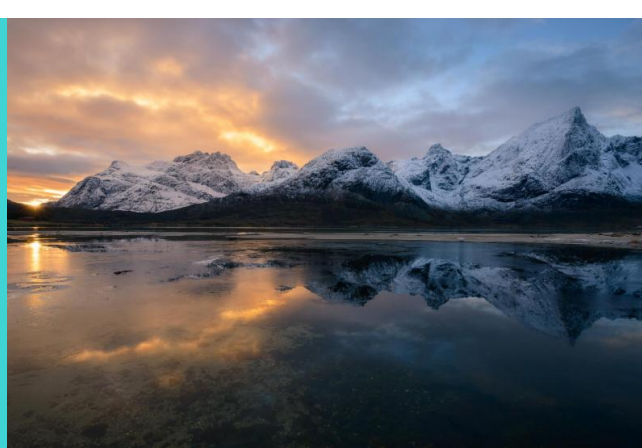


Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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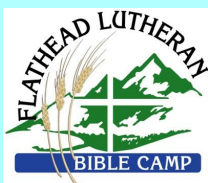
**Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
United to Serve**



The Nugget E-News

February 17, 2020

GOLD HILL NEWS



Camp Sunday is February 23rd

Jacob Kvale from FLBC will visit on Sunday, February 23rd. Come join us for Camp Sunday! Jacob will be sharing some stories from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp with us in worship, and will be leading the children in a time of fun and learning with plenty of camp songs during Sunday School. This would be a great way to introduce your child, grandchild, or a neighbor kid to the joys of summer camp (for which Gold Hill has a scholarship fund), and it will give them a preview of the fun in store during Vacation Bible School, which will be led by FLBC staff this summer.

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday is February 26th this year. Imposition of ashes will be offered at 12:00 Noon and 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

This year we are going to share our Wednesday worship services with our sisters and brothers at Gloria Dei. After Ash Wednesday (February 26) we'll alternate

between our churches for soup & bread suppers (at 5:45 PM) and worship services (at 6:30 PM), starting at Gloria Dei on March 4. **Please see the soup & bread signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.**

Gold Hill Choir practices Wednesdays in Lent following the evening Lenten service.



Exploring the Faith of our Neighbors



Gloria Dei to hear from Rabbi Mark Kula - Gold Hill members invited to attend.

As part of the confirmation curriculum, Gloria Dei is doing a unit in February exploring the faith of our neighbors. On Sunday, February 23rd they will hear from Rabbi Mark Kula from Congregation B'nai Israel, who will represent the Jewish faith

Calendar:

**Presidents' Day -
Office is closed
Monday, Feb. 17**

**LWR Quilters
meet at 9:30 am
Wednesday, Feb. 19**

**Gold Hill Choir
meets at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 19**

**Overeaters Anon.
meets at 6:15 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 19
Al-Anon
meets at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 19**

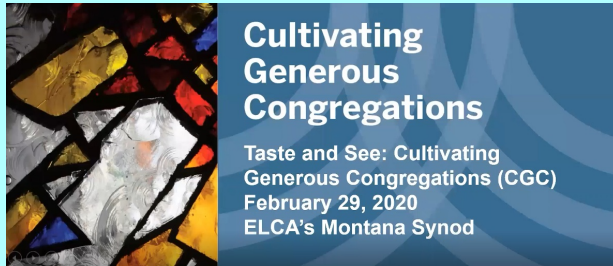
**Pastor's Bible Study
meets at 10 am & 7 pm
Thursday, Feb. 20**

**Prayer Shawl
Knitting Ministry
meets at 10:00 am
Big Sky Senior
Living Center
Thursday, Feb. 20**

**Copper Cloggers
meet 1 - 4 pm
Thursday, Feb. 20**

**55+ Lunch Group
meets at 12:00 pm**

tradition. There will be a presentation given followed by a question and answer period. Dinner is at 5:30 pm and the presentation will follow. Please call the Gloria Dei office if you want to share in the meal (723-9182). If you aren't joining in the meal, please meet at Gloria Dei at 6:00 pm to carpool to the Butte synagogue.



Webinar - Cultivating Generous Congregations

Taste and See: An Online Stewardship Opportunity!

How do we inspire generosity in people? How do we teach generosity to new generations? What makes a spirit of generosity sustainable in our congregations? **Questions like these are what you'll experience in a day of "Taste and See: Cultivating Generous Congregations on Saturday, February 29th.** Although the day will provide only a sampling of ideas and practical ways to inspire and teach God's generosity, we'll help each other learn what generosity means for today and "why" it is central to our faith.

Expect that you'll learn four "mindset shifts" necessary to address the changes and challenges of today's cultural mindset as the Spirit leads us into a new day. Through teaching, conversation and discussion together we'll discover some of the ways God's vision of generosity is already there for each of us to live in our individual lives and in our congregations.

Pastor Larry Streng, former Director for Evangelical Mission in the SW MN Synod and the National Coordinator for Generous Congregations will lead this event (from Billings) which will be live streamed at 9 locations around the Montana Synod, including Gloria Dei in Butte. **(See the FLYER for details about time and locations.)** Refreshments and lunch will be served. Please RSVP to the location where you will attend so that adequate preparations are made. Please indicate any dietary restrictions as you RSVP. Cost is \$10 per person. (Cash or check only).



Words from the Bishop: The Two Greats

"God's love is with me;
I am one with God's love."

I have been repeating these words a lot recently to remind myself of just how deeply God's love is intertwined with my life - that is when I don't get in the way. Paraphrased from a recent Star Wars movie (which I'm guessing borrowed it from an actual spiritual tradition), these words help return me

to a place where I can trust that God's love is with me and will never let me go.

at Perkin's Restaurant
Friday, Feb. 21

Communion Service
at 1:00 pm
Big Sky Senior
Living Center
Friday, Feb. 21

Overeaters Anon.
meet at 5:00 pm
Friday, Feb. 21

Camp Sunday
Worship Service:
at 9:30 am
Sunday School:
at 10:45 am
Adult Education:
at 10:45 am
Coffee Hour:
at 10:45 am
Sunday, February 23

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

LINKS:

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But these words aren't just about me. They also remind me that God's love is with others, with my family and friends, with my allies and my enemies, with the least and the greatest. God is love (1Jn 4:8) and God's love is with everyone and everything, all of creation. "God's love is with us; we are one with God's love."

Because we are one with God's love - revealed to us most clearly in Christ - and because we are one with God's love in following Christ, we are also one with each other in that love. And because we are one with each other in God's love, we are called to love one another.

Here we discover the two Great Commandments: we are to love God with our whole selves and love our neighbor as ourselves. "God's love is with me; I am one with God and neighbor." These two Great commandments are the foundation, the limit and the over-arching criteria of all of God's law given to us as a gift of love, though it does have this tendency to accuse and kill us when we can't or won't live according to it. Loving God with everything we are and loving neighbor in the same way that God loves us - which is with everything God is - these are to govern all that we do, think, feel. God's love is with us; God's love is us loving God and neighbor.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, the secular holiday that celebrates love, it's good to remember the Christian history behind this day and the commemoration of St. Valentine on February 14. While legends abound about various Valentines throughout history, the St. Valentine often lifted up as the "real" one was a clergyman known for helping persecuted Christians during the 3rd century. The legend goes that a judge who had imprisoned many Christians asked Valentine to "prove" the validity of Jesus Christ by healing his daughter's blindness. Valentine laid hands on the judge's daughter and prayed for her and she could see. The judge became a Christian, his entire household was baptized and he released all the Christian prisoners. Another legend states that Valentine later sent a note to the judge's daughter that read "from your Valentine." Thus, Valentine's connection to romantic love. Valentine was later martyred by the emperor Claudius for evangelizing the message of God's love in Christ. (Wikipedia)

Whether these legends are factual or not, they point to a person who loved others with a love that was willing to challenge the powers-that-be and to even die so that others could know God's love. In this story, we see the connection between the two Great Commandments - that loving God with our whole selves and loving our neighbors as our loved selves are intertwined. We can't love God without loving our neighbors; we can't love neighbor apart from loving God.

Yet today these commandments are often split apart in our society, and yes, even in our churches. There has arisen the belief that it's okay, even good, to hate our neighbor in the name of God or at least in a misperception of God's law. There seems to be an ongoing demand that God and others should love us unconditionally while we refuse to love God and neighbor unconditionally. There seems to be the belief that we can get away with loving only our friends and family (and then only if they agree with us), while hating, de-humanizing, rejecting those we don't like, those who don't agree with us, those we've named our enemies.

Lost is the truth that we can love our neighbors and our enemies only through the love we already receive from God. And lost is the willingness to open ourselves to God's love and the new life that it brings so that we can truly love God and everything and everyone God has created.

"You have heard it said, 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your

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enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven ... Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Jesus, Mt 5:43-45, 48)

It is only in being one with God's love that we can aspire to the perfect love with which God calls us to love each other. It only is here in God's love that we begin to see, in a dim mirror, the frightening depths and awe-inspiring hope that guides us on the path of following Jesus.

Next week, I invite you to look for another Spotlight on following Jesus in the MT Synod. But in the meantime, "God's love is with us; we are one with God's love."

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.