

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



The Nugget E-News

June 8, 2020

Montana Synod News

LINKS:

The Montana Synod is curating information and resources on the Montana Synod Website

Click [HERE](#) to be taken to the COVID-19 resource page.

There you will find information released by the Synod office, resources, and tools for your congregation.

[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](#)

Here are several important reminders for you and your congregations:

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

Please remember you need to be as prepared to close your worship space as you are to open. An example from the Synod: Grace Lutheran in Worland, WY was open for one week before they had to close again as the town became a hotspot for Covid-19 spread.

PPP loan is not automatically forgiven. Congregations must apply for loan forgiveness; you can [download the form here](#).

The ELCA credit union as of Monday, June 1, had PPP money to disperse. Check [HERE](#) for more information.

As you begin to gather for worship, please take down names of those physically attending for the purpose of trace contacting if needed.

The Synod office will go back to regular office hours June 1. ***Also beginning June 1 staff travel will resume on a very limited basis, for necessary congregational business only. Staff will meet with small groups such as councils, call committees, pastors, or other committees, except in congregational meetings where a Synod staff member must be present. Staff will not be traveling to conduct worship or other congregational events at this time.***

This policy will be revisited at the end of June.

CHURCH COUNCIL

May 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

Lutheran World Relief Face Mask Challenge

Many people in developing countries don't have the option of social distancing or frequent handwashing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now says cloth face masks, along with hand washing and social distancing may help reduce transmission.



We need your help to sew cloth face masks to help us reach men, women and children in vulnerable communities.

After all, Lutheran World Relief was founded 75 years ago to help neighbors around the globe who were suffering during World War II. What will be our generation's legacy during this time of crisis?

[Click here](#) for easy to follow mask instructions and find out how to pledge!



Words from the Bishop: Praying 500 Mississippi's

Eight minutes and twenty-six seconds. That's over 500 Mississippi's. Count them out...1 Mississippi, 2 Mississippi, 3 Mississippi...all the way to 500. Now

imagine a knee on your neck as you count, each attempted breath one of those Mississippi's, each breath harder to suck in than the last. Imagine that knee on the neck of your child, your parent, your friend as they try to breathe...1 Mississippi, 2 Mississippi, 3 Mississippi. Imagine.

That's what happened to George Floyd - a son of God, a brother in Christ created in the image of God, a human being worthy of dignity and respect -- last week. A knee pressed George's neck against the unforgiving cement of a Minneapolis city street not far from where the Mississippi River runs through and George died, another black person murdered by a white police officer while other officers ignored George's cries for breath and the pleas of the bystanders watching.

It's hard for those of us who click the Caucasian/white box on our census form to understand the experience of George Floyd and other black, brown and indigenous human beings. It's hard for us to understand being consistently singled out, stereotyped, threatened, and attacked for having a different skin-tone. It's hard for us to understand why George Floyd might fear for his life as he is approached by four police officers in a city already known for the systemically permitted abusive behavior by some of its officers. It's hard for us to understand Ahmed Aubrey's experience of jogging in a middle-class neighborhood ten minutes from your home and being attacked and shot by two men who think you a criminal simply because of the color of your skin. It's hard for us to understand the experience of indigenous women like Hanna Harris or Ashley Heavy Runner and their families in our state who are murdered, go missing, or are routinely sexually assaulted in a social system that seems to want to

do little about it.

It's hard for us to understand. But we must try. We must imagine. We must do our best, even a little, to put ourselves into the shoes of these fellow human beings who, like us, are also beloved children of God. We must try to imagine what life is like for them. For that imagination is the heart of following the Golden Rule - to treat people of color as we as Caucasian/white people want to be treated...and probably already are.

This attempt to step into another human being's shoes and feel their suffering is called empathy and for some reason it's easier for human beings to do when the person looks, acts, thinks, and experiences life like we do. It's much harder to empathize with those who we deem different, "other," not like us. And yet such empathy and its partner, compassion, are an exercise in love.

Yes, I'm going to talk about love again.

Why do I and other Christian leaders keep harping on love all the time? Because love is the core of following Christ. To be a Christian is to love. "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" The whole law - all of it. Every law, rule, command, value, virtue, moral norm, guideline, social system, policy and way of living falls under God's command to love. If it doesn't love, it's not a law from God.

What does this love look like as a response to the deaths and oppression, ignoring and ignorance, apathy toward and forgetting of our indigenous, black and brown brothers and sisters in Christ? For starters, I encourage you to [go to the call to love](#) by Bishop Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.

In this brief essay, Bishop Curry reminds us of what love can look like during this time of unrest and violence, anger and destruction, peaceful protests and riots (those are not the same thing). For example, participating in peaceful protest by and with people whose suffering has been hidden, ignored, and forgotten is one way to love for it exposes the sin at the heart of their suffering that we are so unwilling to see. However, riots, violence, destruction, and purposely creating chaos to serve an agenda that has nothing to do with ending racism - that is not love. An unjustifiable act does not justify more unjustifiable acts.

But for many of us who check the "white" box, even what Bishop Curry speaks about love may be hard for us to hear. So I will propose that the Christian community's love for people of color, and for all people similar or different than us, **actually begins with prayer. Yes, prayer.**

(Click [HERE](#) to read the rest of Bishop Laurie's letter).

Check with your insurer:

As you decide to reopen your worship space, please check with your insurance company for liability coverage. Insurance companies that have been consulted by congregations have indicated that if a congregation does not follow federal (CDC), state, and local guidelines closely, the insurance company may drop coverage and will not cover the congregation in the case of a lawsuit. Also remember that if a lawsuit for

a Covid-19 related death is filed, it will most likely include not only the congregation, but also the individual pastor and individual council members and perhaps even the synod. While it may be difficult for any plaintiff to prove "gross negligence," just the hassle of being named in a lawsuit and responding to it may be enough to deter you from opening before you are ready. So, consult your insurance company before you open!

Message Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Update: FLBC & COVID-19
May 27th, 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our creator, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Oh, what a time we are in! A time we need to be reminded of Christ's grace, love and peace more than ever! On May 26, 2020, the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Board of Directors met and made the difficult decision to change the focus of our programming for the Summer 2020 session. Instead of the children and youth programming "as normal", we will be hosting family and small group focused retreat-style programming. This decision comes after careful discussion, research, advice from health agencies, and with copious hours of prayer.

Our goal of providing campers and guests with transformative, Christ-centered, fun, adventurous, camping experiences, has not changed, and we are determined to make this an awesome summer of ministry. Under the guidelines established by the CDC and the local health department, we will do our best to maintain a safe and clean camp environment, as well as enforcing all the directives for social distancing, group size etc. We will be in constant communication with the health department, and will make changes as necessary.

We will be transitioning into hosting family camp style retreats, where a family or other small groups experience camp together. While here, a camp staff member will guide guests through the various activities that camp offers (swimming, Bible study, worship, canoeing, archery, etc.!) If this is something that your family or your church's congregation, women's group, or youth group would be interested in learning more about, please reach out to our office.

We know this is difficult news for many. We are praying for you. And thank you for remembering FLBC in your prayers and with your gifts, during this difficult time. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at office@flbc.net or 406-752-6602. God be with you.

God's love endures forever!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie P. Fiedler".

Margie Fiedler
Executive Director



www.flbc.net

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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.