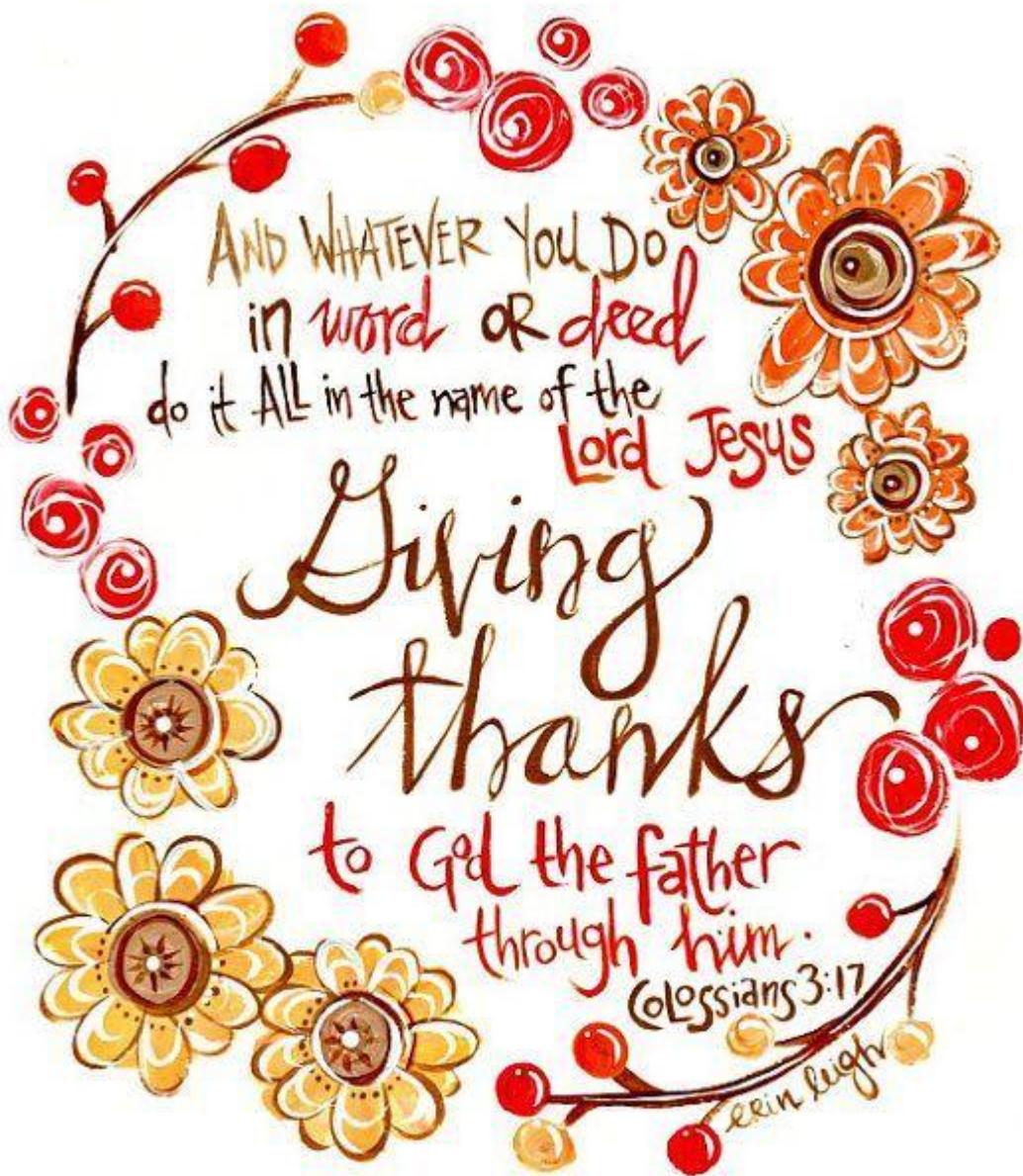


# Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



Dear Messiah,

I write this on the eve of All Saints Day - Halloween - and the funeral of Dick Rosekelly. Preparing for his funeral I've been more and more aware of the role we have as a community of faith in supporting one another along the path we walk together. Increasingly, it's clear, here in Montana and across the country, that the number of ordained clergy is shrinking. As an ordained clergy person myself, I wonder about our future ability, as a national church body and as local churches like Messiah, to continue in this work.

What's become clear as well is that our churches do not lack leadership. Lay members of churches without pastors, especially in Montana, have been stepping up to the task of sustaining their communities, even enlivening their life together. It's a blessing to have a pastor in this day and age, but it's not essential for a church to function or thrive.

As you know, Church is neither a building nor its ordained leaders - it is the people. Worship itself is the work of the people (the literal meaning of the word liturgy!) But while we know these things, we have not lived them in a way that demonstrates their truth. We have leaders who work hard on our behalf as a community, but we have many more leaders than these.

This is why I have been inviting people to lead worship with me. Have you been curious as to why? Experiencing worship with leadership shared the church will learn to trust itself. These Assisting Ministers are silently growing faith in these things that we know to be true. Through them, Messiah is growing a quiet strength, a resilience and resolve, that we can and will do church together when the days come that we have no pastor.

For those of you who'd like to serve your church in this role, know that it is an act of leaning into the Spirit's guidance and the very grace of God. It will grow you. None of us do anything "perfectly" - indeed this is never the point! We do this because our church needs faithful people leading it. The congregation where I was baptized and confirmed, that hosted the funeral of my father, has been in a pastor search for 2.5 years. I have no intention of leaving Messiah any time soon, but when the time comes, you will have a wait too. So we work together to prepare those who will lead.

Pastor Ben



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

11/11 Leanne Domonosky– Kellar

Reagan Yates

11/16 Jessica Kinzley



11/11 Dan and Brooke Yates

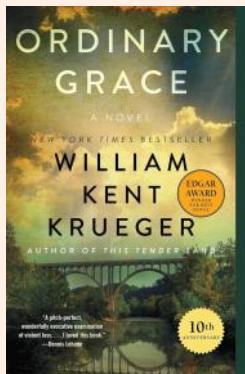
We have been collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage to be made into diapers. These diapers then become part of the baby care kits which are donated to Lutheran World Relief. Heretofore, Pastor Paul and his wife, along with Sunne Lutheran Church in Wilton, North Dakota, have been doing the sewing 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) and we'll get rolling.

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 or Mary Ames. If you are in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Pat Thompson, Mary Ames or Pastor Ben.

### WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: November 20

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: Ordinary Grace

Author: Wm Kent Kruger

Facilitator: Jackie Cordill

Location: To be determined

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.



November, 2025

Our name is up! Just waiting for the cross to complete it.



### Greetings From an Old Friend

In 1973 as we were driving to Red Lodge buying the Yodeler Motel, we noticed a highway sign that said **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**. The next Sunday we attended services. Many welcomed us making the transition much easier from the Minneapolis area with this loving and caring congregation supporting us.

We remained active at Messiah until we retired after selling The LuPine Inn and going to Mesa, AZ in the winter. During this time one of our sons was Confirmed, 2 granddaughters Confirmed and one great-grandson Baptized.

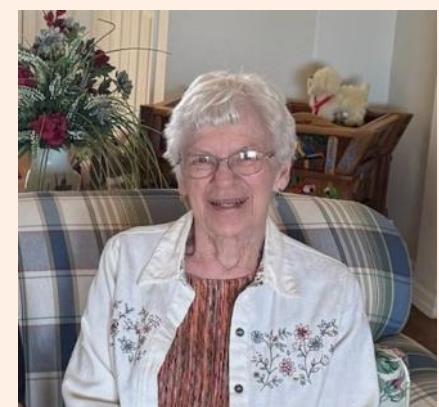
When Dick died in 2018, he chose to be buried in the Veteran's section of Red Lodge Cemetery across the road from Messiah's new location.

I will be buried there also. Our good friends, Dale and Luella Olson, are next to Dick. They were long-time members of Messiah as well.

Currently I'm using a walker as a result of falling and breaking my femur in 2024. With lots of prayers and God's help I'm able to stay in my own home...so far!

I receive Messiah's monthly newsletters and think of all of you often.

Blessings and love, Joan Kyro



## Member Spotlight

By Dianne Milleson

Jim and Jeri Kyner share the spotlight this month.

The first word that comes to mind when I think of this couple is kind followed closely by industrious, faithful, and reliable. As long as I have known Jim and Jeri, they have been pillars of the church, quietly doing jobs that need to be done at the building and sharing God's love by visiting shut-ins, providing meals for people who are in need, sending messages of encouragement, and actively participating in services here at Messiah. Oh, and Jeri makes the BEST chocolate chip cookies! We are indeed blessed to have them here with us.

### Jim's Story

I was born March 10, 1941 in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

As a toddler, I remember living in a cement block house that looked down on a paved street and the railroad tracks which ran along the Colorado River. There was a grass slope that was fun to roll down. I also remember our house vibrating when the train went by.

Then I remember living in a tent in a trailer park near Dragerton, Utah. Behind the tent was a rabbit hutch. I would reach up as far as I could and put my fingers in the cage and a rabbit would nibble on them. I tried to ride my tricycle on the dirt road by our tent but the front wheels would just spin in place. One day my brother was riding our mom's bike behind me on the road. He told me "Move over!" I moved to the other side of the road, and my teddy bear protected my fall but my brother fell into a pile of boards with nails poking out. He was mad at me!

We left Utah and drove back to Glenwood Springs in my dad's model A Ford.

In Glenwood Springs in the winter, we would side-step up the road to the cemetery where Doc Holiday and one of the "Wild Bunch" were buried. That's where I learned to ski! From third grade to high school I skied at the Red Mountain Ski area in Glenwood Springs. The warming hut was an old CCC barracks. We also skied at Aspen for 50 Cents when we could find a ride to get there. We could ride home in my friend's dad's Coke truck.

My brother and I always had paper routes besides working for my Dad. All of our wages were put into an account for college. Both of us became teachers with master's degrees. I met Jeri in college.

### Jeri's Story

I was born on February 27, 1943, in an Army hospital in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. For the next three years while my dad was fighting in World War II in Europe, my mom and I moved around spending time with relatives. When my Dad came home for short visits, I was afraid of him, he was a stranger!

When I was 4, we moved to Austria. I loved Austria partly because our family was together. I had many friends to play with and we explored bombed out buildings. In 1949 my brother was born and I went to Kindergarten in Austria. For the next 12 years, I attended school in 12 different places, including Japan. My school in Japan was a one and a half room school. I usually had 1 or 2 other kids in my grade. We lived on the side of Mt. Fuji. It was very beautiful!

When I was 13, I started babysitting and teaching swimming lessons. My Dad matched my earnings and saw to it that all the money I made went into my college fund.

I graduated from high school in Mineral Wells, Texas and then went to college at the University of Northern Colorado. That's where I met the love of my life, Jim Kyner!

### Jim and Jeri's Story

We got married in 1963 while we were still going to college. We both worked two jobs in the summers so we could continue college in the fall. Jim worked for his Dad building and remodeling houses. His Dad always saved the concrete demolition and replacement for Jim to do. In the evenings, Jim hosed off the picnic and sun bathing areas around the "world's largest outdoor hot springs swimming pool". Jeri taught swimming lessons in the mornings. The rest of the day she worked at the swim shop and sold tickets to people so they could get into the swimming pool.

In 1965, we both graduated from college and we both got teaching jobs in Worland, Wyoming. We thought we could live there for a year or two but found we loved skiing, hiking, camping, backpacking, hunting canoeing and teaching in the Big Horn Mountain area. Worland was also a great place to raise our sons, Jardy and Jack. Jardy says he had a "Leave it to Beaver" childhood. We both ski patrolled at Meadowlark Ski Area near Ten Sleep, Wyoming. Jim went on to become a regional Director over most of the Wyoming ski areas. He was also the first ski team coach in Worland.

After 37 years in Worland, we retired and got jobs teaching in a Yupic Eskimo village in Alaska. We learned more than our students did! Now we could afford to retire in Red Lodge. For the last 22 years we have enjoyed all the outdoor activities Red Lodge has to offer.

We have also made great friends here and have enjoyed our wonderful church home.



## Christikon Clips

November 2025

Information for our Congregations

We celebrated Pastor Heather Wigdah's installation as Executive Director in October. Thank you to all who attended or sent words of encouragement and congratulations.



The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday November 16 th at 3:00pm. Join us as we share stories from the summer, look ahead to the 2026 season, and provide exciting updates. This hybrid gathering will take place both in person at Big Timber Lutheran Church and via Zoom.

Our 2026 summer calendar is now posted at [christikon.org](http://christikon.org) . Registration opens January 6, 2026. If you have questions about the upcoming season or want to plan your visit to the mountains, we'd love to hear from you!

New for 2026:

Plans are underway for an Artist-in-Residence Contemplative Retreat and a Music Backpacking Adventure—unique opportunities to experience creativity, faith, and wilderness together. Stay tuned or reach out through [christikon.org](http://christikon.org) to learn more.

Additional backpacking and retreat opportunities will be available through September 2026. Family, adult, and specialty groups can choose 2-, 3-, or 4-night adventures during the week or over a long weekend. Retreat options will now include optional meals in addition to lodging—perfect for a relaxing fall getaway at camp.

We continue to hold you in prayer as we navigate these uncertain times together. We trust in—and give thanks for—our God who never lets us go, no matter what life brings. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and into the holiday season and new year with renewed hope and peace.

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 24 th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

406 656-1969 • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

# Messiah Calendar—November, 2025

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1 Dick Rosekelly funeral
2 Worship 10:00 am All Saints Sunday Chimes 11:30 am  	3 Great Books 9:30 am  Quilters 1:00 pm	4 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	5	6 Bridge 10:00 am— 2:00 pm	7	8 UCC Harvest Dinner 11:30 am - 5:00 pm 
9 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30 am	10 Great Books 9:30 am  Quilters 1:00 pm	11 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	12 Church Council 6:00 pm	13 Bridge 10:00 am— 2:00 pm	14	15
16 Worship 10:00 am Songs and Readings  Chimes 11:30 am	17 Great Books 9:30 am  Quilters 1:00 pm	18 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	19	20 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm	21	22
23 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30 am Community Thanksgiving Service And Potluck 5:00 pm  	24 Great Books 9:30 am  Quilters 1:00 pm	25 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	26 Worship Committee Meeting 11:00 am	27 	28	29
30 Worship 10:00 am  Chimes 11:30						

## Oh, what joy Christmas brings!

### Christmas Kids' Shoppe 2025

On Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m., our church will be filled with many eager children wanting to shop for free gifts for family members.

In 2024, Messiah's Christmas Kids' Shoppe served over 160 young shoppers who went home with more than 850 wrapped gifts! Messiah is located at 912 Lower Continental (off Hwy 78) in Red Lodge.

There are many opportunities for everyone to help make this year's Shoppe another wonderful event! Please review the lists below for a task that suits your time and interest and sign up on the chart at the church or telephone Jeri at the number shown below.

#### PRIOR TO THE EVENT

Bakers - Bake small cookies to be served during the event.

**Friday, November 14** (10:00 a.m.) - Come to the church to assemble parent letters and shopping tickets for children to take home in their Friday Folders. We will also pass out merchant letters and Kids' Shoppe posters. Bring a stapler and staples if you have them.

**Thursday, December 4** (6:00-8:00 p.m.) - Load up the things that are not at the church and bring to the church.

**Friday, December 5** Set up Tables (9:00 a.m.) - Arrange gifts on tables in the sanctuary. Arrange the wrapping area and chairs. Arrange chairs for children and adults in the gathering area.

#### DURING THE EVENT

**December 6** (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Kitchen Staff - Arrange and serve cookies and beverages to the adults.

Door Monitors - Welcome children. Check their shopping tickets or help them complete one. Pass out big shopping bags. Keep children in the line while awaiting their turn to shop. Only children are admitted to the Shoppe while adults enjoy refreshments in another area.

Personal Shoppers - Help a child select gifts for those listed on his/her shopping ticket. PLEASE mark who each gift is for on the shopping ticket, e.g. "Ball for Joey" or "Earrings for Mom" so the gifts can be properly labeled when wrapped.

Gift Wrappers - Wrap or bag the gifts. Bows and curly ribbons are available.

Wrappers' Helpers - Write "To" and "From" and fill in the appropriate names on the gift tags and tape tags to the proper gifts.

Table Monitors - Restock gifts on the tables as needed.

#### AFTER THE EVENT

**Saturday, December 6** (after 3:00 p.m.) - Pack up everything. Clean up the sanctuary.



**November, 2025**

## **Council Corner**

**Greetings and Blessings!**

Your Messiah Church Council met on October 8th at 6 pm.

You can find the full report, including financials, in the member section of our website or by requesting a copy from our Administrative Assistant.

**Summary of the October meeting:**

Paul Schauer, Treasurer, noted that the September ending balance in the Mission Investment Loan is \$ 296,000.

Paul will contact the Chamber of Commerce to purchase a hanging flower basket in the 2026 Broadway display; he will donate the cost on Messiah's behalf.

Maria Gibson, Education Committee Chair, was happy to share that the rest of this year's Sunday School classes all have teachers signed up!

Martha Crofts, Family Life/Volunteer Coordinator, reported about the planned Community Thanksgiving Service followed by a dinner on November 23rd at 5 pm. There is also an Everybody's Birthday Party and Talent Show planned.

Sandy Moe, Outreach Committee Chair, met twice with the Fellowship Field Committee to discuss opportunities for development. Sandy has completed training on the technology booth, printed schedules for volunteers, and has been running the livestream during Sunday services with the continued help of Duane and Marla.

Kathy Kraetz, Property Committee Chair, reported that the sprinkler system has been blown out, the letters on the side of the Church have been installed and that there is some maintenance to be completed at the parsonage.

Linda Daily, Stewardship Committee Chair, reported that the Stewardship materials were created and made available to the congregation. The returned card will assist the church Council in creating the Mission Spending Plan for 2026. The congregation will vote on the 2026 Mission Spending Plan during the congregational meeting on November 23rd.

Dianne Milleson, Worship Committee, reported that the next Song and Readings Service will be on November 16th. Mid-week Advent services are being planned with the UCC and Episcopal Churches.

Katrin Chandler, Church Council President, shared the annual review forms for Pastor Ben and Dianne which will be filled out by all council members. The executive committee is also sending out a congregational survey to our active membership.

Brooke Flynn, Church Council Secretary, reported that copies of the updated Constitution will be available to the congregation on October 19. Then at the November 23rd Congregational Meeting after worship, the congregation can vote on the updated Constitution. The congregation will vote to ratify the Constitution at the Annual Meeting. After the vote, Brooke will send the ratified Constitution to the Montana Synod.

Our next regular Church Council Meeting is on Wednesday, November 12th at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Katrin Chandler, Messiah Church Council President

### **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](mailto:redlodgemessiah@gmail.com) with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

This month the people of Messiah are praying for, Vince and Mary Ames,  
Claudia B, Hannah Gonzales, Elisa Hansen,

Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Doug & Mary Lair,  
Jackie Odegaard, Carlos Ramalho, the family of Dick Rosekelley, Sadie Sceva,  
Guynema Terry, Josh Wilker, and Raj and Colette

# 2025 ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC

November 08,  
2025  
Saturday

Time: 11:30 am - 5 pm

Tickets: Adults,  
\$15.00  
Children (6-12yrs)  
\$10.00  
5ys & Under Free

Stop by  
church for  
pre-sales  
tickets or  
come the  
day of!



308 Broadway Ave S.

406-446-1444



**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  
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

Campus ministries are faith-based organizations and activities that provide spiritual support, community, and faith development for college students, faculty, and staff on university campuses. They offer services like bible studies, worship, fellowship, and service opportunities, and serve as a welcoming "home away from home" for students to deepen their faith, find community, and explore spiritual questions in a supportive environment.

### **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](mailto:grgtlv@aol.com)

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](http://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](mailto:redlodgemessiah@gmail.com)  
Pastor's email: [pastorbencherland@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbencherland@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.redlodgemessiah.com](http://www.redlodgemessiah.com)

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<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Ben Cherland</u>	<u>646-708-1389c</u>	<u><a href="mailto:pastorbencherland@gmail.com">pastorbencherland@gmail.com</a></u>
<u>President</u>	<u>Katrin Chandler</u>	<u>406-290-4263c</u>	<u><a href="mailto:katregcha@gmail.com">katregcha@gmail.com</a></u>
<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Roy Olpin</u>	<u>360-888-7733</u>	<u><a href="mailto:roy.olpin@hotmail.com">roy.olpin@hotmail.com</a></u>
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Brooke Flynn</u>	<u>406-656-0173</u>	<u><a href="mailto:flynnquilt@gmail.com">flynnquilt@gmail.com</a></u>
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Paul Schauer</u>	<u>701-391-0584</u>	<u><a href="mailto:pschauer62@gmail.com">pschauer62@gmail.com</a></u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>Maria Gibson</u>	<u>727-744-4630</u>	<u><a href="mailto:mgibson@wdmoffice.com">mgibson@wdmoffice.com</a></u>

## Family Life/Volunteer

<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Martha Crofts</u>	<u>239-643-3027c</u>	<u><a href="mailto:marthacrofts@gmail.com">marthacrofts@gmail.com</a></u>
<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Sandy Moe</u>	<u>218-341-0283</u>	<u><a href="mailto:sandra.moe@rocky.edu">sandra.moe@rocky.edu</a></u>
<u>Property</u>	<u>Kathy Kreatz</u>	<u>406-425-1595</u>	<u><a href="mailto:kkreatz@gmail.com">kkreatz@gmail.com</a></u>
<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>Linda Daily</u>	<u>406-426-0841</u>	<u><a href="mailto:lindatodd94@yahoo.com">lindatodd94@yahoo.com</a></u>
<u>Worship</u>	<u>Dianne Milleson</u>	<u>406-425-3222</u>	<u><a href="mailto:dmille46@gmail.com">dmille46@gmail.com</a></u>

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## Other Important Contact Information

<u>Computer</u>	<u>Gwen Williams</u>	<u>406-425-2401</u>	<u>(Text Gwen Only)</u>
<u>Ministerial Ass'n.</u>	<u>Bryan Lowen</u>	<u>406-860-5571</u>	<u>(financial assistance to the community)</u>