



Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church
934 Placer Street - Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-4242

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation and
a Congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

From the Pastor's Study

The sanctuary is still decorated for Lent.

You go in there and it's as if time has stood still. I walk through every couple of days as I get the mail and check to make sure nothing is amiss. And even though we are now into May and halfway through the 50 days of Easter, it is still Lent in the sanctuary. The color is a somber purple. The banners display a crown of thorns, and remind us of blood shed, of body broken. The rough wooden cross stands as a single silent witness in that space.

But looks can be deceiving.

While the building has been closed for many weeks, that doesn't mean that ministry has ceased. People are making masks to help protect others. People are running errands for those who can't get out. People are writing notes and making phone calls to encourage and uplift spirits. People are cooking extra helpings at home and then spreading the abundance to those who welcome a warm meal. I can't begin to imagine how many prayer shawls and little dresses for Africa and knitted cuffs for those undergoing dialysis are piling up at some of your homes...!

Procedures are being put into place as we begin to think about how to reopen the building in a way that is safe and faithful. Plans are underway for welcoming Pastor Marlow and his family. Projects like resealing the floor in the Fellowship Hall and repairing some damage to the roof are underway. Folks have been by to rake, mow, and clean out the garden areas around the church.

While it is still Lent in the sanctuary, you are living into the promises of Easter, even as we are learning how to be a community without the weekly rhythm of gathering together in person.

Leaving in the time of Covid-19

May 15 is my last day at Gold Hill and it will be a vastly different leave-taking than others I've experienced. No one last time to worship together, no final sermon, no abundant potluck. (This one is the most disappointing as this congregation can COOK!) No time to publicly thank you or encourage you as you enter into a new time in the life of this congregation. No handshakes. No hugs. Nothing that usually marks the end of a pastor's and congregation's time together. But know that I leave Gold Hill with great love for you all, and the certainty that your ministry in Butte and beyond will continue to thrive.

And interestingly, my time here has also created a new admiration and appreciate for Butte, America! Growing up in Montana in the 70s and 80s, I'd only been to Butte once. It was in March of 1984. Great Falls and Butte met for the AA Boys State Basketball championship game that year, and I was there as a member of the Great Falls High School cheerleading squad. Tensions were high. Butte was known for being a rough and rowdy place to hold a tournament any time, but even more so when the local boys were up for the trophy. Add to the mix that the championship game just happened to fall on the evening of St. Patrick's Day, and you probably know what the crowd on the Butte side of the gym was like!

[From the Pastor's Study cont. on p. 2]



Prayer Concerns

Please call the Church Office (723-4242) or email us: (ChurchOffice@GoldHillLutheran.org) with your prayer requests. Only prayers given to the entire congregation will be included here.

- Bill Hill** – prayers for health & healing
- Kristi O’Leary** – prayers for health and healing
- Annette Lawson** – prayers for healing and relief from pain after a bad fall
- Chris Meeks** (*Heatherlynn’s husband*) – prayers for healing following an accident
- Family of Hazel Edwards** – prayers of comfort, especially for Lynn, following Hazel’s death
- Arlene Munyon & family** – prayers of thanksgiving following the birth of Arlene’s great-granddaughter, Everly Rae Ritter, in Austin, Texas
- Cheryl Neuhart** – suffering with sciatica pain; prayers for healing
- Family of Pastor Jean Hay and Bethlehem Lutheran congregation** – following Pastor Jean Hay’s death on April 20th due to pancreatic cancer
- Diana** (*friend of Mary Johnston’s sister*) – prayers for health & healing

From our Synod prayer calendar, we remember:

For healthcare workers, public officials, church, and civic leaders that they may be supported, cared for, and guided by God’s wisdom in this time of difficult decision-making on behalf of their communities.

For all the pastors, pastoral leaders, LPAs and congregation and ministry leaders across the synod as they find ways to serve their communities and congregations. May God grant them peace and strength during this time.

For the families and communities of those who have died due to Covid-19

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May Birthdays/Anniversaries:

- Marlene Holland** – celebrating her birthday May 1
- Shirley Ketchum** – celebrating her birthday May 1
- Pete Godtland** – celebrating his baptismal birthday May 2
- Noah Thennis** – celebrating his baptismal birthday May 4
- Cruz Trudgeon** – celebrating his baptismal birthday May 8
- Dale Schultz** – celebrating his baptismal birthday May 8



- Eli Corbin** – celebrating his birthday May 9
- Kacy Bond** – celebrating her birthday May 12
- Patricia Coleman** – celebrating her birthday May 13
- Brieson Campbell** – celebrating his birthday May 13
- Kim Mickelson** – celebrating her birthday May 14
- Peggy Dean** – celebrating her birthday May 17
- Arlene Munyon** – celebrating her birthday May 19
- Byron DeWaay** – celebrating his birthday May 19
- Bill Smyers** – celebrating his birthday May 20
- Doug Drew** – celebrating his birthday May 20
- Ginger DeWitt** – celebrating her birthday May 21
- Fran Warner** – celebrating her birthday May 25
- Parker Langford** – celebrating her baptismal birthday May 29

- John & Valerie Tadday** – celebrating their 53rd anniversary May 27
- Sandi & Gary Wenger** – celebrating their 43rd anniversary May 21



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[From the Pastor’s Study cont. from p. 1]

Butte won the close, back and forth game (53-50); the crowd went wild and stormed the court; police escorted us back to the safety of our bus. That was my one experience of Butte prior to joining you. Thanks for broadening my understanding of this wonderful and unique place. 😊

What’s next?

Dennis and I will head home to Great Falls. The nieces are thrilled that we will be breaking up the monotony of the self-isolation that coronavirus has imposed upon them. Their mom and dad are looking forward to help with homeschooling. Grandma has a list of projects the lengthen of my arm. Bishop Jungling has another interim ministry she’d like me to enter. There appears to be plenty to keep us busy!

Please hold us in prayer as we transition to whatever is next. We will be doing the same for you. And thank you for allowing us this shared time of ministry. You will never know the refreshment and encouragement and sheer joy that it brought. May God continue to bless you and watch over you.

Pastor Trina

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices

Deaths

3/18/2020 Dorothy G. Gronvold
4/15/2020 Hazel J. Edwards

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Dorothy Gronvold from:

Beverly Murray
Dennis & Linda Moore
Vern & Jeanette Nielsen
Mark & Judy Bond, gift to Roof Fund
William & Marissa Newman, gift to Roof Fund
David & Susan Repola, gift to Roof Fund
Colleen Tamblyn, gift to LWR Quilters
Dee & Jean Sullivan, gift to Funeral Lunches

In Memory of Laura Lee Hager from

Craig & Kathy Rae Aasved

In Memory of Hazel Edwards from

Vern & Jeanette Nielsen

Tony's New Job



Our former custodian, Tony Cloyd, has taken a permanent job at Safeway's on Massachusetts Avenue working as a customer courtesy clerk.

He has been working at the store part time and was recently offered a permanent position.

According to those in the know, people love him there and are incredibly happy to have him.

Tony said he will miss the people of Gold Hill and hopes they will come into the store to see him.

Congratulations to Tony and we all rejoice with him as he begins his new job!

God Speed to Judy and Jerry Aaker

After Jerry's serious health issues last year, the Aakers have determined that a move to be closer to children and grandchildren is the next step in their adventurous life. They have bought a home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and will be headed that direction in mid-May. Normally we would be able to offer our blessings as a gathered community and thank them for the ways they have served Gold Hill during their time in Butte. Darn coronavirus... Please hold them in prayer and drop them a word of welcome at their new address: 10917 Griffith Park Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

Eternal God, we thank you for Judy and Jerry and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHURCH COUNCIL MAY 2020:

Mike Lawson -
President

Curt Quist -
Administration Director

Revonda Stordahl -
Treasurer

Peggy Graving -
Secretary

Julie Corbin -
Spiritual Growth
Ministry, Team Leader

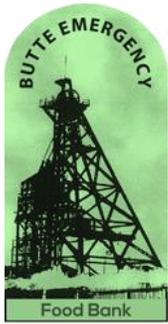
Chris Ketchum -
Worship Ministry, Team Leader

Lynn Aniksdal -
Leadership Ministry, Team Leader

Dale Schultz -
Outreach Ministry, Team Leader

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

**Please help us to stay updated
and notify the church office
with any address, phone, or
Email address changes!**



Food Bank Donations for May

Due to the coronavirus outbreak we will not be taking physical food donations at Gold Hill in May.

You can still donate to the Butte Emergency Food Bank.

Mail your donation directly to:
Butte Emergency Food Bank
1019 East Second Street
Butte, MT 59701

Thank you for your generosity!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Revonda Stordahl
Financial Summary

March 2020	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	\$15,983.82	\$15,000.00	\$983.82
Expenses	\$11,516.07	\$15,912.49	-\$4,396.42
Net Income	\$4,467.75	-\$912.49	\$5,380.24

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	\$40,490.18	\$45,000.00	-\$4,509.82
Expenses	\$40,317.61	\$47,737.47	-\$7,419.86
Net Income	\$172.57	-\$2,737.47	\$2,910.04

If anyone has any questions about the budget, please contact me at 490-8043 or by e-mail, revondafs@gmail.com.

Join the Lutheran World Relief 75,000 Face Mask Challenge!

[From Patty Callaghan]

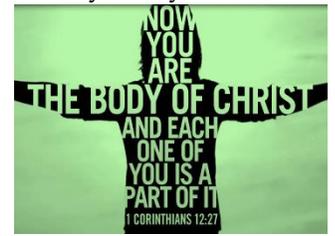


International NGO Lutheran World Relief, which is known for annually sending millions of quilts hand sewn by donors to those in need around the world, is issuing the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge in an effort to inhibit the spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable communities around the world that are defenseless against COVID-19.

Volunteer and reach neighbors in need without leaving home. The masks you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. Your masks will be sent to areas that don't have the option of social distancing or frequent handwashing. How many will you make?

Register your pledge now for the number of masks you will sew at <https://lwr.org/masks>.

This website also has instructions on how make the face masks and how to send them to Lutheran World Relief.



Face masks will be distributed with upcoming international shipments of personal care kits already scheduled for summer and fall. We need your help for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

After all, Lutheran World Relief was founded 75 years ago to help neighbors around the globe who were suffering during World War II. **What will be our generation's legacy during this time of crisis?**

Lutheran World Relief Quilt Pickup



The May date for quilt pickup at Gold Hill has been moved due to COVID-19. The new pickup date for Lutheran World Relief quilts is July 10th for Gold Hill. If this date should be changed, you will be notified ahead of time.

Thank you for your patience in this health crisis.



In the Spotlight: Gold Hill's New Pastor!

Pastor Marlow Paul Carrels was born in FT Riley, KS. After some years as an Army Brat his family settled in Belgrade, MT where he was a semi-proud Panther and member of Peace Lutheran Church (now LCMC). He joined the Montana Army National Guard in 2005 and was assigned to the 631st Chemical Company in Butte, MT. He graduated from Montana State University – Bozeman in 2008 with a BA in English Literature, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Chemical Corps and went on Active Duty. He served in the 110th CM Battalion – Technical Escort at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington and returned to Montana to live in Townsend, work at Canyon Ferry Dam, and begin seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary through the Distributive Learning (online) model. He also returned to the MTARNG and served as a Company Commander and Brigade Chemical Officer before transferring to the Reserve to become a Chaplain in 2016. After breaking his back, Pastor Carrels ended his military career in late 2019.



Pastor Carrels graduated from Wartburg with a Master of Divinity in 2017 and is currently working on his thesis project for a Sacred Theology Masters with a focus on violence and theology at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. In the church he has served the communities of Jordan, MT (lay pastor), Prairie du Sac, WI (Intern / Vicar) and Westby, MT. His current favorite scripture verse is James 4.8: “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” He currently serves on the NRIT Advisory Committee, the Chico Pastor’s Retreat Planning Board, and has four ministries of special interest: Veterans, the Homeless Population, Just War Tradition, and Historical Theology. Three interesting facts about Marlow: he has sung opera professionally, was a meat cutter, and has stepped foot on every continent except Antarctica. Pastor Marlow is an avid fisherman, hiker, camper, skier, museum goer, and bibliophile.

Pastor Marlow is married to Nikki Pontier-Carrels, who hails from Great Falls (Go Bison!). The two met at MSU and were married in 2009. Nikki is an advocate for the environment, believing in minimal packaging, recycling, upcycling, and creating as little garbage as possible. She thoroughly enjoys her practices of yoga, reading, and simplicity. Interesting facts about Nikki: she was a one-room school-house teacher, has published multiple children’s books, and is an art teacher. Her favorite medium is oil on canvas, but she also enjoys drawing and watercolor. Nikki is also an avid fisherwoman, hiker, camper, museum goer, and bibliophile.

Sammie Jean Carrels is an amazing eight-year old who enjoys cats, wearing pretty dresses and doing messy science experiments, and building / engineering / creating traps, machines, and living spaces. Interesting facts about Sammie: she has lived in 3 states and 5 cities and she is super excited to move to Butte!

Final interesting fact for the whole family: Between the three of us we have lived in Helena, Great Falls, Bozeman, Belgrade, Townsend, Sand Springs, Westby, and Conrad, MT. And for those of you who just need to know, yes, the picture above was our family photo this year. It was taken by a lovely couple at the Upper Missouri Valley Fair in Williston, ND. We even wrote a little story about how Sammie was a great little bank robber.

Gold Hill Council Update

In response to the Governor's recently released *Montana: Reopening the Big Sky*, in which a three-phased approach for the reopening of businesses, including houses of worship, was put forward, your Council met via Zoom on April 26 to discuss how this will impact Gold Hill Lutheran. Butte-Silver Bow County has also put in place additional guidelines that will require us to create a detailed plan for our eventual reopening. This plan is to include an updated cleaning process, guidelines for maintaining the appropriate social distancing for all activities within the building, safe worship and communion practices, an updated employee sick leave policy, and a communication plan should someone who has been in the building then be diagnosed with Covid-19.

A small task force has been created to create this reopening plan for Gold Hill. Members of the task force are Lynn Aniksdal, Peggy Graving, Curt Quist, and Dale Schultz.

In the meantime, the Council has made the decision to continue to have our building closed. There will be no public worship, no Bible Studies, no funerals or weddings, and no meetings held in the building. The Council will revisit this decision at its June 9 meeting, at which Pastor Marlow Carrels will also be present and be able to give input into plans going forward.

The Council has made this difficult decision out of care for the most vulnerable among us and as an act of loving our neighbor. While we all long to gather around the Word and the Meal, to sing favorite hymns, and to see our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ face-to-face, our willingness to wait until more is known about this virus and to not put people at risk is what we are being called to at this moment.

Please continue to hold one another in prayer, to check in with each other via the phone or technology, and to stay safe and well in these challenging days.

Gold Hill Lutheran Church Council

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

Worship Schedule:

***Canceled until further notice
Due to COVID-19 Outbreak***

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934 Placer Street
Butte, MT 59701

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(406) 723-4242

E-Mail:
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Office: Closed due to COVID-19 Outbreak

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten
Mike Lawson, Council President
Parish Admin. Assistant Mary Johnston