

July, 2026

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



God Bless America

Dear Messiah,

At our Annual Meeting this year, I was invited to stand up and share a little about what I was planning for my sabbatical. I've written about it and spoken about it to many of you. Jim Johnson had a good question that I've been sitting with ever since. He asked, "Is there an educational aspect to your sabbatical?" In other words, will you be using this time to learn something you'll be bringing back to Messiah?

The answer is both yes, and no.

The key word for sabbatical is "renewal." There is a reason teachers and pastors are both professions in which sabbaticals are offered. Burnout is a reality in these (and many other) kinds of jobs that lead quite routinely to a change in career. It is regrettable that sabbaticals are not more widely understood or offered in Western culture. Renewal is a basic need of human life. To seek renewal is to resist the drain that all work has at times - work that leaves us not only exhausted but empty. If you've never had an opportunity to sabbatical, even if you have, I invite you to ask yourself what is the work that is draining you these days, and where do you find renewal? Stepping out of this life for a time is a privilege. It will benefit me, and it will benefit you in ways that will both surprise and delight you.

That said, I am filling my sabbatical time with a Pilgrimage, a self-guided exploration of Luther Land, and a week in Taize France - the birthplace of a unique worship tradition that many in Red Lodge (!) find spiritually compelling.

I've been learning that the Gudbrandsdalsleden path from Oslo to Trondheim is quite popular, so I'll likely be sharing the trail with many other pilgrims. I imagine conversation will verge on educational, especially when the topic of 'why' is broached among fellow pilgrims.

The history of the Reformation in Germany has been a fascination of mine for a long time, and Luther's place in that history informs my faith and the way I pastor. Spending a little time in places of great significance to Luther and to the Reformation will be both educational and thrilling.

I have been part of many communities that have used Taize music and worship styles. I have been surprised at its reception among us here in Red Lodge with our ecumenical partner churches. I will be paying attention to ways we can deepen and hone our practice of Taize worship here at home

Thank you Messiah for this opportunity to be renewed. It is a gift I do not take for granted. I will be paying attention for ways this time will bless Messiah.

Pastor Ben

July, 2026



7/6 Carlos Ramalho
7/7 Beverly Urbaniak
7/9 Katrin Chandler
7/19 Jacob Kreatz
7/24 Bonnie Eichenberger
7/26 Hayes Yates
7/30 David Jurkovich
7/31 Bob Eichenberger

For the very first time, Messiah will be part of a 4th of July weekend parade - we'll be walking on July 3rd. We're decorating the Morales' truck with signs and paint. We're planning to hand out Freezies and are looking for donations to help defer the cost. And there will be bubbles! We will meet at the Civic Center at 10:00 am. So come walk with us or cheer us on from the crowd!

Lois Kittle

Dianne Milleison

PRAYER SHAWLS

If you would like to help knit prayer shawls, please contact Pat Thompson.

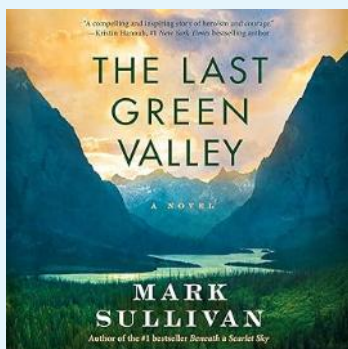
If you need a prayer shawl, please contact Pat Thompson or Dianne Milleison.



7/11 Bob and Bonnie Eichenberger



WOMENS SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: July 16
Time: 7:00 pm
Book: The Last Green Valley
Author: Mark Sullivan
Facilitator: Jackie Cordill
Location: Messiah Gathering Space

Messiah Charity Hand Quilters need your help to continue this ministry. We meet from 1pm—3 pm each Monday. Please bring a thimble, small scissors and a quilting needle. We will teach you what you need to know. If you don't have any of these things, come anyway and We will help get you set up.

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.





Lunch in the Sun!

Lunch in the Sun Program

In partnership with the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, which generously provided supplies, Messiah Lutheran Church helped support local children through the Lunch in the Sun program. Volunteers prepared 20 lunches three days each week, providing a total of 60 lunches weekly for kids in our community. The lunches were distributed at the pool, helping ensure children had access to a nutritious meal while enjoying their summer activities.

Plans are being made for our "Trash to Treasure" sale this summer, so as you are doing your spring cleaning, please consider saving good gently used items for the sale. We are planning to have our regular "donation" sale in conjunction with a silent auction where we name minimum bids for more valuable items. Proceeds from the sale will be going to the fund to work on the Fellowship Field.

Interesting historical fact:

Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church and burned at the stake.

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome! We'd love to hear from you. Please get them to Dianne by the 25th of the month.

If you would like to use the church for a meeting or event, please contact Dianne in the office. She is the keeper of the schedule and can be sure there are no conflicting events. If you are planning a church function, please make sure you let Dianne know so it can be added to the schedule. Thanks!





Meet the New Handbells June 21

Several folks showed up to admire and try out the new handbells.

Director Dick Crofts gave a very interesting presentation on handbell history and the numbers of people who are involved in handbell ringing. It seems that it is a small group: Far less than 0.01% of people in the US play handbells.

What a blessing it is to have this lovely set of bells right here. A heartfelt thank you to the donors who made this possible.

Now, the Messiah Chimes are in need of a new name but Jodie says it cannot be the Messiah ding-a-lings so let's get our thinking caps on and come up with a name that reflects who we now are.



June 25th the youth choir of St. Stevens Lutheran Church of Bloomingdale, Minnesota performed the musical "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" here in the sanctuary. The show was delightful and even featured a cameo appearance by Pastor Ben as an Ishmaelite slave trader wielding a fly swatter. This show was FUN! The pianist was amazing and the kids were so talented and full of energy.

Synod Assembly—May 29 and May 30

Katrin Chandler, Messiah President, and Roy Olpin, Messiah Vice President, attended the Montana Synod Assembly in Billings and were pleasantly surprised when Messiah member, Robert Leaverton was honored for his 20 years of service to the Montana Synod. Congratulations Robert!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DO LAWN MOWING

We currently have 3 people who volunteer to mow the lawn around the church. If you have a riding lawn mower and would like to help out, it takes about 45 minutes to mow or an hour if you also weed eat. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kathy Kreatz, 406-425-1595 (texting works best) or Dianne Milleson, 406-425-3222, to let us know of your availability to help and THANK YOU in advance.

Travelers meet up at Messiah for a musical reunion

High school friends, Bruce Simonson, traveling from Juneau, Alaska and Kathy Heller, a resident of Dillon, Montana, but traveling from Iowa, met up Monday at Yellowstone Park then travelled to Red Lodge Tuesday and stopped in at Messiah to play piano duets as they had done during their school years.

Bruce, an ELCA Lutheran preacher's kid and Kathy, a Presbyterian preachers kid went to High School together in Klamath Falls, Oregon then both attended college at Northwestern in Chicago. After college they went their separate ways but reunited here several years later to share an hour of playing duets.

They were grateful for the use of the piano and Dianne enjoyed a lovely afternoon concert.



July, 2026

Messiah Calendar—July, 2026

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1	2	3 Messiah Float in Parade (Meet us at Civic Center 10:00am to join!)	4 
5 Worship 10:00 am	6 Quilting 1:00 pm	7 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	8 Church Council 6:00 pm	9	10	11
12 Worship 10:00 am	13 Quilting 1:00 pm	14 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	15	16 Safari Book Club 7:00 pm At Messiah	17	18
19 Worship 10:00 am	20 Quilting 1:00 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Ecumenical Worship and potluck at Kaleva Park	27 Quilting 1:00 pm	28	29	30	31	

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.

Special Projects 2026

January: Bare Tooth Food Bank
February: Boys and Girls Club
March: St. John's Ministries
April: LWR Quilters
May: Christikon
June: Montana Synod Hunger Fund

July: RLACF Fun Run
August: Carbon County Arts Guild Youth Education
September: ELCA World Hunger
October: DSVS
November: Campus Ministries
December: CART

The best community fundraising event of the year benefiting 65 + charities in Carbon County, Montana. Whether you plan to walk the 2 mile, run a 5K or 10K route, or just enjoy the fabulous community vibe on the lawn, join us to celebrate the 22nd Annual! Charity info booths, food, music, face painting and more will be found following the Fun Run. Make it a holiday weekend for the whole family as you explore all the Red Lodge area has to offer in cozy accommodations, fabulous restaurants, boutique shopping, scenic drives, hiking trails for any level and of course the Labor Day Arts Fair in the Park on Monday. Preregistration: On the website. Day of Race Registration: 7:30 am Lions Park



July, 2026

COUNCIL CORNER HIGH LIGHTS

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah Church Council met on June 10th, 2026 @ 6:00pm.

You can get the full report, including financials, by requesting a copy from our Administrative Assistant Dianne at the church office (406) 446 - 2430.

We are talking about giving Beartooth Recreational Trails an easement that would allow them to put a walking path on the far east side of Fellowship Field, between Lower Continental and the bike path.

We are switching our insurance company from Church Mutual to Brotherhood Mutual due to annual savings of \$2,000.

Paul Schauer resigned as our treasurer effective June 30th.

Melinda Berry resigned as our council secretary effective June 30th.

We have a committee working on updating our website by defining who we are in the community, expanding the definition of our church identity, and how to broadcast it.

Norm Tjeltveit is working with Katrin on updating the history of the pastors who have served Messiah through the years.

Our annual Trash to Treasure sale will take place on August 7th and 8th. Funds raised will go toward the Fellowship Field.

Our next regular Church Council Meeting is on Wednesday, July 8th at 6:00 pm.

Please come to our meeting, if you want to find out about the workings of Messiah. Please reach out to me if there is something you would like us to discuss as your Messiah Church Council.

Submitted by Katrin Chandler, Council President

Hebrews 4:16: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please write your prayer requests in the prayer request book by the church office.

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.

The people of Messiah are praying for
Claudia B, Cassidy Flynn, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,
Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Misty Milligan, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva, Daid Smiley,
Guynema Terry, Josh Winter, and Judy Yasi,

July, 2026

Red Lodge Community UCC, Calvary Episcopal, Messiah Lutheran
ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC

JULY 26, 2026

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

with Picnic to Follow

KALEVA PARK

7790 US Hwy 212, Roberts, MT

What to Bring:

- Personal Water Bottle (to stay hydrated)
- Camp/Lawn Chairs (for the worship service)
- Hats, Umbrellas, Mosquito Repellant, Sunscreen (as needed)
- Potluck dish – sides or dessert – to share

Red Lodge Community Church to Provide: Pulled Pork sandwiches, Cowboy beans, Lemonade, Coffee, paper plates, plasticware

Other Information: The Worship Service will be held outdoors (weather permitting). Restrooms are available and handicap accessible. There are picnic tables under the pavilion for the picnic. Participants are encouraged to send their regular offering to their home church the week before or after. There will be a donation basket to help cover the expense of using Kaleva Park.

Directions: Kaleva is located on Route 212 north of Red Lodge, between mile markers 77 and 78 on the east side of the road. There is a pole entrance with a sign overhead; follow the gravel road down to the creek.

"It was a DREADFUL cruise. It never stopped raining. But the buffet was amazing. I ate two of everything."



Messiah's collection bucket is in the church foyer.

SOX in a BOX

Calvary Episcopal Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, and the Red Lodge Community Church (UCC) are partnering with local organizations to run an **unusable sock drive** they are calling "**Sox in a Box.**" ***The drive will last from June 30 to July 28.*** Our collection partners are the Red Lodge Senior and Community Center, the Carbon County Museum, and the Joliet Community Center. This is the third year for this drive. This local drive has saved roughly 400 pounds of socks from the local landfill. An estimated 85% of clothing products end up in landfills.

At the end of the drive, Calvary Episcopal Church will send the collected socks to Smartwool® where the material will be recycled into dog beds and other items. According to its website, Smartwool® says that, to date, it has saved 150,000 pounds of materials from landfills since launching the program in April 2021.

Here's how it works:

Collect your old socks that have lost a mate, that you or your kids or grandkids have outgrown, that are holey (your contribution may in some way be holy), that you never plan to wear again.

Make sure they are 1) CLEAN and 2) UNBUNDLED! All brands, colors, sizes, and materials are welcome. No rubber bands or paper clips. Just single socks!

Take them to the Red Lodge Senior and Community Center, the Carbon County Museum, or the Joliet Community Center and place them in the collection box near the entrance. Some churches have collection buckets. The collection boxes/buckets were donated by Red Lodge and Laurel ACE Hardware Stores. We thank all of these partners.

Help give old products new life in order to eliminate the need for new materials and to keep perfectly good, reuseable materials from being thrown away.

For further information, contact Carol Brown (281-543-0185).

July, 2026

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:

Tuesday : 11-4:00

Wednesday: 12:00-4:00

Thursday: 11:00-4:00

Friday: 12:00-4:00

Sunday: PM

From Monday July 20th to October 13th Pastor Ben will be on Sabbatical. In case of emergencies, please contact Rev. Aimee Altizer at Calvary Episcopal Church or Rev. Teresa Clark at Red Lodge Community UCC.

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.

