



Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church
934 Placer Street - Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-4242

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation and
a Congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

From the Pastor's Study

Living In These Difficult Days

I waited until the absolute last minute to write this because things are changing so quickly around us. In just the last few days, President Trump has extended our social distancing until April 30, suggested that it may well be June 1 before things even start to return to anything that seems a bit normal, and told us that the death toll will be in the six-digits. Hard to believe we were all gathered together just three weeks ago to vote on a new pastor.

For most of us, the novelty of shelter-in-place has worn off. We miss seeing one another. We miss being able to move about freely. We miss our regular schedules. Some fear financial ruin, as jobs are furloughed and businesses close. Some are having a hard time accessing food or medicine, as relied upon transportation is no longer available. Many are feeling lonely and isolated and scared about the future. For some, anxiety and depression are creeping around the edges.

And these are all normal human responses to this time of extreme stress. Please be gentle with yourself. Part of what we are all feeling is grief...grief over losses great and small. And if you'd like to talk or pray or rant or cry, give me a call. My cell number is 402-984-4306. We also have a group of highly trained Stephen Ministers who are available to listen and encourage you in these difficult days.

And Yet...

And yet, in the midst of this, I've been looking hard for bits of hope, for moments of joy, and there have been some, like:

Running into Heatherlynn Meeks and her grandchildren at the park in Rocker,
and having her grandson say: Hey! You go to my church!

Hearing about the four new calves out at Jean Brothers' place.

Receiving two beautiful hand-made face masks in the mail from Miriam Haley.

Hearing from several of you about grocery trips or other errands you are doing for others.

Daily walks in a place that is so glorious and breathtaking.

I'd be curious to hear about the glimpses of joy you've been given this week. What has brought you encouragement? Shoot me a note at pastorgoldhill@gmail.com to let me know what's warmed your heart or brought a smile to your face.

What About Worship?

I've been slowly working my way through the Gold Hill directory, checking in on you, and the number one comment I hear is: I sure do miss gathering with my church family for worship. Indeed. And it seems doubly unfair that our self-isolation is taking place in a time when we usually spend more time together, during Lent and Holy Week.

Pastor Sarah Schilcher and I did a few services together before the shelter-in-place order went into effect, using equipment that Gloria Dei has and benefiting from the technical and camera help of her husband Dan. Now that we've all been urged to stay at home except for essential trips for groceries or medical care, that option is no longer available, so I have compiled a list of suggested worship resources for us to use during Holy Week.

[continued on p. 2]

Montana Synod Staff

The synod staff are taking turns doing a short Sunday service with a sermon each week.

www.facebook.com/montanasynodelca/

Also on the Montana Synod website you can find a list of congregations around the synod that are putting worship services on their websites.

<https://www.montanasynod.org/livestream-list.html>

Gloria Dei Lutheran, Butte, MT

Pastor Sarah will continue to post services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Those may be found on the Gloria Dei Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/gloriadeibutte/

Pastors I know who are gifted preachers:

Rev. Dr. David Lose at Mt. Olivet Lutheran in Minneapolis, MN.

Dr. Lose taught preaching at Luther Seminary for many years.

Last week's service is still up and his sermon was excellent.

<https://mtolivet.org/live-on-sundays/>

Rev. James Pike at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Huntington Beach, CA.

Rev. Pike served in the neighboring parish to mine when I served in southern California,

and we often did programming and worship together. He is one of the best preachers I know.

Scroll down to the bottom for the most recent Sunday.

<https://lcrhb.org/giving-resources/sermons/>

Rev. Stacey Nalean-Carlson at Glenwood & Canoe Ridge Lutheran Churches in Decorah, IA.

Seminary classmate Rev. Nalean-Carlson has a blog on which she posts weekly worship.

Look for the sermons tab. Currently she has been titling the last five weeks Lent A,

so I suspect there will be a Holy Week section starting this week.

<http://staceynaleancarlson.com>

Rev. Jay Rudi at Oak Knoll Lutheran in Minnetonka, MN.

John Hermanson is the church musician here, so the music is also very good.

John is from Bozeman and half of the musical duo Storyhill.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaxL9WXCv7BQVRu0RyQjqbg?view_as=subscriber

I know this is not the same as gathering in our own space. But one of the small joys I've experienced the last two weeks has been to see what other congregations are doing in worship and hear some really good sermons preached by friends and colleagues. I hope this list will help you to hear the Good News from new mouths and in new ways.

Another resource that I commend to you is the weekly radio program Sing For Joy.

This program picks up the themes of the week's lessons and pairs the scripture with choral music.

<https://www.stolaf.edu/singforjoy/>

A Word About The Future

We won't always be in this place of growing death numbers, falling markets, scarcity in the stores, isolation at home.

The time will come when we can join together again, face-to-face for worship, and get back to the many, many outstanding ministry programs at Gold Hill. In the meantime, if you are able, I ask you continue to be faithful in your support of God's work through our congregation. Actually, one of the other small joys I've experienced the last couple weeks is walking over to the church to get the mail and seeing the many gifts already being devotedly sent as you are hunkered down at home.

You may mail your offering to the church or drop it off through the mail slot.

Or consider becoming an online giver through automatic deductions. The form for that can be found here.

<http://goldhilllutheran.org/media/b1cc239a911454dcffff8353ffffe905.pdf>

Once completed, mail it to the church and treasurer Revonda Stordahl will take it from there.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you in these days, even if it is only via phone or email or by holding you in prayer. You are beloved of the Lord, dear ones. And in this very moment and the difficult days ahead, the Lord is walking beside us, grieving with us, bringing us comfort. Pastor Trina



Prayer Concerns

Please call the Church Office (723-4242)
or email us:

(ChurchOffice@GoldHillLutheran.org) with
your prayer requests. Only prayers given to the
entire congregation will be included here.

Andrew Hill (Bill Hill's son) – prayers for health &
healing following abdominal surgery on March
30

Dave, Pat, and Noah Coleman – prayers for
health

Family of John McCarvel (LPA Betty Brumwell's
brother-in-law) – prayers of comfort following his
death

Dorothy Anne Honeychurch – prayers for health

Patti Chain – prayers of comfort following the
deaths of her cousins, Buddy Allen and Gene
Harrell, in Texas

Vicki Petritz (by Nicholas Conlan) – prayers for
health & healing

Family of Cindy Fischer (Connie Engle's sister) –
prayers of comfort following her death

Family & friends of Dorothy Gronvold – prayers
of comfort following her death

Rod Hiam – prayers of comfort for his family
following his death

Pastor Kristi Bummer and family – as they mourn
the death of her father, Kurt

Pastor Jean Hay – whose cancer is stage 4 and has
spread; prayers of comfort for her, her family,
and the congregation at Bethlehem

Robert "Mark" Taylor – as he struggles with the
effects of a second stroke

**The members of St. John's Lutheran Church in
Nashville** –demolished by a tornado

From our Synod prayer calendar we remember:

*For healthcare workers, public officials, church and
civic leaders that they may be supported, cared for,
and guided by God's wisdom in this time of difficult
decision-making on behalf of their communities.*

*All those who are suffering from Covid-19 and the
flu and the healthcare workers who are treating
them. Peace to all during anxious times.*

*For all the pastors, pastoral leaders, LPAs and
congregation and ministry leaders across the synod
as they find ways to serve their communities and
congregations. May God grant them peace and
strength during this time.*

*All those affected by the tornado in Nashville,
Tennessee*

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April Birthdays/Anniversaries:

DorothyAnne Honeychurch –
celebrating her birthday on April 1

Mike Vincent – celebrating his
birthday on April 3

Tim Rowe – celebrating his birthday on April 4

Mike Lawson – celebrating his birthday on April 7

Jacob Ehrlick – celebrating his baptismal birthday
on April 9

Christy Chain – celebrating her birthday on April
15

Derek Harvey – celebrating his birthday on April
18

Mary Hoffenbacker – celebrating her birthday on
April 21

DorothyAnne Honeychurch – celebrating her
baptismal birthday on April 26

John Jacobson – celebrating his birthday on April
27

Tyffannie, Morgann, & Ayden McGaugh –
celebrating their baptismal birthdays on April 27

Susan Stamp – celebrating her birthday on April
28

Jeff Williamson – celebrating his birthday on
April 30

Tim & Nancy Rowe – celebrating
their 41st anniversary on April 6



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Care Acts

Memorial Service

3/19/2020 Laura Lee Hager

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Dorothy Gronvold from:

Brian Holland, gift to Roof Fund
Ron Ygnatowiz, gift to Roof Fund
Bob & Ruth Matson, gift to Roof Fund

In Memory of Laura Lee Hager from:

Bob & Peggy Drain

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Sack Lunch Ministry



Volunteers for March (before the shutdown) were: Lynn Aniksdal, Patty Callaghan, JoAnn Farrow, Bill Hill, Annette Lawson, Kim Mickelson, and Curt & Jeanette Quist. Thank you!

Food supplies & donations for food provided by:

Lynn Aniksdal, Bill Hill, Annette Lawson, Kim Mickelson, and church donations. A special thank you for all cash donations received. This ministry is solely supported by our congregation.

First and foremost, I want to thank all the volunteers and for the generous donations over the past 5 1/2 years. Amazing how time flies when everything goes so smoothly!

To date we have made approximately 3,900 lunches which means that many people were fed at the cost of \$13,650. Lunches cost around 3.50 each to make. Gold Hill certainly knows how to put their faith into action!!

A big thank you to Mary for keeping us all informed of our activity with the monthly reports of volunteers and donations.

This current healthcare crisis is certainly not an end of the road. On the contrary, it's to lift us all up and help us to realize what a difference we can make. I will have another article next month to update everyone about the history of the Sack Lunch Ministry.

Watch for updates through the church website for details on when we will next meet. And if you have any questions, please call me at 494-1206. Take special care everyone,
Kim

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CHURCH COUNCIL 2020:

Mike Lawson -
President

Curt Quist -
Administration Director

Revonda Stordahl -
Treasurer

Peggy Graving -
Secretary

Julie Corbin -
Spiritual Growth
Ministry, Team Leader

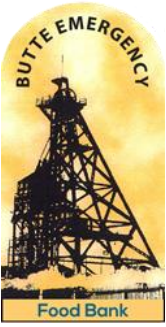
Chris Ketchum -
Worship Ministry, Team Leader

Lynn Aniksdal -
Leadership Ministry, Team Leader

Dale Schultz -
Outreach Ministry, Team Leader

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten

**Please help us to stay updated
and notify the church office
with any address, phone, or
Email address changes!**



Food Bank Donations for April

Due to the coronavirus outbreak we will not be taking physical food donations at Gold Hill in April.

You can still donate to the Butte Emergency Food Bank.

**Mail your donation directly to:
Butte Emergency Food Bank
1019 East Second Street
Butte, MT 59701**

Thank you for your generosity!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Revonda Stordahl
Financial Summary

February 2020	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	\$11,555.23	\$15,000.00	-\$3,444.77
Expenses	\$15,465.99	\$15,912.49	-\$446.50
Net Income	-\$3,910.76	-\$912.49	-\$2,998.27

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/under budget
Income	\$24,506.36	\$30,000.00	-\$5,493.64
Expenses	\$28,801.54	\$31,824.98	-\$3,023.44
Net Income	-\$4,295.18	-\$1,824.98	-\$2,470.20

If anyone has any questions about the budget, please contact me at 490-8043 or by e-mail, revondafs@gmail.com.

Building & Property Report

By Lynn Aniksdal

We (aka Petes' Posse) have recently cleaned and organized:

- The choir room;
- Archive room;
- Library; and
- The upstairs storage room.
- The carpets have been shampooed in the Choir room & Library.
- We have replaced lights in the Men's bathroom & archive room.
- Put in new lights in Fellowship Hall

I believe all of the rooms have been addressed but we certainly could not have accomplished any of this without "Petes' Posse" (Alan Aniksdal, Curt Quist, Bruce Graving, Dick Fitzpatrick) Dorothy Schultz & choir members, Miriam Haley, Ann Drew, Chris Ketchum, Jeanette Quist, and Peggy Graving.

"Thank you" to EVERYONE that helped with this cleaning project and upgrades over the past year, it is a great accomplishment.



Gold Hill ELC Directions

Gold Hill ELCA Trust Committee February 27, 2020



Meeting Minutes

Members present: Ron Gruss, Vern Nielsen, Annette Lawson, Ed Engle, Mike Welker, Pastor Trina Johnsten

Ron Gruss opened the meeting.

Old Business

- Annette read the minutes. Mike(m) and Vern(s) to accept the minute as read.
- Ed said there are forms that need to be filled out before investment of funds with ELCA could move forward.
- Bruce Graving was not present to make a presentation for investing with Thrivent. He recommended not changing the investment strategy at this time. All committee members agreed.
- Ron and Mike reported that the trust review committee recommends that the church council take over the Trust Committee functions. Pastor Trina pointed out that there would need to be a congregational meeting and vote and also a change to the constitution before this could happen.
- Trina recommended that the review committee educate the congregation on how they came to their decision.

New Business

- It's time to advertise the Jennie Schotte scholarship. Annette will contact Mary about putting the scholarship information in the Nugget, weekly newsletter, and/or Sunday bulletin.
- Vern(m) and Annette(s) to adjourn the meeting.
- Pastor Trina closed the meeting with a prayer.

Addendum: The next meeting will be scheduled in April.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Lawson, secretary

Gold Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes – March 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mike Lawson, President. The following were present: Mike Lawson, President; Curt Quist, Administration Director; Revonda Stordahl, Treasurer; Peggy Graving, Secretary; Dale Schultz, Outreach Ministry; Chris Ketchum, Worship Ministry; Lynn Aniksdal, Leadership Ministry; Julie Corbin, Spiritual Ministry; and Pastor Trina Johnsten.

Pastor Trina Johnsten led us in devotions from Matthew 1:20. It stressed compassion over judgement. If we tend to the growth of compassion in our hearts God will use us in different ways.

Revonda moved, Lynn seconded the approval of the minutes as written and emailed. The motion passed.

Revonda reported that in February we had a loss of \$3900. Our income was \$5500 under budget but our expenses were \$3000 less than budgeted. We had a special offering of \$278 for FLBC. Expenses included pest control, shampooing a rug, property taxes (which we pay quarterly) and pastor call expenses. Curt moved; Dale seconded the adoptions of the report. The motion passed.

Pastor Trina's report is attached in the office. She highlighted the leading of the cluster meeting with eleven in attendance at Gold Hill on March 10th. She has used the Samaritan Fund twice. They had a thank you from AI-Anon for the use of our building.

Reports of the Council:

Mike attended the Cluster Meeting and mentioned how thankful and lucky we are for having a vibrant church. He said that after meeting with other Pastors we have few problems and work together. Mike has been working with Tao Hiam regarding the death of her Dad, Rod Hiam. The family has no money and Mike is working at finding the funds for his cremation and burial. Pastor Trina's contract needs to be renewed by March 31st. Julie moved; Chris seconded the motion to extend Pastor Trina's contract. The motion passed.

Curt shared the policies for a Pastor's Sabbatical and for Parsonage Use. No action was taken on these at this time. Discussion was had regarding the length that a sabbatical should be for a Pastor and that the guidelines we were looking at were just that – suggestions and guidelines.

Lynn has her attached report. She thanked Janette Quist and Peggy Graving for getting the Archive Room cleaned so quickly. Shingles have come off the roof over the sanctuary in the high winds we have had. She got one quote from Over the Top Roofing who have a drone and took pictures of the roof. They will not patch the roof unless we agree to having the entire roof replaced for \$47,161.00. She was encouraged to get other bids. Curt will check with the insurance company on how they want us to proceed.

Chris highlighted the Lent and Easter Season. Her report is attached in the office.

Julie attended training in Great Falls for FLBC Summer Vacation Bible School. We will share Bible School with Gloria Dei at Gloria Dei the week of June 14th.

Dale's report is attached in the office.

New Business:

Dale would like to have permission to pursue the idea of building a warehouse with office for the Furniture Bank in our extra lot. He has already had plans for the building drawn up by an architect. He would like to talk to a lawyer regarding what would be done to get the area rezoned (It is currently R-2) and put together a possible lease. Julie moved and Chris seconded the motion to let Dale explore the options we would have. Questions were raised regarding: How would you feel having this in your neighborhood? What happens to the furniture bank if something happens to Curt? Is there someone in place that can take over?

There are some sanitary concerns in the church. We need to make sure that Tony is wiping down doorknobs, light switches, counters, etc. with bleach containing cleaner. The bathrooms need to be correctly cleaned and sanitized. A more qualified janitor may become necessary. Discussion about this to follow later.

Old Business:

Easter Breakfast will be headed up by Maria and Kevin Biastoch. They are asking for everyone's help.

The Call Committee is putting their package together and will be meeting with the prospective Pastor via phone on Wednesday. All notices have gone out for the Special Meeting of the Congregation on March 15th after our church service. Peggy will take care of sign-up sheets for the meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Following the meeting the Gold Hill Council hosted a cocktail social with Gloria Dei's Council in the Social Hall. The purpose of the gathering was to find ways we could work together more often.

Helpful County Information:

Coronavirus Call Center

The Butte-Silver Bow Unified Health Command has opened a call center in response to coronavirus (COVID-19). The call center is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

A variety of calls are being handled including concerns about coronavirus symptoms, as well as questions about mandatory shutdowns and updates.

Members of the public can call the line at 406- 497-5008 with questions or concerns. If you call after 8 p.m., you can leave a message and you will receive a return call during operating hours.

Phone Numbers, links to county offices and services

For more information on Butte-Silver Bow government, including department contracts, making payments, and doing

other business online, people can visit the website <http://co.silverbow.mt.us/>.

The following are phone numbers for departments. The area code, when needed, is 406:

Courthouse Main Line 497-6200

Chief Executive's Office 497-6214

Health Department 497-5020

Treasurer's Office 497-6300

Water Utility Administration Office 497-6500

Clerk and Recorder's Office 497-6335

County Attorney's Office 497-6230

Planning and Land Records/GPS Office 497-6250

Justice Court 497-6390

City Court 497-6365

Clerk of the Court 497-6350

County Superintendent of Schools 497-6215

Human Resources 497-6431

Department of Revenue 497-6282

Assessor's Office 497-6290

Here are some additional phone numbers and links that could be helpful:

For treasurer-related business:

Motor Vehicles – 406-497-6301

Property Taxes/Burn Permits/Business Licenses – 406-497-6303

Treasurer's Office Online Services:

- Vehicle Search Service – Customers looking for what they paid in vehicle fees for income tax purposes. <https://app.mt.gov/dojvs/public>
- Vehicle Registration Renewal – <https://dojmt.gov/driving/>— CLICK—VEHICLE SERVICES, Then CLICK – ONLINE REGISTRATON RENEWAL
- Property Tax Payments— <https://itax.tylertech.com/Butte-SilverBowMT/>
- Burn Permits — <https://app.mt.gov/burnpermit/>

For Clerk and Recorder and 2020 election matters:

General election information:

<https://sosmt.gov/elections/>

<http://mt-butesilverbow2.civicplus.com/155/Clerk-Recorder>

For information and forms on voter registration and absentee voting, you can go to:

<https://sosmt.gov/elections/vote/>

<http://mt-butte-silverbow2.civicplus.com/187/Elections-and-Voting>

For specific information on the following topics, you can call:

Birth and death records: 497-6340

Land Records: 497-6348

Clerk & Recorder: 497-6342

Voter Registration/Absentee Registration: 497-6344

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

Worship Schedule:

***Canceled until further notice
Due to COVID-19 Outbreak***

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E-Mail:
pastorgoldhill@gmail.com
churchoffice@goldhilllutheran.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-12 & 1-4

Interim Pastor Trina Johnsten
Mike Lawson, Council President
Parish Admin. Assistant Mary Johnston