

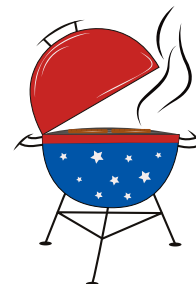
# Big Timber Lutheran Church

## July 2025

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# Words From Pastor Julia

Dear friends in Christ-

*For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. They acted shamefully; they committed abomination, yet they were not ashamed; they did not know how to blush. - Jeremiah 6:13-15*

Often when we speak of peace and the Bible together, we speak of the peace of Christ being in our hearts and minds. This is a real and valid peace, one that Jesus spoke about and prayed for his disciples to have. This is not, however, the only biblical concept of peace.

The Bible speaks about the peace of the land, of the ending of strife between people and governments (nations), and the peace that passes all understanding. The blessed peacemakers who shall be called children of God (Matthew 5:9) are not simply the people who strive to help others feel good, but the people who give their whole selves to pursuing the well-being, safety, and holy flourishing of all.

When our conversations turn to peace or peacemaking, it is often treated like a pipe dream or something that can only be accomplished by force. Yet all of human history shows us that use of the sword, so to speak, begets use of the sword. In a time of war or threat of war, we who think of ourselves as followers of Christ need to ask ourselves some very serious questions. How many lost innocent lives are an acceptable number? How much collateral damage is just "inevitable"? How do we know who is "right"?

These are complicated questions with complex and incomplete answers. On this side of the life to come, there is no perfection, but that doesn't mean that there is not a necessary striving to imitate Christ in every area of our lives. When I sing, "I want to be like Jesus in my heart"- where does it stop? How can I sing those words, but put parameters on the peace I am called to pray for and pursue?

Let us live together in prayer- in both word and deed- that God's peace may indeed come to the whole creation and that it may begin in us.

Peace,

Pastor Julia



# **BTLC Council & Committees**

WWW.BIGTIMBERLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG - [BTLUTHER@ITSTRIANGLE.COM](mailto:BTLUTHER@ITSTRIANGLE.COM)

Pastor Julia Seymour [pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com)

## **Council**

President - Lori Minette	932-6241	<a href="mailto:loriminette4oish@gmail.com">loriminette4oish@gmail.com</a>
VP - Meggen Whalin	930-0076	<a href="mailto:smwhalin@yahoo.com">smwhalin@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary - Judy Riter	930-1634	<a href="mailto:rjriter@itstriangle.com">rjriter@itstriangle.com</a>
Treasurer - Debbie Buerkle	932-5370	<a href="mailto:buerkledeb@yahoo.com">buerkledeb@yahoo.com</a>
Kelli Brewer	930-4217	<a href="mailto:kll.brwr@gmail.com">kll.brwr@gmail.com</a>
Becky Frese	930-0716	<a href="mailto:frese@itstriangle.com">frese@itstriangle.com</a>
Einar Stene	930-0874	<a href="mailto:Crazymt4204@gmail.com">Crazymt4204@gmail.com</a>
Rusty Terland	930-1675	<a href="mailto:rbeterland@gmail.com">rbeterland@gmail.com</a>
Jeni Lannen	930-0455	<a href="mailto:jlanne9@gmail.com">jlanne9@gmail.com</a>
Pat Leary	930-1448	<a href="mailto:Learys@bresnan.net">Learys@bresnan.net</a>

## **Education Committee**

Pastor Julia Seymour  
Dawn Rudolph  
Debbie Buerkle  
Jeni Lannen

## **Mission Committee**

Pastor Julia Seymour  
Becky Frese  
Steve Harvey  
Lori Minette  
Debbie Buerkle  
Kelli Brewer  
Judy Riter  
Meggen Whalin  
Macen Whalin  
Shaela Whalin

## **Property Committee**

Al Buerkle  
Rob Seymour  
Rusty Terland  
Cole Glasgow  
Pat Leary

## **Music & Worship Committee**

Leslie Schiele  
Jim Bratvold  
Debbie Buerkle  
Diane Ronneberg  
Pastor Julia Seymour  
Deanna Novotny  
Ron Riter

## **BTLC OFFERINGS**

	2023	2024	2025
Jan	11,151.37	10,720.41	8,952.18
Feb	17,635.02	9,566.92	9,706.96
Mar	12,275.59	12,762.22	23,539.59
Apr	12,608.75	11,867.21	17,760.89
May	12,362.87	18,286.12	9,566.08
Jun	9,425.79	9,559.10	
Jul	13,302.17	11,520.30	
Aug	9,955.89	10,993.89	
Sep	15,539.92	12,139.18	
Oct	14,431.80	18,492.23	
Nov	12,595.72	13,636.65	
Dec	23,287.73	26,237.47	
YTD	164,572.62	165,780.70	69,525.70

Please let the church office know of any changes, additions or corrections.



# **BTLC Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, 19 June 2025

**Present:** Kelli Brewer, Rusty Terland, Becky Frese, Debbie Buerkle, Pastor Julia Seymour, Meggen Whalin, Lori Minette, Judy Riter. **Not Present:** Jeni Lannen, Pat Leary, Einar Stene

**Council Meeting Minutes:** Becky moved to approve May 15 minutes as corrected. Meggen seconded the motion, followed by unanimous approval.

**Examples of Fulfilling Our Mission:** Family Fun Night and VBS held and successful. Hosted the joint Breakfast Church Service. Rusty and Pastor Julia attended Synod Assembly.

**Treasurer's Report:** Debbie reported that the Servant Keeper program may have limited time left based on problems she has encountered. She requested that a council member be familiar with her duties as treasurer. This request will be addressed. It was noted that giving is down. Rusty moved to approve the treasurer's report with second by Becky. Unanimous approval.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Julia will be away June 22-27 serving Flathead Bible Camp. She is in the process of seeking pulpit supply for August 3.

**Music and Worship:** No recent meeting but noted that Cali Rooney will lead choir this summer.

**Education:** We have two campers planning to attend camp at Christikon. Members of the Bible Book Club plan to meet during the summer. VBS has been successful this week with fewer helpers. Pastor Julia shared, "there's a difference between having VBS and Making it happen." More volunteers will be needed for 2026.

**Mission:** Committee members approved \$250 purchase of books for Flathead and Christikon Camps via email. Judy moved to approve the email action, seconded by Kelli. Unanimous approval.

**Property:** Rusty has contacted G&J Enterprise seeking a bid for a lift and is waiting for a response. He is also seeking a roofer to address the leak in the entry area. Dan Myrstol has the kneeling rail upholstery project on his list for fall. Pat Leary, Rob and Daniel Seymour, and Ron Riter installed the air conditioning units.

**WELCA:** Women's Retreat set for August 23, 2025.

**President's Correspondence:** Lori shared a thank you from the PMC staff and residents.

**Old Business:** Pastor Julia and Rusty attended Synod Assembly as delegates and reported Pastor Ben Quanbeck was elected Bishop. His installation is in September. Thirty-five attended Family Fun Night. "Christmas in June" VBS was successful. The June 8 joint Breakfast Church Service was attended by approximately ninety. The Episcopal Church will host the October service. We are on Benchmark Masonry's 2026 schedule. \$111,000 is needed to begin. A special congregation meeting to address the masonry repairs will be scheduled for the second or third Sunday in September at July council meeting. Some endowment money is available for repairs, lift and/or carpet expenses. Council members are asked to seek funding possibilities (grant, fundraisers, etc.) prior to July meeting and to notify via email council members of possibilities to avoid overlapping requests.

**New Business:** None

Having no further business, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be July 10 at 6 pm. Lori Minette will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Riter, Secretary







MONTANA ON  
A MISSION

August 4 – 9, 2025

Serve in Sweet  
Grass County



**It's neighbors helping neighbors.**

**Want to help out?**

Join us at The Dug Out (across from the city park) any morning between August 4 - 9th. We will eat breakfast at 7:30 & head out to work on the projects around 8:00 each day. Stay all day or just an hour or two.

**What types of projects are you doing?**

Painting, yard work, light construction and demolition, window washing, dump runs, and craft projects with nursing home residents. There is something for everyone!

**Who is involved?**

Everyone who wants to show love in our community!

**Have questions?**

Call Linda at 406.932.4057



# **Message from American Lutheran Church of Livingston**

On behalf of the Montana Synod Hunger Team, Messiah Lutheran Church in Red Lodge, and American Lutheran in Livingston I would like to invite you to raise funds. 3 Events to come show your support.

## **Livingston Dough For Daily Bread Event Registration**

Join us for the Dough for Daily Bread Bike Ride, Walk, and Run in Livingston on Saturday, July 12th. Bike 25 miles or 8 miles or run or walk any distance of your choice at Sacajawea Park. We'll all gather at Sacajawea Park at the end for a celebration picnic. All around the Montana Synod, more and more people are experiencing hunger. Congregations are responding to the hunger needs in their communities in a variety of ways from food pantries to community meals to community gardens. With ever increasing demand, the Montana Synod Hunger Fund provided \$28,768 in grants in 2024 and 2025 to hunger ministries. Through your participation in this fundraiser bike ride, run, and walk we can continue to work to end hunger!

Register here: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/10022539>



## **Helena Dough For Daily Bread Event Registration**

Join us for the Dough for Daily Bread Bike Ride, Walk, and Run in Helena on Sunday, July 13th. Bike 25 miles or run or walk 5k at Prickly Pear Park. All around the Montana Synod, more and more people are experiencing hunger. Congregations are responding to the hunger needs in their communities in a variety of ways from food pantries to community meals to community gardens. With ever increasing demand, the Montana Synod Hunger Fund provided \$28,768 in grants in 2024 and 2025 to hunger ministries. Through your participation in this fundraiser bike ride, run, and walk we can continue to work to end hunger!

Register here: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/10022515>



# **Save the Date**

**BTLC Fall Women's Retreat**

**August 23, 2025**

**9:00 am to 12:30 pm**

**More details to come**



# Youth Happenings

Classes here at BTLC

We are hosting two classes for the Big Timber Grade School Summer PTA program. Signups happen through the PTA booklet.

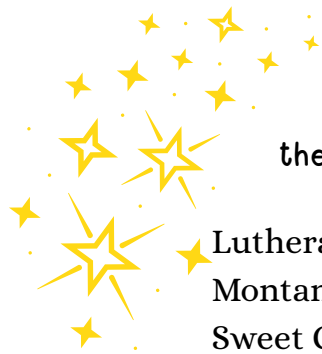
Pr. Julia is leading these sessions.

You're welcome to help if you're curious.

Puppets Jr - Classes 9:00 – 10:30 (July 8)

Puppets – Classes 10:30 - 12:00 (July 8)

## Benevolence Corner



Our giving goes beyond our church's needs  
to the needs of  
the community, the state, the country, and the world.

Lutheran World Relief - \$738.00

Montana Rescue Mission - \$738.00

Sweet Grass County Search & Rescue - \$489.00

Dornix Park - \$250.00

Pioneer Medical Center (Nursing Home Decorations) - \$59.99



*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*





# **Christikon Clips**

*Information for our Congregations*

**We are grateful for all the hard work that our Work Weekend crew accomplished!**

**Great group! Check out the pictures on our facebook page. Follow us:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Christikon>

**Thank you to one and all!**

**It's not too late to register for camp this summer!** Space remains in our online youth sessions and in those for families and adults. Limited space in our trails sessions. Call the office for availability. You can register online at [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) or call us at the camp office for further information.

Register for our new session **Contemplative Artist Retreat** going on July 7-10. Join **John Hermanson and Dr. Maren Haynes Marchesini** for this session. Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) for more details and to register.

**Special guest speakers** become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. **Continuing Education Retreat** (July 28-31) – we welcome our speaker **Dr. Dave Ellingson also known as The Paddle Pilgrim** – Go to our website for more information. **Mountain Weekend** (Aug 1-3) – we welcome Paul Waldum, Assistant Teaching Professor, former Christikon staff and artist as our speaker. Stay tuned for topic(s) as they become available. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Watch for topic details on the website. [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

Remember to pray for the staff and campers as they travel to Christikon.

**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**  
**• [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) [director@christikon.org](mailto:director@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)**





# How Can I Help?

July 2025



Norman Duncan  
John Robinson



**Service**  
**Committee**

Sign-up Sheet



Sign-up Sheet



Barb Terland

## Food Bank Donations

We have a tote in the Parish Hall in which you may place your donations.

Please check dates

for they cannot accept outdated products.

**Current Needs:** laundry soap, dish soap, toothpaste, shampoo & conditioners, body soap, toilet paper, ramen noodles, cake mixes, cereal, salad dressings

## WELCA Message

Summer is here with a calendar full of activities. WELCA updates will be emailed as needed over the summer and announcements in the bulletin and newsletters

Volunteers will be needed for various tasks, there will be sign up sheets in the Parish Hall. We also will have sign up sheets for July, and Aug. for service/altar committees that make coffee hour happen after Sunday service and decorate through the summer.



# JULY 2025

\*Event Not at BTLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube	30	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube	7 Rachel Circle 2:00pm	8 Puppets Jr. 9-10:30am Puppets 10:30am-12pm	9	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	28	29	30	31	1	2



# Please Keep in Your Thoughts & Prayers



Joe Beley, John Callahan, Angie Durfee, Diane Lohrer,  
Sandy Berg (Sister of Mabel Halverson), Joyce Fotland,  
Aileen Green (John & Sandi Callahan's Daughter), Pauline McDermott,  
Addison McManus, Dave Otteson, Carole Roth, Beth Schaible, Mark  
Taylor, Colton Drange, Amy Grosch (Daughter of John Ronneberg),  
Linda Ullman, Paul and Bobbie Gilbert, Jessie King, Libby Cameron

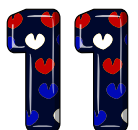
**Military Service:** Sean Callahan

**USA-** Justin Arnold, Terry Roth (Colorado), Nathan Hensley

**Those in the PMC:**

Linda Mlekush, Jim Kjarmo, Alma Terland, Julian Helvik

Please inform us of any additions or subtractions to the list.



# Big Timber Lutheran Church



**Big Timber, MT**

Located at 115 W. 4th Ave.

PO BOX 278

Big Timber, MT 59011

Church Office 1-406-932-5723

Pastor Julia 1-406-931-0196

Church Email - [btluther@itstriangle.com](mailto:btluther@itstriangle.com)

Pastor's Email - [pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com)

Facebook Page -

<https://www.facebook.com/BigTimberLutheranChurch>

Website - <https://bigtimberlutheranchurch.org/>

Join us for worship Sundays at 9:00am

In-person or Via YouTube Live

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNewH\\_d92XX6SDf-TU2ZVow](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNewH_d92XX6SDf-TU2ZVow)



HAPPY  
**4th**  
of July

