

The Nugget



**EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
UNITED TO SERVE**

December 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)

Greetings from Pastor Sarah!

With the beginning of December, comes the beginning of our Advent Season, and a new liturgical year. It's a good time for us to reflect on our lives, our faith, our futures.

The Advent lessons tend to focus on the promises found in the book of Isaiah, the promises that we believe to have been fulfilled in Jesus' coming. And so, we find ourselves immersed in these ancient promises, these stories that many of us have heard, time and time again, and perhaps it is difficult for us to find something new to introduce into our lives.

Where do we find that new hope, new peace, new beginning?

Yes, we are in this Advent season, awaiting the birth of a child who has already come, lived, and been killed. But, the connotation of what that means for us today, are still unfolding. We believe in the living Word of God. We believe that, even though Christ has been born, has lived, and has died, we believe that he is still living, still working in this world today. And a part of that is the way that we live our lives because of the what he has done. We find new hope, in the oppression that we see in our world today, the violence, the hatred, the senseless destruction, when all hope seems lost, the only light that we can see is the light of Christ. "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19). When relying upon human justice, human wisdom, human intentions, destruction is never far from our midst. But though we do not believe that chaos and evil are ever caused by God or the will of God, we do believe that God works through all things, that through Christ, all things are redeemed and made new. We have hope, knowing that God isn't done working in this world. We are not on our own, and through the strength and power that we are given through the Holy Spirit, we will make a difference in the depths of despair. We believe that peace will come about, through the words of Jesus. When he entered the room in which the disciples were hiding after his death, he said, peace be with you. But the Greek words lead us to understand that Jesus isn't simply giving us his peace, but becoming that peace for us. Jesus is our peace. We aren't waiting for something else, but what we have already been given. And knowing that Jesus continues to be in our midst, that peace is already among us, perhaps only needing to be sought out.

Each day is a new beginning, a new chance for us to live into this faith that we share. A chance for us to live according to these ancient promises, into our new beginnings, to carry with us the hope, the peace, the life, that we are gifted through Jesus.

This world will never be the perfect place it was created to be, not while imperfect humans are left to run it. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can work through oppression, change broken systems from within, and share the love of Christ in our world today.

I wish you all a blessed Advent season.
Peace,
Pastor Sarah



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.

DorothyAnne Honeychurch-prayers for health and recovery.

Colleen Tamblyn-prayers for health and healing.

Dick Fitzpatrick-prayers for health and healing.

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December birthdays/Anniversaries:

Heatherlynn Meeks – celebrating her birthday December 5

Mark Bond – celebrating his birthday December 9



Patty Callaghan – celebrating her birthday December 10

Sandi Wenger – celebrating her birthday December 12

Rande Farrow – celebrating his birthday December 16

Linda Johnson – celebrating her birthday December 23

Ruthe Meeks-celebrating her birthday December 23

Bill Hill- celebrating his birthday December 28

Ben Biastoch- celebrating his baptismal birthday December 10

Ehren Gruss- celebrating his baptismal birthday December 14

Julie Corbin- celebrating her baptismal birthday December 14

Bayleigh House-celebrating her baptismal birthday December 22

Liv Marie Trudgeou-celebrating her baptismal birthday December 28

Alan & Lynn Aniksdal-celebrating their anniversary December 5

Bob & Debbie Brown-celebrating their anniversary December 19

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Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Bob Matson from:

Bob & Sally Carlson

Carol Butler

In Memory of Myra DeMotts from:

Bob & Sally Carlson

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick

In Memory of Jon Williamson from:

Lawrence & Shelly Mayo

Annette & Mike Lawson

Bob & Midge Bently

Kent & Paula Morgan

Sally Neal

Kevin & Lori Huff

Vern & Jeanette Nielsen

Colleen Tamblyn

Bob & Sally Carlson

Tristyn Howard

Aaron Hoffenbacker

Faith & Byron DeWaay

Ginger DeWitt

David & Revonda Stordahl

Patricia Callaghan

Linda & Dennis Moore

Barbra Gregovich

Phyllis Steinbach

Dale & Debra Clements

Garald & Sharon McWhorter

Michael & Sheila Vincent

Mary Johnston

Thomas & Patricia Riazzo

Paul & Kay Vang

Larry & Linda Spangberg

William & Arlene McClean

Kim & Marshal Mickelson

Rande & JoAnn Farrow

Regan & Peggy Dean

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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!

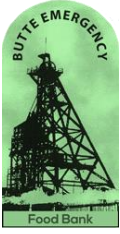
If you have any questions, please call the office (723-4242).

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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 Donations



Please consider donating to the food bank. Gold Hill is currently not accepting donations at the church.

Mail your monetary donation directly to:

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

Thank you for your generosity!

WELCA Christmas Party

Please join us for a WELCA Christmas party Thursday, December 14 at Gloria Dei. The gathering will start at 11 in the church library with a short presentation and discussion with Pastor Sarah followed by a potluck lunch at noon. A fun gift exchange (not over \$10 please) will be held plus door prizes and fellowship. Questions can be directed to Marilyn Krause, 406-490-7486.

The joint Gold Hill/Gloria Dei Sunday School will be having a Christmas Program on December 17th during service. Gold Hill members are invited to Gloria Dei to attend a Birthday party for Jesus at 11:30 am.

**THANK
YOU!**

Dan Schilcher for helping us set up streaming for Jon Williamson's funeral. Without his help the learning curve would have been quite steep. I also want to thank Gloria Dei for loaning us the equipment and allowing us to stream on their Facebook page. We still have some wrinkles to work out, but we are getting very close to figuring streaming out. It is a blessing to have Gloria Dei as partners.

Mike Lawson for the donation of the table for the streaming project.

Pastor Sarah for the donation of the microphones.

Rande Farrow for running the wire for the streaming project.

We Deliver-Sack Lunch Ministry



Volunteers for November were:

Annette Lawson, Patty Callaghan, Bill Hill, Patti Chain, Ed & Connie Engle, Jeanette Nielsen. Thank you!

Food supplies & donations for food provided by: Lloyd Stringer, Lynn McGlynn, Patty Callaghan, Ed & Connie Engle, Bill Hill, Annette Lawson, Jeanette Nielsen, Chris Ketchum, Thank you!

We will meet this month on December 18th at 9:00 am in the Hall to put these lunches together. If you have any questions please feel free to call Annette Lawson, at 406-490-7751.

Advent Schedule & Christmas



Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer Service will be at **Gold Hill** this year and will start **November 29th** and be every Wednesday until **December 20th**. Soup Supper will start at **5:45 pm** and Holden Evening Prayer will begin at **6:30 pm**.

December 24th will be Advent Four service at **Gold Hill** at **9:00 am**.

Christmas Eve Service will be at **5:00 pm & 11:00 pm** at **Gloria Dei**.

Christmas Day Service will be at **10:00 am** at **Gloria Dei**.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Summary

By Danette Fitzpatrick

October 2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/UNDER BUDGET
Income	12,853.54	11,460.00	1,393.54
Expense	8,001.88	11,459.98	-3,458.10
Net Income	4,750.66	.02	4,750.64

YEAR TO DATE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/UNDER BUDGET
Income	128,444.34	114,600.00	13,854.34
Expenses	97,574.46	114,599.80	-17,025.34
Net Income	30,360.39	600.20	29,760.19

Just a little information I would like to pass on. It is something I misunderstood until I became Treasurer and I have spoken with other people who think the same. When we give a memorial and we don't specify what we want it to go to re: Stephen Ministers, Quilters, Sack Lunch, Knitters, general fund. Many of us believed if you did not specify it automatically went to general fund. This is not the case; unspecified memorials go to the Trust Fund, which is fine, but I was glad to know that when I thought it was going to general fund because I didn't specify it was in fact going to the Trust Fund.

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!

Reminder

Annual Reports will be due at the beginning of January so please don't forget to start working on those so they are submitted on time. 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 9:00 am

Gold Hill Trust Minutes-October 26, 2023

submitted by Annette Lawson

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

Ron called the meeting to order.

Old Business

- Annette read the minutes of the previous meeting of 7/13/2023. Mike(m) and Ed(s) to accept the minutes. The motion passed.
- A late scholarship application was received. It was refused because it was past the deadline.
- Ed gave the treasurers report. As of September 30, 2023: Memorial checking \$24,159.62, Perpetual checking \$3392.06, Investment funds (ELCA Endowment Fund) \$89,953.16, Total funds \$117,504.84. Mike(m) and Vern(s) to accept the report. The motion passed.

New Business

- Ed asked whether we want to withdraw some money quarterly from the Endowment Fund to put in the Perpetual Checking account and can we take a partial withdrawal. He will talk to Beth Adams at ELCA.
- Ron would like us to work on a playbook for the next people who will be coming on the Trust Committee. Ed will work on the account pieces and Ron will work on the fund calculator.
- We need to start working on the annual report. Annette will go through the minutes from this year and start working on her part. Ron and Ed will work on the financial part.
- The next meeting will be Thursday 12/14/2023 6pm at Gold Hill.

The meeting was adjourned.

How to spot an email scam

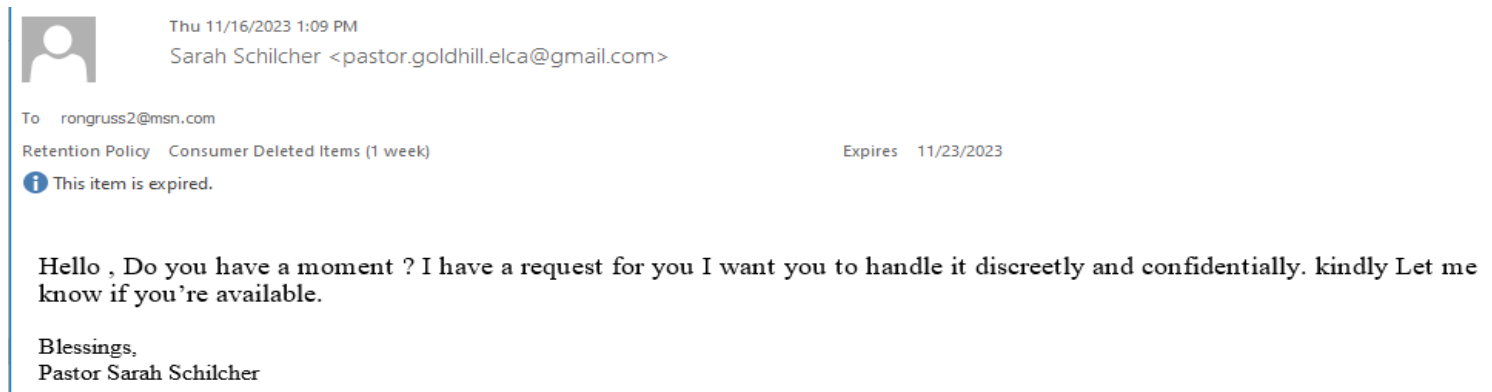
As a Christen I believe we need to look out for each other. Originally my plan was to do an in person class after church services, but after thinking about it I feel I can reach more people in a newsletter article.

The holiday season means fun with friends and family, goodwill and giving. Sadly, it's also a prime time for cyber crooks to cook up nefarious schemes. By the way, the pastor will **NEVER** ask you to get gift cards for her. Such is the case in the recent email scam where a bad actor was impersonating Pastor Sarah.

Con artists have latched onto gift cards as a convenient form of payment in their scams. They ask for them in the following scenarios:

- A Social Security warning of a problem with your account
- A utility company warning of an imminent shutoff
- A lottery company promising a big prize — once you pay some fees upfront
- A grandchild needing bail or facing another financial emergency.
- A charity request.

So how do you spot a scam email? The tips below will help you recognize a suspicious email.



Here is the fake email sent out by someone impersonating Pastor Sarah.

Here are the red flags to look for:

1. **The subject line** is blank or Scammers tend to use an urgent or aggressive tone.
2. **The Sender email address** has typos and misleading domains. Sometimes scammers use character replacements. Take a look at this email address and see if you can spot if this is a real Gmail account. pastorsarah19@grnail.com. If you said yes, take a closer look! It's actually g-r-n-a-i-l.com. Sneaky scammers will use email handles that are one letter off from what they should be (e.g., "netftix" instead of "netflix") so that, at a glance, everything appears official. Here are the official email address the pastor would use pastorsarah19@gmail.com or pastorgoldhill@gmail.com.
3. **The greeting** Does it address you by name, by email address or by a generic title? A generic or awkwardly phrased greeting could be the sign of a scam.
4. **The spelling** Errors in spelling and grammar are always a red flag.

5. **Buttons and links**, these are easy for scammers to format and disguise. Get in the habit of accessing your accounts by typing the official URL in a new browser window. Avoid using the direct links in your email messages.
6. **The signature and contact info** Does it look sketchy? If you need to verify the legitimacy of the sender, never use the contact information contained within the email. Cross-reference it with a separate web search. Below is what the pastor uses.

Peace
Pastor Sarah

Rev. Sarah Schilcher
2300 Florence Ave
Butte, Mt 59701
406-723-9182 office
920-229-5929 cell
pastorsarah19@gmail.com

7. **Attachments** Malicious files can be easily disguised as innocent Word documents, spreadsheets and presentations. Be deliberate about which attachments you choose to open or download.

What Should You Do If You Receive a Phishing Email?

Your email provider probably has a process you can follow to report phishing emails. The mechanism varies from provider to provider, but the reason is the same. The more data the company has on phishing emails, the better it can make its spam/junk filters to prevent scams from getting through to you.

If Google or Microsoft provide your email account, they have a reporting mechanism built into their clients.

Ron Gruss



Gold Hill Lutheran Church Council

Minutes – November 14, 2023

Attendance: David Stordahl, Shelly Anderson, Ty Inglis, Pat Gruss, Danette Fitzpatrick, Miriam Haley, Pastor Sarah Schilcher

David Stordahl called the meeting to order.

Miriam provided devotions.

It was motioned, seconded and carried (MSC) to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting.

Pastor Sarah: Pastor Sarah provided a list of her monthly activities. She discussed the upcoming worship schedule for a combined Christmas day service at 10 am. The annual meeting for Gold Hill will be 2.11.24 and Gloria Dei will be 1.28.24

Treasurer: Danette previously sent the October financial statements. There was a MSC to accept the Treasurer's report.

President: Dave reported on various building related projects and work of joint Gold Hill and Gloria Dei executive committees.

Worship: Shelly reported that time and talent sheets will be handed out on an upcoming Sunday.

Leadership: Miriam reported that the cleaning person will work on Mondays from 5pm to 7:30pm. Two people have been hired for snow removal.

Spiritual Growth: Pat reported that the Sunday School Christmas program will be December 17, 2023 at each church during worship.

Other business:

Ty reported on the work of joint executive committees of Gold Hill and Gloria Dei regarding sharing of pastoral expenses, paid time off for Pastor Sarah, a joint ministry agreement with Gloria Dei and the need for the name of the potential two-point parish.

The Council discussed the possibility of one intern to serve each of the congregations. We need a chair for an internship committee to work with Pastor Sarah and the

councils to complete an internship application. The Council discussed potential candidates to serve as chair.

There was a MSC to approve deleting former council members as check signers and to add Dave Stordahl and Ty Inglis as authorized check signers.

The Council discussed Dave Coleman's future LPA graduation. He will be preaching on February 4, 2024.

He will also be preparing two Bible studies as part of his LPA program studies.

The meeting adjourned the Lord's Prayer.

CHURCH COUNCIL November 2023:

Dave Stordahl -
President

Administration Director

Danette Fitzpatrick -
Treasurer

Ty Inglis -
Secretary

Pat Gruss -
Spiritual Growth
Ministry, Team Leader

Shelly Anderson -
Worship Ministry, Team Leader

Miriam Haley -
Leadership Ministry, Team Leader

Outreach Ministry
Pastor Sarah Schilcher

1 *World AIDS Day* Remember in prayer all who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS, and pray for the work we do together through the ELCA's HIV and AIDS Ministry — building awareness, serving people who live with HIV and AIDS, advocating for change, and supporting effective, affordable prevention, treatment and care globally.

2 The United Nations estimates that 90% of wartime casualties are suffered by civilians. Pray for an end to the violence, loss of life, suffering and injustice caused by war and conflict in the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

3 *First Sunday of Advent* Praise God, source of our hope, strength, healing and new life, and Jesus Christ, who lived among us to reveal God's grace.

4 Approximately 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, including about 42.5 million people in our country. Pray for the Spirit to sustain our commitment and guide our efforts to welcome, respect and fully include people with disabilities in every aspect of society and the church. Give thanks for the work and resources of ELCA Disability Ministry, the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association and the Lutheran Services in America—Disability Network.

5 Pray that we will not lose heart when we read stories of the church in decline or hear fewer people expressing faith in Christ. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our trust in God's unwavering presence and work in the world and to help us bring the gospel to those still yearning for hope, healing and good news. "Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight" (ELW 241).

6 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving alongside our global companions and churches around the world. Give thanks for communities of faith where our mission personnel worship and celebrate their faith with siblings in Christ.

7 *Hanukkah* Pray for our Jewish neighbors around the world who are beginning their eight-day celebration of Hanukkah — the Festival of Lights.

8 Remember in prayer people for whom the Christmas season stirs depression, loneliness and grieving.

Promise to welcome these struggling people into our communities of faith and to connect them with new friends and siblings in Christ who will offer care and support during the holidays and throughout the year.

9 Reflect prayerfully on the symbolism of the Advent wreath and candles, which help us anticipate and celebrate God's boundless love and the promise of eternal life fulfilled in the birth of Christ — a light that breaks through the darkness of the world and changes everything.

10 Pray that we will be faithful and enthusiastic witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ for all people in every circumstance of life.

11 Give thanks for our church's commitment to service, generosity, justice and ending hunger and poverty for the sake of our neighbors in need. Pray that the ELCA Good Gifts catalog and the ministries of the ELCA will help us understand the needs of our neighbors and how we can work together to make a lasting impact in the world.

12 Praise God for the diverse Advent and Christmas traditions of the Christian church around the world, traditions that enrich our faith and understanding of how Christ has impacted communities, cultures and nations.

13 Pause during the busyness of the holidays and pray for our neighbors in need, especially those experiencing suffering, poverty, war, recovery from disasters and displacement from their homes. Pray that they will find relief, hope and renewed strength in the certainty of God's attention and love, evidenced in the gift of Jesus Christ and reflected in our concern, response and advocacy.

14 Give thanks for the seasons of the liturgical year and the Scripture, colors, symbols, prayers, music and rituals of faith that help us live in the rhythm of life as children of God and siblings in Christ.

15 Ask God to help us reflect on those who are not present whenever we gather and to remember that these children of God bring unique voices, gifts and life experiences to the worship, activities and gatherings of our congregations.

16 *Las Posadas* Give thanks for the tradition of Las Posadas, which recalls Mary and Joseph's Nativity journey and is observed in parts of Latin America and in some Latino communities in the United States.

17 Pray that we will have the humility, honesty and boldness of John the Baptist, who did not shy away from expressing his faith in Jesus Christ even when challenged and threatened.

18 *International Migrants Day* Pray for those who, with great risk and uncertainty, have left their home countries and familiar surroundings to seek welcoming communities where they feel safe, respected and free to reestablish their lives and raise their families.

19 Give thanks to God for the assurance of life eternal in the kingdom of heaven and for the Spirit equipping us to embody God's compassion in the world while we await the return of Christ.

20 What stirs joy in you today? Give thanks for the people and experiences that bring joy into your life, even if only briefly. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

21 *Winter solstice* As the days of the Northern Hemisphere grow shorter, pray that we will be guided and reassured by the light of Christ, which illuminates God's love, mercy and truth in our lives and in every corner of the world.

22 Praise God for this time of remembrance, anticipation and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a birth that changed the world and our lives in ways that exceed our imagination and comprehension.

23 Give thanks for those who serve our communities during Christmas, including people in health care, elder care, law enforcement, the hospitality industry, emergency services and the military.

24 *Christmas Eve* Shout "Glory to God in the highest!" The good news of the birth of the promised Messiah

and Savior for all creation and humankind has been made known to us and is the foundation of our faith and life.

25 *Christmas Day* Lift up shouts of thanksgiving and praise for all to hear! God lives among us in the birth of Jesus Christ and pours hope and joy into our lives to fill their voids and mend our brokenness.

26 *Kwanzaa* Pray for our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ who celebrate Kwanzaa, a weeklong observance of African culture and traditions that emphasizes family, community and shared principles. Give thanks for the rich and enduring practices of our African-descent siblings and the global African community.

27 Give thanks that the gift of grace found in Jesus Christ is both deeply personal and for all humankind. "Of what benefit would it be to me if Christ had been born a thousand times, and it would daily be sung into my ears in a most lovely manner, if I were never to hear that he was born for me and was to be my very own?" (Martin Luther, 1522).

28 Christmas may have come and gone, but we carry into every day the joy of Christmas and the birth of the Christ child, the manifestation of God's love for humanity. Give praise and thanks to God!

29 Lift up prayers of relief and thanksgiving for God's mercy, which is fair and generous and is never swayed by our actions or words, no matter how good or well-intended.

30 Share with God your hopes, concerns, uncertainties and aspirations for the year ahead. Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith in God's concern for us and in God's attention to our prayers — spoken and silent.

31 *New Year's Eve* Our baptism with water, the word of God and the blessings of our siblings in Christ marks us as children of God and followers of Jesus, loved, forgiven and made new every day of our lives. Alleluia!

December 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
						Lutesfisk Dinner
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am joint Worship Service 9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei	10:00 am GHELC Book Club 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training	8:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Executive Committee 6:00 pm Worship & Music	10:00 am LWR Quilters 5:45 Soup Supper @ Gold Hill 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer GH Choir Practice after service			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour 9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei	4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Gather Bible Study 5:00 pm Council meeting	10:00 am LWR Quilters 5:45 Soup Supper @ Gold Hill 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer GH Choir Practice after service	11:00 am WELCA Christmas Party @ Gloria Dei		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School Christmas Program 9:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am Birthday party for Jesus @ Gloria Dei	9:00 am We Deliver Sack Lunch Ministry  4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training	8:30 am Bible Study	10:00 am LWR Quilters 5:45 Soup Supper @ Gold Hill 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer GH Choir Practice after service	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters	12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 am Advent Four service @ Gold Hill Christmas Eve services @ Gloria Dei at 5 pm & 11 pm	Office Closed Christmas Day Service @ Gloria Dei at 10:00 am	8:30 am Bible Study	10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Practice			
31						
9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour 9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei						

Worship Helpers

Ushers

December 3 Revonda Stordahl & Annette Lawson
December 10 Jeanette Nielsen & Chris Ketchum
December 17 Kolby & Tracy Sukut
December 24 Dorothy Tallon & Byron DeWaay
December 31 Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick

Lectors

Heatherlynn Meeks
Patti Chain
Peggy Probasco
Chris Ketchum
Dorothy Tallon

Coffee Hour

Linda Williamson
Patti Chain
Susan Stamp
Shelly Anderson
Chris Ketchum

