

September, 2025

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



September, 2025

Labor Day

Carl Cherland, my dad, died this week; July 12 th - my half birthday. He had developed a brain tumor (Glioblastoma) last fall. And after surgery and radiation in the new year, he was given a prognosis of 10 months. He fell asleep on Monday and died on Saturday.

After my mom, sister and I had time with his body, the funeral home took him to Swift Current, Saskatchewan, where he would undergo Aquamation. The only thing that would remain from that process would be his bones, ground up and placed in an urn.

This might not have been our first choice for what to do with his remains, but this is what he wanted. He chose it for its negligible carbon footprint, but it had the added benefit of easing a necessary border crossing. He and Mom own plots at the Flower Fields Cemetery in Hills, MN and that was where he wanted to be interred. Bodies don't cross borders easily but his fine ground bones wouldn't even need to be declared.

We shared a lot of stories before and after his death. At one point, I asked my mother Meredith why she agreed to be interred in Hills. Having grown up in Connecticut, her parents were buried in Stratford, a long way from Hills (in more ways than one). She told me this story.

Summer 1973 came just a few months after she and Dad had met. He spent that summer, like many before, working on the farm in Hills that his grandparents Henrik and Othilda had started. It was Labor Day weekend and some of the family were gathering. Dad had called Mom, who was working in Colorado Springs, and asked her to come.

She flew to Sioux Falls, picked up her bags and walked out of the airport to find Dad waiting. There he was, leaning against the farm truck in blue jeans, a T-shirt and denim jacket. He was tan from working outside, with bleached blond hair and only just 24. Mom was struck: he was gorgeous.

At the farm she met Dad's parents, his brother and sisters, along with Othilda - Dad's beloved grandmother. Uncle Rik and Joleen surprised everyone by driving all the way down from Saskatchewan. They were just so curious about this exotic, east-coast woman Dad had brought to the farm.

At one point, Othilda handed a bowl to Mom and told her to go out and pick some green beans from the garden for lunch. Mom had never seen green beans still "on the vine" before. But out she went, one of the family, ready to work.

It was a beautiful weekend on the farm in late summer, the place where she met Dad's family and became part of it. A perfect moment in time that would age well.

She told me another story soon after this one. It was Dad's last night at home before being taken into Hospice.

The palliative care nurse had come over for a check-in and found that, as a side effect of one of his medications, both his feet had swollen dramatically, and one was red, weeping and infected. He was no longer able to get around the house. It was time for him to be admitted. She told Mom, his primary care giver for the past six months, that it was time for her to be his wife again.

During the course of his illness, there were moments when, on his best behavior, he was childlike. He would get a look in his eyes that was soft, curious and grateful with a touch of wonder - maybe at the care he was receiving, the taste of a ripe cherry he was eating, or something else. I had seen it a few weeks before when I'd come home, but hearing how he greeted the EMT's and joked as they put him on a stretcher, I imagine that childlike spirit emerging.

It was on the way to the hospital that he seemed to get anxious. Mom was sitting beside him and brought him back to that summer weekend in Hills, recalling the time - the farm, the relatives and relationships, Othilda and the beans. He helped some and remembered with her, calming as he did.

That was Friday. Then Monday, and Saturday.

I've been thinking about what lived between these two stories. In 51 years of marriage there was joy. Music. Food and meals and parties with friends and loved ones. A lot of Church. Children, work, experiences of loss, distance, pain and regret. Seasons as students, adventuring in far away places, the peace and ease of making a home with someone, in someone, somewhere. And love - spoken, heard and given, again and again.

We work at life. The day to day, the grind of effort, and the weight of responsibility, all for the sake of accomplishing something significant in the hope that it matters and lasts. We work at life but we live for moments. The moments of connection, beauty, and ease that blooms. Moments where we make contact with the timeless. These moments might last a day, a weekend or more, and even though they might shift, shaped over time in the remembering and telling, they become something more than they are. The food we need along the way, sign posts showing us that way.

These are the moments I'm collecting now, to remember Dad and keep some connection-with him - moments that last, that lay out the way and the long path home.

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church Members and Friends!



My name is Katrin Chandler and I am the current MLC Council President. In August, I had the honor to represent Messiah Lutheran Church at the funeral service for Dr. Carl Marcus Cherland, Pastor Ben's father.

The funeral service was at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada and drew attendees from many places. I spoke with one family friend who had driven 16 hours over the course of two days to be there for our Pastor Ben, his sister, and his mom. If I recall correctly, over 350 people were in attendance as well as many of our members who participated in the livestream of the service.

I just want to share with you what remains with me in my heart that I took away from the service. Being a Lutheran Church musician for his entire professional career and calling, Dr. Cherland's former students were invited to sing during the funeral service. Imagine six pews filled with 60+ former students singing the chorale 40 of the St. John Passion in parts. Along with the singing of many hymns during the very personal service and tribute to Pastor Ben's father, the entire funeral service was such an inspiring experience.

Soli Deo Gloria



September, 2025

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

Happy Birthday!

- 9/1 Dennis Kreatz
- 9/6 Donna Downing
- 9/10 Sheena Langeliers
- 9/11 Cole Daily
- 9/20 Jane Chatlain
- 9/21 John Flynn
- 9/23 Herb Hunt
- 9/24 Susan Leaverton
- 9/25 Dick Crofts
- 9/30 Marla Ebel

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.

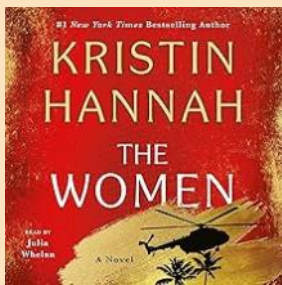


Prayer Shawl Ministry

- 9/28 Jack & Lavonne Ervin
- 9/22 Mark & Sonya Owan

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: September 18

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: The Women

Author: Kristen Hannah

Facilitator: Martha Crofts

Location: Home of Donna Downing

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.

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.





Thank God for Answered Prayers!

August 12, 2025, several of us gathered to welcome Josh Wilker back to civilian life. It was a wonderful time of sharing and testimony.

Often times we don't have the privilege of seeing our prayers answered. Not so now. Josh has been in our prayers these past six years and we are delighted that he is back. God Bless you, Josh! Welcome home.



Messiah Calendar—September 2025

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 Labor Day	2 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 10:00 am Parents Meeting Following church	8 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	9 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	10 Church Council 6:00 pm	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:00 am	15 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	16 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 10:00 am	22 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	23 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:00 am	29 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	30 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm				

Council Corner

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah Church Council met on August 13th at 6 pm.

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

□ The lettering for the outside of the church building is ready and will be installed mid-September.

□ More volunteers have been helping in the Tech Booth.

□ Roy Olpin joined Council as our Vice President. He will serve until the Annual Meeting when his name will be on the ballot to serve 2 additional years.

□ With the family's agreement, the "Andrea Holmen Music Fund" will be renamed to "Music at Messiah Fund".

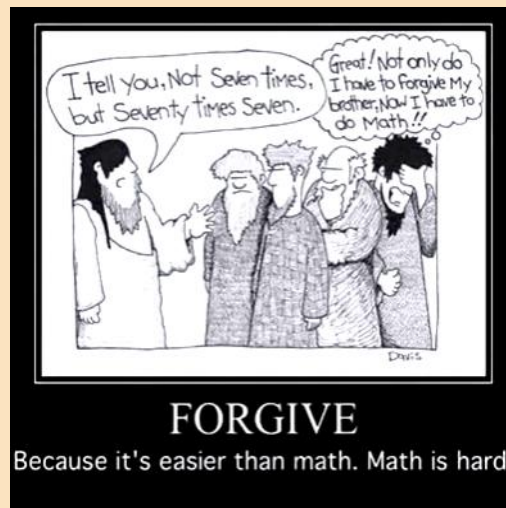
□ Council made a \$200 contribution to the fund in honor of Dr. Cherland. Pastor Ben spoke about his father, Dr. Carl Cherland's, deep commitment to music. Contributions in honor of Dr. Cherland can be made to the "Music at Messiah Fund".

□ There was discussion about making the 5th Sunday of the month a "Songs and Lessons Worship". Council decided to set aside November 30, March 29, 2026, May 31, 2026 and August 30, 2026, for "Songs and Lessons". The Worship Committee will ask for suggestions for songs and will do the planning.

□ There is a little-used set of English Handbells at First Lutheran, Havre. Our Church will be able to bring the set to our Church on loan. Messiah's liability insurance covers a loss related to the handbells while they are in our possession. Messiah needs to buy foam pads for both the borrowed handbells and for our own chimes. The money will be taken from the "Music at Messiah Fund".

Our next meeting is on September 10th at 6 pm. Please stop by if you are interested in the Messiah Church Council workings.

Katrin Chandler, 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 with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

This month the people of Messiah are praying for

The family of Donald Alexander, Claudia B, The family of Carl Cherland, Jackie Cordill, the family of JoAnne Fox, Hannah Gonzales, Nancy Knudson, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Doug & Mary Lair, Guynema Terry, Josh Wilker, and Madison

Christikon Clips

September 2025

Information for our Congregations



We are grateful for your prayers for Christikon this summer, especially for the summer staff as they return from the mountain after a season of serving, guiding, and growing together around our theme, **Hopeward**. They've led campers on trails and in worship, cared for community with joy and resilience, and discovered Christ's presence in unexpected places. Now they carry new friendships, deeper faith, and a spirit of hopeward living back into their everyday lives. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for them!

We also ask for prayers for Heather and her family as they complete their move from Menomonie, WI to Billings. We celebrate with them as they join our community.

Summer season #74 is in the books. What a journey it has been with so many opportunities for us to be about God's work. We are grateful for all of our wonderful campers who joined the Christikon community this summer and who now remain a part of it!

We hosted campers from: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Texas Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Wonderful opportunity to connect with people from these out of state congregations and forge long lasting friendships sharing the Christikon experience.

Our special guest speakers: Dr. Dave Ellingson led sessions at our Continuing Education Retreat and Paul Waldum led sessions during Mountain Weekend Family Adult Session.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled through the month of October with several dates including weekends still available. Bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains!

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 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

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

September, 2025

Member Spotlight

By Dianne Milleson

Mary Ames is in our Member Spotlight this month.

Where to start with this amazing lady? She is our eldest elder having just celebrated her 99th birthday although you would never guess that because she is spry and sharp as a tack, always upbeat and positive, certainly an inspiration for all of us!

Mary is absolutely the most accomplished knitter I have ever known. I made sure when my great grandchildren were born that I was able to purchase her baby socks and caps for my little ones. She also quilts and plays bridge.

Mary has been a faithful church member, prayer warrior, and supporter of this congregation for many years. Mary and Vince were instrumental in acquiring the property where our church now sits. She is the person I go to when I need special prayers. That's what I know of Mary, but here is her story in her own words.

The Life and Times of Mary Ames

I was born July 24, 1926. My parents were Howard and Mabel Heinbach. I was the middle child of five with two older brothers, a younger brother, and a sister.

I was raised in the Mennonite Church. It was New Conference Mennonite—no buggies or special garb. I never heard anyone say “are we going to church today?” - it was a given.

There were twenty two cousins, most of them living within a 5 mile radius. What fun we had together!

When I was four I found out where babies came from. Doctor Meyer came to the house with his black satchel and went up the back stairway to my mother's room. Later, when he left, I had a baby sister. He had to have brought her in the satchel!

We had two living rooms in our house and often there was a quilt in the frame in one of them. We kids liked to play under the frame until we got too rowdy and were sent to play somewhere else.

I started to quilt at age twelve and learned to knit from one of my cousins when I was fifteen.

One Sunday there was a new young man in the choir, his name was Woody Roth. He was good looking, too. Sometime later I sat beside him on the youth hayride. He asked me out and two years later we married.

Woody had been to auctioneers school and was developing his business as well as becoming a realtor.

Our children were Cynthia, Claudia and Wylie. We had a very happy marriage until it all came to an end. We were on our way to a beach cottage for a weeks vacation when our car was hit by a drunk driver and Woody was killed instantly. I was forty years old.

At that time there were very few women who sold real estate, but I got my license and went to work for Woody's partner. In the Allentown Board of Realtors there were four women to fifty men.

Two years later I married Bob Krall. He had spent time as a teenager on a Montana ranch and really wanted to live here, a tough move for me! We bought a small sheep ranch and I also went back to work for C Mor Real Estate. When the owner was ready to retire, I bought the company.

My marriage to Bob ended for reasons I will not go into. I was devastated.

I was sixty nine years old by then and certainly not looking for another man in my life, but one day Vince Ames, who was widowed, came into my office inquiring about some lots I had for sale. He invited me to have lunch with him at Bogarts. We found out we both liked to hike and also kept a birdwatching list. Our first hike was in Clarks Fork Canyon. About a year later we married.

Early in our marriage we were able to travel sight seeing throughout the U.S. and visiting relatives in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Wisconsin. We took two Amtrack trips to Pennsylvania and a two week bus tour in Mexico. It has been a happy 28 years of marriage.

Daughter Cynthia is married to a fine Christian man, Mark Schiller. Daughter Claudia died of a brain tumor at age fifty two. Son Wylie lives in Livingston. I have three grandchildren, Marje, Lori, and Robby. Robby and Paran gave me a pretty little great grandchild, Minoo.

In spite of some set-backs, I feel truly blessed. Thanks be to God!



Mary selling her hats at our church garage sale. All profits from Mary's hats were donated to the church kitchen fund.



Dianne Milleson and Mary who is holding the beautiful prayer shawl she knit for Dianne.

Mary holding one of her lovely hand knit prayer shawls.



Brooke Flynn, Barb Ostrum and Mary hand quilting a beautiful quilt for St. John's Quilt Auction.



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

PASTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

This fund helps finance the pastor’s personal outreach to members of our congregation and people interested in becoming members by providing money for lunches, coffee dates and other personal encounters of encouragement.



Hey, everybody! Our annual garage sales have become famous in our local area! I overheard one shopper say that this is his favorite sale.

This year we decided to try opening on Friday afternoon. This proved to be very successful. We planned to be open from 5 to 7 Friday, then again from 8 to 4 on Saturday. As it turned out, while we were putting out our signs at 4:30, people started driving in to shop. We actually made \$1,000 Friday. Our total sales were over \$2,000 which will be applied to developing Fellowship Field.

This was a huge endeavor and many thanks are due to everyone who donated items, donated baked goods, helped set up, sell, and take down after we were finished. We were able to save items from the sale for the Christmas Kids Shoppe and we donated many things to the Senior Center and the

Goodwill. We were also able to donate some items to Bethlehem Lutheran Church’s mission to homeless folks in Billings.

Congratulations to Sandy Moe!

Sandy recently graduated from Rocky Mountain College with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. During her training, she completed a series of clinical rotations across Montana and surrounding states, which required relocating to new sites every six weeks and traveling more than 130,000 miles over two years. Throughout this time, she also balanced the responsibilities of raising her two young children. Before graduate school, Sandy worked as a Registered Dietitian at Bear-tooth Billings Clinic. She has now accepted a position with Billings Clinic in Pediatric Endocrinology.

A couple of years of really hard work and stressful times—now complete. Sandy, we are so proud of you!



September, 2025

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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