
Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Messiah Lutheran Church, Pastor Ben Cherland



In Honor of Indigenous Peoples Day

As the Montana and N. Wyoming Synod, we gather and live on lands blessed and cared for by the people and ancestors of the Crow/Appsalooke, the Northern Cheyenne, the Salish Kootenai, the Blackfeet/Niitsitapi, the Assiniboine/Nakoda, the Chippewa and Cree, the Sioux, the Gros Ventre, and the Little Shell tribes and nations.

We recognize and honor the many generations across time immemorial of Indigenous peoples who have lived in holy relationship with these lands long before us and continue to live among and alongside us.

October, 2022

Dear friends,

I will always recall [the conversation I had with Joy Harjo in 2021](#) as a great experience in a very hard year. It started inauspiciously on the technical front. As U.S. Poet Laureate, she was practically living on Zoom even more than the rest of us. We had trouble connecting. Then someone next door to where she was sitting in Tulsa was running a noisy machine that was beyond jarring. We finally stopped pausing and hoping it would pass. We just had to let the experience be imperfect, like the world in which it was unfolding. And on that, Joy Harjo was possessed of a captivating wry wit and was magnificently wise, often transcendently so, even when illuminating the hardest of realities.

I'll be sitting with her again — this time by way of the time travel of listening back, and anew — on Indigenous Peoples' Day this coming Monday. I wonder what I'll hear this time that I didn't catch last time, or that wasn't ready to land in me. I invite you to listen with me on this long weekend, from your own corner of the world. We've woven it into a playlist below with other conversations, from across the years of *On Being*, towards this critical and communal remembering that being alive in this time calls us to. Each and every one of these conversations has shaped me: with [Ernie La Pointe](#), Sitting Bull's grandson; with the botanist [Robin Wall Kimmerer](#), whose books have moved our entire culture; with the remarkable poet [Layli Long Soldier](#); with [David Treuer](#) about the Ojibwe language lost and found; and with my fellow journalist [John Biewen](#), who grew up in a Minnesota place that had what felt like a parallel universe of history that he did not learn about in school, but that he needs to work with in order, himself, to be whole. You'll also find a conversation between Pádraig and Diné poet [Jake Skeets](#).

We'll ponder what is emerging, and all we're learning, and all we're capable of, as we step into the world ahead.

With love,

Krista Tippett (Host of NPR's On Being podcast)

To access the highlighted links, click while holding down the Ctrl key

Dear Messiah,

If you have been to worship these last weeks, either in person or remotely, you know that the sermons of late have been themed on stewardship. In my preaching I have been seeking to help you consider what it means to support the church through your giving. My own thoughts around this topic have been evolving over these weeks and my engagement with our readings has deepened. I wonder if your thoughts have been evolving as well.

Have you been impacted by anything you've heard regarding "stewardship" this fall? Stewardship is a good word, but only in some respects. The word reminds us of the story of creation, God's gift of creation to the first human beings and their responsibility in turn to care for it. This is a helpful translation for the responsibilities of church members to steward the church gifted and entrusted to them by the generations that came before and for the sake of those who come after. But the word "stewardship" does not convey the fullness of what financial generosity to one's church is all about. For Lutherans, we understand that what we give was first given to us. We see our giving as a response to the gift of God's gracious love and saving action in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is part of the way I see my own giving - not only a means of supporting a community and institution I love, but a response to the work of our God who loves us.

To some, this might sound naive. We live in a culture, after all, that is structured around money and the free flowing of capital across every boundary you can imagine: Nations, oceans, county lines and human bodies, to name a few. The economic system we live in does bestow gifts in exchange for currency - it "provides" based solely on merit, earning capacity, and interest rates. It not only influences the way we see the world, it creates it as well as us in its image. Whether we are Christian or not, it's hooks are deep in us. For those of us who are Christian and seeking to discern clearly the meaning of this counter cultural thing called "stewardship" and how we might apply it to our lives as church, where are we to look for answers?

I think we should start with worship. As with much of the liturgy, giving is itself a gift. Immediately following the Prayers of the People and the sharing of the Peace of Christ, we receive the offering - the first "move" of the communion liturgy. Including the offering in the communion liturgy is a remarkable thing. This gift of God to us in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is an unmerited intaking of God's grace. In it, we are unburdened from all the ways our culture tells us any gift must first be earned. If we consider this meal central to worship, and its effect one of "unburdening," how does our giving reflect this element of the meal?

The opportunity to give in worship is a tool God gives us. God's invitation in this moment of worship is to take it up and find ourselves unshackled from this world that so needs saving. Giving turns out to be an act of faith: Unburdened and unshackled, what we give turns out to be our very selves - freely given and fully received.

Pastor Ben



He was a young man. In his early 20s. He had cancer. His mother and stepfather cared for him to the point of weariness. The family was unchurched, but a friend was a member of our parish and asked if I could visit them. That's how I came to walk with them in the last months.

There were hospitalizations and finally palliative care. The young man endured with stoic courage. His mother and stepfather never wavered in their care. Friends supported the family by bringing meals and sometimes just sitting in silence with them. At last, the call I knew was coming came. The young man had died.

I drove to the farmhouse past the cemetery where he would be buried. When I arrived the stepfather opened the door and motioned me to the living room. The young man had died in his mother's arms. He had stopped shaving some weeks before, so his beard had grown in. Mother cradling the body of her dead son. It was a modern-day pietà.

In my time with the family, I found out that the stepfather was not baptized. I'll call him Jim. We had many talks sitting at the wooden kitchen table—some profound, some less so.

And Jim had questions: not so much why this had happened to his stepson, but where was God? Where was hope? He knew his wife and son had been baptized. Jim wanted to know what that meant, what difference it made.

I answered that God was with Jim's stepson in his pain. I explained that baptism was the gift of life that brought forgiveness, that [baptism](#) made us part of the body of Christ, the church, and that baptism made those who had been strangers from God and each other part of the same family. I told him that baptism was an unbreakable relationship between God and God's people because God loves us and doesn't want to lose a single one of us, that not even [death](#) can separate us from God's love.

Jim asked to be baptized. He came to the realization that, as it has been said, water really is thicker than blood. Baptism doesn't guarantee a life without struggle or hardship, but it makes us part of the one who suffered, died and was buried—and who, through that suffering and death, defeated death. So, at that wooden kitchen table with a stainless steel mixing bowl filled with water, Jim was baptized into Christ.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:3-5).

We have been through a difficult season in our country and our church. I'm not sure if we will ever completely understand the effects of the pandemic's stress on all of us. The pandemic laid bare racial inequities and disparities in access to medical care, housing, employment and law enforcement. Civic discourse has become coarse and mean. Life is seen as a zero-sum game—if your side gets something then mine loses out.

This is also played out in the church. Of course there is room for debate and disagreement, there is room to call out one part of the church when it has hurt another. There is even room for justified anger. But there is no room to dissolve the [bond of baptism](#). It isn't even possible. In Christ we are individually members one of another. Sometimes we might feel like we are stuck with each other. This is the great mystery and beauty of the wounded body of Christ—we are woven together. Praise the One who makes us one.

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.



Domestic *and* Sexual Violence Services

We are here because

Nationwide, nearly 20 people per minute
are abused by an intimate partner.

Domestic violence hot lines like ours handle
an average of 20,000 phone calls per day.

1 in 5 women in the United States have been raped

Our Mission: To empower those impacted by violence and foster healthy relationships.

Our Vision: DSVS strives for the day when violence is no longer a part of our lives.

HELP LINE

406-425-2222

EVERYONE DESERVES HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Council Corner

Council met on September 20th. Please find a copy of the full minutes in the member's section of our website. Key highlights are below.

- General Fund YTD income is exceeding expenses; our YTD income is down slightly from a year ago.
- Giving summaries will go out in early October for 2022.
- Dollars from the sale of the building are in our LIB checking account at First Interstate Bank and will be used to continue to pay the builder.
- Mission Investment Fund paperwork is complete, so we will be able to draw funds as we need them to finalize the build.
- Parsonage roof leak was repaired.
- Stewardship timing and letter to the congregation was discussed. See separate article for details.
- 2023 budget planning was discussed. The congregational approval meeting will be held on November 13th.
- Council will holding its annual planning retreat in October. If you have items you'd like us to discuss, please contact Pastor Ben or Linda.
- We will hold the Christmas Kid Shoppe on Dec 3 at the Roosevelt Center from 9-3. More information to follow, but mark your calendars!
- We will participate in the St. Agnes Craft Fair on Oct 22. Please contact Barb Ostrum for details.

Our next meeting will be held on November 8th, which is a change from our normal 3rd Tuesday. This is in order to meet before our congregational budget meeting.

Shopping Online Can Benefit Messiah

If you shop on Amazon, please log in using <http://www.smile.amazon.com> This will allow you to designate Messiah Lutheran Church, Red Lodge Montana as your charity of choice. For every purchase you make, Amazon will donate a small portion of that to us. It might only be a quarter, but every little bit helps. All dollars received by Amazon will go toward the new building.



Christikon Clips

October 2022

Information for our Congregations



2023 Calendar! The calendar and sessions listing are on our website (www.christikon.org). It's not too soon to start planning for next summer's trip to camp, and we're already accepting reservations! We anticipate a full season and encourage registering sooner than later.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled through mid-October. Start planning now to bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains in 2023!

We're thankful for all your prayers this past summer, for the summer staff, for this ministry and for all who have joined in the Christikon life. 2022 held many opportunities for ministry, connections, and time in intentional Christian community. We are grateful.

Capital Campaign: The Adult Housing/Boys Dorm project is next! **If you have not received a Capital Campaign packet, please contact the office.**

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

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406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

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.

SURPRISE!!!

Thank you to all the people who came out to help me celebrate 50 years of playing at Messiah. It was a **REAL** surprise! Pastor Ben said he wanted to take me to lunch, and I believed that was just what he meant. He told me we should go to the room at the back, as it would be 'quieter'. Since there were only 4 people in the main part and I could hear noise from the back, I doubted that. And then I saw all of you. **What fun!! You made my day.**



October, 2022

Wow! The building is getting closed in and work has begun on the interior. We are ironing out details on appliances cabinets and choosing flooring and lighting. We are also trying to plan for landscaping for next spring. We have had a few hiccups along the way, but we are so impressed with the way our builder and architect communicate with us and how well the builder plans for materials and sub-contractors to be there when he is ready for them. It sure keeps things moving along! Last time I was there, electricians, plumbers and framers were all working diligently; it was a site to see.



*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.*

October Birthdays

- 10/2 Shinta Clark
Jim Ochiltree
- 10/3 Nani Clark
Todd Daily
- 10/4 Alecia Benton
- 10/7 Kathy Benton
- 10/15 Candis Thompson
- 10/20 Manuel Cabanas- Holmen
- 10/22 Vance Thuesen
- 10/23 John Clark
Kathy Kreatz
- 10/24 Al Stuber
- 10/31 Willie Clark

September Anniversaries

- 10/03 Vince & Mary Ames
- 10/04 Leanne & Mark Mullaney
- 10/15 Laura & Harry Hollman
- 10/24 Robert & Susan Leaverton

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.

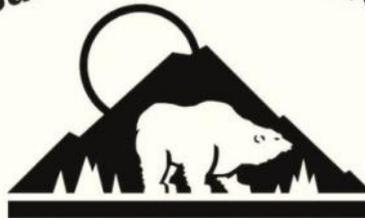


Messiah Choirchimes Ensemble Update:

Messiah Chimers practice every Sunday after worship. We welcome anyone who would like to join us to begin training as a substitute chimer.

October, 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.

BEAR PAW QUILT RAFFLE

Drawing will be on Oct 16

Tickets: \$10 each

Hand quilted by Red Lodge Charity Quilters and designed by John Flynn

Size is 74 by 90 inches. Also included are 3 decorative 16 inch pillows and a hand made wooden wall hanging device created by Allen Hansen.

Purchase tickets from Barb Ostrum or place a request from Messiah

Lutheran Church by

phoning 406-446-2430 or emailing

redlodgemessiah@gmail.com.

All proceeds will go to the Light in the Beartooths building fund.

ST. AGNES CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, October 22, 9:00am—3:00 pm

We will be participating in the craft fair this year. Please contact Mary Ames

(406-446-1745) for more information



CHRISTMAS KIDS SHOPPE IS BACK!!!

We will be having our Christmas Kids Shoppe again this year in the Old 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: October 20

Time: 3:00

Book: You Don't Know Me

Author: Susan May Warren

Facilitator: Carol Erkens

Location: Home of Martha Crofts

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

October, 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	Mitzi Vorachek
Andrea Holmen	Howard Marquart	Josh Wilker
	Lois Miller	Eva Wilker
	Vanessa Reyes	Jim Zenz

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.**

October, 2022

Messiah Calendar—October 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1
2 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Choirchimes Following Worship	3	4 10:00 Women's Bible Study	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Choirchimes Following Worship	10	11 10:00 Women's Bible Study Building Committee Meeting 4:00	12	13	14	15 Funeral of Myrna Hunt 1:00 PM Calvary Episcopal
16 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Choirchimes Following Worship	17	18 10:00 Women's Bible Study Church Council 4:30	19	20 Safari Book Club 3:00 at the home of Martha Crofts	21	22
23 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Choirchimes following worship	24	25 10:00 Women's Bible Study Building Committee Meeting 4:00	26	27	28	29

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
Health care or to accommodate those who are chemically sensitive to
fragrances and other scented products.