

January 11, 2021

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

United to Serve



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Gold Hill News

Upcoming Events & Activities



Devotional Booklet

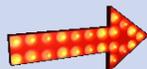
January, February, & March devotional booklets are finally here. *Christ In Our Home* is read by numerous readers every day to enrich their faith and find strength for daily living. You can pick up a copy after service on Sunday morning or anytime from the west side entryway to Gold Hill.

Annual Meeting & Potluck

The Annual Meeting & Potluck is postponed for the immediate future due to the pandemic. This does not mean it is cancelled altogether; rather it is delayed until later this year when a meeting can be safely held. Annual reports will be made available to you in late January or early February and we will keep you updated regarding a date for the annual meeting when more information is available.



No Sack Lunches in January



Please note! There will be no sack lunches for the month of January. The third Monday of the month (January 18) is a Federal holiday and there will be no one available to deliver lunches. Please talk to Kim Mickelson if you have any questions.

New Service Offered!

Do you need help running errands? Do you need someone to pick up your groceries? Do you need someone to take a package across town?

If the weather is too cold or the roads are too icy, just call the church office and we will be happy to run any errands you might have. We are excited to offer this new service for anyone.

Please just call the office (723-4242) and a smiling face will be happy to do your errands.



Offering Envelopes for 2021

Offering Envelopes for 2021 are here for pick up in the entryway of the West entrance to Gold Hill now. The outer door is open so you can stop by any time to pick yours up until mid-January. They are alphabetized by last name to make it easy for you! **No envelopes will be mailed out this year.**

Gold Hill Schedule Changes & Additions

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 weekly devotions are offered by Pastor Carrels 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.

Montana Synod News

A Message from Bishop Jungling after the DC uprising

Please click [HERE](#) for Bishop Jungling's message on the DC uprising.



Words from the Bishop: New Eyes, New Lives

I still reach for my eyeglasses every morning as I get out of bed even though I don't need them anymore. I still prepare myself to take out my contact lenses before I go to sleep despite the fact that I've thrown them all away.

Over the Christmas season, I had cataract surgery on both eyes and now I can see in new ways. Though there is still some healing and adjustment to take place, I am no longer reliant on contacts or glasses (except possibly readers) to experience the world around me. Life has become manifest to me in clearer ways than when I was in the second grade. I can see!

The season of/after Epiphany that we enter into today is all about seeing in new ways and thus living in new ways. It's about manifestation and revelation. Epiphany is when we in the western church recognize and honor the Christ-ness, the Messiah-ship of Jesus of Nazareth as he becomes manifest in his fuller glory for all to see.

During Epiphany we celebrate events like the Magi following the star from the East as well as Jesus' baptism and God's voice revealing the beloved anointed one through a booming from the clouds. We also see Christ manifest to us in the miracle at the Cana wedding, his first proclamations that "the Kingdom of God is near," his first healings, and his shining transfiguration on the mountain.

In these manifestations of Christ, we who are willing to see are given new eyes so as to recognize who Jesus really is: God's divine presence dwelling with us and humanity's savior working among us for love and life.

Jesus the Christ is not just a cute baby who comes to be our best friend. Nor is he just the good guy on the sidelines, supporting our platforms and cheering us on while we fix the world according to our dysfunctional human tools and violent rage.

Jesus the Christ is the life-giving, world-transforming, love-filled presence of God come to our homes, families, communities, social systems, and nations to change everything. Everything! Jesus the Christ is God's love made flesh who calls us again and again to follow him in a radical way of love and complete trust in God.

During this time of epiphany revelation, I encourage you to let the Holy Spirit give you some new eyes to see Jesus the Christ manifest in the world around you. No need to go as far as cataract surgery. Just clear your eyes of the messiness of the news and the anxieties of the pandemic, perhaps through prayer and contemplation. Open yourselves up to the Spirit's work in your mind and heart.

And then look around through Spirit-lenses to see how God's love is manifesting itself to you and your fellow followers of Christ. Ask yourself again and again, **what is Jesus the Christ doing in my life, my congregation's life, my community today? Where is Jesus the Christ calling you to go, what is Christ calling you to do, and how is Christ calling you to live? And finally ask, how can I be better equipped to see what Jesus so badly wants me to see so that I can follow him?**

But beware! There are wolves in sheep's clothing trying to trick our eyes into seeing Jesus Christ in places and actions in which he would *never* reveal himself. Jesus the Christ does not manifest God's Kingdom in lies and falsehoods for he is the Truth of God's love. Jesus does not manifest God's Kingdom in fear-filled hatred and demonizing of other people for he is the Courage and Spirit of God's love. Jesus does not manifest God's Kingdom in violent actions or words demanding harm against *anybody* for he is the Prince of Peace.

To put it bluntly, we who would follow Jesus the Christ cannot follow those angry, self-centered cries to take out our rage on one another because we disagree about social actions or political outcomes. **Violence is not and never will be the answer for God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To follow those voices of hate is to leave the Way of Christ behind.**

Christ's Way is always the Way of Love, God's selfless love for the whole world!

So let us open our eyes to a new way of seeing and being love this Epiphany season, let us open our hearts to the Spirit's power, and let us follow Christ's vision of life in God's Kingdom. For God has come to dwell with us. See?! Jesus is right there!

In Christ's Love,

Bishop Laurie

We pray for our nation:

Almighty God, bless our land with honesty, truth, honor, and compassion. Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action.

Where our hearts are fearful, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious, grant peace and reassurance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and reconciliation. Where we are surging with hate, fill us with love and peace.

Bring fortitude and comfort to this nation as we grieve the consequences of yet more violence and teach us all to apply our hearts and minds to your wisdom. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior and true

Lord. Amen

[ELW p. 76-76 (excerpts)]

CHURCH COUNCIL January 2021

Mike Lawson -
President

Curt Quist -
Administration Director

Revonda Stordahl -
Treasurer

Peggy Graving -
Secretary

Julie Corbin -
Spiritual Growth Ministry
Team Leader

Weekly Calendar

Church Council
6:00 pm mtng via Zoom
Tuesday, Jan. 12

Bible Study/Adult Forum
5:30 pm via Zoom
Wednesday, Jan. 13

Weekly Devotion
on Facebook
at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 13

Chris Ketchum -
Worship Ministry
Team Leader

Lynn Aniksdal -
Leadership Ministry
Team Leader

Dale Schultz -
Outreach Ministry
Team Leader

Pastor Marlow Carrels

Bible Study
8:30 am via Zoom
Thursday, Jan. 14

Worship Service
(Outdoors)
at 9:30 am
Sunday, Jan. 17



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!