

# BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2020



## *Inside this issue:*

<b>Words from Pastor Julia</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Council, Committees, &amp; Offerings</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>January Council Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bible Studies</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Benevolence Corner</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Living with Loss: Grief Support Groups</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Important Dates</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WELCA News</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Youth Happenings</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>February Calendar</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>February Worship Assistants &amp; Fellowship</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>In Our Prayers</b>	<b>11</b>



Dear Friends in Christ-

*[Jesus says]: “Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30 (Common English Bible)*

As this newsletter comes out, we are in the middle of a sermon series on discipleship. Discipleship is the act of following a leader or teacher, learning from them, and then imitating their best habits. As their way of being becomes your way of being, their way of life becomes your way of life. Your way of life becomes your very identity. Those who see you associate you with your habits, your way of speaking, your actions and what you refrain from doing. Discipleship can never be private and those who expect to have private lives will struggle to be disciples of Jesus.

In contemporary American culture, we often praise the individual to the demise of the communal. We forget that as Christians, there is no such thing as solitary discipleship. Even cloistered religious people and hermits spend most of their time in prayer. They may live alone, but they worship in and with the same Spirit we do. As the body of Christ, we are drawn together by God for the sake of the whole world and for the grace that our own souls need.

It is only in community, with healing words, merciful acts, efforts toward justice, and prayers for peace, that we experience Christ among us and are recharged in our own calls and sense of God’s presence among us. The sacraments, the reading of the written word, the shared breathing of communal singing- we cannot fully partake of these riches alone. We need one another.

Thus, the greatest act of discipleship is not specifically following Jesus. The greatest discipleship is accepting that we are called to follow Jesus alongside people whom we ourselves would not choose for the journey. We are called to understand how much God loves and forgives us, by experiencing the giving and receiving of that same love alongside other disciples of Christ.

Let us learn from Jesus. Let us pull along *together*, lightening one another’s loads, to do the work that is ours as people of God in this place, at this time.

In peace,

Pastor Julia

# 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 will be changed after annual meeting

President- Steve Harvey	932-6241	slharvey@live.com
Vice President-Barb Terland	932-5107	the3ts@itstriangle.com
Secretary-Deb Silverstein	932-5072	debbiesilverstein@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Debbie Buerkle	932-5370	buerkledeb@yahoo.com
Eunice Kirkpatrick	932-6716	ekirkpatrick@itstriangle.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
Boe Parker	930-0741	all4god50002000@yahoo.com

## Mutual Ministry Committee

Melanie Forrey	Lori Minette
Natalie Rosebrock	Al Buerkle
Rich Parker	Chris Mehus

## BTL OFFERINGS

## Mission Committee

Melanie Forrey
Becky Frese
Lori Minette
Meggen Whalin
Kailey Forrey

## Property Committee

Ron Riter
Al Buerkle
Norm Duncan
Leonard Walla

## Worship Committee

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

	2017	2018	2019
<b>JAN</b>	11,382.82	8,859.25	9,854.00
<b>FEB</b>	10,691.75	8,360.25	9,034.85
<b>MARCH</b>	11,996.50	11,809.32	12,831.85
<b>APRIL</b>	16,468.17	13,146.70	16,911.51
<b>MAY</b>	11,711.00	9,576.00	8,864.40
<b>JUN</b>	7,993.00	8,551.00	9,584.85
<b>JUL</b>	12,469.60	16,100.00	9,457.64
<b>AUG</b>	10,873.50	11,664.00	8,293.32
<b>SEP</b>	8,976.00	15,523.95	18,272.05
<b>OCT</b>	11,965.00	12,284.50	10,174.15
<b>NOV</b>	9,272.13	9,701.00	14,856.40
<b>DEC</b>	17,322.00	20,858.00	21,541.14
<b>YTD</b>	141,121.47	146,433.97	149,676.16

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

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

**January 9, 2020** Respectfully submitted, Deb Silverstein

**Present:** Pastor Julia Seymour, Becky Frese, Steve Harvey, Eunice Kirkpatrick, Becky Laverell, Ron Riter, Natalie Rosebrock, Deb Silverstein, Barb Terland and Debbie Buerkle. **Absent:** Boe Parker

President Steve Harvey called the meeting to order.

Devotions led by Pastor Julia with a demonstration on the book of Amos.

**Examples of fulfilling our Mission:** Christmas Eve Service, Confirmation kids' trip to Laverell's to see the baby goat, Offering the hospitality of space, i.e., 12-step groups that meet at the Church, Volunteering at the Montana Rescue Mission

Barb moved to approve the Minutes from the December 16, 2019 meeting. Ron seconded the Motion, Minutes were approved as written.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

The In and Out line item under Profit & Loss Budget is a negative amount because the Church has not been reimbursed by the Company for the sprinkler system work done by Scott Crawford as yet, but we expect to get paid back soon.

Total offerings for 2019 was good

There is \$2458.00 in benevolence monies to be distributed

The Youth Group raised \$570.00 selling Krumkake with only \$30 in expenses

Reviewed the 2020 Proposed Budget

Ron made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Becky Frese seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Deb Silverstein made a Motion to approve the final Proposed Budget. Ron seconded. The Proposed Budget was approved.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Pastor Julia's Report:**

Pastor Julia will be gone January 27<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> for continuing education in Tampa, Florida – "Developing Pastoral Vision"

Pastor Julia requested vacation time – March 12<sup>th</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup>

"Discipleship" is the preaching theme for Epiphany and the Wednesday nights Lenten Theme will be "The Lord's Prayer"

Average weekly attendance in 2019 was 73. There was 1 baptism and 4 by affirmation of baptism, 1 wedding, 11 funerals (7 for the congregation) and 4 students confirmed.

Pastor Julia met the 50 hours continuing education requirement. She regularly attended text study with clergy from Big Timber to Laurel and regularly attended Crazy Mountain Cluster (synod division)

Regular participation in Big Timber mental health meetings and activity planning. Spent 1 week at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in June. Intro to Revelation in August. Spoke at the WELCA Convention in October and regularly met with students at the grade school teaching, drawing, coloring, crocheting...

Wrote several articles:

2020 Lutheran Outdoor Ministry curriculum which will be implement this summer

"Children and Faith Muscle Memory" for Gather Magazine

"Michal and Women of Faith for Gather Magazine

"The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle" to be published February, 2020

Co-wrote a publication with Pastor Miriam Schmidt

Bible Study: Opening the Book of Faith, Galatians and Small Catechism (the 10 commandments and the Creed)

Implemented Lego Sunday School

**Music and Worship Committee Report:** Nothing to report.

**Education Committee:** Volunteers needed for Sunday school

**Mission Committee:** Nothing to report.

### **Property Committee:**

Cabinets for the kitchen renovation have been ordered and should arrive the middle of February. Cabinets came to \$9600 so we should be under budget for the project

Demolition of the wall will take place the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of January

Ron met with Joe Yokum regarding streaming services in the Sanctuary. Ron is not happy with the quality of the existing camera and suggested considering an upgrade. He will talk to Joe to acquire what will be needed.

Natalie was approached by a congregational member to invest in handicap accessibility. There was a lengthy discussion on options and the Property Committee will take this under advisement.

Becky Laverell asked if the "Living with Loss" group would be able to meet at the Church on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ron did not foresee a problem.

**President's Correspondence:** Received a postcard from Montana Synod stating the Staff prayed for BTLC at their weekly staff meeting.

**Old Business:**

Recruiting new Council Members: Gemma George volunteered to replace Eunice on the Council. Becky Frese spoke with Bailey Finn again and she seems very interested. We still need 2 adults. Debbie Silverstein, Steve and Becky Frese will approach suggested Church Members to see if there is any interest.

Since Pastor Julia cannot attend the Community meeting on Wednesdays at 9:00am at St. Mark's Episcopal Church regarding the old High School project, she asked for volunteers to attending the meetings. Steve offered and Barb Terland agreed to attend when her schedule allows. It was also recommended that Jamie Moody be invited to the February 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to talk more about the project.

**New Business:**

The company that owns BTLC internet domain name is going out of business. It was suggested hiring Ben Fjare to help with the transfer of a new domain name. Pastor Julia will contact Ben and get an estimate.

Debbie Buerkle was approached by Kim Finn's mom regarding a memorial she sent years ago for the Lighting Project in honor of her mom and suggested putting together a Memorial Book to document memorials given. Pastor Julia suggested telling her "that we don't want her contribution to go unforgotten but we are not presently in a position to develop a Memorial Book. However, maybe she could talk to her family, and when the time comes, hopefully not any time soon, a mention of this generous contribution to the Church in her mom's honor could be included in her obituary.

There was additional talk about having a Historian for the Church. Natalie offered to take pictures of church events and Debbie Silverstein volunteered to gather pictures and information (old and new) and start a scrapbook.

Debbie Silverstein will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Eunice offered to take the minutes.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

**Where does our benevolence go?**

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

**2019 4th Quarter Benevolent Giving**

*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 com-*

*pulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

# Bible Studies

## Rachel's Circle

Monday, February 3rd in the Parish Hall @ 2:00pm

Hostesses: Shirley Esp and Eunice Kirkpatrick, Chapter 6

Adult Bible Study with Pastor Julia: Amos, Thursdays @ noon

# Living with Loss

## Grief Support Groups

The 2nd Wednesday of the Month  
in the Parish Hall

Men's Breakfast: February 12th, 8:30am    Women's Luncheon: February 12th, 12:00pm

# Important Dates

1/26 Annual Congregational Meeting


2/26 Ash Wednesday

6:00pm Soup

7:00pm Worship

June 15th-June 18th

*We will need host families for June 13th-18th*



Love is patient, love is kind.  
It does not envy, it does not boast,  
it is not proud. It does not dishonor  
others, it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered,  
it keeps no record of wrongs.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5**

# WELCA NEWS

## WELCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Next Meeting  
Sunday, February 16th  
After Worship**



# Youth Happenings



## Christikon Clips

February, 2020

*Information for our Congregations*



Christikon Youth Camp Brochures have been mailed to every young person in your congregation who are completing grades 4-12. Save by registering before March 15. Additional brochures are available from your church office.

Family/Adult Brochures will be out soon. Watch for yours in the mail or at your church.

**Do it online!** You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org).

**Save the dates:** The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Too few young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience with focused community experience, helping to open people to the deeper realities of the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...

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

### YOUTH GROUP

6:00pm on Wednesdays

### LEGO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30am-11:00am following worship

### CONFIRMATION

1st Wednesday: 2:30pm *no confirmation 2/5*

Following Wednesdays: 5:00pm



# FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00PM AA
2 9:00am Worship 10:30am Lego Sunday School	3 10:30am PMC Communion 2:00pm Rachel's Circle 8:00PM AA	4 12:00pm AI-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	5 1:00pm CM Dulcimers 6:00pm Confirmation	6 12:00pm Amos Study 8:00PM AA	7 8:00PM AA	8 8:00PM AA
9 9:00am Worship 10:30am Lego Sunday School	10 8:00PM AA	11 12:00pm AI-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	12 Living with Loss: 8:30am Men's Breakfast 12:00pm Women's Luncheon 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group	13 12:00pm Amos Study 7:00pm BTLC Council Meeting 8:00PM AA	14 8:00PM AA	15 8:00PM AA
16 9:00am Worship 10:15am WELCA 10:30am Lego Sunday School	17 8:00PM AA	18 12:00pm AI-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	19 2:30pm CM Dulcimers 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group	20 12:00pm Amos Study 8:00PM AA	21 8:00PM AA	22 8:00PM AA
23 9:00am Worship 10:30am Lego Sunday School	24 8:00PM AA	25 12:00pm AI-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	26 2:30pm CM Dulcimers 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Soup 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	27 12:00pm Amos Study 8:00PM AA	28 8:00PM AA	29 8:00PM AA

# How Can I Help?

February 2020

## Lay Readers

2/2  
2/9 Confirmation  
2/16  
2/23

## Ushers

Norm Duncan  
John Robinson  
2/9 Confirmation

## Communion Assistants

2/2  
2/9 Confirmation  
2/16  
2/23



## Altar Committee

Becky Frese & Eunice Kirkpatrick

# February Fellowship

## FEBRUARY SERVICE COMMITTEE

**Eunice Kirkpatrick**

**Becky Frese**

**Judy Riter**

**Lori Minette**

## Please Keep in Your Thoughts & Prayers



Debbie Anderson (Mary's daughter), 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), Libby Cameron, Linda Cowger (Ethel Lukenbill's Daughter), Lillian Duncan, Angie Durfee, Mary Elgen, Joyce Fotland, Selma Gibby, Aileen Green (John & Sandi Callahan's Daughter), Leah Hammersmark & family, Pat Hansen, Steve Harvey, Raymond Hernandez (son-in-law of Audrene Kunda), Jan Hauge, Rick Jarrett, Norris Johnson, 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), Dava Stenberg, Monte Streeter, Mark Taylor, Shirley Branae Wiegard

**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:** Betty Heiken, Dr. Tom Ivey, Linda Mlekush, Geneva Price, Betty Raymond (Kathy Hanson's mom), Olav Stenberg

# Big Timber Lutheran Church



Big Timber, MT

**Located at 115 W. 4th Ave.**

**PO BOX 278**

**Big Timber, MT 59011**

**Office Hours 8:30am-11:30am M-F**

*Pastor Julia is not available on Fridays*

**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)**

**Join us for worship:**

**Sundays 9:00am**

**Sunday School 10:30am**

