

Crossroads

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

12622 US HWY 16A
PHONE: 605-673-4691
EMAIL: clf@gwtc.net

CUSTER, SD 57730
FAX: 605-673-4881
www.custerlutheran.com

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

Wow! For the fourth year in a row we participated in **"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."** Sunday. This is a nation-wide Day of Service in our community. ELCA churches from around the country were visible witnesses to the faith as members stepped outside of the church doors and into the community finding ways to serve our neighbors. A BIG thank you to all who were a part of this special day! Did we make a difference? Absolutely!



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Our focus this year was on service projects that benefit our community. These included – Trash Pick Up around Stockade Lake as well as in ditches on road into the town of Custer, Care Packages for Young Adults (college & Outlaw Ranch summer staff) as well as Military Personnel, Quilting, Writing of Advocacy Letters (Bread for the World), and writing letters of support and encouragement to ELCA churches impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

We began with worship. Following the Offering – we were sent out to do God's Work. There were sack lunches to assemble and take to our work projects. Upon completion of the projects – we returned to CLF for the Make-Your-Own Ice Cream Sundae Bar and the second half of the worship service which included Holy Communion. After worship there we held a special awards program. We told stories about what we did and many fun (and funny) prizes were given away.

You will want to check out the Custer Lutheran Fellowship Facebook page. We are continuing to post photo albums that picture the wonderful day we had together. If you have not already done so, "Like" the page so you can keep up-to-date on all the happenings at CLF. Also, we encourage you to share those photos or other posts with your own Facebook friends. This is really a very simple way to share your faith!

We also encourage you to wear your bright yellow "God's Work. Our Hands." T-shirts when you are out and about in the community serving your neighbors in other ways. (If you need a t-shirt, let us know. We have plenty available in sizes ranging from Small to 3XL. The cost is \$8.00.) You can continue to model the faith in this simple way as well. And, when people ask – you can tell them all about CLF and invite them to join us in our faith journey. Meanwhile – we look forward to 2018 and our Fifth Annual "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday!

2017 CLF PHOTO DIRECTORY

Copies are now available!!
You may pick one up
between services or
during the week in the
church office.
In order to cover the
cost of printing in color,
there is a suggested
donation of \$5.

COMMITTEE FAIR a Great Success, But we still need you!

The council's Committee Fair was a smashing success on Sunday/Wednesday this past week, but we still have places for you to share your gifts! This effort is in conjunction with our fall Stewardship response, where we are called to remember that all we have really belongs to God. We are his stewards and are supposed to invest our gifts wisely. Using our talents for ministry in this place is a great investment of time and energy! Consider where you might like to offer some time! This is also part of our ongoing effort to be ready for a new pastor, so come be part of that exciting effort as well! The committees to choose from are:

Children's Ministry
Christian Education
Evangelism Team

Health Ministry Team
Property Resource Team
Social Ministry

Stewardship
Worship and Music
Youth Ministry Support

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 morning, October 8th** 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/Fireside Room. We will be sharing information about CLF's many activities and programs. This will be held immediately following worship – as close to **9:30 AM** as possible. Grab a cup of coffee, a breakfast treat and join us! We promise not to go more than one hour.

We will welcome New Members with a milestone blessing during worship on **Sunday, October 22nd**. We hope you can join us for that celebration as well.

THURSDAY CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY GROUP...

The Christian Book Study group meets weekly on Thursday mornings. The group gathers in the Fireside Room from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. There are always coffee and treats provided by group members. We read aloud from the book we have selected, so you do not have to read or prepare ahead of time! The reading is interrupted regularly with questions, comments, laughter, challenging thoughts and reflections, faith and life stories. It is a fun, free-flowing discussion.

We recently began a new book — Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith by Anne Lamott. It is a funny, truth-filled, irreverent collection of stories about the missteps, detours and roadblocks in her walk of faith. There is much you will relate to in these stories.

Feel free to join the group anytime. We have extra books for purchase or you can share a book with one of us. Hope to see you there!

Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast/Book Study

We meet the **second Saturday of each month from 8 to 10 AM** in the Fireside Room at CLF. Our next session will be on **October 14th**. Breakfast will be served then we will have a video lesson on the parables of Jesus and discussion. Come to one, or come to all...no book required! If you have any questions contact Allen Canete at 673-3753.

LET'S GET NOISY!

Beginning in October we will have a new focus for our monthly "**Noisy Offering**". Did you know that our church body – the ELCA – has a Bureau of Federal Chaplaincy for the Military? They do the important ministry of being the church and providing pastoral care for our servicemen and women serving in far away places. Together we will be learning more about this work as we collect our financial gifts to support this ministry.



The second Sunday of every month which this month is **October 8th**, we invite you to contribute to our "**Noisy Offering**". 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. Your spare change is guaranteed to make a difference in the lives of our military personnel serving overseas. So, be a part of it!

UPDATE: The "**Noisy Offering**" this summer went to the support of Emmaus Road Ministries in Colombia. This program provides scholarships for students throughout all levels of education, support social development programs (teaching skills, providing meals) as well as providing training opportunities for leaders in the church. The total amount raised was **\$352.63**. Then in September, the "**Noisy Offering**" collected was designated to be used for LWR—Hurricane Relief. The amount raised was **\$172.13**. Thanks to all for your donations!!

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

The Call Committee is in the process of interviewing a candidate. We ask the congregation for continued prayers for discernment for the candidate and the Call Committee.

Join us on Sunday, October 22nd between services...

as the RAP Group and parents who went to Germany give a presentation to the congregation on their participation in the Luther 500 Festival last June. Please plan on staying after early service or coming early to the late service so that you can hear about their trip!

care & share...

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

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



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

* Calling Coordinators

October—Rex Jorgensen
November—Brad McKinney/
Christie Behlings

OCTOBER

Dan & Kari Alfson
John & Diana Carson
Jim & Nancy Dunston
John & Peggy Evans
Jim & Pat Hattervig
Cindy & Augie Heyne
Chad & Michelle Lehman
Dennis & Caroline McDonald
Brad & Connie McKinney
Wayne & Nina Nielsen
Bernie & Sharon Quaschnick
Gary & Carol Roberts
Vern & Mickey Schlecht
Matt & Selena Spring
Casey & Eve Trandem
Li Fjerestad & Gary Williams

NOVEMBER

Rudy & Lois Anderson
Frank & Mindy Dooley
Roe & Pat Eidsness
Berni Johnson
Dick & Sharon Jones
Phil & Barb Lewison
Ginny Myers
Paul & Carol Niemann
Dale & Teresa Obenauer
David & E J Reid
Matt & Wendi Rusch
Glen & Marlene Sellevold
Clay & Sue Studt
Mark & Bonnie Thompson
Richard & Marlene Tucker
Rick & Connie Wellington

Please notify Interim Pastor, Pat or Outreach Minister, Yvonne when:

- ^a There is a hospitalization in your family
- ^a There is a death in your family
- ^a You would like a pastoral visit
- ^a There is a birth or adoption
- ^a Someone becomes homebound
- ^a Someone becomes unemployed
- ^a 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
pat_clf@gwtc.net

673-4691 (church)

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

THE GREAT CUSTER WOOD HAUL — November 4, 2017

Our CLF Wood Haul is a part of the fabric of this place. It has been a fall event for years! We are hoping to expand it this year to bring in other congregations and any individuals around town who want to help, so spread the word!

We will invite anyone who has wood to share to bring pick-up loads out to the church and we will caravan out to Red Shirt Table to deliver it. Some will go to a community wood pile at their church while other loads will be delivered directly to homes on the reservation. We will share a meal, stories and conversation with the residents of Red Shirt Table.

If you have not experienced this event, now is the time! There will be a sign-up soon. The CLF Social Ministry Team has sponsored the Wood Haul for years and is being joined this year by the Evangelism Team. Our prayer is that by opening it up to the community, people who would like to share wood but haven't known how will join us – on this day and maybe for years to come!

Thank You...

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, visits and cards when I was in the hospital. Especially for the visit from Interim Pastor Pat. It is a blessing to belong to such a caring congregation! ~ Joan Eggers

Some Thoughts on Stewardship...

"The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us." Psalm 67:6

My brothers and sisters in Christ, October promises to be a big, important month for all of us at CLF! Your Call Committee will be interviewing a candidate early in October, so do hold them, the candidate, and the process in your prayers!

In our continuing quest to be ready for a new pastor, the council appointed a Stewardship Task Force in July. They are an inspiring group, who have been doing awesome work! All of this hard work will culminate on Consecration Sunday, October 15, 2017, when we will gather to celebrate what God is up to in this place and in our lives, and to decide how we can grow in our personal faith commitments.

I thought I would share with you some of the Bible study we have done in preparation for the annual stewardship response in October. You will notice I didn't call it a 'drive.' It is a response...a response to all that God has done and is doing for us individually, and as a congregation!

At our last meeting, we studied the characteristics of people who take seriously the stewardship of all that God has given them. For starters, we learned that the things that motivate generous people are:

- § Gratitude to God
- § Seeing giving as part of our spiritual relationship with God
- § Feeling privileged to serve
- § Believing that all that we have belongs to God
- § Believing that God asks for an appropriate percentage of our income
- § Desiring to help other people

And then we looked at what the Bible says about giving to God, and I want to share it with you. We found these verses especially helpful, and I am hoping they will help you begin to plan for how you will grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ through your giving this next year. Here's what we found:

Give to God through the church

Malachi 3:10

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Give generously and you will receive generously

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Give sacrificially

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—

Give cheerfully

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Give regularly

Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come.

We find nowhere in the Bible that people give to church budgets. We find abundant texts that urge people to give to God! May your giving to God bring you a sense of meaning, joy, and spiritual growth as you respond to the question, "What is God calling me to give?"

Let us pray together: **Make us cheerful, liberal, sacrificial, and regular givers to you, O God, through this place, through this your church. Give us the joy of giving back to you an ever greater portion of what you lavish upon us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Pat Eidsness
interim Pastor

W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:

NEXT MEETING:

WHEN: Monday, October 23rd, 11:30 AM at CLF

HOSTESSES: Pat Hattervig, EJ Reid

PROGRAM: TBA



Our September meeting was a trip to the LSS office on Sheridan Lake Road, Arise and New Alternatives. Each of these LSS facilities was very impressive. Thanks to DeMaris Nesheim for organizing the trip for us. Also, a big thanks to Jessica Lillebo at the LSS office for coordinating our visit among these facilities. The folks from LSS were very generous with their time and information that they shared. We were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit Arise and New Alternatives and we given information about foster care and adoption procedures during lunch from the counselors at the Sheridan Lake LSS office. Our W/ELCA "field trip" was a worthwhile way to spend the day! We have much to think about and discuss concerning what we can do to help the folks at these facilities.

The fact that Arise exists makes it possible for children 10 to 17 years old to have a safe place to be while it is being decided rather they should return home, stay at Arise or go into a facility that is locked down. In most cases the children have run away from home, are homeless or have been involved with some sort of crime.

New Alternatives provides housing for young adults 18 to 22 years of age who have severe mental illness and are working their way back into the community. The goal is to help make these folks as stable as they can be before finding another place to live. New Alternatives is the only facility of its kind in the state of South Dakota.

On October 12th, W/ELCA will provide a meal for 80 folks at Westminster Presbyterian in Rapid City. These folks are taking classes to learn basic skills to improve their lives. Classes are offered from Life, INC out of Rapid City. The funds for the meal that we will provide will come from Thrivent funds.

During our October meeting, we will work to finish cards for the residents at Canyon Hills in Spearfish. The cards will be for the residents to use when they want to send written communication through the mail.

A reminder that quilting takes place at 9:00 AM on Tuesday mornings. Our quilters accomplish so much each Tuesday! In fact, they accomplish so much that they need more thread. All colors of thread are needed. Serger thread works! Whatever you have to donate will be greatly appreciated. As always, donations can be left in the sewing room. Thanks for any help that you can give to this important outreach program! We appreciate the work that all of these ladies do. A special thank you to Ginny Myers for coordinating the quilting each week!

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! Any questions, please call Arbutus Winter, 673-5283.

Thanks to all who donated soap for LWR in Houston. Our next mission project is to collect items for The Storehouse.

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!

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.



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



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

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 if you are able to "Return A Book" at a later time. But, there is NO cost to take a book!

CLF's **Little Free Library** is continually being updated. 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.

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.



From the Library...

The CLF Library is in need of books/writings on the Sacraments of the Church and also books of fiction involving 'biblical characters'. Thank you in advance for your help!

If you have a military or first responder person in your family please send in a photo or photos to be placed on our Board to remind the congregation to say prayers for these special people.

Please include name and title and anyone in the photos. Send to Donna via email or drop off in the office. Or send to Kim Canete at kimberlycanete7@gmail.com. All updates are appreciated.

2017 Budget thru August, 2017

	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Offering Contributions	\$ 219,615.00	\$ 233,333.34	\$ (13,718.34)	94.1%
Special Offerings (Thrivent Choice)	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	
Special Offerings/Unbudgeted Missions	\$ 796.00	\$	\$	
Additional Debt Retirement	\$ 650.00	\$	\$	
Sunday School Noisy Offerings	\$ 615.00	\$	\$	
Total Income	\$ 221,676.00	\$ 233,333.34	\$ (11,657.34)	95.0%
Expense				
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 71,499.98	\$ 72,877.36	\$ (1,377.38)	98.1%
Worship	\$ 7,066.29	\$ 7,003.97	\$ 62.32	100.9%
Education	\$ 4,375.16	\$ 3,744.46	\$ 630.70	116.8%
Mission Support	\$ 27,446.37	\$ 27,676.00	\$ (229.63)	99.2%
Support/Care	\$ 114,487.50	\$ 117,263.98	\$ (2,776.48)	97.6%
Total Expense	\$ 224,875.30	\$ 228,565.77	\$ (3,690.47)	98.4%

CONSECRATION SUNDAY**October 15, 2017****10:00 Worship followed by Chicken Dinner!**

CLF will hold our annual stewardship response on October 15th, with one worship service followed by a chicken dinner together. We will receive our annual pledges at that time, actually tally them up, and celebrate! To prepare for this important part of our faith journey, your Stewardship Task Force has planned three weeks of activities.

There will be video-taped temple talks by CLF members each of the first three weeks in October...with special thanks to Paul Horsted for recording them, and to DeMaris Nesheim, Duane Martinz, and Lisa Fluck for sharing their thoughts with us. Scripture and sermons on those three Sundays will focus on how God calls us to grow in our relationship with him through our giving.

The Stewardship Task Force have all read the book, Ask, Thank, Tell and already have Thank You notes prepared. There will be table tents during fellowship time to encourage conversations around giving, and scripture on posters to guide our thinking. The team members will ask and thank...we're hoping all of you will help us to 'tell!'

Expect to grow in your faith and in your commitment during these days!

Wednesday NightLife...

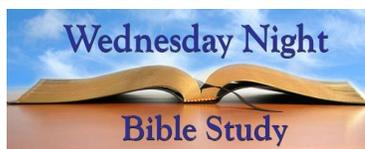
Wednesdays are a mid-week faith recharge for your family. Don't miss it! Our weekly schedule goes like this:

SPARK Kids from 4:00 to 5:15 PM**Family Meal from 5:15 to 6:00 PM****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! The next three **Wednesday NightLife meals** follows this schedule:

2nd Wednesday – Meal prepared by Women of the ELCA group**3rd Wednesday** – Meal prepared by Craig Lewis**4th Wednesday** – Make-Your-Own Sandwich Bar

Worship this fall will focus on the Ten Commandments. It will rotate between these four styles...

First Wednesday – Holy Communion**Second Wednesday** – Holden Evening Prayer**Third Wednesday** – Prayer Around the Cross**Fourth Wednesday** – Chosen People**CONVERSATIONS with MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM**

Are you feeling left out? Feeling like you haven't done anything to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation?

Or maybe you don't remember what you learned in Confirmation! This study is designed for those who are returning to the Small Catechism...as well as those who are experiencing it for the first time. Maybe you just want to learn it along with your Confirmation kids! It's perfect for you – we meet during Confirmation!

Whatever your reason...come join us for an interesting book study on Wednesday nights!

This new adult Bible study will begin at 6:30 PM, on **Wednesday, October 11th** following worship. There is a beautiful study guide available which would make a wonderful keepsake for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It is called ***By Heart, Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*** and it is available through Augsburg Fortress or on Amazon. You may order your own book, sign up for us to order one for you, or just show up!

We think it will be a unique experience to study this book along with Lutherans all around the world as we celebrate our heritage together. There are seven lessons, so it will take us through October and November, the prime time to remember the Reformation and what it has meant to our church and to the world.

SPARK Kids...

Our Fourth Year of SPARK Kids has gotten off to a great start! We already have 31 children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 registered! Every Wednesday afternoon children are picked up at school and transported to church. Our time together goes fast! We have a wide variety of learning activities including snacks, Bible stories, games, arts and crafts and more. Our most important rule is To Have Fun!

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.

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. It is never too late to register a child!

Our curriculum features the "Jesus Storybook Bible" where the children will discover that every story whispers the name of Jesus! The themes and Bible stories for the month of October are as follows:

- ü October 4 – "A giant staircase to heaven" (*The tower of Babel*) – Genesis 11
- ü October 11 – "Son of laughter" (*God's special promise to Abraham*) – Genesis 12-21
- ü October 18 – "The present" (*The story of Abraham and Isaac*) – Genesis 22
- ü October 25 – "The girl no one wanted" (*The story of Jacob, Rachel and Leah*) – Genesis 29-30

Spotlight on Confirmation...

We have already begun a new year of Confirmation for our Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Youth! Sixth Grade Youth have begun a study of the Old Testament using the **re:form Ancestors** curriculum. Seventh Grade Youth are exploring the Ten Commandments using the **Here I Stand** curriculum. Eighth Grade Youth have begun a study of Lutheran History and Catechism using the **coLABorate** curriculum. All Youth are using the **CoLABorate Bible** – the New Revised Standard Version.

The first **Faith Mentor Night** will be held on **Wednesday, October 18th**. Instead of the regularly scheduled group time, Confirmation Youth and their adult Faith Mentors will gather together after that evening's worship. There will be a special event around the topic of Prayer.

ALL Confirmation Youth will attend the **RAP Group** Presentation on their trip to Germany on **Sunday, October 22nd** between services.

Something New ... CHOIR SCHOOL ... for Children!

CHOIR SCHOOL has begun! Children in Pre-K through Grade 5 are meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:15 AM in the upstairs Fellowship Hall. Marlene Sellevold is leading **Choir School** assisted by: Cozy Dorton, Hannah Honors, Anna Marie Riner and Margaret Tretheway. We invite Confirmation Youth to serve as helpers.

There will be songs and stories every week at **Choir School**. We look forward to the children singing in worship once a month. In October—the children will be learning Christmas songs which will be sung as part of the Children's Christmas Program in December.

Children's Christmas Program...

We are super excited to once again be planning our Pre-school—5th grade Children's Christmas Program. This year the program is "**The Not-So-Silent Night**", a courtroom experience where the shepherds are charged with disturbing the peace the night Jesus was born. It will be held **Sunday, December 3rd** following a potluck lunch. Practices will be **Sundays, November 4th, 11th & 18th between services and Friday, December 1st from 8:30-11:00 AM**. We will need to know how many children will be in the program so please call 673-2913 or email lindafennell@hotmail.com with names and grade level of all those that want to be involved. Looking forward to Christmas with the kids!

~ Linda & Gene Fennell

Third Grade Bible Milestone...

CLF wants to help parents go deeper in the faith with their children. One way we do that is to gift to children with a Bible. We invite parents and their Third Grade child to attend a two session Bible learning event. These will be held on Sunday afternoons, **October 15th & 22nd at 1:00 PM**. This will be a fun time of learning about the Bible and ways to use it at home.

Then on Sunday morning, **October 29th at the 10:30 AM** worship service, parents will actually place these new **SPARK Bibles** into the hands of their children. There will be a time of blessing for this important faith milestone in the lives of our Third Graders.

Please be in contact with our Outreach Minister, Yvonne Steindal to let us know that your family will be a part of this. You can call or text her at 605-593-6165 OR email her at yvonne_clf@gwtc.net. We can't wait to share this special time with your family!

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@qwtc.net.*

- ü The **RAP Group** (High School Youth) and their families continue their emphasis on service to others. Recently they assisted a family with yard work – especially the clean-up of pine cones!
- ü The **Women of the ELCA** current mission project goes towards the support of our neighbors in Houston. In September they took up a collection of bars of soap.
- ü The children invite you to contribute to this school year's **Noisy Offering** every month on the Second Sunday. Your gifts will go towards the support of the military chaplaincy of our Lutheran church.
- ü We had many hands that assisted with our Fourth Annual "**God's Work. Our Hands.**" **Sunday**. There were months of planning by the Outreach Ministry and Social Ministry Teams. This would not be possible without their combined efforts. Many thanks to Thrivent for their financial gift received through Ginny Myers which made it possible to purchase the food for sack lunches and ice cream social.
- ü **SPARK Kids** is also in its fourth year. Thank you to these folks who provided transportation in September from school to CLF: Augie Heyne, Donna McConnell, Bill Nichol and Gary Roberts. Also a BIG thanks for those who assisted with the program: Denali Rusch, Anita Swanson and Bonnie Thompson.
- ü **Wednesday NightLife** also kicked off another year beginning in September. We give thanks to those who have been helping with meals – SPARK Kids, Cozy Dorton, Barb Lewison, Craig Lewis and the Women of the ELCA group.
- ü And, once again Jean Witt has been the key to another successful year of the **Dakota Smiles Dental Program**. Through a generous gift from Erv and DeMaris Nesheim, this program provides children in need with free dental care. It changes lives!
- ü Many thanks to Rex Jorgensen and Brad McKinney for their leadership in setting up our first **Committee Ministry Fair**.
- ü Thank you also to Margaret Tretheway for providing music and assistance for CLF's Holy Communion Worship Service held at the **Nursing Home**.
- ü A Big Thank You to Craig Lewis and Phil Lewison who are teaching **Confirmation**.
- ü Thank you also to Marlene Sellevold and Anna Riner who have been providing leadership for our new **Choir School**.

Thank You...

Yesterday my roommates & I received a box full of goodies from y'all! Thank you so much! We absolutely loved the cards & the treats (of course) I'm definitely going to eat the treats between classes. Thank y'all for thinking of me! It means a lot! – Olivia Dahlstrom

I came home to a fun little surprise at my door!! Thank you Custer Lutheran Fellowship for making my day. Know that I do miss you and hope to come visit in November. – Christy Schmahl

I got the package Yvonne! What a wonderful idea! Made my whole week. – Rachel Chisman

Now I know why you needed my address! Thanks for the care package!! – Halima Kringen

October Is Pastors Appreciation Month

"In everything, give thanks"....familiar words of instruction from God....and we at CLF do desire and make those efforts often. Although ANYTIME is a good time to say thank you to our pastoral leaders, October is a wonderful opportunity to emphasize our gratitude. During pastoral transition Outreach Minister/Deacon Yvonne has served very capably through numerous challenges, provided continuity in ministry and continues to develop the SPARK program. Interim Pastor Pat, joined us in December, bringing amazing leadership, enlightenment, encouragement, support and sometimes push in our transition time. Here we are in a small town in South Dakota and God has blessed us richly with these two ministers' leadership at CLF. At CLF, we have unique support of our retired pastors as well. Thanks be to God for their willing support—both visible and not visible.

There will be cards at the church for members to sign on October 1st, 4th and 8th. On the 8th, there will be a cake of gratitude to share at coffee time between services and the cards will be presented to them that day. Your personal notes of thanks and well-wishes may be placed in a basket at church on October 8th. Your most important gift to them (and most desired by them) is your continual prayer support. Thank you for your participation in helping us celebrate their leadership.

Council Minutes – September 19, 2017

Treasurer's Report — members reviewed the report and discussed.

Unfinished Business:

- ü **Church land request** – Pat will follow through with the realtor to get more information on this land purchase request.
- ü **Thrivent Choice** – September Amount – \$159.00 / \$955.00
- ü **Committee Task Force Update** – Rex spoke with members about the Committee Fair to be held this Sunday. Both Brad and Rex gave temple talks about the fair at early and late services last week. Rex requested that the council help clarify the committee titles and define what each committee does. Members discussed. It was suggested that we will do the fair more than once. Rex would like to see the new committees up and functioning by November 1st.
- ü **Evangelism Task Force** – Pat spoke with members about developing the annual wood haul to Pine Ridge into an evangelism event including the local community and churches. The committee is working on developing and organizing this event.
- ü **Property Resource Team** – Paul spoke with members about the need to replace the antifreeze in the heating system. He has asked for a bid from another company. He suggested that we keep in mind that we will also need to resurface the parking lot in the future, as well as replace the mower (Augie has already replaced the motor in the old one). We also need to replace a window in the sanctuary where the seal is broken.
- ü **Summer Wednesday Worship Update** – Yvonne informed members that there were 20-35 people at Wednesday worship each week. She suggested that in the future, we have one less summer worship so there is a break before the Fall Spark Kids program starts.
- ü **Music Area Planning Update** – The risers are constructed and the pews have been rearranged. The space continues to be refined. The old baptismal font and Christ Candle have been brought into the back of the Sanctuary. The council agreed that the team has done good work!
- ü **Stewardship Task Force Update** – Pat spoke with members about the plans for the three weeks prior to Consecration Sunday, October 15th. On that Sunday there will be a special service at 10 AM followed by a meal.
- ü **Call Committee Recommendation** – Dave informed members that they are interviewing a candidate on October 7th. The Call Committee will then make a recommendation.
- ü **Appoint new Treasurer Update** – Dave has not been able to find a new treasurer but has two new names.
- ü **Procedure for Handling Sunday Offerings Update** – Roe presented and reviewed the Financial Practices Policy draft that he, Duane and Christie developed. Members discussed and edited the document. Duane made a motion that we accept the policy as edited. It was seconded and carried. Pat will discuss with staff a less obvious location for the safe and the handling of the keys. Members thanked Roe for his work.

New Business:

- ü **Attendance/Financial Statistics** – Members reviewed.
- ü **Sound System Proposal** – Steve Baldwin presented the sound system upgrade request. Members asked questions of Steve and discussed. Steve will prepare an article for the newsletter about the need for a new digital mixer. Council agreed that we do not have the money at this time to replace the mixer but we will continue to discuss. Members thanked Steve for his time and research.
- ü **2018 Health Insurance Options** – Pat informed members that the staff would like to continue the same insurance coverage as last year. There has been an increase of 5%. We will revisit this at our next meeting.
- ü **Tom Roberts Visit** – Pat spoke about the offer that Tom Roberts, the Christian author/illustrator, made to visit the church and do a program November 12th.
- ü **Financial Peace University** – Duane spoke about live streaming a three hour event by the Financial Peace University on November 7th.

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ü **Outreach** – The team met tonight to evaluate “God's Work. Our Hands.” It was felt it was very successful with good congregation participation.
- ü **W/ELCA** – W/ELCA was acknowledged for stepping up to sponsor a WNL dinner once a month and for coordinating the big clean-up day in the kitchen.
- ü **Youth** – the group has been working hard to provide firewood. They did a local service project Sunday afternoon and will be having a campfire after WNL this Wednesday.

ELW Devotions from the Daily Lectionary

17 Pentecost

Sunday, October 1: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Monday, October 2: Psalm 28; Judges 14:1-20; Philippians 1:3-14

Tuesday, October 3: Psalm 28; Judges 16:1-22; Philippians 1:15-21

Wednesday, October 4: Psalm 28; Judges 16:23-31; Matthew 9:2-8

18 Pentecost

Thursday, October 5: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:14-22; Colossians 2:16-23

Friday, October 6: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:23-37; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Saturday, October 7: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 6:1-10; John 7:40-52

Sunday, October 8: Psalm 80:7-15; Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Monday, October 9: Psalm 144; Ezekiel 19:10-14; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, October 10: Psalm 144; Isaiah 27:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday, October 11: Psalm 144; Song of Solomon 8:5-14; John 11:44-57

19 Pentecost

Thursday, October 12: Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:1-8a; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday, October 13: Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:8b-14; James 4:4-10

Saturday, October 14: Psalm 23; Isaiah 24:17-23; Mark 2:18-22

Sunday, October 15: Psalm 23; Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Monday, October 16: Psalm 34; Exodus 19:7-20; Jude 17-25

Tuesday, October 17: Psalm 34; Amos 9:5-15; Philippians 3:18—4:1

Wednesday, October 18: Psalm 34; song of Solomon 7:10—8:4; John 6:25-35

20 Pentecost

Thursday, October 19: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; Judges 17:1-6; 3 John 9-12

Friday, October 20: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Saturday, October 21: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; Isaiah 14:3-11; Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, October 22: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Monday, October 23: Psalm 98; Daniel 3:1-18; Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

Tuesday, October 24: Psalm 98; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 18:21-24

Wednesday, October 25: Psalm 98; Daniel 6:1-28; Matthew 17:22-27

21 Pentecost or Reformation Sunday

Thursday, October 26: Psalm 1; Numbers 5:5-10; Titus 1:5-16

Friday, October 27: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 9:25—10:5; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Saturday, October 28: Psalm 1; Proverbs 24:23-34; John 5:39-47

Sunday, October 29: Psalm 46; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Monday, October 30: Psalm 119:41-28; Deuteronomy 1:1-9, 20-15; James 2:8-13

Tuesday, October 31: Psalm 119:41-18; Deuteronomy 10:10-22; James 2:14-26

Wednesday, November 1: Psalm 119:41-48; Proverbs 16:1-20; Matthew 19:16-22



**Family
Devotion
Helps**

REFORMATION 500 – A Celebration

A Region-wide Festival of Music, Hymns, Readings & Prayers celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Our Lutheran Heritage will be Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 4:00 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church, 5311 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City. For more information, call (605) 484-1425.

Sound system update..

Steve Baldwin met with the Council on the 19th and gave the following report on the Sanctuary sound system:

“Due to recent issues with the sound system, we recently underwent an inspection of the sound system in the Sanctuary by the company who provide and maintain the audio/visual equipment. Wiring in the podium mic was repaired and the projectors were adjusted. Also, we discovered that the sound system mixer, or sound board, is malfunctioning and will soon need to be replaced. Not unexpectedly as it is the same age as the Sanctuary itself and has quite possibly outlived its useful life. The cost of the recommended digital mixer installed and programmed in the current location is estimated to be \$3,346. The one we have might last several months and it might drop dead on any given Sunday.”



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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 Secretary: Ann Snow
 Treasurer:

Ministers: All Members of CLF!