

**“Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust and not be afraid;
For the LORD GOD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.”
-- Isaiah 12:2**



Young girls in the Learning to Read learning center
Christ's Church Academy
48th St Church of Christ
Billings, MT

**“So they watched Him, and sent spies who
pretended to be righteous, in order that
they might catch Him in some statement,
so that they could deliver Him to the rule
and the authority of the governor.”**

Luke 20:20

Fully ALIVE in 2025 - "It is the Spirit who gives life..." - John 6:63

March 2, 2025

Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

Holiday Inn Express — Butte

BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Corban Icenogle

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St'dship - Joe Shanahan

L.S. - Cliff Renner

Preaching - Luke Wilson

L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -

*** PHIL SUTTON - ON MARRIAGE**

L.S. - Bob Edgar

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Brad Smith

L.S. - Nathan Zech

Preaching - Jay Wilson

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Class

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Jay Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman

Butte

Mar. 16 - Fellowship dinner - 6:30 pm before assembly



BOZEMAN -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

Luke Wilson

GREAT FALLS -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

Jay Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Bowl - March 15, 2025

College Camp - March 21-23, at Camp Utmost

Ladies' Advance - May 1-3, 2025 at Fishtail

MT Youth camp - June 8-13 at Fishtail

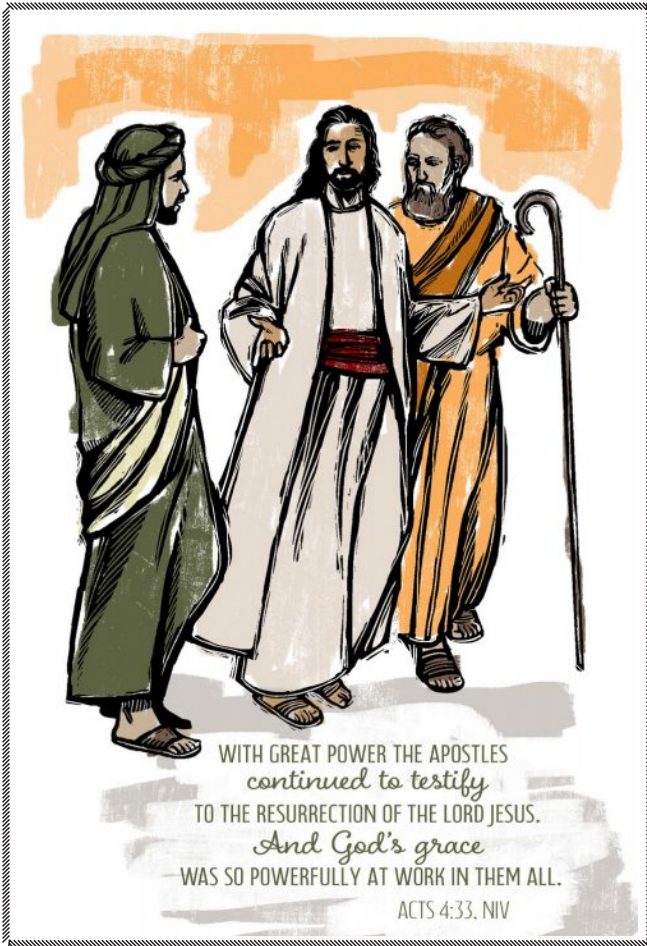
Men's Peaks - July 24-26, 2025

Family Camp - Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2025

Great Falls

Mar. 2 - fellowship dinner.

Theme: "chili bar"



Quotation of the week:

The child of the King is aware that he has nothing which he did not receive, that his wisdom comes from God, and that all his financial resources and physical accomplishments are as a result of the backing of the Almighty. He heeds the advice: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:6-8). *Prose from Proverbs (Trust in the Lord)*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 50
Morning Assembly – 87
Evening Assembly – 47

Wednesday Night (2/26) – 50
Butte Lord's Day – 11
GF Lord's Day – 64,76 Wed. - 55



Reasonings from Revelation

Breaking the Fifth Seal

The first four seals on the book have been broken by the Lamb. Four horsemen have thus been released upon the earth, representing four major forces impacting men's thoughts: the gospel of Christ, war, famine, and death. The apostle John's attention is next going to be fixed on a vision of what is inside the temple of God. The book of Revelation opened with such a vision of Him who walked among the lampstands, a vision of what was taking place inside this temple, in this case in what originally had been the outer room. What John sees next is called "the altar." While not specified in Revelation chapter six, in chapter seven what is called "the altar" is the one where incense is to be offered. Hence the vision is still centered about the

throne, but a few steps away is the golden altar of incense.

- **Underneath the altar** – The apostle John is once again permitted to peer in closely to see the action. "And when He broke the fifth seal," says John of the Lamb, "I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained" (Revelation 6:9). It is worth remembering how much the brethren of the first century church suffered. The book of Acts directly records the suffering that the church in Jerusalem and Judea underwent at the hands of Saul of Tarsus and the Jews. The converted Saul of Tarsus himself then goes on to note the suffering at Thessalonica, referring back that which occurred at Jerusalem, "you also endured the same suffering at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews" (1 Thessalonians 2:14). The souls "underneath the altar" represent these faithful brethren, whose faith did not break under persecution, and whose teaching and preaching the gospel could not be stopped due to persecution or threat of persecution.
- **Their cry** – In the vision, souls underneath altar are not simply in some visible anguish. John records, "and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' " (Revelation 6:9). That which is deemed "justice" is also deemed to be not only "sure" but "swift." Hence it is right for those who had been unfairly executed to cry for their justice. ("Those who dwell on the earth" is an expression in the book of Revelation for those who are not Christians, as contrasted to "those who dwell in heaven.")
- **Their consolation** – How, then, is the fair and just God to answer those souls, depicted as underneath the altar, who rightly cry for justice and the avenging of their deaths? "And there was given to each of them a white robe," is what John sees in the vision, "and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also" (Revelation 6:11). In a picture somewhat reminiscent of dealing with children, their attention was redirected by being given the white robe, and being told to be patient.

Christians are going to be persecuted for their faith as long as earth exists!

One thing is really clear: Christians are going to be persecuted for their faith as long as earth exists. The Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Himself, engaged in a dangerous and (in one sense) fatal search and rescue mission carried out behind enemy lines. He also set in motion a recruitment process by which others are enlisted in the same cause, and often with the same fatal earthly ending. But the Lamb is pictured as "standing, as if slain"; He was raised from the dead, nevermore to die. These souls underneath the altar, then, are handed a white robe, told that they should rest a little longer while those others engaged in the rescue mission should be executed. When all is "completed," like the Lamb who went on before them, they will also receive the resurrection of the righteous. Their blood will be avenged!

JAY WILSON