

# BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2020

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# A note from your council president

Christmas Greetings to all of you! I pray that you are continuing to stay healthy and safe! I feel like a broken record that repeats itself over and over. I just change the holiday greetings at the beginning of the message. What a fall this has been! With COVID19 exploding all over our community and our world, we truly have been forced to take this virus seriously. Because of the number of cases in the county, our worship services, council meetings, and Bible studies are all entirely online. At this point in time, there really is no other choice but to be online, and I am grateful for Pastor Julia and her foresight. Even though we occasionally have a glitch with the Facebook Live format, our online services really do provide a way for all of us to worship together. As of now Big Timber Lutheran Church is planning that all of our Advent services and our Christmas Eve service will be online. Pastor Julia is working hard on ideas for a Christmas Eve video that should be enjoyable and meaningful. We are also planning to gather outside of the church on Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm with the flashlights on our cell phones. Once our cell phones are “lit up”, we will sing Silent Night. Of course, we will need to be masked up or “scarfed up” and we will need to be socially distanced by family groupings. However, we can do that! We know the routine from last summer! I realize that we are all craving some sense of normalcy. I know that I am. I sure wish we could bring everyone the normal and predictable worship services that we all love during Advent and Christmas. However, the physical health of the congregation is of utmost importance. Please know that neither Pastor Julia nor any of the church council members take lightly any of the decisions we make. We love you all very much, & we wish you a blessed and safe Advent & Christmas season.

Merry Christmas!

Barb Terland

# Words from Pastor Julia

Dear friends in Christ-

*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

While many of us know this song as the most classic and enduring Advent hymn, it is often met with mixed feelings. We keep singing it, verse by verse, when our hearts are longing for the up-tempo, major key tunes of Christmas. On and on, we sing *O Come, O Come* with our voices, but our feet are already tapping to *Angels We Have Heard on High* and we are prepared to belt out *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*.

I know that many people grow tired of *O Come, O Come* (and I also know many people love it), but we should consider it the anthem of our 2020 Advent season. Exiled from our usual seasonal habits, we are in mourning. We long for what was, what we are missing, and what we hope will be. This is the very definition of what it means to be in exile.

Perhaps in previous years, we did not fully understand the antiphons (verses) of this hymn. Maybe the realities of exile weren't clear to most of us. Maybe some of us vibrated with this song during times of grief, separation, or struggle, but others sighed heavily when the deep, slow melody came forth.

Advent is our season of waiting in hopeful anticipation. We sit in the tension of what we know is true, what God has promised, and what we are waiting for in God's future. This year, in the midst of a serious pandemic, we wait together, but physically apart. We long for a return to our regularly scheduled programming, activities, and life together. And we wait, knowing life will not always be this way, but this time of exile is real for right now.

I do not know how often we will sing *O Come, O Come* this season. I am focusing on encouragement, hope, and joy in most of what I'm writing and recording. I know others are as well. Yet, what is true is true, even when we try to set it aside. We are mourning in lonely exile here. Perhaps it is better to acknowledge that than to pretend it isn't so.

When we tell the truth about our lonely exile, our anticipation builds for the time when it will not be so- when death's dark shadow will be put to flight. When the hearts that long for God will be refreshed. When the path to misery is closed.

Emmanuel- God with us- is our truth in our exile and our truth for our future. Let us help one another remember that and cling fast to the hope that is within us.

In peace,  
Pastor Julia

# Big Timber Lutheran Church

## *Schedule for December Videos/Services*

**Mondays-November 30, December 7, & December 14-  
Quiet Time Live from the Sanctuary at 6-6:30 pm**

**Advent Videos for Kids posted 1-24 December**

**Evening Prayer Service at 6:30 pm-  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

**Blue Christmas Service Video-  
Monday, 21 December- 7 pm**

**Christmas Eve Service Video  
will premiere at 4 pm on 24 December**

**Candlelight Silent Night-  
outside the church at 8 pm, 24 December**

**Below is a link to a 2020 Advent Devotional provided by the  
Montana Synod**

**[6633375e-52ba-4bc6-b8c9-be4fc7cda872.pdf](#)**

# Big Timber Lutheran Church Council & Committees

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

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

## Council

President-Barb Terland	932-5107	the3ts@itstriangle.com
Vice President-Gemma George	932-5995	georgegem990@gmail.com
Secretary-Deb Silverstein	932-5072	debbiesilverstein@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Debbie Buerkle	932-5370	buerkledeb@yahoo.com
Steve Harvey	932-6241	slharvey@live.com
Becky Frese	932-6587	frese@itstriangle.com
Natalie Rosebrock	932-4589	n.rosebrock77@gmail.com
Ron Riter	932-4785	rjriter@itstriangle.com
Becky Laverell	932-4476	blaverell@gmail.com
Jacque Scott	932-6465	jscottinmt@gmail.com

Youth Members (1yr): Bailey Finn and Kyler Mehus

## Mutual Ministry Committee

Debbie Buerkle	Lori Minette
Natalie Rosebrock	Al Buerkle
Rich Parker	Chris Mehus

## BTLC OFFERINGS

## Mission Committee

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

## Property Committee

Ron Riter
Al Buerkle
Norm Duncan
Leonard Walla

## Worship Committee

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

	2018	2019	2020
<b>JAN</b>	<b>8,859.25</b>	<b>9,854.00</b>	<b>10,904.80</b>
<b>FEB</b>	<b>8,360.25</b>	<b>9,034.85</b>	<b>13,973.56</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>11,809.32</b>	<b>12,831.85</b>	<b>11,071.53</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>13,146.70</b>	<b>16,911.51</b>	<b>12,905.39</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>9,576.00</b>	<b>8,864.40</b>	<b>18,715.66</b>
<b>JUN</b>	<b>8,551.00</b>	<b>9,584.85</b>	<b>7,457.93</b>
<b>JUL</b>	<b>16,100.00</b>	<b>9,457.64</b>	<b>10,779.65</b>
<b>AUG</b>	<b>11,664.00</b>	<b>8,293.32</b>	<b>7842.99</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>15,523.95</b>	<b>18,272.05</b>	<b>10,918.71</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>12,284.50</b>	<b>10,174.15</b>	<b>8,548.69</b>
<b>NOV</b>	<b>9,701.00</b>	<b>14,856.40</b>	
<b>DEC</b>	<b>20,858.00</b>	<b>21,541.14</b>	
<b>YTD</b>	<b>146,433.97</b>	<b>149,676.16</b>	<b>113,118.91</b>

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

# **BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**BTLC Council Meeting Minutes November 12, 2020**

**Respectfully submitted by Deb Silverstein**

**Present via Zoom On Line:** Pastor Julia, Debbie Buerkle, Becky Frese, Gemma George, Becky Laverell, Natalie Rosebrock, Ron Riter, Jacque Scott and Deb Silverstein.

Vice President Gemma George called the meeting to order. Gemma led devotions.

**Examples of fulfilling our Mission:** Bible Study, Praying for friends and family, Youth Group was strong until they had to stop meeting due to the pandemic, Pastor Julia posted that she was going to ring the church bell for Veteran's Day and 400+ people read the post, There are a lot of people watching Sunday Worship Service online that are not from Big Timber, Evening Prayers

**Council Meeting Minutes:** Debbie Buerkle reported that she never received a bill from The Grand for the Nelsons' Gift Certificate. Debbie will mail a check for \$100 to The Grand. In addition, no one has picked up the Gift Certificate from Yellowstone Feed for 4H Council. Pastor Julia will take care of getting the Gift Certificate for the 4H Council. Jacque Scott moved to approve the Minutes from the October 8, 2020 meeting and Becky Frese seconded the Motion. The Minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Debbie Buerkle reported that offerings were down but that expenses were also down due to Covid-19. Ron Riter moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for October and Becky Frese seconded the Motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Pastor Julia's Report:** Pastor Julia has been making phone calls and keeping in touch with people. At this time, Pastor Julia is sending content to the Youth Group via Instagram, however, it is hard to stay connected. Call Pastor Julia anytime with questions or information you think she may need to know. Don't assume she already knows.

**Music & Worship:** Nothing to Report. Jim Bratvold is back in town and Pastor Julia hopes to talk to him next week. Ken and Ethel are going back to Arizona.

**Education:** Pastor Julia ordered two new puppets, some videos and an Advent pullout calendar.

**Mission Committee:** Mission Committee has not met. Probably will not meet until after December.

**Property Committee:** The plexiglass has been installed in the kitchen. There was further discussion on purchasing an air scrubber for the Parish Hall. The air scrubber discussed at the last meeting is no longer available, however, there is a smaller one for \$770 that covers 550 sq. ft. Becky F. made a Motion for Ron to purchase the small air scrubber from Amazon and Becky L. seconded the Motion. Motion passed. Ron stated that he had not heard from Systems Northwest regarding the Fire Alarm System and that he would contact them. Pastor Julia reported that she had faxed them a password to get started.

**WELCA:** Nothing to report. Pastor Julia said she had been playing phone tag with Jodie and she will get a hold of her and make a plan.

**President's Correspondence:** There was a thank you letter from Ken and Ethel Nelson for the gift certificate Received a note from the NRIC thanking us for our support. A notice from St. John's United regarding All Delegates Day on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Old Business:**

**Annual Employee Evaluations:** It was decided that before Employee Evaluations can be done, current Job Descriptions must be established for each employee; Janitor, Administrative Assistant the Pastor Julia. Pastor Julia will see what she can find and send those job descriptions to the Executive Committee (Barb Terland, Gemma George and Deb Silverstein) for review. The Executive Committee will meet, possibly through Zoom, and review and revise the job descriptions and submit to the Council for approval.

## **New Business:**

**Advent Worship:** The Music and Worship Committee will meet in the next week to make a plan. It was suggested possibly making Advent videos corresponding with the pullout Advent Calendar starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was also proposed, that on Mondays during Advent, preparing an Advent/Christmas playlist for people to go online and have some quiet time and listen to the music.

**Christmas Worship:** Pastor Julia ordered 2360' of garland to wrap around the pillars and alter. Place the small tree that is usually in the Parish Hall next to the piano in the Sanctuary and an Advent Wreath on the pulpit. It was suggested to get different families to come in and do specific decorating. Pre-record the music, readings... for the Christmas Worship Service. Christmas Service will be held at 4:00pm on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We are going to try something new this year. Instead of the Christmas Eve Candlelight service, we are going to gather outside the Church at 8:00pm with candles, flashlights, candle apps on our phones (all are welcome) and sing Silent Night. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Natalie volunteered to lead devotions.

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%)  
and international (25%) causes.

## 2020 2nd Quarter Benevolent Giving

### Local

\$750 Christikon

\$750 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

\$500 Montana Rescue Mission

### National

\$1000 Shriner's Hospital

### International

\$1000 Lutheran Disaster Response

*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

## The Gospel of Mark

Via ZOOM

Mondays @ 7:00pm Thursdays @ 12:00pm

No Studies from 12/21. Will resume 1/6 with Mark 13

# How Can I Help?

*December 2020*

## Lay Readers

12/6  
12/13  
12/20  
12/24  
12/27



## Ushers

12/6  
12/13  
12/20  
12/24  
12/27



## Altar Committee

Please sign up to help when we are able to worship in the building once more. The sign-up sheet will be located where bulletins are picked up for worship on Sunday mornings. Stay tuned for ways to help and be involved while we worship together online.



# Youth Happenings



## Christikon Clips

406 656-1969 • [christikon@aol.com](mailto:christikon@aol.com) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)



### December 2020

*Information for our Congregations*

In the season of Advent,  
we prepare for the “arrival” of Jesus into our world. May our hearts be prepared to  
receive Him.

We welcome His love and hope for our lives.

**Blessings to you and yours this Advent and Christmas.**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102  
406 656-1969 • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)**

### YOUTH GROUP

**Pastor Julia is sending Youth Group information via Instagram.**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Stay tuned for updates

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated on  
Sunday, December 20th at 9:00am

# DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 12:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	4	5
6 9:00am Worship Via Facebook Live	7 6:00pm Quiet Time 7:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	8	9	10 12:00pm ZOOM Bible Study 6:00pm BTLC Council Meeting	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Via Facebook Live	14 6:00pm Quiet Time 7:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	15	16	17 12:00pm ZOOM Bible Study	18	19
20 9:00am Worship Via Facebook Live	21 7:00pm Blue Christmas Video	22	23	24 4:00pm Christ- mas Eve Worship via Facebook Live 8:00pm Outdoor Candle- light Singing of Silent Night	25	26
27 9:00am Worship Via Facebook Live	28	29	30	31		

## 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), Ken Bondy (Deanna Novotny's brother), John Callahan, Libby Cameron, 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), Shirley Halverson, Pat Hansen, Steve Harvey, Jan Hauge, Raymond Hernandez (son-in-law of Audrene Kunda), 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, Marci Marsh, 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, Carole Roth, Beth Schaible, Chris Schultz (brother of Melissa Buerkle's fiancé), Monte Streeter, 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: Dr. Tom Ivey, 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>**

