

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

United to Serve



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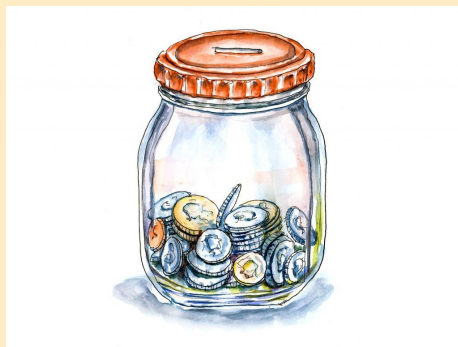
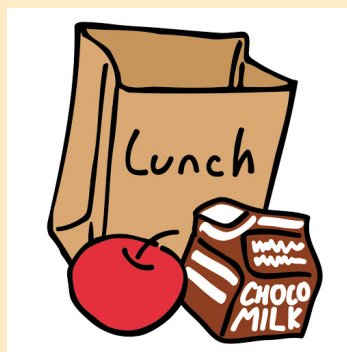
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Gold Hill News

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.



September Challenge for the Butte Emergency Food Bank!

The September Food Bank Challenge. [Daily you add or subtract some money for things you have done or things you have around your home.] To remind all of us that this is a donation that helps when we keep adding those quarters. The Food Bank is not taking grocery items at this time. They are only taking monetary donations so even if you can't add what it says each day every little bit helps. It also makes us realize all the advantages we have in our lives. Thanks for what you are doing! Peggy Graving

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.



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

LWR Quilters
meet at 10:30 am
at Stodden Park
Wednesday, Sept. 23

Bible Study Group
meets at 7:00 am
at Perkin's
Thursday, Sept. 24

Worship Service
(Outdoors)
at 9:30 am
Sunday, September 27

Montana Synod News

Important Covid 19 Information

The Synod office is operating under limited office hours through 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.

Words from the Bishop: I wonder...



“What does God’s call to love our neighbor as ourselves mean for us today?” (1)

How would you respond to this question? How would your congregation?

Given what we’re seeing in the behavior of some folks across our country right now, including Christians, this question does seem a good one for we who name ourselves as followers of Christ to ask. After all, this is God’s second greatest commandment to us: love your neighbor as yourself. And we as Christians are called to live this command to the

best of our ability through the power of God’s forgiving grace.

I wonder what would happen if we dedicated a year to studying, exploring and practicing God's call and command to love one another? I wonder what might that look like in our congregations, our synod, our personal lives, our wider ELCA? Stop and imagine for a moment spending a whole year talking about, praying about, listening for, and discerning new and continuing ways to live Jesus Way of Love in this world today.

I wonder how many of us might dismiss this idea as too boring, too "been there, done that," too "well, duh." I also wonder how many of us would think that it was a great idea...for those people over there. "I don't need to learn anything more about Christian love," I may find myself thinking, "but 'they' do!"

In this world of polarization, judging and blaming as well as the ongoing need for excitement-seeking stimulation, focusing on exploring and living God's call to love our neighbors in more and healthier ways may not be something we want to do.

And yet...

...And yet love is the center of Jesus' way of life. Jesus doesn't shut up about love. In fact, Jesus talks about love all the time. Loving God and loving our neighbors (all of them) permeates Jesus' call, his teachings, and his actions.

And Paul talks about God's love and neighbor-love all the time too, teaching us again and again how God's love for us in Christ calls and commands us to live our lives driven by love for all of God's people and creation.

And the prophets love talking about God's steadfast love and mercy while calling us to live out that love, justice and mercy into the world.

Even the Torah – the law found throughout the Hebrew Scriptures -- is centered on God's command and call to love God and neighbor.

What are the Bible texts that pop into your mind when you think of loving your neighbor as yourself?

For many it may be Paul's famous love sermon from 1 Cor. 13 that is often read at weddings but is actually meant to teach a conflicted community what it means to love one another. "Love is patient and kind, not boastful, arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it's not irritable or resentful. Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things."

Or what about Paul's exploration of love as the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5? "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faith-fullness, gentleness, self-control." Or his description of love in Romans 12, "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection..."

Jesus too teaches us love, both God's love for us and how we ought to share that love with others. Often he does so through parables like the story of the Prodigal Sons or the Good Samaritan. Then there is the parable of Kingdom sorting in Matthew 25 in which Jesus declares bluntly what it looks like for the nations to love of both Christ and neighbor: "Come you (plural) that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you all gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

What are your "love" texts from the Bible, the passages that inspire you to love?

Love is the core, the focus and the engine behind everything Christians, including Lutherans, are and do and seek in the world. Love is everything, for God is love.

As I consider the Christian Church today, even us ELCA Lutherans, I wonder if we've lost the love. Have we ignored God's deep, abundant, abiding love for us in Jesus as a cheap gift to shove into the back of our closet so we can keep living as we always have? Have we forgotten what it really means to love our neighbors as ourselves (if our sinful selves ever knew)? I don't know...I merely wonder.

Maybe if we dedicate a whole year across the Montana Synod to studying, exploring, and living out God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we will discover what Jesus-love really means for us today. I wonder what the Holy Spirit would do with that!

Bishop Laurie

(1) Birch, Lapsley, Moe-Lobeda, Rassumssen, *Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life* (2018).



Lutheran World Relief: Artist gets creative to support COVID-19 relief

By Emily Esworthy

When reflecting on her calling, especially amid the challenges of navigating life during the global coronavirus pandemic, Eve Noelle Hildebrandt tries to remember C.S. Lewis's call to become a "little Christ" in everything she does. For her, that

includes the way she lives into her roles as a wife, homeschooling mother of two, small business owner and fiber artist.

When COVID-19 began making its way across the world, it didn't take long for her to decide that the best way to be a little Christ and serve her neighbors in need was through her art.

Under her grandmother's tutelage, Hildebrandt learned how to crochet when she was about four years old. Her mom taught her to knit when she was in her teens, and since then she has also picked up

designing patterns and centuries-old techniques of dyeing, weaving and spinning. She has worked as a professional costumer and occasionally does liturgical weaving for churches, hand making Paraments and stoles.

"I have always loved crafts," she says. "And I think it's wonderful to carry on an old craft; to know people have been doing this for thousands of years is so cool in my mind."

Today she owns and operates [Holly Dyeworks](#), the part-time small business she started to sell yarn she dyes by hand. It was through Holly Dyeworks that she designed a sock-weight yarn set, in a purple and green colorway she calls "The Peace that Passes All Understanding," to raise money for Lutheran World Relief's [global coronavirus response](#).

The set was so popular that the first batch sold out, so — when her two young sons were visiting with their grandparents — she set to work dyeing another. Hildebrandt believes the response to her fundraiser was so strong because people have been looking to support small businesses during social distancing, as so many are vulnerable to shuttering. She also sees how some customers want their purchases to contribute something positive to the cause, even if it's small — like the 25% she's able to donate to LWR. She sees others still are looking for a creative outlet to help them find peace during a time of turmoil.

"There has definitely been an uptick in people desiring handwork they can do at home — work that feeds the creative," she explains. "Plus, knitting and crocheting are art forms that people can use in the end. You wear your scarf; you can donate an afghan. So there's a practical use to it, it feeds their creative soul and it's therapy."

And, she would argue, it's also a form of worship. "The first image of God we're given is the Creator," Hildebrandt says, "not, say, the Savior or Conqueror. That means creativity is one of the most basic ways we can be in the image of God."

Hildebrandt calls herself a "cradle Lutheran" — she was born and raised in Lutheran churches. Currently, her father is the pastor of Cross of Christ in Chattanooga, Tenn., and her husband pastors Christ Lutheran in Pascagoula, Miss.

Choosing Lutheran World Relief as the beneficiary of her fundraiser was a no-brainer.

"Lutheran World Relief has a fine reputation across the world," she explains. "I have always been a part of churches that have given to LWR, especially during crises. When this virus hit, I wanted to do a fundraiser through my business and raise some awareness. I couldn't think of anybody I'd rather give to than LWR."

Around the world, your gifts to LWR are providing clean water for neighbors living in vulnerable areas to drink and wash their hands — a first defense against COVID-19. You are delivering emergency food to families living where market shelves are empty. And you are equipping health workers with the protective gear they need to stay healthy and getting health networks accurate, up-to-the-minute information about COVID-19 and what to do to stay safe.

Thanks to Hildebrandt and other generous donors, LWR is able to reach more and more neighbors in need during the challenges of COVID-10. With your support, we'll keep going... until your love reaches every neighbor.



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!