

# *The Nugget*



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

**February 2026**

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)

## **Walking Together Into Lent: A Season of Honest Hope**

As we step into the season of Lent, we join Christians across the world—and across generations—in a journey that is both deeply personal and profoundly communal. In the ELCA, Lent is not a time for shame or spiritual performance. It is a season of honest hope, where we tell the truth about our lives and lean into the truth of God's grace.

Lent begins with ashes, a reminder that we are finite, fragile, and deeply loved. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" is not a threat but a grounding. It brings us back to who we are and who God is. We are creatures held by a Creator who refuses to let brokenness have the final word.

The heart of Lent is return—returning to God, returning to community, returning to the practices that shape us into people of compassion and courage. Luther often spoke of repentance not as a one-time event but as a daily turning, a continual reorientation toward the God who meets us with mercy.

This season invites us to slow down, to listen, and to notice where God is already at work in our lives. It invites us to name the places where we feel stretched thin, where we long for healing, where we hunger for renewal. And it invites us to trust that God receives all of it with tenderness.

Throughout these forty days, we follow Jesus on the road that leads to Jerusalem. We witness his compassion for the overlooked, his courage in the face of injustice, his willingness to love even when it costs him everything. His journey becomes our guide.

As we walk with him, we are invited to embody his way of life—seeking reconciliation, practicing generosity, showing up for our neighbors, and trusting that God's kingdom is breaking in even when the world feels heavy.

Lent is not a solitary path. We walk it together. In worship, in service, in shared meals, in quiet conversations, we remind one another that God is still writing the story. Even in the wilderness, hope takes root.

And as Easter draws near, we remember that Lent is always moving toward resurrection. The cross is not the end. God's promise is life—abundant, surprising, and new.

This season, may you find moments of stillness, courage, and renewal. May you feel God's presence in the ordinary rhythms of your days. And may our community walk this path with open hearts, trusting that God is leading us toward healing and hope.

Blessings on your Lenten journey.



## 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.

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

**Aric Sorenson-** prayers for health and healing.

**Ginger DeWitt-** prayers for health and healing.

**Terry Nash-** prayers for health and healing.

**Arlene Munyon-** prayers for health and healing.

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

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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 Barb Crnich  
Feb. 24 Huntchens Welker  
Feb. 28 Nancy DeBarathy



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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!**

Sunday School Teachers for February  
Feb. 1- Leanne McFarland & Taisha Sharon  
Feb. 8- Christy Chain & Pat Gruss  
Feb. 15- Kayla Harvey & Kyleen Fuller  
Feb. 22 9 am @ Gold Hill -  
Christopher Stodden & Elaine Fuller



## 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!

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### Outreach Valentine's Party



Gold Hill Lutheran Church will be  
hosting an Outreach Valentine's Party  
on February 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Additionally, enjoy a  
short performance by the Butte  
Threshold Choir. Please come and enjoy  
the fellowship!

**Outreach Ministry**  
**by Linda Moore**

On Monday I took up the last of your donations to MT Tech for their food pantry. Again, our congregation did not disappoint. I made three trips in all and counted over 120 items. This might not sound like so much until you think of four bars of soap in a pack, six granola bars in a box, eight packets of oatmeal in a box, 70 fruit snacks in a large box, a netted bag filled with tangerines, enough bread and peanut butter and jelly to make 100 [or more!] sandwiches, etc., ...and multiple multiples of Ramen Noodles! I wish I could take all of you with me when I make these deliveries. The recipients are so grateful! We will also send them all \$\$ from the Outreach envelopes in January.

February 12th at noon will be our "Galentines" luncheon. We hope all of you ladies will be able to attend. Peggy Probasco is our chief cook, so you know the food will be outstanding, and the Wednesday quilters will make everything festive. The ladies from Hope Lutheran in Anaconda and Gloria Dei are also invited. We will have a short program by the Butte Threshold Choir and, of course, door prizes. A freewill offering will be taken with proceeds going to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. You men can participate too by donating money in our Outreach envelopes any time in February ☺

**! ATTENTION !**

**COMBINED SERVICE DATES:**

Ash Wednesday - 6:30 pm at Gold Hill

February 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10 am at Gold Hill

February 25<sup>th</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup> (Lenten Midweek services) 5:30 pm Soup & Bread followed by service at Gold Hill

Sundays in March- 10 am at Gold Hill

\*There will be no services at Gloria Dei for the month of March!!

**GLORIA DEI SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
**REQUEST FOR LWR PERSONAL CARE**  
**KITS**

This Lenten season, rather than to give up something, we're asking you to help someone less fortunate again this year! **AND WE'RE ASKING OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS AT GOLD HILL TO JOIN US IN HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS AROUND THE WORLD!**

We ask that you please bring ANY or all of following items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief during Lent:

1. Light-weight bath-size towels (maximum 52" X 27"), dark color recommended.

Please try to buy inexpensive lightweight towels. **Mainstays Basic Bath towels at Walmart work great!**



2. Bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping. Each kit requires 8-9 ounces so any combination up to 9 ounces.



3. Adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging (Please donate toothbrushes that will last and not fall apart.) Walmart has Colgate toothbrushes for \$1.00



4. **STURDY** combs for any type of hair. Like the ones pictured here. We've purchased ours at the Dollar Store...the shower combs

5. Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

There will be a plastic collection bin for personal care items at Gold Hill.

**We have set a goal of 70 Personal Care Kits for this year!** (That's the number we made last year.)  
**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**

**We will compile the kits after worship at Gloria Dei during Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 19.**



**Gold Hill Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes – January 6,**  
**2026**

*\*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**

- David Stordahl (President)
- Ty Inglis (Administrative Director)
- Kolby Sukut (Secretary)
- Jim Anderson (Treasurer)
- Shelly Anderson (Worship)
- Miriam Haley (Leadership)
- Jody Bickford (Leadership)
- Linda Moore (Outreach)

**3) Devotions**

- David shared the devotion.

**4) Approval of the Minutes: December 9th, 2025**

- It was motioned, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for December 9th, 2025.

**5) Pastor's Report**

- Nothing to report.

**6) Treasurer's Report**

- Jim provided an update on the year's financials and outlook.
- Jim shared the Year-End Financial Reports; it was MSC to approve the report..
- The Council discussed the 2026 Budget; Jim will prepare and distribute the final budget for Council approval to go to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

**7) President's Report**

- Nothing to report.

**8) Administrative Director's Report**

- Nothing to report.

**9) Worship Ministry**

- Nothing to report.

**10) Leadership Ministry**

- Miriam discussed keeping the doors to the sanctuary closed and maintaining the thermostat at 65 degrees. It was noted that heat tape has been installed on certain pipes susceptible to freezing when weather gets cold.
- The Council discussed the Policy for Building Use.

**11) Spiritual Growth Ministry**

- Nothing to report.

**12) Outreach Ministry**

- Linda shared the Outreach Ministry's ongoing efforts; 50 hats, 10 scarves, and 21 pairs of mittens were received for the hat/mitten tree for Action, Inc. and January is the "fill the pantry" fundraiser for Montana Tech students.

**13) Other Business:**

- The Council discussed the agenda for the Annual Meeting; the Council agreed to not do a potluck to expedite the meeting.

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



**1 National Freedom Day and Black History Month**

Today commemorates the abolishment of slavery in 1865 and recognizes past, present and future work to secure and protect freedom, justice, equality and respect for all people. It is also the first day of Black History Month. Pray for strength, humility and penitent hearts so we may acknowledge our nation's history and the mistreatment of people based on ancestry, race, religion and perceived differences. Give thanks that our sins and weaknesses are met with God's immense grace and the Spirit's ability to effect change and newness in us, our church and society.

2 Remember in prayer siblings in Christ and communities of faith in the Caribbean region, especially those who are engaged in long-term recovery from natural disasters. Pray for the Caribbean and Florida-Bahamas synods, that their work will bear abundant fruit as they support congregations and ministries in proclaiming the gospel in diverse contexts throughout the region.

3 Pray for nations experiencing violence and war, including Venezuela, Ukraine and Russia, the Middle East, South Sudan and others. Ask God to guide leaders, diplomats and peacemakers as they seek lasting solutions and peace. Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to be advocates and bearers of peace, hope and justice in our communities and the world.

4 The Lord "has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)? Ask God to help you understand the depth and breadth of justice, kindness, humility and love, which we are asked to exemplify in every aspect of our life and baptismal journey.

5 Pray for young adults who are discerning whether to say yes to serving in an outdoor ministry summer program. Ask God to give them confidence in their faith and the gifts that the Spirit has nurtured in them for service and ministry with children, youth and adults.

6 Ask the Spirit to provide us encouragement and guidance for our life and baptismal journey through Scripture, faith communities, the counsel and example of siblings in Christ, church leaders, people of faith who have gone before us, and prayer.

7 Give thanks and pray for the ELCA's partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the challenging and hope-filled work of its school and ministries that serve both Christians and Muslims.

8 "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Give thanks for those who have inspired your faith. Pray that you are also a light for others, giving glory to God and shining bright with love, mercy and hope.

9 Pray for the ELCA's Congregations Lead Initiative, which equips and inspires congregations with innovation and tools that renew their ministry and community partnerships to create adaptable, relevant and thriving faith communities.

10 "The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail" (Isaiah 58:11). Give thanks and praise to God who is ever-present and sustains our faith, spirit and strength so that we can navigate times of adversity and uncertainty.

11 Give thanks for your synod staff who help equip, support and encourage congregations and leaders to share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve neighbors in need and do God's work in the world.

12 As ELCA members, we are called to respond to our neighbors in need here and around the world. Pray that the impact we have with individuals and communities will grow with the work we do together through ELCA World Hunger, HIV and AIDS Ministry, Lutheran Disaster Response, AMMPARO Migrant Ministry and social ministry organizations.

13 Remember in prayer unsheltered neighbors and siblings in Christ, that they will have safe, secure and consistent places to live each day. Give thanks and pray for those who are part of the Homeless and Justice Network of the ELCA, a coalition of ministries called to serve people on the margins who are struggling with homelessness, poverty and justice issues.

14 Pray for the members of your congregation, their relationships and marriages, that they will experience love, forgiveness, joy, respect and mutual care.

15 Transfiguration of Our Lord “While [Peter] was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him’” (Matthew 17:5). Praise God for revealing to us that Jesus Christ is the son of God, the promised messiah, savior and bearer of God’s love and mercy, who delivers us from the darkness of our sins and weaknesses.

16 Give thanks for Mission Builders, an ELCA ministry that uses a nationwide network of faithful and active men and women who eagerly use their diverse skills to support congregations, outdoor ministries and schools with construction projects that help grow the ministry and outreach of the church.

17 Ask the Spirit to help us refrain from complacency and silence in response to our neighbors who experience daily challenges and injustice, especially among immigrants and refugees, people experiencing poverty, unsheltered neighbors, the elderly, those who are incarcerated and others. Pray that our response to neighbors in need reflects the compassion, respect and justice that Jesus demonstrated throughout his ministry and implored us to follow.

18 Ash Wednesday Today is the first day of Lent. Ask the Spirit to help you reflect on your faith as a follower of Christ who — with imperfection — values and practices sacrifice, witness, service, generosity and spiritual growth.

19 Praise God for ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers who walk together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith siblings in Christ in 35 countries around the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ, care for the needs of communities, nurture leaders and strengthen ministries.

20 Pray that liturgical colors, symbols, Scripture and worship during Lent remind us that we are not left in the darkness of suffering and death. Give thanks that the Spirit always leads us to the empty cross of our risen Savior — Jesus Christ — who restores life and promises eternal life in the kingdom of God.

21 Remember in prayer the ELCA AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities ) strategy and the volunteers, advocates, congregations and synods that strive to protect and accompany vulnerable migrant

children and their families who seek safe and welcoming places to reestablish their lives.

22 Is there some realm of life right now where you feel as if you’re in a wilderness and being tested? Ask God for strength, wisdom and guidance, and lean into the faith given to you by the Spirit.

23 Give thanks for ELCA Witness in Society, the advocacy ministry of our church that works to change public policy through our collective and individual voices, which are shaped and guided by biblical values of peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

24 Pray for our 65 synod bishops gathered at the Conference of Bishops meeting for worship and study, mutual sharing and encouragement, and to conduct business on our behalf for the purpose of being responsible stewards of the church, sharing the gospel and doing God’s work in a world that is always changing.

25 “Prayer must not be based on or depend on your personal worthiness or the quality of the prayer itself; rather, it must be based on the unchanging truth of God’s promise” (Martin Luther, Faith Alone). Pray for whatever is on your mind today; be in conversation with God and trust that your words — imperfect, spoken and silent — are heard and attended to.

26 Gun violence continues to afflict our society. In 2025, there were 38,741 deaths related to gun violence and 408 mass shootings ([gunviolencearchive.org](http://gunviolencearchive.org)). Ask God to give us the strength to be diligent in our work and advocacy to end such violence and care for those who suffer grief and trauma due to gun violence and accidental shootings.

27 Give thanks and praise to God for strengthened faith, blessings and the confidence we receive through God’s word, water, bread and prayer, which equip and encourage us to go out into the world and do God’s work — together.

28 Pray for the ELCA’s directors for evangelical mission, the leaders who help coordinate the partnership between churchwide ministries and the 65 synods of our church. Pray for the work we do together to develop new-start ministries, revitalize congregations, practice stewardship and generosity, and develop and equip leaders for mission and ministry.

# February 2026

*Church Office Hours: 11:35 AM to 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
<b>1 Annual Meeting</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>2</b> 10:00 am GHELC Book Club	<b>3</b> 8:30 am Perkins Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b> 10:30 am LWR Quilters	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Perkins Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study	<b>11</b> 10:30 am LWR Quilters	<b>12</b> 12:00 pm Galentine's Day Party  6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b>  Event in fellowship hall
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>16</b> President's Day Office Closed	<b>17</b> 8:30 am Perkins Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study	<b>18 Ash Wednesday</b> 10:30 am LWR Quilters  6:30 pm Ash Wednesday service @ Gold Hill	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch	<b>21</b>
<b>22 1st Combined Service @ Gold Hill</b>  9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee Hour	<b>23</b> 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill	<b>24</b> 8:30 am Perkins Bible Study 10:00 am Gather Bible Study 10:30 am Women's Bible Study	<b>25</b> 10:30 am LWR Quilters  5:30 pm Soup & Bread; service in fellowship hall	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

Date	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte	Worship Asst.	PowerPoint	Communion Asst.	Coffee Hour
<b>Feb. 1</b>	Bob & Machele Keim	Brant Lumpkin	Allen Podgorski	N/A	Brieson Campbell	Linda Williamson	Council
<b>Feb. 8</b>	Dorothy Tallon & Byron DeWaay	Paul Vang	N/A	Chris Ketchum	Elaine Fuller	N/A	Machele Keim
<b>Feb. 15</b>	Jeff Williamson & Linda Williamson	Derek Harvey	Josie Harvey	N/A	Ron Gruss	Christy Chain	Dorothy Tallon Karen Galpin
<b>Feb. 22</b>	Pat Gruss & Nancy DeBarathy	Julie Corbin	N/A	Mike Lawson	Chris Ketchum	N/A	Shelly Anderson