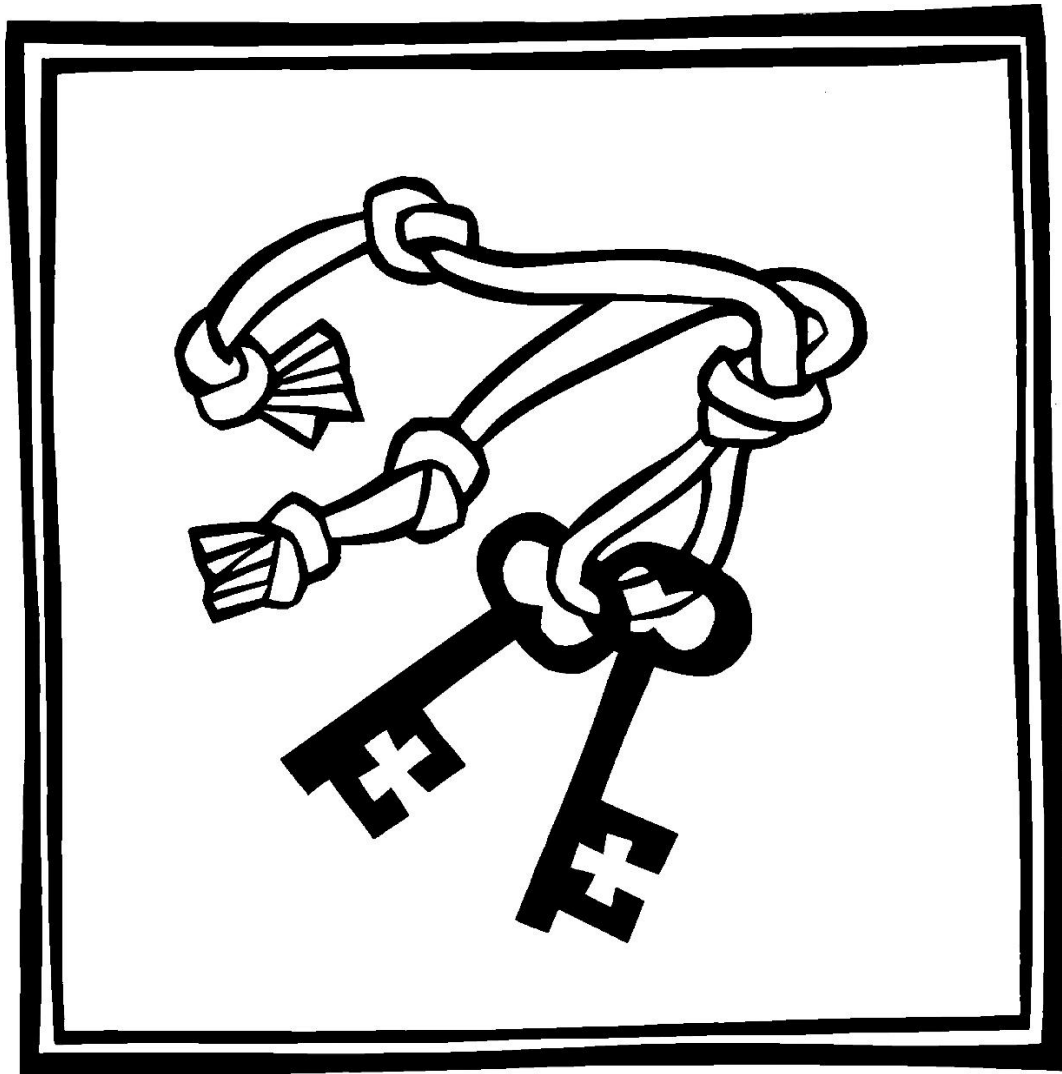




MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost*

*Pastor Ben Cherland
Pastor Jim Johnson Presiding Today*

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Please take a moment to fill out a square on the Messiah Connects form located on the clip board at the end your row so that we may make a connection with you.

GATHERING

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

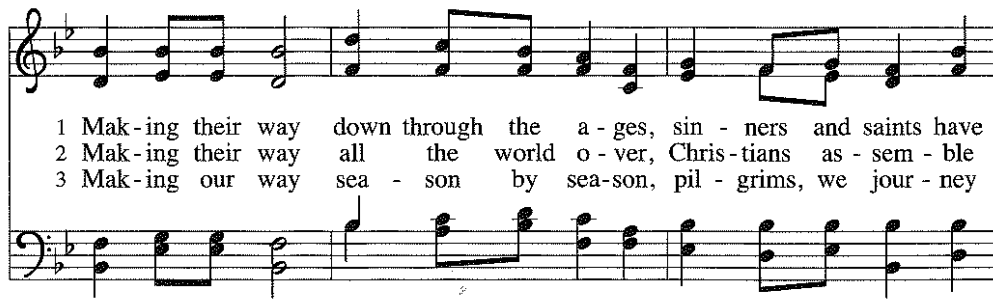
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

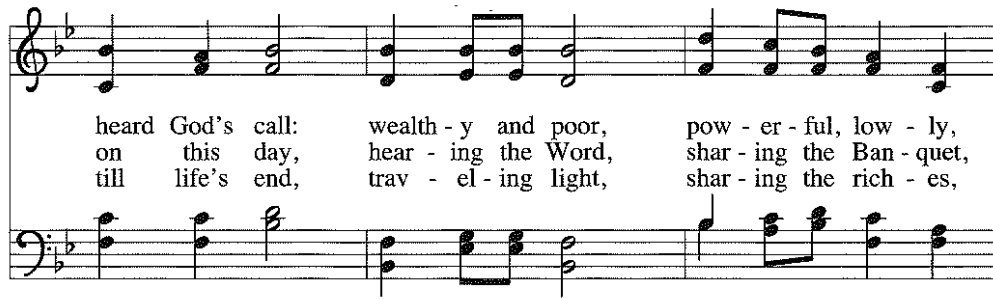
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

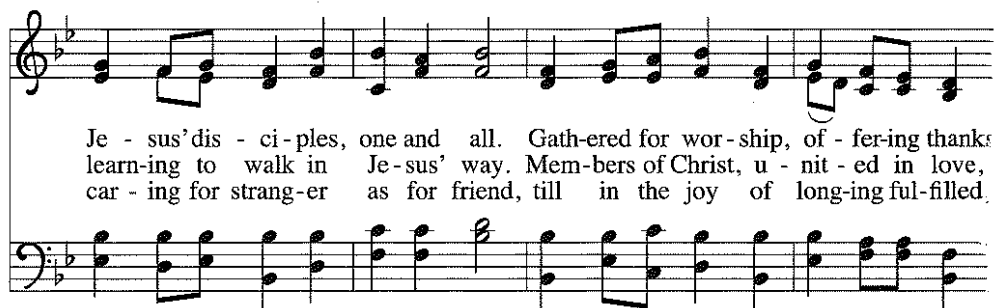
Making Their Way



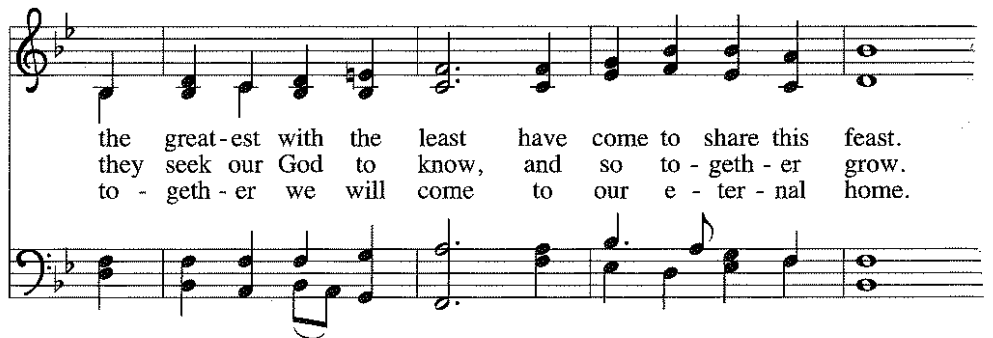
1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
 2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
 3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks
 learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
 car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906–2003
 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Arr. © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP Publications

KOMT NU MET ZANG
 98 98 96 6

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

- ¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
- ² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
- ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
- ⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
- ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;

the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**
- ³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- ⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score is divided into three systems, each with a Treble and Bass staff. The first system ends with a repeat sign. The second system includes a measure with a repeat sign and a measure with a fermata. The third system ends with a final double bar line.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *ELW 652 Built on a Rock*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you**

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING

ELW 692 We Are an Offering

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

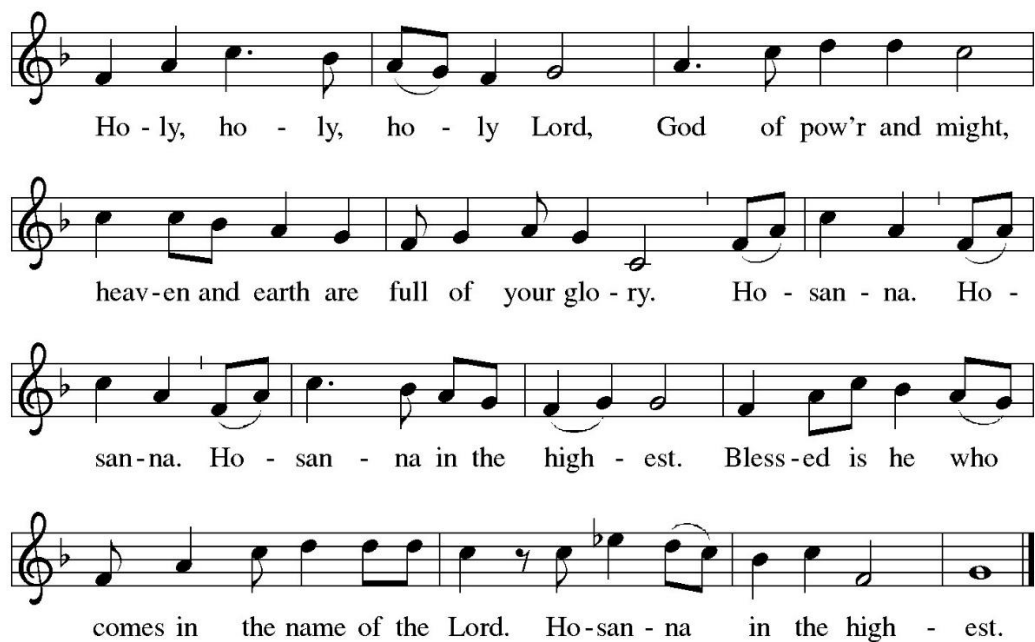
The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE (*Pastor*)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

S 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

ELW 243 Lost in the Night

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *ELW 812 Faith of our Fathers*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Special Offering for August is Carbon County Arts Guild Youth Education

Sunday services will continue to be held here at Messiah during Pastor Ben's absence. August 30th we will be joining the Red Lodge Community UCC and Calvary Episcopal congregations for Worship on the Pass. There will also be a brief Service of the Word here at Messiah for visitors and people who are unable to make a trip up to the Pass.

August 30th: Worship on the Pass at 10 am

September 6th: Festival of Hymns

September 13th: Pastor Robert Leaverton

September 20th: Susan Leaverton, LMA of the Montana Synod

September 27th: Pastor Paul Schauer

October 4th: Pastor Jim Johnson

October 11th: Pastor Peter Christ of St. John's United

October 19th: Bishop Ben Quanbeck

The annual Hospice Memorial Service with the release of butterflies will be held here at Messiah, August 26th at 5:00 pm.

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.

The people of Messiah are praying for
Claudia B, Renee Boyer, Cassidy Flynn, Hannah Gonzales, Herb Hunt, Dolly
Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Bob Pollock,
Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva, David Smiley, Guynema Terry, and Judy Yasi
and

The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

A Letter from our dear brother in Christ, Carlos Ramalho

I am writing to share very good news.

Yesterday, August 17, was PET Scam Day after completing half of the chemotherapy treatment for the B cell cancer tumors and 100% of the treatment for the lymphoma follicular tumors. Today, August 18, we met with the oncologist, and he told us the tumors are no longer visible. He also showed us the series of old PET Scans pointing at the reduction of the size of the tumors. I kept praying and talking to God while he was showing us those images on his computer screen because what happened is unbelievable... my tumors were located on the esophagus and between the lungs, behind the heart. They were a death sentence which was revoked.

I am still speechless and happy even though I'm having the fourth chemotherapy today. Above all, I am happy with the promise of a new life after this is all over although it may take a few more months.

Thank you again for your friendship, visits and prayers. Please thank Messiah ELCA church family on my behalf. When time comes, I will have one more blessing to share with the people of God and inspire them to put their trust in God during difficult times because this type of spiritual trust does not disappoint, it pleases God, and makes miracles happen.

I shall live and not die and proclaim the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 118:17).
With peace and gratitude.

Carlos

**SERVICE ON THE PASS ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE
& PICNIC Calvary Episcopal, Community Church UCC & Messiah Lutheran
Welcome All! August 30, 2026 10 A.M. WORSHIP with picnic to follow
LOCATION: At the Pull-Out just past Vista Point off the Beartooth Highway**

What to bring: • Camp/Lawn Chair • Water bottle (and go-mug of coffee if desired) • Sunscreen, hat, bug spray, umbrellas (as needed) • Finger-food dish to share Calvary Episcopal Church will provide: • Buffet tables • Paper plates & napkins • Trash bags Additional Information: This worship service will be held outdoors rain or shine! The nearest restrooms are at Vista Point. An offering will be taken for Intermountain Children's Home. (The offering will be collected and counted by the Deacons of the Red Lodge Community UCC Church.)

Directions: • Follow Highway 212 South out of town • Stay on Highway 212/Beartooth Highway for 20 miles • Turnout will be on the right, just past the Vista Point parking lot

**Messiah Lutheran Church
912 Lower Continental Dr, P.O. Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com, 406-446-2430
Administrative Assistant Hours
Monday – Thursday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

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.

*As a community of Christ's followers, we seek to grow, making a difference in the
lives of others.
Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope*