

Crossroads

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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CLF Welcomes Pat Eidsness as Interim Pastor!

Custer Lutheran Fellowship is thrilled to welcome Pat Eidsness as our new Interim Pastor! She will start work on December 1st. A little background info on Pat:



She was born and raised in Sioux Falls. Married to Roe, they moved to Brookings, SD in 1967 where they raised their family and owned and operated Eidsness Funeral Homes. In 1997, she was called into youth and family ministry at First Lutheran Church in Brookings, and worked in the church until her retirement in 2014. She was commissioned an Associate in Ministry in 2005. From 2010-2014, she was a Mission Developer for WestSide Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls where she served as pastor (authorized for sacraments). She and Roe gathered a congregation; trained leadership; raised funds to purchase land and build a new building. Welcome Pat!

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*"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds..."*  
Hebrews 10:24 (NRSV)

Throughout my years of ministry, Hebrews 10:24 has often been my theme verse, and it seems to fit perfectly with the role I see for an interim pastor here at CLF. My role will be a lot like a cheerleader, a coach, or maybe a personal trainer...making sure that the body of Christ (which we are!) is strong, healthy and at top performance! Together we will indeed consider ways to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

After church on the Sunday when I was introduced, someone asked me, "Who are you going to replace? Yvonne's not leaving, is she?" Thank heavens, no! Yvonne is one of the reasons I said 'yes' to this call! And the truth is, I am not replacing anyone. I am here as an intentional interim, someone to lead and guide us through the process of preparing for and calling a new pastor.

I bring a history of working with congregations. Helping them vision and plan was a big part of what I did when I was on synod staff as director of Faith Family Style. We did intergenerational events with the whole congregation as well as strategic planning with the church leaders. I believe it is a model we can use during this time of transition...to identify and celebrate those things we are doing well, and to faithfully look at areas of ministry we dream of doing better.

This can be an exciting time for a congregation and I am looking forward to being part of it. My only fear is that, because I am half-time, the time will fly too quickly! So I am eager to get started *provoking* CLF. I think 'provoke' is an interesting, intentional choice by the author of Hebrews. It means to call out or to call forth, and that is what I intend to do: to call forth all that is good in this place and to put us to work together.

BTW, the very next verse, Hebrews 10:25, reminds us "not to neglect meeting together as is the habit of some..." and I will claim that verse as well for this time of preparation and transition. Please, please come to church often and be part of discovering what God already has planned for us! Thank you for inviting me along. I am...

Yours for the Journey,  
Pat Eidsness



## Social Ministry — ELCA Good Gifts

As members of the ELCA, we believe that God is calling us into the world—together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA. These are meaningful gifts that really make a difference in the world.

The 24-page ELCA Good Gifts catalog offers many different ways to honor friends and loved ones with gifts that make a difference. You can check it all out on **December 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**. The Social Ministry Team will have a table set up in the Nathex on those dates to help you select your gifts.

Thank you for providing a Good Gift that will make a world of difference to our neighbors!

## THURSDAY CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY GROUP...

You are invited to join our weekly Christian Book Study any time! We gather together on Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. There is always coffee and treats. We then read aloud from the book we have selected. (So, see – you don't even have to prepare!) We interrupt our reading with questions, thoughts and reflections. It is a very 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 is something special.

We recently started a new book entitled *GRACE ALL AROUND US: EMBRACING GOD'S PROMISE IN TRAGEDY AND LOSS* by Stephen Paul Bouman. Bouman was the Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the time of 9/11.

This is a powerful book of unbearable loss and horror that will take us on an authentic journey through the grief and tragedy in New York City and the aftermath of 9/11 from someone who was on the front lines. "In his reflections, his memories, his prose, he takes us to the cross and the empty tomb. It is there ... that we see God's words of hope and promise: 'Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.'"

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 NOT meet in December. It will meet again on January, 15, 2017.

Details will be the January newsletter.

## GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD...



This school year our children's mission project is the ELCA's **God's Global Barnyard** project. Animals help people help themselves. Animals are not just pets. They are not just used as food either. Animals have multiple functions. The animal projects we are a part of in other countries make a world of difference for families in need. Your gifts not only provide temporary relief from hunger and poverty, but they also help to develop communities.

So, join our children and give a gift to our "Noisy Offering" on Sunday, **December 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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. Make a difference during this season of Giving!

## Put Your Money Where Your Feet Are!

This is the clever slogan that the Women of the ELCA group came up with to support our New Flooring Project! The first installation has already taken place. Enough monies were given to lay carpet tiles in the Narthex as well as in the Vestibule (entryway). Thank You for those gifts which made this possible!

The second priority is the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Hallway outside of the Kitchen and Fireside Room. These areas will be laid with vinyl plank (Karndean) once enough monies have been donated. The cost for this part of the flooring project is \$22,510. As before we will only do this part of the project when we have monies in hand.

To that end, the Women of the ELCA are hosting a Breakfast Fundraiser between worship services on **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, and biscuits & gravy. Yummy! Come, eat and give generously.

We welcome your special gifts (above and beyond your regular giving) at any time to this project. Please drop off those gifts in the offering plate or to the church office – indicating that your gift is designated for the new flooring. Thank You!

## Care & share...

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



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

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

\* **Calling Coordinators**

| DECEMBER                  | JANUARY                    |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jim & Amy Ashmore         | Brenda Anderson            |
| David & Lisa Brown        | Russ & Amy Bailey          |
| Dan & Linda Custis        | Craig & Becky Black        |
| Paul & Jackie Heinert     | John & Susan Culberson     |
| Corbin & Terri* Herman    | Mike & Heather Hiltunen    |
| Marvin & Sharee Johnson   | Lonnie Hosman/Anne Sandvig |
| Clarinne Koepp            | Darlene Kainz              |
| Cindy Mayes               | Mike & Sara* Janson        |
| Ken & Nicole Parker       | Rex & Janna Jorgensen      |
| Sunny Reeves              | Denny & Donna* McConnell   |
| Helen Sandberg            | Dan & Shirley Roddy        |
| Mary Stutz                | Christy Schmahl            |
| Dean & Nancy Suelflow     | Jon & Jane Skaar           |
| Bill & Margaret Tretheway | Alan & Kim Webster         |
| Dennis Wicks              | Jared Webster              |
| Steve & Michelle Witt     | David & Cindy Whitaker     |
| Walker & Jean Witt        | Jim & Arbutus Winter       |

## 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  
yvonne\_clf@gwtc.net

605-593-6165 (cell)  
673-4691 (church)

## Wednesday NightLife ...

The December schedule for our family style meal on Wednesdays is as follows...

- 2 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.
- 2 5:05 PM – **SPARK Kids** sets all the tables with salt & pepper, water glasses and a pitcher of water.
- 2 5:15 PM – A spoken grace is shared before we eat. The meal schedule for this month is:
  - \* December 7 – Lynn's DakotaMart Chicken & Family Potluck (Every family is invited to bring something to share!)
  - \* December 14 – 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 5:45 PM – Grace is sung and Announcements are made. Confirmation families who are assigned Clean-Up for that night can begin their work.
- 2 6:00 PM – Bell is rung for Worship!
- 2 6:30 PM – Confirmation and Adult Learning Classes
- 2 7:30 PM – Choir Practice

Please note there will NOT be regular Wednesday NightLife on December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> as this is the Christmas break from school. Families are invited to join us for special worship services on Christmas Eve at 4:00 or 7:00 PM, as well as on Christmas Day at 9:30 AM.



## Not So Fast ...

It's that time again. I know – you're thinking – Christmas...but, I'm thinking – Advent. We are in such a hurry to get to Christmas that we neglect this season of Advent – a time of expectant waiting, a time of joy-filled preparation, a time of stillness before the surprise. If you are a parent – you experienced an Advent in those months you waited for the arrival of your baby. And, looking back on it now – you know this was precious time – time you would not have wanted to give up.

In the church – as Christians – this is the time we have now entered. Advent. At CLF there are many ways you can utilize this time.

- 2 Pick up an "Advent-To-Go" Box. It contains devotions and a craft to do each week as a family.
- 2 ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendars are available. You can mark the passing of the days by opening a flap and reading a verse of scripture.
- 2 Check out CLF's Facebook page daily. We are doing an Advent Photo-A- Day complete with a word, a picture and a scripture reading. Use this as your daily devotional.
- 2 Worship on Wednesdays and Sundays – where you will hear the themes of hope, love, peace and life – as we read the old familiar stories leading up to the birth of the baby we await.
- 2 Attend the Adult Education classes on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM where we are doing an Advent Bible Study on God's gifts to us.
- 2 Join us as our children tell the Christmas story through a program entitled "Stable Tales" on December 4<sup>th</sup>. There is something about hearing and seeing the story through the eyes of children that gives it new meaning.
- 2 Purchase an ELCA Good Gift on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> honoring someone you love and making a world of difference in the life of our neighbors.
- 2 Come and listen to all the wonderful music presented by many gift musicians! at the Community Advent Service on December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 Take time for reflection as you enjoy the Cantata presented by CLF's Choir at Sunday morning worship on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

All this will lead you to the weekend of Christmas. Christmas Eve worship on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> will be a celebration of God's greatest gift to us – His children. The 4:00 PM service will be a Family-Friendly Worship that will focus on an interactive children's message that you won't want to miss. The 7:00 PM service will be quieter and more traditional. Both services will include the lighting of candles and the singing of "Silent Night" at the close of worship. And then, on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day – there will be one worship service at 9:30 AM. It will be a joyous time of songs and stories and a few surprises!

In our rush to get to Christmas – it seems we are equally in a hurry to see it over and done. I am always saddened to see all the decorations and trees being taken down on December 26<sup>th</sup>. The truth is that there are twelve days of Christmas beginning on Christmas Day. So – there is a missed opportunity here – for you and your family to take time to marvel – to enjoy – to dwell – in those gifts that God has given us.

Once again – remember those days after you brought your baby home? That too was precious time. It was time you treasured just for the wonder of it all. You measured time in small moments. You slowed down. Do that this year – with your children, your grandchildren, your family, your friends. The rush of time will be upon you soon enough. For now – not so fast ....

JOY to the World!

Yvonne L.D. Steindal, Outreach Minister

## 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 Ben Marchand from Gary & Rosemary Chappell and Mark & Bonnie Thompson for the carpet fund
- \* Received to the Glory of God and in memory of Les McClanahan from Jim & Carol Laverick for the carpet fund

**W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:****NEXT MEETING:****WHEN:** Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room**HOSTESSES:** Mary Boots & Arbutus Winter**PROGRAM:** TBA

Our program at our November meeting focused on our Thank Offering Service. This year each of the ladies attending had the opportunity to talk about someone in her life that she is thankful to have there.

W/ELCA is going to provide items for the backpack program at the elementary school over the next month. We will be organizing items on **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** in the Fireside Room at 10:00 AM.

As we have done for the past three years, we will provide 25 dozen cookies for the Christmas for Kids on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Those who signed up to bake cookies are asked to have them in the church kitchen by 3:00 PM on **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks to all who bake to make this possible.

We talked about collecting yarn for the inmates at St Dymas to use when they crochet stocking hats. If you have extra yarn that you would like to contribute, please leave it in the church office with Donna.

A huge thank you goes to the congregation for the support that you provided to make our 'Craft & Goodie Sale' one of the best we have had! The items donated were grand which helped make shopping a delight! We made over \$2,000 at this event. The generosity of those who made and donated items coupled with the generosity of those who shopped is greatly appreciated! It is a nice way to start thinking about the holidays!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you from W/ELCA!!

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.

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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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### October–December Mission Project: The Storehouse

- ] Canned food – meats, vegetables, fruits, soups
- ] Spaghetti, pasta & sauce
- ] Cereals
- ] Instant Potatoes
- ] Stuffing Mix
- ] Cake Mixes/Tubs of Frosting
- ] Sugar, Flour
- ] Peanut butter
- ] Soaps – laundry, dish, body
- ] Macaroni & Cheese
- ] Paper towels & toilet tissue



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

### CLF's "Little Free Library"

We have a "Little Free Library" right here at CLF. It sits next to the CLF sign as you enter the church parking lot. Anyone can use CLF's **Little Free Library**. The focus of this Library is Christian books for children and their parents. The idea is that you can Take A Book and Return A Book.

CLF's **Little Free Library** is up and running. It has recently been restocked with Christmas books for children. Please share this news with your family, friends and neighbors. Show them where it is. Explain its purpose. Encourage its use. Show them how to use it. Use it yourself. Help us get the word out!

The **Little Free Library** is open to anyone in the community or anyone who is traveling through Custer.



## 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

## Mark this date on your calendar...

XYZ will meet on **Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM** at the Laughing Water Restaurant at Crazy Horse for a pre-Christmas dinner! Cost is \$15 per person. A head count is needed by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet can be found at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

## 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](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 October, 2016

|                                       | 2016 Actual          | 2016 Budget          | \$ Over Budget        | % of Budget  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Income</b>                         |                      |                      |                       |              |
| Offering Contributions                | \$ 297,429.30        | \$ 312,500.00        | \$ (15,070.70)        | 95.2%        |
| Special Offerings (Thrivent Choice)   | \$ 2,663.00          | \$                   | \$                    |              |
| Special Offerings/Unbudgeted Missions | \$ 1,173.44          | \$ 1,416.67          | \$ (243.23)           | 82.8%        |
| Additional Debt Retirement            | \$ 250.00            | \$                   | \$                    |              |
| Youth House Building Sale             | \$ 0.00              | \$ 8,635.45          | \$ (8,635.45)         | 0.0%         |
| Sunday School Offerings               | \$ 171.69            | \$                   | \$                    |              |
| Elementary Ministry Support           | \$ 3,675.00          | \$ 5,512.50          | \$ (1,837.50)         | 66.7%        |
| J Olson Trust                         | \$ 2,021.22          | \$ 6,063.65          | \$ (4,042.43)         | 33.3%        |
| Custer Highlands Property Sale        | \$ 11,509.60         | \$                   | \$                    |              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                   | <b>\$ 318,893.25</b> | <b>\$ 334,128.27</b> | <b>\$ (15,235.02)</b> | <b>95.4%</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                        |                      |                      |                       |              |
| Pastoral Leadership                   | \$ 131,874.42        | \$ 148,949.17        | \$ (17,074.75)        | 88.5%        |
| Worship                               | \$ 8,626.73          | \$ 9,549.37          | \$ (922.64)           | 90.3%        |
| Education                             | \$ 5,036.92          | \$ 4,513.90          | \$ 523.02             | 111.6%       |
| Mission Support                       | \$ 33,703.85         | \$ 32,422.50         | \$ 1,281.35           | 104.0%       |
| Support/Care                          | \$ 132,816.56        | \$ 148,692.52        | \$ (15,875.96)        | 89.3%        |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                  | <b>\$ 312,058.48</b> | <b>\$ 344,127.46</b> | <b>\$ (32,068.98)</b> | <b>90.7%</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 The Storehouse. Your donations of food items, soaps and paper products will be collected through the month of December.
- <sup>2</sup> The Social Ministry Team sponsored the "Sharing the Dream" Fair Trade crafts sale. All your purchases go to support mission work in Guatemala.
- <sup>2</sup> The annual Wood Haul to Pine Ridge was held in November and sponsored by the Social Ministry Team. More than 20 CLF folks participated in this project.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> SPARK Kids continues a great third year. Thank you to these folks who drove in October: Donna McConnell, Augie Heyne, Gary Roberts, Anita Swanson and Gary Williams. Also a BIG thanks to those who lead and assist with the children: Linda Markegard, Denali Rusch, Christy Schmahl and Anita Swanson.
- <sup>2</sup> Wednesday NightLife is in full swing. We give thanks to those who have been helping with meals – SPARK Kids, Cozy Dorton and Barb Lewison, Craig Lewis, Donna McConnell and Mickey Schlecht.
- <sup>2</sup> We give thanks for those who are teaching Adult Education and Eighth Grade Confirmation on Wednesday Nights: Craig Lewis and Catherine Harding.
- <sup>2</sup> Worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings has been supported by some of our own retired pastors as well as guest preachers: Phil Lewison, Kay Ressel, Rachel Nelson.
- <sup>2</sup> The Women of the ELCA held their annual Craft and Goodie Sale. All the monies raised goes toward the support of their mission work throughout the year.
- <sup>2</sup> The RAP Group (High School Youth) and their families have been working hard splitting and hauling wood on site as well as at the homes of several CLF members.
- <sup>2</sup> The Women of the ELCA made purchases and packed food items for the school's BackPack program.



### Financial Peace University Class

We will again be offering Dave Ramsey's 9-week class on Financial Peace on Mondays, beginning January 9<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Fireside Room. If you are interested, please sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. More information will be in the January newsletter.



### "SO, WHEN ARE WE GETTING A NEW PASTOR?" (AN UPDATE ON THE "CALL" PROCESS)...

The CLF Church Council has selected 10 persons to serve on the "Call Committee". These members were officially installed on November 20<sup>th</sup>. They bring a range of experiences, ages, family status at CLF and in other congregations. Those selected to serve are: Stephanie Ornelas, Steve Baldwin, Kim Canete, Dave Thom, Mark Thompson, Jackie Hartwick, Ember Fluck, Richard Tucker, Barb Lewison, and Nathan Weiderholt.

The Call Committee met on November 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the process and work on a "Ministry Site Profile". The next step is a "Ministry Site Study", conducted with the SD Synod staff, on the type of ministry/s the congregation envisions and the pastoral leadership needed. While not a part of the formal call process, the CLF council is reviewing projected giving and expenses through 2018. Some income sources (endowments and property sales) that have supported CLF's mission plan (budget) will soon run out. As worship trends change in all denominations, and perhaps at CLF, we believe it is important to consider all possible ideas in how to structure our ministry at CLF in the future.

A sincere thanks to those that have offered their time and talent to serve on the Call Committee. Key to the call process will be communication. There will be opportunities for congregational engagement, but please as you have ideas, do bring them to committee members. The foundation in the process is patience, prayer and guidance of the Holy Spirit in the months ahead.

**SPARK Kids...**

We are loving our Third Year of SPARK Kids! We have 26 children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 registered. The children are picked up at school and transported to church every Wednesday afternoon. The time flies by with a wide variety of learning activities including snacks, Bible stories, games, arts and crafts and more. We post photos every week on CLF's Facebook page. Check it out!

The program concludes at 5:15 PM. Children and their families encouraged to stay for a meal followed by worship. We are done by 6:30 PM.

There is NO cost for this program. Friends and neighbors are welcome. All children need to be registered by their parents in order to participate. Registration materials are available through the church office. It is never too late to register a child! Tell everyone!

The themes and Bible stories for the month of December will focus on the Advent and Christmas stories. We will be using the readings in Matthew 1:18-25 and 2:1-15 as well as Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-38. We will be exploring the Gifts of Hope, Love, Peace and Life!

Please note that there will not be any **SPARK Kids** on Wednesdays, December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> as this is the Christmas break from school. Families are invited to join us for special worship services on Christmas Eve at 4:00 or 7:00 PM, as well as on Christmas Day at 9:30 AM.

**Sunday School—Children's Christmas Program...**

Gene and Linda Fennell have written a play entitled "Stable Tales". The animals – camels, sheep, goats, pigs, cows, and birds – will be telling the Christmas story that leads to baby Jesus in the stable.

The children will have a special rehearsal on **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at church. The final Rehearsal will be between worship services on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

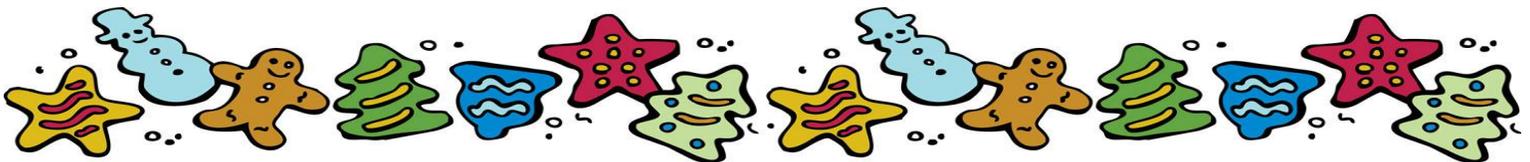
The Children's Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a Potluck Lunch following the second worship service. The program will begin at 1:00 PM. The Offering received will go to support the Children's Mission Project this year – "God's Global Barnyard."

**Spotlight on Confirmation...**

We continue with Confirmation learning for our Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Youth on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Sixth and Seventh Grade Youth are exploring the lives of Old Testament characters using the **re:form Ancestors** curriculum. Eighth Grade Youth are studying various Lutheran Living topics using the **coLABorate** curriculum.

On **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** youth and parents will take part in a special Servant Event Project at Outlaw Ranch. They have received a financial grant from Thrivent to build additional Garden Boxes. We will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude after lunch.

Please note: There will be NO Confirmation on Wednesdays, December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – as this is the Christmas break from school. Families are invited to join us for special worship services on Christmas Eve at 4:00 or 7:00 PM, as well as on Christmas Day at 9:30 AM.



**ATTENTION**—The shelves in the hallway outside of the Kitchen are overflowing with dishes. Please check to see if any of them are yours. Also, if you are missing a coat or jacket, check the coat rack next to the shelves to see if you left it here at church! items not claimed by the end of the month will be taken to the storehouse.

**High Schoolers & College Students—Save the Date!!**

Romans and Christians will be January 1, 2017 at 6 PM. Bring a friend! Snacks and hot cocoa will be provided afterwards. College students get to pick if they want to be a Roman or a Christian! Hope to see you there!!

## Notes from the Parish Nurse..

I hope everyone has been enjoying the fall season we missed the past few years. By the time you read this you have probably celebrated Thanksgiving. It's one of my favorite holidays, spent with family & friends and enjoying the meal together. It is also the one time of the year that we take the time to be thankful. I guess now starts the madness we put into Christmas. At Christmas we should also take the time to be thankful to God. The Health Ministry Team wishes everyone a joyful & healthy Christmas.



This month we have prepared another presentation on a very important topic. Our discussion is on the changes being made to managing pain. In years past we were all taught that we needed to keep our patients as comfortable as possible. Now there are much stricter guidelines to manage this pain. Most of this has come about due to the rise of deaths and addictions due to the stronger narcotic medications. Learn how they are looking to accomplish this & how we will have to deal with pain in a safer way. We will have several professionals assisting us with the presentation. It will be December 8<sup>th</sup> (Friday) from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Senior Center. We did need to change the date due to conflicting schedules. We hope those who are dealing with this will attend. God Bless...

Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse 673-4424

## Mental Health News...

Unfortunately recently our community has lost a very promising young man who seemed to have a great future for him. Sadly this man chose to end his life. Many in the community could not understand how this person with everything going for him could do this & it had to be a mistake. I can tell you from personal experience that often people do all they can to mask their mental illness, whether it be depression or bipolar or any type of illness often due to the stigma surrounding mental illness. They suffer in silence. They put on a mask and do their best to remain as normal as possible. Hopefully at some point they will confide in someone. Should you be told about their inner pain the best thing to do is to be certain they are seen as soon as possible by a mental health professional or primary doctor who would be sure to see them through to get the help they need. Don't tell them that's nonsense or they have it all & could not be in that situation. Believe them. I also want to remind everyone that we are still working on forming a NAMI Connection support group. "NAMI" is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Our group is strictly a peer support group where we learn to deal with our mental illness and get support from others like us in a safe, confidential environment. We are currently meeting once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 PM at the rear meeting room at the library. If you have any questions please contact me. Healthy mind, healthy soul...

Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse  
Health Ministry Team

The RAP Group is continuing to raise Funds for the Luther 500 Festival. Nine students and nine parents will be attending May 29—June 4, 2017 in Wittenberg, Germany. The festival is a cultural-immersion experience that brings the Reformation to life as you serve, learn, and celebrate in the places where Martin Luther did the same 500 years ago.

THE RAP Group were fortunate to be selected to participate in the Schwan's Cares Fundraising Program. Starting **December 5<sup>th</sup>** you can purchase Schwan's items on line at the campaign Web page: <https://www.schwans-cares.com/c/30725> or google search Schwan's Cares and once you get to the web site; go to Find Your Campaign and put our zip code in: 57730 or our **campaign ID: 30725** and our campaign will pop up. We can earn 20% of Schwan's product sales and 40% of eGift cards (limit is 1 per customer, per campaign) the eGift Cards have no expiration date. There are 3 ways to place a fundraising order:

1. **Via Schwan's Cares.** Find your campaign or fundraiser and (1) choose "Buy Now" to purchase an eGift Card (online only; limit 1 per customer, per campaign) OR (2) choose "Shop Now" to place a food order from Schwan's. You can support at the campaign level or at an individual fundraiser level.
2. **By Phone.** Place your order via toll free number 1-855-870-7208. Make sure to provide your Campaign ID: 30725 when ordering by phone.
3. **Via Schwans.com.** During checkout simply type in your Campaign ID : 30725 to contribute to your fundraiser. A Schwan's Home Service Route Sales Representative will personally deliver your order on the date and time you choose as part of the checkout process. If you are not home your order will be placed in a FREE\* weather- resistant freezer bag that keeps your food frozen for up to 8 hours. If you are already an existing Schwan's Home Service customer, your order will be delivered as part of your regularly scheduled visit. \*While supplies last.

With over 350 high-quality, delicious foods to choose from and simple one-click ordering options, it's easy to give back. There are gluten free, organic, low sodium and low calorie products besides everyone's favorite—BACON!

**Remember to order December 5<sup>th</sup> through January 19<sup>th</sup>!** Thank you for all your support!!!

**Council Minutes – November 15, 2016**

*Treasurer's Report* — Members reviewed the treasurer's report in their packets, members discussed. A motion was made to accept Lisa's report, it was seconded and carried.

*Unfinished Business:*

- 2 **Memorial List** – Carpet Fund – Total given – \$10,500 / Deposit paid down to Black Hills Interior – \$4,053.77.
- 2 **Thrivent Choice** – November amount – \$127.00 / \$2,790.
- 2 **Flooring Replacement Update** – Paul reported that the first stage of the flooring plan will be done shortly. Fundraising is now being done for the next stage, which will be the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and hallway. Members discussed. The W/ELCA group has arranged for a fundraiser breakfast on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 **2017 Budget Projections** – Dave spoke with members about the packet and the email that Lisa sent members. Members reviewed the budget and discussed. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, before our council meeting, there will be a forum to share the budget proposal with the congregation so we can make any revisions at our council meeting before presenting it to the congregation at our annual meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Paul Larson made a suggestion that we reduce the synod capital campaign amount in the budget to \$2000 from \$8000 and try to make up the rest of the recommended per/member amount through an individual drive conducted by the council in the spring. Dave Thom will bring council suggestions to the budget committee.
- 2 **Energy Update** – There is \$453.95 left from donations collected. Carol will be use the rest of this money to buy replacement bulbs before the end of the year.
- 2 **Outreach Minister Duties Review** – Dave will contact Harold and Lisa to get together to complete this task.
- 2 **Fall Stewardship Drive** – Dave spoke with members about the drive. Terri suggested that we have a box in the Narthex for people to put their stewardship cards if they aren't able to put them in the offering plate. Yvonne will make an announcement at next Sunday's service for folks that haven't had a chance to turn in their stewardship cards.
- 2 **Interim Pastoral Update** – Brad reported that we have offered a call for a half-time Interim Pastor position to Pat Eidsness and she has accepted. Her appointment begins December 1<sup>st</sup> and she will be installed during worship on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Council members gave final concurrence on the Letter of Appointment and Covenant via e-mail, 11/5/16. Bishop Zellmer signed on 11/7/16.
- 2 **Call Committee Update** – Dave reviewed the final members of the committee. A letter has been sent to each. The committee will have their first meeting November 29<sup>th</sup>.

*New Business:*

- 2 **Membership Changes:** Add – Dorothy Mayhew; Jess, Jen & Justin Doyle; Dan, Anita, Sierra & Bryce Swanson by Affirmation of Faith.
- 2 **Attendance/Financial Statistics** – members reviewed the report.
- 2 **Mileage for Pastor Tom for Marchand Funeral** – Members discussed. A motion was made to reimburse Pastor Tom \$420 for mileage. It was seconded and carried. Dave will also send him a letter of thanks.
- 2 **Property Concerns** – Paul spoke with members about the mice issues in the building. Augie is setting traps and catching them. Yvonne will work on getting a few families to help clean and organize the nursery. Dave spoke with members about some concerns about the woodlot and outdoor worship area. The RAP group is currently working to neatly stack wood, clean up and build a slash pile. The group has scheduled one day a month to work on the wood lot throughout the winter. They will be working at the wood lot this Sunday after second service.
- 2 **Annual Meeting Date** – January 29<sup>th</sup> was proposed, a motion was made to accept this date, it was seconded and carried.
- 2 **Nominating Committee** – Carol Laverick & Michelle Lehman are serving on this committee to recommend new council members. Yvonne will contact Donna to see how many positions will be open.
- 2 **Council Retreat Date** – Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> has been proposed. It was seconded and carried. Dave will contact Outlaw Ranch to check on availability.
- 2 **Table and Chairs Donation** - Paul Niemann has offered to donate chairs/tables for 94 people as well as a salad bar and metal folding chairs. Yvonne will bring this up with staff and get back to Paul Niemann. Duane, Dave and Paul have offered their vehicles and help to haul.
- 2 **Parsonage Stove and Hood** – the Parsonage Committee has recommended that the stove be replaced and consider venting it with a hood. Gary Roberts is coming out tomorrow to look at the situation. A motion was made to authorize the purchase of a new stove, and if needed, a range hood. It was seconded and carried.

*(Continued next page)*

## ELW Devotions from the Daily Lectionary

Second Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 1: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Friday, December 2: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25

Saturday, December 3: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 40:1-11; John 1:19-28

Sunday, December 4: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-14; Mathew 3:1-12

Monday, December 5: Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, December 6: Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday, December 7: Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37

Third Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 8: Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10

Friday, December 9: Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18

Saturday, December 10: Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

Sunday, December 11: Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Monday, December 12: Psalm 43; Isaiah 29:17-24; Acts 5:12-16

Tuesday, December 13: Psalm 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Jude 17-25

Wednesday, December 14: Psalm 42; Zechariah 8:1-17; Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 15: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Galatians 3:23-29

Friday, December 16: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22; Galatians 4:1-7

Saturday, December 17: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:23-29; John 3:31-36

Sunday, December 18: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Monday, December 19: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 17:15-22; Galatians 4:8-20

Tuesday, December 20: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 21:1-21; Galatians 4:21—5:1

Wednesday, December 21: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 37:2-11; Matthew 1:1-17

Christmas 1

Thursday, December 22: Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

Friday, December 23: 2 Luke 1:46b-55; Samuel 7:18, 23-29; Galatians 3:6-14

Saturday, December 24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Sunday, December 25: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Monday, December 26: Psalm 148; wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59—8:8

Tuesday, December 27: Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12

Wednesday, December 28: Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:13-23; Matthew 18:1-14

Christmas 2

Thursday, December 29: Psalm 20; Jeremiah 31:15-22; Luke 19:41-44

Friday, December 30: Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Saturday, December 31: Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19

Sunday, January 1: Psalm 8; Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21

Monday, January 2: Psalm 72; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12

Tuesday, January 3: Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22

Wednesday, January 4: Psalm 72; Exodus 3:1-5; Hebrews 11:23-31

Committee & Ministry Team Concerns:

- 2 **Property** – Paul Larson reported that Ed Pulse came out and repaired the siding at no cost and gave Paul some suggestions on the continued moisture problems in south entrance wall/gutters of the church. Paul suggested to members that we consider painting the outside of the building sometime in the future. Bonnie Thompson shared with Paul that Thrivent members can go through Thrivent to use “action funds” toward the carpet fundraiser.
- 2 **Social Ministry** – there were 21 people that went on the Red Shirt Wood Haul. The Sharing the Dream Crafts sale went very well. They will be doing the “ELCA Good Gifts” sale on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 **W/ELCA** – will be having their “Craft & Goodie Sale” this Sunday.
- 2 **Outreach** – Yvonne Steindal reported that there were four new families that joined the church during last month’s new member’s day.
- 2 **Worship & Music** – Yvonne and Pat will be meeting with the committee to arrange worship and music for January and February.



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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!**