

May, 2025

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

Pastor Ben Cherland



May, 2025

Dear Messiah,

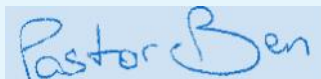
May is here and spring is creeping forward. As I write rain is falling outside. But as rain does this time of year, it carries with it a future that we can look forward to – of emerald hills, budding trees, longer days and eventually the flow of our “seasonal creeks”. The anticipation spring rains bring have me thinking about our life together and what comes next.

Pastor’s Bible Study is pausing our Tuesday night gatherings for May with a plan to resume Tuesday, June 10th. Pentecost Sunday is June 8th, so we will have set out into a new church season – one focused on the gospel word catching fire. Thinking about that Pentecost story in which language barriers are breached and a shared vocabulary grows, I’m thinking about what Pentecost could mean for us.

On June 10th, the Pastor’s Bible Study will begin a course of study called The Spiritual Quest in a Changing Culture: Primary Questions on Faith and Worship. Originally a Christmas gift from my father, it’s a study guide focused on the spirituality of Christianity and the worship that forms it. “... [W]orship helps to shape who we become”, writes author Rolf Nosterud. He goes on to explain the basic premise of the study: “to understand Christian Faith is to understand Christian worship and vice versa.”

In some of my first years as Pastor of Messiah, I attempted to convey a deeper meaning of various parts of our worship. As a deeply meaningful aspect of my own formation, I sought to “translate” worship for you, often in the context of our services. But, as Nosterud writes, although worship is an important part of forming Christian faith among disciples, it is not sufficient. One needs opportunities to dialogue... in order to mature our faith for living in our changing culture. (xii LS).

Created by a Lutheran pastor, this is a course of study that promises to give us a better understanding of who we are as a worshipping community and the shape God gives us through that worship. “There is work to be done. Many lay people need help finding words to initiate the discussion of how their faith, their Bible, and the symbols of worship relate to the longings in their soul. (xLS)” Quest with us, that together, we might find the words.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Ben". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The word "Pastor" is written in a smaller, more compact script, while "Ben" is larger and more prominent, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'n'.

May, 2025

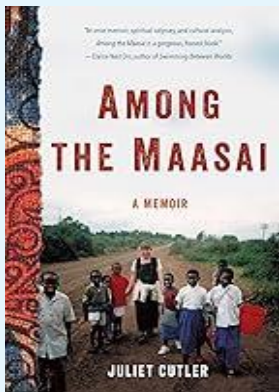


- 5/5 Brent Moore
5/7 Lynn Sorensen
Brian Langeliers
5/13 Sue Prather
5/14 Linda Daily
Joan Skibber
5/27 Brooke Flynn
5/30 Barb Ostrum



- 5/03 Brent and Jodie Moore
5/29 Jim & Nancy Johnson

WOMEN'S SAFARI BOOK CLUB



Date: May 15
Time: 7:00 pm
Book: Among the Maasai
Author: Juliet Cutler
Facilitator: Marla Ebel
Location: Home of DJ Rosekelly

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.



A new ministry here at Messiah Cotton flannel diapers

We are collecting cotton flannel sheets and yardage to be made into diapers. Soon we will begin making diapers here in Red Lodge to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. These are fun and easy to make.

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.

Messiah Chimes

Chime practice will resume
May 18th.

Did you know?

Messiah has a puzzle library! Located in the bookshelf in the hallway.



Council Corner

Greetings and Blessings!

Your Messiah Church Council met on April 9th at 7 pm. We discussed many exciting things. You can find the full report, including financials, in the member section of our website or by requesting a copy from our Administrative Assistant.

* Meadowlark Childcare is officially closed.

* It was agreed that Maria Gibson should move Sunday School into the Sunday School Room vacated by Meadowlark. She would like to have a bookcase from Meadowlark furnishings if possible.

* There was a discussion about including children in Communion. It was decided that children who are currently receiving bread and wine will continue to receive bread and wine. New children will be blessed when they come forward and have lessons on what communion means before receiving bread and wine.

* Pastor Ben has researched options for a track lighting scheme. He described the areas that he would like the proposed track lighting to highlight and what different companies offer.

* There was discussion about what Outreach looks like. One example of Outreach is the End-of-* End of Life lecture series which will begin in May.

* The Council reviewed the 2025 goals for Messiah:

- Complete Memorial Garden

- Expand Outreach efforts

- Support one new mission initiative

- Expand Music program

- Save for the Endowment Fund

- Participating in a small group pilot program

- Establish a connection with the Cemetery

- Finalize Policy & Procedure Manuals, Member handbook, and Building Use documents.

Our next Messiah Church Council meeting is on May 14th at 6 pm in the Messiah Fellowship Hall.

Are you ready to be our Church Council Vice President? This position is a great way to get a sense for the workings of our Messiah Church Council without a lot of extra work.

Katrin Chandler

Church Council President

May, 2025

Messiah Calendar—May, 2025

<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	5 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm Packing Quilts End of Life Forum 7:00 pm		7	8	9	10
11 Worship 10:00 	12 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm End of Life Forum 7:00 pm	13	14 Church Council 6:00 pm	15 Safari Book Club 7:00 pm	16	17
18 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30 am	19 Great Books 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship 10:00 am Chimes 11:30 am	26 	27	28 Worship Committee 11:00 am	29	30	31

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
Carl and Meredith Cherland, Neil and Alice Carver, Jackie Cordill, Mason Daily, JoAnne Fox
Herb Hunt, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jack Kyner and his family, Doug & Mary Lair,
Rob Loney, Paul Odegaard, Josh Wilker, and M.T.

The Messiah Quilts need your help Monday, May 5 at 1:00 pm to pack up, box, and weigh the Lutheran World Relief quilts for shipping. Then we need to clean/vacuum the chairs. Please bring your lint rollers as these work well to get off threads and lint. We thank you in advance for your help on this BIG effort. Barb Ostrum and the Quilters



It Shows In Your Face

You don't have to tell how you live each day;
You don't have to say if you work or play.
A tried true thermometer serves in the place,
However you live it shows in your face.

The false, the lies, that you bear in your heart,
Will not stay inside where it first got its start.
Blood and muscle are a thin veil of lace;
What you wear in your heart, you wear on your face.

If your life is unselfish, if for others you live,
Not how much you get, but how much you give,
If you live close to God and his infinite grace,
You won't have to tell, it shows in your face.

Karlene Garner

Submitted by Dianne Milleson



RED LODGE FESTIVAL OF NATIONS TRIBUTE

Celebrating 75 Years of
Traditions



Dance Music Culture Classes
Culinary Experiences

JUNE 27, 28, 29 , 2025



**For more information contact the
Carbon County Historical
Society & Museum
406-446-3667
CARBONCOUNTYHISTORY.COM**

May, 2025

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

It is the Mission of Christikon
to awaken and nurture faith in Christ — exploring God’s creation
and the adventure of life together.

Since 1951, Christikon has been a special place for spiritual growth and renewal with friends, old and new; an intentional Christian community where all are welcome, chosen, cherished, loved, forgiven, redeemed, and made worthy by none other than Jesus Christ himself.

Worship begins and ends each day. We study the Bible together, take time to reflect and be alone before God. We work hard, play hard, enjoy time together and time apart, with time for worship & prayer, and time for silliness and song.

Christikon is a place of joy that lifts up God’s gift of life. A place for you. You don’t have to be Lutheran to be at Christikon. Come with your questions, your doubts, your challenges, and joys.

National Forest Permit area is located in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.



Christikon Clips

May 2025



There is still room to register for camp this summer! Space remains in youth onsite sessions, Mountaineers 3 and families/adult sessions; limited openings in Wayfarers and Mountaineers 2. Contact

the office for availability.

Work Weekend, May 23-26. Come enjoy camp, comradery, food and fun while helping us prepare camp to receive our campers and summer staff!

Families register online. Remember there is no cost.

Just bring your willing hearts and hands! See you there!

Christikon's first ever Artist-In-Residence, John Hermanson, will spend the summer engaging with campers and staff through his soul-stirring music and deep theological imagination. This new opportunity is made possible through a partnership with Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman's new Center for the Arts.

More information will soon be added to our website!

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 28-31) we feature Dr. Dave Ellingson aka The Paddle Pilgrim.

Session Topic: Go Outside and Play.

Watch for more details and updates for both Continuing Ed and Mountain Weekend on our website. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website www.christikon.org

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CHRISTIKON • 1108 24 th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

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



St. John's United Welcomes Reverend Peter Christ as New Foundation President & Vice President of Mission Advancement

Billings, Montana – March 13, 2025 – St. John's United is pleased to announce that Reverend Peter Christ (pronounced "Crist") has accepted the call to serve as the new Foundation President & Vice President of Mission Advancement, effective May 1.

Pastor Peter Christ brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for ministry to St. John's United. He serves as Lead Pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Roseville, MN. Christ states, "My career can be summed up as being filled with deep relationships, meaningful ministry, and countless moments of grace." His leadership and vision are expected to infuse new energy into the St. John's United community.

"We are especially excited to welcome Pastor Peter and his wife, Anne, back to our community after being away for more than 15 years," said David Trost, CEO at St. John's United. "Their return is a homecoming, and we look forward to the blessings they will bring to St. John's United." Before the calling into ministry, the Christs owned and operated Bridge Creek Backcountry Kitchen in Red Lodge, and their ties to the Yellowstone region run deep.

As St. John's United prepares for this transition, the community expresses its deepest gratitude to Reverend Dr. Tom Schlotterback for his dedicated service and leadership as the current Foundation President. "Tom has been a pillar of strength and guidance, and his contributions have been invaluable," stated Trost. The transition is expected to be smooth and seamless as Pastor Peter steps into this role.

Later, St. John's United will provide more details about opportunities to meet and greet Peter and Anne and celebrate the work of Tom. The community is encouraged to welcome Pastor Peter with open hearts and minds, trusting in God's guidance and faithfulness.

About St. John's United

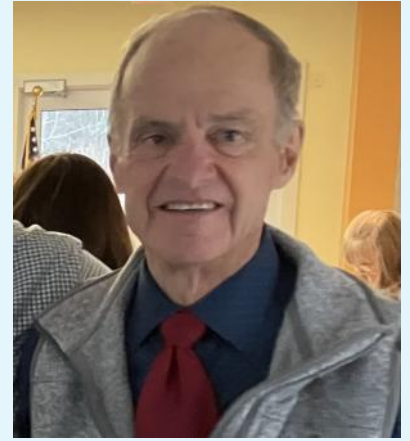
Since its founding in 1958, St. John's has consistently provided for the healthcare needs of its residents while nurturing wellness. From humble beginnings as one of Montana's first HUD-financed senior retirement communities, St. John's has grown to become one of the largest providers of eldercare in Montana. Services include income-based and private pay independent retirement apartments, assisted living, skilled nursing and memory care communities, a unique At Home program, post-hospital transitional care, as well as outpatient rehabilitation, In-home rehabilitation through home healthcare, end-of-life care through hospice services, and the addition of our respite suites empowering families to care for loved ones at home successfully.

In addition to caring for older adults, St. John's United focuses on family stabilization, accompanying foster youth, and providing counseling and primary medical care to our clients and caregivers.

St. John's United champions that there is so much life to live for those served, whether the service is within people's own homes or a St. John's community. To learn more, visit www.stjohnsunited.org.

Looking Forward to the Allen Hansen Memorial Bike Ride

The **Allen Hansen Memorial Ride** is co-chaired by Suzi Hansen and Pastor Melissa Johansen. It is a fundraiser for the Montana Hungerfund of the Montana Synod. The bike ride is scheduled for **June 14th starting at 6 am at Messiah Lutheran Church** in Red Lodge and ending at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Laurel.



Some of the riders might arrive Friday and spend the night at our Church. We need to prepare a meal (supper) for those riders who will spend the night at our Church and offer a light breakfast prior to the start of the Allen Hansen Memorial Ride. Suzi would gladly help with the organization of these meals.





Community Poverty Simulation | Friday May 2, 2025
9:00 am – 12:00 pm | United Way of Yellowstone County

The Shoes of Our Neighbors

Join us for an immersive Community Poverty Simulation, where participants experience the difficult decisions and challenges that individuals and families facing financial hardship navigate every day.

This interactive event is designed to build empathy, challenge assumptions, and inspire action by providing a glimpse into the realities of financial instability.

How It Works:

- Participants are assigned a real-life scenario of someone facing financial hardship.
- Community partner agencies will serve as key resources—banks, employers, schools, health centers, and more.
- Over four 13-minute sessions (representing four weeks), participants must navigate daily life—finding employment, paying bills, caring for family, and accessing vital services.
- A guided debrief will follow, fostering meaningful discussion and collaborative action.



Why Participate?

- Gain a new perspective on the struggles faced by many in our community.
- Engage with local organizations working to address the needs of neighbors.
- Learn how you can take action to make a difference.

This event is open to all community members. Whether you are a business leader, nonprofit professional, student, or concerned citizen, your participation matters!

What past participants say...

"I was surprised at how angry I was... I was like whoa, I bet if this was something in real life, it would be unimaginably difficult."

"Just eye opening..."

Register Today!

**Scan or click
the QR Code**



For more information, contact **Maia @**
mdickerson@uwyellowstone.org | 406.272.8506

May, 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			
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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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