

The Nugget



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

March 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 March! I know that it's a slow process here in Montana, but I am seeing the beginnings of spring (even without the guarantee that it will last), and it brings me joy. Spring is my favorite time of year, when the weather starts to warm up and the earth comes back to life after its frozen winter hibernation. Spring, to me, is a reminder of new life, of the new life that we can see in the here and now, and the new life that God has won for us, through no work of our own, that we celebrate on Easter Sunday at the end of this month.

This year, we have a very visible new beginning. As of the first of this month, we are officially a two-point parish. Both Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Gold Hill Lutheran Church, as well as the newly formed Copper City Parish! I am so excited for this new beginning, and I hope that you are as well!

I thought it might be helpful to lay out a bit of what this new agreement will mean for us in the everyday life of the church. First and foremost, this is a huge asset to both congregations! We have new and renewed intentional relationships with one another, and the gifts that God has blessed us each with. We are able to do so much more in this community together, than we have been able to do apart.

Our congregations will continue to meet separately on Sunday mornings, with the occasional combined service as we come together from time to time to celebrate, to enjoy fellowship, and to support one another.

We will continue to do all of our individual ministries of each congregation, including all of our council and committee meetings, choir, and others. Sunday School and Confirmation have been combined already, and we look forward to continuing those relationships with our youth going forward.

My new office hours for both congregations are posted in the newsletter and in the bulletin. I ask for some grace as I navigate working out of two offices—I'm sure things may slip through the cracks here and there as I figure out the logistics!

As questions and concerns inevitably surface, please know that I am here for you. You are welcome to call me or stop in my office to talk, or, approach your council president or another council member if you are more comfortable. This is a transition, and there will likely be some hic-ups, but I truly believe that this will be a wonderful opportunity for both of our churches! Thank you for your grace and your excitement about these changes!

Peace,
Pastor Sara



Prayer Concerns

Please call the Church Office (723-4242)
or email us: (goldhill.elca@gmail.com)
with your prayer requests.
Only prayers given to the entire
congregation will be included here.

Dick Fitzpatrick-prayers for health and healing.
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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March Birthdays/Anniversaries:

Patti Chain – celebrating her birthday
March 6

Linda Williamson – celebrating her
birthday March 14

Tony Cloyd – celebrating his birthday March 14

Noah Coleman – celebrating his birthday March 18

Lynn Aniksdal- celebrating her birthday March

Pat Burns – celebrating her birthday March 19

Aaron Hoffenbacker- celebrating his birthday March
25

Jennifer Flemming- celebrating her baptismal birthday
March 28

Savanna-Flemming- celebrating her baptismal
birthday March 28

Cierra Flemming- celebrating her baptismal birthday
March 28

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Notices

Deaths

01/30/24 Dorothy Anne Honeychurch

01/18/24 Peggy Drain

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Dorothy Anne Honeychurch

Aaron Hoffenbacker

Colleen Tamblyn

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick

Heidi Klein

Bob & Sally Carlson

In Memory of Peggy Drain

Bob & Sally Carlson

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick

Aaron Hoffenbacker

In Memory of Rich Dunstan

Bob & Sally Carlson

Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick



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!

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FACEBOOK

Please make sure to like and 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

Important announcements or pictures of the
services are always welcomed!

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Do you have eyeglasses you're not using?



There is a donation box for usable
eyeglasses next to the entrance of the
Fellowship Hall. Donate your useable
eyeglasses and help someone see
better!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Summary

By Danette Fitzpatrick

January 2024	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	14,702.00	10,416.67	2,521.33
Expenses	17,704.12	12,840.94	4,863.18
Net Income	-3,002.12	12,516.45	-15,594.53

Year to Date 2024	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	14,702.00	10,416.67	2,521.33
Expenses	17,704.12	12,840.94	4,863.18
Net Income	-3,002.12	12,516.45	-15,594.53

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. Thank you!

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March Lenten Schedule 2024

Wednesday Schedule

March 6th – Soup and Bread Dinner 5:45pm

Lenten Service at 6:30pm

March 13th – Soup and Bread Dinner at

5:45pm – Lenten Service at 6:30pm

March 20th – Soup and Bread Dinner at

5:45pm – Lenten Service at 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday Schedule

March 28th – Seder Meal – 5:30pm – Service to follow – We will have Glen Rayfish and Dave Canty from our local Jewish community helping Pastor Sarah to lead the dinner and prayers

Good Friday Service

March 29th – Service at 7:00pm @ Gloria Dei

Easter Service

March 31st – Service at 8:00am – Breakfast at 9:00am @ Gold Hill details to follow

Ways to Give

We have now gotten to the point where we can stream our worship services. Thank you to all people involved with this project.

To support online services we have partnered with Tithe.ly for electronic donations.

Tithe.ly provides the church the ability to accept online giving. The church can also take payments for FLBC camp, conferences, and building programs.

To donation online visit <https://goldhillelca.org/> and click on the donate button or scan the QR code to set up a one-time or recurring donation.



Of course, if you prefer not to use online giving you can still mail in your donation to the church office or drop them in the offering plate.

Thank you for your support and kindness.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024 AT 1 PM

AT GOLD HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR SARAH SCHILCHER WILL BE

INSTALLED AT A

CHURCH SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.



Finding God in desolate places

By the Rev. Ralen M. Robinson

“At once, the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.” (Mark 1:12-13)

“Why do I have to give something up?” “Why forty days?” “Lent is too long.” Those are the questions and comments I made to my mother growing up when it was time for Lent. To a kid, Lent was hard, and even as an adult, it was a challenge. For forty days, we are called to look at our mortality, at the broken cracks of the world, and to see God in all of it.

Christmas is over, the Star of David has found a little baby Jesus swaddled in the manger, wrapping paper is discarded, and presents are a faint memory. Now that Christmas and New Year’s excitement are over, we are in the middle of the winter season, eagerly awaiting warmer weather. The excitement and joyous celebration of Advent is a faint memory. We are in the midst of winter when frost covers the ground; barren trees cast shadows over a bleak world because the days are shorter and nights are longer. The excitement of Advent is dwindling, and now we are in a season of Lent. And, yet, amid the winter season, which seems desolate, barren, and at times bleak, I struggled and at times still do. I struggle not only because the days are cold, dreary, and desolate but because I struggle to find God in the swirls of gray and gloom that surround me in the winter season. Then, when the winter blues have surrounded me and the days are colorless, we are called to step into the season of Lent for forty days to fast, reflect, repent, and sacrifice like Jesus did in the desert. We are called to find God in desolate places. It’s easier to find God in the swirls of colors that dance in the spring, the swaying of the flowers in summer, and the comfort of the warm breeze; it is harder to find God in the frozen world. And yet, without Lent, there is no Easter morning.

The season of Lent gives us opportunities for pause, spiritual preparation, and reflection. For 40 days, we prepare ourselves by stepping into Jesus’s last footsteps to the cross and into the Resurrection at Easter. In the frozen world, we carve out 40 days to see God in the most unlikely places and find our faith in the mundane. Lent causes us to slow down, be present, reflect and refocus our lives on Christ. We return to the basics of our faith without the hoopla, and it’s just us and God. That can be intimidating and hard to do because who

wants to look at the hard truths and strip themselves bare?

Lent causes the rose-colored glasses to be removed, and we see the weariness of life, the blemishes of humanity, and the brokenness of the world. But we also see God in the dirty faces of humanity, in fractured relationships, and the barrenness of the world.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?” (Isaiah 58:6-7)

During this season, let us strive to be patient and kind, to cast aside envy and pride, and to focus on the uplifting aspects of love through our faith. Let us find God in the desolate of winter because Lent allows us to shed the burdens that may weigh us down, see God in a new light, and foster a spirit of renewal and growth. Lent allows us to look closely at the frayed lines that connect us to our neighbor and mend it. It allows us to look in the mirror and see the work we must do.

So, as we step each day toward the Resurrection, let us be reminded of God’s unwavering love, which guides us in this period of introspection. It is the same love and strength given to Jesus in the wilderness. May our hearts be filled with the warmth of love and the courage to reflect on the areas where we can grow. Let us use this season to uplift one another, strengthen our faith, and give us clarity to see the world and people in the same light God sees us.

I wish you a season of love, reflection, and spiritual fulfillment.



**Gold Hill Lutheran Church
Council**
Minutes - February 13,
2024

Attendance: David Stordahl, Shelly Anderson, Ty Inglis, Pat Gruss, Danette Fitzpatrick, Miriam Haley, Pastor Sarah Schilcher
David Stordahl called the meeting to order.

David Stordahl provided devotions.

It was motioned, seconded and carried (MSC) to approve the minutes of the 1.9.24 council meeting.

Pastor Sarah: Pastor Sarah provided a list of her monthly activities. She discussed the status of having an intern serve at Gold Hill and Gloria Dei. There was a discussion of the Holy Week schedule. There was a discussion of the March 10th installation of Pastor Sarah at Gold Hill. The plan is for a 1pm service in lieu of morning worship. There will be a pot-luck meal after the installation service. Pastor Sarah will be gone the first week of April. We need pulpit supply for April 7th. There was a MSC to accept the Pastor's report.

Treasurer: Danette previously sent the financial statements. She commented on the budget billing for utilities and the related savings. The budget contains a 7% contribution to the synod. There was a MSC to accept the Treasurer's report.

President: Dave has been working with Ron Gruss on the Power Point operation. We need additional volunteers to assist with the Power Point operation on Sunday mornings. There was a discussion on the Zoom licenses and related cost.

Worship: Shelly reported on the new funeral pall. The palms have been ordered. Due to cost considerations, the new palms will be plastic. The Sundays and Seasons books have arrived. The cluster group concept for Lent fell through but we will have the ecumenical group in Butte participating at Gold Hill.

Leadership: There was a discussion on the use of the parish house. We need an office chair for Pastor Sarah.

Spiritual Growth: Pat reported on the planned making of snow friends for home bound. We expect for the kids to visit 4-8 homes and make snow friends in their yards.

Other business:

Kay Vang was a guest and presented her concerns with the shared ministry agreement with Gloria Dei.

The meeting adjourned the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor's Office Hours

Beginning March 1st Pastor's office hours at **Gold Hill** will be:

Tuesday: 12:00-1:30 pm & 4-5 pm

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month:
8:30-11:30 am & 3-5 pm

Gloria Dei office hours:

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month:
8:30-11:30 am & 3-5 pm

Thursday: 8:30-9:45 am, 11:15-1:30 pm, 2:30-3:45 pm

Friday: 8:30-10 am, 11:15-1:30 pm, 2:30-5:00 pm

*These hours are subject to change. If you are unable to see Pastor during her office hours at Gold Hill you are always welcome to go to Gloria Dei.

CHURCH COUNCIL February 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 *Women's History Month* Give thanks for women throughout history and in our lives who have shared their gifts and leadership with the church and society, raised and cared for us, inspired us and nurtured our faith, and fought for justice, equity and inclusion. Pray for women everywhere who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty that they will not lose hope but will be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly.

2 Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who have been driven from their homes and communities by conflict, persecution, disaster, political turmoil, economic crisis or the effects of climate change.

3 *Bold Women's Day (Women of the ELCA)* Celebrate and give thanks for Lutheran women who act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ through prayer, service to neighbors in need, advocacy, leadership, hospitality and telling their stories of faith.

4 Promise that we will never use our faith, our service to neighbors or our identity as followers of Christ to benefit ourselves, enhance our reputations or earn a profit. Ask the Spirit to nurture in us humility, generosity and gratitude for the gift of grace and salvation God has given us through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

5 Remember in prayer individuals, families and communities as they continue to recover from natural disasters, and ask God to give them strength, resilience and hope. Promise that we will persist in our commitment to support and assist these individuals, families and communities through a process that can be long, difficult and lonely.

6 There are those who consider our beliefs and faith to be foolish and misguided. Pray for the Spirit to deepen our understanding of God's wisdom and ways, strengthen our faith in Christ and guide our imperfect words and actions to convey God's merciful love for humankind, so that others will be moved to believe and to follow Jesus Christ.

7 Pray for the children and youth in your congregation, and for young adults involved in long-term volunteer service, careers, military service or study at colleges, universities, trade schools or seminaries.

8 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). Praise God for being attentive to our thoughts, prayers and lamentations — spoken and unspoken.

9 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

10 Pray that we will clearly see God's relationship with humanity and the implications for our daily life when we reflect on the familiar proclamation Jesus made: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

11 Ask God to bless the Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers working alongside our companion churches and organizations in six countries around the world and in the Cambodia program, which will reopen this year.

12 Give thanks for the food we receive and for those who grow, manage, harvest and prepare our food resources. Promise to respond to the needs of our neighbors and siblings in Christ who are hungry, and pray that the work we do together through ELCA World Hunger will have a deep and sustained impact.

13 At the heart of our faith is the belief that, though we are weak and imperfect, we are saved from ourselves and given new life through God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ. Lift up humble prayers of thanksgiving to God!

14 Pray for the ELCA Justice for Women program, which helps us work from our faith and Lutheran theology to educate, advocate for change and lead into the future, addressing sexism and encouraging all genders to work together.

15 Sing for joy and give thanks to God for providing comfort in times of distress, healing us when we are broken and reassuring us that we are valued when we feel insignificant.

16 Remember in prayer seminarians and international students preparing to serve as leaders in the church and society, including those supported through ELCA Fund

for Leaders scholarships, the International Women Leaders program and the International Leaders Program.

17 Reflect on the people for whom you have concern. Pray for them and commit yourself to expressing your love and care in a personal way — an in-person conversation; a phone call offering help; a note, text or email.

18 Pray for the work of the Creation Care Network, which connects the ELCA with ecumenical ministries and organizations that equip us to be faithful stewards of God's creation.

19 *First day of spring* Praise our Creator and give thanks for the sun and the heavenly bodies of the universe, which impact every aspect of life and reflect the amazing creativity, mystery and power of God.

20 Let our Lenten prayer for today be: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:1-2).

21 Remember in prayer youth, adults and congregations preparing for their faith-stirring experience at the ELCA Youth Gathering and related events in New Orleans this summer.

22 Rejoice and give thanks for the wonderful variety of songs and musical styles that calm, energize, unite and inspire us.

23 Pray for God to open our hearts and minds to the needs of our neighbors and to guide our responses of love, support and advocacy. Give thanks for the ways our church encourages and provides opportunities for service and volunteerism, including Young Adults in Global Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Young Adult Ministry, Lutheran Disaster Response and "God's work. Our hands." Sunday.

24 *Palm Sunday* With shouts of "Hosanna!" and the waving of palm branches, we plead for Jesus to save us and welcome him into our lives and the world as our true hope and salvation — the risen Messiah and Savior, who endured betrayal, suffering, public ridicule and death for the sake of all people.

25 Ask the Spirit to help us when we feel ill-prepared to talk about our faith, that we might tell the story of God's love and mercy revealed in Jesus and how our faith in Christ shapes our daily lives.

26 Lift up prayers of confession for the things we have done or failed to do that cause harm to others and grieve God. Plead for forgiveness and redemption, trusting that God is our ever-present hope and merciful Redeemer.

27 Give thanks for the great cloud of witnesses — our community of faith and our siblings in Christ — who help us persevere when we are tired and discouraged.

28 *Maundy Thursday* On this last day of Lent, pray that we will be mindful of the needs and struggles of our neighbors and siblings in Christ and that we will respond as followers of Jesus, reminded by our baptism to serve others with a respect and sincerity that reflect the abundant love and mercy God has shown us.

29 *Good Friday* Pray that, when we gather, worship and study as siblings in Christ, we will encourage one another to grow in faith, understanding and gratitude for God's sacrificial, life-giving love, witnessed in Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

30 Much of what we profess to believe may seem like a mystery to us and others. Ask the Spirit to help us live with the mystery and, at the same time, to grow in faith and awe of the triune God, who claims and gathers us close as loved children.

31 *Easter Sunday* Praise God that sin, fear and death have no control over us — Jesus Christ has risen for the redemption and healing of humanity! "Christ is living! Gone with sorrow! Tears and terror, be no more" (*All Creation Sings* 934).

March 2024		Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve			934 Placer Street Butte, MT 59701 406-723-4242	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour 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 5:30 pm Worship & Music	10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Practice			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
NO MORNING SERVICE AT EITHER CHURCH 1:00 pm Worship and Installation 2:00 pm Potluck	4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	8:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Gather Bible Study 5:30 pm Council meeting	10:00 am LWR Quilters 5:45 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service Choir practice after service		12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour 9:55 am Sunday School at Gloria Dei	9:00 am We Deliver Sack Lunches 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry training	8:30 am Bible Study	10:00 am LWR Quilters 5:45 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service Choir practice after service	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters		Dorothy Anne Honeychurch Funeral at Gloria Dei @10 AM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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 LWR Quilters Choir practice after service	Maundy Thursday @ Gold Hill 5:30 pm Seder Meal & Worship	7:00 pm Good Friday @ Gloria Dei	
31						
8:00 am Easter Service @ Gold Hill 9:00 am Breakfast						
Worship Helpers						
Ushers		Lectors		Coffee Hour		
March 3	Dick & Danette Fitzpatrick	Dorothy Tallon		Susan Stamp		
March 10	Byron DeWaay & Dorothy Tallon	Peggy Probasco		Installation Service		
March 17	Jeanette Nielsen & Chris Ketchum	Vern Nielsen		Chris Ketchum		
March 24	Revonda Stordahl & Annette Lawson	Patti Chain		Shelly Anderson		
March 31	Shelly Anderson & Jody Bickford	Lynn McGlynn		Easter Sunday		

