

# Annual Report of 2022

## Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

Founded in 1892

February 5, 2023

*The Mission Statement of Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church:*

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve**

*The Guiding Principles of our Mission Statement:*

- Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.
- The Holy Spirit and worship strengthen us.
- We are a welcoming and inviting community in Christ.
- We share the Word with confidence and courage.
- Our faith leads us to serve joyfully.
- We are generous with our gifts.

## Agenda

Opening Prayer

Approve Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting

Council President's Report

Pastor's Report

Financial Report

Old Business:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

New Business:

- Gift Policy for Trust Committee and Council
- \_\_\_\_\_

Elections

Proposed 2023 Budget

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

www.GoldHillLutheran.org  
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406-723-4242

# 2022 GOLD HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Marlow Carrels

Parish Administrative Assistant: Tristyn Howard

Director of Music Ministries: David Coleman

## 2022 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President:	Mike Lawson	2 <sup>nd</sup>	term ends 2/2023
Administration Director:	Jon Williamson	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2024
Secretary:	Ty Inglis	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2024
Treasurer:	Danette Fitzpatrick	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2023
Leadership Ministry:	Lynn McGlynn		resigned 1/2023
Outreach Ministry:	Nicholas Conlan	2 <sup>nd</sup>	term ends 2/2024
Spiritual Growth Ministry:	Pat Gruss	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2023
Worship Ministry:	Chris Ketchum	2 <sup>nd</sup>	term ends 2/2023

## 2022 TRUST COMMITTEE

Ron Gruss	2 <sup>nd</sup>	term ends 2/2024
Annette Lawson	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2023
Ed Engle	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2024
Mike Welker	2 <sup>nd</sup>	term ends 2/2025
Vern Nielsen	2 <sup>nd</sup>	term ends 2/2026

## 2022 FLBC REPRESENTATIVES

Julie Corbin, Heatherlynn Meeks

## 2022 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Heatherlynn Meeks	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2022
Ginger DeWitt	2 <sup>nd</sup>	term ends 2/2023
Linda Moore	1 <sup>st</sup>	term ends 2/2024

## 2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Shelly Anderson, Peggy Graving (resigned), Deb Pascua (resigned), Council members acted in resigner's stead.

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“If you but trust in God to guide you; with gentle hand through all your ways, you’ll find that God is there beside you; when crosses come, in trying days. Trust then in God’s unchanging love; build on the rock that will not move.” (“If You but Trust in God to Guide You”, Georg Neumark)

It is with a bittersweet heart that I must write this letter of resignation as pastor of Gold Hill Lutheran Church. I have accepted a call with Freedom in Christ Ministries at Montana State Prison as the pastor there. First and foremost, you must know that this is not your fault. I have heard from some congregants that you feel that you are a “spoiled” or “tainted” place, and you are not. You are a beloved congregation that is a wondrous visual of Christ to the world. And certainly, there have been uncomfortable moments and there have been personality clashes, but that is not why I am being called away. We have been together through two major crises, Covid and the fire, and through those crises we grew as a congregation who could be flexible and work through anything. We made sure that every voice that needed to be heard was heard, and we worked together to find a way forward through those events.

But, as we all did, I became a new person through covid and began to look back at what called me to become a pastor in the first place. I first went to seminary with Chaplaincy in mind. I have served as a chaplain for the Military, Hospices, Sheriff’s Departments, and multiple hospitals throughout my ministry, and I now go to act as pastor and chaplain at MSP. There is joy in following the call from Matthew 25: 35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” You as a congregation fulfill this calling through the many ministries you are a part of. I, as a called and ordained minister of Christ’s church, will fulfill this calling by proclaiming the good news and the gospel to those who find themselves incarcerated or committed in our state facilities.

It has been a true blessing to serve you these last three years, through the easy and the hard times. Nikki, Sammie Jean, Juniper, and I will miss your congregation. However, unlike most call transitions we will not be leaving the community. We have come to love Butte America and we will remain here, even though my ministry takes me from your congregation. It is possible that you will see us around town, so this must be said, even though we are still around town, after February 10<sup>th</sup>, I will no longer be your pastor. My last Sunday will be our Annual Meeting, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The synod will help you through this time of transition and will work with you on what the future of this ministry looks like. It has been an honor to serve God and our neighbors with you and I know that this tremendous congregation will do amazing things.

In Christ,



Rev. Marlow Carrels



**For the Church Record – Year 2022**

**The Snapshot:**

**Baptisms:**

**Affirmation of Baptism:**

**Funerals:**

**Gold Hill:**

**Jane Lawson:** d/d November 24, 2021, interred at Sunset Memorial on July 2, 2022

**Shirley Erickson** d/d February 16, 2022, Memorial on May 28, 2022 (funeral by LPA Mike Lawson)

**Susan Sansouci:** d/d March 3, 2022, Interment at Mountain View on July 6, 2022

**Lola Krueger:** d/d April 6, 2022, Interment at Mountain View on April 25, 2022

**Ken Yates:** d/d July 5, 2022, Interment Mountain View on July 14, 2022

**Tammie Engel** d/d August 6, 2022, Interment at Sunset Memorial on August 15, 2022

**Mary Hoffenbacker** d/d 11/18/22, Interment: Mount Moriah on November 16, 2022.

**Community:**

**Oliver Olson:** Interment at on May 21, 2022 at Boulder Community

**James Miller** d/d March 2, 2022, Memorial on March 12, 2022

**Transferred Out:**

**Curt Quist** February 13, 2022

**New Members:**

**Average Attendance for Worship**

2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
40	38	39	66	77	86	85	86	97	102

**The Year in Review (Last Years Goals)**

1) Reopen Church: Check!!! We moved back into the Sanctuary on August 21<sup>st</sup>! We moved through our fire, Covid, and the rebuild to come back into our worship space towards the end of year! Thanks be to God! I would, again, like to thank you as a congregation for your ability to adapt over this last year.

2) Continue to look at our tech use. Check!!! We have moved into the reality of streaming. We have a projection platform. We are slowly, but steadily moving toward the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

3) We need to review our constitution: Nope... We didn't do that, it was just coming up on the radar for being gone through in 2023 and... well things changed, as you can see below. However, it would behoove the congregation into looking into such a revision as you re-vision the ministry of the congregation in the near future.

4) Create opportunities to learn about stewardship: Check!!! The trust is looking at a Gift policy, the outreach committee is, well, reaching out, folks are looking at our space and how it can be used... Continue that reality!

## **The Big Picture**

Siblings in Christ, you are an amazing congregation. You have come so far in the last few years and we are beginning to look at the future... However, I should not be a part of that visioning. Below is my letter of resignation, but I want you to hear, again, that this place is special and I will miss you.

## **The Five Pillars of Our Mission Together (What does pastor do with his time?)**

### **κήρυγμα kerygma / proclamation**

Pastoral Acts:

- Worship Services  
48 Sundays  
22 Wednesday services / devotions  
14 community services / communion with the homeless  
Nursing Homes: 5
- Homebound/ Hospital / Nursing Home Visitations: 27
- Member Visitations at invitation: 14

### **κοινωνία koinonia / community**

- President of Butte Ministerial Association
- Board Member Freedom in Christ Board
- Board Member for NRIT
- Hospice Volunteer
- Chaplain for Montana State Hospital

### **διδαχή didache / teaching**

- Thursday Breakfast Study: 46 (average attendance: 8)
- Thursday / Sunday Beer and Theology: 24 (average attendance: 1)

### **διακονέω (diakonia / service)**

- Butte Rescue Mission meetings
- Work with homeless
- Hospice volunteer

### **προσκυνέω (proskuneo / worship):**

- worship services, local and online

### **Continuing Education completed:**

- INELDA Death Doula Training (42 hours)
- Chico Pastoral Retreat (16 hours)
- FLBC Israel (32 hours)
- Bishop's Convo (5 hours)
- Sankofa CPE (100 hours)

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Marlow Carrels



## 2022 Council President's Annual Report

By Mike Lawson

It has been four years since I was elected by GHLC Congregation as the Council/Church President and my term on the Council, has come to an end. This was probably the most turbulent time, in any four year period, of our churches history. It started with our Church establishing a Call Committee to search for a new Pastor, to replace our temporary Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten. This resulted in making a call to Pastor Marlow Carrels, after interviewing a couple of other candidates. We did a telephone interview with Marlow, had a personal interview/visit with he and his family. He and Nikki, saw our church, met church members and had dinner with the Church Council. We then sent Pastor Marlow a Letter of Call, after getting the go ahead of our Gold Hill Congregation. The adjustment between Pastor Marlow and some of our Council/Church members, was difficult at times, but through the three plus years, that Pastor Marlow has been here, things are going much better. The next unsettling event was the Covid-19 pandemic, which was devastating for the whole country. Health Rules such as wearing masks, maintaining distance between each person and being allowed to congregate in a building, in limited numbers, really limited what people could do. In Gold Hill's case, we worshiped in our cars in the North Parking-Lot. Pastor Marlow was able to preach from a podium, utilizing a microphone and large outdoor speakers. The services were on a local radio station and also on Facebook. It was hard for our membership to not worship in our Church Building. When the Covid regulations started to loosen up, we were allowed to worship in our Fellowship Hall, as long as we distanced 6ft. apart, which we really couldn't do in the Sanctuary.

We were only inside a short time when we had a devastating fire, which caused close to two million dollars of damage to our church building. The renovation of our building has been exhausting for us. There have been a lot of good changes that were required, to bring many things up to State and County Codes. The Arch and the changes in the Apse (Alter area) and the Sanctuary are beautiful. In some ways we have a new church building.

The loss of membership and members not attending worship, really had a negative impact on Gold Hill. The giving, that is instrumental in helping our church pay the bills, was of great concern. Having families and the children not coming to worship, was heartbreaking. Pastor Carrels volunteered to work three-quarter time and got a part-time job as a Chaplain, at the Warm Springs State Hospital. Our Church Secretary is working 20 hours a week. These steps and others, have been taken to cut our expenses and keep our doors open for worship. The good news, lately, is we are seeing an increase in members returning, as well as a few new members joining. There's about six plus children attending and we're starting to do many of the activities that we did before. People are taking ownership of the different functions at Gold Hill.

We do have some sad news, in that Pastor Marlow Carrels has decided to resign his position of being the Pastor at Gold Hill Lutheran Church. He was offered the position of being the Prison Chaplain with Pastor Rob leaving there. It does come as a surprise, to say the least, but we as a church have come through so much, that we'll come through this also. We will follow the guidance of Bishop Lauri Jungling and the Montana Synod, as to what our next steps will be. I'm not sure if we'll have an Interim Pastor like we did, preceding Pastor Marlow being called. At some point we'll have to appoint a call committee, but until those things happen, I, being GHLC's LPA, can fill in some of the preaching on some Sundays and guest Pastors can also fill



in some Sundays. By the grace and love of God and direction of the Holy Spirit, we'll get a new Pastor and carry-on the work our Lord has for us.

As I leave the Church Council, I feel encouraged and positive about how far we've come and where our future is going. I feel that the Love of Christ is enveloping us in so many ways. Sharing in worship is where our love, for one another begins, develops and is being filled, together, in God's Spirit. I will always be active and worship in any spot, that God would have me in, here at God Hill. I came as a three year old in 1951, to Gold Hill. My Faith in God was introduced, taught, developed, accepted, and mature commitment for Christ made here. It was because of the love of God, shown in and through the brothers/sisters here at Gold Hill Lutheran Church, through that 70 plus year era. May God Bless each of you and may Gold Hill Lutheran Church continue to be a family that loves God, now and into the future. We are Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Let His Love fill us to overflowing, within this Christian family, we are privileged to be part of.

Your Brother In Christ  
Mike Lawson

Mike Lawson  
Gold Hill Church Council President  
Gold Hill Church LPA

## Annual Report from the Administration Director

By Jon Williamson

Greetings Fellow Members in Christ,

For many of us this past year has been both difficult and inspiring. We began the year still in the grip of the Covid epidemic and a church building still recovering from a devastating fire. Yet, there was light at the end of the tunnel. The grip of Covid was loosening and reconstruction of our church home was nearing completion. After two years we were finally able to gather in our sanctuary for worship. It was inspiring for me to see our Gold Hill congregation's efforts finally come together to celebrate the reopening of our entire church home. Praise the Lord!

On the administrative front, we were able to accomplish several actions that were necessary to enable us to continue operations. The first was that Curt Quist remained in charge of administration of all reconstruction and renovation activities for Gold Hill. Without his dedicated efforts we would not have been nearly as successful as we would have had I been solely responsible.

One major accomplishment was to find a new insurance carrier to replace our previous policy holder which dropped us due to our large claims. We were denied service by multiple companies but found one to offer full coverage. While our premium was nearly 2 ½ times more expensive than our previous policy, we hope to see a reduction in the premium cost if we can get through one year without any new claims.

The next success story was that we were able to renegotiate and execute a new preschool rental contract for the Creative Factory Preschool. Melissa Almendinger is the new preschool owner and is very pleased to be back in our building.

Another accomplishment was to hire our new administrative assistant Tristyn Howard after Mary Johnston's retirement. Tristyn started work on August 1<sup>st</sup> and is doing a great job for us.

As we enter a new year, I am excited that our Christian journey together is returning to a more "normal" routine where we can worship together in the sanctuary and joyfully serve each other together. While we have many challenges ahead of us, I am optimistic in the future of Gold Hill and the opportunity to gratefully serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you,  
Jon Williamson

**Spiritual Growth Ministry Team**

Not submitted

**Leadership Ministry Team**

**Property & Stewardship**

Not submitted



# Outreach Ministry Report

By Nicholas Conlan

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Gold Hill Lutheran Church is open! We finally are able to enjoy all corners of the building. The alter was pushed further back, a ramp was built for access to the alter, and all rooms in the building are available to use, as Day Spring has satisfied the repairs from the fire. On Veteran's day, over 100 special Olympic athletes enjoyed a turkey dinner with the care and comfort of numerous volunteers from Gold Hill. It truly was a sight to see all of the smiles everyone was carrying. We will be able to accommodate them, again, in the future with bliss. This was an additional and separate occasion from feeding neighbors, as the Sack Lunch program that continues to help feed the neighbors around us, recommenced. The Daughter's of Norway, in cooperation with volunteers from Gold Hill, had a pleasant few days making Lefse. It truly is an art to create such a traditional dish. Our quilters were given a room upstairs, in which Day Spring combined a couple rooms together, so they can spread out their tables easier. They too, have recommenced; meeting every week. You may have noticed that the sanctuary also has been upgraded, in the sense of technology. I am optimistic that the upgrades will provide some positive enjoyment during Worship and potentially other events that could take place.

As we start a new year, I continue to seek innovative ways to supplement our membership and ministries, at Gold Hill. I enquire to the members of this congregation—What are the felt needs of the community? Consider the Christ values that we should demonstrate by our behavior.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*  
(Luke 10:27)

Jesus stresses to rally the church to make a difference in society.

*“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”* (James 2:15-17)

Like the new technology coming into Gold Hill, ministries change with the coming age. It is up to us, disciples of God, to find the needs of the community and help provide those needs. There are empty rooms in our building that could potentially be rented for non-profits that have guidelines that are aligned with ours, the lot in the back remains vacant, that could be rejuvenated with life from a community garden, with grants that would help offset expenses we could provide shelter to the homeless in our fellowship hall and put a good use out of our new shower (yes, this is possible), we could provide classes to help with basic needs (cooking, tax preparation, young adult wise financial practices (wish I had that when I was younger!)), daycare, safe space for adolescents or even the LGBT+ community, the

possibilities are endless! If you have an idea I can try and help make it happen, together in Outreach at Gold Hill.

Think about our Mission Statement,

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve*

And The Guiding Principles of our Mission Statement,

*Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.*

*The Holy Spirit and worship strengthen us.*

*We are a welcoming and inviting community in Christ.*

*We share the Word with confidence and courage.*

*Our faith leads us to serve joyfully.*

*We are generous with our gifts*

In closing, ask yourselves—are these the current ideologies of Gold Hill? How can we better spread the Word? How can we support the felt needs of Uptown Butte? How can we do what Jesus wants us to do?

*“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35*

Nicholas Conlan

### Sample of Felt Needs

Need for:

- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Small appliances
- Furniture
- Financial counseling
- General counseling
- Keyboard/Computer training
- Eye care
- Ear care
- General health care (exercise, nutrition, pharmaceutical)
- Dental care
- Chiropractic care
- Massage care
- Physical therapy
- Sr. citizen day care
- Legal assistance/counseling
- Car maintenance
- Home repair
- After School program/mentoring
- Pre-school day care
- Music training
- Pet care (veterinarian/daycare)
- Drug/alcohol recovery
- Handicapped care
- Divorce recovery
- Blended family relationships
- Grief recovery (loss of a loved one)
- Literacy
- Adoption
- Orphanage
- Juvenile Detention
- Jail/Prison
- Need to develop: Job skills employment/resume’
- Need of: Unwed mothers (physical needs, parenting,
- Foster care
- After School program/mentoring
- Pre-school day care
- Music training



## **Outreach: Gold Hill Annual Lutefisk Dinner 2022**

By Danette Fitzpatrick

Our last Lutefisk dinner was in 2019, I went into it with concerns, but Mike had the faith I should have. People from all over love and enjoy our Lutefisk dinner. We have people from Bozeman, Helena, Deer Lodge, Anaconda, some gave us a tip to insure it would be back again next year. One thing I love about the Lutefisk dinner is the fellowship and cheerfulness of those attending. It is truly a gift of hard work and love that Gold Hill has given since 1991. This year I knew there were not enough willing and/or able-bodied congregants to do the dinner. So, I told Mike we should see if the Daughters of Norway would be interested in helping. Mike met with the D of N Solheim Lodge #20, and they agreed. We already made out lefse together D of N for selling at their bazaar and Gold Hill for the Lutefisk dinner. So, this was just an extension of an already established bond. Also, many of us are members of both organizations. This turned out to be a great combination. We made meatballs together at the church (because of county health codes they must be made in an inspected kitchen.) The women and men of Gold Hill with the help of D of N members worked on everything together, from advertising, distributing posters, selling tickets, cookie baking, set up, clean up, everything. It was great. This year was a learning experience because neither group had done it this way before. We had to increase our ticket price to \$20. (19.99) due to the high cost of everything. Butter and dairy products which we use a lot of were very expensive especially compared to 2019. I was a little nervous about people's reactions to the price increase. No one, not one person complained, and as I said before, some people paid us extra just so we would have it again next year. We cleared about 1676.00 and split that amount with the Daughters of Norway. Thank you everyone for your hard work and continued support of this important community service.

I appreciate all of you and all your hard work.

Danette Fitzpatrick



# **Stephen Ministry**

By Kay Vang

While Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one caring ministry and Covid restrictions complicated the getting together process Stephen Ministers were creative in finding ways to provide care to those who needed it during the past several years. We continue to provide that care and the supervision and continuing education required for the program here at Gold Hill. We plan to offer Stephen Ministry training in the near future working with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church here in Butte.

We thank all of you for your support at our fall Harvest Auction and Potluck Brunch which we were able to resume this fall when our church facility remodel and clean up after the fire was completed. Any funds raised at this event are used for training and continuing education materials. Pastor Carrells completed the Bridge Leaders Training in 2020, and continuing education is provided at twice monthly supervision and training gatherings for current Stephen Ministers.

If you know of anyone going through a stressful time and might benefit from Christian caring and confidential support please contact any of the Gold Hill Stephen Leaders: Jeanette Quist, Revonda Stordahl, Mary Johnston, Kay Vang, Linda and Jon Williamson.

# Worship Ministry Team 2022

By Chris Ketchum, Team Leader

**Members:** Pastor Marlow Carrels, Dave Coleman musician, Susan Repola alternate musician, Dorothy Tallon, Heather Lynn Meeks and Chris Ketchum.

The Worship Committee has been meeting on the first Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 PM. The purpose of this committee is to provide the music for worship service and to enhance the worship space to reflect the seasons of the Church and to welcome members and visitors. We propose a budget yearly to cover the expenses of operating the aspects of worship in the Church. Our budget for 2022 was \$6,973.74 and our 2023 budget is \$7,688.00. Some of these costs include tuning of the instruments, current licensing for music we use in the service and Choir. During the church seasons we purchase supplies such as Advent candles, Palms for Lent, music pieces, banner materials and sometimes paraments for the Altar and podium. We reimburse the musicians for their professional services and the fill in Pastors which are needed for Pastor Carrels to go on vacation or personal leave. We report to The Gold Hill Counsel and answer to you, the Congregation. We are here to serve!

It is necessary to have participation from the Congregation to assist with lecturing, ushering, Communion and to keep the supplies used for these important services available at all times. Our committee organizes the lists by time and talent sheets that are distributed yearly to the congregation. We work with Gloria Dei to organize all our joint services and picnics.

During the past year we have moved back into our Sanctuary and we are working to familiarize ourselves with old and new practices during worship service. Our Sanctuary is beautiful. Our goals in the Worship committee are to increase the participation in Choir. To replenish our collections of banners. To make our Usher and Lector lists longer with willing members! To make everyone feel at home here at Gold Hill -members and visitors.

The past four years have been unusual here at Gold Hill Lutheran. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve this congregation. Thank you for your understanding and support. I look forward to continue work on this committee and to sit back as a member and watch all of us restore our Church to what it used to be prior to Covid and the fire!

Thank you, Pastor Carrels and our Counsel members for leading us out of our dark times to today. We hear laughter and a renewed spirit here at Gold Hill Lutheran. We look hopefully to the future!

As this year comes to a close, I feel so grateful for all that has taken place as serious as it has been for us. I am blessed by this Church and all the members. God has been good and generous to us all!

Happy New Year 2023 to you and your families!

Christine Ketchum



## The Trust Committee

Ron Gruss, Chairperson; Ed Engle, treasurer; Annette Lawson, secretary; members, Mike Welker and Vern Nielsen

**“ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering Gods grace in its various forms; if anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” 1 Peter 4:10-11**

Thank you Gold Hill members for your generous memorial fund gifts. We encourage you to consider both gifts and ministry ideas so that we may expand the benefits of the Trust Fund to Gold Hill and to the community.

- All the CDs and Thrivent Funds have now been transferred to the ELCA Endowment Fund.
- The Trust Committee has received \$380 in undesignated funds for 2022.
- Last year the Trust Committee’s “ Give Back Program” gave out \$437 which was disbursed as follows: Safe Space \$100, GHLECA general fund \$237, and Rescue Mission \$100. This year the “Give Back Program” amount is \$493.61. A task force will again need to decide how the money will be disbursed.
- The Gravings decided that their perpetual donation should be used for supporting Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp and that it should be renamed the FLBC Fund. On August 26, 2022, \$486.66 was given to FLBC from that fund (4% of the funds balance at the end of 2021). This year the amount will be \$437.37 In the future this donation will be automatic.
- The Trust Committee’s loan to the congregation for a new roof was paid off by the end of the year.
- Two \$750 scholarships were awarded; one to Curtis Stamp and one to Quinn Corbin.
- Holly Schroeder was given \$485 for a 2022 FLBC campership.
- No bibles were given out in 2022. Ginger DeWitt was ok with using the DeWitt Bible fund for Christian education if no bibles are given out. So the committee donated \$200 for Sunday school supplies.
- The Gift Policy task force (Linda Moore, John Williamson, and Ron Gruss) recommended a gift policy. It will be presented at the annual meeting and the congregation will vote on it.
- The Trust Committee held six meetings last year and as you can see, has been quite busy. Last year the motion to dissolve the Trust Committee was tabled until the 2023 annual meeting. The motion needs to be brought to a vote again.

A summary of the trust holdings and contributions for the past year of 2022 is set forth below.



## 2022 Trust Fund Balance Allocation

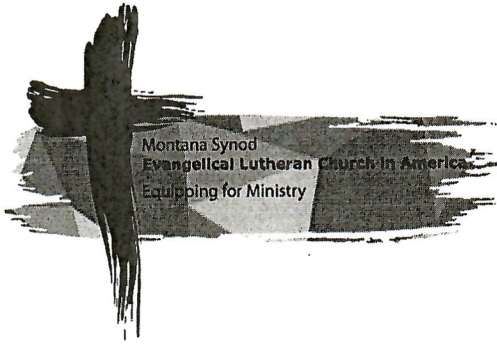
Fund Name	2021 Ending	Contributions	Disbursements	Pre-Interest Adj Bal	Interest Allocation %	Total 2022 Allocation <sup>2</sup>	Ending 2022
DeWitt Bible Fund	\$ 9,398.34			\$ 9,398.34	9.6%	\$ (599.97)	\$ 8,798.37
Flathead Bible Camp Fund	\$ 12,166.57		\$ (486.66)	\$ 11,679.91	11.9%	\$ (745.62)	\$ 10,934.28
Schotte Scholarship Fund	\$ 78,722.95		\$ (1,500.00)	\$ 77,222.95	78.6%	\$ (4,929.76)	\$ 72,293.20
			<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 98,301.20</b>		<b>Sub Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 92,025.85</b>
Memorial	\$ 21,422.09	\$ 4,379.48	\$ (1,134.96)	\$ 24,666.61		\$ 14.05	\$ 24,680.66
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 122,967.81</b>		<b>Total Holdings</b>	<b>\$ 116,706.51</b>

### Gain/Loss on Investment Accounts

Account Name	Interest Amt	Perpetual %	Memorial %
Mission Investment Checking	\$ 47.70	100%	0%
ELCA Endowment Fund Poole	\$ (6,323.05)	100%	0%
Mission Investment checking	\$ 113.42	0%	100%

Total Gain/Loss                    \$ (6,161.93)    \$ (6,275.35)    \$ 14.05

\*\*\* Total contributions include all of Dec. 2021 through Nov. 2022



January 5, 2022

Dear Followers of Christ in the MT/NWY Synod,

God's blessings of life, love and hope be with you and your ministries as we move into 2022 together.

A few weeks ago, I listened to a psychologist share her insights about the trauma we have been experiencing the past two years due to Covid-19 and other societal stressors. "Whiplash" was the word that stuck with me as she described the continuous effects of responding to the events gripping our lives. As she spoke, I envisioned the past 22 months as riding a never-ending rollercoaster, being whipped back and forth as the journey twisted and turned, went sideways and upside down. Just when we thought things were slowing down and getting better, just when we were starting to catch our breath, then another covid variant showed up or another crisis happened and we were whiplashed back into fear mode, our bodies and brains, emotions and spirits seeking safety from what we perceived as yet another threat. There never seemed to be any opportunity to stop and recover before the next event came along.

The psychologist described how the physical, mental, and emotional effects of this continuous whiplash accumulate in us as individuals and as communities and we start to feel like we're constantly in fight, flight, or freeze mode, always on edge, ready to react, unable to look forward to the future. But at the same time, as our bodies get overloaded, we start to feel sluggish and apathetic, without energy to do anything. And we forget basic things like why we walked into a room or why I almost fed myself my cat's food by mistake. (Yes, that really happened!) Many of us just don't feel like ourselves right now.

I think the most important thing I took away from this presentation was that this reaction to the long-term whiplash trauma so many of us are experiencing is normal. If you've been feeling this way, you are experiencing what most of us are experiencing and it is natural to be experiencing it. It's not good or healthy for us or for our communities as we try to live together, but it is a normal reaction to what our society is going through right now as our brains and bodies try to protect us.

So, knowing that most people are struggling to hang in there, how do we as followers of Christ approach the new year, especially as we are making decisions for the future of our congregations and the wider church? I offer three suggestions:

1. Space and patience. We need to give ourselves and others, including our ministry leaders, the space to rest and recover. And we need to be patient with ourselves and one another as we find our ways through this. Expecting an immediate recovery from this prolonged whiplash trauma is not realistic – our bodies and minds just don't heal that fast. So whether alone or in worship, whether in council meetings or bible studies, whether in seeking discernment or holding things together, take the space and time to breathe, pray, lament, rejoice, and be in relationship with and care for one another, being kind to each other in all that you do and say.
2. Forgiveness. This prolonged whiplash trauma has put a lot of us on edge, too ready to take out our anxiety or anger on others without realizing it. Managing our emotional



reactions is important during this time. But because people are more on edge, that self-management is harder to do. So let us seek to practice forgiveness, both of ourselves and others, in the way Christ calls us to while at the same time treating one another as we want to be treated. As Jesus responded to Peter's question of how often he should forgive someone who sins against him, 'Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy times seven times.' (Mt 18:22)

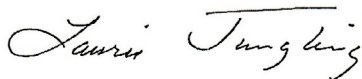
3. Faith. Faith is first and foremost trust in the God of Jesus Christ who loves us and not only wants our well-being but is actively seeking to bring that well-being to us in so many ways. Trusting in God does not mean we don't feel fear or anxiety about the uncertainty in our lives. It does not mean denying the real struggles we are going through. We're human; of course, we'll feel these things. Faith is trusting that God is indeed with us on this rollercoaster ride AND is guiding us through the twists and turns toward the new life Jesus promises, not just in the next life but even now. So, as you think about the next year, seek the faith to take a step forward into who God is calling you to be or what God is calling you to do. Maybe it will be a big step, maybe a small step. But I encourage you and your ministry to take a step forward into a new possibility that God may be leading you to explore.

In this spirit of faith and hope for gathering folks together, the synod will be stepping forward into an *in-person* Synod Assembly once again this spring. The theme is "Equipping for the Gospel" and we will be meeting at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings on June 3 & 4, 2022. We will be experimenting with a slightly different schedule that will allow some of you to return home Saturday evening; but given the size of the synod, some of you will still need to spend an extra night in Billings (at a hotel where there's a waterslide!) or on the road somewhere.

Finally, a note on the financial situation of the synod as we approach the new fiscal year. Like many of your ministries, the synod is hanging in there, finding ways to make it work as some months of mission support are better than others. Thank you for the ongoing generosity many of you have shown in your gifts to support the mission of the MT/NWY Synod as we work together to equip the followers of Christ in the ministry of the gospel! As you are exploring your own financial realities for the coming year, I invite you to consider increasing your support as you are able in the service of the Christ's ministry across the synod.

May God bless you with hope and resilience for 2022!

In Christ's Love,



Rev. Laurie Jungling  
Bishop, Montana/N. Wyoming Synod





# Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

## Annual Report 2022

*"This camp has meant so much to these kids and to us. You have helped us in every way grow in Christ. These years of camp will always be part of their lives. The impact that Flathead Lutheran Camp has on children's lives is priceless. – Camper Grandparent's*

### 2022 BY THE NUMBERS:

Sept. 2021 – May 2022 Campers: 1209 guests (retreats/events/EE students); 121 participants in 3 communities through Fall/Winter/Spring Outreach

2022 Summer Campers: 1,126 (all ages, all programs); 18 Day Camps in congregations; 79 summer volunteers; 51 incredible summer staff

### YEAR IN REVIEW:

- January 2022:
  - Thanks to the generosity of many, FLBC reached its goal for the Holy Ground Campaign! This allowed us to pay off the remaining loan for the new land on Hughes Bay, and begin attending to some facility related projects at camp.
- Spring 2022:
  - Year-round staff hit the road to recruit staff, visit congregations, and do our Outreach program!
- June 2022:
  - After being postponed twice since 2020, our Holy Land Pilgrimage was finally able to happen!
- June - August 2022:
  - With an amazing staff from 13 states and 2 other countries (Spain & Haiti), hundreds of campers of all ages experienced God's love at FLBC through our summer theme "Boundless: God beyond measure."
  - After 7 weeks of summer camp programming, 2 additional weeks took place in partnership with organizations such as Intermountain Residential and the Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance.
- Fall 2022:
  - FLBC's year-round ministry continued with exciting experiences such as
  - FLBC received news that the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust has committed a \$237,000 grant to the Shalom Home: Staff Housing/Retreat Cabin project!
  - A new strategic plan was adopted during the October Board of Directors meeting, and presented to the FLBC association at the Annual Meeting



*Thank you for your generosity and care for camp!*

PLEASE help us recruit summer staff ages 18-90! Go to <https://flbc.net/work-at-flbc/> for applications!

## 2022 Memorials & Honorariums

Peggy Probasco  
Hazel Edwards  
LWR Quilters

Vern & Jeanette Nielsen  
IHO Bonnie Grimes

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick  
Shirley Erickson  
General Fund

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick  
Richard Duffield  
General Fund

Linda Piercy  
Tom Piercy

Leo & Dottie Heath  
Shirley Erickson

Fred & Linda Thomas  
Shirley Erickson

Vern & Jeanette Nielsen  
Susan Sansouci

Virginia DeWitt  
Susan Sansouci

Dennis & Linda Moore  
Susan Sansouci  
Roof Fund

Dennis & Linda Moore  
Shirley Erickson  
Roof Fund

Shelly Anderson  
Shirley Erickson  
Roof Fund

Jody Bickford  
Shirley Erickson  
Roof Fund

Chris Ketchum  
Shirley Erickson

Dorothy Tallon  
Shirley Erickson

Phyllis Steinbach  
Shirley Erickson

Phyllis Steinbach  
Susan Sansouci

Phyllis Steinbach  
Jean Brothers

Dorothy Anne Honeychurch  
Sanctuary Lights

Dorothy Tallon  
Susan Snsouci

Dorothy Tallon  
Tammy Engle

Linda & Dennis Moore  
Tammy Engle

Mary Johnston  
Tammy Engle

Bonnie Grimes  
Tammy Engle

Miriam Haley  
Front step carpet of  
sanctuary

Harold & Elinor Johns  
Ken Yates  
Building fund

Harold & Elinor Johns  
Charmain Griffin  
Building fund

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick  
John Stordahl

Mary Johnston  
John Stordahl

Peggy Probasco  
Colleen Tamblyn  
Food Bank  
Elinor Johns  
Doglas Johns

## Treasurer's Report 2022

As 2022 came to an end we went out with a deficit of \$4,561.59 we had a memorial in the amount of \$22,000.00 which left us with a net income of \$17,438.31. This was a designated memorial. It was a hard year with being out of our sanctuary until September due to the fire in May of 2021. Our worship attendance in person was down but has been increasing since being back in our beautiful new sanctuary. It is great to see people we were unable to see or worship with for 2 plus years. Some very good news, we borrowed from the Trust committee in late 2020 to help pay for a new roof for the church. This was at a rate of 0.08% per year, for 3 years. First payment was January 15, 2021, final December 2023. We made our last payment December 2022. During construction our power bills were sky high and Northwestern Energy did not bill us for the correct amount for about 6 mos. When we were first notified, we were 5,000 some dollars in arrears. We had to pay 1588.00 per month until we caught up that deficit. That was accomplished in October. We had a credit so I took us off budget billing, because our budget would not be accurate (it would be determined by looking back at our charges for 1 year). So, until fall we will pay our actual charges then look at going back on budget billing. This was only the church bill, not the parsonage, it remains on budget billing. I would like to thank Pastor, the church council, especially Ty for the help and patience I received this last year doing the Treasurer job and with preparing the 2023 budget. We are keeping the budget as we had it set with a Pastor salary so we will have that money already set aside if we get a new pastor sooner rather than later. In the Fall Dick Fitzpatrick put out a call to the congregation for counters. The response was wonderful, we have enough counters that we only count 1 in 5 weeks. If anyone has any questions or concerns, I will gladly answer your questions or concerns. Thank you for your continuing support of our God driven missions here at Gold Hill Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,  
Danette Fitzpatrick



**Gold Hill Lutheran Church**  
**2022 Actual vs Budget and Proposed 2023 Budget**

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 over/ under Budget	2023 Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>A Income</b>				
400-1 Envelope General Offering	\$ 110,489	\$ 138,000	\$ (27,512)	\$ 110,000
400-2 Loose Offering	21692	3000	18692	22520
400-6 Building Use	2460	2000	\$ 460	4000
other receipts	895	1000	-105	<u>1000</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 135,536</b>	<b>\$ 144,000</b>	<b>\$ (8,464)</b>	<b>\$ 137,520</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>B Staff</b>				
500-1 Gross Hourly	\$ 17,130	\$ 21,497	\$ (4,367)	\$ 22,000
510-1 Work Comp	359	700	\$ 341	700
510-2 Social Security ER	1180	1800	619	1300
510-3 Medicare ER	274	500	\$ 226	300
510-5 MT Unemployment	185	100	\$ 85	200
510-6 Fed Unemployment	5	0	5	10
<b>Total B Staff</b>	<b>\$ 19,133</b>	<b>\$ 24,597</b>	<b>\$ (5,464)</b>	<b>\$ 24,510</b>
<b>C Clergy</b>				
500-2 Gross Salary	\$ 32,501	\$ 30,754	\$ 1,747	\$ 32,780
500-4 Social Security Offset	4861	3900	961	5000
520-1 Pension Contribution	2519	5700	\$ (3,181)	3300

520-3 Housing Allowance	1583	1700	\$	(117)	1700
520-4 Continuing Education	1750	1400	\$	350	700
520-5 Health Insurance	17745	21600	\$	(3,855)	15000
520-7 Professional Expenses	996	600	\$	396	600
<b>Total C Clergy</b>	<b>\$ 61,955</b>	<b>\$ 65,654</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(3,699)</b>	<b>\$ 59,080</b>

**D Leadership**

570-2 Special Programs - Adults	\$ -	\$ 50	\$	(50)	\$ 100
580-3 Synod Assembly Lodging/Expenses	675	550	\$	125	200
580-4 Stewardship Program Materials	0	100	\$	(100)	0
580-5 Offering Envelopes	0	0	\$	-	0
<b>Total D Leadership</b>	<b>\$ 94</b>	<b>\$ 700</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(606)</b>	<b>\$ 300</b>

**E Spiritual Formation**

560-1 Sunday School	\$ 82.00	\$ 100	\$	(18)	\$ 100
560-3 Vacation Bible School	0	0		0	100
560-4 Children/Youth Programs	0	100	\$	(100)	0
560-5 Confirmation Study Materials	0	50	\$	(50)	0
560-6 Adult Faith Formation	0	100		-100	100
565-1 Fellowship Events	0	150	\$	(150)	400
565-2 Camperships	0	0	\$	-	0
<b>Total E Spiritual Formation</b>	<b>\$ 82</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(418)</b>	<b>\$ 700</b>

**F Outreach and Service Ministry**

585-1 Programs and Events	\$ 1,958	\$ 200	\$	1,758	\$ 200
585-2 Global Missions	0	0		0	0
585-3 Evangelism	0	100	\$	(100)	100
585-4 Funeral Luncheon Ministry	14	200	\$	(186)	200
585-5 We Deliver Lunch Ministry	30	100	\$	(70)	100
<b>Total F Outreach and Service Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 2,002</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>

**G Worship Ministry**

550-1 Director of Music	\$	4,500	\$	4,500	\$	-	\$	4,680
550-2 Music Royalties and Purchases		1038		1400		-362		1000
550-3 Relief Pastor Stipends		600		500	\$	100		600
550-4 Worship Supplies		661		1100	\$	(439)		650
550-5 Relief Musician Stipends		250		200	\$	50		500
550-6 Piano Tuning		300		0	\$	300		400
<b>Total G Worship Ministry</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,349</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(351)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,830</b>

**H Mission Support**

540-1 Montana Synod/ELCA Support	\$	8,570	\$	7,050	\$	1,520	\$	5,200
540-2 Flathead Lutheran Camp		0		0		0		0
540-3 Emergency Assistance/Samaritan Fund		200		150		50		800
<b>Total H Mission Support</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,770</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,000</b>

**I Office**

530-1 Office Supplies	\$	961	\$	1,000	\$	(39)	\$	1,000
530-2 Phone/Internet		1865		2000	\$	(135)		2000
530-3 Postage		174		350	\$	(176)		300
530-4 Equip Repair/Software		0		200	\$	(200)		200
530-5 Miscellaneous		284		300	\$	(16)		300
530-6 Equipment Purchase		200		200	\$	-		200
530-8 Advertising		1272		400		872		600
530-9 Professional Services		2462		2400		62		2400
<b>Total I Office</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,218</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,850</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,000</b>

**K Property**

590-1 Property Assessments	\$	1,884	\$	2,200	\$	(316)	\$	2,200
590-2 Janitor Supplies		0		250	\$	(250)		300
590-3 Kitchen Supplies		0		200	\$	(200)		200



<b>590-4 Church Maintenance</b>	1887	1000	887	1000
<b>590-5 Church Utilities</b>	15403	11000	4403	15000
<b>590-6 Parsonage Maintenance</b>	0	400 \$	(400)	400
<b>590-7 Parsonage Utilities</b>	2320	2400	-80	2400
<b>590-8 Property Insurance</b>	11018	5000 \$	6,018	10000
<b>590-9 Property Improvements/Major Repairs</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Total K Property</b>	<u>\$ 32,512</u>	<u>\$ 22,450</u>	<u>\$ 10,062</u>	<u>\$ 31,500</u>
<b>Total L Non-recurring Expenses</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 139,115</u>	<u>\$ 136,251</u>	<u>\$ 2,864</u>	<u>\$ 137,520</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>\$ (3,579)</u>	<u>\$ 7,749</u>	<u>\$ (11,328)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

# SAMPLE ONLY

**BALLOT** for February 5, 2023  
GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING  
Submitted by the Council

**President** Term ends 2/2024

- Dave Stordahl (1st term)
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** Term ends 2/2024

- Danette Fitzpatrick (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Leadership Ministry** Term ends 2/2024

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1st term)
- (council can also appoint due to resignation)

**Spiritual Growth Ministry** Term ends 2/2025

- Pat Gruss (2nd term)
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Worship Ministry**

Term ends 2/2025

- Heatherlynn Meeks (1st term)
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Audit Committee**

Term ends 2/2026

- Ginger DeWitt (3rd term)
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representatives**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominating Committee** 1 year term (needs six)

- Chris Ketchum
- Mike Lawson
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**2023 Montana Synod Assembly Delegates**

(Elected as required by the MT Synod Constitution, should be two unrelated people preferably one male and one female)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Trust Committee**

Term ends 2/2028

- Annette Lawson (2nd term)
- \_\_\_\_\_