

## Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



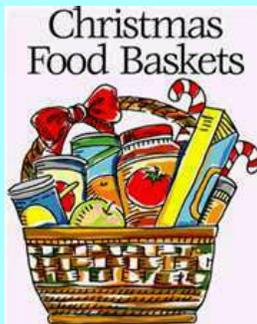
The Nugget E-News

December 16, 2019

## GOLD HILL NEWS

### Christmas Poinsettias

If you are planning to bring in a poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary as a memorial or in honor of someone, **please give Mary the name/names by December 17 (that's tomorrow)**. The plants may be artificial or live, but do not bring in live plants before December 16. You may take your plant home after the 7:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. The church will not be purchasing any plants this year.



### Family Advent Calendar Challenge

Gold Hill is doing Advent family food boxes for the Butte Emergency Food Bank. Each day you add an item to your box. When the box is full, bring it back to the church. **All of the items will be delivered to the Butte Emergency Food Bank on December 23rd so get your boxes here before that date.** (If you don't have an item, please substitute as you see fit!) **The following items are for the final week:** Dec.

16: pkg. of oatmeal or box of cereal, Dec. 17: spaghetti noodles, Dec. 18: spaghetti sauce mix, Dec. 19: can of tomato sauce, Dec. 20: canned soup or boxed soup mix, Dec. 21: hamburger helper, Dec. 22: bananas, Dec. 23: apples, and Dec. 24: onions. Questions? Talk to Patty Callaghan or Paul Vang.

### Offering Envelopes

**Offering Envelopes for 2020** are here and are available for pick up in the Fellowship Hall by the North wall. They are alphabetized by last name and you can pick them up this month. Due to budget constraints & increasing mail costs, envelopes are limited in number and no envelopes will be mailed out.



### Christmas Worship Services



#### Christmas Worship Services at Gold Hill

Christmas Eve at 5 & 7 PM with carols, Communion, & candle-light.

#### Christmas Worship Services at Gloria Dei

Christmas Eve at 5 & 11 PM and Christmas Day at 10:30 AM

### Calendar:

**We Deliver - Sack Lunch Ministry meets @ 9:30 am Monday, Dec. 16**

**Advent: Soup & Bread Supper at 5:45 pm in the Hall**

**Holden Prayer Service at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary Gold Hill Choir meets afterward Wednesday, Dec. 18**

**Overeaters Anonymous meets @ 6:15 pm Wednesday, Dec. 18 Al-Anon meets at 7:30 pm Wednesday, Dec. 18**

**Pastor's Bible Study at 10 am & 7 pm Thursday, Dec. 19**

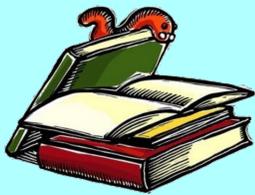
**Knitting Ministry meets at 10:00 am Big Sky Senior Living Center Thursday, Dec. 19**

**Nominating Committee meets at 6:00 pm Thursday, Dec. 19**

**Winter Solstice Concert in the Hall doors open 6:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 19**

**55+ Luncheon at 12 Noon Perkin's Restaurant Friday, Dec. 20**

**Communion Service at 1:00 pm Big Sky Senior Living Center**



## Books!

Pastor Trina referenced a book in her sermon on Sunday that a couple people suggested be put in the weekly email so people could have the title and author. The book is *We Belong to the Land* by Elias Chacour. It tells the story of the congregation she mentioned and their heroic work at building a school in Palestine that welcomes Christians, Muslims, and

Jews...the only one of its kind. The author also has another book that tells of his growing up in Palestine that is very good. It's called *Blood Brothers*. Both books are available on Amazon.

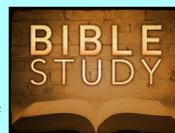
## New! Bible Study

Looking Ahead to Sunday (Bible Study)

Pastor Trina is offering a weekly Bible Study on

Thursdays at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. The focus will be

to look 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. There will be coffee and treats. There will be no Bible study on December 26 & January 2. Studies will resume on January 9, 2020.



Friday, Dec. 20

**Overeaters Anonymous**  
meet at 5:00 pm  
Friday, Dec. 20

**Worship Service:**  
at 9:30 am

**Sunday School:**  
at 10:45 am

**Coffee Hour:**  
at 10:45 am

Sunday, December 22

**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

## Words from the Bishop: Waiting



Patience seems to be a four-letter word today. We don't like to wait and when we have to, we often don't do so patiently. These days I find myself using my cell phone to help me deal with short-term waiting like at a doctor's office or in line at the store (not in the car!). But long-term waiting - days, month, even years - that's tougher! Fortunately my busy life as bishop keeps me from noticing my impatience because there is always something else to do. But

unfortunately, this busy-ness doesn't give me the opportunity to practice waiting.

Of course, waiting is more difficult when we're anxious or afraid. And we are afraid...of others, of the future, of our inner feelings and thoughts. This fear causes us to want to escape, to flee from our waiting. And when we can't flee, we fight. Or freeze into numbness. Yes, our fear makes waiting even harder.

**Yet this seems to be a theme of Advent: to wait in the midst of fear.** Wait in the midst of anxiety. Wait for Jesus to come again. Oh, and by the way, Jesus' coming will change everything...yes, everything! What's more frightening than that!

In the midst of all this waiting and fear, followers of Christ are called to have faith. And we're called to live in hope. But what does it mean to wait in faith-filled hope, even as we fear?

Well, for one thing, waiting in faith-filled hope means waiting with a sense of promise. It means using all our senses - physical, emotional, and spiritual senses -- to enter into the promise that God gives us in Jesus Christ. That promise is like a seed planted in each one of us in our baptism, a seed that is nurtured in us by the Spirit, the Holy Gardener. We just have to put ourselves in places where we can best be watered, pruned, and breathed on by God's love, all while avoiding the weeds and removing the stones that would prevent that promise from taking root and growing in us. In the end, waiting in faith-filled hope isn't about looking at a promise from the outside. It means living *inside* God's promise of new life and letting that promise live inside us.

**Second, waiting in faith-filled hope is active.** Waiting is not a passive, hopeless, empty state of numbness that is caused by events out of our control. Followers of Christ never "just wait." **We wait actively in a sure hope that the promised seed has been planted and that God's promise is happening to us and around us even if we can't see it.** We wait knowing that we *get* to participate in God's promise for the world in glad rejoicing by standing up, raising our heads, reaching out our arms, and serving in love. Waiting in faithful hope, then, means being the conduit through which the Spirit plants and nurtures the seeds of Christ's promise in everyone around us.

**Also, faith-filled waiting in hope means being patient.** Patience is courage. It's daring to stay where we are and live out our situation to its fullest in the trust that something hidden will become manifest to us. Patience means doing our best to live God's activity in the present, nurturing every

## LINKS:

[Click here to visit our growing website](#)

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[Click here to support the Butte Furniture Bank](#)

[Click here to visit our Church Library Page](#)

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

**Mike Lawson** -  
President

**Curt Quist** -  
Administration  
Director

**Revonda Stordahl** -  
Treasurer

**Peggy Graving** -  
Secretary

**Julie Corbin** -  
Spiritual Growth  
Ministry  
Team Leader

moment as the earth nurtures a growing seed, as a mother nurtures a child growing inside her.

**Fourth, actively waiting in faith-filled hope is open-ended.** It's being open to God's work that is being done in our lives. "Let go and let God," the saying goes. This is a radical attitude toward life in our "I'm in charge" world, trusting in hope that God is doing something that is far beyond our imagination or control. Waiting in faithful hope is trusting completely that God is growing us into who God calls us to be according to God's love rather than our fear.

Finally, *how* do we actively wait in this faith-filled hope of Christ's promise? Well, we do it together, in love. We wait not alone but as a community of faith, the body of Christ in this place and time. As followers of Christ, we enable and empower each other to wait, creating space for others to wait, affirming for each other that there is indeed something awesome that we all are waiting for. This community is the Church, the body of Christ through which we have faith in God's promise together, supporting, nurturing, celebrating, and affirming what God is doing for our community in Jesus again and again.

Ultimately, waiting in faith-filled hope is not about fear; it's about following Jesus together as we trust that Christ's promise is indeed becoming real for you, in you and through you in Jesus' name.

Blessed waiting to you all!

Bishop Laurie

**Chris Ketchum -**

Worship Ministry

Team Leader

**Lynn Aniksdal -**

Leadership Ministry

Team Leader

**Jerry Aaker**

Outreach Ministry

**Interim Pastor**

**Trina Johnsten**

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## *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.*