

The Nugget



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

January 2025

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 New Year! As we step into January, we find ourselves at the threshold of a new year—an opportunity for fresh starts and a renewed hope. In the midst of winter's chill, we are reminded that every January brings with it the promise of new beginnings. This month I invite you to reflect on the words of the prophet Isaiah, particularly Isaiah 43:18-21:

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”

This passage speaks profoundly to us as we embark on a new year. God calls us to let go of the burdens of our past—our regrets, our failures, and even our triumphs that may hold us back from embracing what lies ahead. The invitation to “forget the former things” is not a denial of our experiences, but rather an encouragement to release them, allowing us to open our hearts and minds to the new things God is doing in our lives and our community.

As we reflect on the past year, we may have encountered challenges and uncertainties. Yet, Isaiah reminds us that God is constantly at work, creating pathways in the wilderness of our lives. God is the source of living water that quenches our thirst in the dry seasons. In this new year, let us be attentive to the ways that God is inviting us to grow, to change, and to transform our own lives. What new things might God be revealing to you? Perhaps it is a call to deepen your spiritual practices, to engage more fully in community service, or to extend forgiveness to someone who has hurt you. Maybe it's a nudge to explore new relationships within our congregation or our parish, or to share your faith story with someone who needs to hear it.

As we gather together for worship and fellowship this year, let us do so with open hearts, ready to perceive the new things that God is doing among us. Together we can support one another in our journeys, celebrating the ways that God is leading us into new opportunities for growth and service.

May this New Year be filled with hope, joy, and the assurance that our God is indeed making a way for us. Let us proclaim God's praise as we witness the unfolding of God's plans in our lives and in our community.

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.

Lynn McGlynn- prayers for health and healing.

Bill Hill- prayers for health and recovery.

Aric Sorenson- prayers for health and healing.

Carl Campbell- prayers for health and healing.

Ginger DeWitt- prayers for health and recovery.

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January Birthdays /Anniversaries:

Jan. 1 Ann Richter

Jan. 15 Robin Jordan

Jan. 22 Noah Thennis

Jan. 28 Colleen Tamblyn



Jan. 19 Jeanette & Curt Quist

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NOTICES

DEATHS

12/11/2024 Vern Nielsen

12/18/2024 Bonnie Grimes

12/29/2024 Ron Coleman

Memorials & Honorariums

In memory of Vern Nielsen from:

Danette Fitzpatrick

Lyle & Cheri Cusson

Bette Schutte

Aaron Hoffenbacker

Mike & Annette Lawson

Bob & Sally Carlson

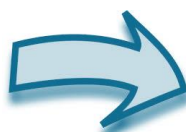
Paul & Kay Vang

David & Revonda Stordahl

Colleen Tamblyn

In memory of Linda Satterly from:

Aaron Hoffenbacker



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check it out!

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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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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If your birthday or anniversary is missing please notify the church office!

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



We Deliver-Sack Lunch Ministry

Volunteers for December were:

Annette Lawson, Patty Callaghan,
Jeanette Quist, Carol Leach. Thank you!

Food supplies & donations for food provided by:

Annette Lawson, Patty Callaghan, Lynn Aniksdal, and
Chris Ketchum. Thank you!

We will NOT be meeting this month. If you have any
questions please feel free to call Annette Lawson, at
406-490-7751.

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OUTREACH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

by Linda Moore

THANK YOU! The Outreach Committee is
happy with all of the support from all of you!
In November and December we received 140+
hat, mittens, and 8 more pairs of fuzzy warm
socks. I will be delivering all of those on
Friday (the 19th) Thank you!

Also you gave very nice, appropriate gifts for
five residents of Copper Ridge and 42 equally
nice gifts to residents at the Butte Veteran's
Home. I'm so glad we can make all of these
people warm and happy for Christmas. I'm
super proud of our congregation!

In January we have kind of a big ask. Action
Inc., has asked us to help them help the
people they serve. Their big need during the
cold months are for small tents and sleeping
bags or warm blankets. So if any of you have
used tents or sleeping bags that you no
longer need (we will be able to get any
sleeping bags cleaned and blankets washed)
or maybe you have friends or neighbors with
extras, please ask them. Cash donations in
the Outreach Ministry envelopes in January
will also go to Action Inc.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

By Danette Fitzpatrick

November 2024	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	15,025.00	12,700.00	+235.00
Expenses	17,434.00	12,841.00	4,594.00
Net Income	-2,810.00	-200	-2,609.00

Year to Date 2024	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	126,128.00	139,884.00	-14,508.00
Expenses	150,030.00	141,250.00	8,780.00
Net Income	-24,698.00	-2,202.00	-22,496.00

Just a reminder that our 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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NEW PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday: Gloria Dei by appointment (Visit day)

Wednesday: 1st and 3rd: **8:30-11:30 Gold Hill,**
11:30-1:45 Gloria Dei
2nd and 4th: **8:30-1:45 Gold Hill**

Thursday: **Gold Hill 8:30-1:45**

Friday: Gloria Dei 8:30-1:45, 3:30-5:00

Lutefisk Report

Our Daughter's of Norway Solheim Lodge #20 Ladies would like to THANK YOU ALL for your hard work and dedication to make this year's Lutefisk and Swedish meatball dinner such a success. Without all your help it would not be successful. We appreciate all your help, fun and frustration with the lefse preparation, the cookie baking and of course the meatball cooking.

The dinner was well attended and I heard comments that it was the best fish they had had for several years. The non lutefisk eaters commented that the meatballs and everything else was so delicious. We had guests from other parts of the state and ND and Minnesota were represented also. Of course, with the great help from Mike Lawson, the Gold Hill family and friends, the spouses and friends of our Daughter's of Norway Lodge group, all made it the best dinner ever! All the stress and worries are behind us now and we are looking forward to next year!!

Thanks again,
Solheim Lodge #20
Bev Becker, Pres

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Who's watching the Facebook streaming video?

In the past couple of weeks, I occasionally get asked the question "who is watching our streaming video?"

To answer this question, you need to review Facebook statistics. You can really get into the weeds with Facebook analytics, for the most part I look at shared, interactive icon clicks, live views and post views.

I don't know who is watching unless the viewer clicks the interaction (thumbs up, love, etc.) icon or they leave a message in the chat.

According to research, the people who watch the live stream video are the home bound, vacationers, sick, military personnel, and college students not living at home. As you can see from the table below this is a very low number. I observed the highest number of views during live stream videos are during funerals. The views are usually 20 plus viewers,

The post views are people who view the video after it's posted on our Facebook page. The research indicates these are people who can't watch during our regular church service time, or folks who want to view the sermon again.

Service	Live views	Post Views
Christ the King	1	138
26 th Sunday after Pentecost	1	103
Stewardship Sunday	0	138
All Saints Sunday	0	285
22 nd Sunday of Pentecost	0	196

As you can see streaming is a valuable outreach ministry and it wouldn't be possible without the support of the congregation. If you wish to volunteer to help, please contact the church office or me at 565-6192.

Thank you

Ron Gruss

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Phone:

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E-Mail:

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 11:35 am - 2:35 pm

Pastor Sarah Schilcher

Parish Admin. Assistant Tristyn Howard



Gold Hill Lutheran Church
Council Minutes – December 10,
2024

**Council meeting was held at Gold Hill
at 5:30 p.m. MST.*

1) Call to Order

- President David Stordahl called the meeting to order.

2) Attendance

- Pastor Sarah Schlicher
- David Stordahl (President)
- Ty Inglis (Administrative Director)
- Danette Fitzpatrick (Treasurer)
- Kolby Sukut (Secretary)
- Shelly Anderson (Worship)
- Pat Gruss (Spiritual Growth)
- Jody Bickford (Leadership)
- Linda Moore (Outreach)

3) Devotions

- Danette shared the devotion.

4) Approval of the Minutes: November 12, 2024

- It was motioned, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for November 12th, 2024.

5) Pastor's Report

- Pastor Sarah provided a list of her monthly activities for November, which included:
 - Check-in Phone Calls: 66
 - Community Outreach: 13
 - Home Communion Visits: 12 (6 Gold Hill; 6 Gloria Dei)
 - Counseling Sessions: 8
 - Funeral Services: 1
 - Nursing Home Services: 1
 - Average Weekly Hours: 50.75

- Pastor Sarah discussed gathering members for the Annual Meeting.
- Pastor Sarah notified the Council she will be off the week after Christmas. Pastor Jonathan Stansfield (Sarah's father) will conduct services that week.
- Pastor Sarah requested coverage for services on February 16th and February 23rd, 2025. The Worship ministries at each church will schedule stand-in pastors.

6) Treasurer's Report

- It was MSC to approve the November financial report, based on amendments discussed at the meeting.
- The Council discussed identifying members within the congregation who could support the Treasurer or targeting members with accounting experience for the role in the future to help with managing the workload associated with the position.
- The Council discussed setting the 2025 budget. The Executive Committee will prepare the budget and bring recommendations to the Council at the January meeting.

7) President's Report

- Nothing to report.

8) Administrative Director's Report

- Ty provided a progress report on the Gold Hill constitution update; a rough draft is prepared but requires formatting to address. Kolby volunteered to review the document and address formatting.

9) Worship Ministry

- Shelly reported that advent services went well.
- The Council discussed the Christmas services schedule.

10) Leadership Ministry

- Jody Bickford, who is temporarily performing the duties of Miriam in her absence, discussed identifying contractors for snow removal at the church.
- It was reported that the 3 broken valves on the boiler have been repaired.

11) Spiritual Growth Ministry

- Nothing to report.

12) Outreach Ministry

- Linda reported on December Outreach Ministry efforts and discussed upcoming efforts; which will include requesting tent/sleeping bag donations for Action, Inc. in January and a fundraiser for Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in February.

13) Other Business:

- The Council identified three members of the Nominating Committee and will require one more individual; another request will be made for volunteers.
- The Council discussed the use of the parsonage.

**The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer*

1 *New Year's Day* Ask God to grant us strength, wisdom and patience to accomplish new goals this year. Give thanks for God's forgiveness and for the support of others, which help us to continue when we fail, grow frustrated or are redirected in our pursuits.

2 "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Our newness in Christ is realized in our present life and in the future, when we enter the kingdom of God. Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith and to help us embrace our new selves — every day.

3 Pray for the Spirit to stir our patience, understanding and respect for others when we find ourselves in conflict with our neighbors or siblings in Christ.

4 Pray for our synod bishops attending the Bishop's Academy in Puerto Rico as they study and reflect on the challenge and promise of Lutheran mission and theology in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

5 Give thanks to God that Jesus Christ lived among us, that we might believe in God's grace and truth and be filled with joy and relief as children of God who are set free to live as Jesus did in service to our neighbors.

6 *Epiphany* "This star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing Christ, the way, the truth, the life" (*ELW* 301). Praise God for the gift of Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the way, truth and life of God's love, forgiveness and promises.

7 Pray for a peaceful transfer of presidential power in the United States and that the Spirit will influence and guide our leaders to serve all people with compassion, wisdom and concern for justice and unity.

8 "In [Christ] we have redemption through [Christ's] blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us" (Ephesians 1:7-8). God's boundless love and forgiveness are lavish indeed. Give thanks and praise to God!

9 Remember in prayer college, university and seminary students taking part in winter J-term classes and service learning, that their experiences will deepen their faith, expand their knowledge and reveal how their gifts and passions can be used to do God's work in the world.

10 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner since 2009. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that we will respect our differences but embrace our unity in Christ so we can spread the gospel, serve our neighbor, and share leadership and resources for doing God's work in the world — together.

11 Give thanks for God's grace and the work of the Spirit, which equip us with the tools, wisdom and courage needed to face the challenges of everyday life and to bear Christ's love and hope into the world.

12 Pray that we will affirm our baptism by telling others about the triune God, by loving and serving our neighbors, by encouraging the faith of our siblings in Christ and by seeking opportunities for spiritual growth.

13 Pray for those who respond to God's call by working hand in hand with our companion churches and other organizations around the world through ELCA Global Mission. Ask God to sustain and strengthen their faith, their commitment and their diverse gifts.

14 "Who hears the song our sorrows swallow and offers hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and hollow, God heeds the prayers within our tears" (*All Creation Sings* 1050). Give thanks that God hears and responds to our grief and suffering, even when our words fall short of expressing the depth of our sorrow.

15 Pray for the outdoor ministries of our church that are busy recruiting and hiring young-adult staff to share their faith and serve campers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in summer programs.

16 *National Religious Freedom Day* Give thanks that the U.S. Constitution supports the freedom to embrace religion, to worship and to share our faith according to our personal beliefs. Pray that we will respect the religious beliefs of our neighbors and support their right to practice their faith openly, without constraints or persecution.

17 "You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness; Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts" (*WOV* 738). Lift up your worries, troubles, insecurities and grief to God, who understands us and grants comfort, strength and endurance in every circumstance of our life.

18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* Today begins a week of prayer with our siblings in Christ around the world. Give thanks that we are one in Christ and that, together, we cast a brilliant light in the world.

19 Praise God for the inexhaustible grace shown to us throughout our lives and baptismal journeys.

20 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* Remember and give thanks for the life, teaching and advocacy of Martin Luther King Jr. for the sake of justice, inclusion and the value of all people, especially those who suffer persecution, racism, disdain or oppression. Pray that we will be inspired by our neighbors and siblings in Christ who are fearless and persistent in their advocacy and compassion for others.

21 Thank God for the gifts given to us through the Spirit, and pray that others might recognize their own unique gifts and see where they are valued and needed.

22 Pray for ELCA directors for evangelical mission, who serve as resources to synods in mission development, congregational renewal and stewardship.

23 Pray for our church's grassroots Life of Faith initiative, meant to help us to live out our baptismal vocation in daily life, serve our neighbors and work for justice in the diverse contexts of family, workplace, school, community and the world.

24 Pray that we will open all our senses to God's glory, power and voice as revealed in nature — the awe-inspiring and dynamic handiwork of our Creator.

25 *Conversion of Paul* Give thanks that, for God, all things are possible, even when we do not envision the possibility of lives being changed, hearts softened or faith awakened.

26 Ask God to help us follow Christ's example, being humble, kind, loving, merciful, attentive to our neighbors and quick to respond to their needs.

27 Remember in prayer youth, adults and families involved in service learning and mission trips throughout the year. Pray that they might share the gospel, serve their neighbors in need, participate in the work of global companions and ecumenical partners, and respond to the unique contexts and needs of communities.

28 Remember in prayer neighbors and siblings in Christ who suffer poverty, homelessness and hunger, that their hope will be sustained, their daily needs met and their human dignity respected.

29 "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart" (Psalm 19:7-8). Give thanks for the word of God, for it is trustworthy and restores us, imparts wisdom, and stirs joy and gratitude in our hearts.

30 Pray for an end to conflicts and violence in the world, including in our own communities. Ask the Spirit to inspire and equip us to be peacemakers and bearers of hope.


31 Give thanks for Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and its ministry with women to encourage bold and active faith in Jesus Christ, promote healing and wholeness, address injustices, discover spiritual gifts, and encourage and equip leaders.

January 2025

Church Office Hours: 11:35 AM-2:35 PM, Mon. – Fri. CLOSED Sat. – Sun.

Contact: (406) 723-4242 or goldhill.elca@gmail.com

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church Empowered by the Holy Spirit. United to Serve

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gloria Dei 11:00 am Joint Worship @ Gold Hill	6 10:00 am GHELC Book Club	7 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei 5:30pm Executive Committee	8 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gloria Dei	13 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	14 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:00 am Gather Bible Study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei 5:30pm Council meeting	15 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	16 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters	17 12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch	18
19 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gloria Dei	20 Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	22 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	23	24	25
26 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gloria Dei 11:00 am Joint Worship @ Gloria Dei	27 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	29 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	30 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	31		

Date	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte	Worship Asst.	PowerPoint	Communion Asst.	Coffee Hour
Jan. 5	Patti Chain & Christy Chain	Paul Vang	DJ Schilcher	N/A	Ron Gruss	N/A	Revonda Stordahl
Jan. 12	Revonda Stordahl & Annette Lawson	Brieson Campbell	N/A	Dorothy Tallon	Chris Ketchum	Peggy Probasco	Linda Moore
Jan. 19	Shelly Anderson & Jody Bickford	Peggy Probasco	Josie Harvey	N/A	Aaron Hoffenacker	N/A	Kayla Harvey
Jan. 26	11am Worship @ Gloria Dei						