

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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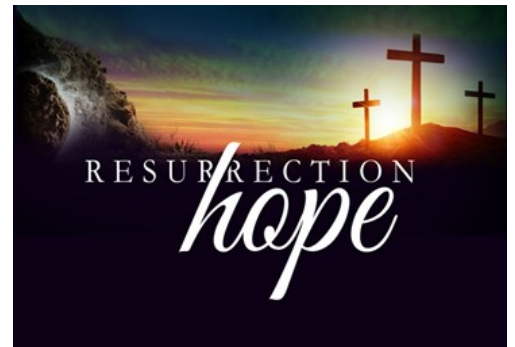
APRIL 2022

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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- ❖ **Palm Sunday – April 10th at 9:30 am** – We begin worship in the gathering area, processing into the sanctuary waving our palms celebrating Jesus entry into Jerusalem. We then read the Passion story as Jesus journeys to the cross.
- ❖ **Maundy Thursday – April 14th at 6:30 pm** – Continuing with our “Witnesses to Christ” worship series, we will discuss Judas Iscariot and his role in Jesus Passion. We will wash one another’s feet as Jesus washed his disciples feet. We will also celebrate Holy Communion, remembering how Jesus began this sacrament on this night.
- ❖ **Good Friday – April 15th at 6:30 pm** – We will hear from John, the writer of John’s gospel during this quiet service as we hear once again Jesus journey to the cross. This is a powerful service of scripture and prayer on the night of Jesus death on the cross.
- ❖ **Easter Sunday – April 17th – Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 am; Easter Worship at 9:30 am** – As we conclude our “Witnesses to Christ” worship series on this holy day, we learn about Mary Magdalene and Jesus appearance to her after his resurrection.



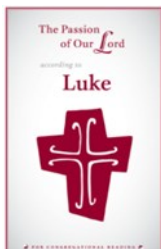
EASTER

GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK – APRIL 15TH AT 6:30 AM

One of the favorite traditions at CLF is the “Good Friday Cross Walk” around Stockade Lake. We gather at the church 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 scripture and pray together for those who suffer near and far. Back at CLF, we celebrate the beginning of this best and worst of all days with a potluck breakfast. There are sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center for people to carry the cross and pray, as well as bring breakfast items.

PALM SUNDAY PASSION READING

On Palm Sunday, April 10th, together as a congregation we will be reading the Passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke. There are several reading parts, as well as parts we will read together as the gathered congregation. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center for the different parts, as well as booklets with each part highlighted. Please consider reading one of these parts as we tell the story of Jesus Passion together on Palm Sunday.



The Sunday, March 20th worship was amazing with God's Word and Song. Pastor Pam's blessing over their family, and then the congregation's spontaneous standing ovation was an additional blessing for them.



Happy Retirement Glenn & Marlene!

Thank You for your
many years of
dedication at CLF
through Music.

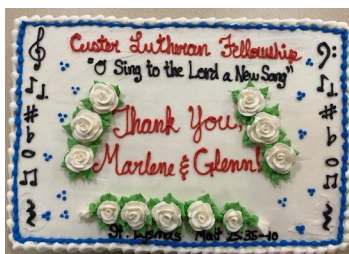


The special cake and gift giving time were also joyful. The CLF Council, the Quilters, the Prayer Shawl Makers, and the Choir all presented special gifts. The choir's clock made by Sunny Reeves' daughter had a plaque that said "It's Always Time to Praise the Lord!"

However, for many, the Back Row Men of the choir were the stars of the show. In front of them was a chair with a cowboy hat to represent Glenn and a sign that said "FIRST CHAIR BASS." They thanked Glenn for his humor and inspiration and then put the hat on Glenn and closed the chair up to retire it. Then everyone sang "Happy Trails and stated The Lord's Prayer" just as they always closed choir.

Thanks to all who helped recognize their significant retirement among this body of Christ. Whether you gave smiles, spoke to them, sent a card, or visited in gratitude, you made it the best it could be. They were grateful, and we remain grateful and forever changed. Thanks be to God!

Happy Retirement and Happy Trails from your CLF Friends





As we have journeyed through Lent on Wednesdays using the “Witnesses to Christ – People From His Passion” worship series, I have found the insights into the different characters very interesting. I have found that, in many ways, I can identify with many of the characters – their motivations, their feelings, their faults. Or, I can understand how the other characters in the stories relate and react to them.

Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus – Extravagant giving

Malchus, the servant of the Chief Priest – When surprising things happen, we can trust Jesus

Peter – Guilt over our actions; fear of how others may react to us

Barabbas – Freed from sin through the grace of Jesus

Pilate – Callous, hardened heart

Judas Iscariot – Jesus died *for you*

John, the Gospel Writer – We are invited to stand at the cross and hold on to Jesus

Mary Magdalene – God loves and saves even the most unlikely people

As we approach the celebration of Easter morning, it’s often hard to remember all the lessons of Lent. On Easter morning when we are shouting our “Alleluia’s” and singing with joy, we don’t want to remember that we don’t always live up to Jesus hopes for us. Those reminders of guilt and fear and sometimes our unwillingness to allow our hearts to be changed by the love of Christ are happily pushed away Easter morning.



But for me, those reminders we have been given throughout this worship series are even more meaningful because of Jesus resurrection and what that means for each of us. The gift of grace and mercy and salvation we have all been given through Jesus death and resurrection are made even more powerful and profound **because** we know we are not perfect. We do make mistakes – and continue to! And Jesus knows that!

Just as Jesus knew all his disciples would abandon and betray him, Jesus knows we will continue to do and say things that will make him unhappy. But just as Jesus continued to love the disciples and showed up for them after his resurrection, Jesus will continue to love us and show up in our lives now. If anything, all of these stories during Lent have shown that Jesus never turns his back on us, no matter how many times we stray from what he wants us to do and

be.

I hope and pray that as we all celebrate Jesus resurrection on Easter morning, we remember that Jesus love surrounds us and remains with us always. May Jesus love truly enter us and change our hearts so that we show his love in all we say and do. May the light and love of Jesus shine from you on Easter and every day.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

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

Wednesday, April 6th

Pastor Pam will meet with **8th graders only** in the Fireside room to go over their confirmation projects

Sunday, April 10th – Sunday, April 17th

This is Holy Week. For those who have not done their Holy Week Journal yet, this is the week to do that, either at CLF or at another church if you are traveling

Wednesday, April 27th

Pastor Pam will meet with **8th graders only** in the Fireside room to finalize their confirmation projects; we will rehearse the banquet worship service today, too

Wednesday, May 4th

Confirmation Banquet – 6th and 7th grade youth and parents make the meal and serve the 8th grade youth and their families

Banquet worship – confirmands share their Bible verses, talk about their faith boards, and we sing their favorite hymn/song

Sunday, May 8th

Confirmation for 8th graders during worship!

All 8th Grade Students are required to meet individually with Pastor Pam

for a brief 15 minutes discussion prior to May 4th. Email, call, or text her to schedule (pam_clf@gwtc.net / 701-955-5282)



SAVE THE DATE—RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation will be on May 8th during worship at 9:30 am.
Come celebrate with our class of 8 confirmands.

RAP GROUP



On February 25th, the Rap group volunteered at Feeding South Dakota. This organization packages boxes of both dry and canned food to be distributed among different towns. Most distributing sites were church parking lots, and we were told that families are allowed to come pick up two boxes once a month. The leader said their food is either bought by donations or donated by different stores such as Target or Sam's Club. For most of our time there we did an assembly line and each volunteer put something different into the box and passed it down. Some examples of food we packed were bags of rice, cans of fruit, and different kinds of packaged noodles. Packaging got a little crazy at some points when our group knew the song playing and had to sing along or when we got into a fast rhythm packaging the boxes.

Overall, it was a time of great laughs and an awesome way to volunteer our service in the community to be a part of something that will make an impact. -Denali Rusch

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES—CONTACT US!



A special Graduation Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 21st**, for all 2022 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 and how many people will attend the breakfast. Email clf@gwtc.net.



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 16th. 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 or call 673-4691.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

As I was working on the hymns and the people who are giving the gift of music to us, I realized that when we sing in the congregation together, we are all united together in praising our father. We become a unit. I am so very thankful that I can do the job I do because I love to hear all of the music. I thank everyone for support.

On Sunday, March 20th, was a time to say thank you to our music director and librarian. They have given us so much joy and celebration of music to glorify our Lord. We will miss their dedication to the CLF choir, but we know that they can look back on the lessons given to the youth, the choir, the prison ministry and our church.

I was fortunate to have been raised in a family that loved music and knew those gifts were from God. When my brothers and I would sit up in the balcony at church, we would cover our ears because my Dad's voice was so loud, and of course as I got older, I realized that he was putting all his faith on Jesus. Oh how I wish I could hear that voice. Music is a gift God has given to us and I pray that we can continue to have all this beautiful music. Think about it and help us have the music as a thank you to God.

We have a group that is meeting with Pastor Pam to reach out and have all ages involved in the music.

The words of the songs during Lent can be sad and remind us of how our Savior gave His life, that we could be with Him someday. Please attend our Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM and our Easter Sunday Service At 9:30 AM on April 17th. We would love to have you join us for worship!

CHRIST HAS RISEN -
God bless,
Margaret Tretheway

WORSHIP AND NOISY OFFERING





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 20th. 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 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.



FEBRUARY 28, 2022 YTD NON-RESTRICTED BUDGET

	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Offering Contributions	42,697	49,583	-6,886	86%
Non-Restricted Special Donations	652	578	74	113%
Interest	2	50	-48	5%
Total Income	43,351	50,211	-6,859	86%
Expenses				
Pastoral Leadership	14,979	15,786	807	95%
Worship	2,192	2,621	-429	84%
Education	0	222	-222	0%
Mission Support	6,345	6,593	-248	96%
Support/Care	22,884	17,396	5,487	132%
Total Expenses	46,400	42,618	3,782	109%
Net Ordinary Income	-3,703	7, 593	11,296	-49%



EASTER CANTATA

An Easter cantata, *BECAUSE HE LIVES*, will be performed on Saturday, April 16th at 5:30 PM at the Custer Community Church. This cantata will be sung by a twelve-member choir, directed by Sandy Huffman, the music includes selections by both a handbell ensemble and a new horn quartet in this hour long program.

The community is invited to this celebration of Easter.

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!

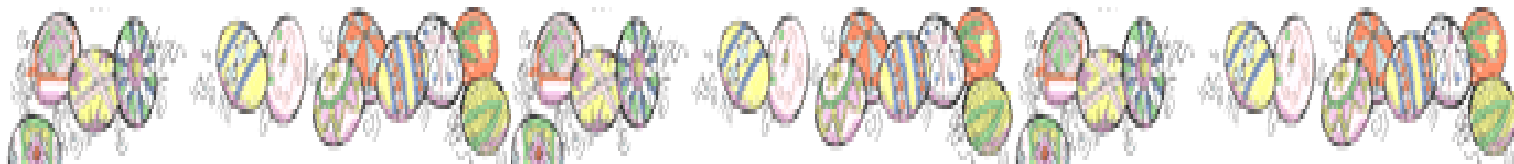
"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DEVOTIONALS

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!



A TIME FOR A RESET

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

In the first seven chapters of Genesis, we move quickly from the glory of creation to disobedience, expulsion from the garden and fratricide to the wickedness of humankind. We read, "The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). God's beautiful creation, in harmony with itself and its creator, had gone completely off the rails. God had given the creation as a gift—and the gift was rejected. Time for a reset.

"And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, 'I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry I have made them'" (Genesis 6:6-7). Then, in chapter 7, we get the flood.

This is a story of God's deep and terrible pain. We were created by love for love. And now this terrible betrayal moves God to destroy God's own precious creation. Another part of this tragedy is that human disobedience and arrogance resulted in the destruction of creation. It is too deep for me to understand the depth of God's horror when beholding how twisted humankind had become and God's agony in sending the flood.

Some days—or if I am honest, many days—I want to press the reset button. We are still stuck in this pandemic. The whole world is anxious and angry and grieving. And though the world is living through this together, not all people are affected equally. Some (I among them) have access to vaccines, medical care, a safe home in which to shelter and the privilege of working from home. And this is just one pandemic.

I want to hold out the truth and the promise of God's ultimate reset—the death and resurrection of Jesus.

There is the continuing pandemic of racial inequity. When I say the Pledge of Allegiance, I want to believe that we are a people "with liberty and justice for all." Whether we see the racial inequities laid bare, feel freedom threatened by mask and vaccine mandates, or see voting rights threatened—all positions voiced by members of this church—it is painfully clear that we aren't living up to that pledge. There are societal forces that seek to tear us apart and set us against each other. And as I write this, Russia appears to be on the brink of invading Ukraine and plunging Europe into war.

Over and over again humankind has betrayed the hope God has for us. God declared the creation very good. We have fallen short. This must certainly be a time for a reset. I can think about how I would reset. Many others in our church who have been wounded by society, and even the ELCA, would have legitimate cases for what needs to be reset. And I wonder, if all of us simultaneously pressed the reset button, would that cancel all of us out?

And God said to Noah, "I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth (Genesis 9:11). The rainbow, interestingly, is the sign of this covenant with all of creation, a rainbow that only comes after a storm. This is God's reset.

We are in a storm. In no way would I minimize nor silence the real pain experienced by our people. But I want to hold out the truth and the promise of God's ultimate reset—the death and resurrection of Jesus. In this act of redemption, God has brought about the reconciliation of all people and of all creation. This reset, though not completely realized, gives us a way to speak and hear truth from one another.

Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:32).



PARISH NURSE UPDATE

Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



All of us have some kind of balance issues. It can start in young adulthood. What's the cause? There is an interaction of three primary sensory systems. The first is visual. It cues us of where & what is around us. Think of standing straight with your eyes closed. It can cause you to lose some of your balance. The second is our sense of feel and touch as well as a sense of where our body is in a space. The third is "vestibular". That is the very sensitive inner ear system that responds to gravity. Input from all three keep us in balance. When one is off it may throw you off balance. As we age, even as young as our 30's, just like everything else, these systems can fade. There are some exercises you can do to improve some of the issues you may be having.

Spine Alignment- Stand with your back against a wall, heels touching and shoulder blades and back of your head all touch the wall. If you are like most people, this will take some practice. Take a 36" foam roll or a rolled up beach towel and place it on the floor, then lie on it lengthwise with knees bent, so your head, spine and tailbone are all touching the roll. Stretch your arms from your sides and lie there about 5 minutes, allowing your shoulder blades to pull down on either side. Try practicing this twice a day until you are able to line up.

Stationary Lunges- Start with feet hip-width apart. Step forward one leg, lower the other knee bent into a lunge. Keep your back straight. Repeat on the other leg.

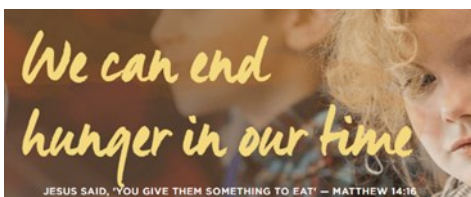
Single Leg Romanian Deadlifts- Again stand with feet hip-width apart. Try to balance on one leg. If you feel unsteady, begin by putting one foot about 2 foot lengths behind the other. Both knees should be slightly bent. Maintain a straight back, hinging from the hips while reaching forward with both arms extended toward the floor. Hold as you are able and then repeat on the other side.

Of course, it is ideal to work with a trainer. I have seen in the past that the YMCA in Custer had such classes. Please tell me when they start the next one as I really need to go to one of them. There are other things to try as well to improve balance. Tai Chi has been known to be of benefit. Also we are fortunate to have Yoga classes, more basic and can be done using a chair, led by someone from our congregation right here at church. PS- you will be seeing me begin there again as soon as I am able. You see, due to poor balance, I broke my arm in a "freak accident" where I lost balance.

Healthy body, healthy soul
Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



BREAD FOR THE WORLD – OFFERING OF LETTERS



God calls us to advocate for an end to hunger and poverty. As Christians, we are called to seek justice, care for those experiencing hunger and poverty, and embrace our Creator's vision of hope, love, and peace. We are called to embody it in public as we commit to live in solidarity with those who are made vulnerable by the inequities that drive hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

CLF has participated in the Offering of Letters for a number of years, and with hunger becoming more widespread, we are offering this opportunity to encourage our representatives to support the Farm Bill, as well as asking to make the one-year Child Tax Credit permanent. On **Sunday, May 1st**, we will have all the materials needed to write a letter to your representative to support hunger relief. Join us as we work to end hunger.

LENTEN SEASON OFFERING - HELP US BUILD A MOUNTAIN

"On the **mountain** of the Lord it will be provided." Genesis 22:14

Our Build-A-Mountain is growing! **The last day to drop off items will be Saturday, April 9th.**

Shopping List

Operation Black Hills Cabin:

Toy cars for preschoolers, diaries for ages 6-10, the book *Who Pooped in the Black Hills*, other small gifts, especially for girls toddler to age 5, and boys and girls ages 10-16, rustic frames, Black Hills or patriotic souvenir items for adults, homemade potholders in patriotic colors. (Please avoid items with small pieces, markers, stickers, or items that can be damaged by heat or cold.)

Pine Ridge Diaper Drive:

Disposable diapers - all sizes

W.E.A.V.E.

Paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, baby sleepers (onesies, new or gently used), Women's plus size clothing - gently used

Lutheran Social Service, "Loads of Love" **Bolded items are greatest need**

Laundry baskets, bath mats, shower curtains, towel sets, toilet paper, hand soap, small waste baskets, shampoo, conditioner, **deodorant, lotion, feminine hygiene products**, body wash, toothpaste, nail clippers, pillows (new), twin or twin XL sheets (new), blankets, kitchen waste baskets and trash bags, kitchen towels, hot pads, dish soap, dish clothes, sponges, scrub brush, plates, bowls, eating and cooking utensils, storage containers, basic cookware or bakeware, window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, **laundry detergent**, fabric softener sheets, paper towels, dishwasher pods, gift cards for Walmart - Target - straight talk phone cards - McDonalds - Starbucks - Little Caesars - etc.

Battle Mountain Humane Society

Purina dog and cat food, used towels and blankets, monetary donations to pay down veterinary bills and operating costs.

You are welcome to bring any and all donations to the altar (or church office) during Lent. You are also welcome to bring a designated monetary donation to the altar (or church office) as well. If bringing similar items for W.E.A.V.E or Loads of Love, please note which organization should receive the items.

EARTH DAY 2022 IS APRIL 22



Did you know - Americans use over 100 billion plastic bags each year. More than 500 billion are used worldwide. Of that amount, approximately 4 billion plastic bags become litter. The average reusable bag has a lifespan of more than 700 plastic bags. (The average person uses between 350 to 500 plastic bags each year.)

Earth Day (Friday, April 22) will be celebrated at CLF on Sunday, April 24 by making available to you our green cloth reusable shopping bags. Take as many as you think you can use - they're free. If you would like to leave a free-will offering, \$1/bag is suggested. Happy 52nd Anniversary, Earth Day!

THANK YOU WISHES

The Pond and Hattervig families would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and calls since the death of their grandson and great-grandson Tanner.

Your thoughtfulness means a lot to us.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

The family of Jim & Pat Hattervig will be honoring them on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, April 2^{4th} after church, at approximately 10:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcomed to attend.

SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

"The next Saturday Men's Breakfast and Bible Study will be on April 9th . Coffee and gathering at 8:00 am, breakfast at 8:30 and the Bible lesson and discussion from 9:00 to 10:00.

We are studying the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation, focusing on the Letters to the Seven Churches that Christ dictated through the Apostle John.

Last month we covered the letters to the churches in Ephesus and Smyrna. This month in April, we will be learning more about Christ's special messages to the churches in Pergamum, Thyatira and Sardis. Finally, in the May meeting, we will cover the letters to the churches in Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Even though the letters were written to the early church, each specific letter to each church has applications for us today in following our Lord Jesus Christ, and living a repentant and godly life.

Come join us for food and fellowship and learn how you can have a closer, more loving and faithful walk with Jesus."

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFE SCHEDULE

Meal at 5:15 pm

- April 6th – Lenten Soup Supper
- April 13th – Holy Week – no meal
- April 20th – Potluck
- April 27th – Pizza

Worship at 6:00 pm

- Witnesses to Christ – Mary, sister of Martha
- No Worship today
- Prayer Around the Cross
- Holden Evening Prayer

Confirmation



- April 6th – Pastor will meet with **8th graders only** in the Fireside room
- April 13th – No class; work on Mentor Conversation Sheets
- April 20th – No class; work on Mentor Conversation Sheet
- April 27th – Pastor will meet with **8th graders only** in the Fireside room



MORE PICS



THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity to say "a heartfelt thank You" to Pastor Dennis and Mary Golnitz from Food for the Poor. He came to speak to us about the Food for the Poor Mission. Everyone enjoyed your message that Sunday.

“IF WE BELIEVE...”

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ...” -1 Peter 1.3a

A good friend of mine, who happens to be a Benedictine Nun, once said to me: “If we believe that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, then we can believe that an incarcerated person can have new life.” She and I did prison ministry together for 9 years, and our trust and belief in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, kindled in us a living hope that God creates a way where there doesn’t seem to be one.

How might you or your congregation finish this sentence:

“If we believe that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, then ...”

I invite you to ponder this phrase this season of Easter, and trust in God’s great mercy that gives you a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING

Hello, friends!

This is the season of Easter! We look forward to enjoying the light of the resurrected Jesus later this month! And I have something else for us to look forward to later this summer!

We are planning a **South Dakota Synod Youth Gathering Day on July 25th, 2022, at Augustana University in Sioux Falls.** I have gathered some of the best volunteers to help me plan this one-day event for our high schoolers, and details are still being hammered out. Keep your eyes peeled for registration to open soon!

Subscribe to the Synod’s e-news and watch our social media platforms to be the first to know the specifics! Teens, mark your calendars and plan to attend. We will enjoy a fun day of service, food, worship, prayer, fellowship, speakers, and did I mention food? And parents and grandparents: nudge your teens to grab their friends and plan on attending!

Disappointments from canceled plans and disorientation from navigating a pandemic have caused us grief, but in this Easter season, we have so much to celebrate. Spring will come, we will gather soon, God’s BOUNDLESS love never disappears, and HE IS RISEN.

Happy Easter, my siblings in Christ!

Tami Steffensen
SD Synod Gathering Coordinator

~~~~~  
On the Road Again...

Rev. Alan Blankenfled

We find ourselves inching closer to spring each day, but then the weather changes and we seem to be going the other way, but we have hope in the fact that spring is coming. As I travel across this great synod I am seeing signs of spring and with them renewed hope. Walking with a rancher in the southern Black Hills and seeing green grass in the sheltered areas, from there to the north central farm and ranch country, seeing new born calves, planters and air seeders getting tuned up for planting season, spring is getting closer.

With these signs of spring I can’t help but think of Easter, through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection we all have new life and this year maybe more than ever we all need to feel the renewed hope within our congregations, the synod, across this country and around the world. So, we celebrate spring but more importantly we celebrate Easter and what Jesus has done for each one of us. We celebrate new Life and renewed Hope.



## W/ELCA HAPPENING

The next W/ELCA meeting will be on Monday, April 18 @ 11:30 in the Fireside Room. The luncheon portion of this meeting will be a potluck. Please bring a dish to share!  
Program: Rex Jorgensen with a YMCA Update.



Sherry Broderick and Jessica Lillebo from LSS were our speakers at our February meeting. Sherry is the manager of the LSS program that works to help the youth in Rapid City who are runaways or homeless. Much of the information that she shared as far as living conditions for these young people was hard to imagine. Sherry does the best that she can to help individuals get what they need to get through a night or a day. She offers encouragement as well as simple necessities such as toothpaste, water and granola bars. The simple necessities are contained in "blessing bags" that are handy for Sherry to pass out and can easily be carried in a backpack. The bags can act as a conversation starter as they are offered. They also are a tangible way for the youth to know that someone cares about them.

In November, W/ELCA donated items to be placed in the blessing bags. After listening to Sherry's presentation in February, we sent \$160 to LSS for items to be purchased for the blessing bags as needed. It is just one small way to help a program that is huge in what it offers.

In March, our speaker was Lori Burnham from Monument Health. Lori told us about the volunteer program at the hospital. Folks are needed to visit with and to provide simple activities for patients. There is also a need for folks to do simple sewing projects. Those projects include stuffing neck pillows and sewing them shut. Some of our members will be helping with those tasks.

W/ELCA will provide the meal for the Custer Meet and Eat on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

The Meet and Eat is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Community Church. Meals are served from 5:00-7:00. Takeout is available. All are welcome!!

### **W/ELCA Mission Project for April — June is for W.E.A.V.E**

Items needed are:

Paper products — tissues, toilet paper  
Shampoo, soaps, and lotion

Feminine products  
Laundry Soap

**QUILTING:** Thank you to all the folks who have added to our fabric inventory. It is full again. Twelve blankets were taken to Woyatan last week.

### **Custer Quilters Assist with Refugee Crisis**

This week, 15 quilts made by women from the Custer Community Church and Custer Lutheran Fellowship arrived at an ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN Distribution Center in Clemson, IA. The quilts will be joining hundreds of other quilts, packed into a shipping crate, and then sent to a Ukrainian refugee location in Poland.

Lois Wells had been told of this humanitarian mission by relatives in Iowa. She says, "Quilts are symbols of love and caring. Our hearts go out to the millions of refugees escaping the Russian invasion of the country of Ukraine. These people have only the clothes on their backs and their children in their arms."

"The ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN organization of many volunteers uses 98.2 of all donations directly for causes such as this latest refugee crisis. For us, the nearest ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN Distribution Center is in Norfolk, NE.

Leaders there are hoping to charter a cargo plane to get supplies mor quickly to Poland. To find out more about this group, Custer people can google the site.

Our Custer Quilters, were happy to help with this project. Custer Lutheran Fellowship Quilters donated 10 quilts to this mission.

## COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2022 MEETING

**Members Present:** Christie Behlings, Jackie Hartwick, Emily Hiatt, Scot Hoscheid, Donna McConnell, Carol Niemann, Pastor Pam Power and Joy Smolnisky. **Not Present:** Shana Hindman and Mark Thompson

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Scot Hoscheid.

### Agenda Additions/Approval

There were 2 additions to the agenda. Christie moved, Jackie seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.

**Secretary's Report:** The correspondence was reviewed. Pastor Pam made a correction to the minutes to remove Evangelism from the Committee Reports as that committee no longer exists. Christie moved, Emily seconded and the minutes for the February meeting were approved as amended. Worship attendance records were reviewed.

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:** The February offering was 86.1% of budget (-\$6,887) and expenses were 109% of budget (+\$3,703) due to Electricity, Propane, Advertising and Computer Software/IT expenses.

**Special Agenda Items:** There were no special agenda items.

### Unfinished Business:

- ❖ **Thrivent Choice** – March \$263.00 YTD – \$295.00
- ❖ **Amazon Smile** – March \$0.00 YTD – \$0.00
- ❖ **Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – March \$0.00, YTD – \$200.00
- ❖ **Review Worship & Activities** – Pastor Pam led a discussion on worship and activities. Sharing of the Peace resumed at the March 12<sup>th</sup> service and was positively received.
- ❖ **Duties of Congregation Council** – a worksheet detailing the duties of the Council was filled out and discussed
- ❖ **Update of Pastor's Goals** – Using Pastor Pam's last annual performance review, plans are in process to help Pastor Pam in a couple of areas.

### New Business:

- ❖ **Membership changes:** None
- ❖ **Gift for Sellevold's Retirement** – With a retirement date of March 31, 2022, plans were discussed for the upcoming celebration of their ministry to the choir to be held on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Food for the Poor** – discussed but decided not to pursue any kind of fundraising for them at this time due to all the other things going on now.
- ❖ **Replace Pastor Pam's Computer** – Pastor Pam's computer is the oldest of all the computers in the office being purchased prior to 2016. Christie moved, Carol seconded to replace Pastor Pam's computer and upgrade the second (office assistant) computer in the main office using funds from the Capital Improvement Fund FFE. Motion carried.

### Reflections on Mission and Ministry:

Pastor Pam's written report was reviewed.

Council went into executive session at 8:49 PM and out of executive session at 9:13 PM.

**Next Meeting: April 19, 2022:**

**Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer**

**Adjournment**

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary





## ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY



### Lent 5

*Thursday, April 7:* Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24

*Friday, April 8:* Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25—3:1

*Saturday, April 9:* Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57

*Palm Sunday, April 10:* Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;  
Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

*Monday, April 11:* Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

*Tuesday, April 12:* Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

*Wednesday, April 13:* Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

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

*Good Friday, April 15:* Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
John 18:1—19:42

*Saturday, April 16, Resurrection of Our Lord—Vigil of Easter:* Romans 6:3-11; John 20:1-18

*Easter Sunday, April 17:* Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

*Sunday—Easter Evening:* Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

*Monday, April 18:* Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 10:16-27; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

*Tuesday, April 19:* Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a; Revelation 12:1-12

*Wednesday, April 20:* Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 2 Samuel 6:1-15; Luke 24:1-12

### Easter 2

*Thursday, April 21:* Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:1-23; Acts 5:12-16

*Friday, April 22:* Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:19-32; Acts 5:17-26

*Saturday, April 23:* Psalm 150; 1 Samuel 17:32-51; Luke 24:36-40

*Sunday, April 24:* Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

*Monday, April 25:* Psalm 122; Esther 7:1-10; Revelation 1:9-20

*Tuesday, April 26:* Psalm 122; Esther 8:1-17; Revelation 2:8-11

*Wednesday, April 27:* Psalm 122; Esther 9:1-5, 18-23; Luke 12:4-12

### Easter 3

*Thursday, April 28:* Psalm 30; Isaiah 5:11-17; Revelation 3:14-22

*Friday, April 29:* Psalm 30; Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelation 4:1-11

*Saturday, April 30:* Psalm 30; Genesis 18:1-8; Luke 14:12-14

*Sunday, May 1:* Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

*Monday, May 2:* Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:1-25; Acts 9:19b-31

*Tuesday, May 3:* Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:26—2:1; Acts 26:1-18

*Wednesday, May 4:* Psalm 121; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11



## THANK YOU WISHES

I would like to thank all of you who had part in making my "cat quilt." It is so nice and I will pull it over me when I sit in the chair. The cat would like it too. I think I have found a happy home for him. He probably feels like I do — comfortable but not "home". But we are well taken care of here. Thank you so much for Duane's quilt also. Very nice!

Love,  
Ruth Swedlund



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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 Moe

Parish Nurse: Mary Klein

Custodian: Augie Heyne

Music: Margaret Tretheway

Choir Director:

Financial Secretary: Ann Snow

Steve Baldwin

Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky

SPARK Kids: Sara Mooney

**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**