

# CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

**CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP**  
 12622 US HWY 16A CUSTER, SD 57730  
 PHONE: 605-673-4691  
 EMAIL: [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net) [www.custerlutheran.com](http://www.custerlutheran.com)

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APRIL 2021

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## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK

**Maundy Thursday**, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm – We will serve one another by washing each other's hands, and listen to Psalm 22 as the altar is stripped.

**Good Friday**, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm – A service of readings, prayer, and silence as we contemplate Jesus death on the cross.

**Easter Sunday**, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunrise service at 6:30 am as we welcome the Light of the World, and 9:30 am as we celebrate the hope we have through Jesus resurrection.



## EASTER

## GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK

~ April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 AM:

One of the favorite traditions at Custer Lutheran Fellowship is the "Cross Walk" around Stockade Lake. We gather at 6:30 AM to carry the cross together in remembrance of Jesus' journey through the streets of Jerusalem. The pace is not fast and we stop several times to hear the words of Jesus from the cross and to pray for those who suffer near and far. We will have a car with us for anyone who needs a lift to attend, or needs a ride back to church after we walk around the lake. Back at CLF, we celebrate the beginning of this best and worst of all days with a hearty potluck breakfast. There are signup sheets at the Welcome Center for people to carry the cross and pray as well as to bring breakfast items.

## EASTER LILIES...

If you would like to provide lilies to help decorate the church for Easter, please bring them to the church by Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can also order them at Jenny's Floral (605-673-3549) and have them delivered to CLF. If given in honor of or in memory of someone, please let the Office know as soon as possible, so the name will be listed in the bulletin. Email [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net) or call 673-4691.



### PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND HOPE

The 24- Hour Prayer Vigil held at Custer Lutheran Fellowship March 12-13 was a meaningful event for all who participated in some way.

Whether you came in person to pray or had a turn as a host or shared a name for our prayers or provided prayer resources or told someone about it or prayed at home alone or with someone, you are the reason we know it was meaningful. Thank you.

It was important to offer this time of prayer as we saw so many feeling isolated, feeling hopeless ....as well as the heaviness of all the other situations happening around us .

Some comments we received included these two: "It was comforting to have the sanctuary prepared for a peaceful place for prayer.... so thankful it could be a place of refuge for those that came to pray for healing and hope."

"The opportunity to pray in the quiet of the church, where I could focus squarely on each person in need of prayer. My mind was able to totally focus... and then hear our Lord's reassurance ...and know that my prayers were heard."

The Prayer Team is especially grateful to Pastor Pam for support in our planning, to Augie Heyne for the extra work of setting up the candles and the cross for our prayer time., and to im Canete who made some special masks of Lenten colors for workers or those who came. Thank you to Emily Hiatt for creating some logos for our prayer vigil. Thank you.

This will not be a one-time event....we will look forward to another gathering to offer our prayers for one another in the Love of our God through Healing and Hope. Let us know if you have an idea or desire to help with the next Prayer time.

Cozy Dorton & Linda Fennell, Prayer Team



I would like to express my deep gratitude for all who envisioned, so carefully planned, and for those who staffed CLF's 24-Hour Prayer Vigil. Dedicated to 'Hope and Healing" after a truly difficult 12-month period of time, the Prayer Vigil event was important foe each of us and for our corporate CLF body to experience. Again, thank you for the opportunity. ~ Li Fjerestad

### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



I am not sure how many at CLF realize that we have a Pastor's Discretionary Fund that I use to help people, both in this congregation and in the community. I help with a variety of things from rent/mortgage, utilities, grocery items that are not available at the Storehouse like diapers, toilet paper, etc., and more. This account is entirely funded by donations. It is not part of the yearly budget. CLF is also part of the Custer Ministerial Alliance (CMA), who also helps with utilities and rent. I encourage all of you to contact me or the CMA if you are in need in any way. The discretionary fund is completely confidential – I am the only one who knows who is helped. And of course I always welcome donations in any amount to the fund! Again, the money I use in that account is funded entirely by donations. It is a blessing to be able to help someone in need in this way. Please pray for those who I and the CMA have helped, and continue to support in the future. Blessings, Pastor Pam

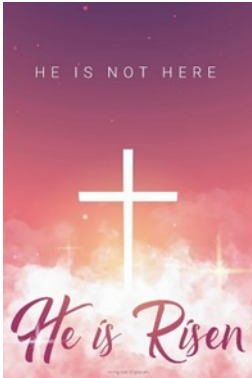
### CALLING WITH LOVE



Many of our members are still struggling with loneliness and isolation because of COVID-19. Please reach out with a phone call to let them know they are not alone, and that they are loved.



*Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*  
*He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!*



Yes, I know you will be receiving this newsletter before Easter Sunday, but it's right around the corner so I thought we could celebrate a few days early! I don't want you to skip worship on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, though!

Besides the joy of Jesus resurrection on Easter Sunday, springtime for me has always meant renewal and new life. Last year at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, that seemed hard to find. This year, too, we are anxious to get back to large family gatherings, vacations, and all the weddings and family reunions that were postponed.

One thing that does not ever change regardless of what is going on around us is the amazing gift that we have been given through Jesus sacrifice on the cross. You and I have been given this miraculous gift of unconditional love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and eternal life. Easter is also a reminder that this gift cannot be taken away from us. No matter what, God's love and presence is with each and every one of us, regardless of who we are or what we've done. That is truly a miracle!

Just as the earth and all of God's creation springs to new life in the spring, so do we. I've seen new life is springing up around us already in the calves scattered among the herds of cows. I can't wait for the cinnamons to arrive among the buffalo! Soon we will see green grass and flowers springing up. The days will begin to get warmer, tourists will begin to arrive.

Amazing as all of those things are, we, too, are given new life every single day through Jesus. Each day God's love surrounds us as we wake up and start the day. Each day Jesus walks with us on our journey. Each day the Holy Spirit gives us strength to step out and share this amazing love with the world.

We have the privilege and opportunity to share the love of God for all people everywhere we go. We get to tell people how much they are loved and valued by God. We get to see all people through God's eyes – to celebrate the amazing diversity that God created in each of us.

As we continue to celebrate Easter, let the joy open your eyes to God's gift to all people. Share the love of Jesus everywhere and with everyone! Shout it from the rooftops! Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Blessings, Pastor Pam



## PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR PAM 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.

Pastor Pam Power  
 701-955-5282 (cell)

pam\_clf@gwtc.net  
 673-4691 (church)

## CONFIRMATION DURING LENT....

**April 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday Parent Night**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday after worship at 10:30 am – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade only** – Meet in the Fellowship Hall to talk about your Faith Statements and your Faith Boards. *This is a mandatory meeting.*

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting at 6:30 pm** – We will be planning the confirmation banquet scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday All students – End-of-Year party in the Fellowship Hall**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students only** – meet with Pastor Pam to review their projects

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – Confirmation Banquet**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday at 9:30 am – Rite of Confirmation**

**All 8th grade students** are required to meet individually with Pastor Pam for a brief 15-minute discussion prior to May 1st. Email, call, or text her to schedule.

**Holy Week Journal** – A reminder that all confirmation students must complete a Holy Week Journal at least once during the three-year confirmation program. The journal may be completed at any church, not only at CLF. It includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The journals are available in the narthex so that you can take one with you if you will be traveling during Holy Week. Please talk to Pastor Pam with questions.



## SAVE THE DATE—RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation will be on May 9<sup>th</sup> during worship at 9:30 am. Come celebrate with our class of 6 confirmands.

## RAP GROUP



Join us as we begin meeting again! We will have a kick-off gathering on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm after worship downstairs in the Youth Room. We will have some fun and plan activities for the spring and summer. These are the dates we will meet through the rest of the school year:

April 14<sup>th</sup>      April 28<sup>th</sup>  
May 12<sup>th</sup>      May 26<sup>th</sup>

Come join us for fun, games, and conversation!

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES—CONTACT US!



A special Graduation Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, for all 2021 high school graduates who are members of CLF. We want to celebrate with your graduate and your family. We want to be sure we are aware of all who are graduating and that we have their names spelled correctly. Please let the office know if your child will be graduating this year. Email [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net).



## PARISH NURSE UPDATE .....

Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse

*We find ourselves wondering if we are safe now.* Many of us have been fortunate to receive our COVID vaccine, or are in the process. The answer to that is yes we are safer, but remain cautious. There are still many in our community who have not been that fortunate yet. There is also a chance that we can pick up the virus from someone else, and perhaps not get ill, but we can pass it on to another vulnerable person. In the public, the recommendation is to still wear a mask, but privately we can feel safe visiting with someone else who has been vaccinated. We can also see our family & grandkids who we have missed very much. But please be sure they have been cautious as well. We recently lost a good friend who was only 54 years young, with no preexisting conditions. He left behind a young family and he was so much enjoying his young grandbabies. It was a big reminder, that while we may feel safe, others are not yet. *We all can't wait for more normalcy.* Healthy Body, Healthy Life...



## WORSHIP & MUSIC....

'As I begin my music news, I am shocked, as all of you are, by the sad news of the shooting in Boulder. Many prayers and thoughts are with the families and friends who now have to say goodbye to these special people in their lives. It is hard to comprehend. We know God is there and here with all of us. During this time we are reminded of emotions that our Lord was crucified and we have been leading up to Easter and the remembrance of His resurrection. His love is always here.

We have been preparing the services for March and April services and as I study the scriptures and the songs that tell the story, I thank Pastor Pam, the congregation and all the musicians that have helped with the upcoming services. Each of you matters. I remember a saying that I heard that said "God plus one is always a majority" and so now we work together to prepare for these special services.

Last Week, Bill and I, had the privilege to judge a music contest at the High School. This was a Senior Project for a young man who did a wonderful job. Since music contest was cancelled for this year, several Custer High School students had prepared vocal, instrumental and piano solos and so we were able to judge these wonderful musicians. Bill and I were able to visit a bit with several students and asked some of them "What does Music mean to you?" . Some of the answers we heard were, "I Love Music", "Music helps me feel part of a group", "Music helps me deal with everyday problems" , and "Music is a gift from God". Their words were from their heart and so it was a wonderful morning to spend with these young people. The teachers that are working with these students can be proud of them.

Music can stimulate conversation, and emotions. One thing that I have realized is that the heart is happiest when it beats for others.

We have services Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, And Easter which are listed on the church calendar. We look forward to celebration of the gift that God gave us through His son, Jesus Christ .

As I close this report, Pam is still in need of an office manager. Please spread the word and we ask for prayers for this person.

Thank you for all your help and encouragement as I work on the music ministry in this church. Cozy has done a wonderful job with keeping us informed of those that need prayers.

"THE STRIFE IS OVER, THE BATTLE WON"

HAPPY EASTER... ~ Margaret Tretheway





## CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES..

If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:  
 Pam — pam\_clf@gwtc.net  
 Main address— clf@gwtc.net

## MAY NEWSLETTER

### DEADLINE

Please have articles for the May Newsletter to the office by April 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

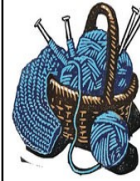
## OFFICE HOURS.....



The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM. The office days for individuals are as follows but hours may not be until 4:00 PM.:

Chris: in office Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...



If you have someone in your life who needs some extra comfort and prayers, please pick up a prayer shawl from the office. Everyone is welcome to do so at any time—just let someone in the office know when you do, as we keep a journal of all

activity.

## 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. You can set up your own login/password and make changes with your giving at any time.



## 2021 BUDGET THRU FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

	Non-Restricted	
	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Offering Contributions	47,728	45,000
Non-Taxable PPP Grant	27,328	26,667
0Endowment Savings Fund	0	0
Interest	84	67
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>75,140</b>	<b>71,734</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Pastoral Leadership	14,680	15,144
Worship	1,241	1,340
Education	0	118
Mission Support	7,105	7,105
Support/Care	19,089	18,592
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>33,025</b>	<b>29,435</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>33,025</b>	<b>29,435</b>

## MISSING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If you have noticed that your birthday or anniversary has been missing from our birthday and anniversary list, please do not be offended! We are not omitting you on purpose! It is because we do not have the information sheet we need that has birthdays, updated phone numbers, and email addresses. This is true even if you have filled out information for your children through the confirmation or SPARK Kids program. We may have children’s birthdays, but not the parents. Please stop by the office and fill out a form so we may update our lists to include your very important dates! You can also give us your birthday without providing the year! Thank you!



**SENIOR PROJECT FOR MACHELLE WICKS.....**

I am a senior at Custer High School, and a member of Custer Lutheran Fellowship. My senior project is to put together backpacks full of supplies for people experiencing homelessness in Rapid City. I am planning on filling about forty backpacks and would love the help of the members of CLF with this project. There will be a bin in the narthex through April 11<sup>th</sup>. I am collecting: socks, plastic water bottles, canned food (pop top only), toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant. Thank you so much for helping with this project to help the homeless!

**ALTAR GUILD HELPERS NEEDED .....**

Our Altar Guild needs new members to serve: One needed for March/April, One needed for July/August, Two needed for September/October and one needed for November/December 2021. You can sign up at the Welcome Center. Duties include: filling the candles with liquid wax and changing the banners to match the church season. If you have questions, please talk to the office staff. HINT: Confirmation families—this is a great way for you to help...these items can be done while your child is in Confirmation Class.

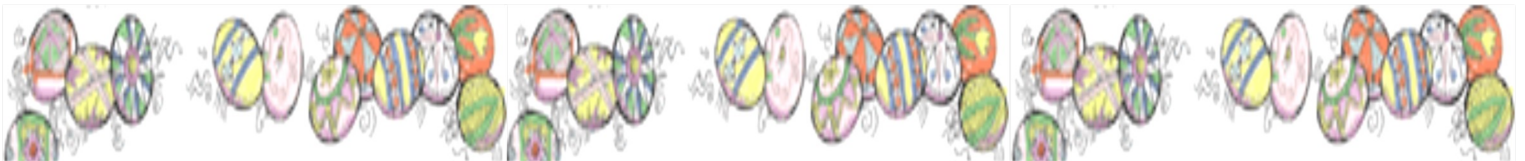
**“CHRIST IN OUR HOME”  
DEVOTIONALS**

The “Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **April through June issue** is here. We give thanks to W/ELCA for providing this devotional for your personal use.

If you would like an issue, you can stop by the office to pick one up, or contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

**LYNN’S RECEIPTS....**

We are still collecting receipts from Lynn’s Dakotamart. We appreciate so much everyone who brings their receipts. We wanted everyone to be aware that we do not collect the gas discount receipts, though. We want you to keep those to get your gas discount! But continue to drop off your receipts in the office or in the can at the Welcome Center. Thank you!



## SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP....

Is meeting again for breakfast and Bible study starting with breakfast at 8:30 AM. Hope to see you then!

### April 10

#### Study and Discussion Topic: What is Biblical Faith? (Hebrews 11)

Faith in Christ is not just about knowing the truths of the Gospel, but living them as well. How do we do this? Let's talk about it and how we live the Gospel through faith!

### May 8

#### Study and Discussion Topic: What is "Our Daily Bread"? (Matthew 6:11)

We pray the Lord's Prayer so often, but do we really stop to think about what we are actually saying and what the implications are? "Give us this day our daily bread...." We are not really ever independent or self-sufficient, but dependent on the goodness of God for our needs---every day. Independence is an illusion. Even the atheist is dependent on God for life and bread. No one can actually live a self-sufficient life. Everyone needs the blessings that come from God.

## PROPERTIES COMMITTEE ....

### CLF Forest Stewards Protecting Property

In January and February some CLF members broke out of COVID isolation to get some exercise, have fun and reduce fire hazard around the church, parsonage, and outdoor worship area. Contractors cut and trimmed trees threatening the powerline and building and carefully thinned over-crowded pines to required spacing. Then hearty CLF members gathered to pile the slash. Their work was quite impressive: Fueled by coffee, treats, warm sunshine and fellowship, 15 members contributed 118 hours to create 57 slash piles totaling 11.5 tons of heavy lifting! The tree trunks were cut into firewood lengths for a future Pine Ridge wood haul. The piles will be burned next winter. A State *Firewise* cost-share program, supported by the CLF volunteer labor, will reimburse CLF a total of \$1,313 to defray contractor costs. CLF volunteers: Brad & Connie McKinney, Elmer Smolnisky, Craig Black, Rick Hudson, Gary Roberts, Scot Hoscheid, Merrell Hoveskeland, Larry Peterson, Bonnie Thompson, Rudy & Lois Anderson, Dave Pickford, Paul Horsted and Dave Thom Contractors; Rich Barry and Mike Burke





SNOW DAYS.....



BUILD A MOUNTAIN.....



SARA'S GOODBYE.....



MAKING MUSIC.....



## GOD *will* TRANSFORM THIS CHURCH

By Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. That's our name. At least two parts of our name, "Evangelical" and "Church," are either misunderstood or an outright stumbling block for a significant percentage of the American population.

Pew Research reports that over one-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third under 30—are religiously unaffiliated. These are the "nones." The religiously unaffiliated, whether never churched or dechurched, don't have a favorable impression of church. They see it as extremist, full of hypocrites, judgmental, anti-science, anti-intellectual, dogmatic, overly concerned about other people's morality, naïve and out of touch. Ouch.

In the eyes of the nones, the ELCA gets lumped in with everyone else. Though we aren't perfect, and some of the characteristics of church apply to us at various times, we have a theology based on a liberating gospel of Jesus Christ that is the *euangelion*—the good news. The "Evangelical" in our name points to the transforming love of Jesus, to reconciliation, to freedom, to grace. It's expansive, for everyone and all creation. It doesn't require our effort or our merit, only our trust in God's promise.

It's not naïve. Scripture, Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others were clear-eyed about the reality of human sin and brokenness and the devastating consequences for individuals, groups of people and creation that result. There is judgment, but it is God's, not ours. Our evangelical understanding of God's word is that it is both law and gospel, judgment and promise. We aren't an everything goes, antinomian church.

I remember the light bulbs going off in my catechism students' heads when learning about grace. Does it give us license to do anything we want? Paul had to address the same line of thinking in the letter to the Romans. No. Grace makes it possible to be honest with ourselves and face our sin because the Spirit grants us the space, time and desire to turn from our sin to the source of life.

Our evangelical witness is full of paradox—we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Yes, there is hypocrisy in the church—welcome to humanity! But there is also beauty and love poured by the Spirit into sometimes stubborn and broken hearts. There is law and gospel. We are at once perfectly free and lord of all and bound and servant of all (Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*).

Our evangelical witness is that God called the creation good; that we have been given the gift of curiosity that compels us to study the natural world, to engage in scientific research. The more we know about creation, the closer we draw to the Creator. We aren't anti-intellectual—Luther was a college professor after all.

I happen to know some millennials who had conversations with their none neighbors. These conversations were open and engaged. The none neighbors carried the above-mentioned perceptions of church, but they also knew that their millennial friends served as Young Adults in Global Mission and were active in their congregation. The nones were trying to reconcile their perceptions of church with their experience of actual Lutherans—one of whom is a scientist. Without that relationship, the nones would never have known a true evangelical witness to the liberating good news of Jesus.

In this issue you have read about Future Church (page 20). God is calling us into this exciting mission, and the Spirit will activate each of us to invite people to know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. The ELCA can hold up our evangelical witness, which is an alternative face of Christianity—not for institutional survival, but so that more people will experience the deep love of Jesus, be transformed and liberated by that love and "work for justice and peace" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Holy Baptism).

This mission will take all of us, and it means actual relationships with real people led by an incarnational God. I believe that God will transform this church.

This column originally appeared in *Living Lutheran's* March 2021 issue. Reprinted with permission. © Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY.....



***“But ask the animals, and they will teach you;  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.  
Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In his hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being.  
Job 12:7-10***

On the calendar, Earth Day is April 22 but every day is Earth Day, right? God’s Earth. Given to us with a command to be good stewards. At CLF, we will be celebrating the event throughout April by providing an opportunity to pick up a green shopping bag (or two, or three,...) It is hoped that this shopping bag will serve as a reminder of some of the small changes we can make in our daily living that help protect our limited resources. Many stores are once again permitting shoppers to use their own shopping bags for their purchases (as Covid restrictions are lifted).

With each bag you will also find a list of many places in the Hills to recycle household waste. Do you know where to take motor oil? Old cell phones? Car batteries? Find out by picking up a green shopping bag at the Church during the month of April.

The bags are available for a freewill offering. A buck a bag is suggested.

Let’s Celebrate!



Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod,

He has risen! He has risen indeed! - You may hear others say about us that we are "Easter People". What does that mean? It means that we believe and trust that death does not have the last Word. And that is true for all areas of our daily life. As Easter people we know that death never has the last Word. In fact as Easter People we come to know death as painfully excruciating because of Good Friday, but in spite of our pain we know and believe that in the midst of our pain God is at work calling forth life where the world has closed the book and calls it quits.

When others walk away from the grave, Easter People stay and wait for it only to become witnesses to God's amazing power and then we go tell. As we marked the anniversary of the Coronavirus pandemic last month and reminisce about last year's unorthodox Easter celebration, we have been presented with an opportunity to show up as God's people outside our buildings. We have not turned away from those who have died or experienced losses of all kinds. No, we have shown up in many ways. Thank you, dear South Dakota Synod, for showing up, for being Easter People who trust and believe, that life is already waiting to spring forth when all we see is loss. Faith is to hope for things that are yet unseen. South Dakota Synod, we will not need to "go back to normal", we will not even try to find a "new normal". But we will boldly live into God's future by continuing to show up proclaiming the good news of Jesus, the Christ. Alleluia!

Journeying in Christ with you,  
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier,  
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

**The Easter Season**

*Rev. Jonathan Steiner*

In April, we make the turn into the Easter season. A whole season of the church dedicated to the resurrection of Christ our savior, not just a single day. The promise that "Christ is risen!" will be proclaimed again and again in worship.

How do you proclaim that Christ is risen? How do you live out our faith, trusting in the promise of new life? How do we show and share the joy that comes to us through God?

As Lutherans, we understand that resurrection is not just a gift for us when our bodies fail, but a current reality for our world. The Holy Spirit flows through us and others to bring new life, here and now. Despite the tragedy and grief that result from the pandemic, God is at work, turning death to resurrection. This often happens through generosity, as we share our blessings with others.

Be on the lookout for chances to proclaim "Christ is risen, right here and right now!" Listen to your neighbors, knowing that God might be using you in the process of resurrection.

**GOD DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOU,  
BECAUSE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE  
IS ALREADY HIS.  
BE GRATEFUL.**

—Bob Goff, Live in Grace—Walk in Love

*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17*

There it was—the loud, bold heading of my devotions for the day from a favorite book. It's never a deep theological discussion, but always challenging and straight to the point. And that day wasn't any different. "At every point, whether we've known it or not, God has protected us and sustained us. Our good behavior didn't earn it, and our failures haven't ruined it.....We wake up to new days, we take our next breath, we dream some dreams because of God's grace. We did nothing to earn any of this.

"God doesn't want anything from you, because everything you have is already God's. If you want to dazzle God, give thanks by sharing what you've been given. Freely, with gratitude. No strings attached."

(Continued next page)



**W/ELCA HAPPENINGS...**

The next meeting for W/ELCA will be held on Monday, April 26 at 11:30 in the Fireside Room. All are welcome to attend! Women are invited to pack a lunch. We will share a social time while eating our lunches. Coffee and tea will be provided.

We will have a speaker at our meeting. At the writing of this newsletter, that speaker has not been determined. Please check the bulletin for information as the meeting time draws near.

At our March meeting, we made spring/Easter gnomes to take to our friends at Custer Senior Care. The gnomes were accompanied by baskets filled with Easter flowers. We also delivered gnomes to some of our friends who have been staying close to home over the past year. Thank you to Shana Hindman for leading us in creating the gnomes. Also, thanks to Linda Markegard for supplying the baskets and flowers.

In addition to making the gnomes, we enjoyed putting together 40 Personal Care Kits for LWR. Lutheran World Relief will give the kits to folks who have had to leave their homes to escape a disaster. Each of the kits includes the following: one bath towel, one comb, one toothbrush, a nail clipper and three bars of soap. We have learned through this project that we will put together similar kits to be given to folks in our area who perhaps have had to leave home because of a fire or a flood. Our goal is to have some of these made up so they are on hand when we need them. We appreciate each of you who donated to make this project successful.

We wish each of you a Happy Easter and blessings throughout the coming year!

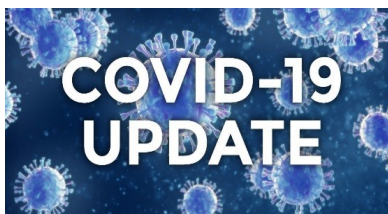


**QUILTING** — Thank you for the continual flow of supplies we need to get the job done. We continue to need good flat sheets, all sizes, all colors. All the blankets and flannel sheets we can't use have ben delivered to the Cornerstone Mission. Thrivent Funds have helped to purchase large pieces of backing & padding making the process go faster. We are enjoying being together Tuesday mornings. Thanks for all the ways you help this "serving" continue. ~ The Quilters

**SD SYNOD NEWS CONT'D.....**

So....what if I didn't earn it? What if my hard work doesn't mean I deserve it? Why did God choose me as manager of the resources I've been chosen to steward? What if God put me in this place and position for a purpose? If you're asking some of these same questions and thinking about how your life can make a difference, Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD was created as a resource for you. We have tools and information to build a plan that honors your faith and your family, and expresses your gratitude through generosity. For more information, call Kathy McHenry at 605.274.5030, email [kmchenry@sdsynod.org](mailto:kmchenry@sdsynod.org) or visit our website at [www.lpgsd.org](http://www.lpgsd.org).

**UPDATE ON COVID-19 GUIDELINES....**



During our February council meeting, we discussed our current guidelines for physical distancing and masks. We made the decision to plan to remove the seating restrictions in the sanctuary effective Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. This is tentative, though, depending on how the month progresses with COVID-19 in our community. We also discussed the possibility of relaxing the mask requirement once those 50 years old and older are able to be vaccinated. All of this is highly dependent on how our community is doing with active cases. Our church council is committed to doing all we can to protect our community, while also recognizing that we are all tired of restrictions and masks. Continue to keep the council in prayer as we make these decisions for the good of all.



## COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 MEETING

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:** The year to date offering is 106% of budget. February expenditures exceeded the monthly budget and are 100% of budget year to date. The Council was requested to encourage the financial review committee to schedule a review of the 2020 books.

### Unfinished Business:

- ◇ **Thrivent Choice** - \$348 received in February, \$129 received in March.
- ◇ **Review of worship and activities** – Seating restrictions will be removed the Saturday before Palm Sunday, March 28 in response to the new CDC social distancing guidelines of 3 feet. Wearing masks will continue to be the policy. Small groups are starting to meet in person following CDC guidelines. The plan is still for full resumption of in person activities by Fall of 2021 with a continued on-line presence.

### New Business:

- ◇ **Membership Changes**—Kevin and Donna Larson, transfer from Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake, MN.
- ◇ Mabelle Wicks, Custer High School Senior, letter requesting CLF to help with her senior project to fill back packs for people experiencing homelessness was discussed. Carol moved, it was seconded and approved to support Mabelle's project. Pastor Pam will contact Mabelle for more details.
- ◇ A review of the Ministry Leadership Retreat was postponed to the April meeting. The information from the retreat will be discussed in person.
- ◇ Dave Pickford, Property Committee, reviewed the 3 bids received for roofing and gutter replacement for the church and parsonage. The Property Committee's recommendation is to award the bid to Todd and Sons for \$89,000. The project will take about one week. The council asked that the contractor avoid Holy week. The cost of the project will be reimbursed by insurance. Emily moved, it was seconded and approved to award the project to Todd and Sons.

**Reflections on Mission and Ministry** Pastor Pam reviewed her report. The 3 candidates for the Office Manager position have accepted other job offers or not responded to invitations for an interview. Donna McConnell will continue to provide support. The job opening will continue to be advertised.

### Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ◇ Endowment, Liz Kleffner – Nothing to report.
- ◇ Evangelism, Pastor Pam – Nothing to report.
- ◇ Health Ministry, Carol Niemann – Nothing to report.
- ◇ Property Committee, Samuel Ainsley and Dave Pickford – The roofing and gutter replacement project is progressing. The committee will consider other projects.
- ◇ Social Ministry, Scot Hoscheid – Build a Mountain activities are scheduled through March. Items donated will be moved to a Sunday school room Saturday, March 27 in preparation of distribution.
- ◇ W/ELA, Jackie Hartwick – The next meeting is scheduled for March 22. The group will be making gnomes for nursing home residents.
- ◇ Worship & Music, No Assignment – Emily Hiatt was assigned as the liaison for the Worship and Music committee. Pastor Pam reported Margret Tretheway and Cozy Dorton are planning the music through Easter. Pastor Phil will be presenting a sermon April 11 titled Holy Hilarity. Pastor Pam reviewed the worship schedule for Palm Sunday through Easter.

**Next Meeting: April 20, 2021** Treats – Samuel Ainsley. Devotions – Jackie Hartwick. April 2021 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – Dave Pickford

## MEALS ON WHEELS

For years, CLF has taken the responsibility for delivering Meals on Wheels on Fridays. We are now down to four volunteers and can really use some more! We will be happy to train you and show you the ropes if you can commit to one weekend a month! The recipients are always so appreciative, but more than that we are doing our Father's work and are always so very blessed for doing so! Please contact Mark Hogg or the church office if you know of anyone who can help. Thank you!!



## ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

### Easter Week

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday; Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 2: Good Friday; Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

Saturday, April 3: Resurrection of Our Lord—Vigil of Easter; Romans 6:3-11; John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 4: Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Day; Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 4: Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Evening; Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

Monday, April 5: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:1-19; 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Tuesday, April 6: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:20—2:4a; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Wednesday, April 7: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Song of Solomon 3:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

### Easter 2

Thursday, April 8: Psalm 133; Daniel 1:1-21; Acts 2:42-47

Friday, April 9: Psalm 133; Daniel 2:1-23; Acts 4:23-31

Saturday, April 10: Psalm 133; Daniel 2:24-49; John 12:44-50

Sunday, April 11: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1—2:2; John 20:19-31

Monday, April 12: Psalm 135; Daniel 3:1-30; 1 John 2:3-11

Tuesday, April 13: Psalm 135; Daniel 6:1-28; 1 John 2:12-17

Wednesday, April 14: Psalm 135; Isaiah 26:1-15; Mark 12:18-27

### Easter 3

Thursday, April 15: Psalm 4; Daniel 9:1-19; 1 John 2:18-25

Friday, April 16: Psalm 4; Daniel 10:2-19; 1 John 2:26-28

Saturday, April 17: Psalm 4; Acts 3:1-10; Luke 22:24-30

Sunday, April 18: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Monday, April 19: Psalm 150; Jeremiah 30:1-11a; 1 John 3:10-16

Tuesday, April 20: Psalm 150; Hosea 5:15—6:6; 2 John 1-6

Wednesday, April 21: Psalm 150; Proverbs 9:1-6; Mark 16:9-18

### Easter 4

Thursday, April 22: Psalm 23; Genesis 30:25-43; Acts 3:17-26

Friday, April 23: Psalm 23; Genesis 46:28—47:6; Acts 4:1-4

Saturday, April 24: Psalm 23; Genesis 48:8-19; Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, April 25: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Monday, April 26: Psalm 95; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, April 27: Psalm 95; 1 Chronicles 11:1-9; Revelation 7:13-17

Wednesday, April 28: Psalm 95; Micah 7:8-20; Mark 14:26-31

### Easter 5

Thursday, April 29: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:1-7; Acts 8:1b-8

Friday, April 30: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:11-13; Acts 8:9-25

Saturday, May 1: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 9:7-15; Mark 4:30-32

Sunday, May 2: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Monday, May 3: Psalm 80; Isaiah 5:1-7; Galatians 5:16-26

Tuesday, May 4: Psalm 80; Isaiah 32:9-20; James 3:17-18

Wednesday, May 5: Psalm 80; Isaiah 65:17-25; John 14:18-31





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## **Custer Lutheran Fellowship**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Our Bedrock Beliefs are...**

We grow in faith through worship and sacraments

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

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

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

We have faith only through God's grace.

### **Our Core Values are:**

*Faith, Family, Mission,  
Service, Worship*



### **Ministering at Custer Lutheran Fellowship**

Pastor: Pamela Power  
Office Manager: Mary Stutz  
Parish Nurse: Mary Klein  
Custodian: Augie Heyne  
Music: Margaret Tretheway  
Choir Director: Marlene Sellevoid  
Financial Secretary: Ann Snow  
Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky  
SPARK Kids: Wendi Rusch

**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**