

Big Timber Lutheran Church

October 2025

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Words From Pastor Julia



Dear friends in Christ-

Like a crazy person shooting deadly flaming arrows are those who deceive their neighbor and say, “Hey, I was only joking!” Without wood a fire goes out; without gossips, conflict calms down. Like adding charcoal to embers or wood to fire, quarrelsome people kindle strife. – Proverbs 26:18-21 (CEB)

In May, Rob and I went on vacation, just the two of us, for the first time in 9 years. When we returned, someone talked to me about their distress that I was “interviewing for a different call”. This was news to me since walking on the beach in San Diego and trying to do some relaxing reading was what I thought I was doing and had done. I assured the person that this was just gossip.

When I mentioned this incident to someone else, they dismissed it, saying, “You know how people are.” I do know how people can be, but I also believe we don’t have to accept gossiping or rumors as givens. We have all been harmed by false information, incorrect stories, and malicious misinformation. The only way for these things to stop is for people of God to refuse to participate. Gossip as social capital can’t be used if there’s nowhere to spend it.

In our tense and divided times, gossip isn’t harmless. Rumors and misinformation can lead to real harm. Gossip combined with a reluctance to apologize, to acknowledge facts, or to make accusations about context does the opposite of building bridges; it torches them.

Both in Proverbs and in James, the Bible warns us about gossip. The Good Book has nothing positive to say about people who engage in spreading both false and true information. (And gossip can be truth, but if it’s not your story to tell – it’s still gossip.)

In the vernacular, folks say, “Spill the tea” to encourage sharing of gossip. And I confess, with regret, that I have been known to be enthusiastic about tea (gossip)! But afterward, I have guilt over participating in something that I knew was hurting, not helping. Additionally, I know well what it is like to be on the injury end of gossip.

Friends, may the Spirit’s fruit of self-control blossom in us. May we choose our words carefully and be sure they only convey truth that is ours to tell. May God’s love guide our conversations and our listening, that we may be part of how the Divine will is done on earth as in heaven.

In peace,
Pastor Julia



BTLC Council & Committees

WWW.BIGTIMBERLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG - BTLUTHER@ITSTRIANGLE.COM

Pastor Julia Seymour pastorjuliaseymour@gmail.com

Council

President - Lori Minette	932-6241	loriminette4oish@gmail.com
VP - Meggen Whalin	930-0076	smwhalin@yahoo.com
Secretary - Judy Riter	930-1634	rjriter@itstriangle.com
Treasurer - Debbie Buerkle	932-5370	buerkledeb@yahoo.com
Kelli Brewer	930-4217	kll.brwr@gmail.com
Becky Frese	930-0716	frese@itstriangle.com
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Jeni Lannen	930-0455	jlanne9@gmail.com
Pat Leary	930-1448	Learys@bresnan.net



Education Committee

Pastor Julia Seymour
Dawn Rudolph
Debbie Buerkle
Jeni Lannen

Mission Committee

Pastor Julia Seymour
Becky Frese
Steve Harvey
Lori Minette
Debbie Buerkle
Kelli Brewer
Judy Riter
Meggen Whalin
Macen Whalin
Shaella Whalin

Property Committee

Al Buerkle
Rob Seymour
Rusty Terland
Cole Glasgow
Pat Leary

Music & Worship Committee

Leslie Schiele
Jim Bratvold
Debbie Buerkle
Diane Ronneberg
Pastor Julia Seymour
Deanna Novotny
Ron Riter

BTLC OFFERINGS

	2023	2024	2025
Jan	11,151.37	10,720.41	8,952.18
Feb	17,635.02	9,566.92	9,706.96
Mar	12,275.59	12,762.22	23,539.59
Apr	12,608.75	11,867.21	17,760.89
May	12,362.87	18,286.12	9,566.08
Jun	9,425.79	9,559.10	13,223.61
Jul	13,302.17	11,520.30	10,575.14
Aug	9,955.89	10,993.89	12,133.75
Sep	15,539.92	12,139.18	
Oct	14,431.80	18,492.23	
Nov	12,595.72	13,636.65	
Dec	23,287.73	26,237.47	
YTD	164,572.62	165,780.70	105,458.20

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



BTLC Council Information Meeting Minutes

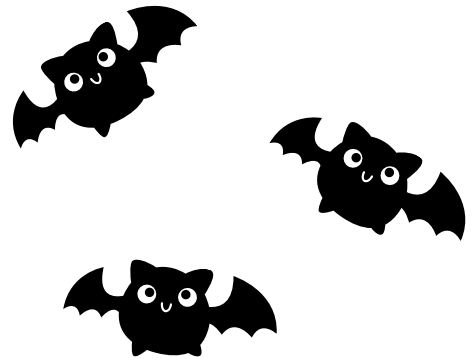
Sunday, September 7, 2025

Following the worship service, Council President Lori Minette, called the informational meeting to order in the Parish Hall at 10:25 am with 45 attendees. Lori explained that this was a meeting to inform members of potential projects facing the congregation.

Property Committee members, Al Buerkle and Rusty Terland, along with Pastor Julia Seymour then opened the meeting by explaining these projects are a 7 to 10 year process (or longer). Al reviewed past projects completed within the church, stating that we now need to organize for future projects to address the needs, prioritize and secure funds. Rusty informed the group of a grant writing workshop on September 24 that some council members plan to attend.

The potential project ideas currently under consideration (in no particular order) are as follows:

- Outside building masonry repair
- New sanctuary carpet
- Stained glass repair
- Dishwasher
- Handicapped access (new ramp or lift)
- Roof (drainage)
- Sound system
- Handicap seating in sanctuary
- General kitchen upgrades
- Repairs to first parsonage
- Central air conditioning (added at meeting)



Also presented was a list of potential funding sources:

- The National Fund for Sacred Places (Lilly Foundation)
- John C. Lasko Foundation Trust
- Knox Charitable Foundation
- William E. Dean III Charitable Foundation

Sweet Grass Community Foundation

- Montana Historic Preservation Grant (MHPG) Program
- Montana Preservation Alliance

Some of the above funding sources give to church repair projects, while others deal with only historic preservation projects.

Rusty stated that roof repairs must be made before masonry repairs could start. It was noted that we are not upgrading, but rather repairing what we have now.

What should we do now? Pray, remember the church in your estate, and find contractors to do the work.

It was suggested that a building fund be started.

Pastor Julia closed the meeting with prayer at 11:20 am.



Respectfully submitted,
Judy Riter, Council Secretary

BTLC Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 11 September 2025

Present: Einar Stene, Kelli Brewer, Lori Minette, Rusty Terland, Pat Leary, Debbie Buerkle, Pastor Julia Seymour, Judy Riter, Jeni Lannen, Brannin Tyler

Absent: Meggen Whalin

President Lori Minette called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by devotions led by Kelli.



Minutes: Becky moved to approve the August 14, 2025, council meeting minutes with a correction, seconded by Pat. Unanimously approved. The council then reviewed the minutes of the September 7 congregation information meeting with motion by Rusty, seconded by Kelli to approve. Unanimously approved.

Examples of Fulfilling Our Mission: Youth group started meeting for the year, held Women's Prayer Retreat, decorated PMC for fall, conducting collection for Tumbleweed Project and conducted funerals.

Treasurer's Report: The report was reviewed and Rusty moved to approve, with second by Becky. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julia reported she's happy to be working with Brannin as new administrative assistant.

Music and Worship: No news to report but hope to meet within the next two weeks.

Education: Pastor Julia reported that Bible Study has resumed with 21 people participating. Confirmation begins the week of September 21 with Zoom class for five on Sunday evenings and in person classes for seven on Wednesday after school.

Pastor Julia proposed creating two positions:

Youth Group Activity Coordinator that would work 2.5 hours per week to arrive early; plan, set up and maintain schedule of activities; request supplies as needed and make connections for alternate activity locations (Civic Center or BTGS). Proposed compensation would be \$30/week, billed monthly, paid for work, not salary. Applicant is Daniel Seymour. Confirmation

Teaching Assistant that would work 1.5 hours per week in person plus 20-30 minutes outside of class time for in-person classes only. Duties would be to help set up, prepare snacks and clean up; plan intro activity or questions; teach main lesson 4 times during program year (with Pastor Julia support in preparation); and general class support. Proposed compensation would be \$25/week, billed monthly, paid for work, not salary. Applicant is Shaela Whalin.

Following discussion, Rusty moved with second by Einar to create and hire Youth Group Activity Coordinator and Confirmation Teaching Assistant at rates suggested. Unanimously approved. Treasurer Debbie stated the Youth Group Activity Coordinator would come from Youth group bank account while Confirmation Assistant would come from education bank account.



Meeting Minutes Continued

Thursday, 11 September 2025

Mission: Debbie suggested the Tumbleweed Project be extended for a few more weeks and she will see if Tumbleweed would accept some Thrivent t-shirts for those in need of clothing.

It was moved by Pat, seconded by Judy to give \$1500 to the matching fund of Give Where You Live campaign. Unanimously approved. Family Fun Night will be from 4-6 pm on Sunday, October 26. The mission team will meet to organize the event.

Property: Rusty stated that Jason Palm submitted an estimate of \$1200 to \$1500 to repair sanctuary flashing with a cricket. JB Brown will also give an estimate on this project. Rusty also reported that a handicap ramp or lift must be outside due to safety concerns. Einar suggested that we might consider a lift located outside current Parish Hall window facing 4th avenue rather than by the steps.

Pastor Julia will contact Jim Yocum to request options for sound system upgrade. We are waiting to hear from Jeff Sell regarding sanctuary carpet replacement. Debbie has ordered carpet samples for use on sanctuary chairs and kneeler.

WELCA: A meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 28 service.

President's Correspondence: None

Old Business: It was the consensus of the members present that the Congregation Information Meeting went well and will need a Capital Campaign Committee in the near future. Four council members are registered for September 24 Grant Writing Workshop. The next joint church service will be September 21 at 10 am at the fairgrounds to include a blessing of pets. St. Marks is the host.

New Business: Pastor Julia's upcoming sabbatical discussion included 12 week continuous or two 6 week spans. Probably would occur mid-June (approximate dates) to early September. We need to discuss supply pastor intermittently, emergency call people and scheduling lay leadership participation. This will be addressed in the future.

Having no further business, meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:30 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 6 pm. Judy will lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Riter, Secretary



Living with Loss

Grief Support Groups

Wed. Oct. 8th in the Parish Hall

Men's Breakfast 8:30am



Ladies Lunch 12:00pm

We meet every second Wednesday of the month

September to May

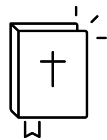
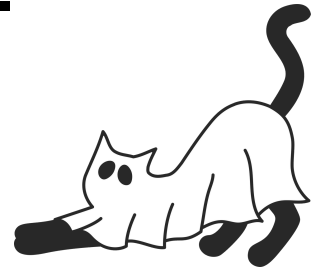
All those who have lost a loved one are invited to attend and gather strength from others who have gone through the grief journey.

Rachel Circle

Oct 6th 2:00pm

In the Parish Hall

Meet the first Monday of every month Except
June, July, & August



Topic: Loretta Lynn's

A Song and A Prayer

Reflections on God's work

through the Bible and Loretta's song lyrics



Youth Happenings

Online Confirmation Class at 6pm

On Oct 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th.

In Person Confirmation Class at 5pm

On Oct 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th.

On Wednesdays

Youth Group

In the Parish Hall @ 6:00 pm

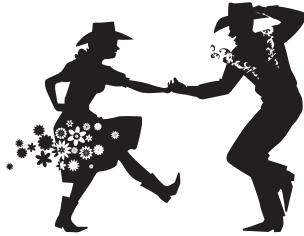
DINNER INCLUDED



Montana On A Mission

COW COUNTRY JAMBOREE

Ticket Available Online



Old Time Barn Dance

Saturday October 25 , 2025

Live Music by Brandon Hale &
The Dirty Shame

Food Trucks, Handcrafted Drinks

Chicken Bingo, Cake Walk

Dance Lessons, Popcorn

Dancing and Dessert Auction

Family Fun Night

Sunday October 26th 4PM – 6 PM

at Big Timber Lutheran Church

Pulled Pork provided as a main dish,
Please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

Games and activities for all ages.
Bring a friend!





Benevolence Corner

Our giving goes beyond our church's needs
to the needs of
the community, the state, the country, and the
world.

Lutheran World Relief - \$738.00

Montana Rescue Mission - \$738.00

Sweet Grass County Search & Rescue - \$489.00

Dornix Park - \$250.00

Pioneer Medical Center (Nursing Home Decorations) - \$59.99

Camp Books - \$304.00

Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country - \$1765.00

Give Where You Live- \$1500.00

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





Join us in celebrating the installation of Executive Director Heather Wigdahl
with a special service and reception!

When: Sunday October 19th

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's United, Lillis Chapel

Bishop Ben Quanbeck will preside and preach.

Worship will be led by John Hermanson and Maren Haynes Marchesini,
featuring their liturgy "Isaiah—Is This the Fast We Choose?"

All are welcome!

2026 Calendar and sessions listing is on our website (www.christikon.org).).

It's not too soon to start planning for next summer's trip to camp! Already
accepting Group Reservations—reserve sooner than later to save your group's
spot! We anticipate a full season. Camper registrations open January 6, 2026.

Fall Retreats scheduled through late October. Start planning now to bring
your group and enjoy fall in the mountains in 2026!

We're thankful for all your prayers for our summer staff, for our shared
ministry and for all who join in the Christikon life. 2025 has been full of
meaningful ministry, connections, and community. We are grateful!

**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 director@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

How Can I Help?

October 2025



Norman Duncan
John Robinson



Carol Beling
Sandi Callahan
Leslie Schiele

Food Bank Donations

We have a tote in the Parish Hall in which you may place your donations.

Please check dates

for they cannot accept outdated products.

Current Needs: laundry soap, dish soap, toothpaste, shampoo & conditioners, body soap, toilet paper, ramen noodles, cake mixes, cereal, salad dressings

WELCA

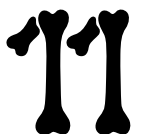


Soup and pie fundraiser luncheon
Thursday, 23 October
11 am - 1 pm

Tell a friend and bring another one!



Please see Jodi Christensen, Karole Walla,
or Deanna Novotny with questions





Book Club News

Next discussion is
5 October 2025

Schedule

Sundays - @ 4PM - In the Parish Hall

Book Selection:



Date	Book	Author
Oct. 5th	<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	C. S. Lewis
Nov 2nd	<i>A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity</i>	Debie Thomas

Bible Study

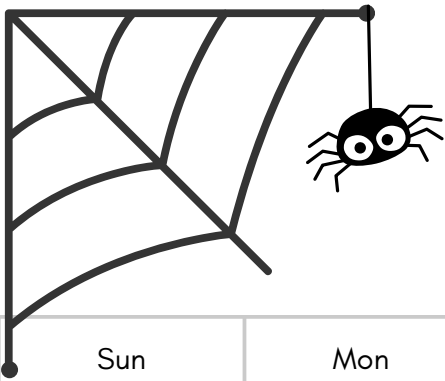
Genesis, Pt. 1

Please see Pr. Julia if you do not regularly receive the Bible study emails.

Monday Nights (Hybrid) 7:00pm, Thursday (Hybrid) 12:00pm



Chapter	First Date	Second Date
Ch. 5 - 6:4	October 6	October 9
Ch. 6:5 - Ch. 7	October 13	**October 15 (Wednesday)
Ch. 8 - Ch. 9:1-17	October 20	**October 22 (Wednesday)
Ch. 9:8-29	October 27	October 30

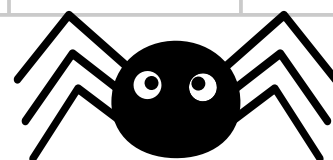


October

2025

*Event Not at BTLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube *Confirmation 6PM	29	30	1 Confirmation 5PM Youth Group 6 PM	2	3	4
5 9:00am Worship In-Person & via YouTube 4PM Book Club *Confirmation 6PM	6 Rachel Circle 2PM Bible Study 7PM	7	8 Living with Loss: 8:30AM Men & 12PM Ladies Confirmation 5PM Youth Group 6 PM	9 Bible Study 12PM	10	11
12 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube *Confirmation 6PM	13 Bible Study 7PM	14	15 Bible Study 12PM Confirmation 5PM Youth Group 6 PM	16	17	18
19 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube *Confirmation 6PM	20 Bible Study 7PM	21 Church Council Meeting 6PM	22 Bible Study 12PM Confirmation 5PM Youth Group 6 PM	23 WELCA soup and pie luncheon 11-1	24	25 *Cow Country Jamboree 5:30PM Fairgrounds
26 9:00am Worship In-Person and via YouTube Family Fun Night 4PM- 6PM *Confirmation 6PM	27 Bible Study 7PM	28	29 Confirmation 5PM Youth Group 6 PM	30 Bible Study 12PM	31 	1



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Please Keep in Your Thoughts & Prayers



Joe Beley, John Callahan, Angie Durfee, Diane Lohrer,
Sandy Berg (Sister of Mabel Halverson), Joyce Fotland,
Aileen Green (John & Sandi Callahan's Daughter), Pauline McDermott,
Addison McManus, Dave Otteson, Carole Roth, Beth Schaible, Mark
Taylor, Colton Drange, Amy Grosch (Daughter of John Ronneberg),
Linda Ullman, Paul and Bobbie Gilbert, Jessie King, Libby Cameron,
Diane Berg, Kris Johnson, Roxy Williams--Gillette

Military Service: Sean Callahan

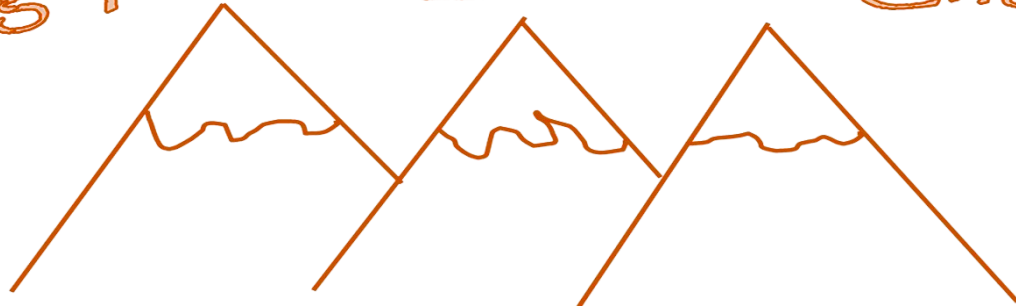
USA- Justin Arnold, Terry Roth (Colorado), Nathan Hensley

Those in the PMC:

Linda Mlekush, Julian Helvik, Barbara Robinson

Please inform us of anyone needing to be added or removed from
this list.

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

Facebook Page -

<https://www.facebook.com/BigTimberLutheranChurch>

Website - <https://bigtimberlutheranchurch.org/>

Join us for worship Sundays at 9:00am

In-person or Via YouTube Live

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNewH_d92XX6SDf-TU2ZVow

