

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

November 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

November is here and you know what that means....the kick-off of the holiday season with the 4 Fs, food, family, fun and football! It's a good thing we rolled back the clocks an hour because we'll need that extra hour of sleep as we plan and prepare for Thanksgiving, Black Friday and of course next month's big one, Christmas! It's time to gather with family, friends, and community for the holidays.

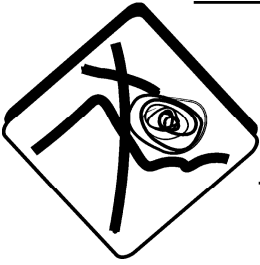
The season provides us with a special time to gather together and share memories of past holidays. I still fondly recall singing "over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go" as my parents, sister and I headed to the grandparents, hugs all around as people arrived, playing cards with cousins, as a teenager moving up to the adult table to eat both turkey & goose for Thanksgiving, Chicago Bears and Detroit Lions annual football game on TV, Candlelight Christmas eve worship, my first bicycle Christmas morning, the sounds of joyful laughter, cards slapping the table, the furnace kicking in, the aromas of slow tender cooked meats, hot steaming coffee, pumpkin pie, fresh baked rolls and the inappropriate belch after the meal. In my experiences the holidays were always a time looked forward to with joyful expectation. However, some holidays aren't just the same when everyone isn't present to celebrate. Yes, there was still joy, but subdued joy; those growing up years cousin Robin died at 6 months from pneumonia, Randy age 14 died in a tractor rollover, Kevin 18 committed suicide, Grandma and grandpa's fatal heart attacks. You've also been there, running the gamut of emotions with exuberant joy, quiet holidays and in between times.

That leads me to remember a lesser known holiday on the church calendar called All Saints Day, which we'll celebrate Sunday November 6th. It's a day we gather at worship and remember and thank God for those who are no longer with us, or as St. Paul reminds us; "that great cloud of witnesses that has finished the race and gone on ahead of us". One of God's greatest blessings for me is writing and preaching funeral sermons as I remember the person and their life together with family, me and the greater community, and the communion of saints still here on earth. I keep a hard copy of every funeral sermon. Every time I open the cabinet to file a new one I am greeted by memories of all those saints... the face, the voice, the places in town, family members, laughter, a tear, the aroma and taste of a meal together at a restaurant, the senior center, or around the Lord's table with bread and wine at church. Thirty five sermons have gone into that cabinet since I've been your pastor in Red Lodge. Some of those are people I never met prior to their death, but I have memories of them from family and friends. Whether I knew them or not, I invite people to remember the deceased, but also to always remember that the God who formed, knew, and loves us promises the gift of resurrection and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

This All Saints Sunday November 6 as we gather as a communion of saints to worship, you are invited to light a candle in memory of a saint who has finished the race. By the way, do you know you don't have to die to be a saint? So you living saints come Sunday and hear a sermon about life in Christ as both saint and sinner.

Shalom! Pastor Kim

All Saints Day, Sunday, November 6



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Sunday Forums

begin after Worship each Sunday.

All are welcome!

- November 6 "Bullying" What it is, how to talk about it, and how to prevent it
- November 13 "Bullying" Session II, What it is, how to talk about it, and how to prevent it,
- November 20 David Trost from St. John's Lutheran Ministries, Billings with updates on "The Willows" at Red Lodge, a 24 unit Assisted Living Facility
- November 27 Congregational Meeting, to present the proposed 2012 Church Budget

Please join us after the Service.

LONG TERM CARE MINISTRY

Come join with our friends and neighbors for worship. This month's schedule includes:

2:00 PM November 17

Worship at
Cedar Wood Villa

Please note the new time and November's date!

HELP out at the 2011 Christmas Kids' Shoppe!

The sixth Annual Christmas Kids' Shoppe will be held Saturday, December 3 and Saturday, December 10 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 9AM to Noon.

We need donations of terrific treasures for all ages of children, as well as for parents and grandparents. Gifts for boys and men are particularly welcome. We also need to tell everyone about this free Christmas gift offering, especially families with young children in the Red Lodge area.

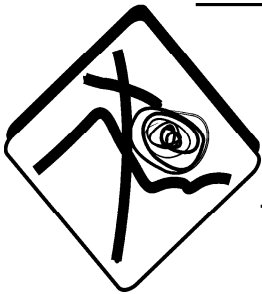
We also need volunteers to help set up the treasures and gifts on the tables in the basement the week before. Set up will be Tuesday, November 29 through Friday, December 2.

We also need volunteers to accompany children as they select gifts for their family. Finally, we need volunteers to make goodies to serve to the adults bringing the children to shop and people to visit with the adults as they wait.

Later, we will have a signup list at the church for volunteers to commit to working specific hours at certain assignments.

Last year, we had over 164 children shopping with us, and they took home nearly 830 gifts. The kids were so excited about selecting gifts for their families and having gifts wrapped as well. The event was a very positive effort for the shoppers as well as for the Messiah volunteers.

For further information, please call Barb 446-1856 or Jeri 446-3323



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY!

- 11/4 Maren Holmen
- 11/8 Lanae Ebel
- 11/9 Monica Thuesen
- 11/9 Heather Wright
- 11/25 Bill Alberta
Zackary Clardy

Operation Christmas Child

November 14—21, 2011 is collection week— please return your shoeboxes to the Church by November 20th.

Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck

When: November 20, 2011, 5 PM
Where: St. Agnes Catholic Church
Sponsored by the Red Lodge Ministerial Association

Please bring a potluck dish to share after
Worship.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:



NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:

Andrea Holmen's cousin,
Eline

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

George and Jackie Hanke
Pastor Ron Jensen
Pat Peterson
Eileen Luoma
Toivo Lantta
Bill and Norma Alberta
Juanita Keck
Alice Hollman Lins
Kathleen Normile
Bill Tinsman
Stanley Abbot
Sandy Koski

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Richard O'Brien
Don Lindall
Nancy Smith

Innkeepers for November

Innkeeper Leaders
Brooke and Richard O'Brien
446-2385

David Jurovich 425-0255
Todd and Linda Daily 426-0841
Kim Elsberry 446-3116



Thank you to the Innkeepers!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please note:

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2011, following Worship. The main item for discussion will be the 2012 Budget for Messiah Lutheran Church.

Please attend.

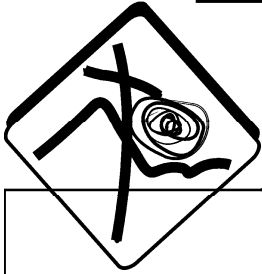
As you might be aware, the prayer requests in our Sunday bulletin have taken on a new look. We would like to keep our prayer requests more up-to-date.

We would also like to include prayers of thanksgiving. Many times we do not know how our prayers have been answered. You could all help us.

If you have requested prayers for someone, please let us know what happened with that person and how our prayers have been answered.

You can do that either by emailing messiahprayers@gmail.com or by calling Jeri Kyner at 446-3323.

Thank you for your help in improving our prayers chains.



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Bullying—It's More than just a Current Buzz Word!

Bully behavior has a long history, with Biblical examples even noted. Bullying has often been accepted and viewed as “normal” or a “rite of passage”. It is time to recognize that bullying constitutes abuse or harassment. It is mean spirited, spiteful, hurtful and intentional.

Whether a recipient of bullying behavior is male or female, straight or gay, child or adult, employee or employer, clergy or parishioner; whether the bully is targeting race or religious affiliation (or lack thereof), no matter what the environment—churches, schools, colleges, within our political arenas or workplaces—bullying is a serious matter. Bullying effects are damaging and can have serious consequences including contributing to suicide or homicide (or attempts). We can no longer choose to wait to intervene. To not be bullied is a civil right protected by the First Amendment of equal protection that needs to be upheld by supporting anti bullying behavior and measures at every level including through specific legislation! (Montana is one of a handful of states that has refused to pass anti bullying legislation).

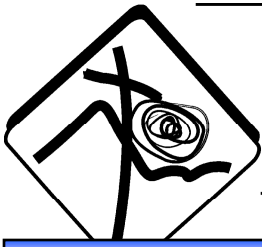
Recognition of what constitutes bullying is a first step in prevention and in intervening when it occurs. Bullying behavior involves an aggressive behavior—physical, verbal or mental—direct (hitting, name calling) or indirect (rumors, exclusion, cyber bullying). Usually there is a pattern of repeated behavior. An imbalance of power or strength is present and is capitalized on by the bully.

A popular myth has been that those who bully have low self-esteem and tend to be loners although studies have not supported this intended explanation. On the contrary, those who bully like to control others in negative ways and they gain satisfaction from inflicting injury and suffering. Prestige, social status and attention are often gained by the bully.

As a church, we must foster bully-free environments for all adults and children. We as Christians and Lutherans are not immune from experiencing, witnessing and sometime participating in this type of abuse. It is time to address this problem. We must support the efforts in our communities to work with and support the implementation of anti-bullying programs. And it is essential that we stand up for those who are the recipients by speaking up and speaking out. Bullying can no longer be tolerated.

Joelene Goodover
School Psychologist, Great Falls Public Schools
Member of New Hope Lutheran Ministries in Great Falls

To learn more about Bullying, please join us at the November 6 and 13 Sunday Forum sessions, following Worship.



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"The Stewardship of Grace"

Irish Prayer of Gratitude

You've blessed me with friends, and laughter, and fun.

With rain that's as soft as the light of the sun.

You've blessed me with stars to brighten each night.

You've given me help to know wrong from right.

You've given me so much. Please, Lord, give me too,

a heart that is always grateful to you.

Unknown

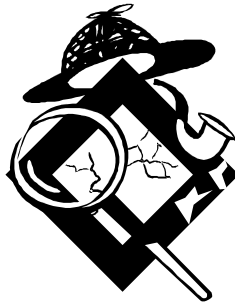


November Book Club

The book for November is "Prayers for Sale" by Sandra Dallas. The book club will meet at 7:00 PM on November 17 at the home of Marietta Johnson and the Facilitator will be Karen Young.



Faith, Fellowship, Fun and Family Mystery Dinner!



Save the date of November 18 for a Mystery Dinner. You won't want to miss this! If you aren't there, we may suspect YOU are the villain!

Crist to serve as ECLA conference chair

The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Montana Synod in Great Falls, was elected on Oct. 1 to serve as chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops. Crist, who will serve a four-year term, is the first female synod bishop to hold this position.

In response to her election, Crist said she has "great hope for the future of the church and respect for the many fine lay and clergy leaders who serve us."

The ELCA Conference of Bishops is an advisory body of this church that includes the ELCA's 65 synod bishops, presiding bishop and secretary.

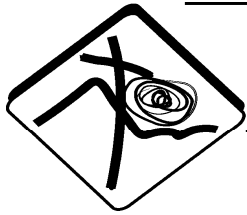
"Bishop Crist's election as chair of the Conference of Bishops reflects the great confidence the bishops have in her leadership," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson. "She is highly respected for her clear proclamation of the gospel, her attentive listening to ELCA leaders and members, her collaborative approach to leadership and her passion for being engaged in God's mission for the life of the world."

Born in Harrisburg, PA., Crist earned a bachelor of arts in English literature from Yale University and a master of divinity in parish ministry from Harvard University. She was ordained in 1979 in the former Lutheran Church in America and served as pastor of University Lutheran Church, Cambridge, and First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Great Falls.

Crist was elected bishop of the Montana Synod in 2007. Before that, she served as associate to the synod bishop for five years and director of the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology for 18 years.

Crist serves on the board of directors for the Montana association of Churches, Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. and Lutheran World Relief based in Baltimore.

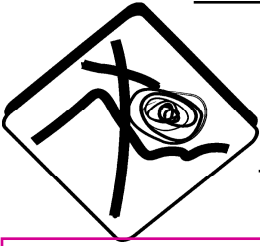
Crist is a member of the ELCA Task Force on Communal Discernment, the Conference of Bishops' Liaison Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and its Domestic Ready Bench. She is an ELCA delegate to the National Council of Churches and represented the Lutheran World Federation at the Global Christian Forum.



Calendar

NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek	2 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	3 1:00 PM Knitting at Cedar Wood Villa with Mae	4	5 9:30AM—11AM Advent Choir Practice
6 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum 2:00PM—3:30PM Advent Choir Practice	7 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	8 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek	9 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	10	11	12
13 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	14 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	15 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek	16 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah 1:30 PM WELCA	17 2:00 PM Cedar Wood Villa Worship	18 Mystery Dinner, Faith, Fellowship, Fun and Family	19
20 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum 5:00 PM Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck at St. Agnes Church Church	21 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	22 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek 4:00 PM Church Council	23 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum followed by Congregational Meeting, 2012 Budget	28 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	29 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek	30 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	1 5:00 PM Tree decorating and soup supper	2	3 9:00 AM—Noon Christmas Kids' Shoppe
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <p>Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays at 7:00 PM at Messiah.</p> </div>						



SAFARI BOOK GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011

Safari Book Group Christmas Gathering

We would like to invite all women to join us for a discussion of the book

Heaven is for Real

by Todd Burpo

Thursday, December 8 at 10 am

Pollard Hotel History Room

Followed by lunch at the Bistro

Even if you haven't read the book, please join us for fellowship and good food. This is a no-host event. There will be a small fee for the use of the history room and refreshments.

Please RSVP if you are planning to come.

For more information call Kathy 425-1644 or Jeri 446-3323



SPECIAL OFFERING CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

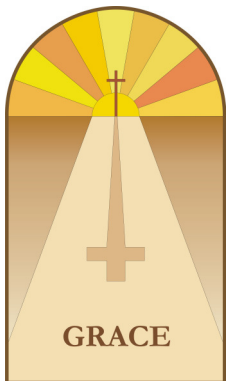
An offering will be received on Sunday, November 20 to join the fight against malaria, supporting the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

In Africa, a child dies every 45 seconds from this disease...

Malaria is preventable.

Malaria is treatable.

A healthier future is possible.



Reminder

Be sure to complete and bring your Estimate of Giving forms to Church on Sunday, October 30.

Messiah Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 1330 19th & Adams
Red Lodge, Montana 59068

NOVEMBER 2011 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

Red Lodge Community Church
United Church of Christ

Harvest Dinner with Bazaar and Silent
Auction

November 6, 2011

Noon—6 PM

Adults \$10

Children 5-12 \$4

Children 4 and under
Free

Everyone is Welcome



Quit Cold Turkey Trot

When: November 12th, 10AM

Where: Airport Loop of the
Rocky Fork Trail

Meet at the 4-H Building

For more information and to
register, call Jean Atherly at
860-3825 or email
tobaccofreecarboncounty@yahoo.com

Montana Tobacco Quit Line
1-800-Quit-Now

Fall Bazaar

When: Saturday, November 19,
9:00AM—2:00PM

Where: Lutheran Church of the
Good Shepherd, 1108 24th St.
West

Silent Auction, Cookies, Soups,
Pies, Ethnic Food, Holiday Décor

Soup Lunch 11:00AM-1:00PM

Messiah's

Mission:

*To know Christ
To make disciples
To send out
To make Christ
known*

HOW TO REACH MESSIAH

*Church Phone: 406-446-2430
Church Address: 723 S. Adams PO Box 1330
Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com
Email: churchoffice@180com.net
Pastor Kim Wilker 446-4466
Sunday Choir Practice: 8:45 AM
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM*

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.*