

# Crossroads

Monthly Newsletter for:

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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## Worship Schedule Returns to Two Services...

Beginning on September 18<sup>th</sup> Custer Lutheran Fellowship will return to a schedule of two worship services each Sunday morning.

The first service will begin at 8:30 AM. At this service the liturgy and hymns are based on the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal – the red book that can be found in the pews. Twice a month the Choir sings and presents special music.

The second service begins at 10:30 AM. This service often includes the leadership of a small Worship Music Group. Music may include more contemporary musical selections.

There are times when the two services – music and liturgy – will be the same. Holy Communion is celebrated at both services on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month. Sunday School will be offered between the two services.

After prayerful consideration the Church Council made the decision to return to a two worship Sunday morning schedule for the following reasons:

- 2 CLF is in a time of transition as we begin the search for a new pastor. This will be a big change. It is not a time to do other big changes as well. We want to focus on what we do well and await new leadership.
- 2 We wish to continue to hold a Sunday School program for our children between services. In the future that may change, but once again we do not want to make any other changes during this time of transition.
- 2 For a variety of reasons moving to one service invariably drives down numbers in attendance and finances. For example, people are less likely to think to give monetary gifts when they are not attending worship.
- 2 In looking at CLF numbers, the council guesstimates a 10% drop by moving to one service. Our current financial situation is such that we cannot afford at this time to take such a drop. It is our calling as a church to provide opportunities to reach out to as many people as possible in our community. Holding two services on Sunday mornings is one way in which we can do that.

There will be a time of coffee fellowship between the two services. If you attend the first service, join us for this time of conversation and visiting following worship. If you attend the second service, come early so you can share in this time as well. The coffee is always hot and we always have plenty of treats and goodies. Invite your family, friends and neighbors. All are welcome!



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.



## Getting to Know You...

We have had many newcomers in our midst over the last several months. We would like to invite newcomers to explore becoming part of the CLF family through membership.

Join us on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** for our "Get Acquainted" Time between services. Long time members are invited to join our newcomers at an orientation which will be held in the Library services. We will be sharing information about CLF's many activities and programs.

We are also looking for New Member Mentors. We want each of our Newcomer families to be connected with a specific current member. The Mentor will help out their New Member get more closely connected to CLF over the next six months.

We will welcome New Members with a milestone blessing during worship on **Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. We hope you can join us for that celebration as well.

## Our Third Annual “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday!

We are so excited that once again this year CLF will be participating in a nation-wide Day of Service in our community. ELCA churches from around the country will be a visible witness of the faith on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> as members step outside of the church doors and into the community to serve our neighbors.

The Outreach and Social Ministry Teams have been making plans for CLF to host a community wide event – a Picnic– for the men and women (and their families) who serve our community. This would include first responders — Search & Rescue, Police and Highway Patrol, EMTs, Firefighters – city and county. All are welcome! We want to show our thanks and our appreciation to all those folks on 9/11.

The event will be held just outside the doors of Custer Lutheran Fellowship. There will be a meal – pulled pork BBQ and drinks. This is being purchased with gifts from Thrivent Action monies as well as our budget for this event. The other food items (salads, sides and desserts) need to be provided pot-luck style by CLF members. There is a Sign-Up Sheet at the Welcome Center to indicate what you will be bringing and how many from your family will be attending.

For children – we will have lawn games and face painting. We will need persons to help lead these activities. In addition, children will be able to play on our two playgrounds.

This is an event of thanksgiving and appreciation to the many first responders who we rely on in our daily lives. Please be a part of it. The event will run from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Worship will be at 9:30 AM. Please stay afterwards to help us set up tables and chairs. The only “program” will be to thank folks!

## THURSDAY CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY GROUP...

You are invited to join us on Thursday mornings beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>. We meet in the Fireside Room from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. We begin with coffee and treats. This is followed by reading aloud interrupted by free-flowing discussion. We disagree with one another. We challenge one another. We share life stories with another.

We center all this around a particular Christian book that we have chosen. This fall we begin with a favorite author – Rob Bell. The book is entitled “WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GOD.”

“We’ve all had moments when we’ve found ourselves deeply aware of the something more of life, the sense that all of this might mean something, that it may not be an accident, that it matters. But when people turn to many of the conventional religious explanations for this reverence, they’re often led to the God who is like Oldsmobiles, the one who’s back there, behind, unable to keep up. Are there other ways to talk about God?”

Bring your own book. We also have books for sale. The cost is \$8.40. Join us for some great conversation.

Explore your faith. And discover people who will you call friend.



### NEED A GOOD LAUGH? By Phil Lewison

3-H Club will start up again Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30 PM. Come for an hour of laughs. In the Rapid City Journal Religion Section of Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> the VOICE OF FAITH article was entitled "God Wants Us to be Happy". We will look at that together and then finish up "My Little Town" by Garrison Keillor. Every one is welcome.



### “ NOISY OFFERING ” TO CONTINUE...

**Bring your Coins for Colombia** — Our Noisy Offering during the summer months and also during September will be going to the Emmaus Road Ministries program in Colombia. Emmaus provides scholarships for students throughout all levels of education, supports social development programs (ex. teaching skills, providing meals, etc), and provides training opportunities for leaders in the church. For June thru August, we have collected \$389.47. Starting in October, the noisy offering will go towards the ELCA Global Barnyard.

The next noisy offering will take place on the second Sunday of the month, **September 11<sup>th</sup>**.

## What’s Your Name, Again?

The second Sunday of every month – will be designated as Nametag Sunday! A table will be set up with self-stick nametags and markers. Please stop, pick up a tag, print your name and wear it.

We may think we know everyone – but, the truth is we don’t. Every week we have newcomers among us. This is a simple way of continuing to be a welcoming community of faith. The next Nametag Sunday will be **September 11<sup>th</sup>**!

**Care & share...**

These are the monthly Care & Share groups for September and October. The Coordinators will be contacting you to find out which Sunday(s) you are available to help. The areas where help is needed are: Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Communion Servers and Coffee Hosts.

The September sign-up sheet is already located at the Welcome Center and the October sheet will be available at the Welcome Center around the middle of September.



Please say yes when called... your help is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for serving the Lord in this important way!!

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Steve & Judy Baldwin	Dan & Kari Alfson
Marge Baldwin	John & Diana Carson
Jim & Donna Chamberlain	Jim & Nancy Dunston
Dan & Diana Edwards	John & Peggy Evans
JoAnn Evans	Jim & Pat Hattervig
Dave & Sharon Hansen	Cindy & Augie Heyne
Wanda Harvey	Chad & Michelle Lehman
Chuck & Kaona Hazlett	Dennis & Caroline McDonald
June Johnston	Brad & Connie McKinney
Art & Amy Kirk	Wayne & Nina Nielsen
Paul Larson	Bernie & Sharon Quaschnick
Joyce Naugle & Ivan Johannsen	Gary & Carol Roberts
Thurston & Cheryl Pond	Vern & Mickey Schlecht
Abe & Jackie Robb	Matt & Selena Spring
Leon & Ann Wagner	Casey & Eve Trandem
Linda Zachow	Li Fjerestad & Gary Williams
* Calling Coordinator— Paul Larson	* Calling Coordinator— Brad McKinney

**Please notify Outreach Minister, Yvonne when:**

- There is a hospitalization in your family
- There is a death in your family
- You would like a pastoral visit
- There is a birth or adoption
- Someone becomes homebound
- Someone becomes unemployed
- There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy

Hospitals don't notify the pastor that a member is in the hospital, even if they ask your church membership when you arrive. So please let the pastor know if you or a family member is in the hospital. Custer Lutheran Fellowship, the body of Christ, wants to bring you Christ's love in all the seasons of your life.

Yvonne Steindal, Outreach Minister      605-593-6165 (cell)  
yvonne\_clf@gwtc.net                              673-4691 (church)

**Wednesday NightLife Kicks Off!**

We begin on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. This program is a mid-week faith recharge for your family. Our weekly schedule goes like this:

- SPARK Kids from 4:00 to 5:15 PM**
- Family Meal from 5:15 to 6:00 PM**
- Evening Worship from 6:00 to 6:30 PM**
- Adult Education & Confirmation from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**
- Choir Practice at 7:30 PM**

The first Wednesday of every month the Family Meal is a Pot-Luck. We will supply fried chicken and drinks (lemonade, water and coffee). Please bring a favorite food item to share (side, salad or dessert). You may prepare something at home to bring OR you are more than welcome to pick something up at the grocery store on your way to church. Either way, we will eat it!

Worship this fall will rotate between four styles: Holy Communion, Holden Evening Prayer, Prayer Around the Cross and Vespers. The message for the evening will focus on the theme and Bible story that **SPARK Kids** are studying on that day.

## The Work of the Church

The ELCA (our church body) meets in a large Churchwide Assembly every three years. Voting members are selected from synods around the country and gather to do the business work of our church. This Assembly was held in New Orleans and among its voting members was Pastor Tom. It's an important thing – this gathering of people – this work of our church. At CLF we have an Annual Meeting of the congregation every January. The Churchwide Assembly is like that – on a much larger and longer scale!

I have attended several Churchwide Assemblies over the years as both a voting member and as a visitor. They are glorious events. The worship is spectacular. The singing is deeply moving. The speakers and their messages are profound. And the business work that we are called to do is difficult. This summer I followed the Assembly through social media. Many important things happened. Many important decisions were made. But, I would like to lift up two that in some way impact us here at CLF.

First, the decision was made to unify the three lay rosters in the church. The ELCA is a relatively young church – about 30 years old. When it was formed through the uniting of three other church bodies – the decision was made to “grandfather” in all those persons serving on the lay rosters. I am one of those persons. I came in under the title “Associate In Ministry”. We will now have a unified roster of Word and Service Ministry (Pastors serve under a Word and Sacrament Ministry) and there will be a new title – Deacon. I am so very glad that we will have a unified roster. It provides clarity for all of us in the church. However, I am not that excited about my new title. Be that as it may. You can just call me ... Yvonne.

Second, the ELCA in Assembly voted overwhelmingly to accept the document entitled "Declaration on the Way." This document marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. At the heart of the document are 32 "Statements of Agreement" that state where Lutherans and Catholics do not have church-dividing differences on topics about church, ministry and the Eucharist. The document also presents the differences that remain.

I cannot say enough about what a huge deal this is. Official unity between Lutherans and our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters is not something I thought I would see in my lifetime. This document is the result of 50 years of joint conversations between our two church bodies. It is not perfect. And like all of life, not everyone is in agreement about everything. In fact, you will probably discover that most of your Roman Catholic neighbors – like you – know very little about this document. But it is a start.

It is made even more significant in that this fall we will begin a one year celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Wow. The kick off worship service will be held in Lund, Sweden and Pope Francis will be there to take part in the celebratory worship. Double wow.

We will be making available copies of this document for you to pick up at the Welcome Center. Please continue to pray for our church bodies as we seek ways to do ministry together in the years ahead. Please continue to pray for unity throughout the body of Christ.

Christ Makes Life Exciting!

Yvonne L. D. Steindal, Outreach Minister



## We're all smiles!

The Dakota Smiles Mobile Dental Program will be in Custer this month – the week of Monday thru Friday, September 26-30. This program is made possible through a partnership with Custer Lutheran Fellowship and Delta Dental.

Dakota Smiles parks their big colorful fully equipped dental clinic outside the Elementary School. A full staff will be here to do this work. Children and youth are cleared and then set up for appointments by Jean Witt, the school nurse. Children will receive quality oral health services, including cleanings, preventive services, fillings, and oral health education. Dakota Smiles will treat children, youth and young adults up to the age of 21 who do not have a dental home, children who have not seen a dentist for two years, or children who live more than 85 miles from a dentist. No one is turned away for inability to pay.

We give thanks for the generous gift of Erv and DeMaris Nesheim for making the monies available to provide dental care for families in need in our community. This is another great example of **God's Work. Our Hands.**

**W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:****NEXT MEETING:****WHEN:** Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**WHERE:** Road trip to the Children's Home—meet in CLF parking lot at 9:45 AM

There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center if you plan to go to the Children's Home on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up by September 12<sup>th</sup>. As stated above, we will meet in the church parking lot at 9:45 AM and plan to be at the home by 10:45 AM. We will have lunch with the children and a tour of the building on that day.

At our August meeting, we had Rachel Nelson from Lutheran Campus Ministries talk to us about what she does at Black Hills State and the School of Mines. Campus Ministries provides a place for students to feel safe and to get away from the pressures that college life sometimes brings. This is especially appreciated by freshman students who are away from home for the first time. They are able to find a new sense of community through folks like Rachel.

W/ELCA will give \$300 to Campus Ministries to use as they see fit. We also voted to give \$200 to St Dymas in memory of Ed Nesselhuf.

The Bear Butte Fall Retreat will be held at Outlaw Ranch on September 16<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup>. The women at Woyatan will be in charge of the meeting. See Mickey Schlecht or Jackie Hartwick for more details or to register.

Quilters starts for the year on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Quilters will meet each Tuesday at that time. We will take 20 quilts to the Children's Home thanks to the work of those ladies.

NOTE: Campbell's has discontinued the 'Labels for Education' program due to dwindling participation. But, please continue to save your 'Boxtops for Education' and place them in the appropriate can in the Fellowship Hall.

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!

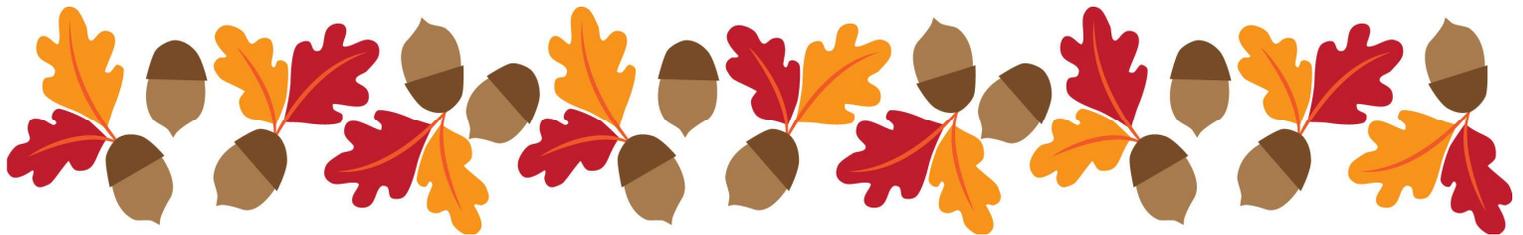
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**July—September Mission Project:**  
**School Kits — LWR, Pine Ridge & Custer Children**

- ! 2 notebooks of ruled 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.



**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



**Church E-Mail Addresses...**  
 If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:  
 Yvonne — Yvonne\_clf@gwtc.net  
 Donna — clf@gwtc.net  
 Sara — sara\_clf@gwtc.net

## Effective September 2<sup>nd</sup> ...

The church office will no longer be open on Fridays. The answering machine will be checked daily though. If you need immediate assistance, please call Outreach Minister Yvonne Steindal at 605-593-6165.



## Office hours.....

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

Yvonne: Tuesday—Thursday  
 Donna: in office Monday—Thursday  
 Sara: in office Wednesday

## Mark this date on your calendar...

XYZ will meet on **Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 PM** at Jim & Arbutus Winter, 12787 Whitetail Road. It will be a potluck so bring a dish to share! Coffee and ice tea will be provided...but you can also bring your own beverage if you prefer. See you there!



## CLF website offers online giving options...

On Custer Lutheran Fellowship's website, [www.custerlutheran.com](http://www.custerlutheran.com) you will find the option to support Custer Lutheran Fellowship's mission and ministry through the "ONLINE GIVING" link. Whether you'd like to make a one-time donation or set-up regularly scheduled donations, you can do this easily through a secure server by following the instructions. At this time, CLF accepts bank account (ACH) transactions only, however you can set-up your own login/password and make changes with your giving at any time.



## 2016 Budget thru July, 2016

|                                       | 2016 Actual          | 2016 Budget          | \$ Over Budget       | % of Budget  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Income</b>                         |                      |                      |                      |              |
| Offering Contributions                | \$ 209,563.30        | \$ 218,750.00        | \$ (9,186.70)        | 95.8%        |
| Special Offerings (Thrivent Choice)   | \$ 2,419.00          | \$                   | \$                   |              |
| Special Offerings/Unbudgeted Missions | \$ 612.00            | \$ 991.67            | \$ (379.67)          | 61.7%        |
| Additional Debt Retirement            | \$ 200.00            | \$                   | \$                   |              |
| Youth House Building Sale             | \$ 0.00              | \$ 8,635.45          | \$ (8,635.45)        | 0.0%         |
| Elementary Ministry Support           | \$ 1,837.50          | \$ 3,675.00          | \$ (1,837.50)        | 50.0%        |
| J Olson Trust                         | \$ 2,021.22          | \$ 4,042.43          | \$ (2,021.21)        | 50.0%        |
| Custer Highlands Property Sale        | \$ 11,509.60         | \$                   | \$                   |              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                   | <b>\$ 228,162.62</b> | <b>\$ 236,094.55</b> | <b>\$ (7,931.33)</b> | <b>96.6%</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                        |                      |                      |                      |              |
| Pastoral Leadership                   | \$ 104,513.54        | \$ 104,264.41        | \$ 249.13            | 100.2%       |
| Worship                               | \$ 5,788.35          | \$ 6,710.72          | \$ (922.37)          | 86.3%        |
| Education                             | \$ 1,928.06          | \$ 3,181.96          | \$ (1,253.90)        | 60.6%        |
| Mission Support                       | \$ 23,819.72         | \$ 22,695.75         | \$ 1,123.97          | 105.0%       |
| Support/Care                          | \$ 96,433.03         | \$ 104,084.78        | \$ (7,651.75)        | 92.6%        |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                  | <b>\$ 232,482.70</b> | <b>\$ 240,937.62</b> | <b>\$ (8,454.92)</b> | <b>96.5%</b> |

## God's Work. Our Hands.

*These are some of the ways we have noticed you putting your faith into action as disciples. We give thanks for your Christian witness as you become "the hands of Jesus" in our community. Please share your **God's Work – Our Hands** stories with Yvonne Steindal, Outreach Minister at [yvonne\\_clf@gwtc.net](mailto:yvonne_clf@gwtc.net).*

- <sup>2</sup> The Women of the ELCA current mission project goes towards the support of School Kits for Lutheran World Relief, Pine Ridge and children in Custer. These items are needed: 8 ½" x 10 ½" notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, #2 pencils with erasers, 30 cm rulers, pencil sharpeners, boxes of 24 crayons and 2 ½" erasers. We will gladly receive your gifts through September.
- <sup>2</sup> Our Noisy Offering continues on the second Sunday of the month through eptember. We call it "Coins for Colombia". Your gifts will go to support scholarships for children to go to school.
- <sup>2</sup> Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this year's Day Camp. We had 46 children participate. There were 92 folks who attended the Closing Program. An offering of \$314 was collected to go to the support of SPARK Kids. Wow!
- <sup>2</sup> Thanks go to these folks who donated items that were used to make snacks for Day Camp: Judy Baldwin, Behlings family, Mary Boots, Jenn Doyle, Joan Eggers, Cindy Heyne, Gail Knudson, Nancy Martinz, Tracy Pulse, Mickey Schlecht, Anita Swanson, Rick & Susan Todd, Marcy & Jim Wirth and Joanne Witt.
- <sup>2</sup> A BIG thank you to Linda Fennell and Mickey Schlecht who created snacks that went along with the Bible story each day of Day Camp. Thank you also to the Fennell's and the Fluck's for hosting our Outlaw Ranch Day Camp staff for dinner at their homes during the week.
- <sup>2</sup> Thanks also goes to these Confirmation Youth and Adults who helped with Day Camp simply by being there and being present with the children: Mindy Dooley, Gail Knudson, Kellyn Kortemeyer, Eva Studt and Kelley Wicks.
- <sup>2</sup> Kim Webster and Mary Klein assisted CLF's Worship Service at the Nursing Home in August.



### "So, when are we getting a new pastor?" (an update on the "call" process)

(by Dave Thom, Council President)

Yes, this headline is a common question in our congregation since Pastor Tom's departure only a week ago. Brad McKinney, at our last council meeting (8/23), read a thoughtful devotion on **patience**...you'll have to ask him to share the story. I'd add that it's a bit like seeking a spouse. The process involves defining your own values and then finding a match with someone that complements your values and touches your heart, and to be successful, theirs, too! It takes time.

First, I want to say that we are in capable hands. Outreach Minister Yvonne Steindal has done a wonderful job in this early transition. She will be preaching two Sundays per month and has arranged "pulpit supply" for the other Sundays stretching into November. We'll get more of her thought-provoking sermons, plus preachers from outside our congregation that bring diverse perspectives on ministry. Donna McConnell, Sara Janson, Augie Heyne and volunteers, essential members of the CLF team, continue their key contributions and have stepped up as well.

Seeking a pastor has twelve steps. We've done the first several steps. 1) The bishop of the SD synod and staff are aware of our vacancy. 2) We've begun work on finding an "interim" pastor, probably half-time, to begin at the latest in December. 3) Forming a call committee and preparing a congregational profile will start in September. The call committee, appointed by the council in October, will include diversity of gender, age, tenure in our congregation, and experience. Serving on the call committee is an important and considerable commitment. We'll soon have a wall chart illustrating this process. Be prepared...it could take up to a year. But during this year we'll embark on what will be a fulfilling conversation about our goals for our ministry at Custer Lutheran Fellowship and finding a pastoral leader to help get there.

I am thankful for our members of the church council that contribute their time and considerable talent in leading our congregation. If you have questions or input, please let us know. And, as we're advised "At all times ~ be in prayer!"



## **SPARK Kids...**

We begin our Third Year of SPARK Kids on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Every Wednesday afternoon children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will be picked up at school and transported to church. Our time together is a fast-moving pace of learning activities including snacks, Bible stories, games, arts and crafts and more. There is lots of fun and new friends! This school year we will be using a new curriculum called "*Manna and Mercy*".

The program concludes each Wednesday at 5:15 PM. The children and their families are invited to join us for a meal followed by worship. We are done by 6:30 PM. Our fall worship will focus on the Bible stories and "*Manna and Mercy*" themes the children are learning about that day.

There is NO cost for this program. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors. All are welcome. All children need to be registered by their parents in order to participate. Those materials are available through the church office.

The themes and Bible stories for the month of September are as follows:

- 2 September 7 – "*Manna and Mercy*" – Exodus 16
- 2 September 14 – "*The Beginning of our Story with God*" – Genesis 1 & 2
- 2 September 21 – "*Humans decide to become BIG DEALS!*" – Genesis 3
- 2 September 28 – "*God Responds by Mending*" – Genesis 9

## **Sunday School...**

We are kicking off another year of Sunday School for children – Pre-School thru Grade Five. All are welcome to join us beginning **September 18<sup>th</sup>** at **9:40 AM** in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

We will be using a new curriculum entitled "*Feasting on the Word*". It is a lectionary based curriculum which means that the Bible reading that are used in worship on that Sunday morning serve as the basis for the lessons the children will be learning during Sunday School. For September, they are:

- 2 September 18 – "Streetwise" – Luke 16:1-13
- 2 September 25 – "Be Warned Now" – Luke 16:19-31

We continue to be in need of adult volunteers who would be willing to teach a segment of Sunday School – a two, three or four week commitment. Please contact our Outreach Minister, Yvonne Steindal immediately to help. A multitude of adults sharing their faith with children is what it takes to instill the faith in the next generation. It is the single most important ministry we do!

## **Spotlight on Confirmation...**

We are looking forward to a new year of Confirmation for our Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Youth. Sixth and Seventh Grade Youth will be together in one group. They will be doing a year-long study of the Bible using the **re:form Ancestors** curriculum. Eighth Grade Youth will be in their own group. They will do a study of the Apostle's Creed followed by various Lutheran Living topics. The curriculum they will be using is entitled **coLABorate**. All Youth will be using the **CoLABorate** Bible.

All Confirmation Youth will gather regularly with their Faith Mentors. There will be several Faith Mentor Nights as well as Parent/Youth Servant Events throughout the school year. Faith Mentors will also meet with their Confirmation Youth during the six weeks of Lent for a meal, worship and guided conversation.

Eighth Grade Youth will prepare for their day of Confirmation by writing a Faith Statement and preparing a Faith Board. These will be presented at a special worship service on the Wednesday prior to their Sunday Confirmation.

There will be an Orientation Meeting for Families on Wednesday, **September 7<sup>th</sup>**. Confirmation Learning Events will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>. The first BIG activity will be the participation of Confirmation families in **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday** on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Thank You...**

Dear CLF,

Just a quick note of thanks for helping us with the Gifts for Grace benefit on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The place, help and prayer were all beautiful. Thank you, thanks you! God Bless! ~ Ann Dvorak ~

## Notes from the Parish Nurse...

Can you believe it? Summer is winding down and I am not at all ready for that yet. There has been much talk & warnings concerning the Zika virus. Even though we don't have many mosquitoes in our area, we get people coming from places all around our country & abroad. The main thing we can do is good respiratory care, cover your mouth when ever coughing or sneezing. Wash your hands frequently. You don't need to use a sanitary solution, good old soap & water does a great job. School is beginning and sports. Make sure your child gets an annual & sports exam, as we've witnessed that a person will not exhibit signs of illness, but when they start to add extra stamina, they may collapse. At times they will die and most often it is a defect in their heart. So have your child evaluated. Our Health Ministry Team is resuming meetings in September. If you ever have a topic you would like to learn about let me know. Also we are looking for a few more people to join our group. And please let me know if you have been in the hospital or your health has been declining. I will visit you to be sure you have everything you need to get through those times. Stay Healthy!

Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse  
673-4424



## Mental Health News...

We again are trying to get a NAMI Connection group going. I just can't tell you enough how it helped me during difficult times as well as my family. There is a family group & Family to Family group in Rapid City. You can get that info on line at nami.org. We will have a meeting in September on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM** at the library meeting room in back. At least give it a try for a few weeks to see if it is helpful to you. Everything is kept confidential. The meeting is led by 2 facilitators who keep the meeting running smoothly. We have had only one person show up once and I guess I just can't believe there are not more people in need.

Healthy Mind, Healthy Life....

Mary Klein RN,  
Parish Nurse

Dear Custer Lutheran Fellowship Congregation,

Custer Seniors MEALS just completed our federal fiscal year. We want to thank you for the generous financial and volunteer support of this program.

Our numbers were great for this little town. In the past year we delivered 2,547 meals into homes, allowing seniors to stay in their homes longer and to be released from the hospital/nursing home sooner as caregivers know that one complete balanced meal would be received and a personal contact made each day. Thank you drivers! We also served 4,099 congregate meals, so **our total this past year was 6,645 meals.** The support of your church makes this ministry possible. Thank you!

Volunteers from your church have included: Les McClanahan, Nina Nielsen, Dave Hansen, Phil Lewison, Terry Reetz, Lois Anderson, Mark Hogg, Mike & Sara Janson and I am sure there is someone I forgot to mention, but he/she is known by the Lord.

Other churches, businesses and individuals in this community also generously contribute their time to help prepare, serve and deliver meals. Everyone is needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Monica Whiting  
Custer Site Manager



**Council Minutes – August 23, 2016**

*Treasurer's Report* — Lisa Fluck reviewed the treasurer's report and the line items that are currently over on our budget. Lisa will look into some issues and get back to council. A motion was made and the financial report was approved.

*Special Agenda Items – Carpet Committee Report* – Paul Larson gave a report for the committee. The committee is getting bids from three different suppliers. Paul informed members of some of the options they have looked at. Members discussed. Paul and his committee will have a carpet proposal by mid October so that we can begin to discuss it with the congregation. Paul distributed his Property Team Purpose and Responsibilities document, members approved and thanked him for his work on forming and developing this committee.

*Unfinished Business:*

- Ø **Memorial List** – no updates.
- Ø **Thrivent Choice** – August amount – \$244.00 / \$2,663
- Ø **Pastor Tom Exit Interview** – President Dave Thom reviewed his report from the interview. Members discussed. This will be forwarded to the call committee.
- Ø **Sunday Worship Service Schedule beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Yvonne recommended that we return to two worship services 8:30AM and 10:00AM. She discussed the pros and cons of one and two services. Members discussed. Harold Snow made a motion that we return to two services starting September 18<sup>th</sup>, it was seconded and carried.
- Ø **Pulpit Supply Update** – Yvonne reported that she has been able to schedule pulpit supply through November.
- Ø **Friday Office Hours** – Yvonne reported that with the slow traffic during Fridays that she didn't think it was worth the cost to staff the office on this day. She has had only one emergency in all the time she has worked in the office on Friday. Members discussed the options of keeping the office open. Duane made a motion that we discontinue Friday office hours to see how this works; the answering machine will have a forwarding message for emergencies. It was seconded and carried.
- Ø **Tom's Salary and Budget** – Lisa and Donna will get together to calculate the numbers of how the absence of Pastor Tom's salary will affect the budget and present it at our September meeting. Yvonne reminded members that we will have extra expenses as part of the call process such as interview travel expenses.
- Ø **WNL Adult Education** – Yvonne reported that Craig will be willing to teach adult education this fall. She suggested that this would be a good thing for the interim minister to take over at the beginning of the year.
- Ø **Outreach Minister Duties** – President Thom, Lisa and Harold will arrange a meeting to redefine Yvonne's duties for this time of transition.

*New Business:*

- Ø **Membership Changes** – None – Yvonne will hold a new member class October 9<sup>th</sup> with a new member reception on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. She would like to include long timers in this get together between services on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Send names/addresses of anyone that is interested in joining CLF to Yvonne and she will send them an invitation.
- Ø **Attendance/Financial Statistics** – members reviewed the numbers. Thanks to Donna for doing this. It was requested that Donna continue to do this as we work on evaluating our needs for our new call.
- Ø **Fall Stewardship Drive** – President Thom reviewed the Fall Stewardship Drive scheduled to begin with a temple talk by President Thom on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and ending with Faith Commitment Sunday on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Members discussed.
- Ø **Synod Capital Appeal** – President Thom is meeting with Lonnie Hosman, our leader for the Synod Capital Appeal, to discuss how they will incorporate this Synod Appeal with our own Stewardship Drive.
- Ø **Sound System Control** – President Thom spoke with members about Steve Baldwin's email concerning the repair/upgrade of the sound system. Harold Snow made a motion that we approve this expense. Donna will look to see how we might finance this expenditure in our budget.
- Ø **Call Process & Projected Timeline** – President Thom reviewed the Synod document, "Steps in Seeking a New Pastor." Brad will be enlarging this timeline document and post it in the Narthex. Members discussed. Council will assign a call committee (8-10 people) at our October meeting; members should think about who they think would be good members to serve on this committee. Remember that this will require a long term commitment. President Thom will put in the newsletter that anyone interested should contact a council member.
- Ø **Vitality Survey** – President Thom discussed how we might use this in step 4 of the Synod document. Members discussed.
- Ø **Interim Pastoral Coverage** – Yvonne spoke with members about interim pastoral coverage. She suggested we look for someone part-time. She presented a possible name to members. Members discussed. Brad will do some more research on this, make some calls and develop a list of names for the council to consider.

(continued next page)

## ELW Devotions from the Daily Lectionary

Pentecost 16:

Thursday, September 1: Psalm 1; Genesis 39:1-23; Philippians 2:25-30  
 Friday, September 2: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 7:12-26; Colossians 4:7-17  
 Saturday, September 3: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 29:2-20; Matthew 10:34-42  
 Sunday, September 4: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33  
 Monday, September 5: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 17:24-41; 1 Timothy 3:14—4:5  
 Tuesday, September 6: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 18:9-18; 1 Timothy 4:6-16  
 Wednesday, September 7: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7; Luke 9:43b-48

Pentecost 17:

Thursday, September 8: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:1-11  
 Friday, September 9: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-10a  
 Saturday, September 10: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 8:20—9:7; John 10:11-21  
 Sunday, September 11: Psalm 51:1-10; Exodus 32:7-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10  
 Monday, September 12: Psalm 73; Amos 7:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:18-20  
 Tuesday, September 13: Psalm 73; Jonah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 3:8-13  
 Wednesday, September 14: Psalm 73; Job 40:6-24; 42:1-6; Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

Pentecost 18:

Thursday, September 15: Psalm 113; Exodus 23:1-9; Romans 3:1-8  
 Friday, September 16: Psalm 113; Ezekiel 22:17-31; Romans 8:31-39  
 Saturday, September 17: Psalm 113; Isaiah 5:8-23; Mark 12:41-44  
 Sunday, September 18: Psalm 113; Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13  
 Monday, September 19: Psalm 12; Proverbs 14:12-31; Acts 4:1-12  
 Tuesday, September 20: Psalm 12; Proverbs 17:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23  
 Wednesday, September 21: Psalm 12; Proverbs 21:10-16; Luke 20:45—21:4

Pentecost 19:

Thursday, September 22: Psalm 146; Proverbs 22:2-16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15  
 Friday, September 23: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10  
 Saturday, September 24: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:11-28; Luke 9:43b-58  
 Sunday, September 25: Psalm 146; Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:6—19; Luke 16-19-31  
 Monday, September 26: Psalm 62; Amos 6:8-14; Revelation 3:14-22  
 Tuesday, September 27: Psalm 62; Hosea 10:9-15; James 5:1-6  
 Wednesday, September 28: Psalm 62; Hosea 12:2-14; Matthew 19:16-22

Pentecost 20:

Thursday, September 29: Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Kings 18:1-8, 28-36; Revelation 2:8-11  
 Friday, September 30: Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37; Revelation 2:12-29  
 Saturday, October 1: Psalm 37:1-9; Isaiah 7:1-9; Matthew 20:29-34  
 Sunday, October 2: Psalm 37:1-9; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10  
 Monday, October 3: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 1:5-17; James 1:2-11  
 Tuesday, October 4: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:5-11; 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21  
 Wednesday, October 5: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:12-20; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

*Reflections on Mission and Ministry*

- Ø **Pastor's Report** – members can read Pastor Tom's report at their leisure.
- Ø **Outreach Minister Report** – Yvonne shared her report with members. She is now recording her work hours during the week. Yvonne shared that the Churchwide Assembly voted to unify the three rosters (one that Yvonne is a member of) to one, called Deacon. Yvonne will take over doing communion at the nursing home. Day camp had 46 children and went very well. Yvonne interviewed and has appointed a middle school student, Denali Rusch, as her Children's Ministry Assistant for the year.

*Committee & Ministry Team Concerns:*

- Ø **WELCA** – Yvonne reported that they have been doing some wonderful cleaning in the kitchen. They had a speaker at their last meeting.
- Ø **Social Ministry & Outreach** – Yvonne reported that the teams have been working on the "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will be sent out to first responders in our community this week.
- Ø **Worship & Music** – Yvonne, Margaret and Marlene have met and scheduled the music through December.
- Ø **Youth** – Carol reported that much wood has been split and donations have come in from the wood sale. Proceeds go to youth programs. Carol is working on organizing and scheduling the RAP trip to Germany May 28 - June 6, 2017. There will be a meeting for those participating in the trip in September.



**Custer Lutheran Fellowship, ELCA**  
**12622 US Hwy 16A**  
**Custer. SD 57730**

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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**

Pastor:

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 Schleinig & Ann Snow

Treasurer: Lisa Fluck

**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**