

The Nugget



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

July 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!

As we embrace the warmth and vibrancy of July, it brings with it the opportunity to reflect on the beauty of creation that surrounds us in our beloved state of Montana. The long summer days invite us not only to bask in the sunshine, but also to immerse ourselves in the love and grace that God extends to us every day. This month, I encourage you to find moments of peace, joy, and connection with both God and one another.

There is a verse from Galatians that I invite you to reflect on this month: “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.” (Galatians 5:13)

In our busy lives, it is crucial to remember the essence of our freedom in Christ. The freedom granted to us is a beautiful gift meant not for selfishness but for the service and love of others. As we navigate our lives, both individually and as a community, we are called to remember that true fulfillment comes when we embody Christ’s love in our actions towards each other.

This month, our goal is to focus on our shared mission of serving our community and one another. Our local outreach initiatives continue to thrive, especially our Outreach Opportunities which is Period Kits for July. I invite you to participate in all the ways that our church family is serving our community, whether it’s through volunteering at the Food Bank, or the Rescue Mission, or Action Inc, joining in our summer fellowship events like watching “The Wild Robot” together at Gloria Dei at 6 PM on July 20th, or simply reaching out to a neighbor in need. Every act of love strengthens the bonds we share as the Body of Christ.

As we move through this month, take time to reflect—how are we living out our freedom in ways that uplift and serve those around us? I pray that we can continue to grow as a community, rooted in love, grace, and kindness.

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.

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.

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July Birthdays/Anniversaries:

July 3 Lindsay Campbell
July 5 MaryJane Lillyblad
July 7 Holly Schroeder
July 7 Deb Young
July 11 Jeanette Quist
July 16 JoAnn Farrow
July 17 Ken Stamp
July 18 Carol Eddy
July 20 Ron Gruss
July 23 Sheilah Vincent
July 24 Cindy Munyon
July 29 Hynten Welker
July 30 Judy Bond



July 19 Ron & Pat Gruss
July 19 Rande & JoAnn Farrow

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

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!

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday: Gloria Dei by appointment (Visit day)

Wednesday: **8:30-5:00 pm Gold Hill**

Thursday: **8:30-5:00 pm Gold Hill**

Friday: 8:30 am--5:00 pm Gloria Dei

We Deliver-Sack Lunch Ministry

Volunteers for May were: Annette Lawson, Patty Callaghan, Carol Leach, Lynn Aniksdal.

Food supplies & donations for food provided by: Lynn Aniksdal, Patty Callaghan, Nick & Debbie Ellings, Laurie Huff, Annette Lawson. Thank you!

We will meet this month on July 21st at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall to put these lunches together. If you have any questions please feel free to call Annette Lawson, at 406-490-7751.

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Outreach Opportunities By: Linda Moore

Wow!! The Kids Swim Free day at Ridge Waters sponsored by Gold Hill and Gloria Dei was a huge success! 887 kids were able to enjoy a nice, warm, sunny day at the Waterpark. I want to give a huge Thank You to all of you who donated (and donated again) so we could sponsor this fun day for the youth of Butte.

July's project will be to collect feminine hygiene products for the "Period Kits" we will be putting together in August. These will be given to the Butte school nurses before the start of classes this fall. Girls are sometimes starting their cycles as early as 3rd grade and may come to school unaware or unprepared for this to happen. Older girls sometimes stay home from school if they don't have items they need to manage their periods effectively.

We will package the kits discreetly in a soft pencil case. Each kit will contain pads, tampons, and individually wrapped or travel-size packs of wipes. We would also like to include individually wrapped chocolates or other nice candy pieces to brighten their day. If you can supply any of these items, please leave them in the bags by each door. Thank You!

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

By Jim Anderson

May 2025	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	10,645.12	12,716.68	(2,071.53)
Expenses	15,055.39	12,840.94	2,214.45
Net Income	(4,410.27)	(124.26)	(4,286.01)

Year to Date 2025	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	61,492.16	63,583.40	(2,091.24)
Expenses	64,852.96	64,204.70	648.26
Net Income	(3,360.80)	(621.30)	(2,739.50)

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Phone:
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 11:35 am - 2:35 pm
Pastor Sarah Schilcher

Parish Admin. Assistant Tristyn Howard

Mission Opportunity

By Patty Callaghan

We know the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand but we may sometimes overlook what Jesus said to his disciples before he fed the crowd: “You give them something to eat.” (Luke 9:13)

Today, we still take seriously what Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.” Both in the Old and New Testaments we are told to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, care for the sick. Though many give generously, sometimes it takes organizational skills as well to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.

In our ELCA, many of us donate to Lutheran World Relief to do that work. Locally we donate to homeless shelters and sack lunches and other such efforts. But to do that work worldwide, we as a nation have also supported using our tax dollars to care for and feed the desperately poor around the world. Malnourished babies and children have been fed and nurtured, giving their communities and countries hope for their future. The United States, along with many other nations, has for many years budgeted money for humanitarian needs in many of the world’s poorest nations. **Until this year**, when the federal administration’s DOGE significantly cut global humanitarian aid. One of the programs whose funding was eliminated provided formula used to feed severely malnourished babies and children, many of whom will not now survive without this aid

Congress has approved funding for these programs because U.S. global humanitarian assistance not only puts into action God’s calling for us to care for our neighbors, and Jesus’ command to “give them something to eat,” but saving and improving the lives of tens of millions of people every year makes the

world stronger, safer, and more prosperous. Food security means people can lead active and productive lives. Food security means neighbors don’t have to fight each other to survive.

Bread for the World is leading an effort to reject these funding cuts and the dismantling of life-saving global hunger and nutrition programs. We can help with this effort by donating to Bread for the World and by writing letters, phoning, or emailing our congressional representatives to tell them we strongly support these programs that feed and care for hungry and homeless people, many of them in very poor nations.

Bread for the World staff provides materials, inspiration, and support for this effort to save the programs that save lives. We will have these materials soon and will share the information with those who want to help. An Offering of Letters or emails is usually done in a group setting, but can also be done individually. We hope to have a July Sunday afternoon gathering for those who want to work together on such an Offering.



Gold Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes - June 10, 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 Schilcher
- David Stordahl (President)
- Jim Anderson (Treasurer)
- Shelly Anderson (Worship)
- Kolby Sukut (Secretary)
- Miriam Haley (Leadership)
- Jody Bickford (Leadership)
- Linda Moore (Outreach)

3) Devotions

- Dave shared the devotion.

4) Approval of the Minutes: May 13, 2025

- The Council Meeting Minutes were provided in the June Nugget. It was motioned, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve the minutes for May 13th, 2025.

5) Pastor's Report

- Pastor Sarah provided a list of her monthly activities for May, which included:

Check-in Phone Calls:	65
Community Outreach:	6
Home Communion Visits:	17
	(9 Gold Hill; 5 Gloria Dei; 8)
Counseling Sessions:	6
Funeral Services:	2
Baptisms:	3 (3 April; 1 May)
Nursing Home Services:	1
Average Weekly Hours:	54.53

6) Treasurer's Report

- The May Financial Report was reviewed and it was MSC to approve the report.

7) President's Report

- Dave shared that the sprinkler contractor had installed the drip lines in the raised garden beds.

8) Administrative Director's Report

- Ty was absent. Nothing to report.

9) Worship Ministry

- Shelly provided an update on upcoming services, which include:
 - The service at Stodden Park is scheduled for June 29th with setup at 10:00, the service scheduled for 11:00, and a potluck to follow the service.
 - The service at Clark's Park is scheduled for August 31st.
 - God's Work Our Hands event is scheduled for September 7th.

10) Leadership Ministry

- Miriam and Jody provided an update on Church maintenance activities. Miriam provided a handout summarizing ongoing church maintenance and grounds activities, which included maintenance and repairs to the parsonage (electrical work, painting, roofing, carpet replacement, sprinklers, etc.) which are scheduled to be completed by the end of June.
- Miriam indicated that the daycare had requested the addition of the "tool room" downstairs to their rental, which would require relocation of the tool room upstairs. Dave and Ty will reach out to Mellissa.
- A room-sized electric heater was offered as a gift to the Church which could be used in the fireside room for the knitting ministry and others. The Council agreed to accept the gift.

11) Spiritual Growth Ministry

- The Council discussed Vacation Bible School (VBS) which is scheduled for June 23rd through June 26th. VBS is still in need of volunteers, specifically a pre-school counselor.

12) Outreach Ministry

- Linda updated the Council on the Ridgewater's Swim Day outreach effort which is scheduled for June 18th. Tristyn has made up fliers and to-date \$509.40 has been donated which the Trust Committee has agreed to match.
- Linda discussed additional Outreach Ministry efforts which include Bread for the World in July and assembling feminine care kits for Butte schools.

13) Other Business:

- The Council discussed the management and sale of the Parsonage. Pastor Sarah brought a proposal to the Council for occupancy of the Parsonage as opposed to its sale. Refer to attached addendum for the Council's action on this proposal could affect premiums and the search for a new provided.

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

**ADDENDUM #1 TO THE
GOLD HILL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FOR JUNE 10th, 2025**

On June 15th, 2025, following the regular Sunday service, the Council met to discuss the proposal for occupancy of the Parsonage as an alternative to its sale. The Council discussed amongst themselves the benefits and concerns associated with the proposal and it was ultimately MSC to reject the proposal for alternate use of the Parsonage and proceed with its sale.

July 2025 Prayer Ventures

1 Remember in prayer congregations, synods and outdoor ministries that have applied for an ELCA Disability Ministry grant. These grants support projects and programs that identify and prepare people with disabilities for leadership positions and equip members of congregations to welcome them to full participation in the life of the church.

2 Nothing is impossible for God. Our sins, fears, demons and eccentricities are no match for God's power to forgive, heal and renew us. Give thanks to God for surrounding us with siblings in Christ who extend to us their mercy and love.

3 Our church has missionaries in 35 countries, and its Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program covers six countries/territories. Pray that God will bless these missionaries as they serve alongside companion churches in education, evangelism, administration, parish ministry, leadership development, justice and health.

4 *Independence Day* Give thanks for the freedom we enjoy in our country. Promise to be responsible with that freedom and attentive to those marginalized by poverty, prejudice, persecution, unjust laws or malevolent ideologies.

5 "Insofar as a Christian is free, no works are necessary. Insofar as a Christian is a servant, all kinds of works are done" (Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*). Praise God for freeing us from sin through the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. Ask the Spirit to inspire our service, our acts of kindness and mercy, and our praise for God, the true source of absolute freedom.

6 God sends us into the world equipped to share the gospel, care for neighbors in need, inspire hope and strive for justice and healing. Give thanks for the strength and encouragement we receive from our church, our faith communities and our siblings in Christ.

7 Pray for the ELCA Domestic Mission unit and its renewal team, which help synods to equip congregations for engaging in renewal ministry and for growing as vibrant and diverse communities of faith.

8 Give thanks for community gardens that feed our neighbors, and pray for the people who tend them with love and purpose.

9 Pray for people traveling this summer, that they will be enriched by their experiences, filled with awe at creation, and inspired to share the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere they go.

10 Pray for the ELCA stewardship leaders network, which grows well-equipped mission interpreters, stewardship key leaders, ventures steward leaders and stewardship coaches to serve as resources for congregations and nurture generosity across the church.

11 "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith" (Galatians 6:9-10). Pray for our nation, that we will be renewed in our resolve to uplift neighbors who are excluded, forgotten or ignored.

12 Stewardship and generosity are daily expressions of how we respond to God's immeasurable grace. Pray that the Spirit will nurture within us a lively spirit of generosity to respond to the needs of others, do God's work in the world and grow the church.

13 Pray for the compassion to care for our neighbors in need, just as the good Samaritan stopped to assist a stranger robbed, beaten and left for dead.

14 "Listen to the word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is close at hand; listen to the voice that began creation; listen even if you don't understand" (ACS 974). May we be open and attentive to how God speaks to us, reaching into our souls every day to stir our faith, knowledge and wisdom.

15 Praise God that in baptism we are marked as forgiven and freed from the grip of sin and death; empowered to act with love, kindness and mercy; and welcomed into a vast community of siblings in Christ.

16 Ask God to help us advocate for and improve access to public spaces for older adults and people with disabilities.

17 Pray for congregations and special ministries that work for wholeness, peace and justice in your

community, across our country and throughout the world.

18 Promise to love and serve our neighbors in need with the same boundless grace and concern that God has shown us, unhindered by suspicion, prejudice, exclusion or the belief that someone must work or suffer as we have to earn our respect.

19 We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together! Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect our synods and congregations with Lutheran churches throughout the world. Praise God that this program nurtures all involved for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

20 What have you witnessed or learned that reminds you of God's presence and activity in the world? Lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving!

21 Pray for voting members, church leaders and congregation observers as they prepare for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz. Ask the Spirit to fill them with enthusiasm for the church's mission and guide their discernment of how we should do God's work in a changing and challenging world.

22 Ask the Spirit to renew the energy of staff serving in summer camps and outdoor ministries. Pray that they will be enriched by their ministry experiences and inspired to pursue vocations of service in the church and society.

23 "When all our words seem frail and hollow, God heeds the prayers within our tears" (ACS 1050). Praise God for hearing and grasping the depth of our prayers and lamentations, especially when they feel clumsy, inadequate and incoherent.

24 Praise God for gathering us in a church that welcomes all, strives to be faithful to the gospel and equips us to serve in a world of complexity, tension and ambiguity.

25 Give thanks for the Spirit, who strengthens our trust in the steadfast love of God and calms our disbelief and anxiety when we question how anyone can truly love us as we are.

26 Pray for children, youth and young adults in your congregation, that their faith will be nurtured, that their gifts will be valued and used, and that they will be included in every aspect of the church's mission.

27 Thank God for Jesus Christ, "from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God" (Colossians 2:19).

28 Pray for the voting members, church leaders and volunteers gathering at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., for decision-making and spiritual discernment on behalf of the entire church.

29 Ask the Spirit to grant us humility and courage, that we might recognize and repent for our legacy of injustice, false history and mistreatment of Indigenous people, which persist today. Pray that our church and society will work toward truth, repentance, healing and unity — God's work of reconciliation in the world.

30 *International Day of Friendship* Promise to build bridges between individuals, countries and cultures, stirring empathy, inspiring peace and promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity.

31 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, 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.

July 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 5:30 pm Executive Committee Pastor on Vacation	2 10:00 am LWR Quilters	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour	7 Pastor @ Continuing Ed	8 10:00 am Gather Bible Study 5:30pm Council meeting	9 10:00 am LWR Quilters	10	11	12
13 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour	14 Pastor on Vacation	15	16 10:00 am LWR Quilters	17 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters	18 12:00 pm 55+ Lunch Bunch	19
20 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour	21 9:00 am Sack Lunch	22	23 10:00 am LWR Quilters	24	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Hour	28	29	30 10:00 am LWR Quilters	31		
Pastor @ FLBC						

Date	Ushers	Lector	Acolyte	Worship Asst.	PowerPoint	Communion Asst.	Coffee Hour
July 6	Christy Chain & Shelly Anderson	Paul Vang	Tavia Broudy	N/A	Brieson Campbell	Patti Chain	Susan Stamp
July 13	Revonda Stordahl & Annette Lawson	Aaron Hoffenbacker	N/A	Dorothy Tallon	Chris Ketchum	N/A	Peggy Probasco
July 20	Dorothy Tallon & Byron DeWaay	Christy Chain	Josie Harvey	N/A	Ron Gruss	Miriam Haley	Kayla Harvey
July 27	Kyleen Fuller & Elaine Fuller	Peggy Probasco	N/A	Julie Corbin	Aaron Hoffenbacker	N/A	Shelly Anderson