

# The Nugget



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
UNITED TO SERVE

April 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)

## What is a thriving congregation?

By Brenda Martin

In the Minneapolis Area Synod, which also received a [Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) grant for just under \$1 million, 13 congregations are focusing on two areas that make a congregation vital or thriving: authentic relationship with the neighborhood and space for lifelong learning.

The participating congregations are digging into concrete practices—prayer, *lectio divina*, house meetings and storytelling—to give them the tools to step outside of the walls of their churches into their neighborhoods. In many ways, the work is amplifying things congregations were already engaging in. “If I had to describe what we’re doing in one word, it would be *listening*,” said Nicholas Tangen, the synod’s director of faith practices and neighboring practices and project facilitator. “It’s getting congregations to be more intentional [about] listening to God in prayer and Scripture, bringing in an extra level of intentionality, learning to listen to our neighbors rather than thinking of them as problems to be solved.” Leaders of the congregations are gathering as a cohort once a month for two years to share what they’re learning. “For some of our congregations, this is new work, especially the neighborhood side of things,” Tangen said. “For others, they’ve been in the neighborhood for a while and bring a lot of wisdom to the cohorts.” During summer 2022, each congregation engaged in three months of neighborhood listening. Each decided how it would hold space to build relationships. One congregation, First Lutheran of Crystal in Brooklyn Park, Minn., held cookouts at the church. When several members brought their classic cars and parked them in the parking lot, it inspired interest from neighbors. At each cookout, more classic cars showed up. “It became this informal car show in the middle of this neighborhood,” Tangen said. “Neighbors were curious, came out, including some high school students. It became a catalyst for that congregation.” Tangen calls this a success story because it invites members of congregations to *be* the neighbor, not just to serve the neighbor. In a culture in which we often measure success in numbers, Tangen said the work the synod is doing makes “success look more like depth of relationship rather than the breadth of our reach.” “We’ve talked about how we approach the neighbor mirrors how we approach God in prayer—transactionally—and we do that with our neighbor as well.” He said the shift is in “resting or living in love of God, not what can God give me and what I can give to God.” Tangen said leaders realize that culture change and building trust takes a long time. “A lot of these projects have a sense that you’re building some, and fertilizing some, soil that will last for a while,” he said. Taking the time to fertilize might seem difficult for many churches “because the narrative of decline is so rampant,” he said. “The first thing people ask is, ‘What are we going to get? How will this help us?’ We’ve been so socialized as church to look at churches in numbers, and it takes a little time to convince folks to actually slow down and realize that their end goal isn’t survivability.” When congregations focus too exclusively on growing numbers or developing flashy programs, he said, “It contributes to decline because it doesn’t bear authenticity.” “We do say this work actually contributes to a sense of aliveness, what it means to feel like a congregation that feels alive,” Tangen said. “Once folks get into experiences of depth, this actually does contribute to the vitality of our congregations, but it seems counterintuitive to slow down, do less, focus on fewer people but focus on them intently”



## 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.

**Dave & Pat Coleman**-prayers of comfort following  
the incident of their home.

**Judy Layman** (by *Arlene Munyon*)-prayers for  
comfort and peace.

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### April Birthdays/Anniversaries:

**DorothyAnne Honeychurch** – celebrating her birthday  
April 1

**Donna Burns** – celebrating her birthday April 2

**Mike Vincent** – celebrating his birthday April 3

**Tim Rowe** – celebrating his birthday April 4

**Mike Lawson** – celebrating his birthday April 7

**Christy Chain** – celebrating her birthday April 15

**Derek Harvey** – celebrating his birthday April 18

**John Jacobson**-celebrating his birthday April 27

**Susan Stamp**- celebrating her birthday April 28



**Jacob Ehrlick**- celebrating his baptismal birthday  
April 9

**Nadine Lohr**- celebrating her baptismal  
birthday

April 21

**DorothyAnne Honeychurch**- celebrating her  
baptismal birthday April 26



**Tim & Nancy Rowe**-celebrating their anniversary  
April 6

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### Memorials & Honorariums

**In Memory of Mary Hoffenbacker from:**

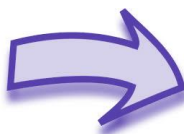
Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick

**In Memory of David Jordan from:**

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### *Check it out!*

You are invited to check out our  
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).

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If you have any announcements or changes you  
would like to have in the Bulletin please submit  
them **no later than Thursday morning**.

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### Food Bank Item of the Month

*For the month of April  
we will be collecting  
canned fish and meat  
for the Food Bank.* You

can leave your  
donation(s) in the  
designated bins, or in  
the church office. Thank you for your generosity!



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### WIN/WIN

Miriam Haley  
Leadership Team Leader

The home and everything in it of Dave, our music  
director, Pat Coleman and their grandson, Noah, was  
totally destroyed by an early morning fire St. Paddy's  
Day. At the suggestion of one of our members, the  
Church Council Executive committee quickly offered  
our Parsonage to the Coleman's as a temporary landing  
pad.

They are so grateful! We offer this in appreciation of  
Dave, who through his music and faithfulness, has  
added consistency and beauty to our last three years as  
has no one else. He is gifted and humble. We are so  
blessed to have him.

If you would like to help, please see the FB Gold Hill  
Lutheran Group for suggestions. It's very good for us  
that our Parsonage is not sitting empty. That's what we  
call a win/win solution!

## Worship and Music



Our April 6 Maundy Thursday-worship will include hand and foot washing with a pot luck Jewish Sedar dinner following. There will be a signup sheet along with the foods and recipes in the fellowship hall Pastor Sarah will be providing the recipes for us. The new storage room has been moved with new shelving and bins for the decorations and banners. The choir also has moved to a larger more convenient space.

Thank you,  
Worship and music committee.

## GHLEC President's Report-March 2023

Greetings,

The last month has been a learning experience, as will a few more months to come for me.

The church has seen a lot of clean-ups and setting up of room to function as rooms again. There has been a lot of hard work put in and I would like to thank everyone involved.

The new lights for the Sanctuary will be installed on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I have talked to the locksmith to have the church rekeyed and we are on their list. They have two churches in front of us?!

I have sent an email to Pastor Brenda from the Synod telling her we have chosen a call committee and we will start the call paperwork. The Call committee will be having phone meetings with her.

Most importantly we are in talks with Pastor Sarah from Gloria Dei to do Pulpit Supply for us and she will start March 19<sup>th</sup> for us, even though we have not crossed all of T's and dotted the I's. This will be a huge help with our Pastoral needs.

Sincerely,

David Stordahl  
President

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### Financial Summary

By Danette Fitzpatrick

February 2023	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	15,469.77	11,460.00	4,009.77
Expenses	11,538.64	11,459.98	78.66
Net Income	4,531.13	600.02	3,931.11

Year to Date 2023	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	27,440.07	22,920.00	4,520.07
Expenses	22,821.14	22,919.96	98.82
Net Income	5,218.93	600.04	4,618.89

**Just a reminder that our website, <https://goldhilleca.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](mailto:danenurse@yahoo.com). Thank you!

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### We Deliver-Sack Lunch Ministry

**Volunteers for March were:** Annette Lawson, Patty Callaghan, Bill Hill, Shelly Anderson, Jeanette Nielsen, Connie & Ed Engle, Brad & Dick Fitzpatrick. Thank you!



**Food supplies & donations for food provided by:** Bill Hill, Jeanette Nielsen, Patty Callaghan, Annette Lawson. Thank you!

**We will meet this month on April 17<sup>th</sup>** in the Hall to put these lunches together. If you have any questions please feel free to call Annette Lawson, at 406-490-7751.

## Easter Week Schedule

- 04/02/2023-Palm Sunday service with Pastor Sarah at 9:00 am
- 04/06/2023-Maundy Thursday, Seder dinner will be at 5:30 pm with service following with Pastor Sarah. Hand and feet washing will take place during service.
- 04/07/2023-Good Friday service will be at Gloria Dei starting at 7:00 pm with Pastor Sarah
- 04/09/2023-Easter Sunday service will be at 9:00 am with Pastor Patricia Callahan.
- To learn more about Seder dinner please visit [https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach\\_cdo/aid/1751/jewish/What-Is-a-Seder-Passover-Meal.htm](https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/1751/jewish/What-Is-a-Seder-Passover-Meal.htm)



### **Volunteer Needed!**

Arlene Munyon currently writes birthday, anniversary, and sympathy cards to members in the congregation. She has difficulty with her hand shaking and is asking if anyone else would be available to do this.

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church  
934 Placer Street  
Butte, Mt 59701

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve  
Worship Schedule: Sunday's at 9:00 am

## Words from the Bishop

A couple of years ago I had cataract surgery and it changed my life. When I was seven, I started wearing glasses and every year they got thicker. Thank God for contact lenses! But both glasses and contacts came with a price – when I took them off, I could hardly see where I was going. While I wasn't living in the dark, life without my contact lenses or glasses was a big blur.

But now I can see! Not perfectly, but much more clearly. Thank God for the surgical gifts of those able to insert new lenses into my eyes. Now on those dark stary nights when I'm camping, I don't have to fumble for glasses to find my way to the restroom at 2 a.m. I can just see the amazing beauty of God's creation shining in the dark. My life changed because now I can see in a new way.

Maybe that's what we as church and society need today, a spiritual, psychological, emotional form of cataract surgery. For it seems like there are a lot of people stumbling around in blurry darkness as we try to live together in the face of polarized realities and too much suffering in our world. This blurriness is made even worse as some people try hard to keep us blind and stupid as we who would follow Christ work to see the world through God's lenses of trust, hope, and unconditional loving kindness for all people.

What happens to us when we find ourselves stuck in the dark without any light? Many years ago, before cell phones, some friends and I took a tour of Lewis & Clark caverns. Part of the tour involved getting deep into the caverns and then shutting all the lights off so we could experience what full darkness felt like.

Even though I was prepared for it, the lack of light was a shock. My heart started beating faster, my breath sped up, my fight/flight/freeze instinct started to kick in. When my friend grabbed my arm in her fear, I jumped ready to defend myself against what I couldn't see. Time slowed down, my logical brain stopped working and the only thing I could think was "stay away from me."

That's what happens when we're stuck in the dark, whether the darkness of our eyes, our minds, or our hearts. We feel lost, scared, unable to think clearly. We become focused only on ourselves and what we're feeling. The humanity of other people disappears into a one-dimensional abstraction and they feel like a threat



to us. Everybody we don't understand becomes a stranger, different than us, out to get us. And in our fear, our instinct is to protect ourselves and those we love from those we believe (often wrongly) are monsters in our darkness rather than the complex human beings created in the image of God that they truly are.

This is happening a lot in our society today. Because our sight is blurred or blinded with the cataracts of confusion, misunderstanding or fright, we see people of different political parties, races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic classes, religions, and so many other identities as a threat. And so we try to silence them, dismiss them, even drive them out from our midst, the same way the religious leaders did in last Sunday's text from the gospel of John. (Jn 11:34)

But the truth is that Jesus came into the world to change our perspectives, to cleanse our eyes from the dark cataracts clouding them, to open our eyes to the worth and dignity of all people and the whole creation. Jesus Christ is the light of the world and he calls us to be children of the light!

Changing our perspective alone is hard. We need the Holy Spirit to transform us, to give us the sight of Jesus Christ, and implant God's lenses in our eyes the way new lenses were put into my eyes during my cataract surgery. That's the Holy Spirit's job – to give us new eyesight so that we can see like Christ.

And when we see through Christ's eyes, we see through God's lenses of love, light, and hope. We see through faith which trusts that God is able to and in fact does walk with us through the shadowed valleys of death and brings new life.

Seeing through Christ's eyes reveals the amazing good news that we each – you and me and yes, even those we fear in our darkness, are beloved children of God. When we see through Jesus's lenses of love, we don't judge people into sin or hell for who we think they are but rather focus our eyes on the logs in our own eyes and welcome the Spirit's work in removing them. When we see through God's lenses of love, we don't conflate any earthly nation with God's kingdom (they are never the same) and instead recognize that God's way, truth, and life in Jesus Christ is radically different than any ideology we humans try to construct or defend.

How do we receive this gift of new perspective? In our baptisms. In our daily and eternal baptism, we receive the amazing grace of "once being lost in the darkness but now found, once being blind but now able to see." In baptism, every day our eyes are washed and implanted with the Spirit's lenses so we can live the way of Christ. In baptism, we are able to see Christ who forgives, heals, brings us into healthy, whole, holy relationship with God and our neighbors – even and especially those we fear, don't understand, or want to drive out from our presence.

In baptism, God's love is poured into and over you so that your entire perspective changes and you are transformed to love the world God loves. All of it! God's love changes how you see. And when you see through Christ's eyes instead of eyes of fear, you can't help but want to live the way of Christ who welcomes all.

So at the end of the day, it's all a matter of perspective, of how and through whose eyes we see. We can make the choice to see differently when we let the Spirit heal our eyes and transform them into Christ's eyes. And when that happens, everything changes – a new world is opened to us and we live as beloved children of God, risen from the dead, bathed in the shining love of Christ, and seeking all that is good and right and true, even in the darkest valleys. So let us walk as children of the light on Christ's way together.

God's blessings to you all!

Bishop Laurie

**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 9:00 am**

## Leadership Ministry Team

By Miriam Haley

What does this Team do? It provides encouragement, coordination, and support for stewardship, property, communications, and vision.

In the last month it has been good to have reappear upon our walls familiar photos, artwork, etc. Special thanks to Shelly Anderson.

Our Parish Admin's office is much improved with a new clock, a colorful quilt, clean windows and floor. Special thanks to Peg Probasco for donating the area rug for that office. When we finished, we were quite embarrassed that Tristyn had been working in such a dirty space. She expressed her delight in everything that was improved.

The Pastor's office now has a bookcase and his office has been cleaned and readied for our next pastor.

The choir room has been moved and is much improved with the additional space and cleaning. Our music director and several choir members have expressed their appreciation for the beautiful, more functional space.

The Fireside room has been rearranged with a more functional use of the space. The organ speakers and Fellowship Hall speakers have yet to be dealt with. Our music director, Dave, expressed a wish to take the Pocket Organ; of course, we were happy for him to take it.

The Freezer closet has had financial records moved to the second floor. In the process of opening old boxes we found a treasure trove of Norwegian Bibles and other interesting antique books. Some of them are on the special bookshelf in the Fireside Room. Shelly has a wonderful plan for one of these walls. Just wait!

The kitchen floor has been moped and waxed. The Fellowship hall has a new large clock.

The entire second floor floors have been moped. The window sills and the mop boards have been vacuumed and washed. All horizontal surfaces in the entire building including the Sanctuary were layered with sheetrock dust and with only a few exceptions have been cleaned. The second floor closet has been emptied, cleaned and set with shelving to be used by the Music and Worship committee for Christmas decorations, worship paraments, banners, etc. they have about

fifteen large boxes to store.

Expenses to date include bookcases for Pastor's office, \$530.00; shelving for the second floor closet, \$515.84; all windows inside and out cleaned, \$1,400.00, (some outside glass is deeply etched by years of water minerals).

Following a two million dollar restoration, one would think our church would not have these expenses. However, these expenditures have addressed a couple major difficulties.

We have good stewards in our midst! Rather than accept the \$1,700.00 bid for a professional cleaning, some folks brought their own home cleaning supplies and washed all the first and second floors. The bathrooms are cleaned weekly by two folks who split the task with each one cleaning for two months at a time. Another member donated a new, heavy duty, easily used vacuum cleaner stored in the first floor closet. Special thanks also to several members who helped carry boxes, added shelving to the Janitor Closet, built shelves, hung shelves in the parament room, hung the pamphlet board in the ramp hall, hung bulletin boards and many other helpful jobs.

Last week, Linda Moore, David Stordahl and I met with Jan Plute who has a property management company.

After a walk-through at the Parsonage she thought it was in a ready-to-rent condition with only a couple repairs needed.

The management company fees are the first month rent which covers advertising, screening applicants and writing the agreement and after that \$100.00 a month. They also do periodic walk-throughs of the property checking for water leaks, etc.

Tenants pay the utilities except for water and garbage.

After doing a market analysis she felt the Parsonage would rent for \$2,000.00 to \$2,300.00. Houses usually rent within two weeks. We could rent for six months initially followed by a month to month lease. This way we could be ready when we call a pastor. Both renters and owners must give 30 day notice. Council is considering this proposal.



**Gold Hill Lutheran Church  
Council**  
**Minutes – March 14, 2023**  
Meeting held at Gloria Dei.

Attendance: David Stordahl, Shelly Anderson, Danette Fitzpatrick, Ty Inglis, Pat Gruss, Jon Williamson, Nicholas Conlan, Miriam Haley

Absent: None

David Stordahl called the meeting to order.

Nicholas Conlan provided devotions.

It was motioned, seconded and carried (MSC) to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting

Treasurer's report: Danette presented the February financial statements. She noted that general fund giving has been good in January and February. The council discussed a few of the expenses that were above budget. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

President's report: David reported that the church building looks good. We are on the schedule to have the locks changed. Keys and lock box codes will be issued on a need to have going forward. Arc Electric has been contacted about hanging the new lights. David reported on the fans and remote access to operate them. The call committee will meet after the Wednesday service on March 15.

Administration Director report: Jon reported on the Vice Pastor contract. He will work with the Gloria Dei council to work out the details.

Worship ministry report: Shelly presented receipts for building repairs and maintenance. She reported on future Lenten and Easter services. Pastor Patty will preside at Easter services. The council discussed the need for cleaning services on a regular basis and possible service providers. The council discussed the importance of service providers being insurance and bonded.

Leadership Ministry report: Miriam read her written report about various cleaning and maintenance activities. A property management company walked through the parsonage and provided guidance on fair market rental values. She presented the fees that a property management company would charge for the parsonage. The issue was tabled.

Spiritual Growth report: Pat reported that Sunday School activities continue. The council discussed getting artwork from the Sunday School attendees to place in the building.

Outreach Ministry: Nicholas presented a folder to each of the council members that included council responsibilities, the Gold Hill constitution, information on parliamentary procedure and a sample monthly report template for council members. The council discussed the issue of Gold Hill having two Facebook pages. Nicholas suggested that we combine into one page to avoid confusion and have an effective page. Nicholas has developed several policies for council consideration. The council discussed the use of Lenten offerings and special offerings as needs arise. The council discussed re-starting the food collections for the Food Bank.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned to be followed by a time of fellowship and discussion with the Gloria Dei Council.

**CHURCH COUNCIL March 2023:**

**Dave Stordahl -**

President

**Jon Williamson -**

Administration Director

**Danette Fitzpatrick -**

Treasurer

**Ty Inglis -**

Secretary

**Pat Gruss -**

Spiritual Growth  
Ministry, Team Leader

**Shelly Andersen -**

Worship Ministry, Team Leader

**Miriam Haley -**

Leadership Ministry, Team Leader

**Nicholas Conlan -**

Outreach Ministry, Team Leader  
goldhilloutreach@gmail.com

## April 2023 Prayer Ventures



**1 Arab American Heritage Month** Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, stories and cultures of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the church's rich history and tradition. Ask God to bless the advocacy, witness, leadership development and ministry support provided by ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

**2 Palm Sunday** Pray for strength to follow Christ and the will of God, especially when fear of criticism or standing out discourages us from proclaiming and demonstrating our faith.

**3** Give thanks for the chance to study, pray, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, joining partners, companions, friends and neighbors around the world in doing God's work.

**4** "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 36:7). Give thanks and praise for God's love and grace, which envelop all people and are never deterred by borders, divisions or regulations of our making.

**5** Remember in prayer people who live in despair and yearn for hope, especially those recovering from natural disasters, incarcerated in prisons and jails, displaced by war and economic crises, or suffering poverty, hunger, unemployment or lack of shelter.

**6 Maundy Thursday** When we gather for communion with our siblings in Christ, we remember when Jesus gathered with disciples, friends and strangers around a meal. Give thanks for the bread and wine that remind us of God's abundant mercy and the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, providing us the nourishment to live our baptismal call, walk in God's ways, serve our neighbor and share the gospel.

**7 Good Friday** Ask the Spirit to renew and strengthen our faith as we recall the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the sake of the world. Pray that our hope will be stirred and our lives energized by God's grace, given despite our complexity, weakness and suffering.

**8 Holy Saturday** Give thanks that darkness and death no longer hold us captive — God's promise of

forgiveness, freedom and new life has been fulfilled for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**9 Easter Sunday** "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised" (Matthew 28:5-6). Praise God! Give thanks that our lives, purpose and hope are forever changed in the risen Christ, God's tangible expression of love and mercy for humankind.

**10** Give thanks for musicians, choirs, cantors, music directors, orchestras and bands that give witness to our faith, draw us into worship and reflection, and help us express our joy and praise to God.

**11** Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission serving alongside our companions in Germany, Austria, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

**12** Give thanks for God's steadfast love and kindness, which are so often obscured by our daily activities, concerns and distractions.

**13** Pray for students in our seminaries who, responding to the Spirit's call, explore opportunities for ministry and service wherever God is at work in the world.

**14** Pray for the Peace Not Walls campaign as we work for justice, peace, human rights, reconciliation and healing in Palestine and Israel. Ask that our efforts might yield results as we accompany the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and all Jews, Christians and Muslims working together for peace with justice.

**15** Give thanks for teachers in our public schools and pray that God will sustain and renew their energy and commitment as they manage the challenges of their vocation. Ask the Spirit to grant them compassion, wisdom and skill to attend to the needs of students and parents, and promise to generously support their service.

**16** The story of Thomas, who was skeptical when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, is not unlike our own when we feel doubt and yearn for proof of God's presence and love. Ask God to forgive our uncertainty, and pray that our faith, like Thomas', will be renewed, so that we, too, might proclaim of Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).



**17** Pray for our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, that the Spirit will sustain her faith and wisdom and continue to equip her for guiding our church through the challenges of doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**18** Ask God to help us serve our neighbors in need, share the gospel, endure all hardships in this world and find comfort in the assurance of "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven" (1 Peter 1:4).

**19** Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission serving alongside our companions in Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Brazil.

**20** Pray for God's counsel in how to be a positive, compassionate and healing influence in society and the world, following the path of life, light and truth.

**21** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Western Iowa and Southwestern Texas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

**22** *Earth Day* Praise God for the diverse and abundant natural resources that sustain life, the interconnection of all that exists, and the wonders of creation that inspire and humble us. Pray that we will wisely steward what God has entrusted to our care and work diligently to restore what we have damaged and depleted — for the well-being of humanity and the honor of our Creator.

**23** Pray that we might take advantage of opportunities to talk with one another about our faith, our questions, our thoughts and the challenges of following Christ.

**24** Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers who, each spring, prepare, plant and tend fields, orchards and herds so that they will produce bountiful harvests and feed the world.

**25** Rejoice in the good news that God has reclaimed us with the blood of Christ — Savior, Messiah and Teacher, the light of the world and the bread of life that sustains our spirit.

**26** Remember in prayer musicians and worship leaders gathering online for the Music that Makes Community webinar "Composing Ourselves: A Laboratory for Creating Congregational Songs." Pray that the Spirit will inspire and nurture their skills for writing new worship songs drawn from diverse cultures and traditions.

**27** Thank God for listening and responding to our prayers, both spoken and silent.

**28** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana and Alaska synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

**29** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwest Intermountain Synod, the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

**30** Pray that our faith might grow and mature as the Spirit guides and encourages us through worship, service, Bible study, involvement in a faith community, and the witness of our global companions.

<b>April 2023</b>		<b>Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve</b>			<b>934 Placer Street Butte, MT 59701 406-723-4242</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour following service Sunday School following service	10:00 am GHELC Book Club	8:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Executive Meeting 5:30 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm Worship and Music	10:00 am LWR Quilters 5:45 Soup & Bread Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service GH Choir Practice after worship	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>  5:30 pm Seder Dinner with service following	<b>Good Friday</b>  7:00 pm Service at Gloria Dei	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Easter Sunday</b>  9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour following service Sunday School following service	6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	8:30 am Bible Study 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			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour following service Sunday School following service	9:00 am We Deliver Sack Lunch Ministry 	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	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour following service Sunday School following service	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			
30						
9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour following service Sunday School following service						

