

The Nugget



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
UNITED TO SERVE

January 2023

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)

Hard and holy work of depolarization

December 19, 2022

By Kayla Zopfi, ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellow [\[about the author\]](#)

“When we talk to someone who shares the same Christian faith, but has a different set of political beliefs or convictions, it can be uncomfortable, or frustrating, and sometimes even scary. As members of the ELCA, we believe that we can have different political opinions but be of the same faith,” asserts Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in her November 2, 2022 [video](#) addressing Christian Nationalism.

Bringing people together because of, rather than despite, political differences has been a successful value nurtured in many congregations and synods, as well as by us as individuals. “It feels like progress is being made, like seeds are being planted,” said Marilyn Berberich, a leader with the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, after trying Braver Angels tools that help facilitate depolarizing conversations. “It made me realize how much I assumed about others,” she reflected, which prompted her to volunteer as a “Red leader” in the parlance of the organization. As the United States continues to grapple with accelerating polarization, and the ELCA navigates being a multipartisan denomination, we can play a role in coming together to create spaces that center us in our common identity as followers of Christ, and build up our resistance to that which may divide us.

Sharing stories based on important themes and experiences from within our faith communities, an ELCA Advocacy Cafe took on the question, “Can Talking Politics Be Healthy”. Silas Kulkarni, ELCA Director of Strategy and Advocacy and former Senior Fellow and Chief of Staff for the Braver Angels Debate and Public Discourse Program, brought together diverse presenters to help envision the role that every individual can play in the work of depolarization.

“We need reconcilers,” stated the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Episcopal Diocese of Newark bishop, during Advocacy Cafe. Centered in Matthew 5, Bishop Beckwith said healthy conversations across divides are important “not to move people from one side to another, but to find common ground” and “honor the differences we have. Local, faith-centered approaches to having healthy conversations across divides were described by participants. Some tools from Braver Angels include:

[Engage in cross-partisan 1:1 conversations](#)

[Plug into your local Braver Angels Alliance](#)

[Register for an educational workshop](#)

“Many congregations already face enough friction in their life together without looking for more, particularly in the fraught arenas of public policy and politics,” wrote the Rev. Amy Reumann, Senior Director, ELCA Witness in Society, in *The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation*. “As the essays in this volume show, Luther lived and taught a living and lively faith that inspires and enables us to respond to God’s grace by moving us from our private lives into the public square for the well-being of our neighbor.” I’m drawn to the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi: “Lord make me an instrument of your peace.” Depolarization is hard and holy work. Consider joining, or even creating, these conversation spaces in your community.



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.

Dick Fitzpatrick- prayers for health and healing.
Ronald Coleman-prayers for health and healing.
Sarah Randall- prayers for health and peace for the
family.

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January/Anniversaries:

Ann Richter – celebrating her birthday
January 1

Jessica Carr – celebrating her birthday
January 1

LeeAnn Butt – celebrating her birthday January 8

Brett Bond – celebrating his birthday January 9

Drew Carr – celebrating his birthday January 16

Aisling Schroeder – celebrating her birthday January
19

Jack Dotson – celebrating his birthday January 21

Ann Drew-celebrating her birthday January 21

Seth Dean- celebrating his birthday January 23

Holly Dean- celebrating her birthday January 23

Otto Thennis – celebrating his baptismal birthday
January 13

Kohlter Pennell- celebrating his baptismal birthday
January 15

Christ Ketchum- celebrating her baptismal
birthday January 16

Kaydence Irene McNabb-celebrating her
baptismal birthday January 26



Dave & Taryn Stratton-celebrating their anniversary
January 8

Jerry & Judy Aacker- celebrating their anniversary
January 23

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Memorials & Honorariums

In Honor of **Douglas Johns** from:
Melissa Johns

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Check it out!

You are invited to check out our new
website: <https://goldhillelca.org/> which is now fully
operational and being updated now that there is a full
time secretary.

You can donate to Gold Hill online through our new
website by clicking on the donation button!

If you have any questions, please call the office
(723-4242) or talk to Pastor Carrels.

Gold Hill is on YouTube!

Pastor Carrels is uploading Gold Hill videos which can be
viewed on YouTube. If you're interested, use this link to
check it out:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCanBvgTwwtCgPHtYdz_OXw Questions? Talk to Pastor or call the church office
(723-4242).

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Food Bank Donations

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, Gold Hill cannot
take physical donations of food. However, your
monetary donations are still needed.



**Mail your monetary donation
directly to:**

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

Thank you for your generosity!

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church
934 Placer Street
Butte, MT 59701
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve

Worship Schedule: Sundays at 9:30 am

Stephen Minister Training

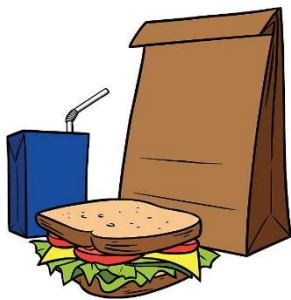
We hope to offer Stephen Minister training in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about this caring ministry and feel you could be of service to others please talk to any one of Gold Hill's Stephen Ministers. We will be available after worship services during the coffee hour here at church. Or if you would rather speak to one of us with more confidentiality please call someone by phone.

We will offer this training as a joint project with Gloria Dei and their Stephen Ministers John and Nancy Sparks. Please pray that you or anyone who feels an interest in this program will get the information they want and will hopefully join the group.

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We Deliver-Sack Lunch Ministry

Volunteers for September were: Patty Callaghan, Jeanette Quist, Dick Fitzpatrick, Connie & Ed Engle, Peg Probasco, Brad Fitzpatrick, Nikki Pontier-Carrels, Sammie Carrels, Jeanette Nielsen. Thank you!



Food supplies & donations for food provided by: Annette Lawson, Peg Probasco, Patty Callahan, Lynn McGlynn, Thank you!

We will meet this month on January 23rd in the Hall to put these lunches together. If you have any questions please feel free to call Annette Lawson, at 406-490-7751.

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



Financial Summary

By Danette Fitzpatrick

November 2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/UNDER BUDGET
Income	10,725.46	12,000.00	1,274.54
Expense	11,586.81	11,329.27	257.24
Net Income	-861.35	670.73	-1,532.08

YEAR TO DATE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/UNDER BUDGET
Income	116,087.05	132,000.00	-15,912.95
Expenses	127,463.30	124,621.97	2,841.33
Net Income	-12,161.45	7,378.03	4,783.42

Just a reminder that our new website, <https://goldhillelca.org>, has a donation button. You can donate to the church by clicking on the link and inputting some basic information. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE BUDGET. Danette Fitzpatrick at 406-565-6310 or email at danenurse@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

934 Placer Street

Butte, MT 59701

(406) 723-4242

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

United to Serve

Worship Schedule:

Sunday's at 9:30 am

Gold Hill Lutheran Church Council



Minutes - December 13, 2022

Attendance: Pastor Marlow Carrels,
Mike Lawson, Chris Ketchum,
Danette Fitzpatrick, Ty Inglis, Nicholas Conlan, Pat
Gruss

Absent: Jon Williamson, Lynn McGlynn

Mike Lawson called the meeting to order

Pastor Carrels provided devotions.

It was motioned, seconded and carried (MSC) to
approve the minutes of the November 8, 2022 meeting
Treasurer's report: Danette presented the November
2022 financial statements. Excluding the estate gift,
our year to date deficit is approximately \$9,000.

Danette reported on the status of our budget billing with
the utility company. The lutefisk dinner generated a
profit of approximately \$1,600 that we will split with
the Daughters of Norway. The cost for a garbage
dumpster is approximately \$80 a month. MSC to
accept the treasurer's report.

Pastor's report: Pastor Carrels provided his written
report with his activities. He received a request for
advertising to thank first responders. It was the general
consensus of the group not to spend money on this
advertising.

President's report: Mike reported on the positive things
happening with the various social ministry activities:
sack lunch ministry, quilters, knitters and many others.
The lutefisk dinner was a success. Mike has been
preaching on Sundays at the UCC. Mike provided an
update on the snow removal issues around the buildings
and grounds. We have added 2 new members to the
properties committee.

Administration Director report: Jon was absent.

Worship ministry report: Chris reported on the details
of the worship committee's work (colors, lectors,
ushers, Christmas decorations, soup and bread suppers
for Advent, committee budget for next year). Chris
presented a written worship and music annual report for
2022.

Leadership Ministry report: Lynn was absent.

Spiritual Growth report: Gold Hill will host Vacation
Bible School in 2023. There will be counselors hired
for VBS.

Outreach Ministry: Nicholas Conlan reported that the
Special Olympics dinner was a success. He is working
on internet for the sanctuary for worship services. We
are waiting on the IRS to send our letter of tax exempt

status that is needed for the Google for Non-Profits.

The group discussed solar energy and the project
underway at Gloria Dei.

Other business: Pastor Carrels lead a discussion about
the general fund budget for 2023. The group reviewed
three possible budget scenarios with different staffing
and benefit levels. The group reviewed each line item
in the budget and provided suggested spending levels.
Pastor Carrels emailed the budget attachment to the
group for further consideration.

It was MSC to schedule the annual meeting on
February 5, 2023

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned.

Gold Hill ELCA Trust Committee- December 8, 2022

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

- The minutes from the last meeting were sent out by
email to all the members. Mike(m) and Ed(s) to
accept the minutes. The motion passed.
- Ed gave the treasurer's report. There have been no
memorial contributions sent to us since April. The
ELCA posts its reports on December 20th. Ed and
Ron will work on the annual trust treasurer's report
after that. They will then also work with Beth Adams
to set up the automatic yearly distribution of the
FLBC fund. Annette(m) and Vern(s) to accept the
treasurers report. The motion passed.
- Annette will work on the trust committee summary
for the annual report.
- At the annual meeting the trust committee will
announce the amount of the Give Back Program and a
task force will be selected to determine where the
money will go.

New Business

- The Gift Policy task force members are Linda Moore
from the congregation, John Williamson from the
council, and Ron Gruss from the Trust Committee.
They met on Sunday 12/4/22 and decided to use the
gift policy of the Methodist Church and to rework it
for our church.
- The next meeting will be Thursday 1/19/2022 at
6:30pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Lawson, secretary

January 2023		Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve			934 Placer Street Butte, MT 59701 406-723-4242	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School 11: 00 am Adult Forum	Office Closed Annual Reports Due 10:00 am GHLEC Book Club	8:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Exercise class 5:30 Executive Committee 6:00 pm Worship & Music				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School 11: 00 am Adult Forum	6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	10:00 am Gather Bible Study 5:30 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm Council Meeting	10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm GH Choir Practice			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School 11: 00 am Adult Forum	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed	8:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Exercise class	10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm GH Choir Practice	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters	12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School 11: 00 am Adult Forum	9:00 am We Deliver Sack Lunch Ministry  6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	8:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Exercise class	10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm GH Choir Practice			
29	30	31				
9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School 11: 00 am Adult Forum		8:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Exercise class				

