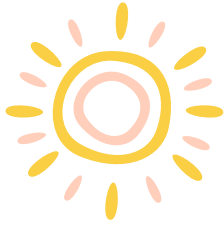
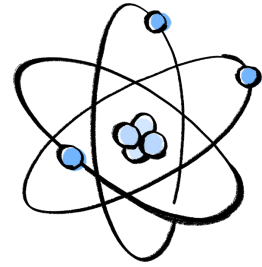


Big Timber Lutheran Church

August 2025



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GOODBYE
SUMMER

Back
to
School



Words From Pastor Julia

Dear Friends in Christ-

“But we had hoped...” – Luke 24:21a

It is extremely rare for me to take a tiny part of a verse out of context to apply to any situation. If you know me at all, I’m as likely to use a whole chapter than one verse. Nevertheless, this verse fragment from the end of Luke is one I’ve turned in my mind, especially recently.

In situ, these words come in the dialogue on the road to Emmaus. Cleopas and his friend meet a stranger on the road and, in explaining all that had happened with Jesus’ crucifixion and death, Cleopas speaks of the hope they had held about who Jesus was for them and for the world. We had hoped...

As people who know the truth of the resurrection already, from our historical viewpoint, we see the irony of these words. The fulfilled hope of the followers of Christ is on the road with them! They couldn’t, however, see that amidst their grief, fear, anger, and trauma.

As I said, I think about this phrase all the time because I wonder what I am missing when I am stuck in my unfulfilled hopes. Am I unable to see the truth about another person-whether positive or negative? Am I thwarted in perceiving a creative solution to a problem? Am I grinding my gears about a matter of justice, instead of pursuing what I can do to help a situation? Do I keep rehashing a thing over and over instead of taking it to the Lord in prayer?

This can happen to any of us, at any time, regarding any kind of situation.

In particular, it would be easy for this to become our mindset as we face a huge need for repairing and refurbishing our church home. We could get stuck in what we hoped for-including that this would never need to be tackled, that it would fall in someone else’s lap, or even that Jesus will return before we need to solve the problem. Stuck hope becomes blindness, preventing us from seeing how Christ is among us and will help us in the situation. What we had hoped is very real, but we are here now. What we definitely do not want is to miss the power of resurrection in us, around us, and compelling us in God’s future for us.

The next months and years will take significant faithful action, which will only be possible when we are able to release what “we had hoped”.

In peace,



Pastor Julia

BTLC Council & Committees



WWW.BIGTIMBERLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG - BTLUTHER@ITSTRIANGLE.COM

Pastor Julia Seymour pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com

Council

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

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	13,223.61
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	82,749.31

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





B TLC Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 10 July 2025

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

President Lori Minette called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Pastor Julia led the devotion.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 19, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endowment: Al Buerkle gave the Endowment Committee report regarding money available to use for capital improvements. Report on file.

Examples of Fulfilling our Mission: Pastor Julia and group of girls attended Flathead Camp.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie informed council that there will be expenditures for a new vacuum and refrigerator next month. She reported that we'll need to file taxes on rental house income this year. She will seek an accountant familiar with taxes concerning non-profits organizations. Becky moved to approve report with second by Meggen. Unanimous approval.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julia will be gone July 28 thru August 9 (4 days vacation, 6 days continuing education). Eric Olsen has agreed to fill the pulpit on August 3.

Music and Worship: Choir will participate in service on July 27th.

Education: Pastor Julia is working on fall Bible studies and dates for confirmation.

Mission: Their committee recommended sending benevolence funds in the amount of \$1765.00 to Community Foundation of Texas Hill Country for assistance following the recent flood. Meggen moved to approve this expenditure with second by Kelli. Unanimous approval.

Property: Debbie reported that the reupholstery of kneeling rail and two chairs is on Dan Myrstol's list. A committee will select the color from Dan's options. It was suggested that we get an estimate for sanctuary carpet from Central Lumber in Harlowton. The committee will look into this. Pastor Julia reported that parsonage sprinkler system has yet to be repaired since it was damaged during street work. Rusty reported that he has not heard from G&J Enterprises concerning bid on handicap lift. Rusty also reported that Jason Palm has looked at the church roof with recommendations for repair and will give an estimate of cost.

WELCA: Report read and is on file.

President's Correspondence: None

Old Business: Discussed Benchmark Masonry's estimate of \$111,000 first phase of sanctuary repair concerning buttresses and grout. This estimate is on file. A motion was made by Einar to hold special congregational meeting on September 7 to vote on sanctuary repairs. Meggen seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

New Business: Discussed possible grants available to help pay for sanctuary repairs. The final business was the reading of office administrator, Dawn Rudolph's resignation. Meggen moved to accept, with second by Rusty. Unanimous approval. Pastor Julia and Meggen will write job description to advertise for replacement offering \$15/hour for 10 to 15 hours weekly. Judy will be contact person for applicants.

Having no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30 PM.

Our next meeting will be August 14 at 6 PM. Lori Minette will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Riter, Secretary



Announcement of Special Congregational Meeting



This serves as the first official notice of a
Special Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, 7 September 2025
following our regular church service.

Additional notices will be submitted through email and the bulletin
beginning the middle of August, up to the date of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss findings regarding the
state of the *outside* of the physical church building and
recommended repairs.



There may also be information regarding other needed
assessments and refurbishments.

We will also discuss plans for how to raise funds and cover the
costs *over a period of years*.

Reports and documents pertinent to the meeting will
be available beginning August 17th.

Please contact a Councilmember (listed in this
newsletter) or Pastor Julia with any questions.






Take It to the Lord in Prayer:

A Women's Retreat sponsored by
Big Timber Lutheran Church

Pastor Julia will lead this retreat about prayer:
what the Bible says, what we can expect,
and how prayer shapes us and changes the world. With a
craft project and lunch included, it will be a great day!

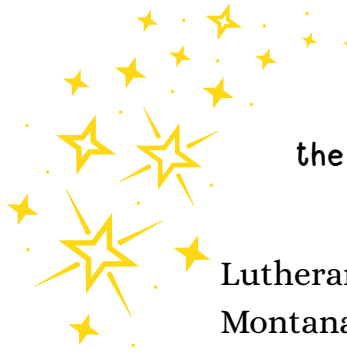
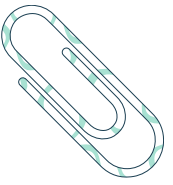


Saturday, August 23, 2025
9:00am to 12:30pm
Duffey Place
33 Upper Deer Creek Rd

Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/BTLCretreat>
Call 406-932-5723 with any questions.



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

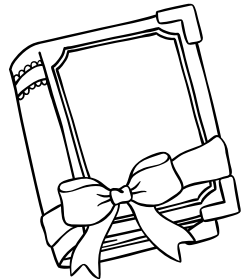
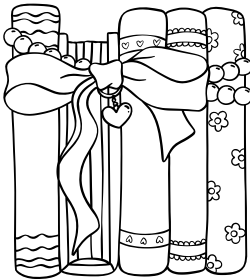
Camp Books - \$304.00

Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country - \$1765.00



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

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for the last sessions of our 74th season. We hosted over 500 campers so far this season including youth, families, adults and at-risk youth. We have retreats scheduled through mid-October.

Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational and family retreats scheduled this fall. A few retreat times are still available.

Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to camp, our staff, and our campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and your generous donations. We are grateful!

Please visit <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon/> and continue your support.

**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 director@christikon.org • www.christikon.org**



How Can I Help?

August 2025



Norman Duncan
John Robinson



**Service
Committee**

Sign-up Sheet



Sign-up Sheet



Fran Elgen
Mary Parker

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 Aug. for service/altar committees that make coffee hour happen after Sunday service and decorate through the summer.

AUGUST 2025

*Event Not at BTLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	18	19	20	21	22 Memorial Service Polly Gyger 10:30am	23 *Women's Retreat 9am to 12:30pm
24 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	1	2	3	4	5	6



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,
Diane Berg, Kris Johnson, Roxy Williams--Gillette

Military Service: Sean Callahan

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

Those in the PMC:

Linda Mlekush, Julian Helvik, Barbara Robinson

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

Pastor's Email - 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

