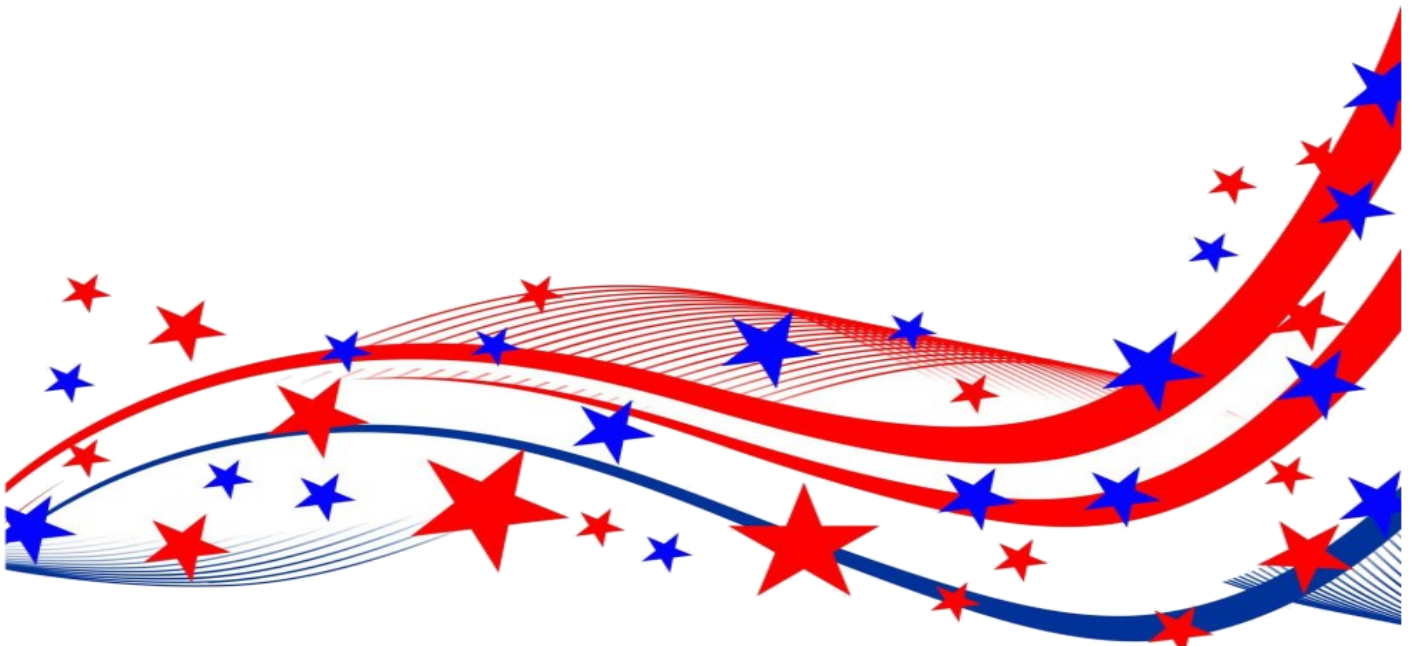


# BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2021

*Inside this issue:*

Words from Pastor Julia	2
Important Notes	3
Fund for Victoria	4
Benevolence Corner	4
Council, Committees, & Offerings	5
Fall Sojourn to Holden	7
Bible Studies	7
July Worship Assistants	8
Youth Happenings	9
July Calendar	10
In Our Prayers	11



# Words from Pastor Julia

Dear Friends in Christ-

*May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. – Psalm 33:22*

On the day I am writing this, it has been 75 days since we learned about Victoria's brain tumor. In that time, she has had four MRIs, 2 CAT scans, a brain surgery, uncounted blood draws, and now 6 completed sessions of radiation with 24 more to go. To say that it has been a lot is an understatement. We had no idea what we didn't know in terms of having a child (or any family member) in need of intensive medical intervention.

It is a blessing that Victoria has, so far, been able to maintain her good spirits and joyful sparkle. It is a blessing that Daniel has been able to have most of his own normal activities, including baseball, swimming lessons, and summer camp. It is a blessing that Rob and I have been able to keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Thus, when people ask, "How are you doing"- it is harder than you might think to answer that question. With so many blessings and so much support, should I truthfully answer, "Not great"? Even with great trust in God and great evidence of excellent medical care, I am still worried for my baby, concerned about her future health, and grieved for everyone who has this experience, but might not have the resources we do. I hope in the Lord with all my being and yet I am not able to plan too far out because I only have energy for one day at a time right now.

Living this way is complicated and complex. As Christians, we often try to simplify things by saying to "let go and let God" or "if you're going to pray, don't worry". Life here, however, is not that simple. It is possible to trust in God and yet have anxiety. It is completely normal to put one's hope in the Lord and yet lament the loss of control one feels in trauma and pain. All of these things are real. Furthermore, these are real situations in which Christ walks with us and the Spirit helps us.

We must be careful with one another not to offer quick platitudes or simplifying statements that ignore or diminish one another's pain. Our walk together as a faith community includes holding one another up and respecting the truths of our diverse experiences. This means that sometimes we have to admit to one another and accept from each other struggles and pain alongside faith and hope.

I cannot fully express my family's deep gratitude for all the support we have received during this present struggle. Your great faithfulness has been a tangible sign of God's presence in these 75 days. Even so, your love when I say that things are tough means more than you can know. Let us continue to show that love to one another and to the world.

With Christ's love,

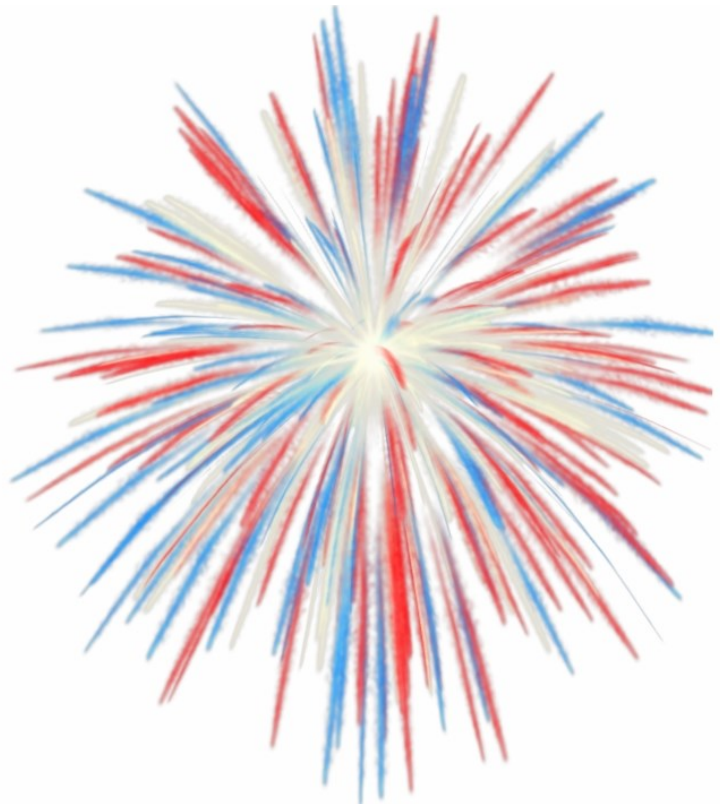
Pastor Julia

# Important Notes

1) No VBS this year. We hope to host at least one outdoor activity for kids later this summer, so please stay tuned.

2) Our seminarian and faithful office administrator, Melanie Forrey, is moving to the next stage of her pastoral training. She will be fulfilling her internship requirement in Billings at St. John's United and Good Shepherd Lutheran. Please keep her and her family in your prayers during this transition. We will miss them!

3) Meet the Admin: Hi Everyone, My name is Tera Ginnaty, I was born and raised in Big Timber, my parents are Bill and Carla Kirchner. I am the proud mother of 4 amazing kids and am happy I get to raise them in my hometown. I look forward to meeting everyone!



# Fund for Victoria

An account has been established at Citizen's Bank in Big Timber to facilitate donations towards medical and travel expenses for the Seymour family.

Deposits can be made directly to the bank (Pastor Julia and Big Timber Lutheran Church are on the account) or checks can be sent to the church (PO BOX 278 59011) with Victoria's name in the memo line.

For more ways to donate, contact the church  
([btluther@itstriangle.com](mailto:btluther@itstriangle.com))

## 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**

**(Benevolence for quarters beginning 2021 will be reported soon)**

*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*

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

## 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	20,251.85
APRIL	16,911.51	12,905.39	12,628.64
MAY	8,864.40	18,715.66	16,180.40
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	69,379.20

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

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

**June, 10 2021**

Respectfully submitted, Deb Silverstein

**Present:** Pastor Julia, Becky Laverell, Ken Nelson, Natalie Rosebrock, Les Schiele, Jacque Scott, Barb Terland, and Deb Silverstein. **Not Present:** Jim Bratvold, Al Buerkle and Debbie Buerkle

Vice President Natalie Rosebrock called the meeting to order. Ken Nelson led devotions.

## **Examples of fulfilling our Mission:**

Graduation. Resumed coffee hour after worship. Resumed communion in the sanctuary  
Singing during worship. Special Music with Ken and Ethel Nelson, Ryan Christensen and Tom Still

**Council Meeting Minutes:** Pastor Julia pointed out in the May Minutes under Examples of fulfilling our Mission that it should have read: Jim Bratvold, Ken Nelson and Les Schiele who helped the supply pastors rather than interim pastors. Barb Terland moved to approve the Minutes from the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting as corrected and Ken Nelson the Motion. The Minutes were approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:** Becky Laverell moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for May and Barb Terland seconded the Motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Pastor Julia's Report:** Pastor Julia said she was very grateful and appreciated everything that has been done in the past 60 days for her and her family. Bible study will resume in the fall. She has been focusing on the business aspects of the Church and on visitations.

**Music & Worship:** Including more singing into worship. The schedule is prepared to the end of July.

**Education:** After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to cancel VBS this year due to a shortage of volunteers and a lack of registrations. Pastor Julia will contact Flathead to see if we can rollover the deposit to 2022. Gemma will be asked to contact Mary Ann Duffey to cancel housing for the Flathead group.

**Mission Committee:** Benevolence monies will be dispersed at the end of the second quarter. Loren Beling turns 80 this month. There will be a birthday celebration at coffee hour on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Julia will let Carol know and get a cake.

**Property Committee:** The carpet is bunched up under the piano due to the piano being moved without releasing the break. It was decided that whenever the piano needs to be moved, it will need to be supervised by someone in the congregation to make sure the brake is released prior to moving the piano. Discussion on replacing the carpet in the sanctuary will be tabled for the next meeting.

**WELCA:** WELCA met on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Carol Walla and Les Schiele are on the Alter Committee for June.

**President's Correspondence:** Nothing to review at this time.

## **New Business:**

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Service:** Pastor Julia will write something for the sermon to be read in her absence. Deb Silverstein volunteered to read the sermon. Ken will sing "America the Beautiful".

**Job Descriptions:** Job descriptions were reviewed and accepted with a few minor typo corrections.

**Hiring the New Administrative Assistance:** Tera Ginnaty has been hired. It has been suggested that she be paid \$16.50 per hour with a review and possible raise in six months (November). She will train with Melanie. Her official start date will be July 1, 2021. Ken Nelson moved to hire Tera at \$16.50 per hour. Les Schiele seconded the Motion. Motion carried. Barb suggested we have some kind of sendoff with a blessing for Melanie. Pastor Julia will contact her to find out what she is comfortable with.

Les Schiele moved to skip the July meeting and Barb Terland seconded the Motion. Motion carried. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 5:00pm. Pastor Julia will lead devotions at the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.





**The Third Biannual  
Fall Sojourn to Holden  
September 26th - October 3rd**

**Now is the time to make plans for a  
special week at Holden Village and  
invite your friends!**

Holden is a retreat center for adults and families, nestled in a beautiful valley in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State.

Fall is a wonderful time to visit the Cascade Mountains. While at Holden Village you will have the opportunity to create your own rhythms of each day according to your interests. Teaching sessions and opportunities for creative engagement will be bountiful. You are encouraged to take time for rest and recreation - hiking, fly-fishing, weaving, other crafts, and a host of other activities. Please spend some time exploring Holden's website ([holdenvillage.org](http://holdenvillage.org)) and consider exploring the Village in person.

After the busy summer schedule, fall is quieter and a beautiful time to visit. This late September week will feature the following teaching staff.

- **Rick Brown, PhD - Clean Energy as a Core Strategy to Address Climate Change.** Rick is Founder and President of TerraVerde Energy from 2009-2020. He has led a team that has developed over \$4,500 Million in clean energy projects. He has also been deeply involved in California legislation and regulation regarding clean energy and has been called on by the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, and the Legislature to provide expert testimony on a wide range of clean energy issues
- **Pr. Jessica Crist - The Doctrine of Discovery — How Rick Santorum (and just about everyone else) Got it All Wrong.** Jessica has degrees from Yale and Harvard and is the former Bishop of the Montana Synod. She coordinated the ELCA's commemoration of the women's ordination anniversaries and currently co-chairs the ELCA's Task Force implementing the 2016 repudiation of the doctrine of discovery. She has been an advocate for Native American issues.
- **Pr. Mark Gravrock - The Reign of the Gathering God: The Gospel of Mark for 2021** Mark is a teacher and pastor, and has found the same vital center of joy in each setting of ministry: the place where the living word of God intersects with real, concrete daily life. He has taught Bible, Greek, and Christian spirituality for 22 years at Trinity Lutheran College in Washington.

If you are interested or have questions, contact Darius Larsen ASAP at:

[dariuslarsen@msn.com](mailto:dariuslarsen@msn.com).

To discover more about Holden Village, go to:

[www.holdenvillage.org/visit](http://www.holdenvillage.org/visit).

Please do whatever you can to promote this week in your church community.

# **Bible Studies**

**with Pastor Julia via ZOOM**

**5 week study on James is postponed for now.**

**Watch for updates in the coming weeks.**

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

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

# How Can I Help?

*July 2021*

## Lay Readers

7/4 Ethel Nelson

7/11

7/18

7/25

## Ushers

John Robinson

## Altar Committee

**Please sign up to help.**

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



# Youth Happenings



## Christikon Clips

### July 2021



**To: Campers/Guests registered for Christikon in 2021**

**Fr: Pastor Mark**

**Re: Camp Preparation & Travel**

We're thankful for the progress made in the Covid fight, that we know much more about how it spreads than we did last season, and that all staff received vaccine before arriving for the summer. While we aren't fully back to "normal" conditions, vaccines are widely available for anyone 12 and up in most, if not all, areas of the country. We continue to strongly encourage everyone who can to get the shot before coming to camp. In consultation with our camp physician and county health director, this is the latest update regarding Covid 19:

Guest/Group Preparation and Travel:

- Quarantine unnecessary if all group members fully vaccinated
- For those not vaccinated, we ask them to limit outside contact in the 10 days prior to leaving for Christikon
- We suggest groups limit contact while in route (i.e. rest stops over convenience stores, ordering food to overnight lodging rather than eating out, etc.). Again for groups fully vaccinated, they can travel more freely

While at Christikon, some protocols remain:

- hand washing/sanitizing stations in place before each meal
- cabin bunks remain further apart and all cabins equipped with ventilation fans
  - most activities and programming done outdoors
  - all will mask when singing at worship
- we'll continue limited our practice of joining hands during meal and worship prayer

**Remember to pray for the staff and campers.**

**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)**

**CONFIRMATION, SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP**

**Stay tuned for updates**

# JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live	5 Christikon Bus 2:15pm	6	7	8 Christikon Bus 10:45am	9	10 Christikon Bus 2:15pm
11 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live	12	13	14	15	16 Christikon Bus 10:45am	17
18 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live Christikon Bus 2:15pm	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christikon Bus 10:45am
25 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live	26	27	28	29	30	31

## *Please Keep in Your Thoughts & Prayers*



Ellen Arlian, Alice Bassett, Joe Beley, Diane Berg, Sandy Berg (Sister of Mabel Halver-son), Greg Black & Gwen Black (Curran Johnson's father & mother-in-law), John Callahan, Linda Cowger (Ethel Lukenbill's Daughter), Lillian Duncan, Angie Durfee, 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, Steve McCullough, Pauline McDermott, 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, Victoria Seymour and family, Mark Taylor

Military Service: Sean Callahan, Wyatt LaVoy (Lakenheath Air-force 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>**

