00 am	29	30	31	

May, 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**

**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.

This month the people of Messiah are praying for Doug Beckman, Brook Feister, the family of Allen Hansen, Dolly and Jim Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Phyllis Kreatz, and Shirley Petersen

# 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

May, 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.