

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**



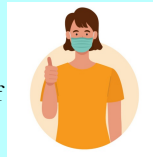
The Nugget E-News

July 13, 2020

Gold Hill News

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.



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.

Montana Synod News

The Montana Synod is curating information and resources on the Montana Synod Website

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.

Wanted: Constitutional Reviewers for the Montana Synod!

If you have an eye for detail, find joy in playing around with constitutions, and have a desire to serve the church (or know someone who does), please contact the MT Synod office. (406-453-1461 or cstandall@montanasynod.org)

Lay and clergy are welcome to volunteer. We will train you. We need your help so please prayerfully consider offering your time and energy to the Synod in this way

Words from the Bishop: I Am Not God

What are the most freeing words ever spoken to you? For me, the words that give me the most freedom in life are, "I am not God." And a close second are the words, "And I don't have to be God."

"I am not God and I don't have to be God." Those words have freed me from myself and my need to fix things for people, from my need to save them from their pain, from my need to make everything right for everybody. Ask the congregations I served as an interim...what they heard on my first Sunday was this: "I'm not Jesus and I'm not here to save your congregation. Jesus has already done that."

As a leader, even as a follower of Christ, not being weighed down by the expectations placed on me by myself and by others and letting God be God so that I don't have to - that's the greatest experience of freedom I can



Calendar:

Church Council
meets at 6:00 pm
Tuesday, July 14

Worship Service
Outdoors:
North Parking Lot
at 9:30 AM
Sunday, July 19th

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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](#)

CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

Mike Lawson-
President

Curt Quist -
Administration Director

Revonda Stordahl -
Treasurer

Peggy Graving -
Secretary

have because it allows me to focus on what I *can* do and be. I'm now free to be who Jesus calls me to be and to do what Jesus calls me to do.

However, being a human being who is not God and who doesn't have to try to be God does not mean that I get to abdicate my responsibility as someone created in God's image. I don't get to say "well, I'm not God so I don't have to do anything. I can just sit around and let God do all the work." That is not what it means to not be God. That's not even what it means to have faith in God.

In Christ, God frees me from having to try to be God. I no longer need to turn in on myself and focus all my attention on me being the center-of-the-universe super-heroine who has come to save the world. Jesus has already taken care of that.

Now I can be the free me God creates me to be: a person created in the image of the God of love and new life, intertwined in God's abundant creation with the diversity of all human beings also created in the image of God. I get to be the baptized follower of Christ who is called to participate in God's mission of love and justice and hope for the world. I get to be free from my need to be God over others so that I can follow the Spirit's life-giving guidance in the work in which God invites and encourages me to participate.

Also, it is here, in this space of not being God, of not even having to try to be God, that I get to most fully live out my freedom to follow Christ and love others. How? Well, in human beings, there is this space between something that happens to or around us and our response to that something. For example, imagine someone says something mean to you. Now, before you respond to that something, there is a moment of freedom when you have the choice to choose what you are going to say or do next. Nobody else gets to make that choice for you; only you.

You can choose to react instantly without thinking or without recognizing the possible consequences of your words or actions. Or you can choose to sit in that moment of pure freedom and remember, "I am not God." You can choose to stop in that moment and ask yourself "how God is calling me to respond to this moment?" You can take that moment and choose to let the Spirit be your guide into following Christ in love and compassion.

That moment of choice between event and response, that is where the fullness of freedom in Christ lives. For Jesus claimed that moment for himself and ultimately for us, when he prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane, "My Father, if possible, take this cup from me. Yet not my will but your will be done." (Mt 26:39) In Christ, that moment of choice for God is God's moment and it is in God that our true freedom stands.

"I am not God, thank God! You are not God, thank God! God is God, thank God!" Owning that truth deep in our souls and letting it burst forth every time we face a choice, any choice - that is true freedom. A freedom not found in any bill of rights but finally in the first commandment as God reminds us again and again: "I am the Lord *your* God. You shall have no other gods before me, including yourself." (Exodus 20:2)

In the end, the first commandment is not really a command at all; it's a promise and it's a gift of a true freedom that comes only in God. So let's let God be God and live in the truth of not being God, giving thanks always for the freedom that comes in Christ!

Bishop Laurie

[Covid-19 Recommendations for Congregations](#)

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Covid-19 is here in Montana/Northern Wyoming and it is spreading fast. And that spread is requiring us to change our lives yet again 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 of Covid-19 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. Here are some ways

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

you can live out your freedom in Christ:

1. Exercise your freedom in Christ to love one another by wearing a mask which reduces the spread greatly, especially in closed-in areas where we share the air. See link [HERE](#).
2. Take some control over Covid-19 by forsaking coffee fellowship after worship (no, coffee is NOT the third Lutheran sacrament).
3. Love and serve your pastor and council by following their guidance instead of pushing back.
4. If Covid-19 comes to your town, be as ready to shut your worship space down as you were to open it up.
5. If Covid-19 is getting close to your town, take some steps back by not having communion for a few weeks or singing softly or having worship outside.
6. Take attendance at worship so that you can help your county health department do any contact tracing as necessary.

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

So hang in there, beloved, and care about one another. Don't be the cause of someone's suffering. Instead, be the reason someone stays alive and well. We are in this together and God will get us through it. For God is with us always, bringing new life out of death. Always!

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.