

# ***The Nugget***



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

**February 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 February! As we step into this new month, we find ourselves, especially when going into a store, surrounded by hearts, flowers, and expressions of love as Valentine's Day approaches. This celebration often emphasizes romantic love, but as followers of Christ, we are called to understand and embody a deeper, more profound love—one that reflects the essence of God's love for us.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, particularly, in 1st Corinthians 13, we encounter a powerful description of love. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." These words remind us that love is not merely an emotion, but an active choice we make every day. We are called to be selfless, compassionate, and forgiving.

As we reflect on these beautiful words, let us remember the various dimensions of love that exist within our community. For those of us who are blessed to share our lives with a spouse, let us take time to express our gratitude and appreciation for the love that we share. Let us strive to embody the qualities described by Paul: patience, kindness, and understanding, as we navigate the joys and challenges of our relationships.

However, it is important to note, that February can be a difficult month for those who have experienced the death of someone they have loved. Valentines Day can bring a sense of longing and heartache as we remember the love that once was. If you are among those who are grieving this month, know that you are not alone. In our community, we hold space for your memories, your sorrow, and your love which continues to exist in your heart. The love that we have shared with those who have died does not fade; it transforms and remains a part of who we are.

This month, I invite you all, whether you are celebrating a loving relationship, hoping for one, or remembering one that has ended, to take a moment to reflect on the love that you have known in your life. Consider how you can express that love, whether through a note to a friend, a prayer for a loved one, or an act of kindness in your daily life. Love can be found in many forms, and it our calling to share it generously with others.

In this season of love, let us be inspired by the words of 1st Corinthians 13, and strive to embody a love that is patient, kind, and enduring. Let us continue to be intentional about supporting one another in joy and in sorrow, as we acknowledge the diverse experiences of love within our community.

May God bless you all this month and may you feel the perfect love of God shining bright upon your hearts.

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.

**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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## February Birthdays/Anniversaries:

Feb. 1 Shelly Anderson

Feb. 4 Karen Galpin

Feb. 6 Regan Dean

Feb. 16 Kay Vang

Feb. 20 Barbara Crnich

Feb. 24 Hutchens Welker



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## NOTICES

### DEATHS

01/09/2025 Kemera Thomas

01/15/2025 John Jacobson

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

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



## 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](mailto: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!



## W.E.L.C.A Valentine's Party



Gold Hill Lutheran Church will be hosting a W.E.L.C.A. Valentine's Party on February 13th at noon. The ladies from Gloria Dei and Hope Lutheran are warmly invited to join us. Food will be provided, and there will be an opportunity for a freewill offering that will benefit FLBC. Please come and enjoy the fellowship!

## OUTREACH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

by Linda Moore

January was another good month for Outreach. We delivered 24 blankets, 14 sleeping bags, five small tents, and 16 pairs of socks to Action Inc. Some of you took items up on your own, so together we were able to help a lot of people keep warm this winter. I also took some smaller blankets, jackets, and socks to the Rescue Mission. Thank you for being so generous!

Our outreach Opportunity focus for February is Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Gold Hill has **always** supported the camp in the 40+ years that I have been a member here. That has been one of the things I love about our congregation! Over the years we have had many of our young people attend summer Bible Camp, as well as ladies attending retreats and families attending Family Camp. In recent years, we have benefitted from camp counselors leading Bible School at Gold Hill and Gloria Dei. *[And, did you know that their insurance rate has doubled in this last year?]*

Any money that you can put in the Outreach Ministry Opportunity envelopes will go to camp. You can also add a donation in your regular weekly offering envelope and mark that it is for FLBC. No amount is too small—every dollar helps!

Gold Hill is sponsoring the Ladies Valentine Luncheon as a fundraiser for FLBC. We are providing the food with the help of a Thrivent Action Gift Card. Our ladies will do the preparing of the food, and decorations, and plan a fun program. A free-will offering will be taken and will be given to FLBC. We have invited the ladies from Gloria Dei and Hope Lutheran in Anaconda. It will be at noon on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

By Danette Fitzpatrick

December 2024	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	17,877.00	12,700.00	5,177.00
Expenses	10,039.00	12,841.00	-2,801.00
Net Income	7,902.00	-200.18	<b>8,102.00</b>

Year to Date 2024	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	137,216.00	152,600.00	-15,383.60
Expenses	154,013.00	154,091.00	-78.32
Net Income	-16796.00	-2,403.00	-14,397.00

**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](mailto:danenurse@yahoo.com). Thank you!

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#### **PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday: Gloria Dei by appointment (Visit day)

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

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

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

## Cry Room Sound System

We added a sound system in the cry room for our little parishioners. To operate the system, you simply turn it on and adjust the volume to your liking.

I want to give out a special thank you to Peggy Probasco for donating the radio and Rande Farrow for his help installing the system.

Ron Gruss

## Interfaith Unit info & Schedule

We invite the community to join us for our interfaith units starting this Sunday at Gloria Dei. Below is a list of the topics and speakers we will be covering. Dinner will begin at 5 PM on the specified dates, followed by the unit shortly after. We look forward to seeing you there!

**\*\*Schedule:\*\***

- 3/2/25: Native American Spirituality  
Speaker: Karen Williamson

- 3/9/25: Buddhism  
Speaker: TBD

### **Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church**

934 Placer Street  
Butte, MT 59701

#### **Phone:**

(406) 723-4242

#### **E-Mail:**

goldhill.elca@gmail.com

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

Pastor Sarah Schilcher

Parish Admin. Assistant Tristyn Howard

## Gold Hill ELCA Trust Committee

01/08/2025

Members present: Ron Gruss, Revonda Stordahl, Annette Lawson, Chris Ketchum and Mike Welker, replacing Vern Nielsen who passed away.

### **Old Business**

Annette read the minutes from 11/06/ 2024. Revonda(m) and Chris(s) to accept the minutes.

The motion passed.

Revonda passed out the treasurer's report.

The ending Nov. 2024 balance of the Memorial checking account \$21,034.45. The ending Nov. 2024 balance of the Perpetual checking account was \$2,896.10. The combined total of the checking accounts was \$23,930.55. The November 2024 balance of the Endowment Fund was \$108,886.91. Chris(m) and Mike(s) to accept the report. The motion passed.

### **New Business**

Annette read the rough draft of her part of the annual report. The committee suggested adding three items to the report. Mike(m) to accept the report with the additions, Chris(s). The motion passed. Revonda and Ron will meet to work on the financial part of the annual report. The annual meeting is on February 2, 2025.

The next meeting will be on Monday April 21, 2025 at 5:15 pm at Gold Hill.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Lawson, secretary



**Gold Hill Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes – January 14,**  
**2025**

*\*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**

- Kolby shared the devotion.

**4) Approval of the Minutes: December 10, 2024**

- It was motioned, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for December 10th, 2024.

**5) Pastor's Report**

- Pastor Sarah provided a list of her monthly activities for December, which included:
  - Check-in Phone Calls: 75
  - Community Outreach: 11
  - Home Communion Visits: 10 (5 Gold Hill; 5 Gloria Dei)
  - Counseling Sessions: 6
  - Funeral Services: 3
  - Nursing Home Services: 1
  - Average Weekly Hours: 67.80

- Pastor Sarah inquired about installing cameras at the entrances to the church for security purposes.
- Pastor Sarah shared that two new members would be welcomed to the church at the joint service at Gloria Dei on January 26th. The Council MSC to accept the new members.
- Scheduling the next Parish Council Meeting for the Copper City Parish was discussed.

**6) Treasurer's Report**

- It was MSC to approve the December financial report. Danette shared that a \$7,000 donation was received at the end of the year.

- The Executive Committee presented the proposed 2025 budget to the Council. The budget was discussed and an amendment to the Clergy budget was proposed once Gold Hill and Gloria Dei agreed to a split of the clergy costs. It was MSC to accept the budget as amended and present the budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

**7) President's Report**

- Dave proposed scheduling the Parish Committee Meeting for Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM and agreed to coordinate with Gloria Dei to see if that date would work.

**8) Administrative Director's Report**

- Nothing to report

**9) Worship Ministry**

- Shelly reported on worship activities and notified the Council that music planning was complete through March.

**10) Leadership Ministry**

- Jody Bickford notified the Council that the kitchen wiring issues had been addressed.

**11) Spiritual Growth Ministry**

- Pat reported that 14 children participated in the Christmas program.

**12) Outreach Ministry**

- Linda reported the December Outreach Ministry efforts (Mitten Tree and Vets Home) were a success, Action, Inc. is still in search of three tents for January's outreach efforts, and March's Outreach Ministry efforts will focus on financial aid for the California fires.

**13) Other Business:**

- Bing Crosby with Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (FLBC) provided an update to the Council on FLBC's Strategic/Master Plan and upcoming capital campaign. Bing thanked Gold Hill for their continued support.
- The Council MSC to adopt a new Sex Offender Policy and several other supporting documents as addendums to Gold Hill's existing Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program.
- The Council discussed the agenda for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

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

**1** *World Interfaith Harmony Week (U.N.)* Ask the Spirit to help congregations create opportunities for dialogue and learning with people whose religious beliefs and traditions are different from our own, for the sake of peace, harmony, cooperation and mutual understanding.

**2** The word of God brings joy and comfort to us yet is sometimes difficult to hear. Pray that we will reflect on how God's word strikes us, especially when it challenges what is safe, familiar and comfortable in our lives.

**3** Ask God to help us move beyond our apprehensions, anger and entrenched beliefs so that we might confess and address deeply rooted aspects of racism that poison relationships, workplaces, society and the church. Pray for the Spirit to remind us that we are children of God who live in grace and are called to love, respect and serve one another — complexities, differences and all.

**4** Among all our gifts and abilities, the most important is love for God and our neighbors — family, strangers and siblings in Christ alike. Praise God for teaching us what love entails through the selfless, unreserved and undeserved love of Jesus Christ for humankind.

**5** Pray for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA, which seeks, supports, nurtures and sends pastors and seminary students to serve as federal chaplains and chaplain candidates for the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions. Give thanks for chaplains and the gifts that the Spirit nurtures within them as they serve in unique contexts.

**6** Lift up prayers and songs of praise to God for being the bright light in the world that illuminates the one true and enduring source of hope, guidance and eternal life — Jesus Christ.

**7** Use the words of Psalm 71:3 in your prayer to God today: "Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress."

**8** Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who labor in one or more jobs to meet basic daily needs for themselves and their families. Ask God to strengthen and sustain their spiritual and physical strength and to help us be supportive, caring and generous neighbors.

**9** Ask God to help us be attentive and responsive to how God speaks to us through Scripture, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the work of the Spirit and the encouragement and admonition offered by our siblings in Christ.

**10** Give thanks for the ELCA's commitment to accompany and work with interreligious partners, including the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, an initiative that connects, equips and mobilizes leaders and members of faith communities to address anti-Muslim discrimination and violence, foster greater understanding and shift attitudes about Islam and Muslims in our country.

**11** What tasks feel overwhelming to you right now? Ask God to renew your spirit for undertaking those things that are difficult to work through and accomplish.

**12** Remember in prayer our ministries in nine African countries. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, International Women Leaders and Young Adults in Global Mission who work alongside companion churches to help spread the gospel, equip leaders, grow the church and respond to community needs.

**13** We are recipients and beneficiaries of the good news of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and imperfections and defied the finality of death so that we could live with newfound freedom in this world, and forever in the kingdom of God.

**14** Give thanks to God for the leaders of our church who respond to God's call by serving as ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service. Ask the Spirit to sustain their faith, inspire their joy in ministry and equip them with gifts and skills for serving in diverse and challenging contexts.

**15** Pray for peace, healing and justice, especially in the critical contexts of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, the Middle East, troubled regions of Africa and wherever conflict and war exist in the world.

**16** Remember in prayer those impacted by the wildfires in Southern California and by severe winter weather, and those involved in long-term recovery from disasters. Give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response and for synods and congregations that provide financial support, resources, volunteers and encouragement.

**17** Pray for the 300 health and human service organizations that form the alliance of Lutheran Services in America and serve more than 6 million people every year in the United States and the Caribbean. Pray that our work together through these organizations will provide us with abundant resources and skills to respond to the unique needs of people of all ages.

**18** “I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you” (Isaiah 43:1-2). Give thanks and praise to God for being our ever present help in every circumstance of life.

**19** Praise God for the work of the Spirit, which creates and nurtures our faith and hope in Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, whose love has no limits and endures through our ups and downs.

**20** *World Day of Social Justice (U.N.)* Ask for God’s help to advance social justice everywhere, to foster healthy societies and economies, to end inequality and discrimination, and to increase inclusion — issues critical for the well-being of our neighbors and communities.

**21** Thank God for the ELCA’s special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**22** Remember in prayer our ministries in nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel and Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, who help deepen relationships of accompaniment with companion churches and who work to develop leaders, strengthen education and health ministries, and confront issues of migration and gender justice.

**23** “Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you” (Luke 6:27-28). Pray for humility and courage to love our neighbors as God has loved us.

**24** In the dreariness of winter, when nature seems lifeless, give thanks to God for the people and little things reminding us that life endures, though we might think it depleted. God’s ability to create, revive and sustain life — even in us — is cause for joy and thanksgiving!

**25** Pray for synod bishops gathering for the spring Conference of Bishops in Itasca, Ill., that the Spirit will guide and enrich their time together for worship, study, mutual sharing, and conducting business. Give thanks for their guidance of our church and ask God to equip them for leadership, service and responding to the growing challenges of ministry in our 65 synods.

**26** Give thanks for the work we do together through programs, ministries and initiatives of the ELCA and our synods. Pray that our church will thrive and that we will inspire faith and hope wherever we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**27** “Esteem [the Bible] as the precious fountain that can never be exhausted” (Martin Luther, *Table Talk*). What stories and texts in the Bible are most familiar to you? Pray for the Spirit to help you discover something new and revealing each time you read or hear those familiar texts.

**28** Pray for the ministries unique to your community, that we will consider the people and needs they serve, value their staff and volunteers, and generously support their work.

# February 2025

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

Contact: (406) 723-4242 or [goldhill.elca@gmail.com](mailto: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
<b>2 ANNUAL MEETING</b> 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gold Hill 11:00 am Joint Worship @ Gold Hill; potluck to follow	<b>3</b> 10:00 am GHCLC Book Club	<b>4</b> 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei 5:30pm Executive Committee	<b>5</b> 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gloria Dei	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	<b>11</b> 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:00 am Gather Bible Study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei 5:30pm Council meeting	<b>12</b> 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	<b>13</b> 12:00 pm W.E.L.C.A Valentine's Day party @ Gold Hill	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Pastor Sarah Out of Office						
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gloria Dei	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	<b>19</b> 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters	<b>21</b> 12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:15 am Sunday School @ Gloria Dei 11:00 am Joint Worship @ Gloria Dei	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	<b>25</b> 8:30am – Perkins bible study 10:30am- Women's Bible Study @ Gloria Dei	<b>26</b> 10:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Choir practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

Date	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte	Worship Asst.	PowerPoint	Communion Asst.	Coffee Hour
<b>Feb. 2</b>	Kolby & Tracy Sukut	Heatherlynn Meeks	Allen Podgorski	N/A	Ron Gruss	Tavia Broudy	Susan Stamp
<b>Feb. 9</b>	Dorothy Tallon & Byron DeWaay	Aaron Hoffenbacker	N/A	Heatherlynn Meeks	Brieson Campbell	N/A	Peggy Probasco
<b>Feb. 16</b>	Kayla Harvey & Danette Fitzpatrick	Derek Harvey	Tavia Broudy	N/A	Chris Ketchum	Patti Chain	Shelly Anderson
<b>Feb. 23</b>	Linda Williamson & Jeff Williamson	Julie Corbin	N/A	Chris Ketchum	Aaron Hoffenbacker	N/A	Patti Chain