# The Nugget



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE

December 2021

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church 934 Placer Street - Butte, MT 59701 (406) 723-4242 We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation and a Congregation of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

## From the Pastor's Study

Siblings in Christ,

Often, we Christians look at things in a binary lens, there is right and wrong, dog and cat, light and dark. **This Advent, several of our Wednesday and Sunday services will be speaking to the reality of Light and Dark.** This imagery is fraught with difficulties. For many of us there is a simple reality with our thoughts on light and dark: Darkness is scary. Light is not. Darkness is filled with unknown. Light is known. Darkness is bad. Light is good.

It is true that Dark in the Bible is the antithesis of Light. And, whether we like it or not, seeing the use of Light imagery in positive ways and Dark imagery in negative ways has been deeply painful for Black and Indigenous People of Color.

In the Bible, it is often understood that God and Christ fill the world with Light, and that Light is a symbol of God's purity, glory, and wisdom. Further, Darkness in the Bible is used to symbolize depravity, disobedience to God, the place of the dead, the place where the wicked sit, and a punishment for doing evil. And then we have this story, first in Genesis, then in the Gospels, where a Light came into being through the glory of God and banished all of those things. God called for Light and there it was. God sent the Light to dispel the Darkness of sin and it was taken from us.

What we forget is that God speaks from the Darkness, the beautiful Darkness is God's domain. Light is spoken into being, Darkness already encompasses the presence of God. Darkness is needed and beloved, for without Darkness the Natal Star could not show the way, the Pillar of Fire could not show the way, the Light could not shine without the Darkness.

This shows the elasticity and beauty of the symbolic language of Light and Dark. It is not a binary, not a good and bad thing in the Bible, for both light and dark are gifts from God. But, in the European Enlightenment (1685-1815) the racialization of "white" and "black" became a thing. In short, **European scientists**, academics, and philosophers arbitrarily claimed white folks were light, good, and pure, whereas black and brown folks were considered dark, bad, and impure.

Immanuel Kant even wrote "Humanity is at its greatest perfection in the race of the whites. The yellow Indians do have a meager talent. The Negroes are far below...at the lowest point." Prior to this "enlightenment" the idea of light and dark were never systematically ascribed to different people. So, for a few hundred years people have been separated out by their lightness and darkness.

We, throughout Advent, will be wrestling with this reality of our inherited language and systems. How can we see Darkness as a gift of God? Is Darkness not the silence from which our God spoke the world into being? Was not the Darkness a gift that let us see the Glory of God coming through a small star? And what was the darkness that the Light was sent to dispel? Was it not our own sin, a system created by humanity that called for us to be turned back to the seat of God?

Let us come together this Advent to embrace what is symbolized in the Darkness and the Light in a non-binary way. Through the difference of light and dark we see the love of God and the Bethlehem Star calling us to the Messiah. Pr. C

## **Prayer Concerns**



Please call the Church Office (723-4242)
or email us: (goldhill.elca@gmail.com)
with your prayer requests.
Only prayers given to the entire
congregation will be included here.

**Dalton** (by Jeanette Quist) – prayers for healing and a return to health

**Family of Fran Haavisto** (Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick's sister/sister-in-law) — prayers of comfort as they mourn her death

## We remember in prayer those Gold Hill saints now at rest:

Carol Wynette Hecker; Harold "Pete" Godtland; Dorleen Oppliger Probasco; Shirley Ann Perusich; Patricia Orial Biastoch; Herbert F. Nepine; Walter Bruce Grimes; and William 'Bill' Smyers

**Arlene Munyon and family** – prayers of comfort **Deb Durham** (*Pr. Carrels' aunt*) – prayers for peace and healing

Patricia Coleman – prayers for peace and healing
Allison Weldon (Carl & Carla Campbell's granddaughter) – prayers for comfort and healing

**St. John's Lutheran in Helena** – prayers as they celebrate their 126-year anniversary

**Heidi Hester** – installed at Hope Lutheran in Helena on November 7

**Pastor Jamie Schmeling** – who was installed in the Terry and Fallon parish in October

**Pastor Rob Nedbalek** – who is recovering from shoulder surgery

Janice Jungling, mother of Bishop Laurie Jungling – who is recovering from a stroke and in rehab; prayers for a full recovery and return to health

#### Montana Synod Prayer Requests:

Prayers of thanksgiving for the 100 Year (+1) Anniversary of St. James Lutheran in Columbus, Montana

#### **December Birthdays/Anniversaries:**

**Cheryl Neuhart** – celebrating her baptismal birthday on December 1

**Sharon Hecker** – celebrating her birthday on December 1

**Larroll Leach** – celebrating his baptismal birthday on December 5

**Heatherlynn Meeks** – celebrating her birthday on December 5

**Bonnie Grimes** – celebrating her birthday on December 9

Mark Bond – celebrating his birthday on December 9 Ben Biastoch – celebrating his baptismal birthday on

December 10

**Patty Callaghan** – celebrating her birthday on December 10

**Sandi Wenger** – celebrating her birthday on December 12

**Ehren Gruss** – celebrating his baptismal birthday on December 14

**Julie Corbin** – celebrating her baptismal birthday on December 14

**Peggy Graving** – celebrating her baptismal birthday on December 14

**Rande Farrow** – celebrating his birthday on December 16

**Bayleigh House** – celebrating her baptismal birthday on December 22

**Linda Johnson** – celebrating her birthday on December 23

**Ruthe Meeks** – celebrating her birthday on December 23

Bill Hill – celebrating his birthday on December 28Liv Trudgeon – celebrating her baptismal birthday on December 28

Alan & Lynn Aniksdal – celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on December 5

**Bob & Debbie Brown** – celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary on December 19



## **Announcements**

#### **Advent Services**



Advent Services will be held on Wednesday evenings, December 1, 8, 15, & 22, starting at 5:00 pm with light refreshments (store bought cookies and coffee) followed by a service at 6:00 pm. This year we will be sharing our

service with Gloria Dei Church.

Services will be held at Gloria Dei on December 1 and December 15. December 8 and 22 we will meet at Gold Hill. Please join us! If you have any questions, please talk to Chris Ketchum or anyone on the Worship Ministry Team.

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#### **Food Drive**

## The Thompson Family Food

**Drive** is Saturday, December 4th this year. To donate, put your bag(s) of non-perishable food and/or paper products near your mailbox or front door before 10:00 am.



Volunteers will pick them up during the day beginning that morning.

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## <u>Christmas Services</u>

On Christmas Eve there will be two Candlelight services, one at 5:30 PM and the second at 7:00 PM. There will be a Christmas Day service at 11:00 AM

this year on Saturday, December 25, 2021. We hope you will join us!



Sunday School has started up again at Gold Hill! We are meeting after the 9:30 service.

Due to the holiday season, there will be no Sunday School December 26 and January 2. Classes will resume on January 9.

If you have any questions please call me, Pat Gruss at 406-565-2563.

#### 55+ Lunch Bunch

**55+ Lunch group will meet on Friday, December 17th,** at Perkins Restaurant at 12 Noon. Questions?

Talk to Jeanette Nielsen.



## **Bob Ward's "Share the Warmth"**

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If you want to help fellow Montanans stay warm this winter, drop off your gently used winter coats at Bob Ward's, 1925 Dewey Blvd.



in Butte. Bob Ward's will reward your generosity with a coupon to use in store. Donations are then cleaned and distributed to local non-profit organizations.

Contributions will be taken until Friday, December 17. For details, contact Chase Taylor, at 406-728-3220 or email <a href="mailto:ctaylor@bobwards.com">ctaylor@bobwards.com</a>. Help families stay warm this winter!

#### **Gold Hill ELC Directions**



#### **Financial Summary**

#### by Danette Fitzpatrick

October	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
			Budget
Income	13626.67	11496.98	-2129.69
Expense	13650.18	8807.32	-4842.86
Net Income	-23.51	2689.66	2713.17

Year to Date	Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
Income	136,266.70	119,222.51	-17,106.84
Expense	136,501.80	120,435.26	-16,066.54
Net Income	-235.10	-1,212.75	-977.65

Just a reminder that our website, <a href="https://goldhillelca.org">https://goldhillelca.org</a>, has a donation button. You can donate to the church by clicking on the link and inputting some basic information.



#### **Music Ministry News**

Greetings! We are all set to record your songs, poems, scripture, and short stories for the 2021 Gold Hill Lutheran Church Christmas CD! We will be recording at The Springs



over two different dates: December 4th at 1 p.m. and December 11th at 4 p.m. Please let me know what day you want to record your selection. If you would like me to accompany you, please let me know as soon as possible so I can schedule a time to practice your song with you before it gets recorded.

Currently there are 7 entries with room for more. Please contact me if you have any questions or to sign up. Call or text me at (406)491-5393; email me

at <u>daveinconcert@gmail.com</u>, or talk to me after the church service on Sunday.

Thank you and God Bless.

Dave Coleman

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The Worship Committee meets monthly to discuss the needs of the Church for Worship service.

This year Advent begins on November 28, 2021. We will use the Church color blue for this season. We have asked if members would like to provide a real Christmas tree for the

Fellowship Hall and would like to put this up by November 27, 2021. We will light the first candle of the Advent wreath on Sunday, November 28th. We have some decorations and ask congregation members to bring one of their favorite ornaments for the Christmas tree.



Advent Services will be on Wednesday evenings, December 1, 8, 15, & 22, starting at 5:00 pm with light refreshments (store bought cookies and coffee) and a service following at 6:00 pm. This year we will be sharing our service with Gloria Dei Church. Services will be held at Gloria Dei on December 1 and December 15. December 8 and 22 we will meet at Gold Hill. We will use the Prayer around the Cross for these services.

On Christmas Eve we will have two Candlelight services, one at 5:30 pm and the second at 7:00 pm. We will have a signup list for attendance in order to stay in compliance with social distancing. There will be a Christmas Day service at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 25, 2021. There will not be a Sunday service on December 26, 2021, due to the number of services provided on Friday and Saturday.

We will be using our Advent and Christmas hymns from our Hymnals throughout this Holy season. We will continue to use Hymnal Setting 8 for our Sunday Worship.

Dave Coleman is asking the members of our congregation to contact him for our Gold Hill Christmas CD. He is looking for readings, singing, and instrumental pieces. We will be recording this at The Springs Community Center Building on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 1:00 pm and Saturday December 11, 2021, at 4:00 pm. This facility is located at 300 Mount Highland Drive in Butte.

We have resumed choir practice on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. All are invited to join our Gold Hill Choir!

The Worship Committee would like to thank all those who offer their service as lectors, ushers, and Communion preparers. We thank Peggy Graving, Miriam Haley, Dorothy Anne Honeychurch, and JoAnn Farrow for making the beautiful paraments for our Altar. Thank you to Jeanette Nielsen for providing delicious homemade treats for coffee hour! Thank you to Patricia Coleman for making our Advent Candle wreath. Thank you to Bob and Debbie Brown for the lovely Christmas decorations and tree. We are blessed to have so many members willing to offer their time and talents.

It is with excitement and relief that we watch our Church come back to life. We are grateful to Pastor Carrels and those people who have worked tirelessly so that we could keep our Congregation together and worship each week here at Gold Hill Lutheran Church. Our hearts are filled with gratitude this Christmas season! Welcome to worship - Come let us adore Him - Christ our Lord. Chris Ketchum

#### **Notes from the Trust**

Due to travel schedules, vacations, and medical appointments the trust committee did not meet in November. Some of you may want to receive more information about the trust.

The Gold Hill Lutheran Church Trust Fund can be a vital Christian witness through our church. The Trust is a calling by God for us to be good and faithful stewards of the gifts and resources God has first given us.

If you desire more information about the how the Trust operates, or how you can contribute to this living program of Gold Hill Lutheran Church, feel free to contact any of the members on the committee.

It is important for you to consult with your professional advisors regarding legal and tax matters. The Gold Hill Lutheran Church Trust Fund committee will work with you and your advisors.

Ron Gruss Chairperson

#### Council Meeting Minutes – Gold Hill Lutheran Church Tuesday, November 9, 2021

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The meeting was called to order by President Mike Lawson at 6:15. All members of the council were present: Mike Lawson, Curt Quist, Danette Fitzpatrick, Peggy Graving,



Church

Pat Gruss, Lynn Aniksdal, Chris Ketchum, Nicholas Conlan, and Pastor Marlow Carrels.

Devotions were Lamentations from Psalm 74. People were upset with God and felt that He had forgotten them. Pastor says that people get in their own way sometimes and that God is always present.

We had a guest from the Restoration Task Force – David Stordahl. He presented the idea for the area above the current altar location in the sanctuary. The committee proposed that the area be brought back to the arch as it was when the church was originally constructed. The committee asked for permission from the council to proceed. After discussion and description of the construction with architectural drawings, Nicholas moved, Chris seconded the approval of the plan for the arch and stain glass windows over the current altar area in the sanctuary. The motion passed.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved by the council. The motion to accept them was made by Lynn and seconded by Danette.

Danette had emailed the treasurer's report and stated that we had more funds than we should have had because she missed the payment for November to Portico. The deficit is not as much as in October. The deficit is \$1212.75. Curt mentioned the payment of the paint chips is an example of an item we should receive reimbursement from the insurance company so keep track of that payment and others incurred during the reconstruction. Curt moved; Lynn seconded the acceptance of Danette's report. The motion carried.

**Pastor's report was emailed and is attached** (see p. 7). He had no additions for this report. We asked that the worship council decide about the number of services on December 24th, 25th, and 26th.

Mike's president's report was also emailed. He thanked Pioneer Concrete and Capitol Concrete in Helena for the concrete standards that were placed to block our "road" near the railroad tracks. Rande Farrow placed them where they were needed. Thanks to him for all his work. Thank you notes were mailed by Peggy to Pioneer and Capitol Concrete Companies.

Curt, Administration Director, reported that Arc Electric would be at the church on Thursday to install the lights in the social hall. The kitchen will be cleaned, and items replaced so it will be ready to use. It was asked if members of the church could fill the cupboards. Curt was going to check on that. We received funds for non-recoverable items. Danette moved, Peggy seconded, and it was approved that we send checks to the entities that use our church and are separate from our finances for their losses. These entities include the day care and Al-Anon. Mike will bring the check to Sheila's daughter.

Curt met with Dave Coleman. He asked that Dave be added to the website as the Music Director. Julie and Heatherlynn make changes on the website. Curt will contact Julie. Dave has concerns about the CD for Christmas and Curt said he advised him to go to individuals and ask them directly to participate. Dave wanted to know if any of the children in the Sunday School would like to perform for the CD. Pat will check with the children and get back to Dave.

## Curt had the ad renewed for next year with the newspaper and took out the note that we meet in the parking lot.

Chris, Worship Ministry, reviewed the attached report that she had emailed to all members of the council. Her committee will contact Pastor Lamb in Anaconda to see if we could borrow some additional hymnals. She mentioned that paraments were being made by members of the church. Worship supplies were ordered as was a new pedal for the organ for Dave. They also ordered a new Advent Wreath. Advent services will be shared with Gloria Dei. The first Wednesday service will be held at Gold Hill in the social hall. We will not be having soup and bread before the services. We decided we would ask if anyone in the congregation would like to go tree hunting for a real tree for the social hall. If not, the Browns offered a five-foot artificial tree. The Christmas recording will be completed at the Springs. Nicholas asked if we could go back to closing

the service with "United by the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God." Pastor said he would make the change.

Mike would like to consider acoustic panels for the social hall. There is an echo that makes it difficult to hear. We decided we didn't have the funds at this time.

Lynn, Leadership Ministry, had no report; except the old Pepsi machine is finally gone.

## Pat, Spiritual Ministry, announced that the FLBC counselors will be in Butte the week of June 27th for Vacation Bible School.

Nicholas, Outreach Ministry, had no report. He visited a church in Brookings, Oregon and feels that he has made connections with a church that does not belong to the ELCA and felt they were not open to LGBTQ? members.

NEW BUSINESS: Curt had emailed every member questions under our Guiding Principles. He would like us to look at them and see if we could begin to create goals for the congregation to consider at the annual meeting in January. We will discuss these questions and others at our next meeting. Pastor felt that the first guiding principle and the questions should be sent to the congregation now for them to be thinking about. The first Guiding Principle is: Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. The questions to think about are: How can our church proclaim this is our neighborhood and community? And What would our church look like one year after we are back in the sanctuary?

Annual reports are due January 1st by all council members, except the treasurer. She has more time. The reports are to be sent to Mary.

Peggy reported that the Food Bank needs food for the holidays. A list was provided and emailed to the congregation. We will have a food drive for the next few Sundays.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The audio-visual needs and the price were discussed by the council. The bid we received in September from Pro Audio is beyond our budget and Pastor was asked to go back to them and ask what can be cut and if a new bid could be created. We do not have this in our budget and no money was given by the insurance company, but the system does need to be replaced and updated. Pastor had looked at other sources for the equipment online and Dave Coleman's son may be helpful.

There was no Task Force Report from the Restoration Committee

Pastor gave the nominating committee report for Revonda Stordahl. The committee is still looking for someone who is willing to have their name placed in nomination for Secretary and for Leadership Ministry. They have members willing to serve as Administration Director, for Outreach Ministry, and a Trust Committee member. Mike met with Charles Fliegel, President of the Council at Gloria Dei. He feels that the council will approve the

suggestion that the two churches have bi-annual meetings in February and August with a stated agenda and socialization between the churches.

Curt continued discussion on the "Building Trust" exercise we are doing. Last time we talked about needing to be reliable and following through on what we say we will do. At this meeting he talked about the need to be sincere. You need to be sincere in your listening as well as in your delivery. We are asked to continue to pray for the person whose name we drew the first evening.

FLBC had asked us to consider how we would participate in their fund raiser – "Holy Ground." The fund raiser will run through 2024. We thought we should educate the congregation about the fundraiser and encourage individual gifts to the camp. We asked Curt to contact Pastor Borge, the chair of the fund raiser, and ask him to send a letter to the congregation for the Nugget. This letter would be in the January Nugget.

Nicholas would like us to consider becoming a warming shelter and providing a soup kitchen for the homeless. It was suggested that we hold off right now on this discussion and decision until we have the church opened completely. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Peggy Graving, Secretary

#### CHURCH COUNCIL December 2021:

Mike Lawson -

President

Curt Quist -

Administration Director

Danette Fitzpatrick -

Treasurer

Peggy Graving -Secretary

Pat Gruss -

Spiritual Growth Ministry, Team Leader

Chris Ketchum -

Worship Ministry, Team Leader

Lynn Aniksdal -

Leadership Ministry, Team Leader

Nicholas Conlan -

Outreach Ministry, Team Leader

Pastor Marlow Carrels

#### Pastoral Report: 13Oct-9Nov2021

#### κήρυγμα kerygma / proclamation Pastoral Acts:

- Worship Services Since 13 Oct: 3 Sunday
- Homebound / Visitations / phone calls: — 6
- Baptism:
- Funeral service:
- Wedding:
- Funeral attendance:
- Official Meetings:

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#### κοινωνία koinonia / community

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#### διδαχή didache / teaching

Bible Study: 2 (Tues) AWA 9

διακονέω (diakonia / service)

#### προσκυνέω (proskuneo / worship):

 Renewing Worship continues.
 Advent Prayer around the Cross each Wed. "Normal" services on Sunday

#### **Continuing Education Completed:**

- Protestant Concepts of Church and State – (5-9 Apr)
- Thesis Reading
- Communal Grief and progress

#### Continuing Education in progress:

 Thesis writing "Melanchthon and the Sword: Pacifism in the Lutheran Confessions"

#### Current Tasks:

- Advent Preparation
- Working with Trust Committee / gift policies
- Nomination Committee is working

#### Council Discussion Items / To Do List:

#### Sweetwater Music for Speakers:

https://www.sweetwater.com/c442-Portable PA Systems

#### A better option may be:

https://www.proacousticsusa.com/complet e-sound-systems/church-soundsystems.html

#### Looking Ahead:

#### Known Dates of Absentia:

Vacation for the rest of 2021:

Nov 24-27

Dec 27-31

#### Jan 1 (COMPLETE)

Apr 5-10 (Mon-Sat) Con Ed (COMPLETE)

Apr 14-5 (Wednesday) Surgery (minor /

outpatient) (COMPLETE)

May 20-21 (Camping in Yellowstone With

SJ School) (COMPLETE)

Paternity Leave - 23June-7July

(COMPLETE)

Aug 20 - Vacation (COMPLETE)

Sep 16-17 (COMPLETE)

Oct 13-22 (one Sunday) (COMPLETE)

Vacation taken: 18 Vacation days left: 10 Con ed days taken: 6 Con ed days left: 8

Sundays taken: 1 Sundays left:3

## GOLD HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR

#### December 2021 Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church, 934 Placer Street, Butte, MT 59701 (406) 723-4242 \* Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve Thursday Friday Wednesday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday 3 10:00 am LWR Ouilters at Gloria Dei 6:00 pm GH Choir @ Gloria Dei 6:00 pm Advent Service at Gloria Dei (refreshments before service at 5:00 pm) 10 11 5 2 Sunday in 10:00 am GHELC 8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am LWR Quilters 9:30 am Worship Book Club at The at Gloria Dei at Parkins 6:00 pm GH Choir @ Gloria Dei 10:45 Coffee Springs 5:30 pm Exec. 6:00 pm Advent Service Hour 10:45 Sunday at Gold Hill Comm. ming (refreshments before School 6:00 pm Worship & service at 5:00 pm) Music mtng 17 18 13 14 15 16 12 3rd Sunday in 10:00 am LWR Quilters 10:00 am Prayer 6:00 pm Stephen 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Ministry at The at Perkins at Gloria Dei Shawl Knitters -12 Noon 55+ 10:45 Coffee Springs Gloria Dei 10:00 am Gather 6:00 pm Advent Service Luncheon at Hour at Gloria Dei Bible Study @The Perkins 6:00 pm GH Choir 10:45 Sunday (refreshments before Springs @ Gloria Dei School service at 5:00 pm) 6:00 pm Council Nugget Deadline ming 23 24 25 19 4th Sunday in Advent 9 am We Deliver -8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am LWR Ouilters 9:30 am Worship at Gold Hill Sack Lunch at Perkins 6:00 pm GH Choir Christmas Christmas 10:45 Coffee Ministry @ Gloria Dei Eve Worship Day Worship Hour 6:00 pm Advent Service 11:00 AM 5:30 PM and 10:45 Sunday at Gold Hill 7:00 PM School (refreshments before Office closed service at 5:00 pm) 26 27 29 31 8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am LWR Ouilters New Year's at Perkins at Gloria Dei 6:00 pm GH Choir Fue @ Gloria Dei Office closed

## Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church 934 Placer Street, Butte, MT 59701 (406) 723-4242

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve Worship Schedule: Worship 9:30 am 10:45 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School

#### **Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church**

934 Placer Street Butte, MT 59701

Phone:

(406) 723-4242

E-Mail:

pastorgoldhill@gmail.com goldhill.elca@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-12 & 1-4

Pastor Marlow Carrels
Mike Lawson, Council President
Parish Admin. Assistant Mary Johnston

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#### Advent at Gold Hill:

Services on December 1 & 15 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Services on December 8 & 22 at Gold Hill Lutheran Church

Refreshments @ 5:00 pm Advent Service @ 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship at 5:30 & 7 pm Christmas Day Worship at 11:00 am

