

April, 2026

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland

HE IS NOT HERE,
FOR HE IS

Risen

HAPPY EASTER



April, 2026

Dear Messiah,

As I write this, the Church is on the cusp of Holy Week. Worship Committee meetings, music selections, service planning, the collection of flower orders, brunch organizing and much more. All that happens this week is prepared by numerous volunteers not only as an offering to you, Messiah, but to our community who seek the hope we have to share.

But all this preparation is also about the Week itself. This week, starting on Palm/Passion Sunday, we tell the story that is most central to our Christian identity. The cross stands as a central symbol of our faith for this reason: it is the place God chooses to be ultimately revealed as a God who takes on human frailty, who chooses to suffer with and for us, and who suffers death for the sake of the world.

Early Christian communities had a different central symbol – it was a fish. It was used across the empire by small and large communities under oppression, often secretly pointing the way to gatherings where followers, belonging, love, faith and learning could be found. It was perhaps a far more prescient symbol that brings to mind the call of the first disciples, fishermen made fishers of people.

The cross is a strange choice for the Church, after all. Likely chosen by the Roman Empire when Christianity was adopted as the imperial religion, it shows us what we're capable of, the worst of what we do to each other and the world. It conveys our own frailty, and the truth our western culture runs from – that suffering and death comes for us all.

But at the same time, paradoxically, by revealing a God who chooses to know suffering and death itself, it communicates hope – hope that suffering is not the end, that God is present (though at times hidden), drawing near to all who suffer. It's a hope that God overcomes both suffering and death and does so for the sake of love.

This was the hope that early Christians carried to areas of cities and towns where the plague had a foothold. This was the hope that made them the only people willing and eager to lovingly gather and prepare the dead for burial. This is the hope that we seek, the hope that will swell our numbers on Easter Sunday.

For Good Friday reigns in this world. It's no wonder that it is the least attended service of the year: Do we really need to be reminded of this? But I hope to see you this Good Friday, for hope is not hope without acknowledging that which we hope against – all that is broken, that needs healing. It's on Good Friday that we bring to the cross all that is broken, in us and this world, in the hope that God overcomes.

Pastor Ben

April, 2026

An Easter message from Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry



We remember the whispers of Advent as we anticipated the birth of Jesus. Now, as we journey through Holy Week, we anticipate the joyful noise of alleluias on Easter Sunday. But before we reach the Easter celebration, we make our way through Lent, through an in-between time where we don't know what tomorrow will bring. We often describe ourselves as an Easter church, but in this holy, solemn time that begins with Ash Wednesday and moves on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we are also a Lenten church. Living in uncertainty, waiting and hoping for renewal. Longing for the moments when God's presence feels closer and more sure. During Lent, we learn what it means to live on unsettled ground. In Matthew's retelling of the resurrection, he describes a "violent earthquake" as the angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from the entrance to the tomb where Jesus lay. I imagine the earthquake, the rumble deep below the earth, as the ground shifted far under the surface. Perhaps those who were nearby felt the tremble. Maybe the women who were on their way to the tomb with prepared spices felt the earth shift. They were unsettled, but they knew something powerful was happening. We can understand that human experience of feeling out of control, of not being able to make sense of what's happening around us. Many of us can relate to this as we witness the current unrest in our world and in our communities. Like the women at the tomb, we feel isolated, disconnected. We're unsettled, unsure, living the Lenten reality of waiting and hoping. And then, in the midst of that shaking, comes the promise. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen." God's promise offers reassurance and hope. The resurrection does not deny disruption — it meets us within disorder and disturbance. The stone is rolled away. Death does not have the final word. Yes, we are Easter people. Even when the ground below us is shaking, we will not grow weary. We know that Jesus is our foundation. Christ is risen, and that truth strengthens us. It gives us courage to live, to hope and to proclaim joy. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

April, 2026

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD



Waylon Axel Kreatz
Born February 19, 2026
To Jacob and Lexi Kreatz

Proud Grandparents are Dennis and Kathleen Kreatz

04/01 Paul Schauer
04/25 Jodie Moore

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 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 Milleson.

Do you want to help mothers and babies through Lutheran World Relief?

We have been collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage to be made into diapers. These diapers then become part of the baby care kits which are donated to Lutheran World Relief. Heretofore, Pastor Paul and his wife, along with Sunne Lutheran Church in Wilton, North Dakota, have been doing the sewing and assembling of these kits. We would like to begin making diapers and assembling the baby care kits here in Red Lodge. The diapers are fun and easy to make, no sewing experience is necessary. Everyone can help, including kids! Please contact Dianne (406-425-3222)



WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: April 23
Time: 7:00 pm
Book: Covington Hang
Author: Lee Cooper
Facilitator: Jeri Kyner
Location: Kim Elsberry

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



A gift to the office from the faux stained glass fairy

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.



We rejoice at the baptism of the Morales girls,
Ella, Indi, and Romy which will occur at the Easter Vigil.



We thank God for
Hank Brummer, Ella Kinzley, Liam Moore, and
Reagan Yates
who have completed their first communion classes and will
receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday.

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 keeps 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!



Messiah Calendar—April, 2026

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1	2 Bridge 10 am Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm	3 Good Friday Service 6:00 pm	4 Easter Vigil Service 6:00 pm
5 Worship 10:00 am Brunch following Worship 	6 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	7	8	9 Bridge 10 am	10	11
12 Worship 10:00 am	13 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	14 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	15	16 Bridge 10 am	17	18
19 Worship 10:00 am	20 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	21 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	22 Church Council 6:00 on	23 Bridge 10 am Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	24	25
26 Worship 10:00 am	27	28 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	29	30		

April, 2026

Council Corner

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah Church Council met on March 11 th at 7:10 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.

□ Pastor Ben's Sabbatical Update, July 21 through October 13 th
Coverage for Sundays as of March 9 th :

July 26 th : John Goodheart, LMA of the Montana Synod

August 9 th : John Goodheart, LMA of Montana Synod

August 16 th : Susan Leaverton, LMA of the Montana Synod

August 30 th : Pastor Paul Schauer

September 13 th : Pastor Robert Leaverton

September 20 th : Pastor Paul Schauer

October 4 th : Pastor Jim Johnson

August 2 nd , August 23 rd , September 6 th , September 27 th , October 11 th : Open

□ Back Deck, Parsonage: During Pastor Ben's Sabbatical, the parsonage deck will be repaired.

□ Symbol on the side of the Messiah Church Building: A committee led by property committee chair Kathy Kreatz has been formed to decide on the design and size of the cross to be placed on the side of the Messiah Church Building.

□ The lettering for our entrance sign is done. Katrin will arrange for the installation.

□ Fellowship Field ideas have been discussed during council meetings. More research as far as easement, ditches, exact size of property, etc. are needed. This will be a continued discussion.

□ Holy Week Services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday at 6 pm, Good Friday at 6 pm, Vigil at 6 pm on Saturday, and Easter Morning Worship followed by brunch.

Our next regular Church Council Meeting is on Wednesday, April 22 nd 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.

Claudia B, Meredith Cherland, the family of Jack Ervin, Hannah Gonzales,
Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Doug & Mary Lair, Lois Miller,
Carlos Ramalho, DJ Rosekelly, Sadie Sceva, Guynema Terry, Ace and Jett Wildung,
Josh Wilker, Josh Winter, and Judy Yasi.

The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

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



Messiah's special project for April is Lutheran World Relief. Messiah members have been making and sending quilts to the national LWR effort for more than 20 years, estimating that we have forwarded at least a thousand quilts. Last year we packed up 104 quilts. This year we have completed 90 quilts so far.

We are requesting financial help from Messiah Lutheran in that we buy all the batting new which costs an average of \$8 to \$10 per 60x80 inch quilt.

Another cost is that shipping is not free. LWR says that shipping per quilt costs \$2.50 each. So Messiah will be needing to send to LWR about \$250 to offset this year's shipping cost.

We greatly appreciate your financial support of this worthwhile project.

As always, we invite everyone to help. We meet and sew each Monday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm. You need only bring a needle and scissor. Thimbles are optional.

Barb Ostrum, Vickie Kittle, Brooke Flynn, Cindy Runzler, Suzi Hansen



803,181 QUILTS & KITS

IN **15** COUNTRIES

	COUNTRY	SHIPPING WAREHOUSE	QUILTS	SCHOOL KITS	PERSONAL CARE KITS	BABY CARE KITS	FABRIC KITS
315,818 QUILTS 179,200 SCHOOL KITS 231,811 PERSONAL CARE KITS 66,984 BABY CARE KITS 9,368 FABRIC KITS <small>This shipping information is from LWR's 2025 Fiscal Year (Oct. 2024 - Sept. 2025).</small>	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



BENEFIT AUCTION

Sunday April 26 4-7pm

The Billings Depot

Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by

christikon.org



View auction items online:



tinyurl.com/ChristikonAuction2026

April, 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

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.



Fragrance Free Zone
Please help us to accommodate those who are chemically sensitive to fragrances and other scented products.