


March 2011 Newsletter

Return Service Requested



Begin Your Lenten Journey
With Worship
Ash Wednesday
March 9
At 7:00 PM
With Imposition of Ashes
And Holy Communion

OFFICE HOURS AT MESSIAH	MESSIAH'S MISSION To know Christ To make disciples To send out To make Christ known	HOW TO REACH MESSIAH
Monday: 8-1 PM Tuesday: 8-1 PM Wednesday: 8 - Noon Thursday: 8 - Noon Friday: Office Closed	MESSIAH'S VISION To become a growing congregation of Christ's disciples who make a difference by living out our faith daily, active in love.	Church Phone: 406-446-2430 Church Address: 723 S. Adams P.O. Box 1330, Red Lodge, MT 59068 Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com Email: churchoffice@180com.net Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:30 AM Sunday Forum: 9:30 AM Pastor Kim Wilker @ 406-446-4466

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

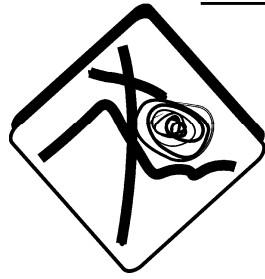
The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday March 9 and I'm reminded of lyrics written by Dakota Road "we are all on a journey from the cradle to the grave." Lent is about life with Jesus from beginning to end. The cross is central from the start as "we are born children of a fallen humanity, but in the waters of holy baptism reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life and marked with the cross of Christ for ever." Ash Wednesday we are reminded the baptismal journey will end and we receive ashes in the sign of a cross on our forehead hearing the somber words, "remember from dust you came and to dust you shall return". In the church, traditional Lenten themes include repentance, forgiveness, prayer, introspection, meditation, sacrifice (giving something up for Lent). All these serve to bring us closer to Jesus on the journey.

This Lenten season I invite you to practice, the spiritual discipline of "close encounters", A.K.A., weekly worship. Back in 1977 Steven Spielberg's science fiction movie debuted "Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind". This was a story of a blue collar worker in Indiana whose entire life was changed after an encounter with an alien U.F.O. The Gospel stories during

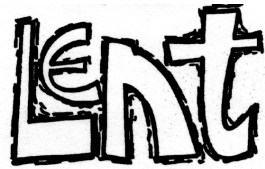
Lent this year are all "close encounters" with Jesus who comes into a variety of people's lives. We get a story about Jesus coming to a devout church leader Nicodemus (Nic at nite) who is in the dark about his faith and gets born again; another time Jesus comes to a woman at a well married 5 times, who is looking for something deeper than drinking water and receives living water and restored relationship in her community; Jesus also comes to a fella blind from birth and restores his and the community's sight; then a story of Jesus gathered with the community around his dead friend Lazarus' grave and Jesus calling him from death back to life.

For me, Lent is about Jesus who comes to all of us not only at birth in the cradle and at the grave, but every day in our life experiences. While we walk with Jesus, many times we don't. However, Jesus continues the walk with us and for us to his cross, the grave, and then...and then...and then... a live in person close encounter with Jesus. *Pastor Kim*

***"We are all on a journey
from the cradle to the grave"***



COMMUNITY MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES AND SUPPER



During March three more congregations of the Red Lodge Ministerial Association are joining together for worship Wednesday at **6:00 PM** followed by a light supper. I encourage everyone at Messiah to join in this enriching celebration of our unity in Christ as we worship together in one another's churches. This year Galatians 5:22-23 will be our theme "**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**"

The schedule for March is as follows:

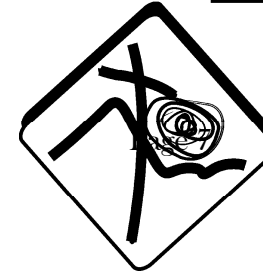
- 6:00 PM-Wed March 16** Messiah Lutheran
- 6:00 PM-Wed March 23** Episcopal Church
- 6:00 PM-Wed March 30** St. Agnes Catholic
- 6:00 PM-Wed April 6** Community Church

LENTEN OFFERING: Your contribution to Community Outreach is encouraged during this Lenten Season. Unless designated for a specific church, the offering taken during the community services will go to the **Red Lodge Ministerial Association** to be used in their community outreach efforts.

WORSHIP SERVICES WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

At the February church council meeting there was discussion about returning to one Sunday worship service. Approximately 18 months ago we began two Sunday services due to our increase in worship attendance and 80% of available seating filled at one service. Our average total Sunday attendance for 2009 was 88 and dropped in 2010 to 80. Early service attendance currently runs between 17-23, but has been as small as 10; 2nd service ranges between 45-60. Consequently, there is sufficient seating at both services. Going back to one service would mean adjustments in several areas: A compromise on worship times to accommodate the early risers and those who prefer to sleep a little longer...one service at 9:00, 9:30 or 10:00??? If the service were at 9 AM, it is unlikely the Sunday forum would have many takers at 8 AM. Would people attend the forum if it were after the service? This is a situation with no easy solutions. **We would love to have your feedback on this.** Notes can be turned in at the church office or slid under the office door. I would happily take email responses at: holmen.andrea@gmail.com which I would then compile for council consideration.

Andrea Holmen,
Worship Chair



Highlights from the February 15th Council Meeting

This was the first meeting of the new Council and President Barb Ostrum opened by welcoming all Council members and thanking them for their willingness to serve.

The big financial news was that the January General Fund giving exceeded the General Fund expenses by slightly more than \$325. Further, due to some advanced LIB giving, an additional \$12,500 was paid off on the principle for the mortgage on the Hwy 212 land, leaving a **current mortgage balance of \$130,613.76.**

Ann Christ was appointed by the Council to serve as congregational Treasurer and guidelines were adopted to govern when additional mortgage principle payments are to be made.

Committee reports were received. Of particular note, Property Management was authorized to accept the bids for, and proceed with, the necessary renovation of the basement shower in the Parsonage. It will also develop a plan to "resurrect" the Hwy 212 land Messiah Lutheran Ministries sign, since it was blown down in the recent high winds. Worship brought forward the question about the continuing need for two services and congregational input will be solicited prior to taking any action. The Valentine's dinner had 42 people in attendance and a great time was enjoyed by all. The next Family, Faith, Fun & Fellowship (on March 11th at Jim & Lee Bujold's) will feature billiards, board games and darts. Outreach reported that \$237 was raised for the Baretooth Cupboards at the Souper Bowl of Caring event on February 6th. Additionally, Pastor Kim reported that he will be convening the Vision & Mission Team to develop ideas for ways to use the Hwy 212 land during the summer months.

Andrea Holmen will be putting together a working group to develop a Facebook page for Messiah. Barb Ochiltree, Thrivent Congregational Advocate, will be working with Thrivent members to help them identify options for use of their Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Remember, a copy of the Approved January Council Minutes is posted in the narthex of the Church for your review.

JANUARY - 2011

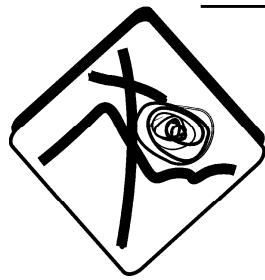
GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS

Income:	\$10,628.68
Expenses:	\$10,306.90



LIGHT IN THE BEARTOOTH (LIB)

Faithful Land - Initial Cost of the Land	\$550,000
January LIB Income	\$15,450
January Payment of \$85,000 toward principle	
January 31, 2011 Mortgage Balance	\$143,113.76



Lifestyle of Christian Discipleship

When we grow as stewards, we share the news of the Gospel in all the settings of work and leisure.

When we grow as stewards, we share our wealth and possessions with those persons and agencies in ministry to people in need.

When we grow as stewards, we give willingly of our time and abilities in our private lives and in the public order, using the gifts God has given us to assure that all creation is fulfilled.

When we grow as stewards, we assure that the world will remain a gift for future generations.

Stewardship is the lifestyle of Christian discipleship.

Submitted by Howard Young
From the Presbyterian Church of the USA
Web Site

March Madness Family, Faith, Fun and Fellowship



All are invited to celebrate an early
St. Patrick's Day
on **March 11th** with

Billiards, Darts and Board Games

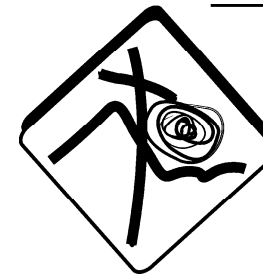
Home of Lee and Jim Bujold
810 South Adams at 7 PM
Bring snacks and whatever
you'd like to drink

Sign up in the narthex or call
Gina Farnham, 446-9818 or Jeri Kyner, 446-3323

Family Life

Valentine's Day was celebrated by 42 folks at Bridge Creek. Four couples, who are celebrating special anniversaries this year, were honored by answering questions about their marriage. Those couples being honored were **Pearl and Frank Culbertson with 65 years, Martie and Kurt Brenne with 60 years, Norma and Bill Alberta with 50 years, and Lois and Bill Miller with 50 years.** What a wonderful example they are to those of us who have not been married quite so long! Congratulations!

Thanks to Bridge Creek for another delicious dinner!



Happy
Birthdays

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Pastor Kim
- 3/4 Denny Chatlain
- 3/5 Kirsten Cabanas-Holmen
- 3/7 Joe Johnson
- 3/8 Judy Streets
- 3/9 Frank Culbertson
- 3/10 Jim Kyner
- 3/12 Kurt Brenne
- 3/13 Liam Gildehaus
- 3/19 Jack Prather
- 3/20 Richard O'Brien
Molly Kreatz
Terri Wilker
Ann Marie Christ
Felicity Cramer
- 3/21 Alex Thuesen
- 3/24 Shilo Moncada
- 3/26 Josh Wilker
- 3/25 Bob Holmen
- 3/29 Pearl Culbertson
- 3/30 Stan Farnham



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 8 Pastor Kim & Terri Wilker
- March 16 Shilo & Geno Moncada
- March 17 Frank & Pearl Culbertson



Prayer Concerns

Please Remember In Prayer

Connie Kovach; Bev Urbaniak's nephew Bruce Gilmer; Andrea's cousins George & Jackie Hanke; Pastor Ron Jensen; Margaret Tjeltveit; Pat Peterson; Ed Cardoza; Bill and Russell; Judy Prinkki; Eileen Luoma; Suzanne Zenz; Terri Wilker's niece Kelly Provost; Mae Karina; Josh Wilker; Tony Fair a classmate of Peter Christ; Joel Hardy's father Warren Hardy; Peggy Smith; Toivo Lantta; Liz Westhaeffer; David Jurkovich; Don Lindall; Polly Richter's daughter Anne Genereux; Jeri Kyner's mother Dot Englebright; Norma Alberta's sister Nancy Pietla and the Belknap family on the death of their daughter Jessie.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

If you would like to be on either the telephone or email prayer chains and are not currently receiving prayer requests, please contact Jeri Kyner at 446-3323. To start a prayer request, contact Jeri Kyner by phone at 446-3323 or Judy Streets by email at messiahprayers@gmail.com. Please make sure you have accurate information and permission from the person you are calling about.



Confirmation classes this month are Wed., March 2, 23, and 30 at 2:45 PM. Our study will continue with the Apostle's Creed.

WORSHIP OUTSIDE MESSIAH



You are invited to worship with brothers and sisters in Christ outside of Messiah. Come sing, hear the Word, pray and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Services are 30 minutes.

- 10:00 AM Monday, Mar. 7**
Bible Study at
Cedarwood Villa
- 2:30 PM Thursday, Mar. 24**
Service at Cedarwood
Villa Long Term Care



MARCH INNKEEPERS

Innkeeper leaders for March are Dolly and Jim Koski. Their team members are Sharon and Dave Biersdorf, Donna Downing, Allen & Suzi Hansen, Barb Ostrum and Kathy & David Schilling. Thank you for your service to Messiah.

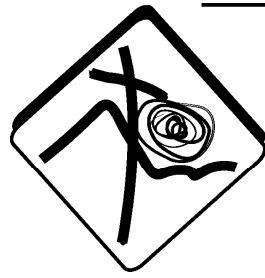
MARCH BOOK CLUB




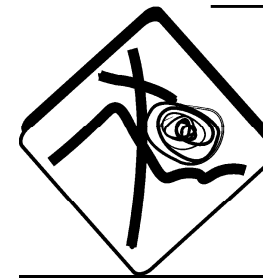
DATE: Thursday, March 17
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Ann Marie Christ's Home
FACILITATOR: Jeri Kyner
BOOK: "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society"
by Annie Barrows

JOSH WILKER would love to hear from you. His address is: 1250 34th St Building G 104 Missoula, MT 59801. His phone is 406-425-4332.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	2 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 2:45 PM Confirmation	3	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5
Kathy will be out of office from Feb 23 - Mar 15						
6 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Vision & Mission Meeting	7 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 10:00 AM Cedar Wood Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	8 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	9 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 1:30 PM WELCA 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service at Messiah	10	11 Pastor's Sabbath 7:00 AM Family, Faith, Fun & Fellowship at Jim & Lee Bujold's Home. (billiards, board games & darts)	12 Set your clocks ahead tonight!!! 
Pastor will be at Synod Council from Mar 10-12						
13 DAY LIGHT SAVINGS STARTS TODAY 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Worship	14 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	15 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	16 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 6:00 PM Community Lenten Service at Messiah followed by soup supper	17 7:00 PM Book Club at Ann Christ's Home	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19
20 BareTooth Cupboards Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Worship	21 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	22 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek 4:00 PM Church council	23 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 2:45 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Community Lenten Service at The Episcopal Church/soup	24 2:30 PM Cedar Wood Villa Worship ALL NEWS ARTICLES FOR APRIL ARE DUE TODAY	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26
27 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Worship	28 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers 6:00 PM Faith and Light	29 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	30 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 2:45 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Community Lenten Service at St. Agnes Catholic Church/soup	31	Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 PM in the basement of Messiah.	



Christikon Clips

March, 2011

Information for our Congregations

Youth campers, don't miss out on the Early Registration Discount: Register before March 15 and save \$25 in any youth session. There's an even greater savings for youth finishing grades 6-8 who register by March 15 for the June 22-28 Prospectors session on-site: a discount of \$70! See information that came in the mailed youth brochure on how to make use of this offer.

Youth campers: Bring a friend to camp with you for free (well, nearly). Bring a friend who has never been a Christikon youth camper before. You pay the regular camp fee (or the discounted fee if you register before March 15); your friend pays only the \$50 deposit.

Adults and families: Check out the special focus for each of the family/adult weekends next summer at Christikon: work projects, faith formation, and Bible study will be woven together with worship, meal fellowship, re-creation, folk dancing, and much more.

You can now register for a camp session on-line, or apply for a summer staff position on-line, or make a gift on-line to Christikon. Go to our home page at www.christikon.org, and click on the appropriate links. You'll find a lot of information about Christikon, including forms to register for youth or family/adult camp sessions. And at the secure gifts/payments site, you can use your credit card or an electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account to pay the pre-registration fee or full camp fee for any session, or to contribute directly to the Christikon ministry.

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 • christikon@aol.com • www.christikon.org