

Big Timber Lutheran Church

September 2025

Inside this issue:

Words from Pastor Julia	2
Council, Committees, & Offerings	3
Council Meeting Minutes - August	4
Special Congregation Meeting Church Breakfast	5
Living with Loss Rachel's Circle	6
Youth Group Confirmation Classes	7
Benevolence Corner Mission Team Project	8
Christikon Clips	9
How I Can Help? Food Bank Donations WELCA Message	10
Book Club Bible Study	11
September Calendar	12
In Our Prayers	13

Words From Pastor Julia

Dear Friends in Christ-

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." - Luke 9:57-59

Since the very beginning of people following Jesus, there have been tensions about the "right" way to do things. Those differences have resulted in rifts, unexpected partnerships, failed experiments, and much successful work through the help of the Spirit. The most common tension we face in our own time is the delicate balance between maintenance and mission. This pull is evident in many areas- how we spend money, which activities we prioritize, and even how you want me to spend my time on your behalf.

Maintaining the balance can be difficult, but it is imperative for the life of the church. We are living in an era when a faithful community typically has regular activities in a maintained space, which they usually own, and occasional outreach activities in the community or through financial support.

We are an inflection point in the life of our congregation. We are successfully engaged, thanks be to God, in supportive and fruitful mission work in our community and beyond. The time has also come to undergo some maintenance of our church home. On September 7, we are going to begin the conversation about the potential scope of that work and how it might happen. We're talking about several projects that could happen over a span of years, paid for through a variety of sources, including grants.

We cannot ignore needed maintenance any more than we could choose to not fulfill our mission. Our church home has been a shelter and support for the faithful in this community for nearly 120 years. It is part of our work together to maintain it for the glory of God for another 120, Lord willing.

The appearance, preservation, and accessibility of our church home is important and it's not a conversation that we can put off any longer. I pray that we can all enter this conversation with open minds and hearts. I trust that we are committed together to the work of mission and maintenance in this place, at this time, for Christ's sake.

2

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
Shaella 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	10,575.14
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	93,324.45

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

3

BTLC Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 14 August 2025

Present: Kelli Brewer, Becky Frese, Lori Minette, Rusty Terland, Pat Leary, Meggen Whalin, Pastor Julia Seymour, Debbie Buerkle, Judy Riter, Einar Stene, Jeni Lannen

President Lori Minette called the meeting to order at 6 pm with all council members in attendance and led devotions.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 10, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

Examples of Fulfilling Our Mission: Our church has remained open for use by our community members.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie informed the council that she has contacted Katie Gentry concerning assisting with preparation of our taxes and Katie agreed to meet with Debbie in September. Treasurer's financial report was moved for approval by Becky, seconded by Meggen. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julia expressed her thanks for the recent time off and said she will be meeting with new administrative assistant to review job duties and have work agreement signed. Current administrative assistant's final day of work is August 22. The incoming new bishop, Pastor Ben Quanbeck, will be installed on September 20, 2025.

Music and Worship: Next joint service is scheduled to be hosted by the Episcopal Church on September 21 at the fairgrounds with a pet blessing.

Education: Bible study will resume on September 8 studying the first part of Genesis. Book club will resume in September with date to be announced. Online confirmation class will be on Sunday evenings with three students expected, while in person class of seven will begin meeting in October.

Mission: Debbie shared information about the financial problems of the Tumbleweed Program for Youth we support. It was suggested we promote donations through the congregation. Mission committee will meet following the August 17 worship service.

Property: Rusty reported he's waiting for roof repairs estimate from Jason Palm. G and J Enterprises submitted an estimate of \$48,308 for a handicap lift that would be located under the porch roof of the Parish Hall. Discussion held concerning masonry project and consensus of council was to see if repair of cracks in buttresses could be done in stages. Al Buerkle and Rusty Terland will lead the discussion at the special congregational meeting on September 7 following worship. Potential repairs of the church building will be the discussion focus with a potential Projects Committee consisting of council, property and congregation members to be organized. Rusty stated that the city has paid for the damage to parsonage sprinkler system that occurred during street reconstruction.

WELCA: The Ladies Retreat led by Pastor will be about prayer and held at Duffey's on August 23. Fall Bazaar is tentatively scheduled for October 23, 2025.

President's Correspondence: None

Old Business: Motion made by Pat, seconded by Rusty to hire Brannin Tyler as administrative assistant. Pastor Julia will email job description to executive committee for approval before having Brannin sign it. Also set Brannin up with a debit card to be a signer for the checking account. Brannin will be working 10-12 hours weekly at \$16.50 per hour with raise after six months of work. Debbie will secure appropriate farewell gift for out-going administrative assistant.

New Business: Pastor Julia and Lori plan to attend the grant writing workshop on September 24 at the library.

Having no further business, meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:30 pm.

Our next meeting will be on September 11 at 6 pm. Kelli Brewer will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Riter, Secretary



Announcement of Special Congregational Meeting



We are having a Special Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, 7 September 2025
following our regular church service.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss needed maintenance and adjustments to our building - assessments, concerns, and possibilities. We will also discuss plans for how to raise funds and cover the costs *over a period of years.*

This is the beginning of a conversation, not a vote on what, where and when. Please read Pastor Julia's letter at the beginning of this newsletter.



Breakfast Church



St. Mark Episcopal
First Congregation Church
Big Timber Lutheran

Pet Blessing, Worship Service, and Breakfast



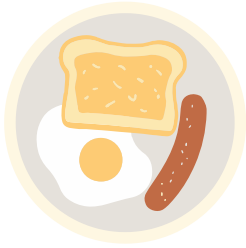
At the Fairground
Sunday, 21 September 2025
10 am



All pets and animals welcome.
Feel free to bring a collar, toy, or dish
if your pet doesn't travel well or might not enjoy being around others.

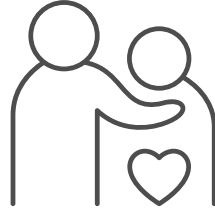
5

Living with Loss

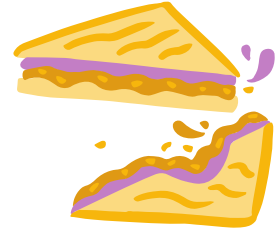


Men's Breakfast 8:30am

Grief Support Groups
Wed. Sept. 10th in the Parish Hall



Ladies Lunch 12:00pm



We meet every second Wednesday of the month
September to May

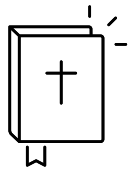
All those who have lost a loved one are invited to attend and gather strength from others who have gone through the grief journey.

Rachel Circle

Sept 8th 2:00pm

In the Parish Hall

Meet the first Monday of every month
Except June, July, & August



Topic: Loretta Lynn's

A Song and A Prayer

Reflections on God's work

through the Bible and Loretta's song lyrics



Youth Happenings



**On Wednesdays
Youth Group**

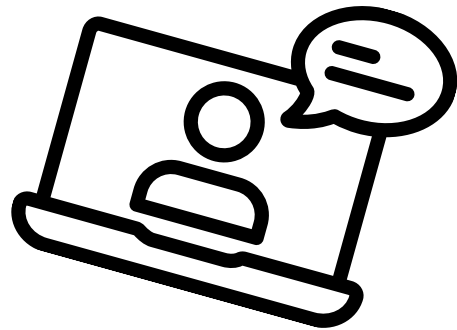
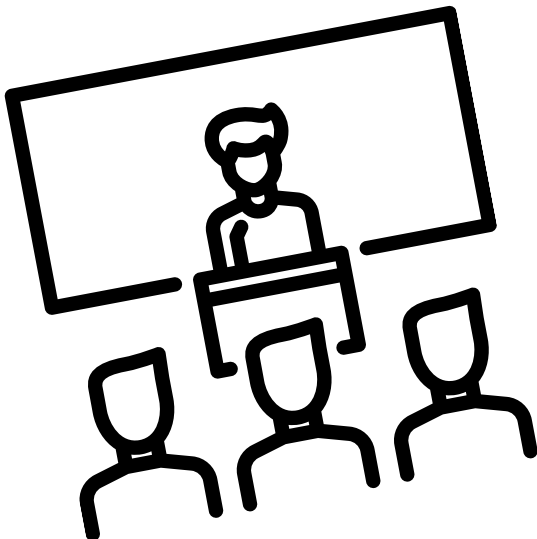
In the Parish Hall @ 6:00 pm

Starting Sept 3

Dinner included

Confirmation Classes

Online Confirmation Class Starts on
Sunday September 21st at 6pm



In Person Confirmation Class starts on
Wednesday September 24th at 5pm



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

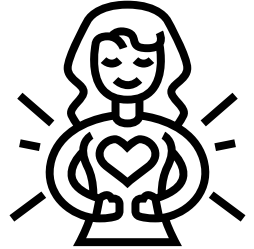
Sweet Grass County Search & Rescue - \$489.00

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

Mission Team Project- Food Collection for Tumbleweed (Billings)

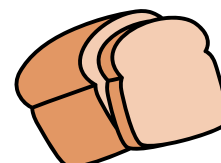
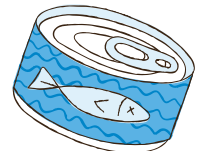
Tumbleweed is an agency in Billings that helps youth and young adults who are homeless, trafficked, runaways, and other at-risk young people. They provide services such as counseling, support groups, crisis prevention, aftercare and assistance with runaways and many other programs free of charge. They also provide a food pantry for people in need.

If you would like to help and would rather give money you can do that also. You can give your check or cash to anyone on the Mission Team (Debbie, Meggen, Becky, Judy, Lori or Steve)

Also, if you would like to donate food Tumbleweed's website has an Amazon wish list that you can order items and have them sent directly to Tumbleweed.

- Tuna Kit/Cans
- Canned Chicken
- Spam
- Vienna Sausages
- Cereal
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Chicken Nuggets
- Hot Pockets
- Chef Boyardee
- Boxes of Mac N' Cheese

- Chili
- Stew
- Chunky Soups
- Cheese
- Frozen Pizza
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Ramen Cases
- Bread
- Pot Pies
- Hot Dogs



Hope we can count on you. Deadline is September 10th.



Christikon Clips



Information for our Congregations

We are grateful for your prayers for Christikon this summer, especially for the summer staff as they return from the mountain after a season of serving, guiding, and growing together around our theme, Hopeward. They've led campers on trails and in worship, cared for community with joy and resilience, and discovered Christ's presence in unexpected places. Now they carry new friendships, deeper faith, and a spirit of hopeward living back into their everyday lives. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for them!

We also ask for prayers for Heather and her family as they complete their move from Menomonie, WI to Billings. We celebrate with them as they join our community.

Summer season #74 is in the books. What a journey it has been with so many opportunities for us to be about God's work. We are grateful for all of our wonderful campers who joined the Christikon community this summer and who now remain a part of it!

We hosted campers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kentucky, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Texas Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Wonderful opportunity to connect with people from these out of state congregations and forge long lasting friendships sharing the Christikon experience.

Our special guest speakers Dr. Dave Ellingson led sessions at our Continuing Education Retreat and Paul Waldum led sessions during Mountain Weekend.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled through the month of October with several dates including weekends still available. Bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains!

**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?

September 2025



Norman Duncan
John Robinson



Sign-up Sheet

Service Committee

Deanna Novotny
Barb Terland
Susie Mosness



Deanna Novotny &
Judy Riter

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

WELCA meeting September 28th after Church in the Sanctuary.
This meeting will be used to do the fall planning.

Book Club News

Next discussion is
7 Sept. 2025

Schedule

Sundays - @ 4PM - In the Parish Hall

Book Selection:

Date	Book	Author
Sept. 7th	<i>How We Learn to BE Brave</i>	Marian Edgar Budde
Oct. 5th	<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	C. S. Lewis

Bible Study

Genesis, Pt. 1



Please see Pr. Julia if you do not regularly receive the Bible study emails.

Monday Nights (Hybrid) 7:00pm, Thursday (Hybrid) 12:00pm

Chapter	First Date	Second Date
Gen 1-2:4a	8 Sept	11 Sept
Gen 2:4b - end of chapter	15 Sept	18 Sept
Gen 3	22 Sept	25 Sept
Gen 4	29 Sept	2 Oct

September 2025



*Event Not at BTLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube	1	2	3 Youth Group 6 PM	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube 4PM Book Club	8 Rachel Circle 2pm Bible Study 7pm	9	10 Living with Loss: 8:30am Men & 12pm Ladies Youth Group 6 PM	11 Bible Study 12pm	12	13
14 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube	15 Bible Study 7pm	16	17 Youth Group 6 PM	18 Bible Study 12pm	19	20
21 *10am Church Breakfast @Fairgrounds *Confirmation 6PM	22 Bible Study 7pm	23	24 Confirmation 5PM Youth Group 6 PM	25 Bible Study 12pm	26	27
28 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube *Confirmation 6PM	29 Bible Study 7pm	30	1 Confirmation 5PM Youth Group 6 PM	2 Bible Study 12pm	3	4



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

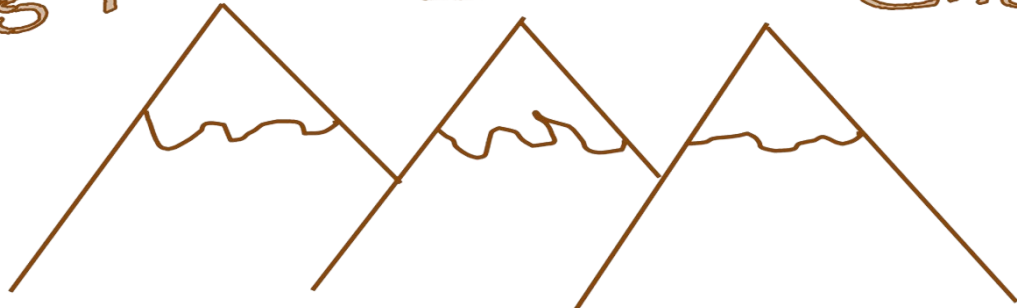
USA- Justin Arnold, Terry Roth (Colorado), Nathan Hensley

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

