

September, 2024

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland

HAPPY LABOR DAY!



The Pine and Elk crew working on our landscaping.

Matthew 11:28-29

²⁸ "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

September, 2024


Dear Messiah,

Have you ever heard of a "third thing"? I'm not sure where I heard about it. In fact, I'm not sure I ever heard about it, but I've experienced "third things" and am convinced they are important.

Coffee on the table between two people is a third thing. Walking side by side on a pretty morning is a third thing. The view off the deck as you converse with someone is a third thing. It's your food on the table as you talk between bites. Worship itself could be thought of as a third thing. Anything that exists outside and alongside a direct encounter with another person and holds some of the focus - that's a third thing. Third things are helpful when it comes to socially connecting with another person one on one. They are helpful because they insulate us just enough from the intensity and vulnerability that an authentic encounter with another person requires for a connection to be made. Interesting, right?

Why, you may be asking, am I talking about this in our church newsletter? Great question! First of all, it's my job. Well, part of my job. Connecting with people is an important piece of what it means to lead a church, especially for a church like Messiah, especially for a church the size of Messiah. We have welcomed 37 members in the 18 months since this new building was opened. I sat down and visited nearly every one of these people with the intention of connecting. Third things were on my mind in each of those visits because they lowered the intensity level and allowed for easier conversation, lessening the pressure of face to face connection. But what's true of third things is that often, in my experience, they tend to cost money. While a walk is certainly cheap and a good way to connect, I wonder in a place like Red Lodge how many months of the year you (or someone who doesn't know me but is thinking of joining the church) might agree to go on a walk with me. I am confident that most people would be more open more often to a free meal. That's an offer that's a little harder to refuse, even for the reluctant. And what often results over a meal is an easy conversation, "greased" by the eggs in front of us, that leads to a place of trust and openness. Those with whom I've found that kind of connection, many have become part of Messiah.

This month's special offering is the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. It is not unusual among professional churches for pastors to have access to a sum of money from which they draw for instances like the ones I've described. This fund is not in our budget - there were more pressing expenses this year... But what is just as pressing now is connecting with those looking at Messiah from outside, wondering if here they might belong. What is just as pressing now is reminding each of you that you do belong and have space with me to share your life and burdens. This is a fund meant to aid in such conversations which, I trust, are just as important to you. Thank you for giving.

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Pastor Ben". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christikon Clips

September 2024

Information for our Congregations



We are grateful for your prayers for Christikon this summer, for the summer staff as they are called back into the world newly equipped to share their mountaintop experiences, and for all who have joined in the Christikon life. We ask for your continued prayers and support.

We also ask for prayers for Mark and Julie Donald as they prepare for their move to California. As you may be aware, Mark will complete 11 years of ministry with Christikon in September. We are grateful for his faithful service and wish him blessings as he begins a new chapter of ministry.

You can go to our website for more information and details.

Please keep the **leadership of Christikon** in your prayers as they move through the search for the new Executive Director. Watch our website and Facebook for updates as they become available.

Summer season #73 is in the books. What a journey it has been with so many opportunities for us to be about God's work. Our exceptional staff have headed back to their lives outside of camp, the campers are back at school and work, and we begin the planning for 2025.

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 Professor Jason Mahn and Rev. Kent Claussen Gubrud led sessions at our CE Retreat and Mountain Weekend.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled into the middle of October with several dates including weekends available in September. 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.

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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.....Baretooth Cupboards

February.....Red Lodge Ice Rink

March.....St. John’s United

AprilMeadowlark Childrens Center

May.....Christikon

June.....Boys & Girls Club

July.....Lutheran World Relief

August.....Red Lodge Fun Run

September...Pastor’s Discretionary

October.....DSVS

November....Campus Ministries

December.....Prison Ministries

Let’s honor the missions that Red Lodge Messiah supports. At the beginning of each month we will have someone briefly speak about that non-profit entity during worship. Also, a jar will be placed near the coffee in the gathering area if you wish to donate there. Certainly a check with the organization specified on the memo line is great as well. Thanks, B Ostrum

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.



Garage Sale Success!!!

Our garage sale was a huge success. We made enough money to go forward with building our bridges across the seasonal streams.

Thank you to all of you who donated items, purchased items, donated baked goods.

COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on Aug 12. Highlights are below. Find the full minutes on our website.

- We are in the process of revising our constitution (done every 3 years). If anyone has input, please contact Linda or Brooke.
- Landscaping is nearly complete. We agreed to lay sod versus hydro-seeding to cut down on the amount of weeds and care that seeding will take. We are waiting on sod in order to get the preferred mix of grass. We will be selling the topsoil to Elk N' Pine in the form of a credit on our landscaping bill. The whole project should be completed by early Sept.
- We are collecting bids for filling cracks and maintenance on the parking lot.
- Our Sabbatical discussion was positive and generated additional questions. More discussion is needed before we put it before the congregation.
- There are two vacant positions on Council: Vice President and Stewardship Chair. If anyone is interested in learning more, please contact Linda.
- Our Building Use document has been finalized and we are getting quite a bit of interest from folks to use our building. A great asset to the community!!
- The annual budget meeting is scheduled for November 24 after worship. Please mark this date on your calendar!

The Vacant Land to the East...The Grassy Area...The Empty Lot

We need a better name for the space to the east where we worship outdoors, house our shed & the Meadowlark playground, and who knows what in the future. We invite you to get creative and help name our land! Think about how we can refer to not only for ourselves but what to call it so the community knows where to go if there is an event held on the land. There will be a sheet on the bulletin board for you to add your proposal - or you can email the church at redlodgemessiah.com and we will put it on the sheet. Please submit names by September 20th. In the October newsletter, we will include this list of names and ask you to rank your top 3 favorites. From that, we will choose the final name.

Our bulletin board is the place to check for community information, thank you letters from groups that we support and many other interesting items.

What's going on at Messiah?



A BIG "thank you" to everyone who donated items and baked goods, purchased items, and worked to make our garage sale a huge success. We raised enough money to go ahead with our bridge building project!



O CANADA !



Some of the best people I know are from Canada...my sister, Pastor Ben, Pastor Brian from the Alliance Church. I can now add to that list Teresa and Julius Banares. This lovely couple came to our garage sale and were introduced to Pastor Ben who gave them a warm welcome and invited them to attend Worship on the Pass with us the next day.

Sure enough, at 9:15 they were here and anxious to begin the trip up the mountain. Pastor Ben took the lead and they fell in behind him, all smiles and excited to experience this unique worship service.

Bev and I decided to travel together and waited as long as we thought we could to greet any late arrivers but 9:40 came and we decided we had better hit the road. At this point I need to interject that the last several times I have traveled up the pass, I was the driver. As the passenger this time, I found it to be quite a different experience, being able to see over the edge. I truly felt like we just might die...

About 3 switchbacks before Vista Point I noticed a couple standing by the side of the road and recognized them as our new Canadian friends. I told Bev we had better pull over and find out what was up as Pastor Ben was nowhere in sight.

We pulled over and I rolled down my window and asked them what was up. They said that Pastor Ben had told them we were going up the mountain but that this is a MOUNTAIN and they were terrified and couldn't go any further, begging that we understand they are from the part of Canada that is flat prairie and they had never experienced anything like this before and it was just too scary to continue. I replied, "If Bev drives really slow, would you like to follow us?" the answer was NO! So we left them standing by the road contemplating how they might get back down.

I have to admit that I felt pretty bad just leaving them by the side of the road but they are adults and I figured they would find their way.

Bev and I continued up to the service site, enjoyed a lovely time of worship with our Episcopal brothers and sisters and then returned remarking that some people really do get freaked out on the pass. Those of us who live here, for the most part, have become accustomed to the hair pin turns and sheer drop offs. We agreed that it was probably pretty terrifying for "flatlanders" - people from Kansas and now we could include people from Winnipeg, Canada. We were a little sorry that we hadn't prepared them better.

The following day, Monday, I had just arrived at the church when Teresa and Julius showed up at the front door apologizing for not continuing to the worship site and full of regret for having missed the service.

As penance, I pressed them to take some of our garage sale leftovers which they did and then Pastor Ben came out and had a great visit with us, admitting that he had forgotten how frightening that first trip up the pass can be.

Well, that's my story...who says church isn't exciting?

Here is a picture of our new Canadian friends. We do hope they will find their way back some day and pay us another visit. In the meantime we thank God for sending them our way and pray they have a safe and enjoyable trip home with no mountain passes to negotiate. They gave me permission to write this little piece and asked that I send them a copy. So, Teresa and Julius, Peace be with you now and always and we do hope to meet again.

Dianne Milleson



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
9/26 Howard
Marquardt
9/30 Marla Ebel



Happy Anniversary!

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



MESSIAH CHIMES

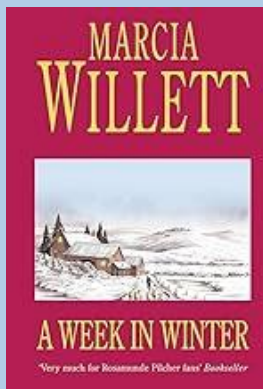
Messiah Chimes resume Sunday rehearsals on September 8. You may hear Christmas music because it's never too soon to brush up on our ringing skills. Please speak to Martha or Dick Crofts if you'd like to

Cotton flannel sheets and yardage are still needed

We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage for Pastor Schauer's wife, LeeAnn, to be made into diapers for Lutheran World Relief. Sheets can be used and stained because they will be cut up and the unusable parts will be discarded.

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.

WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: September 19
Time: 3:00 pm
Book: A Week in Winter
Author: Marcia Willett
Facilitator: Marla Ebel
Location: Donna Downing
Contact host, Marla Ebel,
at 406-664-3178 for more
information.

Coffee first
reached
Europe in
1515.



Martin
Luther
sparked the
Reformation
in 1517.



Beware a caffeinated pastor.

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.



Messiah Calendar—September 2024

<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	2 LABOR DAY 	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:00 am	9 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm Church Council 3:06 pm	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 10:00 am	16 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	17	18	19 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm	20	21
22 Worship 10:00 am	23 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	24 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:30 pm	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:00 am	30 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm					

Every Tuesday
Women's Bible Study
10:00 a.m.
Contact Martha Crofts, 239-643-3027
or
Marla Ebel, 406-664-3178
for more information

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 Ilamae Akkerman,
Doug Beckman, Brook Feister, Dolly and Jim Koski,
Rick and Sandy Koski, the family of Phyllis Kreatz,
Barbara and Howard Marquart, Shirley Petersen, Sadie Sceva

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	Linda Daily	406-426-0841c	lindatodd94@yahoo.com
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Vice President			
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Secretary	Brooke Flynn	406-656-0173	flynnquilt@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Kim Elsberry	406-425-0967	kelsberrybresnan.net
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	Paul Schauer	701-391-0584	pschauer62@gmail.com
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Education	Katrin Chandler	406-290-4263c	katregcha@gmail.com
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Family Life/Volunteer			
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Coordinator	Martha Crofts	239-643-3027c	marthacrofts@gmail.com
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Outreach	Barb Ostrum	406-446-4121	hobin727@gmail.com
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Property	Kathy Kreatz	406-425-1595	kkkreatz@gmail.com
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Stewardship			
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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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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: 9:00-4:00

Tuesday : 9:00-4:00

Wednesday: 9:00-3:00

Thursday: **OFF**

Friday: 9:00-4:00

Saturday: 12:00-4:00

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.



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