

# *The Nugget*



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

**February 2024**

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)

## **From the Pastor's Study**

Greetings from Pastor Sarah!

Happy February! This year, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten Season, falls on Valentine's Day. I think that's actually quite fitting. John 15:12-13 says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

You may or may not celebrate Valentine's Day, but I hope that we celebrate the love that we have for one another year round, and especially during this Lenten Season as we realize the source of our, and of all, love: Jesus.

We don't love each other because we are perfect or because they are perfect. We don't love each other because we are exactly the same as them. We love them because we were taught how to love, by the love that God has for us—not because of what we've done, not because of who we are, but because of whose we are: we are God's. We are, each and every one of us, the beloved children of God.

So as we enter our Lenten Season this year, let us take the time to contemplate this great love that has been shown to us, though we remain undeserving. And let us consider in what ways we may be called to share that love with those around us—even as they are equally undeserving.

I wish you each a blessed Lenten Season.

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah



## 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.

**DorothyAnne Honeychurch**-prayers for health  
and comfort.

**Colleen Tamblyn**-prayers for health and healing.

**Dick Fitzpatrick**-prayers for health and healing.

**Ron Coleman**- prayers for health and healing.

**Lynn McGlynn**- prayers for health and healing.

**Bill Hill**- prayers for health and recovery

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### February Birthdays /Anniversaries:

**Shelly Anderson**- celebrating her  
birthday February 1

**Karen Galpin** – celebrating her birthday  
February 4



**Regan Dean** – celebrating her birthday February 6

**Kay Vang** – celebrating her birthday February 16

**Barb Crnich** – celebrating her birthday February 20

**Vern Nielsen** – celebrating his birthday February 21

**Hutchens Welker**- celebrating his birthday February  
24

**Kevin Biastoch** – celebrating her birthday February 25

**Christopher Butt**-celebrating his birthday February 26

**Curt & Jeanette Quist**-celebrating their anniversary  
February 19

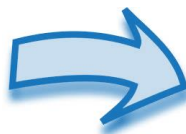
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Please help us to stay updated  
and notify the church office  
with any address, phone, or  
Email address changes!

## THANK YOU

- **Marshal Wayne**-for providing SnoMelt!
- **Miriam Haley**-for diligently working on  
cleaning and altering Pastor Sarah's alb.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Check it out!

You are invited to check out our new

Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/Gold.Hill.ELCA/>  
check it out to stay up to date on news and events.

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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!

## FACEBOOK

Please make sure to follow our Facebook  
page so that you can stay up to date on  
announcements!

<https://www.facebook.com/Gold.Hill.ELCA/>

If you have anything that you would like to  
have posted on our Facebook page please  
email the office at [goldhill.elca@gmail.com](mailto:goldhill.elca@gmail.com)

Important announcements or pictures of the  
services are always welcomed!

## Save the Date: February 8

Valentine Party for Lutheran Women at  
12 pm @ Gold Hill. Let's get to know each other  
a little better. You're invited to a Potluck Lunch  
including devotions, games, and prizes.  
PS Not everyone needs to bring food.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Financial Summary

By Danette Fitzpatrick

| December 2023 | Actual    | Budget    | Over/under budget |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Income        | 18,982.11 | 11,460.00 | 6,945.61          |
| Expenses      | 6,271.36  | 11,460.22 | -5,188.86         |
| Net Income    | 12,134.25 | -0.22     | 12,134.47         |

| Year to Date 2023 | Actual     | Budget     | Over/Under |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Income            | 160,391.98 | 137,520.00 | 22,871.98  |
| Expenses          | 108,488.46 | 137,520.00 | -29,031.54 |
| Net Income        | 48,919.53  | 600.00     | 48,319.53  |

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

## DON'T NEGLECT THE POWER OF YOUR WORK

By Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

*"Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).*

I am where I am because of the church ladies.

At my Ordination, there was one table of mostly women gathered to celebrate this milestone in my life. They were women who I attended church with growing up. They were the women who saw gifts in me and asked, "Have you ever considered being a pastor?" Their words took root over the years, their belief in me a balm to my soul.

Inevitably, whenever I talk about my path or ordained ministry, it includes Women of the ELCA. I remember

Mary Jane who directed the choir. I remember Ruth who faithfully attended Thursday Bible study for decades sharing her faith. I remember Nadine who organized volunteers. I remember Sally who sent handwritten cards to every member of the church on their birthdays and anniversaries. I remember Connie who always had a sweet treat and hot coffee ready for meetings and Bible studies. I remember Andrea whose eyes lit up when she talked about attending Triennial gatherings with her mother and sisters and thousands of other women. I remember the women who quilted and knitted week after week.

Over and over again, Women of the ELCA showed up for me.

You have your own list of women who have impacted you over the years. And I'm sure you, too, have been that woman offering her support and encouragement to others.

Don't neglect the power of your work, showing up to set up and cook, baking, sending care packages to college students, quilting, passing out Thankoffering boxes and envelopes, and donating your money to organizations. Don't hide your gifts or your love but keep your eyes open for where God's people could use a word of encouragement.

Your work is seen. Your work matters.

I saw you.

The boys and girls of your congregations see you. They're watching you live out your callings as disciples of Jesus. They hear you when you invite them to lead, or when you offer them a compliment on an accomplishment at school or when they read at church. When you encourage them in their gifts, you're lifting up the body of Christ.

## ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN SERVICE

- Ash Wednesday (2/14/24) will be at Gloria Dei at 7:00 pm
- Lenten service will be on Wednesdays starting (2/21/24) at Gold Hill. Soup and supper will be at 5:45 pm and service will start at 6:30 pm



**Gold Hill Lutheran Church  
Council  
Minutes – January 9, 2024**

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

Schilcher

David Stordahl called the meeting to order.

Pastor Sarah led the group in prayer.

It was motioned, seconded and carried (MSC) to approve the minutes of the previous council meeting.

**Pastor Sarah:** Pastor Sarah provided a list of her monthly activities. There was a discussion of the Lenten worship schedule. There was a MSC to have a rotating pastor schedule (Great Divide Cluster) for Lenten services.

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

**President:** Dave reported on the status of streaming services, completion of the dirt work outside and updates on the functionality of the microphones.

**Worship:** Shelly reported that the usher and lector list is being updated by Tristyn. The paperwork has been filed with the synod for Mike Lawson to preach on January 21.

**Leadership:** Miriam reported on the pastor's office desk and rug. With the cold weather, there is concern about the pipes freezing.

**Spiritual Growth:** Pat reported on the Sunday School Christmas program. Vacation Bible School will be at the end of August. There were 6 children in Sunday School last week.

**Other business:**

There was a discussion on the work of the nominating committee. There are council openings for administration director and outreach ministry.

There was a MSC to establish a money market account at US Bank.

There was discussion on the Facebook page and issues with friend requests. Gold Hill has multiple Facebook pages.

There was a discussion about future meetings and assigning devotions.

There was a discussion about updating the membership list and a letter that was sent to individuals about their membership status.

The meeting adjourned the Lord's Prayer.

The council joined a meeting with Gloria Dei to draft a Shared Ministry Agreement.

**CHURCH COUNCIL January 2024:**

**David 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, Team Leader

goldhilloutreach@gmail.com

**Pastor Sarah Schilcher**

**1** Pray for synod hunger team chairs and other key ELCA World Hunger leaders participating in the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Houston. Ask the Spirit to guide their work of energizing congregations and synods to end hunger and poverty in the world, bringing relief and hope to our neighbors.

**2** Remember in prayer those who suffer from heart disease, heart failure and congenital heart defects. Pray for the doctors, nurses, surgeons, care providers, researchers and chaplains who provide treatment, care and encouragement to patients of all ages and their families.

**3** Pray for your synod's leaders, congregations and special ministries. Ask the Spirit to sustain them and stir their creative wisdom in carrying out the mission of the church in a changing and challenging world.

**4** Give thanks for Jesus, our Savior, who changed the world not by force or coercion but by demonstrating God's lifesaving love, mercy, and care for those who suffer and welcome for those who are excluded. Pray that the example of Jesus and the word of God will guide us in living for one another and sharing the gospel.

**5** Pray for peace, healing and justice in places of conflict and violence, especially Ukraine, the Holy Land, Myanmar, Haiti, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**6** "The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary" (Isaiah 40:28). Who better to have at our side during every twist and turn in life than God, who is mighty, merciful and concerned for our well-being? Give praise and thanks to God!

**7** Remember in prayer our neighbors and siblings in Christ who experience domestic abuse — physical, sexual or emotional. Pray that they will find refuge, community support and care for their injury and trauma. Give thanks for the work of ELCA Justice for Women, Women of the ELCA and community organizations that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence.

**8** Praise God for the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and the ways God continues to use our

collective assets to impact the world and serve our neighbors in need.

**9** Promise to follow in the footsteps of Paul, who was mindful of the responsibility God had entrusted him with to share the gospel with people of various cultures, beliefs and life circumstances.

**10** Pray that the Spirit will strengthen and sustain Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, stir her wisdom and renew her vision for our church and its mission.

**11** Like Jesus' disciples, we are often confused, fearful and full of questions, longing to understand what God is doing through Jesus and what we must do as followers. Pray for God's patience as our faith matures and we learn how to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

**12** Give thanks for our global companions whose daily realities, faith traditions, culture and language may differ from ours yet complement and enrich our lives and faith.

**13** Pray that everything we do and say as people of faith will light the world, direct attention to our Creator and reflect God's love for humanity and all creation.

**14** *Ash Wednesday* "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them" (Matthew 6:1). Reflect on who we are to God — fragile, imperfect beings *and* loved children who stand before God with humility and gratitude.

**15** Joy and sorrow are both intrinsic to being human. Pray that we might feel each of them as deeply, in the world and in our lives.

**16** Pray that, during Lent, we will lean into God's grace and mercy with humility, trusting the promise that the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ win us a place in the kingdom of God.

**17** Pray that, as bold disciples of Christ, we will be unashamed of our faith, confident in God's promises, comfortable telling our faith story and quick to respect and serve those in need.

**18** "God said, 'this is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth'" (Genesis 9:12-13). Give thanks and praise to God for this promise of love and forgiveness.



**19** *Martin Luther, renewer of the church (1483-1546)*

Give thanks that we continue to learn from and be inspired by the sermons, hymns and writings of Martin Luther, who studied and wrestled with Scripture and the church to better understand God's saving grace and how it impacts every aspect of daily life.

**20** Ask God to bless the work of the ELCA Organizing for Mission Network, a community of leaders and resource providers who use the principles of community organizing to develop, redevelop and renew gospel-centered communities that act for the sake of the world and the well-being of our neighbor.

**21** The cross has become widespread in art, jewelry, clothing and popular culture around the world. Reflect on the symbol and the true meaning of the cross for those who find salvation and identity in Christ.

**22** Remember in prayer those who helped you become the child of God you are today — siblings in Christ, parents and family, church leaders, teachers, friends, strangers, mentors and influential people who have gone before us.

**23** Promise to learn God's ways and truth and to integrate them into your daily life, that we might operate from a firm foundation of love, wisdom and justice when struggling to discern right from wrong and to relate to one another.

**24** Pray for the work of the ELCA Peace Not Walls campaign, which seeks a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and connects ELCA members with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Lutheran World Federation and ecumenical companions across the Middle East.

**25** Do you know someone celebrating a momentous occasion — a birth, an anniversary, recovery from illness or injury? Let their joy be your joy, and lift up prayers of thanksgiving to God.

**26** Pray that we will not grow weary of serving our neighbors in need, both nearby and around the world. Ask the Spirit to renew us when we feel overwhelmed by human needs.

**27** Remember in prayer the bishops of our church gathering for the Conference of Bishops in Itasca, Ill. Give thanks for their faith, gifts, wisdom and diverse perspectives, which God uses to benefit the church and help us do God's work in the world.

**28** "In my trials, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me" (ELW 325). Lent reminds us of our frailty, suffering and loneliness and of God's love and forgiveness, found in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Breathe a sigh of relief and thank God.

**29** Be mindful of those in your community who lack safe shelter and adequate food. Pray that their needs will be met, and that God will use you and your congregation to meet them.

| February 2024  |   | Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church<br>Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve |  |  | 934 Placer Street<br>Butte, MT 59701<br>406-723-4242 |          |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|----------|
| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday |
|  |   |  |  | 1  | 2  | 3        |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |          |
| 4  | 5   | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10       |
| 9:00 am Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour<br>9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei  | 10:00 am GHELC Book Club<br><br>4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training   | 8:30 am Bible Study<br><br>5:30 pm Executive Committee<br><br>5:30 pm Worship & Music  | 10:00 am LWR Quilters<br><br>6:30 pm Choir Practice  | <b>12:00 pm Lutheran Women Valentine Party @ Gold Hill</b> |  |          |
| 11   | 12  | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17       |
| 9:00 am Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour<br>9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei  | 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training<br><br>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry   | 8:30 am Bible Study<br><br>10:00 am Gather Bible Study<br><br>5:00 pm Council meeting  | 10:00 am LWR Quilters<br><br>6:30 pm Choir Practice<br><br><b>Ash Wednesday @ Gloria Dei at 7pm</b>                | <b>10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters</b>                      | <b>12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch</b>                      |          |
| 18   | 19  | 20   | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24       |
| <b>Annual Meeting</b><br>9:00 am joint Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour<br>9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei   | <b>Office closed for President's Day</b><br><br>4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training<br><br>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry | 8:30 am Bible Study  | 10:00 am LWR Quilters<br><br>5:45 pm Soup Supper<br><br>6:30 pm Lenten Service<br><br>Choir practice after service |  |  |          |
| 25   | 26  | 27   | 28   | 29   |  |          |
| 9:00 am Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour<br>9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei  | 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training<br><br>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry   | 8:30 am Bible Study  | 10:00 am LWR Quilters<br><br>5:45 pm Soup Supper<br><br>6:30 pm Lenten Service<br><br>Choir practice after service |  |  |          |
| <div> <div> <b>Worship Helpers</b> </div> <div> <u>Ushers</u><br/> February 4   Dorothy Tallon &amp; Byron DeWaay<br/> February 11   Dick &amp; Danette Fitzpatrick<br/> February 18   Linda Williamson &amp; Jeff Williamson<br/> February 25   Revonda Stordahl &amp; Annette Lawson </div> <div> <u>Lectors</u><br/> Derek Harvey<br/> Aric Sorenson<br/> Julie Corbin<br/> Patti Chain </div> <div> <u>Coffee Hour</u><br/> Peggy Probasco<br/> Aric Sorenson<br/> Annual Meeting<br/> Linda Moore </div> </div> |   |  |  |  |  |          |

