

**Gold Hill Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**  
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Butte, MT 59701  
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***Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
United to Serve***



The Nugget E-News

December 3, 2018

## Gold Hill News

### Advent at Gold Hill



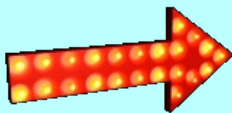
We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings, December 5, 12, and 19, starting at 5:45 pm for a simple Soup & Bread supper. It will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer Service at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. *There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those of you wishing to help with these suppers.* Please join us! If you have any questions, please talk to Cheryl Neuhart or anyone on the Worship Ministry Team.

### Christmas Poinsettias

If you are planning to bring in a poinsettia plant as a memorial or in honor of someone, please notify the church office of the name/names by December 17. The plants may be artificial or live, however do not bring in live plants before December 16. You may take your plant home after the 7:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. Due to budget constraints, the church will not be purchasing any plants this year.



### Please Take Note!



Starting with the January 2019 edition of the Nugget, we will be going to an online e-version to be delivered via email. The online version will also be available on **Gold Hill's website**. There will be a limited number of paper copies available in the office for those who do not have access to a computer.

## Butte Emergency Food Bank

The December Food Bank items are muffin, cookie, and cake mixes for the holiday season! **Please drop your donation off by mid-December** and leave it in Fellowship Hall, one of the baskets at each sanctuary door, or in the church office. **You can help to brighten someone's holiday table!**

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our local Food Bank.



## Calendar:

**GHELC Women's  
Book Club**  
meets at 10:00 am  
at Big Sky Senior  
Living Center  
Monday, December 3

**Chateau Quilters**  
meet 10 am - 4 pm  
Tuesday, December 4

**Executive Committee**  
meets at 5:30 pm  
Tuesday, December 4

**LWR Quilters**  
meet at 9:30 am  
Wednesday, December 5

**Soup & Bread Supper**  
at 5:45 pm  
**Advent Service**  
at 6:30 pm  
Wednesday, December 5

**Gold Hill Choir**  
meets at 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, December 5

**Overeaters Anonymous**  
meets @ 6:15 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 5  
**Al-Anon**  
meets at 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 5

**Worship & Music**  
meets at 6:00 pm  
Thursday, December 6

**2nd Sunday in Advent  
Worship Service:**  
at 9:30 am  
**Christian Education:**  
at 10:30 am  
**Coffee Hour:**  
at 10:45 am  
**Confirmation Class:**  
at 12:00 Noon  
Sunday, December 9



## Words from the Bishop:

### Why Advent?

We are about to enter the month when we as Lutheran Christians take a different approach than the society at large. While much of our surrounding culture sees December (maybe even November!) as a lead-in to Christmas, we see it differently. We see it through Advent.

Without Advent, secular Christmas is a flurry of excess-excess pressure to buy, excess pressure to party, excess pressure to have a "perfect Christmas," as defined by number of presents, quality of decorations and quantity of food--divided by family stress. I am always taken aback momentarily when someone asks if I have had a "good Christmas." What does that mean? Probably my "best Christmas" was the one in which we had to cancel a trip to Bermuda with my extended family to go to San Francisco to see a neurosurgeon about the possible recurrence of a brain tumor. What was good was that we had a very stripped-down Christmas, without any of the trappings. We had family, and church, and an overwhelming gratitude for God's incredible gift, available to all of us, anywhere, under any circumstances.

Don't get me wrong. I may have Quaker ancestors, but I love many of the aspects of secular Christmas. I love the music and the stories, the decorations and the family get-togethers. I appreciate the non-commercial values of secular Christmas-peace on earth, generosity. These are values that are significant for Christians year-round. But if someone wants to highlight a "Giving Tuesday" or promote a Christmas cease fire, I am all for it, if it gets others to practice generosity, to strive for peace. These are wonderful things. But they are not what Christmas is about fundamentally.

Advent is not warm and fuzzy. It is stark. The biblical texts we use in Advent paint a picture of a world full of conflict and disaster. It is easy to draw parallels with the world we live in today-with fires and floods, wars and rumors of war, desperate refugees, and frightened people. Advent is the beginning of the church year, and a time when we wait anxiously for the coming of the Lord. The kind of waiting that Advent brings is not the happy anticipation of a wonderful surprise. It is a waiting for judgment, for the end of times. And in the midst of it all, there is hope.

Just as Good Friday is what gives Easter its meaning for Christians, Advent is what gives Christmas its meaning for us. On Christmas we marvel to see what God has done, how God has decided to respond to sin and evil, death and destruction. God's *piece de resistance*-a baby, pouring all of God-self into a vulnerable human infant, born to unwed parents living in a conquered nation, soon to be homeless refugees fleeing violence.

As modern American Christians we live in two realities. In our communities we are surrounded by secular Christmas. And there is no reason we should, Grinch-like, refuse to participate in the many activities and practices of secular Christmas. After all, it is the world we live in, and the world God loves. But at the same time, we live in Advent's tension. Paul describes it well:

*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

(Romans 8: 18-25)

That's Advent.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

### Bible Study Opportunities:

**Group Study** every  
**Thursday**  
September through May  
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 visit our Church Library Page!](#)

### CHURCH COUNCIL

#### 2018:

**Peggy Probasco** -  
President

**Bob Brown** -  
Administration Director

**Revonda Stordahl** -  
Treasurer

**Peggy Graving** -  
Secretary

**Debra Pascua** -  
Spiritual Growth  
Ministry  
Team Leader

**Cheryl Neuhart** -  
Worship Ministry  
Team Leader

**Julie Corbin** -  
Leadership Ministry  
Team Leader

**Jerry Aaker** -  
Outreach Ministry  
Team Leader

**Pastor Laurie Jungling**

**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 Pastor Laurie Jungling at 406-723-4242.***