

BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2019

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Dear Friends in Christ-

For whoever finds [Wisdom] finds life and obtains favor from the Lord; but those who miss [Wisdom] injure themselves; all who hate [Wisdom] love death. – Proverbs 8:35-36

“There is the experience we commonly call *disillusionment*, when a trusted friend lets us down, an institution we had relied on fails us, a vision we had believed in turns out to be a hoax, or – worst of all – when we discover ourselves to be less than we had thought. Many of us try hard to avoid such experiences, and when we are in the midst of them we go through a kind of dying. But the very name we give these moments tells us that something positive is happening through our pain. We say we are being “dis-illusioned”. That is, we are being stripped of some illusions about life, about others, about ourselves. As our illusions are removed, like barriers on a road, we have a change to take that road farther toward the truth.” (*The Active Life*, Parker Palmer, 26f)

I confess that I find November to be a dis-illusioning month. The reminders toward Thanksgiving remind me of when I have forgotten to be grateful in the past year. The observance of Veteran’s Day swirls in me with feelings of frustration and grief, as well as admiration and appreciation. The church year has high holy days (All Saints and Christ the King) and regular ol’ Sundays (the 23 Sunday after Pentecost). November feels like the ebb tide of the year, where we are confronted with what was, what is, and what has been promised.

The above paragraph feels very Jeremiah-like to me, but it is the reality I am currently experiencing. I do believe in being honest about both thoughts and feelings. I am not looking for anyone to make things “better”, but I am hoping my own honesty will help other people to be honest about their own experiences and feelings. We have friends expecting and celebrating events of great joy (hallelujah!). We have siblings in Christ who are in more liminal space, awaiting news (Lord, have mercy). Still others among us always wrestle in this time of year, while their counterparts put on a happy face- only to feel exhausted come January. (Gracious God, hear our prayer).

Like the leaves on the trees, the wind of the Spirit can blow away our illusions of control, of false gaiety, or of pretended knowledge or strength. In honesty, we can trust in God as God and find comfort in our own selves as sheep in God’s pasture. My prayer for us, as a church family, in November is that we may allow ourselves to be embraced by true and holy spiritual visions of God’s grace and mercy, our own identity as baptized children of God, and our value as participants in God’s real and present kingdom.

May God make these things so.

In peace,

Pastor Julia

Big Timber Lutheran Church Council & Committees

WWW.BIGTIMBERLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG BTLUTHER@ITSTRIANGLE.COM

Pastor Julia Seymour pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com

Council

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

	2017	2018	2019
Boe Parker			
Melanie Forrey			
Becky Frese	JAN	11,382.82	8,859.25
Lori Minette	FEB	10,691.75	8,360.25
Meggen Whalin	MARCH	11,996.50	11,809.32
Kailey Forrey	APRIL	16,468.17	13,146.70
Property Committee	MAY	11,711.00	9,576.00
Ron Riter	JUN	7,993.00	8,551.00
Al Buerkle	JUL	12,469.60	16,100.00
Norm Duncan	AUG	10,873.50	11,664.00
Leonard Walla	SEP	8,976.00	15,523.95
Worship Committee	OCT	11,965.00	12,284.50
Leslie Schiele	NOV	9,272.13	9,701.00
Jim Bratvold	DEC	17,322.00	20,858.00
Debbie Buerkle	YTD	141,121.47	146,433.97
Ron Riter			
Boe Parker			
Diane Ronneberg			
John Callahan			
Eunice Kirkpatrick			
Melanie Forrey			

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

BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes were unavailable at the time of printing. They will be posted to the website ASAP.

21 October 2019

Dear Friends in Christ-

Thanks be to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who has brought us thus far on our way. I am grateful to the eternal grace and mercy, which inspires generosity in this congregation to one another, in our church building, to our community, and beyond. Like the apostle Paul, I must take care to boast only in Christ, lest I get carried away speaking about our own good fortune.

We are blessed to be able to consider repairing and improving our facility at this time. The Council has reviewed and approved plans to repair and remodel the kitchen back entry. The entirety of the improvements is estimated to be between \$12,000- \$14,000.

Due to the hard work of many people in our congregation, we already have about \$5700 toward enlarging the back kitchen entry. We raised those funds selling concessions at the rodeo in June.

As the Constitution of Big Timber Lutheran Church requires congregational approval for a council expenditure of more than 5% of the annual budget, the Council is seeking that approval. The congregation is invited to attend a special meeting after church on November 10 and to vote on the matter at hand. The question will be whether to authorize the Council to spend up to \$15,000 on this project.

It is expected that the Council will either ask the Endowment committee for the remainder of the funds or use some memorial funds, but the expenditure itself requires congregational approval. Remember that your council is elected to prayerfully undertake the management, maintenance, and overall of mission support of the church from year to year. They are people who are present in worship, at Bible study, in prayer groups, and working with children. Their discernment is toward the Spirit's guidance, so that we may glorify God, model Jesus Christ, and share His love.

I encourage you both to continue in generosity toward the church and to attend the meeting on November 10 that you may, in good conscience, approve the work and proposal of your leaders.

In peace,

Pastor Julia

Where does our benevolence go?

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

2019 3rd Quarter Benevolent Giving

Local- \$1500 was given to the Raw Deal Run community fundraiser

National-\$500 Montana Rescue Mission

\$500 Family Promise (not to be confused with Family Service given to last quarter)

International-\$240 Lutheran World Relief Gifts (A hen and chicks, a sheep and a goat)

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

Bible Studies

Rachel's Circle

Monday, November 4th 2:00pm in the Parish Hall

Chapter 3

Hostesses/Leader: Judy Riter and Diane Ronneberg

All Women's Study Mondays @ 6:30pm

Join us for a Small Catechism Study at noon on Thursdays through November 20th.
You may bring your lunch.

Living with Loss

Grief Support Groups

The 2nd Wednesday of the Month
in the Parish Hall

Men's Breakfast: November 13th, 8:30am Women's Luncheon: November 13th, 12:00pm

Notice of Special Meeting: President Steve Harvey and other members of the church council of Big Timber Lutheran Church request the presence of all voting members at a special congregational meeting to be held after church on 10 November 2019. The meeting has one agenda item: approval of expenditures up to \$15000 by the Council for the repair and remodel of the kitchen back entry. While \$5700 has already been raised toward this amount, the constitution of the congregation requires a vote of the congregation if the council is to **spend** more than 5% of the approved budget for the year. The Council wishes to act in full knowledge and approval of the congregation and to show their good faith in managing the congregation's resources. Please contact a council member, the treasurer, or Pastor Julia if you have any questions about the meeting or the proposed expenditures.

Important Dates

11/3 WELCA Meeting

11/10 Special Congregational Meeting

11/10 All Saints Worship

11/24 Christmas Decorating after worship

VBS 2020

June 15th-June 18th

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

WELCA NEWS

WELCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will be returning to the monthly service committee style of fellowship next year. If there is a month you would like to sign up for, please let Debbie Buerkle know. In the meantime, continue to sign-up for morning coffee hour.
- If you would like to sign-up for Altar Committee, please let Debbie know which month works best for you.
- The next meeting will be Sunday, November 3rd, following worship.**



Youth Happenings



Christikon Clips



The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday November 3rd at Big Timber Lutheran Church beginning at 3:30pm. Your appointed Delegates and Pastors will be hearing about this past summer and the plans for the 2020 season, construction, and much more. Thank you to Big Timber Lutheran Church for hosting!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Our staff wishes you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

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 • www.christikon.org

YOUTH GROUP

6:00pm on Wednesdays 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20

LEGO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30am-11:00am every Sunday following worship

CONFIRMATION

1st Wednesday: 2:30pm

Following Wednesdays (11/13 & 11/20): 5:00pm

NOVEMBER 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 8:00PM	2 8:00PM AA
3 9:00am Worship 10:15am WELCA 10:30am Lego Sunday School 3:30pm Christikon Annual Meeting	4 10:30am PMC Communion 2:00pm Rachel's Circle 6:30pm All Women's Study 8:00PM AA	5 12:00pm Al-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	6 1:00pm CM Dulcimers 2:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group	7 12:00pm Small Catechism Study 8:00PM AA	8 8:00PM AA	9 8:00PM AA
10 9:00am Worship 10:15am Special Congregational Meeting 10:30am Lego Sunday School	11 6:30pm All Women's Study 8:00PM AA	12 12:00pm Al-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	13 Living with Loss: 8:30am Men's Breakfast 12:00pm Women's Luncheon 5:00 Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group	14 12:00pm Small Catechism Study 7:00pm BTLC Council Meeting 8:00PM AA	15 8:00PM AA	16 8:00PM AA
17 9:00am Worship 10:30am Lego Sunday School	18 6:30pm All Women's Study 8:00PM AA	19 12:00pm Al-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	20 2:30pm CM Dulcimers 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group	21 12:00pm Small Catechism Study 8:00PM AA	22 8:00PM AA	23 8:00PM AA
24 9:00am Worship 10:15am Decorate for Christmas!	25 6:30pm All Women's Study 8:00PM AA	26 12:00pm Al-Anon 1:00pm BTLC Quilters 8:00PM AA	27	28 8:00PM AA	29 8:00PM AA	30 8:00PM AA

How Can I Help?

November 2019

Lay Readers

11/3 Barb Terland
11/10 Kelli Brewer
11/17
11/24

Ushers

Norm Duncan
&
John Robinson

Communion Assistants

11/3
11/10
11/17
11/24

Altar Committee

Deanna Novotny



November Fellowship

WHO IS ON

11/3 Di Arlian and The Ritters
11/10 John & Sandi Callahan
11/17 Needed
11/24 Needed

NOVEMBER SERVICE CHAIR

Judy Riter
932-4785

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, Jan Hauge, Rick Jarrett,

Norris 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

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, Betty Jarrett, 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

Pastor's Email-pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com

Join us for worship:

Sundays 9:00am

Sunday School 10:30am

