

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

934 Placer Street

Butte, MT 59701

(406) 723-4242

pastorgoldhill@gmail.com

goldhill.elca@gmail.com

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

United to Serve



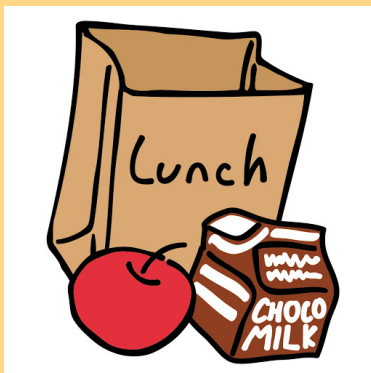
Visit our Website

Check out our Face Book page

Visit our Church Library page

Gold Hill News

Upcoming Events & Activities



Sack Lunch Ministry

If anyone would like to make sack lunches for the homeless outside of Gold Hill, please let Kim Mickelson know. There are funds available for reimbursement for this ministry. Lunches can be made at home and someone will pick them up for delivery to the homeless. Call Kim (498-4402) or the church office (723-4242) if you wish to participate in this ministry.



Here is an amazing Ministry opportunity!!

Do you want to help us make a community Christmas CD?

With the remarkable help of Dave Coleman, our music director and piano player extraordinaire, we would like to make a Christmas CD that can go out to our congregation members and be put up on YouTube. We are looking for singers and instrumentalists that would like to record their favorite Christmas Songs.

Do they have to be "Churchy"? **NO!**

Can I play Rudolph? **Ugh! If you have to!**

What about Santa Stuff? **Sure!**

What if I'm not perfect? No one is!

Come and share your gifts.

This is a ministry for the congregation so that we all have a small piece of our

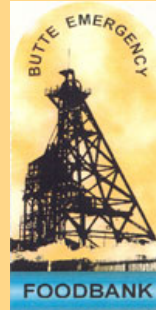
community with us all the time this Advent Season.

If you are interested please email pastor (pastorgoldhill@gmail.com) or Dave Coleman (daveinconcert@gmail.com) to coordinate times for recording during the months of October and November. Proceeds from this CD will go to a worthy charity and it will be a lot of fun!



LWR Quilters are meeting

The Quilters are meeting at 10:30 am on Wednesdays at the Red Roof Pavilion in Stodden Park. Please bring your own sewing supplies, lunch and drink. Quilts for tying will be available. Visitors are encouraged.



Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Food Bank and Gold Hill cannot take physical donations of food. However, your monetary donations are still needed.

Mail your monetary donation directly to:

**Butte Emergency Food Bank
1019 East Second Street
Butte, MT 59701**

Thank you for your generosity!

CHURCH COUNCIL 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

Pastor Marlow Carrels

Weekly Calendar

Executive Committee
meets at 5:30 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 6

LWR Quilters
meet at 10:30 am
at Stodden Park
Wednesday, Oct. 7

Bible Study Group
meets at 7:00 am
at Perkin's
Thursday, Oct. 8

Worship Service
(Outdoors)
at 9:30 am
Sunday, Oct. 11

The Synod office is operating under limited office hours from the month of September, 12-4pm. Candi the Office manager is always in the office. Meetings are by appointment only.

The Synod Staff, starting in September, will begin travelling in the Synod on a very limited basis based on appointment and need. They will not be traveling to lead worship. We will be revisiting these policies every month.

Across the ELCA there are pastoral and worship leaders who have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Please remember if you are a worship leader who has been diagnosed or experiencing symptoms of Covid-19, you should stay home! Even if this means cancelling worship. As worship leaders, we don't want to risk the safety of our members.

Spotlight from the Synod - God With Us In Our Anxiety



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

By Jenny Kunka

Pastor Molly Sasser-Goehner reminds her congregation that the church is not a building, it is people supporting and helping each other. At the same time, she acknowledges that, when we are not able to be together in the usual way, we sometimes miss, "that incarnational piece of thought. The living word." Sasser-Goehner, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula said, "That is one of the biggest challenges because that is deeply who we believe God to be, God with us. What I try to do in preaching is point out how God is here with the people in the midst of the pandemic, in the midst of racism, in the midst of loneliness. This is not happening apart from God. The cross is with us in the time of our struggling."

Like Sasser-Goehner, pastors around the country are reflecting on how to share this very Lutheran message at a time when so many are feeling isolated and anxious. Pastors and church leaders are thinking and praying about what people might need to hear and what the Gospel has to say to a hurting world.

Pastor Phil Wold, who serves Trinity Lutheran in Sheridan, Wyoming said that, as Lutherans, we've been prepped for just such a time, but we need to get good at articulating our theology.

"I've had members go through terrible things," he said. "When everything goes to hell, I can say, 'Come sit with me and we can talk about the theology of the cross.' *Jesus Loves Me This I Know* works for a while but, when everything goes to hell, you need a theology of the cross in the room."

Wold said that books he has found especially meaningful, by theologians such as Andrew Root and Douglas John Hall, address the American religious tendency and even Lutheran tendency to avoid negatives. When the church doesn't allow for negatives or own up to the fact that things aren't wonderful, the church doesn't have much to say to people, Root argues.

"This positivistic Christianity isn't going to speak to the people who have experienced tough times," Wold said. In a time of anxiety or fear, the sure knowledge of "God with us in the struggle," is what we need to hear.

"The faithfulness of God. This is our sound place to turn," Wold said.

Julie Aageson who served as a resource specialist and writer for the ELCA has been thinking and writing about God's presence in daily life for many years. Lately she has especially been thinking about how, in the face of struggle, we might live out what we value.

"There has been chaos forever, but it seems like we've been overwhelmed by all these intersecting tragedies, so that we sometimes feel like we are gasping for air," she said.

Aageson's mother struggled with depression for most of her life. For Aageson, "God with us," was talking with her mother over the phone when her mom was in the depths yet again, and singing, "Healer of our Every Ill," and other hymns. The words provided Aageson a way of helping her mother remember what she had taught Julie so well, that we are made in God's image and nothing can separate us from the love of God.

The faithfulness of God was taught to Aageson by her parents who often said, and meant, God be with you.

"That was my mother's gift to us because she always said that to my siblings and I. It was our greeting and farewell, no matter the situation." When her father was dying, Aageson was able to lean over him and say, "God be with you," and hear him respond, "And with you."

What about children in anxious times?

In the same way that children sermons can resonate with adults, thinking of how to talk to children about the pandemic and cultural anxiety, can also remind adults about God's steadfast presence in the world. Sasser-Goehner has found with her own children that it is important to address that yes, there is a pandemic but to also tell her kids it won't go on forever.

"This is an opportunity to affirm science. God has given us science and a lot of wisdom about how to take care of ourselves and others. Science helps us know about the body and how to keep it well," she said, adding that it's important to reassure kids but also to be straightforward with them and let them know what they need to know.

Wold agreed that it was important to be honest and to not gloss over the situation. "When our kids complain to us about issues in the world, we can say, 'Yeah, it is terrible, isn't it?' We don't need to negate. We don't need to be happy. But we can know it will be okay."

As Aageson was working on her latest book, she thought a lot about home as a refuge and this helped as she considered how to talk with her grandchildren.

"Home is a refuge where we can name our fears. It's important to acknowledge the things that are frightening and to lament and grieve," she said. Mr. Rogers would tell children that, when he was afraid as

a child, his mother would say, "Fred, remember to always look for the helpers."

Ageson encourages children to think about who is helping and how they can be helpers. "Particularly when you are naming and talking about things that cause fear, it is important to look for the people who are helping and making a difference," she said.

For people who have a safe home, Ageson said home is a place where we can also experience God. When there is trust as well as ordinary routines, we can see the light of Christ and act with compassion. Ageson talked about simple acts like marking children with the sign of the cross as they go to bed and reminding them that God made them and God loves them. Reminding them that we are God's dwelling place. We are God's home.

She also talked about wonder, helping children to experience that sense of wonder and, perhaps allowing them to help us have it as well. Making a point of the holiness of water and of bread and of seeds and soil. Or looking up at the sky at night to consider the size of the cosmos, the wonder that God created something we cannot even fathom.

"Ordinary stuff can be holy," she said. "In ordinary rituals and in ordinary acts, God is there and with us no matter what."

Ageson also discussed prayer as something we do with words and also without. "This can be helpful to children. To have simple prayers and to also know that God is present and we can always listen, talk and pay attention but that we are also praying when we are paying attention, noticing beauty and caring for others," she said.

The light is still there. We don't need to be happy clappy or pie in the sky but we can keep our eyes on things that are life giving," Ageson said.

God is faithful. Look for the helpers. God be with you. Be not afraid.

A Message from Freedom In Christ Prison Ministry

Please click [HERE](#)
for the message from Pastor Rob



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!