

# The Nugget



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
UNITED TO SERVE

March 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 Bishop – Do Unto Others

Dear Friends in Christ,

### What have we done with the Golden Rule?

In Matthew 7:12, Jesus summarizes Jewish and Christian law, stating, “In everything, do to others as you’d have them to do to you.” But our culture seems to have forgotten that rule. **Instead, another rule has taken its place, “Do for yourself; ignore others, hurt others, or tear them down unless they do what you demand they do.”**

And yet, Jesus still calls us to follow this rule and even go beyond it by loving our neighbor. Even, and especially, in times of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Even when we think the best or only answer is to think of ourselves and tear others down to lift ourselves up.

**Did you know that the Golden Rule is found in nearly all major world religions and philosophies?** For example, it appears in its “do not” form in ancient Greek philosophy (“Do not do to others that which angers you when done to you,” Isocrates) and in Buddhism (“Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful,” Buddha). In its positive form, the rule is found in Judaism and Christianity (“Love your neighbor as yourself,” Lev. 19:18); in Islam (“that which you want for yourself, seek for humankind,” Muhammad); and North American Indigenous spiritualities (ex. “All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves,” Black Elk). The Golden Rule, then, can help connect us across our divisions.

But following this rule is not easy. **In order to follow the Golden Rule, we must be able to self-reflect honestly and have empathy for others.** We need to be able to step into another person’s shoes and ask ourselves “How would I feel if I were in this situation and that were done to me? If I wouldn’t like it, maybe I shouldn’t do it then. If I would like it, then maybe I should consider doing it for them, with their permission and blessing, of course.”

Perhaps this is where we go wrong. *Turned in on ourselves and our own anxieties, we forget how to self-reflect and empathize with our fellow children of God.* Maybe empathy is something we need to practice, trying again and again in all of our relationships to understand where others are coming from and what they may be experiencing, particularly with those who are different from us. Perhaps we can grow our empathy abilities by learning and listening and allowing ourselves to be transformed by another person’s story.

**We as followers of Christ are called to live the Golden Rule in every interaction, even going beyond the Golden Rule and doing unto others as Christ has done for us.** For Jesus knew what we’d do to him and yet died for us anyway, rising again to give us new life. The least we can do in response is “in everything, do to others as we’d have done to us.”

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” It’s a simple command from God that, in times of fear and anxiety, we too quickly ignore. But the only way we will get through life is by walking in our journeys together, putting ourselves in others’ shoes, taking on one another’s burdens and going the extra mile. This is what Jesus Christ did for us and does for us every day.

May God bless and keep you this day!

Bishop Laurie



## Prayer Concerns

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

### **Kareniesa Kohn and the Boyer family (by Julie**

**Corbin)** – following a car accident involving Kareniesa's niece and nephew, prayers for healing, strength, and comfort

**Jeff Williamson** – prayers for healing and pain relief

**Family of Shirley Erickson** – following her death on February 16, prayers of comfort and peace for her family as they begin to mourn her passing

**Bob Fitzpatrick (Dick & Danette's brother/brother-in-law)** – prayers for health and healing

**DorothyAnne Honeychurch** – prayers for health and healing

**Cory Beck** – prayers for health and healing

### **Montana Synod Prayer Requests:**

*For Pastor Rob Nedbalek and family as they mourn the death of his father, Robert L Nedbalek.*

*Prayers for wisdom and guidance for the Montana Synod Council as it seeks to do the work of the church.*

*Prayers of celebration for the installation of Pastor Josh Wyman at First American Lutheran in Hardin, MT.*

*For the family of Pastor Randy Olson who passed away peacefully, January 30th. He was at home with some of his family members, including his children. Pastor Olson served at*

*St. John's Lutheran in Helena, Montana from 1986 to 1997. Pr. Randy and his late wife, Jan, were faithful members of Redeemer Lutheran in Fircrest WA.*

*For the people of South Africa as they mourn the death of bishop emeritus of ELCSA Cape Orange Diocese Bishop Mervyn Assur*

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### **March Birthdays/Anniversaries:**

**Patti Chain** – celebrating her birthday on March 6

**Dale Schultz** – celebrating his birthday on March 10

**Delores Kangas** – celebrating her baptismal birthday on March 12

**Linda Williamson**– celebrating her birthday on March 14

**Tony Cloyd** – celebrating his birthday on March 14

**Noah Coleman** – celebrating his birthday on March 18

**Lynn Aniksdal** – celebrating her birthday on March 19

**Bruce Graving** – celebrating his birthday on March 20

**Sammie Carrels** – celebrating her birthday on March 27

**Bob Matson** – celebrating his birthday on March 27

**Bruce Graving** – celebrating his baptismal birthday on March 29

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Notices

### Deaths

02/16/2022 Shirley Erickson

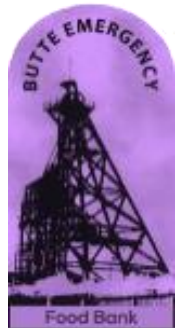
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## Memorials & Honorariums

In Honor of Bonnie Grimes from:

Vern & Jeanette Nielsen

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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 and up are welcome!

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

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## 55+ Lunch Bunch



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

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### CHURCH COUNCIL 2022:

**Mike Lawson -  
President**

**Jon Williamson -  
Administration Director**

**Danette Fitzpatrick -  
Treasurer**

**Ty Inglis -  
Secretary**

**Pat Gruss -  
Spiritual Growth  
Ministry, Team Leader**

**Chris Ketchum -  
Worship Ministry, Team Leader**

**Lynn McGlynn -  
Leadership Ministry, Team Leader**

**Nicholas Conlan -  
Outreach Ministry, Team Leader**

**Pastor Marlow Carrels**

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



# Gold Hill ELC Directions



## Financial Summary

by Danette Fitzpatrick

January	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	19,308.39	12,000.00	7,308.39
Expenses	11,781.33	11,329.27	452.06
Net Income	7,527.06	670.73	6,856.33

Year to Date	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	19,308.39	12,000.00	7308.39
Expenses	11,781.33	11,329.77	452.06
Net Income	7,527.06	670.73	6856.33

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

Ash Wednesday this year is on March 2nd. We will have evening services on Wednesday and alternate with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Pastor Carrels will announce the time for these services. We may have soup and bread supper at Gold Hill Lutheran Church for the Lenten services depending on the council's decision.



Coffee hour will resume in March after Sunday worship service and the Lenten services on Wednesday evenings.

Dave Coleman reports that the regular Gold Hill Choir is cancelled until this Fall. We will begin practicing Easter music on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 6:00 PM at Gold Hill in the Fellowship Hall. Dave is reaching out to members for musical pieces to be played during Holy Week and Easter

Sunday. He shared that he is going to have one Sunday this March with only guitar music. Sandra Wenger is providing the Altar parament for the Lenten season.

Thank you to the members who participate in service work for our Church - we appreciate you! As our Church is rapidly being restored, we will keep you informed of the plans for worship on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week.

May God guide us as we walk together through this season of Lent and refresh our faith and hope!

In service,

Chris Ketchum

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## Empty Bowls is back at the Civic Center

The Empty Bowls event is back and will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at the Butte Civic Center. Masks are requested when up and moving around the Civic Center.



Tickets are \$20 for a soup bowl-sized dish or \$100 for a serving-sized family bowl — plus, all the soup one can eat, bread, dessert a cash bar, live music, and a silent auction of items from local artists.

Tickets are available at the Butte Emergency Food Bank, 1019 E. 2nd St. in Butte.

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## Office Hours

Pastor Carrels office hours are now in the kitchen at Gold Hill, each Tuesday from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Appointments available (406-788-5373) and drop-ins are always welcome. Pastor reserves the right to be absent if he is called away.

## Gold Hill ELCA Trust Committee Minutes January 27, 2022



**Members present:** Ron Gruss, Vern Nielsen, Annette Lawson, Mike Welker, Ed Engle

Ron opened the meeting.

### Old Business

- Mike(m) and Vern(s) to accept the minutes of the last meeting. The motion passed.
- Ed gave the treasurer's report. He hasn't received the reports from Thrivent or the ELCA Mission Investment Funds yet. He'll call tomorrow to check on them. We received \$1301.26 in undesignated memorial funds for the year 2021. The combined checking account balance is \$30,698.12; that does not include interest. The process of moving the Thrivent money into the ELCA Foundation is still ongoing. Ed will soon talk to the ELCA representative, Beth Adams, about the process.
- The Gravings have decided that they want their perpetual donation used for supporting the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

### New Business

- There was discussion of some issues for the annual meeting on February 6, 2022. 1) the congressional vote on whether to keep the Trust Committee 2) creation of a task force for deciding how to spend the \$437.00 that the Trust Committee is donating to the congregation as the "Give Back Program" 3) creation of a task force to design a Gift Policy
- The committee decided to wait until after the Annual Meeting to schedule the next meeting.
- Vern led in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Lawson, secretary

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**Called Meeting of Gold Hill  
Lutheran Council  
January 25, 2022**



The special meeting called by Mike Lawson, President, for the purpose of amending the motion on the proposed budget began at 6:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Mike Lawson, Curt Quist, Lynn Aniksdal, Danette Fitzpatrick, Peggy Graving, Pat Gruss, Chris Ketchum, and Pastor Carrels. Nicholas Conlan absence was excused.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

At the regular meeting on January 11, 2022, we, the council, realized that the budget proposal we passed may need some changes. The proposed budget showed a deficit. The past few years the church has been unable to meet the budget and until we can be back in our sanctuary we are in flux. Curt Quist and Danette Fitzpatrick were asked to talk with Pastor Carrels and Mary Johnston regarding working  $\frac{3}{4}$  time instead of full time to see if that would help the budget. The meetings with Mary and Pastor went well and the attached letter from Pastor outlines his and Mary's feelings.

The new amended budget presented by Danette shows the changes necessary for making the changes to Mary and Pastor's status and makes the giving to the Synod 5%. The original budget did not have any designated giving to the Synod. The motion was made to accept this amended budget and present it to the congregation. The motion was made by Curt, seconded by Pat Gruss and the motion passed.

We reviewed the Changes to Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities for Minister of Word and Sacrament Under the Call – especially the Addendum which outlines the change to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time with the annual review. Additionally, after six months the council would like to review the financial statements and if the financial statements are in the black and above budget a bonus could be considered for Pastor, as well as Mary. This document also outlines the days Pastor will work – Sunday through Wednesday, but he will be available if needed on the other days of the week.

The letter (below) from Pastor will be sent to the congregation this week.

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 forgo 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.

Signed Mary Johnston and Pr. Marlow Carrels

The motion was made by Chris and seconded by Pat to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed by Mike Lawson.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peggy Graving, Secretary

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**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](mailto:pastorgoldhill@gmail.com)**

**[goldhill.elca@gmail.com](mailto:goldhill.elca@gmail.com)**

**Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-12 & 1-3**

**Pastor Marlow Carrels**





**Mike Lawson, Council President**

**Parish Admin. Assistant Mary Johnston**

# GOLD HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR

## March 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   |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|
|              |  | <b>1</b><br>8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins<br>5:30 pm Exec. Comm. mtng<br>6:00 pm Worship & Music mtng         | <b>2</b><br>10am-3pm Ashes on the Go at Main & Park<br>10:00 am LWR Quilters<br>5:30 pm Ash Wednesday service at Gold Hill     | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>   |
| <b>6</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:45 Coffee Hour<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>12 pm Adult Forum  | <b>7</b><br>10:00 am GHCLC Book Club at The Springs  | <b>8</b><br>8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins<br>10:00 am Gather Bible Study @The Springs<br>6:00 pm Council mtng | <b>9</b><br>10:00 am LWR Quilters<br>5:00 pm Soup & Bread with Lenten Service at Gloria Dei                                    | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b>  |
| <b>13</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:45 Coffee Hour<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>12 pm Adult Forum | <b>14</b><br>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry at The Springs   | <b>15</b><br>8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins  | <b>16</b><br>10:00 am LWR Quilters<br>5:00 pm Soup & Bread (tbd) and Lenten Service at Gold Hill<br><br><i>Nugget Deadline</i> | <b>17</b><br>10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters – Gloria Dei | <b>18</b><br>12 Noon 55+ Luncheon at Perkins  | <b>19</b><br> |
| <b>20</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:45 Coffee Hour<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>12 pm Adult Forum | <b>21</b><br>9 am We Deliver – Sack Lunch Ministry  | <b>22</b><br>8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins  | <b>23</b><br>10:00 am LWR Quilters<br>5:00 pm Soup & Bread with Lenten Service at Gloria Dei                                   | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>  |
| <b>27</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:45 Coffee Hour<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>12 pm Adult Forum | <b>28</b><br>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry at The Springs   | <b>29</b><br>8:30 am Bible Study at Perkins  | <b>30</b><br>10:00 am LWR Quilters<br>5:00 pm Soup & Bread (tbd) and Lenten Service at Gold Hill                               | <b>31</b>  |  |  |