
Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Messiah Lutheran Church, Pastor Ben Cherland



We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Whose kingdom calls all to the love which endures.
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
You, Lord, were at our side; all glory be yours!

We all do extol you, our leader triumphant,
And pray that you still our defender will be.
Let your congregation escape tribulation:
Your name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Netherlands Folk Hymn

November, 2022

Dear Messiah,

Your church council met on the last Saturday in October at the home of council member Barb Ostrum. We sat around her big back living room that looks out on Rock Creek. Since the flood, her property has changed, but it was still a beautiful setting to share in conversation, to dream big, reflect and do some planning. I want to share with you some of the conversation that took place, and maybe start your own imagining.

Light in the Beartooth. It's a beautiful idea and image - one that pre-existed my time here with you. I see it reflected in our church sign, now waiting to be "planted" on the land with the new church. I see it reflected in the way we do church together - supporting each other, lending hands and funds and care wherever we can and whenever needed. I see it in this community, the many ways individuals support various organizations in Red Lodge, in Billings and all over this part of the state. Such readiness and desire to serve is a quiet thing that sheds a special kind of light in a world that needs it.

It's a phrase that describes us and has guided our sense of ministry and mission for some time. Since I've come, it has been associated with our building fund bank account. References to that account (LIB) were how I first heard the phrase. Over these past two years there have been many references to that account, but my imagination has been wanting to use it differently, in a far bigger way, with a far broader use.

Many council members who have been a part of Messiah, and known this phrase far longer than me, shared that it has never just been the name of a bank account - it's always described the doing of mission that is central to Messiah Lutheran Church. That mission has had diverse expression, though these last years it has been focused on the construction of this new building. Today the building stands, the interior is taking shape with drywall on the way. Six or seven months from now (God willing) we will be moving into this new facility - this expression of our mission will have been accomplished.

God's mission though is never accomplished. Addressing the need we see with the innumerable people around the world seeking to serve, working to alleviate suffering, supporting communities, people and ecosystems - this work is never done. God continues to call people forth, beyond what has been accomplished (and all the setbacks as well) to love and serve our neighbors. God calls us into participation in what God is already doing in the world, in Montana, in Red Lodge, and at Messiah for the sake of our neighbor.

Knowing that God will be and is calling us into that participation even as we look ahead to and beyond the end of construction, my question today is what shape that participation will take for us? In what ways is God calling us to deepen our identity as Light in the Beartooths? How is God calling us to bear this identity of *Light* into the future— the future of this congregation in and BEYOND the new building? For the *Light* is still burning, still in need of bearing, especially as the dark of winter descends.

Your Council has some suggestions, some ideas around what shape this bearing might take. We will share some of them with you at our Annual Meeting February 5th (mark your calendars!) But for now, beloved, continue to let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Pastor Ben

November, 2022

Some Thoughts From a Kogudus Retreat

“Blessed to be a Blessing”

Allen Hansen

Susan Hedahl, in *Working Preacher*, describes joy as a radical, emotional effect of radical human action to fulfill Jesus’ commandments. She calls this joy ‘a holy hilarity’! Having no sense of humor, as noted frequently by colleagues, and uncomfortable with the types of ‘spiritual exercises’ so frequently used at assemblies, workshops, and meetings, it was, indeed, ironic to be ‘invited’ to be one of the Holy Hilarity leaders at the most recent Montana Women’s Prison (MWP), “Blessed to be a Blessing” Retreat – my first ever experience with Kogudus. The punchline of my first joke was, “Who signed me up for this?” Of course, the answer is, “The hand of God!”

Kogudus is radical human action. And my first Kogudus experience was, by every metric, a holy hilarity. No, it was neither the quality of the shared jokes, although many of participant’s jokes were quite good, nor the conduct of the spiritual exercises provided by Kogudus that filled us with joy. It was the unfettered openness, willingness to share, and welcoming nature of the twenty inmate participants that made our MWP visit so very special. According to participants, it was the selfless acts of leadership and service of the dozen volunteers that gave them hope, filled them with joy. I wondered how many inmates made the connection between the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, “...filled with compassion and ran and threw his arms around him,” and the reception they might receive when released from MWP. I think they did. And many realized through the Parable of the Talents that we, inmates and Kogudus leaders, are all entrusted with ‘talents’ so they did take risks and share their gifts of perspective in a spirit of service and thanksgiving.

Several of the participants were currently unchurched or had never experienced church. Some came from faith community experiences. Many were raised with indigenous expressions of belief (40% of the participants were Native/Indigenous as are Montana’s inmates in general). Some, especially from evangelical backgrounds, had incredibly and firmly established faith. But what seemed to resonate with them all was the very Lutheran concept of grace, the unconditional love and forgiveness demonstrated in action and Word. They were unaccustomed to that treatment and welcomed it.

Michael, one of the Kogudus leaders, quoted a passage from Hebrews 13 – “Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them.” Perhaps this is the greatest lesson I carried away from my experience. I could not understand until I got close enough to the inmates’ experiences, their lives, their despair, and their loss to make them mine.

Now I hope for them, I pray for them, I wish their burdens lifted and their hope restored. And, as soon as Greg and crew organize another retreat, sign me up!

SPECIAL OFFERING

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.



Our special offering for November supports U of M Emmaus Campus Ministry, Christus Collegium, and MSU Lutheran Campus Ministry. Last year we utilized three Thrivent Grants (\$250 each) and collected (I believe) \$277 to sponsor campus activities on the U of Montana and Montana State campuses including: Outings and Adventures, Taize Prayer Service, Retreats, Book Clubs, Blood Drives, Faith & Faculty Dinner, Habitat for Humanity, Dinner Church, Co-op Living, Soup Kitchen, Ashes to Go, Service Projects and the following Workshops: Faith in Action, Loving Our Muslim Neighbors, Mental Health Awareness, Bishop Bos—Love of All, and Out of the Closet and Into the Bible.

We used a fifth Thrivent Grant to support UND’s visit to our town and facility and provided generous quantities of home-baked cookies for three of these events.

Perhaps we do not see our dollars being spent but we can see results; many of our pastors grew their faith while participating in Campus Ministries and were inspired to enter ministry, i.e., Pastors Jayson and Stacey. And we can look to the programs’ Facebook or Instagram pages and see young adults in action, living out their faith – “welcoming freaks, fools, questioning believers, & everything in between!” Our contributions help campus Pastors JP Carlson and John Lund engage these students, maintain four off-campus student residences, provide a two credit, 400 level social work course (Leadership, Faith, and Social Action) and serve the community.

Our dollars, God’s dollars, are being well spent.

Allen Hansen



EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

Be Yourself, Love the World, Make a Difference

Fall 2022
ecmum.org

Solar Panels and Hard Conversations



Rev. John Lund

We have solar panels on both the Ark and Emmaus House buildings!! This has been a long time coming as we first started to dream

about solar panels years ago, and tried grant writing to Northwest Energy in 2017. We finally got there working with a non-profit called RE-volv. RE-volv installed and will own and maintain the panels and transformers for 20 years, while we pay a lease payment comparable to our current electric bill. As local utility rates rise our payments will stay the same. After 20 years we will own the panels free and clear and should get another ten years of use from them. Emmaus put down an initial \$7,000 to keep our lease payments comparable to the savings from our electric bill.

The financial benefits are not immediate: it is definitely a long game. The driving reasoning has

more to do with where our energy is coming from than how much it will affect our budget. When we turn on the lights we know that most of the source of that power comes directly from the sun, rather than a coal burner turning a turbine and pumping out CO². We have a total of 30 panels on both houses which will account for about 85% of our electrical use. (Our beautiful trees block the other 15%).

Last week our students and young adults reflected on what this means for them. We talked about the variety of feelings we carry when we think about the state of the planet and our future together. We talked about the critical time in history that we are in, the changes that will have to be made to cut back on carbon outputs, the many layers of denial and resistance in our country (and in ourselves), the lack of progress that we have made, and the politicized and polarized nature of the conversations.

Common responses included layers of anxiety, sadness, and anger along with times of indifference. Students also talked about times of paralysis, hopelessness and despair. We acknowledged that many of us carry these feelings in our bodies most of the time, almost as a running baseline. If they are not currently present, they are just under the

surface. We thought about the impacts of holding these realities and emotions as we go through our days and our lives. The old phrase, "don't worry, be happy" just doesn't cut it anymore. Maybe it never did.

Along with these hard realities, there were also expressions and feelings of hope and resolve. Many of our students believe that change is still possible. They are committed to building the social and political will to cut back our carbon outputs to the necessary levels to ensure longevity for the current species on our planet.

Many are committing their careers and lives to this change. They know this is the most important work of their lifetime, and they want to be part of the process of imagining and building a sustainable world with humans still in it. They also realize that the most impacted people are the poor and disenfranchised. They see their own life stability and education as both privilege and responsibility. They also see their own life experiences, love of the land, faith grounding, and education as resources that give them the drive and opportunity to be part of the healing and change that is needed in the years to come.

Putting solar panels on our roof is a step in reducing our carbon

(continued, page 3)

10th Annual

 A Fall Fundraiser
 See feature, page 3!

("Solar Panels", continued)
footprint. It's part of building a culture of consciousness and earth-care in all that we do. It's part of revisiting our core values, our understandings of humans in relation to the rest of creation, our spiritual life, our definitions of "the good life", and the role of religion and faith communities in our culture.

As Christians, we know the goodness of all creation, and we know we have been given the job as caretakers and stewards. We are called to deeply love our neighbor, and we know the neighbor extends all humans on the planet, and to all living beings on the earth.

We cannot elevate nor separate ourselves from any of it. Much of the work today calls for spiritual renewal, ethical dialogue, repentance, prophetic voice, and collective community working towards change for the sake of the

whole and for those who come after us. That is all the language of church. Our young adults are waiting for us to step up. Perhaps this is our time to step into the hard conversations and be the church that we are called to be.



Council Corner

Council met on Oct 18. You can find our full minutes and financials in the member section on our website or by contacting Dianne at redlodgemessiah@gmail.com.

The bulk of our meeting was spent on building our 2023 budget. We were absolutely blown away when we heard the results of our stewardship drive. It is so humbling to be a part of a congregation with so much faith in what we are doing and the difference we can make for those around us. Results of the Stewardship drive will be found in the 2023 Budget Preview letter that will go out to members and associates prior to our budget meeting. The congregation will be presented with the 2023 general budget on November 13th and be given the opportunity to ask questions and ultimately approve it.

The quilt raffle raised almost \$2100 for the Kitchen Fund. This will help with appliance costs and any other items we need for the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who quilted, sold and bought tickets!

Pastor has joined the DSVS Board of Directors, began an Excellence in Leadership course through the Rocky Mountain Synod, is a middle school mentor for DSVS and a small group facilitator with Common Good Missoula. We fully support his service to us here at Messiah as well as his service to others locally and statewide.

Our next Council meeting will be on November 15th at 4:30pm.

Christikon Clips

November 2022

Information for our Congregations



Our summer calendar is set and on our website (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2023 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 2022 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday November 13th at 3:30pm. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2023 season, construction, and much more. We will be meeting in person at Big Timber Lutheran Church. For those who cannot attend we will have a Zoom link available which we will send to your congregational delegates and pastors.

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

September 14, 2022

Messiah Lutheran Church
PO Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068



Dear Friends at Messiah:

On behalf of everyone connected with the Christikon ministry, please convey my sincere thanks to those from your congregation who were involved in supporting Christikon ministry through their part in the April Online Benefit Auction. We were so pleased to have their artistry and fine work! The results of their efforts:

Auction Item	Person(s) Involved	Sale Price
Lori's Wild Geese	John and Brooke Flynn, Mary Ames, Vicki Kittle, Grace Maxwell, and Barb Ostrum. LaVonne Ervin Red Lodge Charity Quilters	750
Peridot Birthstone Set	Dennis and Kathleen Kreatz	200

Total raised for Christikon \$950

I want to thank you for your support of the camp's work through your contribution to the 2022 Online Benefit Auction. It was a wonderful adventure! Between our Live and Facebook auction items, Developmentally Disabled Adult and Sojourners Scholarships, Camp Equipment and other gifts, the day raised just over of \$46,000. We are indeed blessed!

While we try to contact each person who contributed individually, we don't always have all the needed information to do so. Your help in passing on our thanks is appreciated.

We are grateful to our congregations for all the ways they support Christikon's ministry, and we're especially grateful for all who invested their skills, time and resources in the Benefit Auction.

Again, thanks for your part in all this. Please continue to keep Christikon in your prayers.

Kerry signs on my behalf. I pray all is well with you and yours. Have a great fall!

Best,

Mark Donald

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ — exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

1108 24th Street West
Billings, Montana 59102-3810
406 656-1969

Mark Donald, Pastor/Director
[http:// www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)
director@christikon.org

summer: 4661 Boulder Road
McLeod, Montana 59052-8839
406 932-6300

An outdoor ministry of Lutheran congregations in southern Montana and northern Wyoming. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

November, 2022

Building Report

Siding has started to go on the outside and sheetrock will be placed on the walls and ceilings starting the first week of November. We decided to go with can lighting in the sanctuary vs pendant lighting. We feel there will be far less distraction with can lights and the cost is significantly lower. We will still have wall sconces. After much discussion and consultations, we decided to use sheetrock on the ceiling of the Sanctuary vs rustic, reclaimed wood. This decision was made primarily for acoustic reasons. There is no significant cost difference between the two and we wanted to allow the cross that Allen is making to be front and center and not clash between wood types. We moved a wall between the storage closet next to the entry in order that we can now have 2 rooms large enough for Sunday School and/or Child Care.



*Please keep those pictures coming!
Susan Leaverton is keeping a photo
journal of the progress on our new
building. If you have pictures,*



National Adoption Month has come a long way in the past fifty years. What began as Adoption Week in Massachusetts has since blossomed into a month-long, nationwide effort to expand awareness of the thousands of children and youth in foster care looking to find a permanent home.

In November, St. John's United Family Services lifts up people who have been changed by adoption. We are grateful for those who take a leap of faith to grow their family. We cherish birthparents who trust us to help make an adoption plan. Most importantly, we recognize the infants, children, and youth raised in loving adoptive homes.

What's your adoption story? Six in ten Americans have a personal experience with adoption. This experience may be as an adopted child, as a birthparent or an adoptive parent of a child, or having a family member or friend who was adopted.

To learn more about adoption or to share your adoption story,

go to www.stjohnsunity.org or contact

St. John's United Family Services at (406) 655-5425.

November Birthdays

11/4 Maren Holmen

11/8 Lanae Ebel

11/9 Monica Theusen

11/15 Andy Grygiel

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 6th !

Please remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday evening

Please note: Cell phones will automatically update the time.

Community Choir

The Community Church is inviting all interested singers to participate in performing the Christmas Cantata "What Sweeter Music, a Festival of Carols" by Mark Hayes. Practice times are Mondays at 7pm and Wednesdays at 1:30pm.

The Cantata will be performed at the Community Church December 18 at 3pm.

Flowers

Please contribute to the altar flower fund at the Episcopal church. Any amount is appreciated. Write your check to Calvary Episcopal Church with "flowers" in the memo line. You may sign on a particular Sunday if you wish to honor someone. The sign up sheet is in the hallway corridor across from the women's restroom.



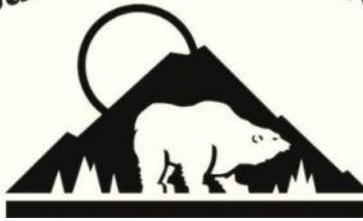
CHIMERS CALLING CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

Messiah Chimers are rehearsing to make music during the annual Christmas Stroll. While they ring, carolers will encourage passersby to join in Christmas songs. Can you share Messiah Lutheran's singing spirit for an informal 15 minutes' gig?

To join the holiday spirit—singing or ringing—please speak to Martha or Dick Crofts or phone the church office.

November, 2022

BareTooth Cupboards



Hello Messiah Lutheran Church,

Greetings Neighbors! We hope this message finds you doing well. Autumn is here, and that means Town Pump is generously DOUBLING all DONATIONS up to \$7,500 through Nov. 30th.

Donating is quick and easy at www.baretoothcupboards.org or by snail mail at PO Box 665, Red Lodge, MT 59068. During our annual fundraiser, your donation dollars will go twice as far.

Last year BareTooth Cupboards met its goal, and we are confident that with your support, we will reach it again this year. As always, the folks at BareTooth Cupboards are grateful for the support of this community.

Thanks again for your support!

FLU SEASON IS BACK!

PLEASE BE ATTENTIVE TO YOUR HEALTH: REGULAR HAND WASHING, EATING PLENTY OF VITAMIN C, AND EVEN GETTING YOUR MASK BACK OUT WILL HELP MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF ANY BUGS, INCLUDING COVID. AND REMEMBER, IF YOU FEEL ILL OR EVEN JUST A LITTLE "FUNNY," FEEL FREE TO STAY HOME AND REST UP.

LOW INCOME HOME *Energy* ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

How LIHEAP can help:

- Energy Assistance helps pay part of winter heating bills from October 1st through April 30th.
- Emergency Assistance, in certain circumstances, is available to help with furnace repairs or emergencies.

DO I QUALIFY?

To qualify for LIHEAP assistance, you must meet these requirements:

- Be responsible for paying your home's heating costs.
- Be a United States citizen or legally admitted for permanent residency.
- Meet the following income and resource guidelines:

Household Members	Income Limits	Resource Limits
1	\$28,136	\$12,645
2	\$36,793	\$18,975
3	\$45,450	\$20,241
4	\$54,108	\$21,507
5	\$62,765	\$22,773
6	\$71,422	\$24,039

WHAT DO I NEED?

Before mailing your application, make sure you:

- Answer all questions completely.
- Ensure everyone in the home is included on the application.
- Ensure everyone age 16 or older signs and dates the application.
- Include your recent heat and electric bills.
- Include income records for the previous month for everyone not receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- Include a recent bank statement for all open bank accounts.
- Include copies of Social Security cards.

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply, you need to submit an application by April 30, 2023.

An application can be found at liheap.mt.gov or by contacting your local LIHEAP eligibility office.



Scan me!



Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera to visit the liheap.mt.gov website and apply today!

If you've been approved for LIHEAP or SNAP, you may be **automatically eligible for the Low Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)**!



UPDATED JULY 2022

BEAR PAW QUILT RAFFLE

CONGRATULATIONS TO

RUTH ORTIZ,

WINNER OF THE BEAR PAW

QUILT RAFFLE!!!

We are pleased to announce that the quilt raffle raised nearly \$2,100 which will go toward the LIB kitchen fund.

Thank you to everyone who participated...quilters, ticket sellers and all who purchased tickets.



CHRISTMAS KIDS SHOPPE IS BACK!!!

We will be having our Christmas Kids Shoppe again this year in the Roosevelt Community Center.

We will be setting up gifts December 2 at 9 am. The kids shoppe will be December 3 from 9 am to 3 pm. Please keep your treasures boxed up at home and bring them to The Roosevelt Center December 2.



You can contact Barb Ostrum or Jeri Kyner for more information.

Women's Safari Book Club

Date: November 17

Time: 3:00

Book: The Last Bookshop in London

Author: Madeline Martin

Facilitator: Donna Downing

Location: Home of Kim Elsberry

Contact host, Marla Ebel, at 406-664-3178 if you need more information.

November, 2022

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

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Lowell Anderson	Jim Johnson	James "Bud" Ridenour
Emma Balsam	Jim Koski	Dick Rosekelly
Robyn Brownlow and Adaya Lynn	Rick Koski	DJ Rosekelly
Manuel Cabanas	Sandy Koski	Christian Strickland
Lenny Erickson	Jim & Linda Lian	Al & Dolly Stuber
Brooke Feister	Ray Loyning	The family of Mitzi Vorachek
Cassidy Flynn	Howard Marquart	Josh Wilker
Jesse Graves	Lois Miller	Eva Wilker
Andrea Holmen	Shilo Moncada and Kingston	Jim Zenz
	Vanessa Reyes	

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.**

November, 2022

Messiah Calendar— November, 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1 10:00 Women's Bible Study Building Committee Meeting 4:00	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time ends 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Choirchimes Following Worship	7	8 10:00 Women's Bible Study	9 Pastor Ben will be away until the 17th	10	11	12
13 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Choirchimes Following Worship	14	15 10:00 Women's Bible Study Church Council 4:30 Building Committee Meeting 4:00		17 3:00 pm Safari Book Club Home of Kim Elsberry	18	19
20 Christ the King Sunday 9:00 am Joint Worship Choirchimes	21	22 10:00 Women's Bible Study	23	24 THANKS- GIVING DAY	25	26
27 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Choirchimes following	28	29 10:00 Women's Bible Study Building	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 located in the Commons Room at Calvary Episcopal Church: 406-446-2430

Office Hours: Administrative: Mon-Thurs. 11 am - 3 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: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Pastor Ben: pastorbencherland@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 Fellowship

10:30 Worship

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.