

BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2021

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A Note from your Council President | 2 |
| Words from Pastor Julia | 3 |
| Youth Happenings | 4 |
| Benevolence Corner | 4 |
| Council, Committees, & Offerings | 5 |
| Council Meeting Minutes | 6 |
| Clocks | 7 |
| Bible Studies | 7 |
| November Worship Assistants | 8 |
| Christikon Clips, WELCA | 9 |
| November Calendar | 10 |
| In Our Prayers | 11 |



A note from your council president

Dear Friends,

I have to say this has been one of the most beautiful falls in recent memory. The trees have burst forth with such glorious colors. The weather has been almost perfect. I am in awe of God's glory in creating our world. It gives me hope for a brighter future.

I pray that our congregation continues to be healthy. A thing to be thankful for is CoVid numbers are down.

October is Pastor appreciation month. The congregation and council gave Pastor Julia a spa day to thank her for all the hard work she has done for us this past year. Julia has dealt with Victoria's tumor with strength, love, and compassion as parents we can empathize with. Often exhausted she still made time for Daniel and Rob as well as her pastoral duties. I can attest she had almost no days off. Funerals, sermon preparation, confirmation, youth group, Sunday school, PMC church services and the list goes on. Please join me in saying thank-you Pastor Julia. I feel lucky to have you as the pastor of BTLC.

In closing I would like to say this prayer.

Dear Lord

Thank-you for all the blessings you have given me. I have more than I ever imagined. You have placed mentors in my life that have guided me in my life's decisions. My friends and family have loved me unconditionally. Please continue to be by my side as I walk down the right path. When I stumble I know you will be there to pick me up.

In your name

Amen

Blessings to all of you,
Gemma

Words from Pastor Julia

Dear Friends in Christ-

Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." - Matthew 28:18-20 (Common English Bible)

The statement above is sometimes referred to as the Great Commission. It is the command Jesus gives to his disciples just before his ascension into heaven. He tells them to go teach people- across the world- the good news of his life, death, and resurrection. This teaching, with the help of the Holy Spirit, should compel people to join the Jesus Movement as disciples and to want to share that gospel message themselves.

When I was growing up, the Great Commission was formative to all we did at church. Our Sunday School programs, our separated boys' and girls' clubs, our youth activities, our choir pieces- all of this was shaped toward fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. When we ate or socialized as a congregation, it was in service to mission work, gathering for worship, or as a preface to Bible study and Christian education.

Thus, I confess to you, friends, that I did not grow up with and have never adapted to a church focused on socialization. I completely understand the importance of being together and the meaningfulness of sharing coffee and snacks. All of it, for me though, is in service to our stated mission: "Glorifying God, Imitating Jesus Christ, Sharing His Love".

I struggle greatly when I hear that some people won't come to church unless we have coffee hour or other social functions. Where is coffee hour in our mission statement? How is coffee hour serving our mission statement or the Great Commission?

We are still struggling with the pandemic of COVID-19 and all of its ups, downs, and repercussions. The Council works hard *every month and in between meetings* to prayerfully lead the church in a confusing and overwhelming time. I beg each of you, in Christ's love, to consider your own words, habits, and expectations of church and what it means to be baptized.

We are not what we were, nor are we yet what we shall become. Nevertheless, we are God's children, the sheep of the Spirit's fold, and the lambs of Christ's flock. We are given a Great Commission to carry God's good news to the world. On our way to that work, we can surely have coffee together. But we cannot truly be the church if that is all we are about.

In peace,

Pastor Julia

Youth Happenings

YOUTH GROUP

November Wednesdays
6:00 P.M.

CONFIRMATION

November Wednesdays
5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Due to the multiple demands on the time and energy of potential teachers and families with kids, Sunday School has been paused for a while. Stay tuned for special events.



Benevolence Corner

Where does our benevolence go?

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

2021 3rd Quarter Benevolent Giving

Local - \$384.74 - Sweet Grass Committee Foundation

State/Local - \$384.74 - Montana Rescue Mission

International - \$384.74 - World Central Kitchen (organization that distributes meals on the ground and sends dry food to disaster areas)

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

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 | 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 | 12,661.84 |
| JUL | 9,457.64 | 10,779.65 | 7,097.35 |
| AUG | 8,293.32 | 7842.99 | 12,582.89 |
| SEP | 18,272.05 | 10,918.71 | 9,406.56 |
| 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 | 101,721.28 |

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

BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 5th, 2021

Present: Pastor Julia, Gemma George, Al Buerkle, Becky Laverell, Ken Nelson, Jacque Scott, Deb Silverstein and Debbie Buerkle. **Not Present:** Jim Bratvold, Natalie Rosebrock, Les Schiele and Barb Terland. President Gemma George called the meeting to order. Pastor Julia led devotions.

Examples of fulfilling our Mission: As of October 4th, COVID numbers are down to 17 and 1 hospitalization in Sweet Grass County. Pastor Julia's Sermon Sunday, October 3rd.

Council Meeting Minutes: Ken Nelson moved to approve the Minutes from the September 16th meeting and Al Buerkle seconded the Motion. The Minutes were approved as written. **Treasurer's Report:** Becky Laverell moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for September and Jacque Scott seconded the Motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports: Pastor Julia's Report: Pastor Julia signed the contract for the new copier on behalf of the Council. The current contract terminates at the end of November. At that time, we will get the new copier or a loaner until the new machine arrives. Pastor Julia reported that Dawn Rudolph is doing very well as the new Church Secretary. Music & Worship: The Music and Worship Committee has not met. Education: Sunday School: Despite the request for Sunday School last Spring, no kids have attended. As of right now, there has not been any Sunday School. Lutheran Youth Gathering: Information was distributed last Wednesday asking who might be interested in attending the Lutheran Youth Gathering in June of 2022. At present, no one has expressed an interest in being there. There will be 4 in attendance for Confirmation. Gemma inquired if there was going to be Vacation Bible Study next year. Pastor Julia believed there would be.

Mission Committee: The Mission Committee decided to reallocate the \$560 to the Hospitality House. The Council was asked to approved the 3rd quarter distribution of Benevolence Funds as follows: \$384.74 to the Sweet Grass Committee Foundation, \$384.74 to the Montana Rescue Mission, and \$384.74 to the World Central Kitchen, which is an organization that distributes meals on the ground and sends dry food to disaster areas. Jacque moved to approve the suggested distributions of the Mission Committee. Becky seconded the Motion. Motion carried. **Property Committee: Carpet Replacement:** Al received a quote of \$3400.00 to replace the carpet in the hallway in the basement, which includes tearing out and disposing of the old carpet. There are two options for the entryway in the Sanctuary: \$800 to replace the carpet, however, the carpet cannot be matched perfectly, but they can get close. Al will get samples of carpet on Thursday to consider. \$1200 - \$1400 to replace the carpet with vinyl. Al suggested holding off on stretching the carpet under the piano for the time being. Replacement Doors: Ken volunteered to sand and re-stain the sets of double doors both in the entryway and the side doors into the offices, which he can do in April. It was recommended to ask Einar what should be done to fix the trim on the side doors, which is deteriorating. It was also proposed that new door handles be installed. Ken moved to replace the basement carpet and get carpet samples for the entryway to review, repair the present sets of doors, as well as to postpone stretching the carpet to a later date. Jacque seconded the Motion. Motion carried. Gutters: Ron will attempt to rehang the gutter above the back door until Gutter Solutions from Livingston can arrive. **WELCA:** Jody spoke with Karole Walla and it was decided not to have coffee hour for now. **President's Correspondence:** Karole Walla went back to ND and received a gift bag from the Church she attended. Karole gave the bag to Gemma suggesting giving a gift bag to new people attending service. It was suggested giving everyone who attends service on a particular Sunday a gift bag. The Council agreed that this was a great idea. Becky and Gemma volunteered to put together gift bags and Deb Buerkle offered to help.

Old Business: Christmas Concert. Pastor Julia told Tom Still that the Church cannot commit to hosting a Christmas Concert on December 12th at this time. There was a lengthy discussion on this topic and Ken moved that due to what's happening with COVID, Pastor Julia will send a letter on behalf of the Council saying that we are not comfortable hosting the Concert for 200+ people. Al seconded the Motion. Motion carried. COVID Restrictions: It was agreed to monitor the situation. Grief Group: Becky reported that there will not be a gathering through October.

New Business: Nothing to discuss.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 11th, 2021 at 6:30pm. Jacque Scott will lead devotions at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Silverstein

Clocks

It is that time of year again to change the clocks.
On November 7th they go back one hour.



Bible Studies

with Pastor Julia via ZOOM

Lectionary Reflections.

Starting November 1st at noon.

Will be Mondays and Thursdays

through the 18th of November

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

We look forward to hearing from you.



How Can I Help?

November 2021

Lay Readers

11/7
11/14
11/21 Barb Terland
11/28

Ushers

11/7
11/14
11/21
11/28

Altar Committee



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

Christikon Clips

Christikon Clips

November 2021

Information for our Congregations



Our summer calendar is set and on our website (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2022 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.

The 2021 Annual Meeting is Sunday November 14th. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2022 season, construction, and much more. Due to COVID concerns we meet online via the Zoom platform, and will send connection instructions to congregations and Delegates in early November. Because this negates the need for travel, **the meeting will start at 1pm.**

We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year.

Thank you as always for all the ways you support Christikon.

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



WELCA

On November 7th

After Sunday worship

A planning meeting for WELCA

All the women of the church are welcome to attend

NOVEMBER 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| 31 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live | 1 Bible Study Via Zoom 12:00 P.M. Hilda Fredricks Fu- neral 1PM | 2 | 3 Confirmation 5:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM | 4 Bible Study Via Zoom 12:00 P.M. | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live WELCA Meeting after worship | 8 Bible Study Via Zoom 12:00 P.M. | 9 | 10 Confirmation 5:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM | 11 Bible Study Via Zoom 12:00 P.M. Council Meeting 6:30 P.M. | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live | 15 Bible Study Via Zoom 12:00 P.M. | 16 | 17 Confirmation 5:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM | 18 Bible Study Via Zoom 12:00 P.M. | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live | 22 | 23 | 24 Confirmation 5:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM | 25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:00am Worship In-Person and via Facebook Live | 29 | 30 | 1 Confirmation 5:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Please Keep in Your Thoughts & Prayers



Ellen Arlian, Alice Bassett, Joe Beley, 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), Angie Durfee, Joyce Fotland, Selma Gibby, Bobbie Gilbert, Aileen Green (John & Sandi Callahan's Daughter), Pat Hansen, 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, Ethel Lukenbill, Steve McCullough, Pauline McDermott, Addison McManus, Carol O'Dell, Dave Otteson, Sig Preston (sister of Hilda Fredericks), Andrea Rostad, George Rostad, Carole Roth, Beth Schaible, Mark Taylor, Ruth Drange, Celia Saragosa, Alma Terland

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>

