

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
United to Serve*



The Nugget E-News

November 11, 2019

GOLD HILL NEWS

Lend a Hand

Winter is coming! Soon it will be time to be outside shoveling snow as it piles up. **We will need help with shoveling of the walks around the church area on Sundays before worship.** If you feel you can help out and would be willing to take a Sunday or two during the winter to shovel, please talk to Lynn Aniksdal at **(406) 491-2245** and let her know. Thank you!

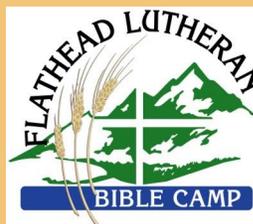


Cookies! Cookies! Cookies!

Scandinavian Cookie Baking is set for November 16 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come and help to make cookies for our annual Lutefisk Dinner. Please bring your own supplies! Talk to DorothyAnne Honeychurch or Peg Probasco for more information.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

FLBC Retreats, Events, and Updates:
For additional information about our upcoming retreats and events, [check out our website!](#)



Montana Pastor/Volunteer Application Opens November 20, 2019!



Don't forget, registration for *Montana Pastors & volunteers* opens Wednesday, November 20th! Don't wait too long to apply, as spaces each week are limited and fill quickly. We are so grateful for your willingness to share your time and talents!

Calendar:

Stephen Ministry Leadership

meets at 6:00 pm
Monday, Nov. 11

Stephen Ministry Supervision

meets at 7:00 pm
Monday, Nov. 11

Women's Gather Bible Study

meets at 9:30 am
Big Sky Senior Living Center
Tuesday, Nov. 12

Church Council
meets at 6:00 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 12

LWR Quilters
meet at 9:30 am
Wednesday, Nov. 13

Gold Hill Choir
meets at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 13

Overeaters Anonymous
meets @ 6:15 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 13

Al-Anon
meets at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 13

Copper Cloggers
meet 1-4 pm
Thursday, Nov. 14

Crafts & Conversation
meet 6 pm - 9 pm
Room 104
Thursday, Nov. 14

55+ Luncheon

Youth Ski & Snowboard Retreat

January 10-12, 2020

\$115/person (2 adults free with each church group)

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow, worship, and FUN! Try downhill skiing or snowboarding, cross-country skiing, or spend the day hanging out at camp! Post skiing activities to include hot chocolate by the fire, group games, time to relax with new friends, and worship. [See flyer attached!](#)



at 12 Noon
Perkin's Restaurant
Friday, Nov. 15

Cookie Baking
starts at 9:00 am
in the Hall
Saturday, Nov. 16

Tea Party



February 15, 2020

2-4 pm at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

\$10/person

Grandparents, guardians, parents, bring your kiddos to a Valentine's Day "Tea Party!" All ages are welcome; our programming will focus on children ages 4-12. Food, crafts, singing, and fun with a special "princess" guest!

Worship Service:

at 9:30 am

Coffee Hour:

at 10:45 am

Sunday School:

at 10:45 am

Sunday, November 17

Words from the Bishop - Welcome

What does it mean to welcome? Many of us say "All are Welcome!" to our congregations or ministries. But what does that mean?

According to Ruth Fletcher, in her book *Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*, there is a difference between being "friendly" and being "welcoming." (pp. 75ff) **Friendliness invites newcomers into what already exists and then expects them to change to fit into the current system.** People in a friendly community say in subtle or not-so-subtle ways: "We're glad you joined our family. But it's OUR family and we hope you like the way we do things. If not, there's the door."

Welcoming, on the other hand, integrates newcomers into the community by letting them be themselves and allowing them to belong as equal partners with gifts, ideas, and experiences to share. Welcoming is willing to explore the new opportunities that newcomers can offer. In a welcoming community, members say with everything they say and do: "We want you to share your gifts and we're ready to be transformed by them."

Fletcher tells the story of a congregation whose members thought they were welcoming. {p.78} But as the newcomers began to take more responsibilities in fulfilling the mission of the congregation by trying new things and encouraging new ways of being community, the friendliness with which they were greeted when they arrived disappeared. Fletcher writes, "The established members complained that the women who had more recently come...didn't comply with the rules of the church kitchen. Others grumbled about noisy, active children disrupting the Sunday service. When younger adults introduced a different kind of music, old-timers put up with it for a while, but soon grew angry about all the changes in the church. The atmosphere in the congregation grew tense until the newer people gave up and left. Then the old-timers breathed a sigh of relief and the church returned to its comfortable former habits..." To Fletcher's story, one might easily add the words "...and slowly died" because a congregation that does not find a way to be welcoming beyond friendliness will slowly dwindle away.

In an article entitled "All are Welcome" in the March 2016 edition of The



Bible Study Opportunities:

Group Study every
Thursday at 6:30 am @
Perkins Restaurant

*Women's Gather
Bible Study* meets
the second Tuesday of the
month at 9:30 am at
Big Sky Senior Living
Center on Waterford Way,
in the Library

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](#)

CHURCH COUNCIL

2019

Mike Lawson -

President

Curt Quist -

Administration Director

Revonda Stordahl -

Living Lutheran, Wendy Healy quotes Brenda Smith, "People are looking for three things in a church. One, a warm community that loves and follows Jesus; two, a place where they can learn something; and three, a church that is doing something to transform the world." To truly welcome people - both newcomers and established members - is to construct a WHOLE community that creates opportunities for these three things to happen in a life-giving, spirit-empowering way that recognizes and welcomes everybody's gifts by "finding places where those gifts can best be used to serve the vision, mission, and values established by the whole congregation." (Fletcher, p. 83)

So how specifically can we go beyond friendliness to be truly welcoming in the Church? Here are three of many possible suggestions:

- Pay attention to the things you do or don't do that create barriers to the experience of welcome for people. For example, do you only engage with your own cliques or do you invite people beyond your friendship group into your church experiences?
- Cleanse your expectations about what newcomers can provide to the congregation; instead, focus on what you can provide to them. (Cf. Matthew 25: 35-40) If the congregation hopes that newcomers will become replacement parts for members who are worn out from carrying the load, it won't be a real welcome. Instead, the perceptible neediness and self-serving expectations will scare people away.
- Learn how to listen and live in ways that creates a space where each person's complete self feels free to show up and participate as they are without fear of judgment.

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Mt 10:40) Finally, welcoming people means welcoming them as if they are Christ, ready to be transformed by their presence among us.

In Christ,
Bishop Laurie

Treasurer
Peggy Graving -
Secretary
Julie Corbin -
Spiritual Growth
Ministry
Team Leader
Chris Ketchum -
Worship Ministry
Team Leader
Lynn Aniksdal -
Leadership Ministry
Team Leader
Jerry Aaker
Outreach Ministry
Interim Pastor
Trina Johnsten

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.