

BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2021

Inside this issue:

Holy Week and Easter Worship	2
A Note from your Council President	2
Words from Pastor Julia	3
What to Expect When We Worship	4
Council, Committees, & Offerings	5
March Council Meeting Minutes	6-7
Benevolence Corner	7
Bible Studies	7
April Worship Assistants	8
Youth Happenings	9
April Calendar	10
In Our Prayers	11

HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

3:00pm on Thursday, April 1st

Streamed on Facebook



GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

7:00pm on Friday April 2nd

In the Sanctuary and online

EASTER WORSHIP

7:00am and 9:00am

Sunday, April 4th

in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live

coffee OUTSIDE after both services- regardless of weather

A note from your council president

Dear Friends,

The Easter season is upon us. Lent is winding down and we are beginning Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Our church remains open and ready for Good Friday and two Easter services. Praise God such a change from last year! We will continue both in-person and on-line services but with more people being vaccinated, we are hoping for an increase in our church worship attendance. We are still under CDC guidance about gathering in large groups.

We will be singing a little and praying together during Easter Sunday services but will continue to wear our masks as well as social distancing ourselves.

Pastor Julia's priority is to keep the well-being and safety of our congregation in the forefront and the council is blessed and grateful for her leadership. She is very aware of how much we miss the old days of gathering for worship and fellowship afterwards. The council has decided to offer coffee and cinnamon rolls after each Easter service. Regardless of weather, it will be served outdoors.

This council has faced some very tough decisions in the last 13 months. We are always mindful of how our congregation feels about worship, fellowship, committees etc. However, the bottom line is safety first because that's how we care for each other. We pray for your patience and understanding. Our goal is to get back to "normal" as quickly as possible, something we have no control over. God knows this too. We rely on his unwavering faithfulness and love to get us through this pandemic. I know I pray daily for help in this.

The meaning of Easter to me is suffering, forgiveness, hope and unconditional love.

Let us all rejoice in God's ultimate sacrifice: giving his Son to pay for our sins. Have a beautiful Easter.

Gemma George

Dear friends in Christ-

Words from Pastor Julia

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. — James 1:26-27 (New King James Version)

The verse above serves as a two-fold reminder. First, it is a note that our upcoming Bible study (beginning on 12 April) will be on James. Secondly, it is a point of reflection as we pass our one-year anniversaries related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, we had hoped that Easter would be a day of release and celebration, but instead it marked increased uptick in cases in what turned out to be a long slog, with many lives lost. We were slow here in Sweet Grass Country to be affected and it is easier here to think it is all finished.

Speaking for myself, I have deep grief in my heart, not only for the losses of the past year, but for the divisions in relationships and community that are on-going. Some would like to see any kind of restriction lifted anywhere, including church. Others recognize that there are still risks and that we are not yet fully out of the woods for getting sick or spreading COVID.

The changes proposed by the Church Council for Easter- to permit more singing and to include communion in the worship service- are decisions being made out of pressure by people in the congregation, who are impatient and frustrated with our continued precautions. The best research available says that singing a four-minute song is the same as being in the presence of a 4-minute sustained cough. A shorter amount of singing is like a shorter cough. In order to sing at all, we must have the windows open and continue to wear masks in the hopes that we will not create a COVID-spreader event after a year of such care. The same is true of standing up and sitting down or moving around during the service. The stirring of the air without a good provision for airflow creates a significant potential infection risk.

The majority of our most seasoned congregation members have been vaccinated, but not all of them. Those who are not as seasoned continue to wait. We must be careful not to create an intentionally or unintentionally segregated church experience by making worship comfortable for those who are vaccinated and unattend-able for those who are not, which is very close to our current situation.

All of which brings me back to the quote above from James: do we have pure and undefiled religion? With Holy Week just ahead, it is worth each of examining our hearts and discerning what the gift of faith means to us. What are we doing in response to God's love poured out in Jesus? What does our individual witness and our congregational witness say about what we believe is the most important part of being a Christian in a worshipping community?

I know we have been through a long and difficult year. We all desperately want "normal", but in our rush to feel that- we may risk everything we've tried so hard to prevent. Let us keep the faith, encourage one another in doing what is right and loving, and ask God to direct us in pure and undefiled religion.

In peace,
Pastor Julia

What to expect when we worship in the sanctuary now

*As long as it is technologically possible, we will continue to stream all services through Facebook Live

- 1) Enter through the front doors (under the steeple). These two doors are entrance only. The ramp door is also available if necessary.
- 2) Masks are required in the building. The Council is asking all of us to model Jesus Christ by taking this seriously. Please be respectful and gentle around this issue in the church.
- 3) Pick up your own bulletin or other material from the table in the foyer. Take a mask if you need one. Take other materials (devotionals, magazines, newsletters) as desired. Sign up for tasks, if you are willing and able to serve.
- 4) There will be a basket just inside the main doors for your offering. Please put it in there and know that we are grateful for your generosity.
- 5) Please choose a pew. Families and household groups may sit together. We encourage spacing of 6 feet where possible between people who do not live or normally socialize together. Pews can generally hold one family (3+ people), 1 couple and 1 single person (sitting apart on the ends), or 3 singles people (spaced out along the pew).
- 6) At this time, we are still refraining from congregational singing. We have not omitted all the congregation responses from the liturgy, so you may participate in the spoken responses.
- 7) When we have communion, Pastor Julia will consecrate the elements at the altar during the service. After the blessing and dismissal, she will wash her hands and prepare for distribution at a table in the Parish Hall. You will be dismissed for communion by row, by an usher. Carry everything with you when you leave your row. When you have received communion, please exit the building from Parish Hall, either down the hall or through the door to the steps and the ramp. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may exit through the ramp door from the sanctuary when your row is dismissed.
- 8) For children: we will have children's bulletins available. At this time, we do not have any crayons, colored pencils, or other similar resources generally available. You can bring some from home or we can assign a baggie for your child/children. Children's sermons will be taped separately from the regular service and shared via social media. This may change in the future. Your children are still very, very welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Big Timber Lutheran Church Council & Committees

WWW.BIGTIMBERLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG BTLUTHER@ITSTRIANGLE.COM

Pastor Julia Seymour pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com

Council

President-Gemma George	932-5995	georgegem990@gmail.com
VP-Natalie Rosebrock	932-4589	n.rosebrock77@gmail.com
Secretary-Deb Silverstein	932-5072	debbiesilverstein@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Debbie Buerkle	932-5370	buerkledeb@yahoo.com
Barb Terland	932-5107	the3ts@itstriangle.com
Becky Laverell	932-4476	blaverell@gmail.com
Jacque Scott	932-6465	jscottinmt@gmail.com
Les Schiele	932-4512	lesschiele@bresnan.net
Jim Bratvold	932-5684	jimbratvold@hotmail.com
Al Buerkle	932-5370	buerkleal@yahoo.com
Ken Nelson	1-480-772-7028	knproshop@peoplepc.com.

Education Committee

Pastor Julia
Debbie Buerkle

BTLC OFFERINGS

Mission Committee

Pastor Julia-Becky Frese
Steve Harvey-Lori Minette
Meggen & JJillian Whalin
Mark Rosebrock

Property Committee

Ron Riter
Al Buerkle
Leonard Walla

Worship Committee

Leslie Schiele
Jim Bratvold
Debbie Buerkle
Ron Riter
Diane Ronneberg
John Callahan
Eunice Kirkpatrick

	2019	2020	2021
JAN	9,854.00	10,904.80	13,602.41
FEB	9,034.85	13,973.56	6,715.90
MARCH	12,831.85	11,071.53	
APRIL	16,911.51	12,905.39	
MAY	8,864.40	18,715.66	
JUN	9,584.85	7,457.93	
JUL	9,457.64	10,779.65	
AUG	8,293.32	7842.99	
SEP	18,272.05	10,918.71	
OCT	10,174.15	8,548.69	
NOV	14,856.40	14,269.22	
DEC	21,541.14	18,927.49	
YTD	149,676.16	146,315.62	20,318.31

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

BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021 Respectfully Submitted by Deb Silverstein

Present: Pastor Julia, Jim Bratvold, Gemma George, Becky Laverell, Natalie Rosebrock, Les Schiele, Jacque Scott, Barb Terland and Deb Silverstein via Zoom.

Not Present: Al Buerkle, Debbie Buerkle and Ken Nelson

President Gemma George called the meeting to order. Al Buerkle sent devotions to Gemma to be read in his absence.

Examples of fulfilling our Mission:

- Lenten Services
- Bible Study
- Service to the PMC
- Youth Group

Council Meeting Minutes: There is a correction to the February 11th Minutes. Under Examples of fulfilling our Mission: It should have been LDS (not LBS). Barb moved to approve the Minutes from the February 11th meeting as corrected and Jim Bratvold seconded the Motion. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Les Schiele moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for February and Barb Terland seconded the Motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Pastor Julia's Report: Nothing to report as this time.

Music & Worship: Jim Bratvold reported that the Music and Worship Committee will meet next week to make a plan for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Pastor Julia related that the Chico Retreat has been cancelled due to Covid-19 and the plan is to have a 3-day retreat in November.

Education: Bible Study and Youth will continue. VBS is scheduled for July 19th through July 22nd with Flathead Bible Camp.

Mission Committee: Nothing to report until the quarter is finished.

Property Committee: Nothing to report.

WELCA: Gemma reached out to Jodie Christensen regarding possibly putting together a basket for the Christikon On-line Auction. She has not heard back from Jodie.

President's Correspondence: Gemma had no correspondence to review at this time.

Old Business:

Job Descriptions: Gemma rec received a job description from Debbie and Al Buerkle regarding lawn care. Once we have Pastor Julia's job description, they will be submitted to the Council for approval.

Sunday School: Natalie informed the Council that Sunday School will be put on hold for now and start back in the fall.

New Business:

Holy Week and Easter Sunday: There was a lengthy discussion on what to do for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. The Music and Worship Committee will make a plan for Holy Week when they meet next week. The Council suggested a Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service. It was also suggested that there be two services on Easter Sunday; 7:00am and a 9:00am service. It was also proposed that there be a limited amount of singing (with masks), communion from the Sanctuary and a designated usher to seat the congregation in order to keep social distancing. Barb will contact Bobbie to ask if she would be interested in baking cinnamon rolls for coffee hour, after each service, to be held outside.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 8th, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Jacque Scott volunteered to lead devotions at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Benevolence Corner

Where does our benevolence go?

Benevolence is allocated each quarter to
local (50%), national (25%) international (25%) causes.

2020 4th Quarter Benevolent Giving

Local

\$1500 Christikon—\$590.78 Sweet Grass County Sheriff's Dpt—\$590.79 Community Mental Health

National and International

(n/a for 2020 4th quarter)

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

Bible Studies

with Pastor Julia via ZOOM

5 week study on James, beginning April 12th

Mondays@7:00pm

Thursdays@12:00pm

**Please email the church office or Pastor Julia
if you'd like to join.**

We look forward to hearing from you.

How Can I Help?

April 2021

Lay Readers

4/4
4/11
4/18
4/25



Ushers

4/4
4/11
4/18
4/25



Altar Committee

Debbie Buerkle
Judy Riter

Please sign up to help.

The sign-up sheet is where bulletins are picked up for worship on Sunday mornings.

Youth Happenings



Christikon Clips

April 2021



Christikon Auction Goes Online

April 6-13 on Facebook

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

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks!

The annual **Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More** begins on Tuesday April 6th and runs through April 13th. Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, Big Sky Condo, Murray Hotel Weekend, Big Sky Golf, jewelry and so much more. The auction will most definitely look different this year so join us on facebook and support Christikon's ministry and enjoy the friendly competitive bidding.

Youth Campers: Our Early Registration Discount has been extended to April 15th! You've got time to get registered!

Christikon is celebrating its 70th year! Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer! **How about Work Weekend?** Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to www.christikon.org and find your session!

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 • director@christikon.org • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Stay tuned for updates

CONFIRMATION

Stay tuned for updates

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship via Facebook Live	2 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	3
4 Alleluia! 7:00am Worship 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live	5	6	7 6:00pm Youth Group	8 6:30pm BTLC Council Meeting	9	10
11 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live	12 7:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	13	14 6:00pm Youth Group	15 12:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	16	17
18 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live	19 7:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	20	21 6:00pm Youth Group	22 12:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	23	24
25 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live	26 7:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	27	28 6:00pm Youth Group	29 12:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	30	

Please Keep in Your Thoughts & Prayers



Ellen Arlian, Alice Bassett, Joe Beley, Diane Berg, Sandy Berg (Sister of Mabel Halverson), Greg Black & Gwen Black (Curran Johnson's father & mother-in-law), John Callahan, Linda Cowger (Ethel Lukenbill's Daughter), Lillian Duncan, Angie Durfee, Mary Elgen, Joyce Fotland, Hilda Fredericks, Selma Gibby, Bobbie Gilbert, Aileen Green (John & Sandi Callahan's Daughter), Pat Hansen, Diana Hanson, Steve Harvey, Jan Hauge, Rick Jarrett, Kennedy Grace Johnson (Kallie Chittennam's daughter), Scot Johnson, Darren & Carolyn Johnson, Kris Johnson (Deanna Novotny's nephew), Jim Kjarmo, Toralf Kjarmo, Diane Lohrer, Connie Lowe, Ethel Lukenbill, Tylee McDonald (13 yr old great niece of Fran Elgen), Addison McManus, Julie Morton (Barb Terland's sister), Carol O'Dell, Dave Otteson, Sig Preston (sister of Hilda Fredericks), Andrea Rostad, George Rostad, Carole Roth, Beth Schaible, Mark Taylor

Military Service: Sean Callahan, Wyatt LaVoy (Lakenheath Airforce Base, England)

USA- Justin Arnold, Terry Roth (Colorado), Michael Stefanovic (Arkansas), Trevor "Kipp" Kiper (Mississippi)

Those in the PMC: Linda Mlekush, Olav Stenberg

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

Join us for worship Sundays at 9:00am

In-person or Via Facebook Live

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

CHRIST IS RISEN

