

MESSIAH LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Light in the Beartooths ~ Red Lodge, MT
Pastor Ben Cherland





Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Dear Messiah,

This is our last month of the liturgical calendar year that began Nov. 29th, 2020. Since then we have been in Year B, the year focused primarily on the Gospel of Mark. We have dwelled in the good news according to Mark for nearly a full year. This coming year, beginning on Nov. 28th, will be Year C and we'll be turning to the Gospel of Luke. I am sincerely excited to explore Luke's "orderly account" of the good news with you in this fast approaching new year.

Only three Sundays remain before the church year turns over. We will be worshipping in-person again and will have just three short weeks to bid the year farewell. It has been a unique year in the life of Messiah, never to be repeated again. Who knows what church will look like when Year B approaches again. Who knows who will be with us and who will not.

The first of these Sundays is All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7th. Always celebrated the first Sunday of November, its festival day is Nov. 1st - the day after All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. Our beloved dead seem nearer on each of these days. The veil that separates us thins in the evening, and we gather them up, remembering them in worship, holding them to the light in the morning. We give thanks for the witness of all those who've died among us, and the gracious welcome God has given them all, sinners and saints alike.

Who will you remember on November 7th this year?

Time is passing. Fewer and fewer leaves remain on the trees and the snow is coming. We move with time and things are beginning to change. We have two future-oriented meetings on Sunday Nov. 21st - Christ the King Sunday: Our annual budget meeting, and a discussion of our building project finances. We will receive the new cost of building soon. We'll share it at this meeting, then decide together how to move forward. While discussing a budget year and a building cost may not seem connected to Christ as King, we may have confidence, even as time moves inexorably on, in the one who reigns over us, holding us securely through our past, our present, and all that is to come.

Peace and every good to you,

Pastor Ben

“What is the Gospel in 4 Minutes or Less”



Why? Why this question? Don't we all know the answer to the question of "What is the gospel"? Frankly, I'm not sure we do. Or at least we don't necessarily share the same answer to the question of "What is the gospel"?

And so, it's important that we explore our different understandings of the gospel. They really don't emerge until we ask the question and begin to define.

Also, I think hearing other people's understandings of what the gospel is, or is not, and exploring them, can help enrich our understanding of the gospel and increase our faith. So, it's a faith formation thing.

And, finally, in the midst of all of this change that is happening to the church and in the church, I think it's important for us to go back to our core. I mentioned this before; to explore the core of who we are as followers of Christ and as Lutheran Christians.

And one of the core pieces, in fact, if not THE core piece is to ask ourselves, "What is the gospel"? And last time I talked about three non-negotiable pieces, but in fact, I think there are four understandings of how we know the gospel in the Lutheran church.

The first aspect is that when we talk about the gospel, it's the good news of Jesus Christ. The good news of Jesus Christ. Nobody else. Nothing else. Not the good news of a news media organization, or a politician, or a celebrity, or the latest TV show, or whatever else that we would want to put in that. It's the good news of Jesus Christ and nothing else.

The second non-negotiable aspect is that it is God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit who does the work of the gospel. Not us. Not other people. Nobody else. It is God, in Christ, through the Spirit who does the work, who verbs the gospel.

Third, the Good News is for all. It's for all people, it's for all identity groups, it's for all creation. All have received the promises, and all are invited to enter into those promises. The gospel is also for you. It's for all, but it's also specifically for you. So, remember that.

And finally, the fourth aspect is that it is free. The gospel is free, unconditional, no strings attached, no matter what.

And so, God does for you and all people no matter what. But what does God do for you? And what does God do for all of creation? Well, one thing that God does for you and all of creation is that God loves you. And I'll talk more about that next time.

Blessings on your week everybody,

Bishop Laurie

We Are Invited Into Silence

There are very few times in my life when I experience silence. There is the ever-present ambient noise of the city or the office: traffic, planes, power mowers, power tools, the intrusive alerts from computers signaling new emails or texts, ringtones. I find myself obsessively plugged into the news, Twitter and YouTube—all available all the time, portable and near at hand on my cell phone.

And then there is the noise in my head: racing thoughts, internal conversations, grocery lists, music. Even—or perhaps especially—when the world around me is mostly still, I notice that I am not.

I'm not sure what drives this acoustic and mental busyness, but I know I'm not the only one who so seldom experiences silence. Maybe we are just trying to get more stuff done. Maybe it's FOMO—fear of missing out. Maybe it's habit.

I do know that this constant noise and stimulation can be exhausting and stressful. The more noise, the louder we become in order to be heard, which leads to more noise.

In recent weeks we have been overwhelmed by disasters, natural and human-made. The West Coast is burning, and the Gulf Coast and East Coast are drowning. The elected Afghan government has fallen, and that 20-year war has come to an end. We are still stuck in this pandemic. We worry about our children who are too young to get vaccinated. We worry about our elders with comorbidities. We worry about ourselves.

In an effort to make sense of all this, we seek to gather more information and more data, which we hope will give us answers or show us a way out. There is no shortage of voices. We are bombarded with experts and pundits analyzing everything, talking and talking and talking. STOP.

The [prophet Elijah](#) had a profound experience of silence. He was fleeing for his life from the wrath of Jezebel. I imagine the stress was generating a lot of internal noise. But the word of the Lord came to Elijah and said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by" (1 Kings 19:11).

And then we read: "Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence" (11-12).

Wind and earthquakes and fire all seem reasonable when God makes an entrance. There are many instances in Scripture when God is announced in sound and pyrotechnics. But this story from 1 Kings has always caught my attention. The phrase in verse 12 is often translated as the sound of "a still, small voice." Yet it wasn't the sound of a voice that indicated that God was present. It was the sound of sheer silence. "When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and stood at the entrance of the cave" (13).

Silence.

Spending time [in silence](#) is a spiritual discipline. My spiritual director urges me to spend 20 minutes in silence every day. I can do about five. Silence is not a technique but a way of being in God's presence. It's pretty simple, but it's not easy. Sheer silence silences us—all of our defenses and self-justifications. It can be terrifying because in silence there is nothing between the soul and its source of being. No wonder that Elijah, when he heard the sound of sheer silence, wrapped his face in his mantle. He was in the presence of the Holy.

We are invited into silence. In the words of the hymn: "Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand" (ELW, 490).

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





Church Council met on October 19th. Highlights are below. Full meeting minutes and financials can be found on the bulletin board.

- A joint Thanksgiving service with Red Lodge Community Church and the Episcopal Church is being planned. More details to follow.
- Pastor offered the church as a possible location for members of Americorp to stay at for a week in November. We will wait to hear on this.
- The Community Church is starting a youth choir for grades 1-5.
- The Christmas Kids Shoppe will not take place this year. We are looking for alternate ways to serve the community this year.
- Reminder of Congregational Budget approval meeting and Building Meeting on Nov. 21 after worship.
- Audit Committee duties were reviewed and approved
- The Tjelveit Scholarship has a balance. Kim will reach out to Carbon County schools to remind them that we have a scholarships for anyone attending an ELCA college.

We meet again November 9th at 4:30 PM



BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Civil Engineer and Structural Engineer services were engaged in order to give more solid plans to the builder in order for him to provide a final cost to build.
- Two pillars will need to be added to the Gathering Room in order to accommodate snow load for that long stretch from the front of the building to the Sanctuary wall.
 - Ideas are being generated for a grant application
 - Solar panels are being explored as a way to offset future energy costs

Women's Safari Book Club

Date: November 18th

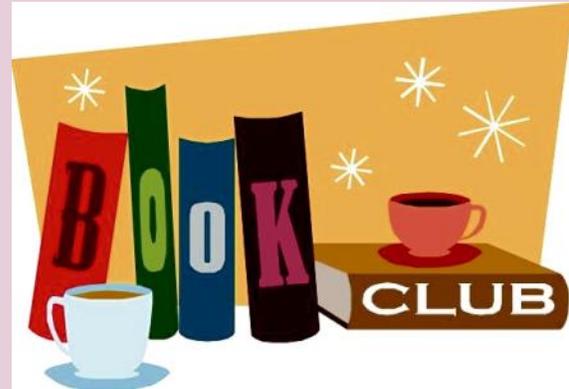
Time: 3:00 PM (Ongoing until Spring)

Book: Peace Like a River

Author: Lief Enges

Facilitator: Marietta Johnson

Location: Kim Elsberry's house



Contact host, Marla Ebel, at 426-8277 if you need more info



OUR COVID
RESPONSE



How We Worship Together Safely

Though Covid19 case numbers remain high in Carbon County, the Messiah Council with Pastor Ben has decided that we will be open to in-person worship for November. These are the guidelines under which we will reopen.

- Masks will continue to be required
- The vaccine and the booster (for those to whom it is available) are highly recommended
- Washing hands regularly and often, even and especially at church, is strongly encouraged
 - If you feel unwell in any way, please stay home (Zoom will continue to be available)
 - If you feel uncomfortable at all gathering in person, please stay home

We truly all share the responsibility for the health of our community. Being closed in October was an effort undertaken for the sake of our neighbor. Opening will require just as much care in order to stay open.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Ben

Fall Cleanup

Thanks to everyone who helped with raking over this last month. While we wait for snow, the ground at church remains uncovered and those needles continue to fall. Your continued help in getting them raked and bagged is appreciated!



Would you be willing to help a home-bound congregation member make it to church on Sundays? Pastor Ben has a growing list of folks who want to come but are unable to get themselves here. Contact Pastor Ben if you would be willing to help grow our gathering by giving someone a lift.



Barb Ostrum's Easy Lemon Cake Recipe

(Served at Maureen's Birthday gathering)

Ingredients:

1 boxed lemon cake mix
1 can lemon pie filling (like Wilderness)
4 whole eggs



Directions:

Mix together and beat well. Pour into greased/floured 9 by 13 pan. Bake about 30 minutes. Frost with vanilla or lemon frosting.

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.



Online Giving is LIVE!

When was the last time you checked out Messiah's website? Never?

Now is a good time to give it a try. Why? Because our Online Giving Portal is open and you can support Messiah financially from the comfort and convenience of your home...or any place else you happen to be when the Spirit moves you.

It's simple! Our website address is :

www.redlodgemessiah.com

When you open the site link it goes to our Home Page where you can access lots of information about Messiah, join us for Zoom worship, watch the previous week's service, and another link by placing your mouse over the blue/green 'button' (on the right side of the Home Page):



A single left click takes you to our Vanco provider and you can make a secure donation to our Ministries by selecting whichever tiles you prefer. Give it a try! You might be surprised to learn how easy it is.

~Allen Hansen—Stewardship~



NOVEMBER 2021



**November's Special Offering:
Campus Ministries
(U of M, MSU, and UND)**



MSU Campus Ministries is an inclusive, caring, Christ-centered community at Montana State University, serving our campus and beyond.

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Montana State University, committed to interfaith collaboration and partnered with the academic community, includes, challenges, and guides students in integrating learning, faith, action and vocation both on and beyond our campus.

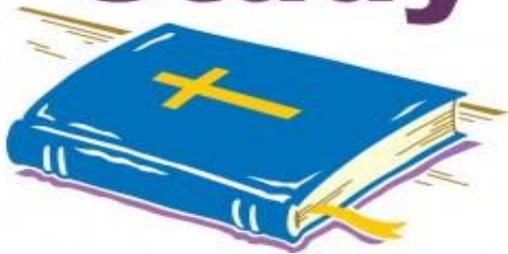
At U of M Emmaus Lutheran Campus Ministry, we don't have all the answers, but we love to ask the hard questions. Some of us are firm believers, some are doubters, some come for the good food. We talk about what's important in life and what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and slow things down to connect with our spirituality, each other, and God.

Everyone is on a spiritual journey. Cru is a Christian campus ministry at the University of North Dakota that helps you take your next step through mentors, Bible studies, fellowship, and more.

Your contributions give our students opportunities to grow in faith via retreats, seminars, and service trips, and your partnership in ministry makes a dedicated campus faith community rooted in the Lutheran commitment to scripture, faith, grace and Christ possible.

Thank you!

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
Marphel Ballentine
Manuel Cabanas
Amy Crane
Lenny Erickson
Brooke Feister
Larry Fry
Nancy Gasparro
Nathan Green

Del Harris
Ruth Hilderman
Andrea Holmen
Jim Johnson
Rick Koski
Neil Laird
Ray Loyning
Edythe Miller
Shirley Overton

Tallu Quinn
Kenneth Rich
James "Bud" Ridenour
Dick Rosekelly
DJ Rosekelly
Marianne Schapendonk
Julie Schweitzer
Josh Wilker
Jim Zenz



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.**



- 11/4 Maren Holmen
- 11/8 Lanae Ebel
- 11/9 Monica Thuesen
- 11/15 Andy Grygiel

Newsflash—Big Change!

Pastor Ben's Hours have changed. He will now be taking Thursdays off instead of Mondays. Please see his full schedule on the last page of the newsletter

	5	6
	<i>schedule changes!</i>	
	12	13

November 25th

Happy Thanksgiving



Daylight Savings Time Ends—November 7th

Please remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday evening

Please note: Cell phones will automatically update the time.

Christikon Clips

November 2021

Information for our Congregations



Our summer calendar is set and on our website (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2022 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.

The 2021 Annual Meeting is Sunday November 14th. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2022 season, construction, and much more.

Due to COVID concerns we will meet online via the Zoom platform, and will send connection instructions to congregations and Delegates in early November. Because this negates the need for travel, the **meeting will start at 1pm.**

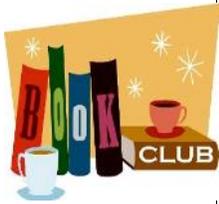
We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year.

Thank you as always for all the ways you support 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

Messiah Calendar—November

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 All Saints Day	2 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship All Saints Sunday Color: White Daylight Savings Time Ends	8	9 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 AM Worship Color: Green	15	16 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study Online Council Meeting 4:30	17	18 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm 	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship Christ the King Sunday Color: White Congregational Meeting followed by 2022 Budget Meeting	22	23 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study Online	24	25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	26	27
28 9:30 AM Worship Color: Blue	29	30 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study Online				

NOVEMBER 2021

Messiah's Mission:

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



HOW TO CONTACT US AND STAY IN TOUCH:

Church Office: 406-446-2430

Office Hours: Administrative: Mon-Thurs. 9-1

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00-4:00

Tuesday : 9:00-4:00

Wednesday: 9:00-3:00 (Text Study 10:00-11:30)

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**



Messiah Lutheran Church

Red Lodge

Light in the Beartooths