The Nugget



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE

June 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)

THE (RECORD-BREAKING) ROAD TO RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

By Stephanie Ash

Vicki Michela Garlock was making her way through her morning read of Religion News Service when she came across a story about a man who earned a Guinness World Records title by visiting 76 places of worship in one month.

She thought, "I can beat that."

That's all it took for her to start planning. "I'm a very goal-oriented person," she said. "Also, a little crazy."

Garlock was raised Lutheran an hour south of downtown Chicago. She earned a doctorate in psychology and was a professor at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C., until her children were born. Her career took a seemingly impossible left turn when she began to work for the Methodist church her family attended. She ended up writing a multiage, multifaith curriculum and books on world religions for kids, then teaching social studies teachers how to talk about religion.

In June 2023, when she read about the man who'd set the world record, it seemed possible to beat it. "I was just doing the math," she said. "Of course, I really didn't know what I was talking about."

The preparation

Guinness takes world records seriously. Negotiating the parameters of her attempt took seven months. "I learned someone would have to sign a verification form for me at each place [of worship] and time," she said. "And I could not use a personal vehicle." It meant her attempt would need to be in a densely populated area with religious diversity and public transportation.

Chicago. Right near where she'd grown up a Lutheran.

Garlock spent most of 2025 planning stops, reaching out to worship houses personally—including ELCA congregations—and marking those stops on a 6-foot map of Chicago she'd hung on a wall. To safely clear the record, she scheduled 85 and 90 places, far beyond the 77 necessary. She briefly thought, "Wouldn't it be cool if I got over 100?" But it seemed like a stretch.

"Lutherans really stepped up with answering the door and showing me around." Garlock visited 12 or 13, including three called Immanuel. Holy Family Lutheran in Chicago's Cabrini-Green neighborhood was the first Black ELCA church she'd ever attended.

Then, in August, she and her husband drove from their home in North Carolina to Chicago, where she'd rented a place for September. To ensure her efforts would be counted, she hired an official Guinness adjudicator. Then, she started. "That first day, I went to a Jewish synagogue, an Islamic center and some big churches," she said. "Everyone was super nice."

In fact, the whole first week was great. The weather was beautiful as she moved through the vast religious diversity in the vibrant big city of her home state. She thought, “Is this really what it’s going to be like? It doesn’t seem that hard!”

It gets much harder

That Friday, she received an email from Guinness. Someone else had broken the record by visiting 111 places of worship in one month. Now Garlock needed to visit 112—34 more than she’d thought she’d need, a 44% increase in the goal.

Her reaction? Freak-out. “I drank a bunch of wine and ate a very large pizza,” she said.

But the Guinness adjudicator said, “I think you can do it.”

The next day, Garlock went to her scheduled appointment at one house of worship and then thought, “Well, who’s worshiping on Saturday?” She found the nearest Seventh-day Adventist congregation in a rented space that was also an art gallery. She took a deep breath, walked in and told them about her faith-based, record-breaking (hopefully) odyssey. The man who signed her form was so excited, he directed her to two more Seventh-day Adventist churches nearby.

“I realized then that if I showed up where people were, they would be friendly, enthusiastic,” she said. “That changed *everything*.”

A new, and better, game

Garlock went to every scheduled appointment, then dropped in on others she found on the way. She spent six to 10 hours a day moving through Chicago by train, bus and foot, walking between 5 and 6 miles. Faith leaders, administrative assistants, cleaning staff and building managers signed her verification forms. Some visits lasted an hour and included nook and cranny tours of a much-loved space; others lasted just a few minutes. Her biggest day was 14 houses of worship visited, across suburban Evanston and Wilmette, including the Bahá’í temple at the last stop on the Chicago Transit Authority’s Purple Line.

These are the ELCA congregations she visited:
Augustana Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Chicago
Augustana Lutheran Church in Hyde Park
Holy Family Lutheran Church, Chicago
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Glenview
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University, Evanston
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Chicago
St. James Lutheran Church, Chicago
St. John Lutheran Church, Wilmette
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Evanston
Unity Lutheran Church, Chicago
Wicker Park Lutheran Church, Chicago

There were rough moments. The three hours in pouring rain searching for a Buddhist temple that wasn’t there. The Catholic church where she called someone the wrong name and lost two verification signatures, almost

three hours and $8 in transportation costs. The constant search for a public bathroom. Most places of worship in Chicagoland have security; she was constantly aware that as a white, middle-aged woman, those on the other end of the door felt safe to open it. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was supposed to be in Chicago that Labor Day weekend (they didn't show up in force until October).

At the many Hispanic Catholic churches she visited, "I was seeing a lot of people do their best to just live their lives," she said. "And I got to have these amazing interactions. It was an interesting counternarrative."

Garlock's pilgrimage included Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim spaces, plus dozens of denominations and faith movements. Chicago's Devon Avenue, for instance, "has Hindu and Sikh temples, [multiple] Jewish synagogues, several masjids and some churches. It's a nice representation of what religious freedom can look like in America."

At the end of September, after she'd completed all verification, she was pretty sure she'd done it but didn't believe until the adjudicator told her she'd beaten the record.

More than beaten it. She visited 185 houses of worship in 30 days, 73 more than she needed to earn the record and over two times her original goal.

"My job is to teach people about world religions." she said. "Chicago is in the middle of the Midwest. And look at how much religious diversity there is!" Mission accomplished.

As with all odysseys, the real meaning was in the journey itself. "We still struggle with [the concept of] religious freedom in America, with separation of church and state," she said. "For me, being on the ground and walking around, what I saw was a lot of people enjoying religious freedom."

And she really saw it all, or at least a heck of a lot of it: "There's so much discussion about how polarized our society is. What I keep coming back to—what presented itself to me *185 times*—is that we're not as far apart as we think we are, ever."



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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June Birthdays /Anniversaries:



June 2 Ashlie Engle
June 5 Marshall Mickelson
June 5 Quinn Corbin
June 9 Revonda Stordahl
June 23 Connie Engle



June 29 Dave & Patricia Coleman

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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!

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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Jennie Schotte Memorial Scholarship applications for Gold Hill members are now available. They must be submitted by July 2, 2026. You can pick up a scholarship from the office.

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Show off your talent at the Copper City Parish Youth Group Talent Show. (All ages welcome to show off their skills) Sign up to share your talent with us on June 13, 2026. The doors will open at 6:30 at Gold Hill and we will have a silent auction and light hors d'oeuvres with our Talent Show starting at 7:00. Sign up at Gold Hill church or contact Kyleen Fuller at Fullerkyleen@yahoo.com All proceeds from the evening will go toward a FREE KIDS COMMUNITY SWIM DAY AT RIDGEWATER WATERPARK.

We Deliver-Sack Lunch Ministry



Volunteers for March were: Annette Lawson, Patty Callaghan, Carol & Larroll Leach, Machelle Keim, Lynn Aniksdal. Thank you!

Food supplies & donations for food provided by: Annette Lawson, Peggy Probasco, Patty Callaghan, Machelle Keim, and Faith DeWaay. Thank you!

We will be meeting June 15th at 9:00 am. If you have any questions please feel free to call Annette Lawson, at 406-490-7751.

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YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOU!

Youth Group will begin on Wednesday June 10th at Gloria Dei Church. Our first youth group theme will be Board Games and food! If you would like to volunteer to help during youth group, or if you have board games you would like to loan us for the evening please contact Kyleen Fuller at fullerkyleen@yahoo.com or call the church office.

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ALL SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF **JUNE** WILL BE AT GLORIA DEI

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 AM

Outreach Opportunities



There WILL be a free swim day later in June at RidgeWaters for the children of Butte! We just don't have a date yet. Be watching for flyers and information when a date is confirmed. Thank you to all of you who have donated to make this happen! Outreach donations in June will also go toward the swim day.

March and April donations to Outreach ($203) will be sent to LWR to be used for shipping and distribution cost of the quilts and school kits that were sent off in May.

We will be organizing meals for the Youth Summer Program on the Wednesday evenings they will be meeting at Gold Hill. Those dates are June 17, July 8, and July 22. If you would be willing to help on any of those days, there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for all you do for the children of Butte!

Gold Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes – May 12, 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)
- Kyleen Fuller (Spiritual Growth)
- Linda Moore (Outreach)

3) Devotions
- Linda shared the devotion.

4) Approval of the Minutes: April 14th, 2026
- It was motioned, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for April 14th, 2026.

5) Treasurer's Report
- Jim was absent but previously shared the April Financial Report via email; it was MSC to approve the report pending Ty following up on payments to the Synod and accounting of Certificate of Deposit (CD) interest.
- U.S. Bank deposited the missing interest from the parsonage CD.

6) President's Report
- Nothing to report.

7) Administrative Director's Report
- Ty has been regularly touching base with church staff.

8) Worship Ministry
- Shelly was absent; nothing to report.

9) Leadership Ministry
- Jody was absent; nothing to report.

10) Spiritual Growth Ministry
- Kyleen updated the Council on Spiritual Growth activities and verified everything was in order for Confirmation Sunday.
- Kyleen inquired about who should receive Bibles for baptism; the Council agreed that anyone who was baptized at Gold Hill should receive a bible and Kyleen will discuss with the Trust Committee.
- A fundraiser will be held on a Saturday, June 13th at 6:30 PM for supporting the Ridge Waters swim day at Stodden Park. The format will be a silent auction and talent show at Gold Hill.

11) Outreach Ministry
- Linda updated the Council on the Outreach Ministry's efforts; they are currently working on scheduling the Ridge Waters swim day and will be providing dinners for the Wednesday Youth Group events.

13) Other Business:
- David and Ty shared an update from their recent meeting and progress on the insurance claim.
- David shared that offering envelopes are now available.
- David shared that he would temporarily move the parsonage money into new CDs until further financials decisions are made.
- The Council discussed the latest progress and status of the Call Committee and related activities.
- It was recommended the Joint Council discuss the blood drive request from the American Red Cross.
- Heather Lynn and Ty will be services as delegates to the Synod Assembly. Ty has been asked by the Bishop to be a candidate for secretary.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

June 2026 Prayer Ventures

1 Give thanks to God for grandparents and older adults — their service and impact are significant. Pray that we support them with gratitude and encouragement as our siblings in Christ and as neighbors with wisdom, compassion and valuable gifts to contribute to the well-being and richness of congregations, communities and families.

2 *Mental Health Awareness Month* Pray for those who live with mental illness, that they will have access to appropriate medical help and will experience understanding, support, respect and total inclusion in the church and society as beloved and gifted children of God.

3 *Pride Month* Give thanks to God for the gifts, wisdom, leadership and faith of our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask the Spirit to embolden us as we work together for justice, total inclusion and love for humanity in all its diversity.

4 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Florida-Bahamas Synod, New England Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and work for justice and peace.

5 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Delaware-Maryland, Eastern North Dakota, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Chicago, Northeastern Ohio, Southwestern Minnesota and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and work for justice and peace.

6 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Central/Southern Illinois, Central States, Indiana-Kentucky, La Crosse Area, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. and Upper Susquehanna synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and work for justice and peace.

7 "As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him" (Matthew 9:9). Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our trust in God's ability to see in us special qualities and gifts valuable for doing God's work in the world.

8 Ask God to sustain the hope of individuals and communities rebuilding in the aftermath of tornados, floods and wildfires — here and around the world. Give thanks for those who volunteer their time, skills and resources to help with the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of disaster recovery and building resiliency.

9 Remember in prayer the 4,000 young adults who lead summer camp programs at our 112 Lutheran outdoor ministry sites across the United States and Puerto Rico, programs that include youth camps, adult and family camps, travel and adventure camps, day camps, servant learning events and more.

10 "Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts" (Psalm 33:2-3). Lift up prayers of praise and thanksgiving for cantors, church musicians and choirs that help us express our faith, joys and laments when we gather for worship.

11 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Grand Canyon and South Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and work for justice and peace.

12 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northern Illinois and Southwestern Pennsylvania synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and work for justice and peace.

13 Remember in prayer individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, that their faith, gifts and abilities will be valued and affirmed in the church and society. Give thanks for the work, services and advocacy of ELCA Disability Ministries and the Lutheran Services in America Disability Network.

14 Thank God for calling, equipping and sending us into our communities and the world, accompanied by our siblings in Christ, our global companions, our ecumenical partners and organizations that share our vision of serving neighbors in need and doing God's work in the world — together.

15 Give thanks for those who make you laugh and smile, lifting your spirits.

16 "Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me'" (Genesis 21:5-6). Call upon the Spirit to help us be alert and receptive in those moments when we think something is impossible or absurd and God's presence and actions take us by surprise.

17 "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). Pray that we will slow down and listen for what God says to us in Scripture, during worship, through nature and in conversation with our neighbors and siblings in Christ — including strangers.

18 *Thursdays in Black* Pray for an end to gender violence and resolve to wear black every Thursday as a symbol of solidarity with the World Council of Churches' global movement to resist attitudes and practices that permit violence and rape. Promise to advocate tirelessly for the safe, respectful treatment of women, men, boys and girls in homes, schools, workplaces and communities.

19 *Juneteenth* This day of celebration, dating back to June 19, 1865, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. Give thanks and praise to God for creating humankind in all its diversity, and ask God's forgiveness for acquiescing to fear, suspicion, intolerance and unjust treatment of others. Pray for the Spirit to help us as we work to end racism and racial inequity in the church and society.

20 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the Allegheny Synod assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and work for justice and peace.

21 Ask the Spirit to stir wisdom, love and patience in fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers and fathers-to-be, that their children will be compassionate and resilient and know the joy of God's presence in their lives.

22 Our gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response help them respond to neighbors who can't afford the food they need. Pray that our faith will prompt us to generously support hunger relief initiatives such as the World Hunger Daily Bread Grants, which support feeding ministries of ELCA congregations.

23 Every day is a day to celebrate and proclaim the risen Christ! Give thanks for the undeserved gift of God's enduring love and forgiveness that we receive through Jesus Christ, our Savior, shepherd and teacher.

24 Pray that we will not accept violence as normal or too complex to confront and change. Thank God for the power and resources we have when communities work together to prevent violence and address its root causes.

25 God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit in us. Give praise and thanks to God!

26 Remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers who fear war, violence, injustice, and political and religious persecution, and who seek safe, welcoming communities where they can flourish.

27 Pray that we will inspire others by exemplifying peace, justice, forgiveness, love and service in our communities, nation and world. Give thanks for ELCA justice and peace ministries and for resources, advocacy and initiatives that deepen our understanding of God's justice.

28 Pray for the Gathering Expeditions, regional retreats for youth and their adult leaders to delve into questions of faith, purpose, identity and calling as they prepare for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minn.

29 Lift up prayers of thanksgiving for the certainty of God's presence and grace, evident from the love and forgiveness we know in Jesus Christ. Resolve to share, far and wide, the message of God's love and care for us.

30 Ask God to make our relationships and social networks healthy, caring and resilient, and pray that the Spirit will inspire us to foster these qualities in our relationships.

June 2026

Church Office Hours: 11:30 AM-2:30 PM, Mon. – Fri. CLOSED Sat. – Sun.
Contact: (406) 723-4242 or goldhill.elca@gmail.com
Gold Hill Lutheran Church: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Unite to Serve.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	**2**	**3** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters	**4**	**5** **Tristyn Out of Office**	**6**
7 **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**8** 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill	**9** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study **5:30 pm** Council Meeting	**10** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters **5:30 pm** Youth Group @ Gloria Dei	**11**	**12**	**13** **6:30 pm Talent Show & silent auction @ Gold Hill**
14 **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**15** **9:00 am Sack Lunches**	**16** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study	**17** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters **5:30 pm** Youth Group @ Gold Hill	**18** **10:00 am** Prayer Shawl Knitters	**19** **12:00 pm** 55+ Lunch Bunch	**20**
21 **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**22** 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill	**23** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study	**24** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters **5:30 pm** Youth Group @ Gloria Dei	**25**	**26**	**27**
28 **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**29**	**30** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:00 am** Gather Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study				