

**Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
934 Placer Street  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 723-4242  
[pastorgoldhill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgoldhill@gmail.com)  
[goldhill.elca@gmail.com](mailto:goldhill.elca@gmail.com)  
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
United to Serve*



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## Gold Hill News

### Upcoming Events & Activities



#### *Christmas Worship Services at Gold Hill*

Christmas Eve worship will be held at 5:30 & 7:30 PM with carols, Communion, & faux candle-light in the North parking lot of Gold Hill. All are invited to attend, friends, family, and those we do not yet know! Talk to Pastor Carrels if you have questions.

#### Gold Hill is on YouTube!

Pastor Carrels is offering a service from the sanctuary which can be viewed on YouTube. If you're interested, use this [LINK](#) to check it out. Questions? Talk to Pastor or call the church office (723-4242).



#### Offering Envelopes



#### Offering Envelopes for 2021

Offering Envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick up in the entryway of the West entrance to Gold Hill after December 14th. The outer door is open so you can stop by any time after that date to pick yours up. They are alphabetized by last name to make it easy for you! Due to budget constraints & increasing mail costs, envelopes are limited in number and no envelopes will be mailed out.



### Scarves, Hats, Mittens!

We are collecting new and lightly-used scarves, hats, and mittens for those in need. Please bring them to Sunday worship or drop them at the home of JoAnn Farrow, Jeanette Quist, or Miriam Haley. You can also leave them in the box in the church entryway on the West side.

If you have any questions you can talk to Miriam Haley (498-3861).

All Council and group meetings will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future due to the rise in coronavirus cases in our county. Questions? Talk to Pastor Carrels or any Council member.

Wednesday Advent weekly devotions are offered by Pastor Carrels and Pastor Schilcher on Facebook in the evening. Go to Gold Hill's Facebook page or Pastor Carrels' page to join in.

Evening Bible Study/Adult Forum offered by Pastor Carrels on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Let Pastor know if you'd like to join in.

Thursday Morning Bible Study now held at 8:00 am via Zoom due to the rise in coronavirus cases in our county. Talk to Pastor Carrels if you have any questions.

### Advent Care Kits

Take Advent to make a "Care Kit" for women at our Butte Rescue Mission (deliver to Gold Hill by December 16th). Items needed are a gently used purse (to put your items in); a washcloth; tampons/pads; toothbrush (adult) and toothbrush (child); toothpaste; a brush/comb; and nail clippers. You can drop your care kit off in the entryway of the West entrance to Gold Hill.



### CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

**Mike Lawson-**  
President

**Curt Quist -**  
Administration Director

**Revonda Stordahl -**  
Treasurer

**Peggy Graving -**  
Secretary

**Julie Corbin -**  
Spiritual Growth Ministry  
Team Leader

**Chris Ketchum -**  
Worship Ministry  
Team Leader

**Lynn Aniksdal -**  
Leadership Ministry  
Team Leader

**Dale Schultz -**  
Outreach Ministry  
Team Leader

**Pastor Marlow Carrels**

### Weekly Calendar

**Church Council**  
meeting via Zoom  
at 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 8

**Bible Study/Adult Forum**  
via Zoom at 5:30 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 9

**Weekly Advent Devotion**  
on Facebook  
at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 9

**Bible Study Group**  
meets at 8:00 am  
via Zoom  
Thursday, Dec. 10

**Worship & Music**  
meeting via Zoom  
at 6:00 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 10

**Worship Service**  
(Outdoors)  
at 9:30 am  
Sunday, Dec. 13



## Spotlight on the Synod: Advent

by Jenny Kunka

Pastors, lay leaders and congregational councils are struggling with how to share the story and hope of Advent this year. As Pastor Julie Long said, "Advent is the penultimate season of hope. How do we instill that this year in the midst of this mess: disease, anger and hurt, suspicion, conspiracy theory and division in love

relationships? It seems this year, it will be more of a challenge to emphasize [hope]."

"Advent has always been a time of 'groping in the dark'" Pastor Scott Thompson of Kalispell said. "I don't know, or want to find out, how much darker our world can get right now...but in the midst of the darkness is the promise of light. I trust (it's all I can do) that God's promise of light will shine."

The following are ideas Montana Synod pastors shared about what their congregations are doing this Advent season:

- 1) We've been featuring different Lutheran college choirs from around the country before each Sunday worship. We use their YouTube videos and share a song before worship begins.
  - 2) We plan to decorate the sanctuary even though our service is online. We feel that it's important for people to see and feel that Advent is still happening, including lighting the candles.
  - 3) Many in my community do not have sufficient internet for any "live" worship services but we continue to post our recorded services on Vimeo, sharing the link on Facebook. We plan to add a midweek devotion time in collaboration with a colleague from another small community.
  - 4) For my younger kids, I've been reading and recording links to kid's bible stories using Spark Bible with songs and prayers added. I will continue that during Advent.
  - 5) I plan to share the synod devotionals with congregation members.
  - 6) We purchased a devotional book for everyone this fall so people have a common resource/language of sorts in their more individual time together. This has brought "church" to people in their homes.
  - 7) During Advent, we are going to have drive-up communion for an hour after the Sunday morning online worship. We'll observe safe practices in distributing it and have purchased all-in-one kits for communion. It's one more way to be with people.
  - 8) Week-day Advent gathering ideas include: Wednesday Bible studies led by the pastor or another person on Zoom, Wednesday morning virtual coffee gatherings, Wednesday evening service using Holden Evening Prayer with its promise of light.
  - 9) My UCC colleague and I decided to record 4 brief Advent worship times, one for each week. The time will include piano music, litany, scripture, Advent candle lighting and brief meditation. Each service will be about 15 minutes. This will not replace our usual worship time.
  - 10) I am going to incorporate Christmas Carols during Advent. I am a bit of a purist and usually don't move to that until Christmas but this year, people are putting up lights early and listening to Christmas music early and looking for joy in their lives. It seemed like a good thing to sing some of those favorites earlier. This might happen during the lighting of the Advent wreath.
  - 11) I plan to add a midweek devotional time in collaboration with another pastor also from a small community. The theme is "Stations of the Stable." My plan is to go "on location" in town and out to ranches and to include animals and children and whatever else I decide as the "stations."
  - 12) Our Christmas Eve worship will be outdoors and distanced so even if family can't be together that night, they might be able to worship together. I think that being aware of the loneliness of people is going to be important in our preaching. We are highlighting members in our prayers to hopefully bring them together.
  - 13) During online worship we showed directory photos of members along with music, because actually seeing people, I thought, was important.
  - 14) We have ordered and will distribute Advent/Christmas devotional resources.
- "Basically, I think it's important to acknowledge that it is going to be tough. It's actually a really authentic reason to celebrate the incarnation, right?" Pastor Andy Wendle from Somers said. "We usually like to feel that Jesus' birth is this happy, wonderful occasion but theologically, it was God's entrance into the world because humanity was broken and hurting. That's where we are."

*Thank you to Pastor Barb Gwynn – First English in Great Falls, Pastor Scott Thompson – Bethlehem in*

**Montana Synod Advent/Christmas Devotion is available now!**

Clergy in the Montana Synod have participated in writing devotions for all of the Synod for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. The document is available [HERE](#). It is also available to download on the Montana Synod website. It prints out well as a bi-fold booklet, IF your printer has that capability. Otherwise, it will print with each page being 8 1/2 x 11 in size. If you prefer to post each day's devotion on your congregation's Facebook page, you can do that from the Synod's website or share it from the Synod's Facebook page. Congregations and leaders are encouraged to share this as a way in which the whole Synod is growing together as we are "equipped for ministry."



**Are you looking for a place to connect with a faithful community, grow in faith, and put your talents to work serving others? Look no further, we welcome you at Gold Hill Lutheran Church. To learn more about the mission and ministry of Gold Hill Lutheran Church, please contact Pastor Marlow Carrels at 406-723-4242.**

***Gold Hill Lutheran Church Welcomes You!***