

## Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

934 Placer Street

Butte, MT 59701

(406) 723-4242

pastorgoldhill@gmail.com

churchoffice@goldhilllutheran.org

***Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
United to Serve***



The Nugget E-News

June 29, 2020

## Gold Hill News

### Canopy Cover for Outdoor Services

We are looking for a canopy cover to use outdoors while services are held in the North parking lot. If anyone has a canopy they are willing to let the church use for the foreseeable future, please let us know (723-4242). Thank you!



### Help with cleanup after services

The Worship team is looking for people to help with clean up after services on Sundays. Please call the church office (723-4242) to sign up if you can help out, or talk to Chris Ketchum (team leader) on the Worship team.

### Looking for ushers and lectors

The Worship team is also looking for folks who can help usher or lector for outdoor services on Sundays. If you feel called to this ministry, please let Mary or Pr. Carrels know (723-4242), or talk to Chris Ketchum.



## Calendar:

**Worship Service  
Outdoors:  
North Parking Lot  
at 9:30 AM  
Sunday, July 5th  
+++++**

**Bible Study  
Opportunities:**

**Group Study  
every  
Thursday  
at 6:30 AM  
Hanging Five  
Restaurant**

## LINKS:

**Click here to visit our  
growing website**

**Click here to visit our  
FB page and "like" us**

**Click here to support  
the Butte Furniture  
Bank**

**Click here to visit our  
Church Library Page**

## Montana Synod News

Click [HERE](#) to be taken to the COVID-19 resource page.

There you will find information released by the Synod office, resources, and tools for your congregation.

---

## **Reminder from the Bishop**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Covid-19 is here in Montana and it is spreading. And that spread is requiring us to change our lives in order to follow Christ's command to love one another. We may not be able to control the virus through a vaccine or a cure yet, but we can limit how, when, and where Covid-19 spreads. And for those of us who are followers of Christ and caretakers of all the members of Christ's body, the church, we have a responsibility to slow the spread in our congregations even as we gather again in limited ways for worship.

As I have done before and will continue to do, I urge you to follow all the best safe practices for your context. And be ready to pivot on a dime as the virus enters your communities in more evident ways. Take a little control over Covid-19 by wearing a mask which reduces the spread greatly, especially in closed in areas where we share the air. (My brother got me a set of Minnesota Vikings masks that you may see me in. Sorry Packers fans!) Take a little control over Covid-19 by forsaking meals or goodies together for a while (you can't eat with masks on). Help your pastor and council lead by following their guidance instead of pushing back.

And if Covid-19 comes to your town, be as ready to shut your worship space down as you were to open it up.

Remember, Christ's church is never closed; we just need to do our part find new ways to be church together, love and care for one another, and follow Christ into God's future as this virus moves through our lives.

So hang in there, beloved, and care about one another. We are in this together and God will get us through it. Grieve the losses together but also celebrate the joys of new life happening in your midst. For God is with us, bringing new life out of death. Always!

Bishop Laurie

---



## **Words from the Bishop: Letting Go of Control**

Control. We all think we want it...or at least some of it. None of us have it...at least over the things we wish we could control. This is especially true right now as we feel our lives, our churches, and our country seeming to spiral out

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**May 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**

of control. Many of us feel like we're barely hanging on as the roller-coaster races uncontrollably off the track into the unknown. "Just give me a little control, God!" we cry, clinging to handrails so we don't get thrown off. "Give me power over something, somebody, anything so that I can feel like I have some control in my life."

Think of some of the things we're realizing now that we aren't in control of. The weather, of course. We've never controlled that. The Covid-19 virus and its symptoms. The economic markets, whether it's the stock market or job market. Our political system and who has power. Technology, which is changing faster than we can keep up. The changing culture of our society, including the church, as we are coming face-to-face with hard realities we don't necessarily want to see and own up to.

Even in our personal lives -- our families, our communities, our congregations and ministries - there are so many things we feel like we have no power over. Masks, limited Holy Communion, no coffee hours, minimal singing, drive-in worship, and on and on. We want so badly to get back to a "normal" where we can at least pretend we have some control.

And then there are those "other people." The truth is we can't really control other people either, can we? What they are thinking, what they are feeling, even what they are doing for the most part...we can't control that. Oh, we have the law, both God's law of loving our neighbors and human laws, policies, rules and guidelines. But as we're learning during this time, the law only goes so far to control others. We may want people to think like us, act like us or feel what we're feeling, but we can't...or shouldn't force them. We can only try to persuade and encourage, educate and empower others and ourselves.

But that's not always how we live, is it? We only think about ourselves and how we can control the community, congregation, country we think belongs only to us but we really share with everyone. We forget others have the same rights to life, respect, dignity and worth as we do. And we try to take control. And the more things feel out of control in our lives the more we try to take control, hurting a lot of people in the process (including ourselves).

Too often our need to feel like we're in control, even when we aren't, leads us to try to exact power over others. But those people are feeling powerless too so they try to exert power back on us in order to control their world. And back and forth it goes, each of us trying to control each other toward our way of being and doing in a never-ending spiral of anxiety, fear, destruction, and suffering. And when we finally realize that we can't control each other, then we turn to violence or abandonment, fighting a "you are either for me or against me" war or fleeing into our own private space until the next time.

All of this just to feel a sense of control over what is really uncontrollable. "Too often it seems to be easier to try to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people."(Nouwen)

But instead of focusing on the things we can't control, what if we did two things? First, what if we focused on what we *can* control? We do have some control over what we eat, what we wear, and those personal

decisions that affect only us. We do have some control over what we read, what voices we choose to listen to, how open or closed we're going to be to hearing what is said.

And we do have some control - more control than we think -- over how we choose to respond to the things happening to and around us. Will we react with rage, fear, or cruelty that lead us to try impose our power over others through bullying or causing pain? Or will we respond by managing those all-too-human emotions and choose love, respect, kindness and hope as we seek the new life of God's kingdom together? Will we try to be god over people (sin at its worst) or will we let Jesus lead us forward into the uncontrollable unknown, trusting in God's steadfast love that lasts forever and ever?

Of course, it is letting Jesus lead that we as followers of Christ are called to again and again. Yet letting God lead us into love is the second thing we can do to break the spiral of control and power-over others. Being a follower of Christ is just that: following. Letting God lead. Letting go and letting God. Those who are familiar with 12-step groups know this: that the only way to break the cycles of trying to control others while resisting something's control over us is to let go and let God lead.

And believe it or not, we have some say in that too. By letting go and opening our hearts, spirits and minds to the Spirit's working in us, we open ourselves to God's leadership... God's suffering, letting-go-of-control on the cross, bringing new life out of powerlessness leadership. As Jesus said in some of his final words to Peter: "Very truly I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (John 21:18) It's time for us to mature in our faith and let Christ lead us where he wishes us to go rather than trying to control everything ourselves.

"Thy will be done," we pray every time we pray our Lord's prayer. And giving God that control is okay, because God loves me...and you...and the whole world. And in God's selfless love, we can trust that Jesus will lead us into the new and abundant life that God wants for every one of us when we just let go of control.

In Christ,

Bishop Laurie

---

## *Gold Hill Lutheran Church Welcomes You!*

***Are you looking for a place to connect with a faithful community, grow in faith, and put your talents to work in 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 us at 406-723-4242.***