

**Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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



**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.

**Don't Miss This!**

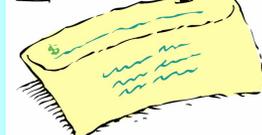
**Open House December 15th**

The Gold Hill Church Council will be hosting an open house at the Parsonage from 2 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, December 15.

Everyone is invited so please come for a holiday bite to eat among friends.



**Offering Envelopes**



**Offering Envelopes 2019**

Offering Envelopes are here and are available for pick up in the Fellowship Hall by the North wall. They are alphabetized by last name, so if you have envelopes please pick yours up! Due to budget constraints & increasing mail costs, no envelopes will be

mailed out this year.

**Music Ministry Note - Save the Date!**

**CONCERT!** Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m. Community Ecumenical Christmas Concert hosted by Butte Central HS, in the Butte Central HS Auditorium. **Our combined Gloria Dei/ Gold Hill Choir will be participating.**

Please join in this wonderful effort to celebrate the coming and birth of Christ by singing with us, or being part of the outreach and fellowship as an audience member!



**Calendar:**

**Stephen Ministry Leadership**  
meets at 6:00 pm  
**Monday, December 10**  
**Stephen Ministry Supervision**  
meets at 7:00 pm  
**Monday, December 10**

**Women's Gather Bible Study**  
meets at 9:30 am  
**Big Sky Senior Living Center**  
**Tuesday, December 11**

**Church Council**  
meets at 6:00 pm  
**Tuesday, December 11**

**LWR Quilters**  
meet at 9:30 am  
**Wednesday, December 12**

**Soup & Bread Supper**  
at 5:45 pm  
**Advent Service**  
at 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday, December 12**

**Gold Hill Choir**  
meets at 7:15 pm  
**Wednesday, December 12**

**Overeaters Anonymous**  
meets @ 6:15 pm  
**Wednesday, Dec. 12**  
**AI-Anon**  
meets at 7:30 pm  
**Wednesday, Dec. 12**

**55+ Lunch Group**  
meets at 12 Noon  
**Perkin's Restaurant**  
**Friday, December 14**

**3rd Sunday in Advent Worship Service:**  
at 9:30 am  
**Christian Education:**

## Gloria Dei WELCA Christmas Luncheon



Gloria Dei WELCA Group invites the women of Gold Hill to the annual Christmas lasagna luncheon at 12:00 pm Thursday, December 13, in the Little Hall of the church, 2300 Florence Ave. Bring a wrapped "White Elephant" Gift to exchange in a game.

There will be singing of carols too! We hope to see you there.

## 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.



at 10:45 am  
Coffee Hour:  
at 10:45 am  
Adult Faith Formation:  
at 11:00 am  
Confirmation Class:  
at 12:00 Noon  
Sunday, December 9

### 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



## Words from the Bishop: Jesus was a lay minister

As you read this, I am in Chicago with representatives of other synods sharing our experiences with lay ministry. The Montana Synod's Lay Pastoral Associate (LPA) program is one of the gems of our Synod, and is much admired across the ELCA.

**So what is it all about? First of all, lay people have been serving the church since it began.**

**Jesus and the twelve disciples were lay people.** Paul was a lay person. All of the earliest leaders in the Jesus movement—men and women—were lay people. Philip Melancthon, theologian and interpreter of the Reformation and right hand man to Martin Luther, was a lay person. One of the strands of Lutheranism that was influential in the "Lutheranization" of the territory we call the Montana Synod promoted the ministry of the laity. And of course, our relatively spread-out population necessitated lay people taking over the pulpits in the absence of an ordained pastor. So lay ministry is in our history, it is in our bones.

About 25 years ago, following the lead of the Western North Dakota Synod, the Montana Synod began the LPA program as a way to support and train lay people who were already being called upon by their congregations to preach and lead in the absence of a pastor. The program began in eastern Montana, where there was greatest need.

Soon people from other parts of the state expressed interest in the LPA program, and now we have trained LPAs in every cluster of the Synod. Currently we have 3 LPA classes going—one in Great Falls, one in Glendive, and an advanced class for people who have already finished the program and want more training.

Pastor Jason Asselstine currently coordinates the program. Faculty for the 4 workshops over the 2 years come from the Montana Synod, teaching prayer and spirituality, worship leadership, preaching and pastoral care. Students are mentored by local pastors, and engage in additional academic work in theological disciplines.

**The LPA program has grown and changed over the years, but it has remained a home-grown program, designed for the needs of**

## LINKS:

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## 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**

**the Montana Synod.** LPAs do pulpit supply, serve on councils, lead Bible studies, serve as Synodically Authorized Ministers, visit shut-ins, and assist congregations in a variety of ways, according to their gifts. They also serve in Synod roles.

Our companion synod in Bolivia is also working with lay ministry, and requested that we bring LPAs to Bolivia-which we did in September. The Bolivians were particularly interested in hearing how our program works, and hearing the experiences of the 3 LPAs who were present (Cynthia Thomas-who serves 3 congregations as a Synodically Authorized Minister; Dave Scholten-who does pulpit supply; and Alex Tooley-a high school student who also serves on the Synod Council.)

In Chicago we are rubbing shoulders with representatives of a whole variety of lay ministry programs-each designed for their particular context. Some are urban, some are rural. Some are in Spanish. Each has a place.

It is true that our seminaries are producing fewer candidates for pastoral ministry than are retiring. (And it is not the seminaries' fault-it is up to all of us to find and encourage candidates of any age.) But it is also true that although there is plenty of work to go around, it doesn't all have to be done by ordained pastors. Deacons (called ministers of word and service) also do God's work, and so do all the baptized people of God. LPAs are part of the Montana Synod strategy not only to fill pulpits, but to equip and train and educate lay people in service to God and neighbor.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

### ***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.***