

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

United to Serve



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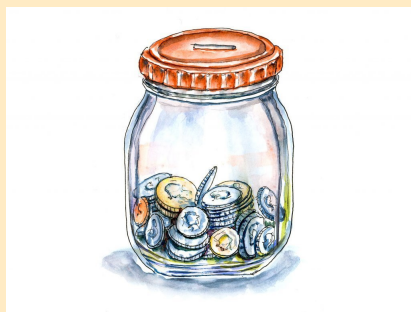
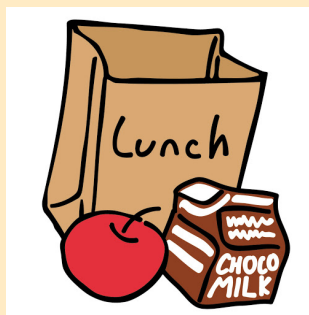
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Gold Hill News

Upcoming Events & Activities

Sack Lunch Ministry

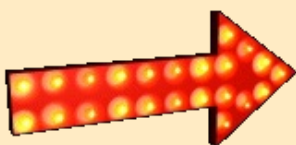
If anyone would like to make sack lunches for the homeless outside of Gold Hill, please let Kim Mickelson know. There are funds available for reimbursement for this ministry. Lunches can be made at home and someone will pick them up for delivery to the homeless. Call Kim (498-4402) or the church office (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.] I knew our home had a lot of windows, but when I had to actually count them – wow! I use to play the flute, but haven't picked it up since I retired from teaching – guess I still need to add \$1. Peggy Graving

Mark this date on your calendar!



Mark the date! Gold Hill is invited to attend and participate in an Ecumenical Worship Service on Sept. 20 at 10:30 in Clark Park. This means there will be no 9:30 am service at Gold Hill on September 20th. Masks are mandatory and you are responsible for placing your own chair at a distance. Questions? Talk to Pastor Carrels (723-4242).

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. 16

Bible Study Group
meets at 7:00 am
at Perkin's
Thursday, Sept. 17

**Ecumenical Worship Service
(Outdoors)**
Clark Park
at 10:30 am
Sunday, September 20

Words from the Bishop: Division



Division. It seems like it's everywhere these days. We can't seem to agree on anything anymore, including the weather. We're divided on what to do about Covid-19, who should lead our community, state, or nation, how to respond to the real suffering of people of color and others who have been and still are marginalized and oppressed, why our nation is under fire -- literally and figuratively -- and even who is to blame for all this division among us.

Division seems to loom over our relationships, our neighborhoods, our families, and yes, our congregations. It has taken control of our communication with one another, especially on social media where the Christian rule of love of neighbor doesn't seem to apply. I don't know about you but I'm tired of all this division! Of course, division between groups of human beings is not a new thing. Division between humans has been around since human beings themselves. We even see division in the early church. For example, Paul's letters to the Romans, the Corinthians, and the Galatians were all written as a result of the divisions that were tearing apart the newly forming churches in those communities.

But how do we as Church respond to the divisions permeating our lives today, particularly those within our congregations and faith communities? ***What can we do as followers of Christ in the Body of Christ to move into unity and harmony with each other?*** What can we do when we can't seem to agree on anything?

Well, we can start by returning to the root of why we are Church in the first place. We can start by returning to our mission, God's purpose for us as Christ's Church. What is God calling us to be, seek and do as the body of Christ and as a congregation/ministry in that body? What is God's purpose for us, not only for ourselves and our own group, but in service to the wider community and world? In other words, why did Christ give us his Church?

While each congregation has its own specific mission, vision and/or purpose statement (which I hope everyone knows and can repeat it back in an elevator speech), all of us are called by God's

overarching mission for the whole Christian Church: to proclaim God's kingdom coming near; to live through our words and actions the gospel of God's eternal love; to love our neighbors as ourselves always and everywhere; to follow Christ into the world with the message of good news of reconciliation, hope, and mercy for all people. I'm betting all your mission statements have similar themes – "God's Work, Our Hands" for the sake of reign of Christ's gospel in the world. ***When we focus on the mission to which God calls us, on the why of being church together, then the divisions can take a back seat and we can let God's Why take us beyond our disagreements.***

In God's Why, we are reminded that we are called first to love each other no matter the who we're talking to or listening to, no matter the where of our relationships (even on social media), no matter the what, how and when. God's Why and Christ's call to love reigns over all that we say, think and do as we seek God's purpose for us.

In God's Why, we are reminded that we may have a lot more in common than we think we do and can agree on more than what the culture is telling us we can. We don't have to buy into all the attempts at dividing us; we can follow Christ and agree to love instead.

In God's Why, we are reminded to focus on the actual issues facing us rather than pointing at other people and their differing viewpoints as the problem. Following the mission we're called to follow, our words and actions become about our mutual interests in God's community rather than on people's positions on any given topic.

Finally in God's Why, we are reminded to focus on God: to seek God's help and guidance, to beg God's support and wisdom, to celebrate God's love and acceptance of everyone equally. As we live into God's mission for us, we can ask questions like:

- How is God working in our congregation and Church right now?
- What does God want for the community and the universe God created?
- Where is the Holy Spirit leading us right now and are we ready for the journey?
- What is Christ calling us as community and individuals to seek, be and do to further God's purpose in our place in the world?
- Where can we see God's new and abundant life among us right now?

This list can go on and on as we return to the Lord our God as our guide and giver of life rather than trying to follow our own paths. For invariably, when we try to go it alone, we end up divided.

So let us follow the Spirit's guidance through Paul when he writes, "Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose." (1 Cor. 1:10) Although we may not be able to achieve such a high standard in this world, we are called to try. For that is our mission: *God's Work, our hands!*
Bishop Laurie



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!