The Nugget



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE

October 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)

HALLOWEEN: A TRICK OR A TREAT?

BY MARY C. LINDBERG

When the toddler daughter of a friend of ours was just learning to talk, she spent Halloween shouting, "Trick treat! Trick treat!" She was way ahead of her time, that youngster, for it's not easy to take the "or" out of this phrase and out of Halloween itself.

Now Halloween seems to offer yet another opportunity for our polarized culture to show that it's stuck in an "or" mentality. We seem quite fond of pigeonholing people into "or" positions – are you politically right or politically left? Saved or not saved? My way or the highway! So too with Halloween: Is it a playful day for kids or devil worship?

Years ago Halloween seemed much simpler to celebrate. We just watched for Oct. 31 on the calendar and looked for kids in costumes. We'd pull out the two costumes stored in a drawer in the attic and bee-line down to the second house from the corner, where the neighbors passed out sticky-sweet homemade popcorn balls every year.

Observing Halloween today can be more fraught with complications. Certainly we can find the holiday in some of the same old places (with well-wrapped, store-bought candy, of course). But we also discover Halloween in stores that tout costume and candy sales across several months and in culture-war arguments on the Internet about whether it is sacrilegious to observe the holiday. As Halloween alternately excites or incites those around us, how shall we think of it – as a hollow trick or a traditional treat?

Maybe we could start, like our friend's daughter, by leaving the "or" out of Halloween. After all, since ancient times Halloween has been about death and life. Traditionally, All Hallows Eve was celebrated the night before All Saints Day, with bonfires, feasting on apples and nuts, and mocking evil with costumes and masks. All Saints Day was celebrated with church services using hymns and liturgy to remember the saints and proclaim God's promises of eternal life. Together these two events formed an eve and a holiday, like so many of our special celebrations. Their hybrid blend of an ancient fire festival and a religious feast personified humanity's many images and feelings about death and a world beyond their own. Not merely evil or good, but mysterious and redeemed.

Perhaps we can draw inspiration from the ways our predecessors observed All Hallows Eve and All Saints Day together. "At Halloween, everything spooky, unseen, mysterious, or otherworldly connects to the souls of the dead which the Church celebrates in its feast at this time of the year,"

observed Gertrud Mueller Nelson in “To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration.” “Perhaps it is a time to channel some very basic human fears and fascinations.”

Other cultures seem much more comfortable than ours with seamlessly blending caricatures of death and lives of the saints. For example, in Mexico, Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is celebrated on All Saints Day (Nov. 1). To understand death as a natural part of the circle of life, the dead are roused from sleep on Día de los Muertos to commune with their loved ones. Family members adorn the graves of their departed with the things they loved – special foods and pictures of friends and family. To add to the celebration, mischievous skeleton and skull candies, called calacas and calaveras, are displayed in bakery windows and cemeteries.

Amidst a culture of “or” thinking, during the month in which we observe a trick-or-treat holiday, I think God’s inviting us to be “and” Lutherans. What if your family celebrated Halloween and All Saints Day this year? We could take a page from the playbook of Katie and Joey Coleman of Seattle, parents of Henry and Jack, who said, “We have fun on Halloween by gathering with old friends, meeting new neighbors and sharing generously with people who come to our door. That spirit of community – among the living and the dead – is extended in All Saints Day when we bring pictures of grandparents and friends who have passed away to church. We love celebrating both holidays together and letting our kids know they are part of a big community of neighbors known and unknown, saints alive and dead.”



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.

Robert McDowell- prayers for health and healing.
Patricia Coleman- prayers for health and healing.

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October Birthdays /Anniversaries:

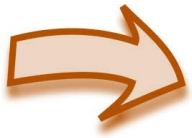
Hunter Meeks	October 1st
Aric Sorenson	October 9th
Maria Biastoch	October 9th
Dorothy Tallon	October 13th
Josie Harvey	October 14th
Linda Moore	October 17th
Paul Vang	October 17th
Phyllis Steinbach	October 17th
Ben Biastoch	October 18th
Miriam Haley	October 19th
Nancy Rowe	October 30th
Sam Ross	October 30th



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If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please notify the church

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**.

Youth group request:

We are looking for a donation of a couch for our youth group room at GOLD HILL, we will also be looking for volunteers to help us remove the old couch from upstairs and get it to the dump. Please let Kyleen know if you can help in October. We would like to get the rooms prepped for November youth programming.

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Save the date!

Thursday October 8, 2026, the Big Fall Festival Fundraiser Dinner & Auction at Gloria Dei. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner will be at 6:30 pm. Tickets are $35 We look forward to seeing you there!



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

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 AM



We Deliver-Sack Lunch Ministry

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

Food supplies & donations for food provided by: Connie Engle, Shelly Anderson, Machelle Keim, Lynn Aniksdal, Lori Matich, Annette Lawson and Patty Callaghan. Thank you!

We will be meeting October 19th at 9:00 am. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Annette Lawson, at 406-490-7751.

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October Youth Programming

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10)

This school year we will be focusing heavily on service and using our talents. We have already volunteered at Butte Rescue Mission, sorting clothing, we have several children preparing special music to perform during service playing instruments and those interested in singing. These are amazing gifts to share with all of us and I am so proud of everyone for their giving hearts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:
Sunday school is following the service each Sunday at the church where we are holding service, the youth are invited to get a snack and meet us for songs, stories, lessons and crafts. We are hoping to have a special music presentation in May showcasing what we learn. All youth are invited to participate and if you are an adult interested in helping please reach out.

YOUTH GROUP: All youth are invited to join us on Wednesday October 21 6-8pm at GLORIA DEI

CONFIRMATION CLASS: October 24th 1-3 pm at GLORIA DEI

Outreach Opportunities
Linda Moore

Butte Rescue Mission Banquet
October 15th at 5:00 p.m. • Butte Civic Center

October finds us with an interesting conundrum. We have plans to sponsor a table at the Butte Rescue Mission Banquet on October 15th. Each table can seat 8 or 9 people. Our problem is that our table is full, and we have more people who would like to attend! Wonderful!! Can we sponsor an additional table? I hope so! All we need is $550!

We all recognize the essential services the Butte Rescue Mission provides each month to people experiencing homelessness in Butte. Its staff works diligently to feed, clothe, and shelter everyone who comes through its doors. Their support extends further, offering medical and mental health care, human trafficking assistance, addiction recovery services, counseling, and other programs.

The banquet is the Butte Rescue Mission's largest fundraiser of the year. It features excellent food and an engaging, enjoyable program. If you can make an additional contribution, please include it in your envelope offering and designate the amount for Outreach. Also, let me know if you would like to attend. There will be seats available!

--Linda Moore

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Stephen Ministry Harvest Auction



Stephen Ministry's Harvest Auction returns on November 2nd right after worship! There will be a brunch potluck, silent auction, and raffle baskets too.

The raffle boards will be out around mid-October and will be available at both churches. Everyone will have a chance to pick a square for these baskets prior to the auction, and on the day of the auction too. And the squares will again be $5.00 each!

Both Gold Hill and Gloria Dei congregations are invited to participate and join in the fun of this annual Harvest Auction. Proceeds from this event go to costs incurred in training new ministers and new Stephen leaders, as well as our costs for continuing education every year.

Our Stephen Ministry program is in full force with Gold Hill and Gloria Dei participating together. We have ministers and care receivers from both congregations.

The Stephen Ministry program would not be possible without your support. Our Harvest Auction proceeds and personal gifts are our sole income.

So, please be thinking about what you can donate! We welcome craft items, home canned and baked goods, items that you don't need but are in excellent condition, and homemade items for delivery at a future date.

Continue to watch the bulletins for further information! It's going to be a really good time!

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Conversations on a Bench

Hi All,
Next Thursday 10/8, I'll be taking a seat on a bench on Harrison, across the street from the Butte Bus Station, in the parking lot in front of Salvation Army and I'd love for you to join me.

The event is called **Conversations on a Bench**, a storytelling initiative designed to rehumanize those experiencing homelessness by inviting everyday people to sit down, listen, and have conversations that are too often overlooked.

The bench becomes a place for raw, authentic conversation. It is an opportunity to shift the way we think about homelessness, poverty, mental health, addiction, and the people behind these issues.

As a community, how do we better understand these challenges? How do we work together to address them? How do we care for the spiritual needs of those in crisis? And how do we make a difference in the lives of the people right here in Butte?

I'll be on the bench for 24 hours, from Thursday afternoon through 1:00 p.m. Friday, rain or shine.

There's no agenda.
Nothing is rehearsed.
No speeches.

Just real people having real conversations.

You are welcome to stop by anytime during the 24 hours, but we are also scheduling 30-minute conversation spots. We would love for you to be a part and reserve a time to sit down.

The conversations will also be livestreamed on BRM's Facebook and YouTube all 24hrs, allowing people throughout our community to listen in and be part of the conversation.

Conversations on a Bench is part of a larger movement partnering with life-transformation missions, churches, and community organizations to spark change through shared humanity and greater awareness. Together, we can begin shifting the narrative around homelessness, one conversation at a time. Visit conversationsonabench.org

I'd love to hear your perspective, your questions, your experiences, and your ideas about how we can better understand and pray for the needs in our community. I'd also love for you to pray over our city.

If you're interested in having a conversation on the bench, reply to this email and we will pair you with a time that works. I hope you'll join me.

Brayton Erickson
Executive Director
Butte Rescue Mission

Gold Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes – September 8th, 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)
- Jim Anderson (Treasurer)
- Kolby Sukut (Secretary)
- Shelly Anderson (Worship)
- Jody Bickford (Leadership)
- Kyleen Fuller (Spiritual Growth)
- Linda Moore (Outreach)

3) Devotions
- Kolby shared the devotion.

4) Approval of the Minutes: August 11th, 2026
- It was motioned, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for August 11th, 2026.

5) Treasurer's Report
- Jim shared the July and August Financial Reports; the Council MSC to approve both reports.

6) President's Report
- Dave provided an update on the insurance claim; depositions are upcoming.

7) Administrative Director's Report
- Ty notified the Council that Melissa signed the daycare lease; Ty will follow up surrounding several points of clarification in the lease.

8) Worship Ministry
- Shelly reported on Worship Ministry activities; the Stodden Park service went well.
- The Council discussed the pastoral services schedule for November.

9) Leadership Ministry
- Jody reported on church grounds maintenance; she received multiple quotes for seal coating and striping the parking lot, and the lowest bid was $5,900.
- It was MSC to crack seal, seal coat, and stripe the parking lot using funds from Shelly/Jody's mom's fund.

10) Spiritual Growth Ministry
- Kyleen reported on Spiritual Growth activities; including upcoming Sunday School activities, the God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) event sorting clothing, and Youth Group is scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month starting on September 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

11) Outreach Ministry
- Linda updated the Council on the Outreach Ministry's efforts; including the GWOH Butte Rescue Mission event and sign-up, the Rescue Mission dinner scheduled for October 15th, and Sock-tober donations for Action, Inc.

12) Other Business:
- Dave provided an update on Call Committee activities.
- The Council discussed whether to continue producing offering envelopes in 2027; the Council agreed it was helpful and Dave will coordinate production of additional envelopes.
- The Council discussed the possibility of having only one church (Gold Hill) cover the administrative costs for the Parish and the other church reimburse for their portion of the cost; it was MSC to proceed with the change pending Gloria Dei's council approval.

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

October 2026 Prayer Ventures

1 Pray for Lutherans Restoring Creation and the organization's "creation care ambassadors," who work with congregations and synods to protect natural resources entrusted to our use and to develop solutions for restoring and healing creation.

2 *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* Remember in prayer those living with disabilities who seek employment that affirms their gifts, abilities and passions. Ask for God's help in modifying work environments, equipment, tasks and employment policies to encourage diverse abilities, create employment and leadership opportunities, and foster success and fulfillment in the workplace.

3 Ask God to stretch our understanding of who our neighbor is. Pray that we will show up and respond to anyone in need or suffering, be they a sibling in Christ, a friend, a stranger or someone far away.

4 *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* Pray for the Spirit to stir within us humility, generosity and respect for our neighbors in need and for all living creatures — from microscopic organisms to massive whales. Give thanks for pets and service animals that provide joy, comfort, companionship and assistance.

5 Remember those who have suffered loss and are recovering from the devastation of earthquakes, floods, wildfires and tornadoes, especially in the Pacific Northwest, the western states, the Midwest, Colombia, Nepal and Venezuela. Give thanks for those who are quick to respond with emergency relief, support for immediate and long-term recovery, and grants, including Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, ecumenical partners, social ministry organizations and local relief networks.

6 Pray for the health and well-being of military personnel who are separated from family, friends and communities of faith while deployed for extended tours of duty around the world. Ask God to help us accompany and support their families and loved ones during their absence.

7 Remember in prayer immigrants and asylum seekers. Ask for guidance, wisdom and courage as we accompany these neighbors and siblings in Christ, helping them remain hopeful in the face of criticism and mistrust and supporting them through the complex process of becoming U.S. citizens.

8 "In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers From Prison*). Ask the Spirit to help us show recognition and gratitude for those who enrich our lives through their care, wisdom, friendship, generosity and spiritual encouragement.

9 Give thanks for congregational ministries and community programs that attend to the spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs of older adults and that provide opportunities for them to use their gifts, faith, wisdom, experience and desire to serve others.

10 God has given us abundant resources to ensure that the hungry have access to nourishing, life-sustaining food. Pray that we will respond to their immediate needs, seek sustainable solutions, and advocate for our leaders, government and institutions to address the needs of our neighbors, especially children and youth, with compassion.

11 Ask God to help us go beyond the walls of our sanctuaries as we serve our neighbors in need and invite others to follow Jesus Christ. Ask the Spirit to stir our trust in God's ability to use our unique gifts, skills and passions for ministry, especially when we doubt ourselves.

12 *Indigenous Peoples' Day* Give thanks for Indigenous communities that have lived in the Americas and other parts of the world for thousands of years. Pray that we will not overlook them in our telling of history and that we will honor our church's commitment to repentance, reconciliation, healing, respect and unity as children of God.

13 Pray for adult leaders and congregations as they prepare for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble (for youth living with disabilities, and their caregivers). Ask the Spirit to guide their planning and stir their enthusiasm as they ready themselves to grow hope, build Christian community and inspire young people to boldly live their faith.

14 "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Pray that we will be alert to what is good, kind and admirable in the world, and give thanks and praise to God!

15 Give thanks for the work we do together through Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners to respond to the immediate and long-term needs of people and communities as they endure natural and human-caused disasters and crises here and around the world.

16 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:1-3). Our shepherd loves us deeply, renews our faith, guides us along paths of truth, and was willing to sacrifice everything to restore our relationship with God. Lift up prayers of praise, joy and thanksgiving!

17 Give thanks for the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology and its network of scientists, science teachers, rostered ministers and lay leaders, and other people committed to expanding awareness of and promoting conversations about the implications of science and technology for Christian faith and life.

18 Ask the Spirit to help us along our baptismal journey so we might speak truth rather than deceive, show empathy and caring rather than callousness and indifference, practice mercy and forgiveness rather than retribution, and inspire others through our faith, hope, joy and compassion.

19 Ask God to bless Mission Builders, a ministry of our church that gathers people with diverse construction skills to help congregations, schools and outdoor ministries build and renew worship spaces, retreat centers and other facilities across the country.

20 Give thanks for farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers and others involved in the production, tending and harvesting of food. Remember in prayer those in other countries who produce and distribute food to us and other people around the world.

21 "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3). Pray for siblings in Christ, congregations, synods and ecumenical companions with whom we share a common mission of proclaiming God's saving grace, following Jesus Christ and spreading love, mercy, peace, justice and hope in the world.

22 Give thanks and pray for the leaders, teachers and volunteers of faith-based daycare centers and preschools where children learn, play, socialize and experience the joy and good news of God's love and forgiveness.

23 Give thanks for the Resourceful Servants initiative of the ELCA, which encourages habits that strengthen the financial wellness of congregations, seminarians and rostered ministers.

24 Give thanks for the faith, gifts and wisdom that your synod staff shares with congregations, ministries and leaders, strengthening faith communities, serving neighbors in need, nurturing new ways to share the gospel, and doing God's work in the world with joy and enthusiasm.

25 "[The lawyer asked,] 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' [Jesus] said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:36-39). Love is at the core of who we are as children of God and followers of Christ. Offer each morning a prayer of commitment to express your love for God and your neighbor through words and actions.

26 As of Sept. 8, there have been approximately 8,963 murders, 16,620 injuries and 327 mass shootings related to gun violence. Remember in prayer those impacted by gun violence, especially the families and friends of victims. Ask the Spirit to help us provide long-term care and support for those impacted and to guide and sustain our efforts to prevent gun violence in our nation.

27 "Give me strength to face my ill, to trust in skill and care, to bless the hands that help me heal and find your spirit there" (*ACS* 1021). Praise God for being present with us in times of need through those who care for us — spiritually, physically and emotionally. Ask the Spirit to help us attend to the needs of those around us and to respond with respect, sensitivity, compassion and support.

28 Remember in prayer students of all ages, abilities and backgrounds who study at our seminaries, that their faith, knowledge and skills will be strengthened and sharpened for a life of proclaiming God's love and mercy, nurturing faith and caring for neighbors and siblings in Christ.

29 Pray for those who lack consistent safe shelter, especially parents with children. Give thanks for congregations and community organizations that provide temporary and long-term shelter along with housing, meals and social services. Pray that their ministries will grow, expand and inspire others to join in the work of providing shelter.

30 Pray for youth, adults and volunteers arriving at Camp Ewalu in Iowa for the Gathering Expedition event, a time for them to explore faith, identity, purpose and leadership in their journey toward the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

31 *Reformation Day* Give thanks for the work of Martin Luther and other Protestant reformers who were inspired by the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Spirit, Scripture and prayer to renew the church through five convictions: Scripture alone, Christ alone, faith alone, grace alone and glory to God alone. Pray for the Spirit to help us consider how we might reform and renew our church for the sake of doing God's work in the world.

October 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 **11:30 am Bob Carlson Funeral**
4 **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Sunday School** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**5**	**6** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study	**7** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters	**8** **5:30 pm** Harvest Dinner & Auction @ Gloria Dei	**9**	**10**
11 **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Sunday School** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**12** **Office Closed** 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill	**13** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study **5:30 pm** Council Meeting	**14** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters	**15** **10:00 am** Prayer Shawl Knitters	**16** **12:00 pm** 55+ Lunch Bunch	**17**
18 **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Sunday School** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**19** **9:00 am Sack Lunches**	**20** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study	**21** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters **6-8 pm** Youth Group @ Gloria Dei	**22**	**23**	**24** **1-3 pm** Confirmation @ Gloria Dei
25 Noisey Offering **10:00 am Worship** **11:00 am Sunday School** **11:00 am Coffee Hour**	**26** 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry @ Gold Hill	**27** **8:30 am** Perkins Bible Study **10:00 am** Gather Bible Study **10:30 am** Women's Bible Study	**28** **10:00 am** LWR Quilters **Creative Factory Preschool using parking lot for trick or treating**	**29** **Creative Factory Preschool using parking lot for trick or treating**	**30**	**31** **Halloween**