

February, 2026

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



Dear Messiah,

I was challenged this week when I was asked What are your hopes for your sabbatical? I'll get to why this was challenging to me, but it occurs to me that few of you know what I'm planning to do with this sabbatical.

On July 21 st , I'll drive to Collegeville, MN and find my room for the next few days at St. John's Abbey. This community of Benedictine Monks has guest rooms and a rigorous worship schedule - five times a day they gather to observe the Hours. It's a beautiful place where I'll sink into a unique rhythm and officially start my time away.

On July 25 th , I'll fly to Oslo, Norway. I'm planning to need a day or two to recover from jetlag, but on July 28 th (my late father's birthday), I'll find the trailhead for the Gudbrandsleden path and start walking. This was the way to get to Trondheim, Norway in the Middle Ages. From Oslo the trail is 648 km (403 miles), ending at the Nidaros Cathedral where St. Olav is buried. This trail is one of nine pilgrimage trails of differing lengths all over Scandinavia that lead to Trondheim. I'll mostly be camping along the way. Walking at least 15 miles/day (including four rest days) I will arrive at the Cathedral 32 days later, August 24 th (my sister's wedding anniversary.)

Obviously, this hike scares me, so I've been gathering its details. The next weeks are slightly less developed at this point, but I have a rough outline. Recovering from those many miles will likely happen at the

childhood home of Katrin Chandler (our council president) in northern Germany. From there it is a short train ride to Berlin where I plan to meet a friend of mine.

My Germany itinerary will include a number of Luther sites and at least a little Bavarian beer. After 5-8 days, I'll be off to France where I hope to spend the next four weeks working on an organic farm through the

WWOOF program (Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms). With potentially 2-3 days on a beach in the south of France.

I will fly back to Minnesota to spend another few days with the brothers at St. John's Abbey before a quick trip home to Regina for a cousin's wedding.

From there, it's back to Red Lodge, hopefully arriving back on October 13 (my maternal grandmother's birthday).

To be continued...

Pastor Ben



Annual Congregational Meeting February 1

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held after worship on February 1 and will be followed by a delicious luncheon of scalloped potatoes and ham, green beans, salads and desserts which will be provided by your Church Council.

If you are out of town, you will be able to watch and participate via YouTube.

Service for Jack Ervin

Will be held at the Old Roosevelt auditorium
February 8th at 1:30 pm

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

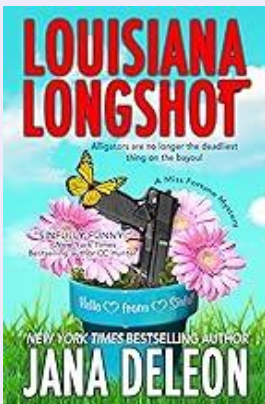
If you are interested in making prayer shawls, please contact Pat Thompson. If you are in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Pat Thompson or Pastor Ben.

- 2/2 Shannon Downing
- 2/5 Mark Owan
- 2/11 Dolly Koski
- 2/12 Sonya Owan
- 2/20 Barbara Marquardt
- 2/20 Melinda Berry
- 2/27 Jeri Kyner



- 2/12 Linda and Todd Daily

WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: February 19
Time: 3:00 pm
Book: Louisiana Longshot
Author: Jana DeLeon
Facilitator: DJ Rosekelly
Location: Home of Carol Boyum

Contact host, Marla Ebel, at
406-664-3178 for more Information

Did you know?

Messiah has a puzzle library! It is located in the bookshelf in the hallway. There are 100, 500, 1000 piece puzzles and more. There are several new puzzles, too.

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.



February, 2026

Remembering Mary Ames

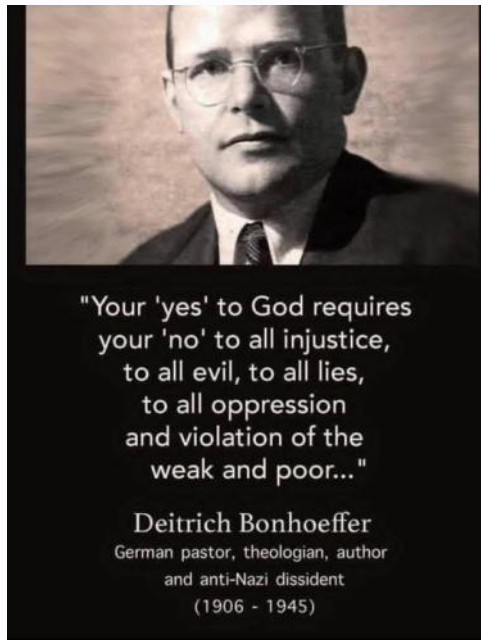
By Dianne Milleson

I first met Mary when I began attending Messiah 30 some years ago. I have known her to be a faithful friend and church member. She is well known for her knitted hats and baby socks. I have made sure to obtain both for each of my grandchildren. Many hats were sold and the proceeds were donated to the Messiah kitchen fund. She also knitted many prayer shawls which were given to people needing comfort in difficult situations. In addition to being an amazing knitter, Mary was a quilter, a bridge player, an avid reader, and a successful business woman.

Mary was 99 and a half but she was out and about and busy until shortly before her death. She liked to recount how several years ago when her son had a serious surgery and was asked who would be taking care of him during his recovery he told the doctor it would be his 90 year old mother. The doctor was wildly skeptical and sure that a 90 year old woman would not be up to the task BUT he didn't know Mary. She certainly was up to that challenge and many others.

She was a beautiful Christian woman, a devoted wife, a faithful prayer partner and an encourager. She and her beloved husband, Vince, were instrumental in obtaining the land where our church now sits.





Delving into the Bible

We are beginning a new feature in our bulletin. We ask any willing member to share a favorite Bible verse, to be placed under this heading, in one of our weekly bulletins. Your choice may include only the words of the scripture or it may add comments about its meaning for you. One submission will appear here, each week, where you find our Prayer List and pertinent announcements. We suggest you tear off the page, allowing us to ponder and pray as a community.

Lutheran World Relief—Quilts

Messiah Lutheran Quilters have been busy this year. We have completed at least 80 quilts so far. Last year we completed 104.

Recently we received from the national Lutheran World Relief Organization a summary of the 2025 quilt and kit efforts. A total of 315,818 quilts were collect, and about one third of them were kept for distribution to crisis areas in the U.S., mostly on the eastern coast.

Additionally, Lutheran World Relief collected and distributed 179,200 school kits, 231,811 personal care kits, 66,984 baby care kits and 9,368 fabric kits.

The final tally is that Luthern World Relief collected and distributed 803,181 quilts and kits in 15 countries around the world.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2025?



803,181 QUILTS & KITS

IN 15 COUNTRIES

<div> 315,818 QUILTS</div> <div> 179,200 SCHOOL KITS</div> <div> 231,811 PERSONAL CARE KITS</div> <div> 66,984 BABY CARE KITS</div> <div> 9,368 FABRIC KITS</div> <div><p>This shipping information is from LWR's 2025 Fiscal Year (Oct. 2024 - Sept. 2025).</p></div>	COUNTRY	SHIPPING WAREHOUSE	QUILTS	SCHOOL KITS	PERSONAL CARE KITS	BABY CARE KITS	FABRIC KITS
	ANGOLA	Maryland	33,000	16,900	27,000	9,000	
	DJIBOUTI	Minnesota	9,520	15,225			
	GEORGIA	Minnesota			65,100		
		Maryland	49,500				
	HONDURAS	Minnesota		29,290			
	JORDAN	Maryland	6,600	6,500			
	LIBERIA	Minnesota	5,100			3,500	
	MADAGASCAR	Minnesota	9,520			7,350	
	MALI	Maryland	51,975	19,500	15,000	6,000	1,568
	ROMANIA	Maryland	6,270	3,380	3,900		
	SERBIA	Maryland	7,425		6,300		
	SIERRA LEONE	Minnesota		15,225		7,350	
	TANZANIA	Minnesota	9,520			7,350	
	UKRAINE	Maryland	8,250		6,000		
UNITED STATES - EAST	Both	85,737	40,794	65,561	20,950	5,360	
UNITED STATES - CENTRAL	Both	17,720	4,350	9,150	784	1,800	
UNITED STATES - WEST	Both	10,581	28,036	33,800	1,200	640	
ZIMBABWE	Minnesota	5,100			3,500		
TOTAL			315,818	179,200	231,811	66,984	9,368



CHRISTIKON CLIPS

FEBRUARY 2026

INFORMATION for our CONGREGATIONS

www.christikon.org

Registration for our 2026 season is **OPEN NOW!** Register soon for camp—and don't forget to invite all your friends and family!

Family Adult opportunities can be found on our website. Watch for details on new opportunities this summer.

Work Weekend is May 22-25, 2026. Join us in readying the camp for the 2026 season. All are welcome! Register NOW!

Donate online! You can use the Internet to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org.

Save the dates: The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on Sunday, April 26th. Do you know of an item, service or getaway that would be a great auction item? Please contact the office!

We're excited to introduce Matthew Wigdahl —educator, designer, longtime Christikon camper and staff alum—who will serve as Christikon's Communications, Design, and Infrastructure Manager beginning January 2026, supporting year- round ministry and our 75th Anniversary.

CHRISTIKON

1108 24th Street West | Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 | secretary@christikon.org | www.christikon.org

Messiah Calendar—February, 2026

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
1 Worship 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon	2 	3	4 Council Meeting 6:00 pm	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:00 am Service for Jack Ervin Old Roosevelt Auditorium 1:30 pm	9 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	10 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	11	12	13	14 
15 Worship 10:00 am	16  Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	17 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	18  Service 5:00 pm At Messiah	19 Safari Book Club	20	21
22 Worship 10:00 am	23 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	24 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	25 Midweek Lenten Service with Soup and Bread Dinner 5:00 pm At Calvary Episcopal Church	26	27	28

February, 2026

Council Corner

COUNCIL CORNER HIGH LIGHTS

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah Church Council met on January 14th at 6 pm.

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

□ Council reviewed Messiah's policies and will have all of them in place and available at the Annual Meeting.

□ The Annual Meeting is on February 1st, 2026, after the Church service in the sanctuary. Paul Schauer is providing a scalloped potatoes/ham meal. Council members are providing salads and desserts.

□ Paul reported that we paid \$5,000 on our mortgage principal.

□ Red Lodge Community: Paul sponsored a Flower basket and an ad in the "Destination Red Lodge" magazine (online and print) for 2026 in our Church's name.

Thank you, Paul.

□ Proceeds of the August Garage Sale: there was discussion about the money raised by the garage sale and Council agreed that the proceeds be saved to fund "a big project" for Fellowship Field.

Our next regular Church Council Meeting is on Wednesday, February 4th at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Katrin Chandler, Messiah Church 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 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 with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

Vince Ames and the family of Mary Ames, Claudia B, the family of Jack Ervin, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Doug & Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Carlos Ramalho, DJ Rosekelly, the family of Wes Thompson, Sadie Sceva, Guynema Terry, Ace and Jett Wildung, Josh Wilker, Pr Kim Wilker, Josh Winter, Judy Yasi, and Lexi

The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

February, 2026

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 Bare Tooth Food Bank
February Boys and Girls Club
March St. John’s Ministries
April LWR Quilters
May Christikon
June Boys and Girls Club

July Red Lodge Pool
August Red Lodge Fun Run
September Pastor’s Discretionary
October DSVS
November Campus Ministries
December the CART

The Goal of Carbon County Boys and Girls Club

To inspire & enable young people, especially those who need us the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible & caring individuals.

SAVE YOUR SUDS

a community ministry of kindness

Save Your Suds is a ministry that was started by Calvary Episcopal Church in June of 2023.

The purpose of the program is to spread kindness in our community by helping people pay for their laundry expenses at Rock Creek Laundromat.

Owner of the laundromat, Jim Moore, generously donates the cost of washing. He provides us with a key to the washing machines that allows us to bypass the need for quarters or credit cards.

The cost of drying is covered by donations from the Episcopal Church Women and from parishioners from Calvary.

Volunteers run the program which is held on the first and third Sundays of every month from 5-7p.m.

Each week a bin is provided to that week's volunteers.

The bin is outfitted with the following items:

Detergent, Dryer sheets, Washer key and instructions for the use of the key, Quarters for the dryers, Clipboard to record number of loads and amount of quarters used

Members of the community have become somewhat dependent on the SYS program and are very appreciative of the help. This is a wonderful way to support our neighbors and spread kindness in our community. Calvary would love to have our friends from Community UCC and Messiah join us in this essential ministry. To volunteer, please contact Kathie Wilson at: grgtlv@aol.com

February, 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:

Monday: Off

Tuesday : 9:00-4:00

Wednesday: 9:00-3:00

Thursday: 9:00-3:00

Friday: 9:00-4:00

Saturday: Off

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

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.



Messiah Church Council

P.O. Box 1330

912 Lower Continental Dr.

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Church: (406) 446-2430

Church email: redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Pastor's email: pastorbencherland@gmail.com

Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com

Pastor	Ben Cherland	646-708-1389c	pastorbencherland@gmail.com
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President	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	katregcha@gmail.com
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Vice President	Roy Olpin	360-888-7733	roy_olpin@hotmail.com
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Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	flynnquilt@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	pschauer62@gmail.com
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Education	Maria Gibson	727-744-4630	mgibson@wdmoffice.com
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Family Life/Volunteer

Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	marthacrofts@gmail.com
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Outreach	Sandy Moe	218-341-0283	sandra.moe@rocky.edu
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Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	kkreatzgmail.com
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Stewardship	Linda Daily	406-426-0841	lindatodd94@yahoo.com
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Worship	Dianne Milleson	406-425-3222	dmille46@gmail.com
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Other Important Contact Information

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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