

The Nugget



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
UNITED TO SERVE

February 2022

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

Friends in Christ,

As some of you have heard it is being discussed at the Council level to cut my time and Mary's time to 30 hours a week due to our Congregation's financial need for the year of 2022. **First and foremost: Mary and I fully support this plan!** You need to know that. Both of us feel that this plan is fully in the best interest of the Congregation and the greater community of Butte. It is a way for us to act as Stewards of our time and talent for the glory of God. And I can tell you that part of my job is to assess this congregation and enter into hard conversations like this one when we have a choice rather than before we are forced to make hard decisions. We are asking for 1 year of breathing room in our budget so we can fully assess who and what we are as a called body of Christ.

Now, I recognize that this may come as a shock to some of you, but here is the reality that we are in. We did not meet our budget last year, in fact we needed to drop our budget about \$25,000 this year, from about 175K to 150K. The initial way this was accomplished was through looking inward. We chose to not give to the Synod or any other outside ministry. This is simply not a good stewardship model for our congregation. **God calls us to look outward and to give outward, especially in terms of our time, talent, and money.** Frankly, Mary and I are your largest expenses, but both of us have noticed through Covid that the needs of the congregation have simply changed from when I was called here in 2020. We are both only needed about 30 hours a week and we feel guilty being paid at a full-time benefit when we are not working full time. This change would alleviate that guilt.

Second, it becomes a justice issue. Over the last 10 years our Average Weekly Attendance has fallen from 133 to 38, but our budget has only risen over that time. At our new budget of 150K if we still had 133 people here, we would be asking each person to give about \$1000 over the year (or about \$20 a week) to the church. But now we are asking thirty-eight people to give \$3950 a year (or about \$80 a week). **And note these numbers are per person!** not per family. That means a couple is asked to give \$8000, my family of four would need to give \$16000! a year to the church and many of our parishioners simply cannot do that. This reminds me of the widow's mite. It is not fair for us to ask those on fixed incomes or salaries to simply tighten our belts and give 'til it hurts and forego a meal so that the church remains solvent.

So, what are we asking? We are asking that we all take a step back and recognize that we are in a lean time. We will have faith that next year will be better, but right now we, as a congregation, need to be able to take a step back, take a deep breath, and look at our congregational needs and assess a way forward that is fair and equitable for all of God's people.

Finally, from a logistical end, what does ¾ time mean for this congregation? It means that the office will still be covered each day from 8am – 12pm and 1pm – 3pm. It means that your pastor will have two days off a week to be involved in other ministries in Butte (Hospice, BRM, Homeless Care, Prisoner Integration, etc.). Your pastor will still be here for you. Funerals, worship, hospital visits, and weddings will still be conducted, and the glory of Christ will still shine through this Congregation.

And what does ¾ time not mean? As of right now, it will not be forever. We are asking for a breathing year to reassess our needs and our ministry without the cloud of "not bringing in enough money" looming over our head.

This plan would be reassessed next year at our annual meeting. At that time, maybe we laugh off our "over abundance," or perhaps we all breathe a sigh of relief that we made this hard choice now and turned our view outward to continue giving to the community the best we can. Again, I would just like to remind you that Mary and I are fully in support of this plan and feel that it is a gift, an act of stewardship, of our time and talents this year.

Pastor Marlow Carrels and Mary Johnston



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.

Family of Skeeter Heinze (by Lynn McGlynn) -
prayers of comfort for his children, Donald and
Jennifer, following his death

Ole Quist (Curt & Jeanette Quist's grandson) -
prayers for health and healing

Valerie Tadday - prayers for healing and
strength

**Prayers of celebration on the Ordination of
Pastor Joshua Wyman** - who was ordained
January 15th. Pastor Wyman is called to First
American Lutheran in Hardin, MT.

LPA Mike Conner and his family - as they
mourn the death of his wife, LPA Diane
Conner

Pastor Stephanie White (St. Luke's, Shelby)
and her family - as they mourn the death of
her father, Rev. Dr. Gerald C. White

LPA Cindy Clark and family - as they mourn
the death of her husband, Dave

Prayers of healing - for all who are suffering
with Covid and those who care for them

Prayers for peace - for a world filled with
violence and unrest

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February Birthdays/Anniversaries:



Karen Galpin - celebrating her
birthday on February 4

Regan Dean - celebrating his
birthday on February 6

Nicholas Conlan - celebrating his baptismal
birthday on February 10

Nicholas Conlan - celebrating his birthday on
February 11

Fran Warner - celebrating her baptismal
birthday on February 12

Joshua & Brooks Vincent - celebrating their
baptismal birthdays on February 15

Keegan McNabb - celebrating his baptismal
birthday on February 15

Kay Vang - celebrating her birthday on
February 16

Barb Crnich - celebrating her birthday on
February 20

Isaac Zell - celebrating his baptismal birthday
on February 21

Lincoln Zell - celebrating his baptismal birthday
on February 21

Vern Nielsen - celebrating his birthday on
February 21

Kevin Biastoch - celebrating his birthday on
February 25

Christopher Butt - celebrating his birthday on
February 26

Judy Aaker - celebrating her birthday on
February 26

Curt & Jeanette Quist -
celebrating their 50th
anniversary on February 19



Phil & Carol Davis - in
celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary
on February 24

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Announcements

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Hazel Edwards from:
Peggy Probasco, gift to Quilters

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Food Bank Donations

At this time Gold Hill cannot take physical donations of food for the food bank.

Mail your monetary donation directly to:

Butte Emergency Food Bank
1019 East Second Street
Butte, MT 59701

Thank you for your generosity!

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

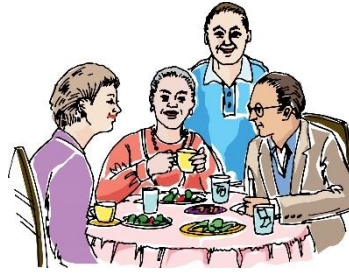
Ages 3 on up are welcome!

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

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Please help us to stay updated and notify the church office with any address, phone, or Email address changes!

55+ Lunch Bunch



55+ Lunch group will meet on Friday, February 18th, at Perkins Restaurant at 12 Noon. Questions? Talk to Jeanette Nielsen.

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Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held this year on February 6th following worship. Due to the pandemic, there will be no potluck this year. Please plan on attending!



CHURCH COUNCIL:

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

Gold Hill ELC Directions

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Summary

by Danette Fitzpatrick

December	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	11,411.67	13,626.63	-2,214.96
Expense	9,040.85	14,483.39	-5,442.54
Net Income	2,370.82	-856.76	3,227.58

YTD	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	136,243.70	163,520.00	-27,238.95
Expense	148,049.84	173,802.00	-25,752.16
Net Income	-11,806.00	-10,282.00	-1,524.00

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

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Worship News

The Worship and Music Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month to discuss issues that concern worship and music for Sunday services. If you have questions or ideas to share, please let us know. We have lists of members who are willing to Lector, Usher and prepare Communion for Sunday Worship. We invite and welcome anyone to join us with these services. The support and participation from the Congregation is greatly appreciated!



We make necessary changes when Covid numbers rise and affect members doing these service positions. We do understand and will fill in accordingly to keep us all healthy. We will begin to post these monthly assignments in the Fellowship Hall.

The Church color for February 23, 2022, to March 1, 2022, is green. Sandra Wenger has offered to make a coordinating parament to place on the Altar for this season. Susan Repola will be joining us some Sundays to provide worship music. We are happy she can return and love to hear her play our favorite Hymns! We will resume Choir practice in February if the Covid numbers are in a safer percentage. We will practice in the Gold Hill Fellowship Hall with the day and time to be announced by Dave Coleman.

Looking forward- Lent will begin on March 2, 2022. Pastor Carrels has shared that we will have Lenten services beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, and the following Wednesdays leading up to Holy Week in mid-April 2022. He is talking with Pastor Sarah of Gloria Dei and will give us details as decisions are completed. As we slowly watch our Church be restored may our hearts be filled with gratitude and hope. Thanks be to God!

In service,
Chris Ketchum
Happy New Year!

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Music Ministry News

Attention all Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, Baritones, Basses, and those who want to "make a joyful noise to the Lord"!!

The Gold Hill Lutheran Church Choir will be having rehearsals at the church on Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m. All who like to sing are invited to come and join us. If you have any

questions, please contact me, Dave Coleman, at (406)491-5393 or by email at daveinconcert@gmail.com and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Dave Coleman

Council Meeting Minutes – Gold Hill Lutheran Church Tuesday, January 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Mike Lawson. Roll was taken. Mike Lawson, Curt Quist, Danette Fitzpatrick, Peggy Graving, Nicholas Conlan, Pat Gruss, Chris Ketchum, and Pastor Carrels were present. Lynn Aniksdal was excused.



Devotions were given by Pastor from 1st Corinthians the 12th chapter. We are one body with Christ. Though each of us is a part we each have amazing gifts we bring to the community of Gold Hill and this council. God values each of us as we serve on this council. He thanked those who would be leaving the council after completing their terms.

Curt Quist moved, and Danette seconded that the minutes for the December 2021 meeting, previously emailed, be approved as sent. The motion carried.

Danette presented the treasurer's report. December was below the expectations we had. We expressed our concerns for the low income and the lower than projected year. We will discuss further under the budget in Old Business. The motion was made by Peggy and seconded by Chris to accept the treasurer's report.

Pastor's report was emailed and is attached (p. 7). He added that he has been asked to preside over a wedding that the couple would like to hold in our social hall on February 22, 2022. The couple is not affiliated with the church. After discussion it was agreed that we follow the policy in place for non-members and charge the \$150.00 fee. We will clean the best we can not knowing where Dayspring will be in the reconstruction process.

Mike reported that he and Annette have had Covid and explained the process for testing that they have gone through. Their cases were light. He will get with Dayspring this coming week and walk through the church.

Curt reported that the progress at the church has been slower this month. Electricians and plumbers are not as far along as hoped. The flooring on the main floor in the offices and upstairs should be completed within the next couple of weeks. Pastor and Mary can move back into the church hopefully by the beginning of February. Curt has offered to remain the liaison between the council and Dayspring though he is going off the council. The council agreed that it would be wise and appreciated his willingness to remain the liaison. Curt has been working with Jennifer, the project manager for Dayspring, regarding the installation of the security system that we previously had. The pianos were due to be moved and Curt has asked that they remain where they are until we are ready for all of them. We discussed the organ regarding whether we wanted it back in the sanctuary. It was state of the art for its time but is no longer state of the

art and it was discussed whether we wanted it moved back into the sanctuary or not. We decided this was a decision for the congregation. We will bring it up for discussion at the annual meeting.

Chris reported that the worship committee met and has emailed their minutes to the council. They are discussing the Lenten Wednesday night services and are undecided, with the outbreak of the Covid Omicron variant, whether they will have soup and bread or not. They want to make their decision early enough to add the Lenten announcement to the February Nugget. We are going to have the service with masks, social distancing, sharing the peace by sign, plastic individual communion cups, and no coffee hour for now. Sue Repola is willing to play the piano once a month for Dave. They will work out which Sunday she will play. Lynn Aniksdal had nothing to report. Lynn and Lynn Heinze will schedule the biannual walk through of the parsonage this month.

Pat reported that she understood the church did not have the funds (\$2600) at this time to have FLBC VBS. She is willing to take on the VBS herself. She will inform Gloria Dei of our decision.

Nicholas had no report. He will meet with Pastor regarding the Google for Nonprofits before the next meeting.

New Business: There was no new business.

Old Business:

Pastor read the report from Revonda Stordahl and the nominating committee. There is still no nominee for the secretary's position. People who would be willing to serve will be asked to volunteer to place their names in nomination at the meeting. The slate of nominees are as follows:

Jon Williamson – Administration Director

Secretary -

Lynn Heinze – Property

Outreach – Nicholas Conlan

Ron Gruss – Trust Committee

Audit – Dave Stordahl, Heatherlynn Meeks

FLBC – Julie Corbin

Nominating Committee was not selected yet. The possibility of not being able to hold the annual meeting in person was discussed. Possibilities will be reviewed for zoom with voting availability. It limits us because we have members who do not have this access. If we have no nominee for secretary Pastor said we could not follow the constitution and proceed without a secretary. The constitution says a secretary remains secretary until another one is elected by the congregation.

Arlene Munyon would like to send out birthday cards. There is no objection, but we do not have the funds to pay for the cards and postage. Pat Gruss volunteered to pay for the cards and the postage if needed.

Budget – The proposed budget was presented to the council. After much discussion regarding the low numbers for mission and outreach and no funds being sent to the synod it was decided that we needed to look at alternatives, such as

visiting with Pastor and Mary regarding working 2/3 or 3/4 time. Pastor was open to these discussions. Curt and Danette will visit with them and get back to the council. At this time, we had a motion by Curt that we accept the proposed budget as is. The motion was seconded by Nicholas and passed. Agenda for the Annual Meeting – We discussed the following items needed to be placed on the agenda for the annual meeting: Update on the reconstruction of the church; the organ; a constitutional review committee be created to review the new synod recommendations and requirements after their June meeting to make needed changes to our constitution to be in compliance with the synod; and the motion brought to the floor at the previous annual meeting regarding accepting the recommendation of the Trust Review Committee.

Curt presented his final Team Building thought on the need to have openness and vulnerability. It is powerful to listen to others and to be able to admit when you are wrong. People respect you more when they know you realize that you make mistakes and own up to them. It is important to apologize. Tell someone you are sorry. It is a healing process. This is important if you want to have others Trust you and for you to be able to Trust others.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Graving, Secretary

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

934 Placer Street

Butte, MT 59701

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(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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Worship Schedule:

Worship 9:30 am

10:45 am Coffee Hour

10:45 am Sunday School

Pastoral Report: 15 Dec 2021-10 Jan 2021

κήρυγμα kerygma / proclamation

Pastoral Acts:

- Worship Services Since 15 Dec: 3 Sunday; 2 Wednesday, 2 Xmas eve
- Homebound / Visitations / phone calls: -- 24, mostly phone calls fielding questions and answers about our Covid reactions after Jan 2
- Baptism:
- Funeral service:
- Wedding:
- Funeral attendance:
- Official Meetings:
 - Chico Planning 1/11

κοινωνία koinonia / community

- Sweater, Scarves, Blanket Drops for BRM

διδασχὴ didache / teaching

- Bible Study: 2(Tues) AWA 12

διακονέω (diakonia / service)

προσκυνέω (proskuneo / worship):

- Continue refining worship in Fellowship Hall
- Prepare for Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 2, 2022)

Continuing Education Completed:

Continuing Education in progress:

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

Current Tasks:

- Annual Meeting Preparation

Council Discussion Items / To Do List:

Website links are slowly being added for Videos over the last months

Looking Ahead:

Known Dates of Absentia:

Vacation for the rest of 2022:

No direct plans at this time: However, we plan to take a longer family trip abroad post-covid

Jan 1-2 (COMPLETE)

Vacation taken: 2 Vacation days left: 26




Con ed days taken: 0 Con ed days left: 4

Sundays taken: 1 Sundays left:3

GOLD HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR

February 2022

*Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church, 934 Placer Street, Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-4242 * Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | | 1
8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins
5:30 pm Exec. Comm. mtng
6:00 pm Worship & Music mtng | 2
10:00 am LWR Quilters at Gloria Dei | 3
6:00 pm GH Choir @ Gold Hill | 4 | 5 |
| 6
9:30 am Worship
<i>Annual Meeting Following Worship</i> | 7
10:00 am GHELC Book Club at The Springs | 8
8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins
10:00 am Gather Bible Study @The Springs
6:00 pm Council mtng | 9
10:00 am LWR Quilters at Gloria Dei | 10
6:00 pm GH Choir @ Gold Hill | 11 | 12 |
| 13
9:30 am Worship
10:45 Coffee Hour - (TBD)
10:45 Sunday School
12 pm Adult Forum | 14
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry at The Springs
<i>Nugget Deadline</i> | 15
8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins | 16
10:00 am LWR Quilters at Gloria Dei | 17
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters - Gloria Dei
6:00 pm GH Choir @ Gold Hill | 18
12 Noon 55+ Luncheon at Perkins | 19
 |
| 20
9:30 am Worship
10:45 Coffee Hour - (TBD)
10:45 Sunday School
12 pm Adult Forum | 21 | 22
8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins | 23
10:00 am LWR Quilters at Gloria Dei | 24
6:00 pm GH Choir @ Gold Hill | 25 | 26 |
| 27
9:30 am Worship
10:45 Coffee Hour - (TBD)
10:45 Sunday School
12 pm Adult Forum | 28
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry at The Springs |  | | | | |