

Crossroads

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday...

September 7th is a day of service in which some 10,000 congregations from across the ELCA will take seriously Christ's call to action to serve our neighbors and share God's love. It is a ministry which as Christians we are called to do every day, but this is a day dedicated to showing our community that "We are church together."

September 7th will be "**God's Work. Our Hands.**" Sunday at CLF and will kick off our fall programs. EVERYONE is invited to be a part of this special day. There will be something to do for people of all ages and abilities.

We will gather at CLF for ONE worship service that day at 10:00 AM. At the time of Offering we will take up our usual monetary offering and then be sent out to be an Offering in Custer. The W/ELCA group have arranged for everyone to make and pack your own lunch to take with you as you go out to serve.

Then, you can choose from various service projects. There will be things to do at CLF such as ...

- Ø Quilting
- Ø Writing letters and creating cards for members and friends serving in the military.
- Ø Decorating cookies and drawing pictures to be sent to college students who have served at Outlaw Ranch this summer, as well as our own CLF first year college students.

There will also be outdoor projects. The main project will be the clean-up of Way Park. This will involve pulling weeds, picking up trash and staining picnic tables. In addition, we will be picking up trash in the ditches along side Highway 16 on the way into town.

After two hours of service we will return to CLF, for the continuation of the worship service. We will be able to share stories from our time of service and then celebrate communion together. Finally, to celebrate there will be a Make-Your-Own Ice Cream Sundae Bar!

Please let us know that you plan to be part of "**God's Work. Our Hands.**" Sunday by indicating so on the Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex. Jot down your name – whether you wish to work inside or outside. We have a limited number of "**God's Work. Our Hands.**" T-shirts that are available for a \$6.00 purchase fee. This is a great way to be a visible presence in our community!



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1st.

Dear CLF Military Families,

As part of the God's Work. Our Hands Sunday on September 7th we will be writing letters to our military men and ladies. If you would like your military family member to receive a letter (or drawing from the little guys) would you please send me:

- a short bio (what exactly do they do and where are they stationed)
- a photo(s)
- an address to send the letter/drawing or your snail mail address to then forward the letter.

Thank you!!

Kim Canete, kimberlycanete7@gmail.com

Thursday 9:30 AM Christian Book Study...

The Thursday morning group will gather in the Fireside Room for their first fall session on September 11th at 9:30 AM. They will continue with their studies in "NEXT DOOR SAVIOR" by Max Lucado. (Oh, but first they start the morning with coffee!) Study begins at 10:00 AM. There are about three chapters left in this book.

The group has selected for their next study another Max Lucado book — "JUST LIKE JESUS". Books will need to be ordered (thru Donna in the office) at this time. This is another intriguing book by Pastor Max. As he states, "God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus."

As a sample here are a few chapter titles: "A Forgiving Heart", "Fixing Your Eyes on Jesus", "Nothing but the Truth" and "Finding Gold in the Garbage". There are lots of opportunities for discussion, so you are encouraged to become involved. ~ Shirley Overland, 673-4672



Coins for Colombia got a lot noisier this summer as we collected coins each Sunday in an antique, steel cream can. Children were invited each Sunday to take part in this "noisy" offering where they can slam dunk coins into the can.

For many years CLF has collected coins that help fund the Lizwan/Emmaus Road scholarship project in Columbia. Since its beginning over twenty years ago as a Sunday School project in Edgemont, SD by Pastors Barbara Wangsness and Pastor Nataniel Lizarazo, the scholarships have helped hundreds of children and young adults receive an education. So far, we have raised \$670.29 this summer. There will be one more deposit to make the beginning of September. As part of the Sunday School Mission Offering this year to aid the ELCA Malaria Campaign, we will have a "Noisy Offering" one Sunday a month. Feel free to send your pocket change with a child to throw in the cream can!



NEED A GOOD LAUGH? By Phil Lewison

The 3-H Club is still on "Summer Break" but will resume again on October 19th. Till then, remember "Attitude is important, pick a good one".

Life is a Song

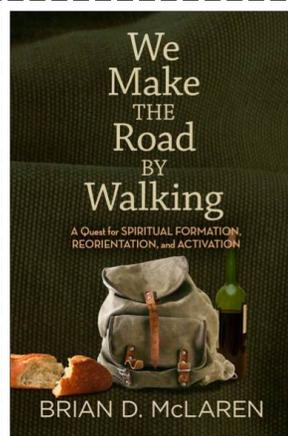


Love is the Music

Welcome to CLF choir...

Came and join us this year. All are welcome!! If you love to sing or "Make a Joyful Noise", please come and join us. Choir begins September 3rd at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you there!

~ Marlene Sellevold, Director



Men's Breakfast/Book Study to begin on September 6th...

Beginning on Saturday, September 6th at 8:00 AM in the Fireside room, the monthly men's Breakfast/Book Study will begin reading and discussing the book, *We Make the Road By Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation* by Brian McLaren. Pastor Tom will be leading this study, and breakfast will be served. If you are a newcomer to the congregation, consider visiting this group. The discussion will be lively, and friendships will be made and strengthened. Copies of the book will be available for purchase for \$25.

The McLaren book is described as "having everything you need to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today" (from the summary on the front flap of the book). This group will meet on the first Saturday of each month.



Guided Evening Wilderness Hike on September 11th...

On Thursday, September 11th, Custer Lutheran Fellowship will host a sunset hike through Norbeck Wilderness area. Any interested and able hikers will be trekking a four mile route that will include stretches on the Grizzly Bear and Centennial Trails. The route is rated moderate for elevation gain but difficult for length. If you are in pretty good shape and want to see the forest at dusk, meet at the church at 4:30 PM. We will travel to the trailhead together. At a steady walk, the route will take about two and one half hours to complete. Bring your own water and a head-lamp or flashlight. Please sign up in the Narthex, so the organizers can line up transportation.

New Playground Equipment to be installed on September 13th...

Calling all handymen and handywomen! After many years of faithful use, the playground equipment in the front yard of CLF is being dismantled and replaced by a shiny, new play-set. On Saturday, September 13th at 9:00 AM any interested demolition experts and play-set builders are invited to gather in the front yard and play with hammers and saws. We will have some tools available, but please bring cordless drills, socket sets, and any other tools that you think would come in handy. By day's end we hope to have the play-set (pictured here) ready for use.

The money to pay for this set was generated by Custer Lutheran Fellowship's Youth Ministry endowment. Any time this particular fund exceeds \$100,000 the dividends go toward projects that support youth at Custer Lutheran Fellowship and youth in the Custer Community. Thank you for your gifts to the endowment. If you would like to find out more about giving to the Custer Lutheran Fellowship Mission Endowment please speak to any of the Endowment Committee Members which include: Linda Fennell, Cindy Heyne, Pat Hattervig, Lonnie Hosman, Pastor Tom Opoien, and Karen Schleining,



Ben D. Anderson of Break Through, Inc to lead forum at CLF on September 21st

Ben D. Anderson, a professional speaker and advocate for people with disabilities, will be leading a forum at 9:45 AM at Custer Lutheran Fellowship in the Fireside Room. Mr. Anderson speaks from the heart as he describes his own journey of faith and his awareness from a young age that all persons are made in the image of God. He reminds us that everyone has limitations, whether or not they have a documented disability, and he encourages us to serve God in spite of and even through our weaknesses. Ben speaks openly about his experiences as a person with a disability. His experiences that have included misdiagnosis and discrimination as well as support and affirmation of his gifts. He also offers helpful advice to parents of children with disabilities, drawing from his own insights and offering referrals to books, web sites, and support groups. Ben is a good communicator, promoting discussion and breaking down stereotypes.

"What is life like for her?" "Should I feel sorry for him?"

"What could I do to help?"

"Should I ignore her so as not to embarrass her?"

Sometimes embarrassment makes it difficult for a person with a disability to escape the protective "box" they've built around themselves to join effectively with others.

Ben's presentation helps people to learn to respond constructively to such challenges and to come away with a more positive attitude toward each other. He also helps those who have been struggling with their disability to feel more effective and hopeful. In a creative, sometimes humorous, highly anecdotal presentation, Ben describes what life is like growing up with cerebral palsy, where he found his strength and hope, and gives tips on how to relate effectively to a person with a disability.

To find out more about Break Through, Inc. please visit their website at www.bendanderson.com.

Adult ed class on Wednesday nights...

Beginning on Wednesday evening, September 17th at 6:30 PM, Pastor Tom will be teaching an adult class entitled, "God and Creation: Does God care about Ecology?" in the Fireside Room. The study will include a number of New Testament books, including Romans, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and the letters of Peter. If you are interested in issues surrounding care and stewardship of the land you should find this class interesting.

Dear Friends,

When I was a child, our pastor began every sermon with the phrase, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord." I never really thought about why he said the words, and I have heard other pastors (probably those who had the same preaching professor) repeat them as well. But I didn't really know where they came from until earlier this week.



In the quiet morning moments before the rest of our family rose with a healthy clatter to get ready for school and work, I was reading Psalm 19 when I heard Pastor Haase's voice transporting me back to 1975. Evidently, he hadn't made up that sermon greeting himself. Right there in black and white I read the words, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer" Psalm 19:14.

As a preacher myself, I was a little surprised by the context of the verse. Psalm 19 is a beautiful creation Psalm that begins with the heavens declaring the glory of God. My translation says,

"The heavens are telling the glory of God...

There is no speech (in the stars), nor are there words...

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

This lovely psalm sings the praises of a creative God who has wired the world so that watching the movement the sun, moon, and stars can be a living sermon. Very cool. The way I read the psalm, the writer is hoping that his words and thoughts may reflect God in a way similar to how the stars in the sky reflect God's goodness.

Last summer as I was enjoying the ninety-day sabbatical the congregation graciously gave me, I spent a great deal of time outside, most often on hiking trails. One weekend when I was hiking on a busy trail in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, I was struck by an unspoken sense of community that seemed to exist among the people reveling in the majestic, mountainous back-country. In the short trailside conversations that came up, the most common good-bye was a cheerful, "Enjoy your day." Enjoy your day. I've been thinking about the phrase in connection with Psalm 19 and the life of the church. What a gift it is to look at the morning sky and "enter into the joy of your day." Isn't that what, "Enjoy your day" means, to joyfully enter into your unique, 24-hour, high-speed ride on our planet? Perhaps in such a simple phrase we are trying to express in words that feeling of awe that the psalmist had when he looked into the sky and proclaimed, "The heavens are telling the story of God."

God's creation is good. And we are blessed to be a part of it. Indeed, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. You don't need to be in a pulpit to say that.

Peace and best wishes,
Pastor Tom Opoien

CLF Memorial Fund

Please remember Custer Lutheran Fellowship when deciding where to donate memorial funds.

Memorial Fund Needs List:

- * Bibles (NRSV & Spark Bibles)
- * Outdoor Landscaping
- * Discretionary Fund to help local people in need
- * Tinting/covering, etc for sanctuary windows
- * Hand Bells

Recent Memorials:

- * Received to the glory of God and in memory of Gene Krogstrand from Wayne & Vickie Urban for Bibles
- * Received to the glory of God and in memory of Jane Olson from the June Young Estate

Thank you everyone for your prayers, cards, visits and telephone calls during my current illness. We do have a very caring church community. I am feeling better. Currently I am restricted to no outside activities or group gatherings. My immune system has been compromised I have no resistance to infections or viruses. (Dr. Joy's orders). I have an appointment with Mayo Clinic on September 29th and hope to find some answers there. Please pray for a treatment for my diagnosis.

Jesus Answered, "What is humanly impossible is possible for God." Luke 18:27. I'm looking for the possible.

Thank you so much, Arle Reetz

W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:**NEXT MEETING:**

WHEN: Monday, **September 22nd** — **11:30 AM** at CLF

HOSTESSES: Wanda McClanahan & JoAnn Evans

PROGRAM: "Human Trafficking" — Li Fjerestad & Laura Burden

Our speaker for the August meeting was Barb Lewison. Barb reminded us how important true, lasting friendships are in our lives. Friends are there for good times and bad times. They are there for and to boost our mental health. Hug a friend today!

REMI NDERS:

We will be providing items for the sack lunches for those participating on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday on September 7th.

Quilting will begin on Monday, September 8th at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room.

W/ELCA Bible Study — will be held on Monday, September 15th at 12:30 PM after quilting. Bring a sack lunch. We will be discussing Acts 7, 8 & 9 at this session.

W/ELCA at CLF is an active group of women who get together once a month for a meal, fellowship and programs of interest in the church and community. We invite all women to join us!

July — September Mission Project:
School Kits — LWR, Pine Ridge & Custer Children

- ! 2 notebooks of ruled paper
- ! 12 sheets of construction paper
- ! 6 unsharpened pencils
- ! 30 cm ruler
- ! 1 pencil sharpener
- ! Box of 24 crayons
- ! 2 ½ inch eraser



Your donations may be left on the cart in the Narthex.

**Notes from the Parish Nurse...**

Fall is coming upon us & now it seems everyone is starting back to their routines. Well the Health Ministry Team will begin meeting again & looking at our next educational program. We will look at the responses from the survey done last spring to decide our direction this year. I also want to let you know that we are looking for more members. If you have questions about what it entails or other questions please call me (673-4424). With school starting, make sure your children are up to date on immunizations, get a physical before sports and make sure your kids get enough rest & healthy diet in order for them to be alert for learning. Our children are not the only ones to concern about. If you are over 50 be sure to get the shingles virus, make an annual appointment with your doctor to make sure you are continuing your good health. We adults also need to be concerned with proper rest, diet & exercise. Fall is a great time to get outside in the fresh air & hike, bike or whatever you may enjoy doing in the outdoors. God Bless.

Mary Klein RN
Parish Nurse





Church E-Mail Addresses...
 If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:
 Pastor Tom — tom_clf@gwtc.net
 Yvonne — Yvonne_clf@gwtc.net
 Donna — clf@gwtc.net
 Sara — sara_clf@gwtc.net



Won't You Please Help?
 Everyone enjoys the food and fellowship between services on Sunday mornings. Won't you please consider helping out by volunteering to be a fellowship host? The sign-up sheet & instructions are located on the counter by the kitchen. Contact the church office if you have questions. Thanks!



Office hours.....

The church office is open Monday—Friday from 8:30 AM—3 PM. The office hours for individuals are as follows:

Pastor Tom: Monday—Thursday 9 AM—12 Noon
 Yvonne: Tuesday—Thursday 9AM—12 Noon
 Donna: in office Monday—Thursday
 Sara: in office Wednesday & Friday



September 22rd

“Chore Chart” Returning in September...

Please keep your eye on the Narthex during the month of September for our Custer Lutheran Fellowship “Chore Chart.” There are a number of chores that we informally divide every Sunday morning. We need ushers, readers, communion servers, offering counters, nursery attendants, and coffee servers. You will find large poster boards in the Narthex where you can sign up for one or more of these areas of service. We haven't updated these service lists for some time, so it is time to do a little housekeeping. On any Sunday morning, we have about twenty people volunteering around the church building, and the congregation could use your help. Please sign up!



2014 Budget thru July 31, 2014

	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Offering Contributions	\$ 232,527.25	\$ 251,163.50	\$ (18,636.25)	92.6%
Special Offerings (Coins for Colombia)	\$ 531.37		\$ 531.37	100.0%
Special Offerings/Unbudgeted Missions	\$ 966.00		\$ 966.00	100.0%
Additional Debt Retirement	\$ 440.00		\$ 440.00	100.0%
Form 990-T Health Insurance Credit	\$ 8,464.27	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 464.27	105.8%
Endowment/Youth House Funds	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 475.00	123.8%
Youth House Building Sale	\$ 24,977.42	\$ 28,967.00	\$ (3,989.58)	86.2%
Outreach Minister Set-Aside Funds	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	200.0%
Total Income	\$ 285,381.31	\$ 297,630.50	\$ (12,249.19)	95.9%
Expense				
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 104,029.05	\$ 105,103.78	\$ (1,074.73)	99.0%
Worship	\$ 5,876.62	\$ 6,759.82	\$ (883.20)	86.9%
Education	\$ 2,004.65	\$ 2,537.50	\$ (532.85)	79.0%
Mission Support	\$ 42,104.22	\$ 42,368.70	\$ (264.48)	99.4%
Support/Care	\$ 138,250.62	\$ 138,438.40	\$ (187.78)	99.9%
Total Expense	\$ 292,265.16	\$ 295,208.20	\$ (2,943.04)	99.0%

Leadership Transition Update...

The church council has been happy to receive news that Pastor Kent Narum, Elisabeth Cherland, and their children are settling into their new home and call at Holden Village in the Northern Cascade mountains of Washington state. We, your church council, would like to thank the congregation for the farewell events and gifts that sent the Cherland-Narum's off in style. We have been told that Pastor Kent and his family left this place feeling loved and appreciated.

As our congregation looks toward the future, the church council is establishing a *Ministry Leadership Study Group* to begin gathering information from a wide variety of people in the congregation and the community to assess the leadership needs of the congregation. In consultation with Pastor Tom and Outreach Minister Yvonne, we have decided that we won't be needing to call any addition interim ministry staff during this transition time.

There will be an adult forum on Sunday, September 28th at 9:45 AM to introduce the congregation to the *Ministry Leadership Study Group* and to continue conversations about opportunities for ministry in our congregation and community. Everyone is welcome. Currently, the council has been discussing three possibilities to reshaping our current staff. One is to explore becoming a teaching partner with one of our seminaries and invite a third-year seminary student to serve as an intern. These internships are twelve month assignments beginning and ending in August. Another option is to call another full-time associate pastor. A third option is to call a part-time associate pastor. Our congregation is early in the exploration process and would appreciate your input. Feel free to speak to congregation president, Jon Dahlstrom, or any members of the church council. The list of current church council member (including their photographs) can be found at www.custerlutheran.com/ministries/leadership.



CUSTER YOUTH HOUSE – News & Needs

It's a NEW school year and we have a NEW location! The **Custer Youth House** will be located in the big blue building on the corner of 11th and Canal Streets. We will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 PM beginning on September 9th. All 6th, 7th and 8th grade youth are welcome. It is a safe and fun place to hang out and make new friends!

This will be a place to hang out or watch movies. We will have a Wii and a Playstation for gaming. You can do crafts or homework. And, there will be plenty of snacks and drinks. Best of all, it is all FREE!

We are looking for donations of food and drink items for the **Youth House**. In addition, we welcome your financial support. Your monetary gifts go will go towards rent, propane and wi-fi. You can help provide a great outreach ministry to the youth in our community. Drop off your gifts at the church office. Please attach your name so that we can thank you! If you have an idea of something you would like to donate – please talk to our Outreach Minister, Yvonne Steindal.

We're All Smiles!

The Dakota Smiles Mobile Dental Program was here the last week of August. This program is made possible through a partnership with Custer Lutheran Fellowship and Delta Dental. Dakota Smiles parked their big colorful fully equipped dental clinic outside the Elementary School. A staff of four were here to do this work. Children and youth were cleared and then set up for appointments by school nurse and CLF member, Jean Witt. We give thanks for her commitment of energy and hard work to this important effort in our community. We also give thanks for the generous gift of DeMaris Nesheim for making the monies available to provide dental care for families in need in our community. Her gift makes this program possible for several years in Custer. This is another prime example of **"God's Work. Our Hands."**



~...Open House...

Richard Tucker Sculpture Garden & Studio
Saturday, September 13th, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
24946 America Center Road





Custer Lutheran Fellowship embarked on a week of Vacation Bible School/Day Camp July 28th – Aug. 1st with the theme of “Living in God’s Time”. Outlaw Ranch with the help of CLF volunteers provided counselors to help inspire and teach our children the following lessons: A Time for Hope (Advent); A Time for God With Us (Christmas); A Time for Brokenness (Holy Week); A Time for Celebration (Easter); A Time for Unity (Pentecost). An average of 40 children came and enjoyed worship, songs, arts and crafts, games, and snacks that matched each day’s lesson. We had a potluck on Thursday evening and a program that allowed the children to share their faith with their families and the congregation. Many of the children are still singing the songs!

A big thank you to the following!

- All the children that came and parents that brought the children!!
- All those in the congregation that brought snack items for the week.
- Preschool helpers: Nancy Suelflow, Steph Ornelas, Heather Hiltunen and Yvonne Steindal
- Snack Assistants and helped with lunches and dinners for counselors: Mickey Schlecht (my hero!), Gail & Eldon Knudson, Dee Van Eaton, Sharon Hanson and Jackie Hartwick
- Custodial work: Augie Heyne
- Organization and support: Kent Narum and Yvonne Steindal
- Counselors and Outlaw Ranch Staff! Kristie, Nathan, Cami, Michelle and Amy

It was a wonderful week!

Thank you,
Linda Fennell
Sunday School Coordinator

Sunday School 2014-15

The Sunday School year will kick-off Sunday September 14th for children ages preschool through 5th grade. Classes will run from 9:45-10:45 AM and will be held in the upstairs Sunday School room.

The curriculum will be taken from the Spark Bibles and will correlate with the lectionary reading for each Sunday. The hour of class time will basically be organized with large group activities of Bible stories, singing, prayers, an offering for our mission. Following the opening, the group will be involved in activities such as art, games, drama, and science all of which will relate to the Bible story of the day.

The Sunday School mission for the year will be the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, “Catch the Buzz”. This is a collaborative effort among Lutheran churches to battle against malaria – a preventable and treatable disease that kills more than one million people a year. Each Sunday the children are welcome to bring an offering for this mission. Also, see the next article for more information.

Throughout the year there will be other events as well such as Bible Sunday and Bible study for the 3rd graders, helping with Call to Worship, and the Christmas program. In January, February and March we will have Retreats one Sunday of each month instead of the regular Sunday classes.

Linda Fennell can help with any questions (673-2913) and will hold a parent meeting on the September 14th. Volunteers are always welcome!!

NOTE: On September 7th during the Children’s Message we will hold a Backpack Blessing. Bring your backpacks to church that day!

Catch The Buzz!

Every 45 seconds a child dies from malaria. Malaria is a deadly mosquito-borne disease that kills 800,000 people each year. It is a disease that is entirely preventable and treatable! A gift of \$10 will provide a mosquito net, medicine and safe water for one child – preventing one death. The ELCA Malaria Campaign seeks to raise \$15 million by 2015 to wipe out malaria in the world.

And now, we will be part of that challenge. This is another example of “God’s Work. Our Hands.” The Sunday School Mission Offering this year will go towards the support of the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The name of this program will be **Catch The Buzz**. The children will be learning about how their weekly offerings can help children in other lands. They will discover they can make a difference!

We will all have the opportunity to make a difference as we will have an opportunity to give to the ELCA Malaria Campaign as well. Once a month we will have a “Noisy Offering” specifically for that purpose.

Rap Group September Schedule...

Saturday, September 13th: 9:00 AM. Building a new church playground! If you want to swing a hammer, please join other members of the church for this fun intergenerational event of destroying our old playground set and building the new one.

Sunday, September 14th: 9:45 AM, Monthly Planning in the DownUnder. We will begin charting out the group's social activities, service projects, and "growing in faith plans" for the school year. We will also set a date and time for our annual fall planning retreat where we will begin our planning for the ELCA National Youth Gathering to be held in Detroit, Michigan next summer. All ninth through twelfth graders and their parents are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Sunday, September 21st, 9:45 AM. Guest speaker Ben D. Anderson in the Fireside Room. Ben has been a trainer for Outlaw Ranch staff in the area of how to be better friends to the people we know who live with disabilities. He is a very popular speaker and is helpful to people of all ages.

SPARK Kids...

We are about to kick off our brand new after-school program for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. We call it **SPARK Kids**. We will gather DownUnder at 4:00 PM every Wednesday beginning September 3rd. Pastor Tom will be picking up children with the CLF van immediately after school OR children could ride the school bus and be dropped off at church OR parents can drive their children to CLF.

This exciting program will be a mini-version of Vacation Bible School/Day Camp with lots of high energy games, music, activities centering around Bible stories. There will be snacks to get us started! We will even be creating a new child-friendly décor in the DownUnder to help with all the fun. Christy Schmahl from Outlaw Ranch and Yvonne Steindal, Outreach Minister will be some of the leaders for the **SPARK Kids** program.

At 5:00 PM the program concludes. Children can join their families upstairs for dinner at **Wednesday NightLife** OR can be picked up for home at that time.

Spotlight on Confirmation...

Confirmation for Youth in 6th, 7th and 8th Grades begins with the start-up of **Wednesday NightLife** on September 3rd. We begin with a meal at 5:00 PM, followed by worship at 6:00 PM. The theme of worship for the fall will be **Faith5**: Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless.

Following worship, there will be classes for learning led by adult leaders and pastoral staff. Sixth Grade will be exploring the Old Testament. Seventh Grade will study the Ten Commandments. Eighth Grade will spend time on the Apostle's Creed and the Sacraments.

There will be Servant Events for youth and their families throughout the year. We will begin with participation in **"God's Work. Our Hands."** Sunday on September 7th.

Confirmation Youth will be inviting adults to serve as their **Faith Mentors**. There will be several special events for Faith Mentors and their Confirmation Youth over the course of the year. During the six weeks of Lent, Mentors and youth will eat and worship together as well as have time for guided conversations. If you are asked to be a Faith Mentor, consider such a request prayerfully. It is a rare opportunity to walk the journey of faith with our youth.

Eighth Grade Youth will prepare a **Faith in Action Project** during the course of the year. This will be an opportunity for these youth to share their faith in a concrete way using their God-given gifts, talents and interests. They will present their projects at a Confirmation Banquet in the spring.

There is still time to register your youth for the Confirmation Ministry Program. Please contact with our Outreach Minister, Yvonne Steindal through the church office.

Please help...

In an effort to conserve energy and to keep our electric bill down, the CLF church council is inviting you to be mindful of energy use around the church building. One thing that you can do is keep an eye out for empty, lighted rooms. When you leave a room, please switch off the light when you leave. At the end of meetings and especially at the end of the day, it is helpful if we have many people thinking about shutting off the lights. One of the nice things about being part of a congregation is that the facility belongs to all of us, so please remember to turn off the lights. Thanks for your help!

Council Minutes – August 19, 2014

Treasurer's Report – Lonnie discussed our expenses/offerings year to date. We are running a bit behind in meeting our projected offerings but things are looking pretty well.

Unfinished Business:

- Ø **Memorial List** – Members discussed the possible uses for the memorial gift from the estate of June Young in memory of Jane Olson. Lonnie suggested that we move those dollars into the memorial savings line of our budget until we make a decision. A motion was made and carried.
- Ø **Landscaping Project** – Ryan had a good work crew and was able to put in all the block and drainage tile in the front of the church entrance for as part of his Eagle Badge Project.
- Ø **Endowment Fund** – The Endowment Committee will be meeting next Sunday to decide how to spend the endowment interest. Linda Fennell suggested that we use this money to help with the new Wednesday NightLife children's program by updating the playground, the basement and hiring a staff member to help with managing the children in the program. This is just one proposal, committee members will be discussing and making a decision and will let council know.
- Ø **Thrivent Choice** – August amount – \$150 / \$1,116
- Ø **Youth House Update** – Yvonne spoke with members about a possible rental property to use for the Youth House in the elementary school neighborhood. We would need to bring in furniture. Members discussed the property, insurance, and writing up a rental agreement. Tom will check with insurance. Lonnie made a motion that we rent the space for this school year, it was seconded and carried.

New Business:

- Ø **Membership changes:** Adds – Richard & Kathy Polzine, transfer from American Lutheran Church, Worthington, MN; Elaine Alt, transfer from Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
- Ø **Membership** – There will be a new members meeting in October. Once this new member group is photographed we will be printing and distributing the new directories.
- Ø **Land purchase inquiry for a piece of our far west church property** – buyer withdrew his request.
- Ø **Nicaragua Medical Trip** – Pastor Tom spoke with members about a possible medical trip to Nicaragua.
- Ø **Ministry Site Study** – Pastor Tom reviewed with members the transitional steps for our congregation following Pastor Kent's departure. The goal is to have a decision on what we want to do by the next annual meeting in January. Pastor Tom suggested that we form a ministry leadership study group to work on defining what our needs are and to research ministerial possibilities. The timeline for this study group was discussed and members were asked to think about people they think who might serve well on this committee. We will form this group at our September meeting and there will be an open forum on September 28th to discuss this process with the congregation. Pastor Tom will write an article for the newsletter. Pastor Tom then spoke with members about considering an intern for this position.
- Ø **Changing Council & Committee meeting times** – Pastor Tom spoke with members about changing the meeting time to 7 PM so that they could do committee meetings before our meetings on Tuesday nights. A motion was made and it was carried.
- Ø **Dakota Smiles Report** – Yvonne reported that this free mobile dental unit will be here next week.
- Ø **"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday** – Yvonne spoke with members about this outreach ministry day. There will be one worship service at 10 AM and then members will work on different mission activities. There will be activities for all ages and abilities. Members will then return to the church for the rest of the worship service and conclude with a fellowship time with ice cream.
- Ø **Hiring additional staff for Wednesdays** – Pastor Tom spoke with members about having someone to work with the students in the program. A motion was made to approve this if the Endowment committee decides it wants to use the funds in this way, it was seconded and carried.
- Ø **Kurt Osborne to be at September Council meeting** – Kurt will attend the Endowment Committee meeting September 16th followed by meeting with council.
- Ø **Bug Tree Survey** – Pastor Tom discussed a letter we received from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture about participating in their bug tree survey program.
- Ø **Propane Contract** – Pastor Tom spoke with members about entering a prepay propane contract in order to reduce our propane costs. A motion was made to have Donna find out how much gas we used last year and pre-purchase that amount. It was seconded and carried.
- Ø **Custer Fire Department Request** – members discussed.
- Ø **Parsonage** – Pastor Tom said that he had a request to rent the parsonage and asked the council if the parsonage was available. Members discussed if we should rent and the possibility of Yvonne having the option of staying there during the winter evenings when she works late or staying Saturday night before Sunday services.

(Continued next page)

ELW Devotions from the Daily Lectionary

Pentecost 12

Monday, September 1: Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:2-26; Revelation 3:1-6
 Tuesday, September 2: Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:27b—12:15; Revelation 3:7-13
 Wednesday, September 3: Psalm 17; Jeremiah 17:5-18; Matthew 12:22-32

Pentecost 13

Thursday, September 4: Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:1-14; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
 Friday, September 5: Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:15-27; Romans 10:15b-21
 Saturday, September 6: Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:1-6; Matthew 23:29-36
 Sunday, September 7: Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:7-11; Romans 13:8-14;
 Matthew 18:15-20
 Monday, September 8: Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:11-17
 Tuesday, September 9: Psalm 119:65-72; Deuteronomy 17:2-13; Romans 13:1-7
 Wednesday, September 10: Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28; Matthew 21:18-22

Pentecost 14

Thursday, September 11: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Genesis 37:12-36; 1 John 3:11-16
 Friday, September 12: Psalm 103:[106] 8-13; Genesis 41:56—42:17; Acts 7:9-16
 Saturday, September 13: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Genesis 45:1-20; Matthew 6:7-15
 Sunday, September 14: Psalm 103:[107] 8-13; Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
 Monday, September 15: Psalm 133; Genesis 48:8-22; Hebrews 11:23-29
 Tuesday, September 16: Psalm 133; Genesis 49:29—50:14; Romans 14:13—15:2
 Wednesday, September 17: Psalm 133; Genesis 50:22-26; Mark 11:20-25

Pentecost 15

Thursday, September 18: Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 1:1, 14—2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4
 Friday, September 19: Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 2:3-13; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10
 Saturday, September 20: Psalm 145: 1-8; Zephaniah 2:13-15; Matthew 19:23-30
 Sunday, September 21: Psalm 145:1-8; Jonah 3:10—4:11; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
 Monday, September 22: Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 27:1-29; Romans 16:1-16
 Tuesday, September 23: Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 28:10-17; Romans 16:17-20
 Wednesday, September 24: Psalm 106:1-12; Isaiah 41:1-13; Matthew 18:1-5

Pentecost 16

Thursday, September 25: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 12:17-28; James 4; 11-16
 Friday, September 26: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:5-18; Acts 13:32-41
 Saturday, September 27: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:19-24; Mark 11:27-33
 Sunday, September 28: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
 Monday, September 29: Psalm 28; Judges 14:1-20; Philippians 1:3-14
 Tuesday, September 30: Psalm 28; Judges 16:1-22; Philippians 1:15-21
 Wednesday, October 1: Psalm 28; Judges 16:23-31; Matthew 9:2-8



Committee & Ministry Team Concerns:

- Ø **Christian Ed Board** – Sunday School is organized and planned for the fall. They will be donating their offering to and learning about the ELCA Malaria initiative.
- Ø **Excel/Quest** – committee members are working on recruiting a few more members for this ministry.
- Ø **Pastoral Support** – Pastor Tom will pull a group together as the need arises.
- Ø **Social Ministry** – Yvonne will be the liaison for the Social Ministry Team. This committee works as a peace and justice committee. They are involved with our Pine Ridge Retreat Center, organize the wood haul out there, maintain and raise funds for our relationship with Corner Stone Rescue Mission in Rapid City, and coordinate the Bread for the World letter writing campaign.
- Ø **Stewardship** – Pastor Tom spoke about the Stewardship Retreat he attended. There will be a ELCA Stewardship Day on August 28th at Woyatan in Rapid City from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Pastor Tom is going if anyone else wants to attend.
- Ø **W/ELCA** – Yvonne Steindal reported that WELCA will coordinate the food for our special event "God's Work, Our Hands."
- Ø **Worship & Music** – Pastor Tom will be heading this committee.
- Ø **Youth** – the summer wood haul has been going well. Carol Laverick suggested that we do a "Mission Moment" on what the RAP group has been doing.



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Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Our Mission ... is to plant the word of God, nurture growth in children and adults, and scatter the seeds of joy and faith in a diverse community.

We envision Custer Lutheran Fellowship to be like the Black Hills themselves, an inviting community in which God's Spirit blows through people – like wind through the pine – life that is forever new! God's spirit inspires us to be:

A **worshipping** community, hearing the life-giving Word of God receiving Christ's very presence in the Sacraments, and raising our voices in joyful songs of praise and prayer;

A **growing** community, with building and grounds spacious enough for all;

An **intergenerational** community, nurturing children and youth, young adults, people in mid-life, and older people as one family of God;

A **learning** community, in which people of all ages take advantage of multiple opportunities to deepen their understanding of the grace and justice of God;

A **giving** community, generously offering our time, talent and treasure to support each other and share in Christ's ministry;

A **servicing** community, reaching beyond ourselves to stand with the poor, the sick, the hungry and the oppressed;

A **witnessing** community, eager to share with everyone the joy we have received from Christ.

We believe in the Cross and our risen Lord and that through Christ we have eternal life

Our Bedrock Beliefs are...

We grow in faith through worship and sacraments

The Word of God is our hope, Support comes from within our family of believers who see and serve Jesus in others

Through prayer we evoke God's love and power as the Spirit intercedes for us "with sighs too deep for words to express"

In crisis God is our strength. He is all loving and accepting and He helps us through these times.

We have faith only through God's grace.

Our Core Values are:

Faith, Family, Mission,
 Service, Worship



**Ministering at
 Custer Lutheran Fellowship**
 Senior Pastor: Tom Opoien
 Office Administrator:
 Donna McConnell
 Outreach Minister: Yvonne Steindal
 Office Assistant: Sara Janson
 Parish Nurse: Mary Klein
 Custodian: Augie Heyne
 Music: Margaret Tretheway
 Choir Director: Marlene Sellevold
 Financial Secretaries:
 Karen Schleining & Ann Snow
 Treasurer: Lonnie Hosman
Ministers: All Members of CLF!