

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

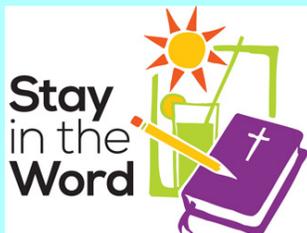
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**Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
United to Serve**



GOLD HILL NEWS

Bible Study



Looking Ahead to Sunday (Bible Study) **Pastor Trina offers a weekly Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.** The focus looks ahead to Sunday's lessons, particularly the Gospel lesson. No experience necessary and each week is a stand-alone lesson so come as

you are able. Bring your favorite Bible!

Gloria Dei WELCA Group

Gloria Dei WELCA Group invites the women of Gold Hill to a **Valentine luncheon** at 12 pm on Thursday, February 13, at the church, 2300 Florence Ave. Please come for fellowship, lunch, and games!



Please RSVP to Stephanie at 491-1778 or Susanne at rossw@bresnan.net. We hope to see you there.

Camp Sunday is February 23rd



Jacob Kvale from FLBC will visit on Sunday, February 23rd. Come join us for Camp Sunday! Jacob will be sharing some stories from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp with us in worship, and will be leading the children in a time of fun and learning with plenty of camp songs during Sunday

School. This would be a great way to introduce your child, grandchild, or a neighbor kid to the joys of summer camp (for which Gold Hill has a scholarship fund), and it will give them a preview of the fun in store during Vacation Bible School, which will be led by FLBC staff this summer.

Calendar:

Stephen Ministry Leadership meets at 6:30 pm **Monday, Feb. 10**
Stephen Ministry Supervision meets at 7:00 pm **Monday, Feb. 10**

Women's Gather Bible Study meets at 9:30 am **Big Sky Senior Living Center** **Tuesday, Feb. 11**

Church Council meets at 6:00 pm **Tuesday, Feb. 11**

LWR Quilters meet at 9:30 am **Wednesday, Feb. 12**

Gold Hill Choir meets at 6:30 pm **Wednesday, Feb. 12**

Overeaters Anon. meets at 6:15 pm **Wednesday, Feb. 12**

AI-Anon meets at 7:30 pm **Wednesday, Feb. 12**

Pastor's Bible Study meets at 10 am & 7 pm **Thursday, Feb. 13**

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday is February 26th this year. Imposition of ashes will be offered at 12:00 Noon and 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

This year we are going to share our Wednesday worship services with our sisters and brothers at Gloria Dei. After Ash Wednesday (February 26) we'll alternate between our churches for soup & bread suppers (at 5:45 PM) and worship services (at 6:30 PM), starting at Gloria Dei on March 4. ***Please see the soup & bread signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall next week.***

Gold Hill Choir practices Wednesdays in Lent following the evening Lenten service.



Exploring the Faith of our Neighbors



Gloria Dei to hear from Imam Ali Gibril and Rabbi Mark Kula - Gold Hill members invited to attend.

As part of the confirmation curriculum, Gloria Dei is doing a unit in February exploring the faith of our neighbors. On Sunday, February 16th they will hear from Imam Ali Gibril from the Butte Islamic Center, who will represent the Muslim faith tradition. On Sunday, February 23rd they will hear from Rabbi Mark Kula from Congregation B'nai Israel, who will represent the Jewish faith tradition. They will give a presentation and then answer questions about their faith. There will be dinner at 5:30 pm and the presentation will follow. Please call the Gloria Dei office if you want to share in the meal (723-9182). If you aren't joining in the meal, please meet at Gloria Dei at 6:00 pm to carpool to the Islamic Center or Butte synagogue.



Webinar - Cultivating Generous Congregations

Taste and See: An Online Stewardship Opportunity!

How do we inspire generosity in people? How do we teach generosity to new generations? What makes a spirit of generosity sustainable in our congregations? **Questions like these are what you'll experience in a day of "Taste and See: Cultivating Generous Congregations on Saturday, February 29th.** Although the day will provide only a sampling of ideas and practical ways to inspire and teach God's generosity, we'll help each other learn what generosity means for today and "why" it is central to our faith.

Expect that you'll learn four "mindset shifts" necessary to address the changes and challenges of today's cultural mindset as the Spirit leads us into a new day. Through teaching, conversation and discussion together we'll discover some of the ways God's vision of generosity is already there for each of us to live in our individual lives and in our

Copper Cloggers
meet 1 - 4 pm
Thursday, Feb. 13

Crafts & Conversation
meets 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 13

Overeaters Anon.
meet at 5:00 pm
Friday, Feb. 14

Worship Service:
at 9:30 am
Sunday School:
at 10:45 am
Adult Education:
at 10:45 am
Coffee Hour:
at 10:45 am
Sunday, February 16

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](#)

congregations.

Pastor Larry Strenge, former Director for Evangelical Mission in the SW MN Synod and the National Coordinator for Generous Congregations will lead this event (from Billings) which will be live streamed at 9 locations around the Montana Synod, including Gloria Dei in Butte. (See the **FLYER** for details about time and locations.) Refreshments and lunch will be served. Please RSVP to the location where you will attend so that adequate preparations are made. Please indicate any dietary restrictions as you RSVP. Cost is \$10 per person. (Cash or check only).



Words from the Bishop: Following into love

"Are you following Jesus? I want you to look at yourself and ask that question. Are you a follower? Am I?" These are the first words of Henri Nouwen's newly published book, *Following Jesus, Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*. (p. 11) In this book that reads like a devotional rather than a textbook, Nouwen speaks words of hope, faith,

and spiritual guidance to those who are wandering in life's busy-ness not following anything *and* to those who have given up to sit in lostness. "It is into this deeply tired world of ours," Nouwen proclaims, "that God sends Jesus to speak the voice of love. Jesus says, 'Follow me. Don't keep running around. Follow me. Don't just sit there. Follow me.'" Nouwen adds that this voice of love "can completely reshape our life...to one that is focused and has a point to go to."

"Are you following Jesus? Am I?" These questions are crucial questions for Christians in this third decade of the 21st century. Are we truly following Jesus or are we wandering around in wildernesses of emptiness, exhausting ourselves in a search for what matters? Are we truly following Jesus or are we sitting in apathy, not caring if anything matters?

Of course, in order to answer Nouwen's questions, we who say we are followers usually find ourselves asking the follow-up question, "What does it mean to follow Jesus?"

We don't spend a lot of time exploring together as church what it means to follow Jesus. We don't seem to want to talk about our faith in Christ at all or what it means for our daily lives. These days we seem to want to focus on and react to politics, social justice issues, and the changing church. We talk about our excitement or fears or angers about these things. We talk about our possible answers and fixes to these things.

But we don't talk much - at least not deliberately, intensely, deeply - about following Jesus and what it looks like in this time and place.

And we should. Not just because it is our primary call as Christians - to follow Christ. But also because for those who own the identity of Christian, it is only in and through our following that we can respond to the socio-political and changing church issues that face us. If we don't have some sense, some understanding, some feeling of what it looks like, means or feels like to follow Jesus, all of our reactions to the issues of the world will be meaningless. If we don't have some depth of

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relationship with the God who is love made incarnate in Jesus whom we follow through power of the Holy Spirit, then we will wander wildly from one human solution to the next. Or end up collapsing in hopeless apathy when none of them succeed according to our expectations.

For finally following Jesus is about relationship - a rich relationship of faith, hope, and love. Faith is a relationship word, not a "you have to think my way about this belief or that issue" word. Faith is first and foremost a deeply trusting and hope-filled relationship with the God who loves us and gives us new life. In this trust and hope, empowered by the Spirit welcomed in, the follower of Jesus commits to this way of new life given by God. And this new way of life that we as followers of Christ are called to commit to in faith starts, ends, and is filled with love. That is why the be-all and end-all of the whole law that guides this life is contained in the Two Great Commandments: "The first is, '...the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Jesus, Mark 12:29-31)

But more on the Two Greats (as I call them) next week. But for now I highly recommend Nouwen's book as an excellent spiritual and relational exploration of what it means for us, as individuals and community, to follow Jesus -- the voice of God's love.

In that love,

Bishop Laurie Jungling

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.