# The Nugget



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

***March 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)

## What seeds are you scattering?

by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

*Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.*
*Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.*
*When my heart is hard, break the stone away.*
*When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.*
*When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.*
*Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil* (ELW 512).

Cupping hot coffee in my hands, I gaze outside and watch snow flurries swirling to the ground. My four-year old Isaac and I are at the dining room table. Papers, crayons, and markers lay scattered before us. Clutching a marker in his hand Isaac lifts his head for a moment between drawing wheels and coloring to tell me, "Mama, stay watching me."

"This truck will transform into a seed robot." He keeps narrating his drawing: the size and color of the seeds, how the seeds flow through the tube, how the driver moves the steering wheel.

Loving all things trucks and construction, Isaac is no stranger to diggers and dump trucks. Today, though, the seed truck comes from our Bible story read during the previous night's Wednesday Lenten service.

As a church we listened to the parable of the sower and the seed. But not only did we hear the word spoken, we had before us an illumination from the Saint John's Bible. Displayed on a large screen we all focused on the sower scattering seed. We were then invited to create and color in response to that story.

Adults and children alike picked up crayons and colored pencils. God's word was heard and then brought to life with our own hands. There were no trucks in the original Bible story, yet, Isaac heard 'seeds' and used his imagination to bring the Bible story to life for him. He was listening, and I was watching and learning from him, too.

I watch Isaac make a seed truck. I can't help but give thanks for the faith that is being instilled in him simply by showing up to hear the stories of God's people. I give thanks for the people who are sharing God's word — through showing up, sending cards and notes, teaching Sunday school, leading in worship. God's word is meant to meet us in our lives wherever we are and however we're feeling.

It takes a whole community to share faith and instill the biblical stories in others. The seeds of hope and faith and love are being scattered by so many and I'm grateful to not be alone in sharing faith with my children. With every story heard, and in every encounter in worship, seeds are sown. It's my prayer that my children will continue to hear the hopeful words of others, and take the seeds given to them, and share them lavishly.

This Lent, may you pray about the seeds you are scattering. Ask God to use your gifts of time, service, and talents to bless the people before you.



## 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.
**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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**March Birthdays /Anniversaries:**

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|---|---|
| March 6 | Patti Chain |
| March 14 | Linda Williamson |
| March 19 | Lynn Aniksdal |
| March 21 | Bob Keim |
| March 25 | Aaron Hoffenbacker |
| March 28 | Darby Huff |



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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 March
March 1-Taisha Sharon & Kyleen Fuller
March 8- Pat Gruss & Lisa Button
March 15-Kyleen Fuller & Chelsea Peck
March 22-Elaine Fuller & VOLUNTEER
March 29-Christy Chain & Chelsea Peck

## 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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## Bible Study

On March 8th, we will begin a four week Bible study of the book of James. You are invited to join us after the joint worship service to explore the major themes that relate to human need and to the ways in which we live together in society. The study will be facilitated by Ty Inglis who is a student in the Montana Synod Lay Ministry Associate program. Please join us!

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## Easter Lilies and Flowers!



The Gloria Dei Altar Guild will once again be purchasing an assortment of Easter Flowers and Lilies from the Petunia Factory to decorate the Gkoria Dei Chancel and Altar for Easter. The cost is $15.00 and may be given In Memory of or In Honor of a loved one. Make checks payable to WELCA and place an envelope marked Gloria Dei WELCA in the offering with your information, stop by the church, call the church office at 723-9182, or talk to Paula Morgan. Thank you!

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

'Heart'felt thanks to all of you that supported FLBC in February with your monetary gifts or by attending and/or helping with the 'Gal'intines luncheon. Special thanks to the quilting ladies who helped with fun ideas and who helped set up and decorate, and to Peggy Probasco and Danette Fitzpatrick who prepared the food. We had 37 ladies from the three local ELCA churches attend this festive and fun event, and received a freewill offering of $635.00. That will sponsor at least one child at camp this summer. 'Sweet!!'

In March we are joining the Gloria Dei ladies to prepare Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief, and in April we will invite them to join us in completing School Kits, also for LWR. You will find a list of items needed for each kit elsewhere in the newsletter. All donations in the Outreach Opportunity envelopes this month will go towards shipping costs when we send the kits and quilts in May.

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## Confirmation and Sunday School Updates

Confirmation classes have started back up and confirmation will be held at Gold Hill on May 24, 2026, by Pastor Marlo C. Confirmation students have been asked to join in on The Book of James series being led by Ty in March. This series will take place immediately following the 10 am services in March. This will be a great opportunity for our confirmation kids to gather and learn across generations.

Confirmation students wishing to receive credit for Unit 3 have also been asked to sign up to help during a church service in March. We have plenty of need so please call the church office to sign up.

Sunday School for March will be at 9:00 am at Gold Hill. We have some exciting things coming up and are inviting all kids to join us!

## 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 – February 10, 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)
- Jody Bickford (Leadership)
- Kyleen Fuller (Spiritual Growth)
- Linda Moore (Outreach)

**3) Devotions**
- Administrative Director Ty Inglis led the devotion; each Council member shared what they were grateful for.

**4) Approval of the Minutes: December 9th, 2025**
- It was motioned, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for January 6th, 2026.

**5) Treasurer's Report**
- Treasurer Jim Anderson provided an update on the January financials and the Council discussed; David asked Jim to follow up with US Bank about the monthly statement for the Certificate of Deposit (CD) which contains the Parsonage sale money.
- Jim shared the January Financial Report; it was MSC to approve the report.

**6) President's Report**
- David provided an update to the Council on the Annual Meeting.

**7) Administrative Director's Report**
- Ty notified the Council that he would touch base with Tristyn and Church personnel in person now that he is back.
- The Council discussed staff raises and equipment needs.

**8) Worship Ministry**
- Shelly updated the Council on Worship Ministry purchases (e.g., banners and oil) and planning for Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, and Palm Sunday.

**9) Leadership Ministry**
- Nothing to report.

**10) Spiritual Growth Ministry**
- Kyleen provided an update on Sunday school, confirmation, and vacation bible school (VBS).
- Kyleen proposed a modified approach to VBS (Wednesday evenings through the summer) while she gets organized in her new role.
- Kyleen shared that she spoke with Pastor Marlow regarding performing the confirmation service (May 24th), as Pastor Sarah and Marlow discussed previously.

**11) Outreach Ministry**
- Linda updated the Council on the Outreach Ministry's efforts; the January "fill the pantry" fundraiser was a great success (three large boxes of food were delivered), February is fundraising for FLBC, and March they will be partnering with Gloria Dei to prepare "Personal Care Kits" for Lutheran World Relief.

**13) Other Business:**
- The Council discussed the Annual Meeting. It was agreed that some tweaks can be made next year to improve.
- David updated the Council on the status of the Call Committee; David reached out to Midge (the new Gloria Dei council president) to get the list of interested members together and Aric is working on preparing the background information.
- The Council discussed engaging with the Audit Committee to perform a 2026 audit in accordance with Synod guidance.
- David presented the Copper City Parish Shared Ministry Agreement to the Council for review to determine if any updates were needed; the Council was instructed to provide any recommended updates before the Parish Council meets next Tuesday, February 17th.
- The Council reviewed and agreed to maintain the same sending response for each church of the Copper City Parish following worship.

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

## March 2026 Prayer Ventures

**1** Give thanks to God for the faith and gifts of hymn writers, musicians, choir members and directors of music ministries who help us express our praise, thanksgiving, joy and petitions to God.

**2** *Women's History Month* Remember, celebrate and give thanks for the contributions, achievements, leadership, wisdom and gifts of women and girls in the church, our communities and the world throughout history. Remember in prayer women who have been present and influential in your life, including parents, grandparents, pastors and deacons, teachers, youth ministers, outdoor ministry staff, neighbors and friends.

**3** Remember in prayer the bishops of our church as they gather for the spring Conference of Bishops meeting. Give thanks for their faith, gifts, wisdom and careful deliberation, which God uses to benefit and guide the church and its leaders.

**4** "Grace knocks us flat, preventing any form of self-congratulation. All the good we achieve is to be attributed to God rather than to ourselves" (Kathryn Tanner, *Christ the Key*). Ask the Spirit to help us embrace the free, undeserved gift of grace — love, forgiveness and new life — that is made real to us through baptism and the life, teaching, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**5** Remember in prayer those recovering from winter storms and flooding in various regions of our country, that they will receive support, encouragement and resources from neighbors, communities of faith, and disaster relief agencies and ministries, including Lutheran Disaster Response.

**6** *World Day of Prayer* Take time today to pray for siblings of Christ around the world. Give thanks for this vast ecumenical community of faith that is called and equipped by the Spirit to do God's work in the world — together.

**7** Pray for young adults who are considering or have applied to be volunteers in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program for 2026-27, a yearlong opportunity for international service and ministry alongside our companion churches and organizations.

**8** When Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman drawing water at a well, he reveals himself to be the promised Messiah, the truth and source of living water — love, mercy, new life and salvation. Pray that we will demonstrate gratitude and joy to God by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with *all* people, including family, neighbors, friends, strangers, immigrants and refugees of all cultures, nationalities and life experiences.

**9** Pray for the ministries and organizations that help us understand the value and fragility of creation and the environment. Bless their work as they remind us of our responsibility to be grateful, wise and responsible stewards of these gifts from God — gifts that nourish us and sustain all living things. Remember in prayer the ministries of synod creation care teams, Lutherans Restoring Creation, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, the Creation Care Network, ELCA Advocacy and Creation Justice Ministries.

**10** Pray for Women of the ELCA to flourish in its ministry of helping women grow in faith, discover their gifts, and encourage one another to engage in ministry and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and world.

**11** Pray that the Spirit will guide our Lenten reflections on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world. Pray that we do not shy away from making personal and community sacrifices to help us focus on loving and serving others, especially neighbors who long for relief and hope from poverty, hunger, illness and injustice.

**12** Remember in prayer those in your community whose work does not earn them a living wage, that they will find meaningful employment that provides for their daily needs. Ask the Spirit to inspire and guide our acts of care, compassion and support, that they may be truly impactful and honor the dignity and gifts of our neighbor.

**13** Pray for the ministry of deacons. Give thanks for the new agreement between The Episcopal Church and the ELCA that welcomes the exchange of deacons.

**14** 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 leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times for the church and society.

**15** Pray that the Spirit will strengthen our faith in God's ability to open our eyes to God's presence and activity in the world.

**16** Reflect on your baptism and give thanks that you were — and continue to be — born anew in God's love and forgiveness, welcomed into a community of those who follow Christ, and set free to love and serve all people.

**17** "For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true" (Ephesians 5:8-9). Lent can feel dark and dispiriting when we reflect on human inadequacy and Jesus' suffering and death, but the promise that we are children of light saved by the love of the risen Christ is wonderful. Give thanks and praise to God!

**18** Pray that the Spirit will guide and inspire those across the church who are planning the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, as well as the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event, the tAble event for youth living with disabilities, and the Young Adult Gathering.

**19** Pray for leaders who serve on the ELCA Church Council as they gather to enable and support our church for doing God's work in the world with thoughtfulness, integrity, respect, and through partnerships with denominations and organizations that share a common vision.

**20** *First day of spring* Ask God to direct our attention to those things in nature and humanity that stir our hope, wonder and joy, reminding us of our awesome Creator from whom all things flow. Pray that we will radiate hope, compassion and the good news of Jesus Christ through our faith, values, words and actions.

**21** Give thanks and praise to God who walks with us throughout life to guide, comfort, nourish and restore us through its twists, turns and challenges.

**22** Pray for the Spirit to deepen our understanding and faith in God's power over death, which enables us to enjoy eternal life with our siblings in Christ in the kingdom of God.

**23** Praise God for our siblings in Christ around the world who are of the same loving Creator, redeemed by Jesus Christ and united in a global community of faith nourished and sustained by the Spirit. Pray that God will help us discover new ways to work together, share resources and nurture leaders to share the gospel and serve our neighbors in need — everywhere.

24 Remember in prayer our companion churches, siblings in Christ and neighbors in Central America: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Belize.

**25** "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications" (Psalm 130:1-2). Lift up your problems, worries and fears to God, trusting that your prayers are never too small, complicated or unimportant to be heard by God who cares deeply for each of us.

**26** Give thanks for the ELCA Lay Schools for Ministry program that creates in-person and virtual opportunities for lifelong learning, which inspire biblical and theological literacy, gospel fluency, and daily vocation and ministry.

**27** Ask the Spirit to renew and sustain our faith, hope, sense of purpose and loyalty to a dependable God who sacrificed everything through Jesus Christ that we might live. Pray that we will be mindful that God has called us to be compassionate and trustworthy in sharing the gospel and loving and serving our neighbors.

**28** Pray for leaders who serve in youth and family ministries, that they will be supported and affirmed for their work of caring for youth, nurturing faith, encouraging service, and helping young people discover and use their gifts.

**29** *Palm Sunday* Praise God that the humility with which Jesus enters Jerusalem demonstrates a powerful love for us that is down to earth yet undeterred by the stress, chaos, injustice and uncertainty of the world. As an act of faith, we give thanks and pray that we will follow his example.

**30** Who are we? Imperfect people wonderfully created by a perfect God who calls us children, loves us dearly and is faithful to us. Offer up prayers of joy and thanksgiving!

**31** Give thanks for faith-based preschool and early childhood education programs that provide safe and nurturing environments where children experience God's love and promises, grow confident, learn valuable skills and thrive.

# March 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***
**Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church Empowered by the Holy Spirit, United to Serve**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>**9:00 am Sunday School**<br>**10:00 am Worship Service**<br>**11:00 am Coffee Hour** | **2**<br>**10:00 am** GHELC Book Club | **3**<br>**8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study<br>**10:30 am** Women's Bible Study | **4**<br>**10:30 am** LWR Quilters<br>**5:30 pm** Soup & Bread; service in fellowship hall | **5**<br>**6:30 pm** Choir Practice | **6** | **7** |
| **8** **Daylight Saving Time Begins**<br>**9:00 am Sunday School**<br>**10:00 am Worship Service**<br>**11:00 am Coffee Hour** | **9**<br>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill | **10**<br>**8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study<br>**10:30 am** Women's Bible Study | **11**<br>**10:30 am** LWR Quilters<br>**5:30 pm** Soup & Bread; service in fellowship hall | **12**<br>**6:30 pm** Choir Practice | **13** | **14** |
| **15**<br>**9:00 am Sunday School**<br>**10:00 am Worship Service**<br>**11:00 am Coffee Hour** | **16** | **17**<br>**8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study<br>**10:30 am** Women's Bible Study | **18**<br>**10:30 am** LWR Quilters<br>**5:30 pm** Soup & Bread; service in fellowship hall | **19**<br>**10:00 am** Prayer Shawl Knitters<br>**6:30 pm** Choir Practice | **20**<br>**12:00 pm**<br>55+ Lunch Bunch | **21** |
| **22**<br>**9:00 am Sunday School**<br>**10:00 am Worship Service**<br>**11:00 am Coffee Hour** | **23**<br>6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill | **24**<br>**8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study<br>**10:00 am** Gather Bible Study<br>**10:30 am** Women's Bible Study | **25**<br>**10:30 am** LWR Quilters<br>**5:30 pm** Soup & Bread; service in fellowship hall | **26**<br>**6:30 pm** Choir Practice | **27** | **28** |
| **29 Palm Sunday**<br>**9:00 am Sunday School**<br>**10:00 am Worship**<br>**11:00 am Coffee Hour** | **30** | **31**<br>**8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study<br>**10:30 am** Women's Bible Study |  | | | |

| Date | Ushers | Lector | Acolyte | Worship Asst. | PowerPoint | Communion Asst. | Coffee Hour |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mar. 1** | Sukut Family | Brant Lumpkin | Tavia Broudy | N/A | Brieson Campbell | Cory Beck | Faith DeWaay |
| **Mar. 8** | Revonda Stordahl & Annette Lawson | VOLUNTEER | N/A | Dorothy Tallon | Elaine Fuller | N/A | Linda Williamson |
| **Mar. 15** | Sukut Family | Dorothy Tallon | Libby Lee | N/A | Ron Gruss<br>Parker Lee | Jeff Williamson | Susan Stamp |
| **Mar. 22** | Dorothy Tallon & Byron DeWaay | Patti Chain | N/A | Mike Lawson | Aaron Hoffenbacker | N/A | Revonda Stordahl |
| **Mar. 29** | Pat Gruss & Nancy DeBarathy | Phyllis Steinback | Josie Harvey | N/A | Chris Ketchum | Julie Corbin | Jody Bickford |