

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine upon
you and be gracious to you; the
Lord lift up His countenance upon
you and give you peace.**

— *Numbers*
6:24-26

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Dear Messiah,

Happy New Year! With one more Sunday of Christmas to go, we look ahead toward the season of Light – Epiphany. The light of Christ has come to us and we begin this new year with a renewed sense of gratitude for *God-among-us* and a desire to share that light, bearing and reflecting it in the still dark places of the world. We learn to do this at church. So I am giving thanks that we have a church such as this, a people intent on generously sharing God’s gift of light in Christ.

This new year will bring some new opportunities for you to grow in the life of this community and the mission of God in which we share. I’m particularly excited to restart our Assisting Ministry in worship, but there are other promising opportunities coming as well.

Lay Preaching! It’s been said that “Everyone has at least one good sermon in them.” Do you agree? I certainly do. I am planning an Adult Forum for Sunday January 25th on the topic of preaching. Have no fear – those in attendance are not signing up to become lay preachers! But come expecting to hear my own journey to the pulpit, my growing process as a preacher, some theology, some Luther, and “how” Messiah lay preachers will learn the craft. I hope it pricks your interest enough to hear the word God has given you for this time, place and community.

We continue to grow as a congregation with a winter cohort of new members joining Messiah. This is one of the many joys of life together for Messiah, welcoming and joining these new people in their journey of faith. If you are interested in being included among those joining, there will be a dinner in early January and a formal welcome in worship later in the month. Even if you’re simply curious, we would love to include you.

As our Annual Meeting approaches, there are several positions open in which to serve. Many require very little in terms of time and effort. So consider the needs of the church this month, and if you get a call from the nominating committee, be open to the tug of the Spirit toward service in our community.

Finally, with a Sabbatical for your pastor on the horizon in 2026, we will be in conversation about the shape of Messiah’s renewal as I seek my own. We want to hear your questions, your concerns and to be in this conversation as the time approaches. Not unlike stepping into a new year and a new season in the life of the church, uncertainty can draw near. But certainty is a poor substitute for the faith we find by stepping into the unknown together with Christ lighting our way.



Thank you!

Pastor Ben, Dianne, Jennifer and Dick thank you for your generous Christmas gifts. We are privileged to serve this congregation.

1/3 Vince Ames

1/12 Pastor Ben

1/15 Don Peterson

1/18 David Downing

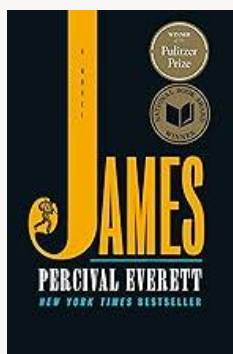
1/19 John Elsberry



Weekly Sunday handbell and chimes practice resumes in January.

Contact Dick Crofts for further information.

WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: January 15

Time: 3:00 pm

Book: James

Author: Percival Everett

Facilitator: Carol Erkins

Location: Jeri Kyner's home

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.

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)

Save the Date

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 1 after worship and will be followed by a luncheon provided by your church council.

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.

January, 2026

December was a busy time for Messiah Members—The Christmas Kids Shoppe, Bell ringing at the Christmas Stroll, weekly Advent mid week soup and bread...all leading up to an absolutely spectacular Christmas Eve service featuring the bell/chime ensemble, Dick Crofts on the piano and organ, Bonnie Eichenberger on the piano, and Pastor Ben and Dianne Milleson joining the "holy family" in recreating the nativity scene...Liam Moore, Ella Morales, Indi Morales, and Lexi Frey.

This Bell Ringing is serious business! Our Bell/chime ensemble playing during the Christmas Stroll.
The house was packed and people were standing in the hallway and lobby.
Dick explained that handbells were originally invented so they could be practiced in the pubs...
And that is where we were playing them—in the Pub at the Pollard.



Only our Council VP, Roy Olpin,
could carry off this festive
look!

Christmas Eve



Angels and the Holy Family

Member Spotlight

By Dianne Milleson

Remembering our brother in Christ, Dick Rosekelly

One afternoon in mid October, I went to the hospital to sit with DJ as she sat with Dick while he was spending time there as a patient. I got there only to learn that she had gone home but would be back in about 20 minutes. Wondering what I could possibly think of to talk with Dick about for 20 minutes, I decided maybe he would be interested in being interviewed for our members spotlight. Well, to my surprise, he enthusiastically relayed his life story, starting with his boyhood in Milan, Ohio; his early introduction to hard work; his time spent in the military; how he became involved in business; and his love of horses and hunting. Oh, yes, and how he met and managed to convince DJ that she was the one meant for him.

It was only a few days later that I got the news that Dick had passed away. His family planned a beautiful funeral service to honor and remember him. One of the only times and places that Butterscotch Whiskey has been used for communion.

His granddaughter, April, put together this beautiful obituary.

RICHARD (DICK) EDWARD ROSEKELLY

Richard Edward “Dick” Rosekelly was born on March 11, 1933, in Milan, Ohio, and passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on October 19, 2025, in Red Lodge, Montana.

Born and raised in the family home in Milan, Ohio, Dick learned the value of hard work early in life. When it came time to build a new home, his parents, Lois and Ed, hired an old German stonemason to finish the home’s exterior. Dick and his brother, Eugene, were quick to help and were offered by Ed to be hod carriers—carrying stone and mortar for the mason. Before long, Dick had traded his bucket for a trowel and began learning the craft himself—setting the foundation for what would become his lifelong trade.

After serving proudly in the U.S. Army from Camp Carson in Colorado Springs during the Korean War, Dick returned home and founded Rosekelly Masonry in 1954. He built a strong reputation for craftsmanship and integrity, contracting in Colorado for 22 years before eventually settling in Billings, Montana. For the past forty-nine years, Montana has been home. Dick's dedication to his work can still be seen in the custom homes and projects that stand as a testament to his skill, work ethic, and pride in his craft.

Beyond his trade, Dick had a lifelong love of horses that began as a 4-H project at the age of 15. He was also a true outdoorsman who found joy and peace in the serenity of nature. Whether hunting, fishing, or simply enjoying the land, Dick treasured his time outside. During his many hunting adventures that took him through the mountains of Colorado, Alaska, and Montana, he developed lasting friendships and countless stories that reflected his passion for both nature and camaraderie. As he slowed down in the mountains, he shifted more time and effort into mentoring and sharing these passions with those coming up around him. His daughter, Sue, fondly remembers their family camping trips in Cripple Creek, Colorado, where her dad's love for the outdoors was always on display.

Dick also cherished the friendships he made within the Shriners community as a proud member of the Black Horse Patrol. The

camaraderie and shared purpose of that group meant a great deal to him, and the bonds he formed there became an important and joyful part of his life.

In the late 1990s, Dick met the love of his life, Deloris (DJ), during Sunday breakfasts where they often crossed paths. After a few attempts, she finally accepted his dinner invitation—and from that evening on, their story continued to grow. Together, they built a beautiful blended family full of love, laughter, and mutual respect.

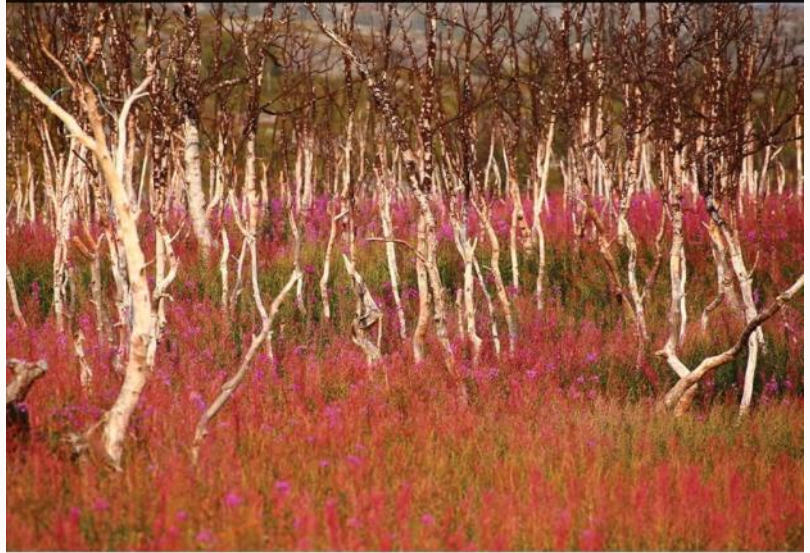
Deloris lovingly shares, “He accepted my family as his own, and as more grandchildren came along, we accepted them all as ours—on both sides. What a wonderful family we have. Dick helped so many people who rented from him or needed a hand through tough times. If you were working hard, he’d help you without hesitation. He believed in people who wanted to move forward—those going to school, learning a trade, or building something out of nothing. He enjoyed helping others. He was the light of my life, and he will never be out of my sight. I love him to the end.”

Dick is survived by his beloved wife, Deloris Rosekelly; his brother, Eugene (Jodi) Rosekelly of Deland, Florida; his daughter, Susan Gail Mershon (Rosekelly); and his son, Ricky Ray (Alysha, Hayden) Rosekelly. He was a proud grandfather to Beau, Ryan, and Mike (Kayla) Mershon, and to April (Cole) Myers and Ridge Rosekelly. His legacy continues through his great-grandchildren, Logan DeCouteau, and Forrest and Lola Myers, along with many extended family members he gained through his life with Deloris—Jim (Dina) Winter, Joshua (Brandi) Winter, and John Lund—and their children: Zachary, Nicholas, Misti, Libby, Jacob, Jexton, Navah, William, and Carson; and great-grandchildren: Olivia, Maddox, Brooke, and Skyler.

Dick will be remembered for his strong hands, generous heart, and unwavering work ethic—a man who built not only homes, but a life filled with purpose, friendship, and love. Friends of Dick and the family are invited to gather at The 2nd Shift Bar in Lockwood at 5:30 PM (11/1), where, in true Dick fashion, he’ll buy us all one last beer.



Carlos Ramalho



Theology at the Borders:

The Lutheran Church of Sweden and the
Rescue of Jews under the Nazi Dictatorship

ELIVA

"The border is not only a line on a map; it is a moral horizon." In *Theology at the Borders*, Carlos Ramalho traces how the Lutheran Church of Sweden navigated the perilous space between neutrality and responsibility during the Nazi era. Drawing from archival sources, theological reflection, and postmodern ethics, the book explores how faith became both refuge and reckoning at the edge of catastrophe. With rare sensitivity, Ramalho examines Sweden's moral paradox: a neutral nation that became a sanctuary for thousands, yet also a silent witness to Europe's destruction. Through the lens of Lutheran theology, he reimagines the border as a place of conscience, where theology crosses into history and history demands theology. This is not only a work of history, but a meditation on what it means to rescue, and to remember, in an age still haunted by silence.

Dear Church Family,

I'm thrilled to share a sneak peek into my new book, *Theology at the Borders*! This project is close to my heart because it uses history as a mirror to reflect our current challenges. By diving into the experiences of Sweden and Denmark during World War II, I hope to spark some actionable change right here in the United States.

Our faith calls us to stand shoulder to shoulder with the oppressed, no matter their circumstances. The church is meant to be God's hands, reaching out to those in need. And let's face it: it's not just immigrants who face unjust treatment. Even before the current crisis, countless humanitarian disasters flew under the radar, unnoticed. My book champions the poor and the voiceless and does so without aligning with any particular ideology or political party. It's essential work, and the suffering of others weighs heavily on my heart.

But this isn't just about raising awareness—it's about inspiring all of us! I want church leaders and congregations to take up the mantle as rescuers. Together, we have the power to make a real difference in the lives of those who are hurting.

In *Theology at the Borders*, I blend history, theology, and philosophy to create a conversation that resonates with where we are today. I truly hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it! The book is now available on Amazon in both print and electronic formats. And if you're part of the Messiah community, I'd be more than happy to provide a few samples for you to borrow and read in print.

Here's to a fresh start in the new year! Let's make it a meaningful one, together.

Warm wishes,
Carlos

January, 2026

Christikon Clips



January, 2026

Information for our Congregations

2026 Camp registration opens January 6 th.

Visit our website at www.christikon.org in January to explore next summer's programs and register. We look forward to welcoming you to Christikon during our 75th year!

2026 Summer Staff Applications are Now Open.

The application is live on our website, and our Executive Director is out recruiting through February. If you—or someone you know—might be interested in serving on staff, visit <https://christikon.org/employment/> to learn more and apply.

Save the date: **Christikon Benefit Auction – April 26, 2026**

We are currently seeking donated items. Do you or someone you know offer a service, have a cabin or vacation condo, extra airline miles, sports tickets, or event tickets you'd be willing to contribute? We would love to hear from you—please call or email the office.

Why Christikon?

Too few young people (and adults!) have meaningful outdoor experiences. Christikon offers spirited adventure within an intentional Christian community that opens hearts to the life of faith. Consider joining the Christikon life this summer—it might just be the gift your spirit needs!

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

director@christikon.org • www.christikon.org



COMING SOON

Mondays @ 7pm

**Adult Children of
Alcoholic / Dysfunctional
Families (ACA) Meeting**

**Calvary Episcopal Church, Red Lodge
9 N. Villard - around back**

Messiah Calendar—January, 2026

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	5 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	6 Epiphany Bonfire 6:00 pm	7	8	9	10
11 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	12 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	13 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	14 Worship Committee Meeting 11:00 am Council Meeting 6:00 pm	15 Safari Book Club 3:00 pm	16	17
18 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	19 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	20 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	21	22	23	24
25 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30	26 Great Books 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm	27 Bible Study with Pastor Ben 6:00 pm	28	29	30	31
<div> Save the date: February 1st will be our annual Congregational Meeting after worship which will then be followed by a luncheon provided by your church council. </div>						

January, 2026

Council Corner

2026, **COUNCIL CORNER HIGH LIGHTS**

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah **Church Council met on December 10th 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.

Pastor Ben Cherland's 2026 Work Agreement has been signed.

Administrative Assistant Dianne Milleson's 2026 Duties and Responsibilities has been signed.

Council is reviewing Messiah's policies in December and January 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.

The keypad door code will be changed in February. The code will be given out to council members and frequent users. Groups renting the building will receive a different code from Kathy Kraetz, Property Committee Chair.

Council granted Pastor Ben a 3-month Sabbatical in 2026.

Council voted to support Katrin Chandler (Messiah Church Member) in her pursuit of completing the 2-year Montana Synod Lay Ministry Associate program.

Tax Giving Statements will be available in early January 2026.

A hosted new member meeting is planned for January 2026.

Goals for 2026

- Complete Memorial Garden

- Develop the legal framework for the Endowment Fund

- Save for the Endowment Fund

- Develop congregation led worship

- Support our Mission Initiatives

Our next regular Church Council Meeting is on **Wednesday, January 14th 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 and Mary Ames,

Claudia B, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Doug & Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Ande Odegaard, Jackie Odegaard,

Carlos Ramalho, the family of Dick Rosekelly, Pam Tuscher,
the family of Wes Thompson, Sadie Sceva, Guynema Terry, Josh Wilker,
Josh Winter, Judy Yasi, and Lexi

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 Food Pantry	August	Carbon County Arts Guild
February	Boys and Girls Club		Youth Education
March	St. John’s Ministries	September	ELCA World Hunger
April	LWR Quilters	October	DSVS
May	Christikon	November	Campus Ministries
June	Montana Synod Hunger Fund	December	CART
July	RCLAF Fun Run		

BareTooth Cupboards

Carbon County Community Bank Founded in 1980

BareTooth Cupboards has served Red Lodge and the surrounding communities of Carbon County, Montana, for 45 years.

Our mission at BareTooth Cupboards is to reduce hunger in Carbon County by providing food to those in need and engaging in outreach efforts while treating our customers with dignity and respect.

Approximately 1 in 10 Montanans struggle with hunger, and nearly 35,500 children live in food-insecure homes. In 2020, visits to Montana food pantries increased by 36% compared to 2019. And, in each month of 2020, an average of 38,000 households received food through partners of the Montana Food Bank Network

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

January, 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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