

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



The Nugget E-News

January 20, 2020

GOLD HILL NEWS



Annual Meeting & Potluck

The Annual Meeting will be held on this coming Sunday, January 26, immediately following the 9:30 AM service. We'll start with our

potluck feast and move on to the meeting that will include reports, and the election of Council members and other leaders, as well as discussion on other issues. **Your input is needed so please plan on attending!**

Treasurer's Reports

The financial reports for the Annual Meeting are available for review on the church's website. Click [HERE](#) to see them and please plan on attending the meeting.



Adult Education after Worship



Pastor Trina is now offering an adult education opportunity after worship at 10:45 for seven Sundays using the book

Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core by Kelly A. Fryer. The format of the book is short chapters (10-12 pages) with discussion questions at the end of each chapter, which will guide our conversation.

Butte Emergency Food Bank

Let's tackle hunger in our community. The Food Bank item for January is pasta (like spaghetti, or noodles). Please drop your donations off before January 31 and leave them in the Fellowship Hall, one of the baskets at each sanctuary door, or in the church office. Thank you for your generosity!



Calendar:

LWR Quilters
meet at 9:30 am
Wednesday, Jan. 22

Gold Hill Choir
meets at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 22

Overeaters Anon.
meets at 6:15 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 22
AI-Anon
meets at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 22

Pastor's Bible Study
meets at 10 am & 7 pm
Thursday, Jan. 23

Copper Cloggers
meet 1 - 4 pm
Thursday, Jan. 23

Overeaters Anon.
meet at 5:00 pm
Friday, Jan. 24

**Memorial Service
for Carol Godtland**
11:00 am Visitation
12:00 pm Service
Reception to follow
in the Hall
Saturday, Jan. 25



Spotlight on the Synod: Project Hope

By Jenny Kunka

Project Hope is a far-reaching aid service in Columbus, Montana, run by churches and organizations working together in the community.

"Project Hope is really what church should look like," said

Tonia Fisher, pastor at St. James Lutheran, describing the ministry that has ended up serving patrons and volunteers alike.

According to Laura Strickland, Director of Project Hope, the service was born when one of the founders realized that many of the churches in town were collecting food individually but not getting very far in their work. To improve the situation, she proposed developing a collection site where all the churches could combine their efforts.

No one could have imagined how the organization would grow from there.

Today, Project Hope is a food bank, a thrift store, and a separate antique store called "Laughing Ladies." Additionally, a multitude of other programs are run from the location.

Items at the thrift store range from clothing to kitchenware to furniture to books and CDs. "Basically, anything you might have in your household," said Judy Bjorkman, an LPA at St. James Lutheran in Columbus. "In the thrift store you can go around with a basket and pick what you'd like to buy and then make a donation of what you can afford or what the items are worth. No items have prices on them so this creates a sliding scale," Bjorkman said. If you need a winter coat but only have a few dollars, you can buy a winter coat.

Any antiques or expensive items donated to the thrift store are sent to the Laughing Ladies antique shop and prices are put on these items. The proceeds from the sale of items at Laughing Ladies, as well as all sales at the thrift store go toward Project Hope operations and programs. And the programs abound:

An emergency outreach fund to assist with rent, power bills, medical emergencies and even funeral expenses.

A backpack program that allows children to discretely receive a backpack of food in school to help them through the weekend.

An angel tree so that children can receive Christmas gifts.

People donate school supplies in the summer so that children can bring in their school lists and the staff will fill lists. They also help supply backpacks and gym shoes to those who need.

Senior outreach programs.

One of Judy Bjorkman's favorite programs is the annual "Kids Christmas Shopping Day." Bjorkman, who oversees the event, explained that throughout the year as donations come to the thrift store, items that might make good gifts are separated out and stored. Then, on a weekend before Christmas, the staff displays the items and invites children to come and shop for presents for their families.

"Every child is assigned a personal shopper and, for a few dollars they can buy gifts for all their family members," Bjorkman said. While their gifts are being wrapped, the families can enjoy cookies and coffee or hot chocolate.

Fisher and Bjorkman explained that Project Hope not only receives funds from the sale of items, the organization also receives grants and generous support from the town and this is

Worship Service:

at 9:30 am

**Annual Meeting
and Potluck:**

at 10:45 am

Sunday, January 26

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:

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

[Click here to visit our FB page and "like" us](#)

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

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

January 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

what makes it a program truly of and for the community.

"So many of our people volunteer down there," Pastor Fisher said. "And the manager of the thrift store site attends our church." **Fisher added that sometimes new members at St. James have asked how they can get involved in the church and soon, they are involved by volunteering at Project Hope.** Additionally, the church takes an offering for the ministry three times a year and hosts fundraisers, such as their pie and plant sale, with the church offering the pies and Special K Ranch bringing plants to sell.

As it has grown throughout the years, Project Hope has become more than a ministry that helps people in need, it has also come to touch the St. James congregation and the community of Columbus as a whole. People of all economic levels shop at the thrift store and many people across the community volunteer and love the work.

"You go in and you feel good whether you are shopping or volunteering. You don't even want to leave," Bjorkman said.

"It not only helps the people we serve but also benefits those of us who go in and serve." Bjorkman said Project Hope creates community because volunteers get to know each other and also get to know the people who come in regularly to shop.

St. James Lutheran financially supports Project Hope. They also pray for the ministry, talk about it and Pastor Fisher includes it in her sermons.

"It is one way to bring up feeding the hungry and caring for the poor because it's a good example of how the church does that. It's visible. You see the church in action and how people accompany others. When people come into Project Hope they are treated with respect. They are loved and accepted," Pastor Fisher said.

"It's a great model of Christ-like service, meeting people's basic needs," Bjorkman added. "Feeling loved and accepted and feeding, housing and clothing without being church-y. You don't have to be a Christian to come in. There isn't a Bible verse on anything you buy. It is, of itself, a witness."

Team Leader

Lynn Aniksdal -
Leadership Ministry

Team Leader

Jerry Aaker
Outreach Ministry

Interim Pastor

Trina Johnsten

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.