

Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church

934 Placer Street

Butte, MT 59701

(406) 723-4242

pastorgoldhill@gmail.com

goldhill.elca@gmail.com

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

United to Serve



Visit our
Website

Check out our Face Book
page

Visit our Church Library
page

Gold Hill News

Upcoming Events & Activities



Due to the coronavirus outbreak, Gold Hill cannot take physical donations of food for the Food Bank. However, your monetary donations are still needed.

**Mail your monetary donation
directly to:**

**Butte Emergency Food Bank
1019 East Second Street
Butte, MT 59701**

Thank you for your generosity!



Fay Taylor's 100th Birthday!

Fay turned 100 on October 23rd. She was greeted by Gold Hill members and others who turned out to sing Happy Birthday to her. Even though it was a cold day, everyone enjoyed the chance to wish her well on a very special day.



Gold Hill Schedule Changes

All Council and group meetings will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future due to the rise in coronavirus cases in our county. Questions? Talk to Pastor Carrels or any Council member.



LWR Quilters are meeting
The Gold Hill
Evangelical Lutheran
World Relief Quilters

are now meeting at 10:30 am on Wednesday at the Civic Center. Please feel welcome to visit us or join us there any Wednesday. We will bring our own sewing supplies, lunch, drink and masks. Thanks to Bill Melvin and the Civic Center for making this space available.

Wednesday weekly devotions will be offered by Pastor Carrels on Facebook in the evening. Go to Gold Hill's Facebook page or Pastor Carrels' page to join in. Gloria Dei will offer devotions on their Facebook page.

Thursday Morning Bible Study will now be held at 8:00 am via Zoom due to the rise in coronavirus cases in our county. Talk to Pastor Carrels if you have any questions.



Here is an amazing Ministry opportunity!!
Do you want to help us make a community Christmas CD?

With the remarkable help of Dave Coleman, our music director and piano player extraordinaire, we would like to make a Christmas CD that can go out to our congregation members and be put up on YouTube. We are looking for singers and instrumentalists that would like to record their favorite Christmas Songs.

Do they have to be "Churchy"? **NO!**
 Can I play Rudolph? **Ugh! If you have to!**
 What about Santa Stuff? **Sure!**
 What if I'm not perfect? **No one is!**
Come and share your gifts.

This is a ministry for the congregation so that we all have a small piece of our community with us all the time this Advent Season.

If you are interested please email pastor (pastorgoldhill@gmail.com) or Dave Coleman (daveinconcert@gmail.com) to coordinate times for recording during the months of October and November. Proceeds from this CD will go to a worthy charity and it will be a lot of fun!

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp News

Announcements:

Day Camp sign-ups for congregations are open now!

Contact our office at 406-752-6602 or communitystaff@flbc.net to sign up.

Summer 2021 applications for Montana adult volunteers open today!

Find the application & more information online [HERE](#) or contact FLBC at 406-752-6602 or email communitystaff@flbc.net. Click [HERE](#) for a hard copy of our volunteer application!



2021 [Retreat Schedule](#) and [Summer Calendar](#) are now posted on our website! Stay tuned for more information. Mark your calendars!

Upcoming Retreats & Events:

Visit [FLBC Annual Programming](#) to learn more about our year-round programming and to find additional COVID-19 related information

Crazy About Quilting & Crafting Retreat

November 12-15, 2020

\$210/person (Thurs-Sun) // \$195 (Fri-Sun) // \$65/day (Commuter)

Bring your quilt and craft projects and work alongside friends old and new on the shores of Flathead Lake. FLBC will also be providing opportunities to learn new skills! [FLYER](#) attached here.

Family Advent Retreat

December 4-6, 2020

\$140, Ages 13+ / \$120, Ages 7-12 / \$75, Ages 2-6 / Free Children under 2 / \$480 maximum cost per nuclear family
 Join us for time at camp as we prepare for Christmas! Make awesome crafts, cut your own Christmas tree, and soak in time for worship and prayer this Advent. [FLYER](#) attached here.

Jr + Sr High Ski & Snowboard Retreat

January 8-10, 2021

\$115/person (2 adults free with each church group // Lift tickets are separate from retreat cost)

Come for an awesome weekend filled with good food, fellowship, snow games, worship and FUN! [FLYER](#) attached here.

CHURCH COUNCIL
2020

Mike Lawson-
 President

Curt Quist -
 Administration Director

Revonda Stordahl -
 Treasurer

Weekly Calendar

LWR Quilters
meet at 10:30 am
at Butte Civic Center
Wednesday, Oct. 28

Bible Study Group

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

meets at 8:00 am
via Zoom
Thursday, Oct. 29

All Saints Sunday
Worship Service
(Outdoors)
at 9:30 am
Sunday, Nov. 1

Montana Synod News

Words from the Bishop: Standing with Christ



A man and his pastor were walking through the parking lot toward the church one Sunday. It was a cold and blustery day and snow had carpeted the asphalt in front of the building. Both were wearing thick winter coats and boots and gloves. The pastor was also wearing a mask to protect against the spread of Covid, but the man was not.

As they approached the door, the man said, "Pastor, why are you wearing that mask? You look like a fool. Don't you have faith in God? You should take it off and trust that God will protect you."

The pastor studied the man for a moment and then said, "I notice that you're wearing your heavy winter coat and warm gloves and good snow boots, John."

John paused, wondering at this change in subject, and finally said, "Of course I am. It's my turn to shovel the walks and it's cold outside. So what?"

The pastor said, "So, why don't you take off all those clothes and trust that God will keep you warm while you shovel? Don't you have faith that God will protect you from the cold?"

John's mouth moved up and down silently for several seconds as he caught the pastor's meaning. "Yeah, well, that's different," he finally mumbled looking away.

"You're right, John, it is different," the pastor replied with a smile easily seen behind the mask. "You've decided to use the brain God gave you to keep yourself warm. I've decided to use the brain and the love God gave me to protect you from a virus that could hurt or kill you. And if being a fool for Christ means loving you by wearing a mask, that's what I'm going to do."

In his first letter to the Corinthians (Chapters 1-3), Paul declares himself a fool for Christ's sake and that Jesus' followers in Corinth should become fools in order to become wise in God's way of the gospel. "If you think you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you can become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God," he writes. What did Paul mean by this?

Well, he certainly didn't mean shoveling snow without warm clothes on. Nor did he mean choosing not to wear a mask to prove our faith or because it makes us look silly. No, faith in God does not mean we're supposed to dump reason beside the road altogether just because we're anxious.

Instead, God's foolishness is a message of love in a world of hate; a message of meekness that empowers others rather than powers over others; a message to support one another instead of competing with each other; a message to come together in a community of peace instead of falling into division and fighting over something doctors, nurses, and trick-or-treaters wear regularly. God's foolishness is a proclamation of hope in a time of despair and a flaring of light in the midst of deep darkness. Finally, God's gospel foolishness says "no" to the world's judgment, meanness, apathy and selfishness and says a resounding "YES" to forgiveness, kindness, compassion and generosity.

In the end, God gave us brains as well as hearts, bodies and spirits, and we are called to use our whole selves in the best possible way to protect the lives God gave us as well as protect and care for the lives of our neighbors. "Love your neighbor as yourself," remember?

You don't have to shovel snow in the cold naked to prove your faith to God or others. And neither do you have to go maskless to show your trust in God. Instead, in today's world, wearing a mask to protect others from the Covid-19 virus is a sure sign of faith in God and in the love God gives us in Christ. And it is this very faith that calls us to share God's love with all whom we meet, even if the world thinks it looks foolish.

Bishop Laurie

Guidance from the Bishop regarding climbing Covid Numbers

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the Covid-19 numbers continue to climb in our communities, you and your councils may be wondering, "What should we do about worship and other in-person activities at the church?" Should we continue to meet in-person? Should we cut back on the numbers allowed inside our worship spaces to allow for more social distancing? Should we take a step back and stop in-person worship altogether for a few weeks until the numbers come under some control? I encourage you to take the following actions as you make your decisions in your county and context:

- 1) Talk to your local county health officials and ask for their guidance.
- 2) Do a refresher course on how Covid-19 spreads and review the practices you've been taking as a congregation to minimize its spread. Some practices, like mask-wearing or physically distanced Holy Communion, may have slipped to the wayside and could need to be reinforced again.
- 3) Councils and Pastors make your decision together and then take the fallout of your decision together. Councils,

please don't leave your pastor blowing in the wind by themselves to deal with upset people. Stand united and together for the safety and love of the people of the congregation.

4) **When in doubt of what to do, I am strongly encouraging congregations to take a step back from in-person worship for a few weeks and do online worship until the numbers drop again.** Perhaps, if we can lower the numbers now and flatten the curve, we can actually gather in-person for more normal-like Christmas services. Right now, with the numbers climbing and no end in sight, Christmas Eve worship with our favorite carols seems a very small possibility indeed.

Always remember that our primary Christian value – the principle that is to govern ALL of our actions as the body of Christ – is love. Christ-like Love. In Colossians 3, Paul lifts up “meekness” as one important aspect of Christian love. In Matthew 5, Jesus blesses the meek as those who will inherit the earth.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book on *Discipleship* (once called *The Cost of Discipleship*) describes “meekness” as the willingness to give up one’s rights for the sake of Christ and loving one another. “Meekness” is neither cowardice nor weakness; in fact it’s one of the strongest, bravest things a person or group of people can do: give up one’s own life, including one’s own freedoms, to protect others in their rights to life and health. So please “Above All, clothe yourselves in love.” (Col 3:12-15) Love is what God commands us to do.

Bishop Laurie Jungling



Montana Synod Updates on Covid-19

The Synod office is operating under limited office hours through the month of October, 12-4pm. Candi, the Office manager is in the office all day. **Meetings with Synod staff are by appointment only.**

The Synod Staff will traveling on a very limited basis based on appointment and need. They will not be traveling to lead worship. We will be revisiting these policies every month.

Across the ELCA there are pastoral and worship leaders who have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Please remember if you are a worship leader who has been diagnosed or experiencing symptoms of Covid-19, you should stay home, even if this means cancelling worship. As worship leaders, you are encouraged to not risk the safety of our members.



Are you looking for a place to connect with a faithful community, grow in faith, and put your talents to work 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 Marlow Carrels at 406-723-4242.

Gold Hill Lutheran Church Welcomes You!