

May 2, 2022

**Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

**934 Placer Street**

**Butte, MT 59701**

**(406) 723-4242**

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

***Empowered by the Holy Spirit,***

***United to Serve***



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## Gold Hill News

### Upcoming Events & Activities



#### *Men's Bible Study*

**Men's Bible Study is held on Tuesdays at 8:30 am at Perkins Restaurant.** Please talk to Pastor Carrels if you have any questions or for more information.

#### *Schotte Scholarship Applications*

The Trust Committee is accepting scholarship applications now. The deadline to return your completed application is July 1st. Scholarship application forms can be obtained from the church office or downloaded online **HERE** (just click on the "What's Happening Right Now?" tab). You can send your application in to the church office at [goldhill.elca@gmail.com](mailto:goldhill.elca@gmail.com). *And if you previously applied for and received a scholarship, you can do so again!* As long as you meet the requirements a scholarship can be received more than one time. The minimum requirement is a 2.5 GPA. Pick up your application now!



#### *Office Hours*

**Pastor Carrels office hours** are in the kitchen at Gold Hill, on Tuesdays 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.

#### *Joint Worship Service*



We will be worshipping on May 15th at Stodden Park with Gloria Dei. Time is still at 9:30 am. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Carrels or any member of the worship team.

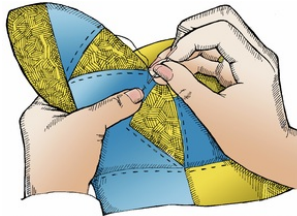
## Butte Emergency Food Bank



**Let's tackle hunger in our community.** Approximately one in seven people in Montana struggle with hunger. Your monetary donations are vital. **Mail your monetary donation directly to: Butte Emergency Food Bank, 1019 East Second Street, Butte, MT 59701.** Your donations make a difference!

## LWR Quilters

**LWR Quilters** are meeting at Gloria Dei on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Bring your own sewing supplies, lunch, and drink. Visitors are welcome! If you have any questions, please talk to any of the quilters.



## QUILTING GROUP

## Gold Hill Schedule Changes & Additions

**Tuesday Morning Breakfast Bible Study** is held at 8:30 am. Talk to Pastor Carrels if you have any questions.

**Coffee Hour** is on Sundays following worship. Check with Pastor Carrels for more information or with any questions.

**Sunday School** is on Sundays following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Talk to Pat Gruss with questions or for more information.

## 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**

## Weekly Calendar

**GHELC Book Club**  
meets at 10:00 am  
at The Springs  
Monday, May 2nd

**Men's Bible Study**  
meets at 8:30 am  
at Perkins  
Tuesday, May 3rd

**Executive Committee**  
meets at 5:30 pm  
Tuesday, May 3rd

**Worship & Music**  
meets at 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, May 3rd

**LWR Quilters**  
meet at 10:00 am  
at Gloria Dei  
Wednesday, May 4

**Al-Anon**  
5:30 pm at Gold Hill  
Wednesday, May 4

**Gold Hill Choir**  
practice at 6:00 pm  
at Gold Hill  
Thursday, May 5

**Worship Service**



## News from the Synod



### *Words from the Bishop: Comfort, My People*

“Comfort, Comfort, O my people!” God announces to the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah.

“The Lord is my shepherd...your rod and staff comfort me,” the psalmist prays to God. Comfort is a common theme throughout the scriptures. We hear the cries for comfort

to God.

We hear promises of comfort by God. We hear thanksgiving for comfort received from God.

But what is this comfort we are crying for? What does it mean to be comforted by God? And perhaps more importantly for Christ’s Church in these changing and uncertain times, what does it mean to be comfortable in God? There are actually a couple of different ways we can understand comfort and what it means to be comfortable. Many of us, when we come to worship or engage in church activities, say we want to be in a place or community that is comfortable. And often what we mean by that is the definition that is found in many dictionaries: *a state of ease, well-being and freedom from pain or constraint; a feeling of relief or encouragement; a satisfying or enjoyable experience.* In other words, to be comfortable for many is to seek a life without pain, suffering, grief, fear, difficulty, challenge. To be safe and secure from all potential harm. To find that warm, fuzzy cuddling-under-a-quilt-with-a-teddy-bear-on-a-chilly-evening, never a care in the world feeling.

Now perhaps some of the more privileged among us have found such moments of this “comfy-ness” in life, as I call it. But for most of us, that type of comfort is rarely experienced, whether in church or not. For most of us, to be comfortable like that, in a life without difficulty, pain, or challenge, is a pipe-dream.

But what if that understanding of comfort is not the full story? What if being comfortable has little to do with a life of ease or security from all external challenges? What if, instead, comfort is about being fortified with the strength and the resilience to live within life’s messiness and not be overcome by it?

In fact, that’s what the word “comfort” meant in its original language of Latin. (Thanks, Pastor Paul Hanson, for this reminder!) In Latin, “com” means “with” and “fort” means “strong.” Think fortify, fortress, even force. So, comfort means to be with strength or to fill oneself or another with fortification.

At a WELCA event several years ago, Pastor Angela T. !Khabebe (currently writing for *Living Lutheran*) offered this challenging statement to all who would hear: “Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you are doing it wrong.” When our understanding of comfort is a warm, fuzzy comfy-ness, then Pr. !Khabebe is absolutely correct. While we may have hope and trust in a future realm of God without suffering, right now, here and today, such understanding of comfort is not helpful and is not, I think, what scripture means by the comfort God provides to us.

Instead, the comfort God gives is fortitude – the strength, sustenance, and reinforcement in the promises of faith, hope, and love – that empowers us to withstand and even move forward through the challenges and sufferings of humans’ experience in this world. God’s comfort doesn’t take our pain away; God’s comfort holds us up (like on eagle’s wings) as we move through the tough stuff of life. God’s comfort gives us the courage and resilience to “keep on keeping on,” perhaps even into a transformed place of growth and new life.

The life of a follower of Christ in this world filled with suffering and death is hardly a comfy one. Both Jesus and Paul make this quite clear when we read their words carefully. (Luke 9:58; Romans 5:1-5) In fact, being a part of the body of Christ should never be comfy. We are always called to face the suffering of the world head on and even dive into it to help fortify, strengthen, and support others in their pain. Perhaps we might even work to ease the worst of the injustice and help bring about a life of basic well-being for those most in need.

But in order for us to do that as Christ’s followers, we too must be comforted and fortified in our hope, faith, and love. And we do this in part by hearing the Word of new life given to us in Christ again and again, welcoming the resurrection gospel into our whole selves and letting the Spirit of love transform us into fortified people with Easter always in our eyes.

“Comfort, Comfort my people,” says our God. Be strengthened and encouraged to face the many challenges ahead. For we know through faith that we are indeed revived every day through our baptism by the fortitude of Christ and the empowerment of the Spirit.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Laurie

### *Region 1 WELCA Gathering*





**Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp  
Lakeside, Montana  
June 17 - 19, 2022**

### **Workshop leader – Prairie Rose Seminole**

Prairie Rose Seminole (Sahnish/Arikara, Northern Cheyenne) will be leading three workshops on Saturday. Prairie Rose is currently engaged as the Indigenous Fellowship recipient with the National Parks Conservation Association. Along with this fellowship through 2024, she is involved with building Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion curriculum with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Seminole resides in and has been involved in the ND political landscape over 20 years and has served in appointed public office - dedicated to building inclusive movement, shifting the balance of power to create real positive change for Indigenous people and communities. Seminole most recently served as the American Indian Alaska Native Program Director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Seminole continues to serve within the Church and around the United States as an educator and advocate, deconstructing colonial systems of oppression, and establishing restorative practices building community.

For full details and registration information click [HERE](#).

## **Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp News**

### ***FLBC News!***

Greetings from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp!

#### **Announcements:**



#### **FLBC is hiring for 2022 Summer Staff!**

We are putting together an awesome team of staff to help us make Summer 2022 amazing! We are looking for faith-filled, hard-working, and kind-hearted individuals to join our team. People ages 16+ are invited to apply for a variety of positions such as camp counselors, support staff, and more!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and apply.

#### **Volunteer and Pastor application is open!**

Plan your week at camp as a camp pastor, adult volunteer, or Camp Grandparent. Serve as a resource to our staff and campers, as well as helping FLBC with basic functions like dishes, cleaning, maintenance work, and more, while enjoying time with the FLBC community in God's Great outdoors on Flathead Lake. Information/FAQs as well different application options (printable vs online app) are available [HERE](#). We are looking for more CAMP NURSES to help us keep camp as safe as possible. Thank you!

#### **FLBC's Spring Newsletter!**

#### **FLBC's Spring Newsletter is available digitally or mailed by request!**

This year, we've gone digital to save resources! We do have a handful of physical copies that we can send to you upon request. Email [carlee@flbc.net](mailto:carlee@flbc.net) to request a hard copy. Otherwise, enjoy looking through this [NEWSLETTER](#) on your device!

#### **Upcoming Retreats/Events:**

Find more information and instruction for registering on [WEBSITE](#).

#### **Memorial Day Work Retreat**

##### **Memorial Day Work Retreat**

*May 27-30, 2022 FREE (registration required!)*

Enjoy all of the fun activities camp has to offer and help FLBC prepare for summer camp with some work projects! See attached [FLYER](#) or click [HERE](#).

#### **\*NEW\* SUMMER YOUTH WEEKEND!**

*July 15-17, 2022 \$75 per person. Camperships are available!*

Join us for a Montana Synod + FLBC retreat. Learn about how BOUNDLESS God is through Bible study

with small groups, worship, low ropes, service projects, and much more! This retreat is for High School aged youth (entering 9th grade in Fall 2022 through H.S. class of '22 grads) and chaperones. Youth must be accompanied by an adult 25+. Click [HERE](#) for more information; see [FLYER](#) here.

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**Are you looking for a place to connect with a faithful community, grow in faith, and put your talents to work serving others? Look no further, we welcome you at Gold Hill Lutheran Church. To learn more about the mission and ministry of Gold Hill Lutheran Church, please contact Pastor Marlow Carrels at 406-723-4242.**

***Gold Hill Lutheran Church Welcomes You!***

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