

Crossroads

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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New Picture Directory!



A new church directory is being planned at Custer Lutheran Fellowship. You're invited to be a part of the new picture directory in these ways:

- ü Come have your picture taken on one of these dates:
 - 2 **Sundays, March 5th & 12th — between and after late service**
 - 2 **Wednesdays, March 8th & 15th — starting at 5 PM**

*Denny and Paul have graciously offered their time and if you bring a blank CD/flash-drive to your photo shoot, you can have a **FREE DIGITAL COPY OF YOUR PHOTO SUITABLE FOR ENLARGEMENTS!** Denny and Paul **WILL NOT BE SELLING PRINTS**, but you will be able to take the digital copy to any photo lab for color prints/enlargements.*
- ü Or... You can submit a photo (preferably in digital format) either by emailing (clf@gwtc.net) or by bringing it in to the office during regular hours.



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

(by Kim Canete)

The Ministry Site Profile has been completed and submitted to SD Synod Support to Ministries.

The next step is the Ministry Site Study. One synod staff member and two Support to Ministry members lead a congregational meeting. This study offers the opportunity for church members to share their thoughts on CLF and its ministry and what they hope to see in our new pastor. This study has not yet been scheduled. Look for the date to be announced in the near future. Please make a good effort to attend this meeting.

In anticipation of the Ministry Site Study, Call Committee members are seeking feedback from the congregation through several small groups. We realize many people will not be able to make the Study so we are going to you in your smaller groups to hear what you have to say. If you do participate in a discussion in a small group, please, still attend the Study when it is scheduled. Included in this newsletter are the questions that will be asked at the Ministry Site Study. If you like, you can fill it out and return it to one of the Call Committee members who are: Steve Baldwin, Kim Canete, Ember Fluck, Jackie Hartwick, Barb Lewison, Stephanie Ornelas, Dave Thom, Mark Thompson, Richard Tucker and Nathan Weiderholt.

The information from the Ministry Site Profile and from the Ministry Site Study is shared with Support to Ministries to be presented to potential pastors. Once this process has been completed and our profile released we will be ready to receive applications for our open pastor position.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Council President Dave Thom or Call Committee Chair Kim Canete.



Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast/Book Study

We will meet the **first Saturday of each month at 8 AM** in the Fireside Room at CLF. Breakfast will be served then we will hold study and discussion. The plan is to be done by 10 AM. We will be studying the book *"What We Talk About When We Talk About God"* by Rob Bell. Our first meeting is **Saturday, February 4th**. Books will be available at the study for \$10. If you have any questions contact Allen Canete 673-3753.

THURSDAY CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY GROUP...

Feel free to join our weekly Christian Book Study any time! We gather on Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. And of course, there are always coffee and treats. There is no need to prepare for anything because we read aloud from the book we have selected. Our reading is regularly interrupted with questions, thoughts and

reflections. It is a very fun and free-flowing discussion. We grow together as we challenge one another, disagree with one another, share our life and faith experiences and laugh a lot! It surely is something special.

This is a great time to join us because we are starting a new book - Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy. This is the story of the remarkable response of the Amish community to the horrific shooting of ten school girls in 2006. "In a world where religion spawns so much violence and vengeance, the surprising act of Amish forgiveness begs for deeper consideration."

Join us for some great conversation. We can share books. Deepen your faith. And discover people who you will come to know as friends...



NEED A GOOD LAUGH? By Phil Lewison

3-H Club will meet on **Sunday, February 12th** from 1:30 to 2:30 PM. Note that it is a week earlier than usual. We will hear Garrison Keillor's 35th Anniversary News from Lake Wobegon. There will be some more fireman jokes. Come for a spirit lift!

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD...



This school year our children's mission project is the ELCA's **God's Global Barnyard** project. A pig in the pen is money in the bank! A piglet is a perfect financial investment for many people around the world. That's because within month a little piglet can grow to nearly 200 pounds. That means a great price at the market. If a family has a failed harvest, medical expenses or other unexpected needs, a full grown pig can be cashed in to make all difference!

So, join our children and give a gift to our *"Noisy Offering"* on Sunday, **February 12th**. This will be our special "Hogs & Kisses" Valentine's emphasis. Children will receive some special take-home items to remind them of the importance of pigs in **God's Global Barnyard**. At the close of the Children's Message – children will collect your coins, bills and checks and place these gifts in our special *"Noisy Offering"* cream can. Thank you for your support!

Mark this date on your calendar...

XYZ will meet on **Saturday, February 11th, 5:30 PM** at CLF for a Potluck—please bring a dish to share and your own service. In the meantime, be thinking about your favorite love song...it will be a fun fellowship evening!

What is XYZ? XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) is open to anyone 55 or older to get together for fun and fellowship. In October, we decorated pumpkins; November we shared a Thanksgiving meal; December we enjoyed a "night out" at Crazy Horse and in January we had a potluck and played board games. We're always open to new suggestions for activities or events. Please come and join in the fellowship!

Put Your Money Where Your Feet Are!

The **February 15th Wednesday NightLife meal** will be a fundraiser for the flooring project. The meal will be a "Potato Bar". We will have baked potatoes and all kinds of toppings to put on them. We are asking people to help bring the toppings. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center with what is needed. All money received that night will go towards Phase 2 of the flooring project which is to install Karndean vinyl plank in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and the Hallway west to the double doors. To do this, we will need \$22,510. The amount we have raised so far for this phase is \$11,093 so we still need \$11,417. It would be nice to have this phase completed some time during this year, so come and bring your appetite!!

Care & share...

These are the monthly Care & Share groups for February and March. 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 February sign-up sheet is already located at the Welcome Center and the March sheet will be available at the Welcome Center around the middle of February.

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



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

*** Calling Coordinators**

February—Yvonne Steindal
March—Brad McKinney

FEBRUARY	MARCH
Arny & Delores Anderson	Ralph & Pat Bueschel
Allen & Kim Canete	Chiara Cahambing
Nate & Erin Chowning	Jackie Hartwick
Linda & Gene Fennell	Karen & Monni Karim
Matt Haugen	Don & Karen Kraus
Darwin & Jerilee Hoeft	Marlys Lefevre
Dale & Donna Karsky	Linda Markegard
Liz Kleffner	Scott Olson
Blaine & Joey Kortemeyer	Matt & Steph Ornelas
Craig Lewis & Yvonne Steindal	Lonnie & Sarah Schryvers
Rick March	Barb Severin
John & Rae Mooney	Harold & Ann Snow
Fred & Mary Rittberger	Sott & Lori Svoboda
Karen Schleining	Amber & Jarred Yates
Lavina Shoop	Dean & Paula Young
Dave & Sharon Smith	Craig & Roberta Walz
Janet Twedt	Tim & Tammy Wicks

Please notify Interim Pastor, Pat or 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.

Pat Eidsness, Interim Pastor
605-584-0028 673-4691 (church)
pat_clf@gwtc.net

Yvonne Steindal, Outreach Minister
605-593-6165 (cell)
yvonne_clf@gwtc.net

Wednesday NightLife ...

Join us every week for our Wednesday NightLife program. The schedule is as follows:

- a 4:00 PM – We always need help with last minute preparations – which includes filling water pitchers, making lemonade, setting out food items, plates and utensils. Please come and help as you are able.
- a 5:05 PM – **SPARK Kids** set all the tables with salt & pepper, water glasses and a pitcher of water.
- a 5:15 PM – A spoken grace is shared before we eat. The meal schedule for this month is:
 - 2 February 1 – Lynn's DakotaMart Chicken & Family Potluck (Every family is invited to bring something to share!)
 - 2 February 8 – Meal prepared by Craig Lewis. Craig makes every effort to provide gluten-free options on the Wednesdays he cooks. Please let him know if you have other health related dietary issues.
 - 2 February 15 – Meal prepared by Donna McConnell & Mickey Schlecht—it will be a "Potato Bar" fundraiser to support the "Put Your Money Where Your Feet Are" flooring project. See separate newsletter article for details.
 - 2 February 22 – Meal prepared by Craig Lewis.
- a 5:45 PM – Grace is sung and Announcements are made. Confirmation families who are assigned Clean-Up for that night can begin their work.
- a 6:00 PM – Bell is rung for Worship!
- a 6:30 PM – Confirmation and Adult Learning Classes
- a 7:30 PM – Choir Practice

Love is Greater...

One of my favorite on-line stores is *Old Lutheran* (www.oldlutheran.com). They have a lot of fun and funny stuff. Recently, they came out with a number of products (t-shirts, bumper stickers, mugs, signs) with the theme of **Love is Greater**. The t-shirt I want to get is a simple grey in color. Love and the mathematical “greater than” sign are in red. The words on the other side of that math symbol are all in black. And so it reads like this...

Love is Greater than ...

Grief. History. Hopelessness. Anger. Hate. Hunger.
Jealousy. Shame. Money. Despair. Defensiveness.
Status. Fear. Tradition.

Let's be honest. We live in a world consumed with hate. We are perpetrators of that hate. This is not a political statement. This is a statement about our humanity. We have entirely lost sight of Jesus' words. In fact, our own actions indicate that we don't even believe them anymore. *“Jesus said – ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*(Matthew 22:37-39)

Wow. You will notice that Jesus does not give any qualifiers in these commandments. He does not link loving God or our neighbor to agreeing with each other or skin color or language or religion or politics or gender or economics. Jesus commands our love. Maybe that is what we really have trouble with. We are a people who hate to be told what to do. We pride ourselves on our individualism. And once again, the Christian faith revealed to us through the words of Jesus in scripture (not what televangelists preach or the media reports) says clearly – without a doubt – that love happens in community – among our neighbors and with our God. Doing love is our responsibility – our mission – as followers of Jesus.

So, it is ironic to me that we are now in February – the month when love is sold by Hallmark, candy companies, florists and jewelers. Because when we do talk about love – we find ourselves loving everything with equal zeal. We love America, football, chocolate along with our mothers, husbands, children and pets. But, is that the love which Jesus commands?

I am just like you. I was pretty clueless about what love even looked like. I remember being genuinely surprised to discover that my parents loved each other even fifty years after their wedding day. I remember them loudly disagreeing with each other as I was growing up. It didn't seem like love to me. I was sure that love had more to do with flowers, wine and laughter – all in slow motion. And, sometimes it was – but most of the time – not so much.

I learned to understand love when I watched my father as my mother slip deeper into Alzheimer's. Many times it wasn't fun to watch. But, my father took seriously the promises he had made so very long ago. He was relentless in his commitment to my mother. He insisted that he would care for her and keep her at home as long as possible. He would hold her hand and tease her out of her dark moods. He kept going even on those days that she wasn't quite sure who he was. Many days were not go good days, but my father stuck with it. That's when I began to realize that in reality love is hard work, commitment and the keeping of promises.

And that's what we have to work towards. Fortunately we have an example of that. God's relationship with us is a lot like that. God is relentless in his commitment to us. God takes seriously those promises He made at our baptisms. And, despite our dark moods, our selfishness, our continual screw-ups, God perseveres. God loves us despite ourselves. God loves us even when we refuse or are unable to love Him in return. God never gives up on us.

All I can say at a time like this – where it seems that hate is greater than love in our world – thank God for God's enduring grace. May we all come to know the unyielding power of God's love in our own lives and then turn towards the neighbors all around us with that kind of love. And friends, it's going to take a lot of hard work and commitment. We are going to have to do exactly the opposite of what the world tells us to do. Jesus commands it.

Okay – I am off to put in my order for my own **Love is Greater** t- shirt now.....

Blessings,

Yvonne L.D. Steindal, Outreach Minister





W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:

NEXT MEETING:

WHEN: Monday, February 27th, 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room

HOSTESSES: Barb Lewison & Bonnie Thompson

PROGRAM: Marty & Colleen Mahrt will give an update about the happenings at Operation Black Hills Cabin.

At our meeting in January we reviewed CLF's W/ELCA Constitution. We also had discussion and answered questions pertaining to the Ministry Site study that will done as part of the process to call a new pastor.

The W/ELCA Auction of Talents will take place on **Sunday, March 26th** between services. In the past, this event has been supported by the congregation in two ways. Both by making and donating items to be sold at the auction and by providing a lively audience during the auction. Our auctioneers, Alan Webster and Paul Heinert keep things moving in a fun way. We thank everyone in advance for your support of this event that makes it possible for us to support our local missions as well as needs that occur throughout the state, country and world. We are looking forward to March 26th! Hope to see you there!

Quilting resumed again on every Tuesday at 9:00 AM. There is something for every talent. A person does not need to be a quilter to help! Quilting is a huge outreach from our group! On Wednesday, January 25th, the quilters shared their skills with the children that attend SPARK Kids. The boys and girls were given the opportunity to see how the blocks that go together to make the quilts were cut. Then by groups, they laid the blocks into a pattern to form a quilt. They helped to pin the binding on a quilt that was ready to be finished. The quilters also had several quilts ready to be tied. The children were able to tie knots in the blocks to hold the quilts together. Everyone was happy with the outcome of the afternoon. The boys and girls did a fine job!

Bingo at Custer Senior Care—The first Friday of each month 4-5 people gather to call and help residents enjoy an hour of Bingo from 2—3 PM. We welcome new people to join us! If you have old jewelry to donate that would fit over their head, they love that. Any questions, please call Arbutus Winter, 673-5283.

A reminder that the inmates at St Dysmas crochet stocking caps. If you have yarn to contribute to this cause, please leave it in the office with Donna.

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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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January—March Mission Project: Quilts for LWR & Local Needs



- # Thread
- # Cotton fabric suitable for making quilts
- # Cotton blankets, and/or mattress pads for inside quilts

Your donations may be left in the Sewing Room.

Lent begins March 1st...

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on March 1st**. On that date our WNL meal will change to soup suppers. So on that note...

Help is Needed for soup suppers....

We gather for a simple, but hearty meal of soup and bread from 5:15—6 PM on Wednesdays in Lent from March 1st through April 5th. If you'd like to take on cooking as a discipline of prayer during Lent, please consider signing up to bring a batch of soup one of these weeks! Bread is also needed and set-up and clean-up crews. Sign-up sheets will be at the Welcome Center soon.





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

CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB
 Volunteers are needed for the CLF/CSC-that's the "Clean Sidewalk Club." There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex for week days or week-ends. There are two spaces for each grouping. Thanks!!



Office hours.....

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

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

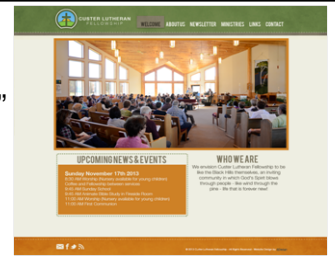


Volunteers Needed...

We are in need of volunteers to help with the Nursery and Sound System on Sunday mornings. Both positions involve one Sunday a month at either the early or late service. The Sound System includes running the PowerPoint and recording the sermon besides managing the Sound Board. Don't worry though...we will train you on the sound system!! If you are interested in helping with these two areas or have questions, please contact the church office.

CLF website offers online giving options...

On Custer Lutheran Fellowship's website, 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 December, 2016

	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Offering Contributions	\$ 347,706.30	\$ 375,000.00	\$ (27,293.70)	92.7%
Special Offerings (Thrivent Choice)	\$ 3,911.00	\$	\$	
Special Offerings/Unbudgeted Missions	\$ 1,173.44	\$ 1,700.00	\$ (526.56)	69.0%
Additional Debt Retirement	\$ 550.00	\$	\$	
Youth House Building Sale	\$ 0.00	\$ 17,270.89	\$ (17,270.89)	0.0%
Sunday School Offerings	\$ 585.00	\$	\$	
Elementary Ministry Support	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 7,350.00	\$ (3,675.00)	50.0%
J Olson Trust	\$ 2,021.22	\$ 8,084.86	\$ (6,063.64)	25.0%
Custer Highlands Property Sale	\$ 11,509.60	\$	\$	
Total Income	\$ 371,131.56	\$ 409,405.75	\$ (38,274.19)	90.7%
Expense				
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 150,958.56	\$ 178,739.00	\$ (27,780.44)	84.5%
Worship	\$ 10,002.68	\$ 11,616.00	\$ (1,613.32)	86.1%
Education	\$ 6,094.47	\$ 5,550.00	\$ 544.47	109.8%
Mission Support	\$ 40,941.87	\$ 38,907.00	\$ 2,034.87	105.2%
Support/Care	\$ 159,513.82	\$ 178,431.00	\$ (18,917.18)	89.4%
Total Expense	\$ 367,511.40	\$ 413,243.00	\$ (45,731.60)	88.9%

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.

- ² Every month the children will be collecting for our **Noisy Offering**. These gifts will go to support "God's Global Barnyard" and will be collected throughout the school year. At our January Sunday School Retreat, the children spent time learning about this year's Mission Project.
- ² Thank you to these folks who drove for **SPARK Kids** in January: Donna McConnell, Augie Heyne, Gary Roberts and Anita Swanson. Also a BIG shout out of thanks to those who helped to lead and assist with the children: Arbutus Winter, Pat Hattervig, Denali Rusch, Charlie Sersen and Anita Swanson.
- ² **SPARK Kids** learned about quilting and helped the Quilters with several tasks. Many thanks for Arbutus Winter for securing a Thrivent Grant to make this special Service and Learning Project possible.
- ² **Wednesday NightLife** family meals are a great way to gather our community. We give thanks to those who have been helping– SPARK Kids, Cozy Dorton & Barb Lewison, Craig Lewis, Donna McConnell & Mickey Schlecht.
- ² We give thanks for those who are led **Adult Education** and **Confirmation** learning on Wednesday Nights: Kim Canete, Pat Eidsness, Catherine Harding and Craig Lewis.
- ² We give thanks for all the adults who serve as **Faith Mentors** for our Confirmation Youth. In January we held a Faith Mentor night in which youth and adults "traveled" around the church seasons calendar. In seven stops they experienced the church seasons through interactive learning such as devotions, puzzles, readings and more.
- ² The **RAP Group** (High School Youth) and their families continue to work hard splitting and hauling wood on site in preparation for their journey to Germany for the 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation.

Notes from the Parish Nurse...

Hope this finds you warm and healthy. We don't realize how important our health is until something happens to you or a loved one. We have had a number of problems in our families & friends so it is close to home. Please let me know if you are facing a problem with yourself or a loved one & I will try my best to help you through it. My visits, along with communion on the first Sunday of the month, has been going well and if you feel this would benefit you, please contact me. Our Health Ministry Team has started working on our next presentation which will most likely be in March. We plan to have a discussion on how our lives change in so many ways as we age. It's not just your health but countless other ways. We will see what we can do to make this transition easier. A date, time and place will be in the next newsletter. Healthy body, healthy soul...

Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse
Health Ministry Team

Mental Health News...

What is Obsessive/ Compulsive Disorder? This is a form of Mental Illness not often talked about except in jest. This can make life very difficult for the person as well as those in their life. Almost every action throughout has to be calculated & a system followed by routine. The person may need to check the locks on their door 4-6 times to be certain they locked the door. Every day of the week may have to be dedicated to certain activities. They may have difficulty in strange places as they are out of their comfort zone. These are just a few examples. Their lives become entangled with rituals that dictate how they must live. Yes, there is hope with the proper treatment such as talk therapy, behavioral therapy and medication. Our next NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) meeting is on February 13th. They are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Library meeting room in the back from 6:00-7:00 PM. If you have questions, please contact me. (673-4424).

Healthy mind, healthy soul...
Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse

Thank You!!

Thank you to the following people: Ginny Myers, Mickey Schlecht, Lois Anderson, Anita Swanson, Bonnie Thompson, Pat Hattervig, Charlie Sersen, Denali Rusch and Yvonne Steindal. They helped with the Thrivent sponsored project "Teaching the SPARK Kids about the ministry of quilts, why it's important and where they are given". All of you made it special for me as well as the children. God Bless.... ~ Arbutus Winter

SPARK Kids...

SPARK Kids is in full swing for the second half of the school year! Children are picked up every Wednesday afternoon after school and brought to church for all the fun. Our fast paced afternoon of learning activities includes Bible stories, snacks, stories, games, arts and crafts and more. Check out all the fun we have on CLF's Facebook page. We post photos of what we have been doing every week.

At 5:00 pm **SPARK Kids** help to set up for our weekly Wednesday NightLife meal. Children and their families are invited to stay and eat together. Afterwards there is a brief time of worship. We are done by 6:30 PM.

We welcome any children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 who would like to participate in **SPARK Kids**. You do not need to be a member of Custer Lutheran Fellowship to be a part of it. We do need to get some information to register children. Please contact the Church Office at 673-4691 and we will get that material to parents.

The upcoming Bible stories and themes in February are as follows:

- ^a February 1– *“People of Memory and Hope”* – Genesis 2:4b-3:24, Deuteronomy 6:4
- ^a February 8 – *“The People Want a King”* - Deuteronomy 17: 14-20; 1st Samuel 7, 8, 10: 17-27, 15, 16: 1-13; 2nd Samuel 11:1-12:15, 1 Kings 10:14-11:13; 1 Chronicles 18: 14
- ^a February 15 – *“God Sends Prophets”* - 1 Kings 12:1-25; Isaiah 1: 10-20, 65: 17-25; Amos 5: 21-24, 8: 4-8; Joel 2:13; Micah 3:5, 4:1-4; Jeremiah 14:14-16, 31:32
- ^a February 22 – *“Babylon: A New Wilderness School”* - Genesis 12: 1-3; 2 Kings 25; Lamentations 5:1; Isaiah 1: 10-21,30:1-5, 35, 40:1-11, 42:1-4, 43: 1-28, 49:1-26; 53:1-12, 60: 1-3, 66:18; Jeremiah 7: 1-11, 31:31-34; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Micah 4:1-4

Sunday School News...

For the next several months children thru Grade 5 are invited to participate in a monthly Sunday School “Retreat”. (This is instead of a weekly Sunday School program.) This is a fun time to spend a small chunk of time with friends learning about the faith in a different way.

The next retreat is scheduled for **Sunday, February 19th from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM**. We will begin by having lunch together. Afterwards Wendi Rusch will lead a time of learning entitled “God Loves Us & Loving Others”. It will be hands-on experience of learning through stories, games, crafts and more.

We can't wait to have all children be a part of this time together. Invite your friends!

We still are in need of adult volunteers who would be willing to lead a Sunday School Retreat in March or April. Please contact our Outreach Minister, Yvonne Steindal to help. You can plan your own program OR we can provide curriculum and materials for you. Just let us know!

Spotlight on Confirmation...

Sixth and Seventh Grade Youth are exploring New Testament characters using the **re:form Ancestors** curriculum. Catherine Harding and Craig Lewis are sharing teaching responsibilities. Eighth Grade Youth are studying various Lutheran Living topics using the **coLABorate** curriculum. Yvonne Steindal, Outreach Minister, will be leading this group.

The second **Parent Night** will be held on Wednesday, **February 15th**. All Confirmation Youth and their parents will gather together on that night for a Servant Event. We will be having a Scavenger Hunt to collect items for The Storehouse. This will be a competition between the grades and there will be prizes!

On Sunday, **February 19th** there will be a meeting of all **Faith Mentors** to prepare for the Lenten Conversations with Confirmation Youth. We will meet between worship services (9:30 AM) in the Fireside Room. Ash Wednesday is **March 1st** and is the start of the Lenten season. Faith Mentors and Confirmation Youth will gather together for a meal, worship and a guided conversation all six Wednesdays of Lent.

Put this on your family calendars NOW! The **Middle School Retreat** at Outlaw Ranch will be held the weekend of **March 3-4**. The theme is **“ECHO ECHO echo....”** God's Word for us is sometimes loud, sometimes quiet, but it always echoes in our world. We'll look at how our Catechism helps us echo God's Word, how we as the body of Christ are echoes of Jesus, and how we can help other people hear those echoes. Come enjoy the beauty of camp and learn about God's Word in our lives through games, worship, Bible studies, outdoor activities, an outdoor service project, hanging out with friends and more. The cost will be \$58 per person. We have monies available for anyone who wants to participate.

Annual Meeting Highlights—January 29, 2017...

- **Good food, fellowship and meeting! Thanks to all who attended!**

Elections and Appointments:

- Congregation Council—Rosemary Chappell, Anita Swanson & Liz Mertz
- President—Dave Thom
- Vice-President—Rex Jorgensen
- Synod Assembly—Jackie Hartwick, Craig Lewis & Bonnie Thompson
- Nominating—Lonnie Hosman & Linda Zachow
- Finance—Allen Canete & Blaine Kortemeyer
- Endowment Fund—Liz Kleffner & Camille Riner

2017 Mission Plan/Budget—The 2017 Budget was presented by Lonnie Hosman. He explained that our income for 2016 was \$23,000 less than budgeted and was \$39,000 less than 2015 and \$95,000 less from 2014. Changes for 2017 include: 1.5% salary increases; total mission support will remain the same as 2016 but adding \$2,000 for Synod Capital Appeal.

The projected expenses for 2017 are \$23,000 less than 2016—this is due to the fact that we will not have a full time pastor next year. The one-time money that is leftover from the 2016 budget will not be needed until 2018 when we do have a full time pastor. **MSC** to approve the 2017 Mission Plan/Budget.

Old Business:

- **Eagle Scout Projects & Thank You's**—Eagle Scout projects of landscaping & playground equipment were completed in 2015. There were none done in 2016.
- **SD Synod Capital Campaign**—this is to support seminary debt reduction and new church start-ups. We will do something with this in March during Lent.
- **Sale of Custer Highlands Property**—We agreed to accept \$14,000 minus fees. We received \$11,510 after the fees were deducted.

New Business:

- **Endowment Committee**—the committee recommended to give the Rap Group \$6,500 for their Germany trip. **MSC**
- **Call Committee**—Kim Canete spoke about the processes involved. The Ministry Site Profile has been completed and submitted to the Synod. They have been meeting with committees and small groups to ask them the Ministry Site Study questions. Next step is to schedule the study with the Synod.
- **Flooring Committee**—Mickey Schlecht spoke on the progress of the flooring. To date, we have raised \$19,200.66 and spent \$8,107.53 leaving a balance of \$11,093.13 for phase 2.
- **CLF Energy Plan**—Carol Laverick spoke about our lighting project “Let Your Light Shine” which was held last year during Lent and will be again this year during Lent.
- **Financial Secretary**—we will need someone to replace Karen Schleining as Financial Secretary by summer as she is moving to Iowa in June.

Installation of new council members and officers was held.

2017 Approved Mission Plan & Budget

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	
Income			
Offering Contributions	\$ 347,706	\$ 350,000	The detailed budget can be found in the annual report. Copies are available in the Narthex.
Special Offerings	\$ 3,911	\$ 0	
Special Offerings/Unbudgeted Miss	\$ 1,173	\$ 0	
Additional Debt Retirement	\$ 550	\$ 0	
J Olson Trust	\$ 2,021	\$ 0	
Elementary Ministry Support	\$ 3,675	\$ 0	
Sunday School Offerings	\$ 585	\$ 0	
From Youth House Sales	\$ 17,271	\$ 0	
From Custer Highlands Property Sale	\$ 11,510	\$ 0	
Total Income	\$ 371,132	\$ 350,000	
Expense			
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 150,959	\$ 109,316	
Worship	\$ 10,003	\$ 10,904	
Education	\$ 6,094	\$ 5,950	
Mission Support	\$ 40,942	\$ 41,514	
Stewardship/Care	\$ 76,531	\$ 80,014	
Facility	\$ 82,982	\$ 95,882	
Total Expense	\$ 367,512	\$ 343,580	

Council Minutes – January 17, 2017

Treasurer's Report — Lisa reviewed the treasurer's report, members discussed. A motion was made to accept Lisa's report as presented with a clarification on the net income amount, it was seconded and carried.

Unfinished Business:

- a **Memorial List** – members discussed.
- a **Thrivent Choice** – January amount – \$0.00 / \$0.00
- a **Flooring Replacement Update** – Members discussed a concern voiced about the sound with use of tile in the fellowship hall. Yvonne said that the committee had the same concerns but they were reassured that the new flooring will be sound dampening. Flooring Fund Status– Total given – \$18,399.01 / Paid – \$8,107.53 / Balance – \$10,291.48.
- a **2017/2018 Proposed Mission Plan (Budget)** – Lisa shared the most updated budget after the budget forum on Sunday, members discussed. An addition was made to include a line in the budget for liturgical arts under worship, line 71. This will not have any money associated with it this year but will be something we will re-address in the future. Members discussed a concern voiced at the forum about including the parsonage in the budget. Members discussed and will clarify this question in February. The 2017 Budget has estimated offering contributions of \$350,000 and expenses of \$342,364. The outlook to 2018 includes estimated giving of \$350,000, a surplus from 2017 of \$7,636 and \$27,010 of residual one-time funds, and expenses of \$387,661 for an estimated deficit of \$10,651. A motion was made to approve this budget (mission plan) for recommendation to the congregation at the annual meeting January 29th with the addition of the line item liturgical arts and a recommendation to call a full time pastor.
- a **Energy Update** – Carol reported that the kitchen lights have been replaced (they will cut the electric costs in half). The fellowship hall lights and motion lights for the Narthex bathrooms have been purchased. Carol reviewed the 2017 energy goals. Members thanked Carol for this stewardship work.
- a **Fall Stewardship Drive Update** – Dave reviewed our stewardship drive history. Members discussed.
- a **Synod Capital Appeal** – Dave reported that Lonnie has resigned as the liaison for this campaign. We will be holding this appeal during Lent. Dave asked for suggestions or if anyone else is interested in coordinating.
- a **Nominating Committee Report** – Terri Herman, Carol Laverick & Michelle Lehman have met. The group has contacted prospective members and should have a full slate for the annual meeting. Outgoing Council Members – Terri Herman & Carol Laverick. Outgoing President & VP – Dave Thom & Harold Snow. RAP group will nominate a student representative for council in May to replace Liz Mertz.
- a **Call Committee Update** – Dave reviewed the call committee's actions. The committee is working to complete the MSP to send to the Bishop's office in preparation for the CLF ministry site visit. After this visit with the congregation, the MSP will be posted for prospective pastors.
- a **Annual Meeting** – January 29th – Members reviewed the agenda and discussed. Carol volunteered to pick up the chicken from Lynn's.
- a **Leadership Retreat** – February 11th at Outlaw Ranch starting with breakfast at 8:00 AM. Pat will create an agenda. New council members will be invited by the nominating committee and Pat will invite the committee members.

New Business:

- a **Auditing Committee** – members discussed possible candidates for this committee. Dave will contact these folks and share the results via email.
- a **Attendance/Financial Statistics** – members reviewed the 2016 year report.
- a **Endowment** - The Endowment committee recommended that an earnings disbursement of (\$7,000 – this amount changed to \$6,500 by an email vote of the Endowment committee because the year-end balance was not \$107,000) be given to the RAP group for their Germany trip. A motion was made to approve this disbursement. It was seconded and carried. .

Committee & Ministry Team Concerns:

- a **Health Ministry** – Yvonne met with the team tonight.
- a **Social Ministry** – Yvonne reported that they met together with the Outreach Ministry Team tonight.
- a **W/ELCA** – W/ELCA is working on a joint event with the quilters and the SPARK kids.
- a **Outreach** – met tonight with the Social Ministry Team.
- a **Youth** – Liz Mertz reported 22 people met last Sunday for planning, a meal and splitting wood. They had a good turnout for the Roman & Christians game during the Christmas break. The group will be visiting the Rapid City Synagogue in March.

ELW Devotions from the Daily Lectionary

Epiphany 4

Wednesday, February 1: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13;4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26

Epiphany 5

Thursday, February 2: Psalm 112:1-10; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5

Friday, February 3: Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18

Saturday, February 4: Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 29:13-16

Sunday, February 5: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

Monday, February 6: Psalm 119:1-5-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10

Tuesday, February 7: Psalm 119:1-5-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Wednesday, February 8: Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30

Epiphany 6

Thursday, February 9: Psalm 119:1-8; Genesis 26:1-5; James 1:12-16

Friday, February 10: Psalm 119:1-8; Leviticus 26:34-46; 1 John 2:7-17

Saturday, February 11: Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-0

Sunday, February 12: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Monday, February 13: Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8

Tuesday, February 14: Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 23:21—24:4, 10-15; James 2:1-13

Wednesday, February 15: Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12

Epiphany 7

Thursday, February 16: Psalm 119:33-40; Exodus 22:21-27; 1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1

Friday, February 17: Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 6:1-7; Galatians 5:2-6

Saturday, February 18: Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 24:10-23; Matthew 7:1-12

Sunday, February 19: Lev 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

Monday, February 20: Psalm 119:57-64; Proverbs 25:11-22; Romans 12:9-21

Tuesday, February 21: Psalm 119:57-64; Genesis 31:1-3, 17-50; Hebrews 12:14-16

Wednesday, February 22: Psalm 119:57-64; Proverbs 3:27-35; Luke 18:18-30

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Thursday, February 23: Psalm 131; Proverbs 12:22-28; Philippians 2:19-24

Friday, February 24: Psalm 131; Isaiah 26:1-6; Philippians 2:25-30

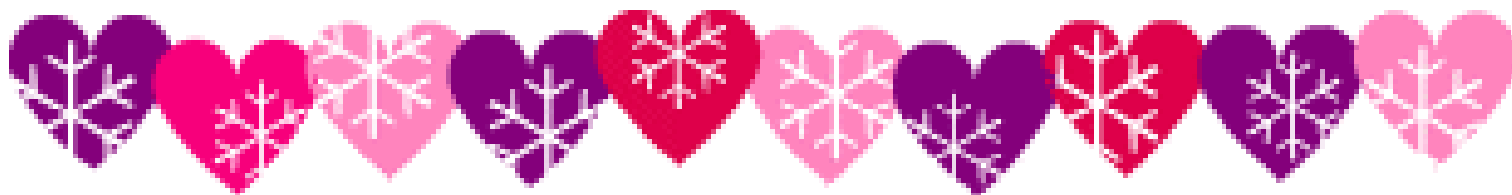
Saturday, February 25: Psalm 131; Isaiah 31:1-9; Luke 11:14-23

Sunday, February 26: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Monday, February 27: Psalm 104; Deuteronomy 32:1-14; Hebrews 10:32-39

Tuesday, February 28: Psalm 104; 1 Kings 17:1-16; 1 Corinthians 4:6-21

Wednesday, March 1: Psalm 104; Isaiah 66:7-13; Luke 12:22-31



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 Marilyn Hazlett from Eldon & Gail Knudson for the flooring fund
- * Received to the Glory of God and in memory of Ben Marchand from Eldon & Gail Knudson for the flooring fund
- * Received to the Glory of God and in memory of Anita Swedlund from Rudy & Lois Anderson and Jim Pat Hattervig



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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**

Interim Pastor: Pat Eidsness

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!