

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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CUSTER, SD 57730

www.custerlutheran.com

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AUGUST 2019

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OUTLAW RANCH VOLKSMARCH

The third annual Outlaw Ranch Volksmarch will be held on Saturday, August 31st at Outlaw Ranch east of Custer. The walk, sponsored by Black Hills Volkssport Association, is on a hiking/ biking trail that has been in development over the past three years around Outlaw's property. It gives you a chance to see parts of Outlaw that are seldom visited. There is a \$3 charge to register. Registration is from 8:00 AM until Noon and you must finish by 3:00 PM. This volksmarch is 11k (6.5 miles) long with a 5k (3 mile) option. For more information, contact Pastor Duane Neugebauer at donman1948@gmail.com or 303-489-9313.

JOIN US FOR A SPIRITUAL RETREAT

... at Pathways Spiritual Sanctuary in Lead for a half-day spiritual retreat. Pathways is a quiet, safe, sacred place where visitors can spend time walking, sitting, contemplating, reading, writing, reflecting or healing in the natural landscape of the sacred Black Hills. The theme of Pathways is "Beyond Belief" as it is a place that is beyond the diversity of beliefs, race, religion, culture, personal histories and life experiences. It is open to all who choose to visit. Within the Sanctuary, all can walk as one and honor the sacredness of all forms of life and Mother Earth. We will have opportunities for time together as well as quiet, contemplative time alone.



We will leave from the church parking lot at 8:30 AM on Saturday, August 17th and will return in the afternoon. It is approximately a 90-minute drive one way. For more information about Pathways, visit their website at www.pathwaysspiritualsanctuary.org.

WALKING WORSHIP



Walking Worship is going strong! We have explored a number of different areas as we walk, sing, read scripture, and enjoy Communion. We will have our next walk on Thursday, August 1st at 6:30 PM. We will meet at the Stockade diagonally across from the church and walk up the dirt road next to Stockade Lake. Then on Monday, August 19th at 6:30 PM we will meet at the beach at Stockade Lake and walk up to the bridge. Come join us as we worship and enjoy God's beautiful creation!

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE HELP

Do you love working with your hands? Are you good at fixing small things? Do you enjoy working with a team? We are looking for people to help with our Properties Committee. This is a team who help maintain our beautiful building and property. We will perform small repairs when needed, and help obtain quotes from professionals when more expertise is needed. We would like people who can help do the work, plus experts who can give advice on the best ways to proceed. Please join us on Thursday, Aug. 15th at 6:30 PM in the Fireside Room as we talk about the needs of the building, develop a priority list, and begin making some repairs. We all love our building because this is where we gather in so many ways to encounter God and build stronger relationships with each other. Join us as we continue to make our building a beautiful and wonderful place to gather and encounter our God.

IDEAS??. .GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

The Social Ministry Team is looking ahead to September 8th when CLF will be hosting our annual "God's Work. Our Hands." event. Following the 9:30 AM service, we will pack our lunches and each of us will have the opportunity to choose a service project.

Groups will return to CLF, where we will celebrate with ice cream sundaes and story-sharing. Please wear the yellow "God's Work. Our Hands." t-shirts on this special Sunday. If you need a shirt, please contact the church office. The cost is \$9 each.

Please plan on attending on September 8th and being a part of sharing CLF's gifts as we do projects in the Custer community. If you have ideas or suggestions for new community projects that we can participate in as a congregation, or ways of improving old projects, please let Team members or the church office know. Many thanks! – Brad McKinney

CAMPFIRE WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

There is still one more month left of our weekly Wednesday Night Worship, so come join us! We meet in the Outdoor Worship Space in the woods behind the church beginning at 6:30 PM. There will be music and singing, prayer, scripture and reflection around our campfire. After the service, we can linger over the making and eating of s'mores with friends. In the event of rain, we will hold our Campfire Worship inside the church building. And we will substitute the s'mores for root beer floats. Yummy! It almost make us want to pray for rain . . . Bring someone along with you for this fun mid-week time of re-centering your faith life!



Love to take Videos with your Phone?



Have we got a project for you! We are looking for a variety of people who would record sermons and special music during worship at both Sunday and Wednesday worship. Right now we have one person taking videos and we would love to have more people doing this. It's very simple – take a video with your phone, then upload it to the church Facebook page.

We even have a tripod that you can use for your phone. Please contact the church office if you would like to be part of this team.

Custer Meet & Eat August 13

Meet your neighbors from Custer and enjoy a meal together. The free supper is offered the second Tuesday each month at Custer Community Church, 529 Harney St. Join your neighbors on August 13th from 5:00—7:00 PM.



I want to thank everyone for your support after my announcement of my impending divorce. The decision to divorce is never easy. Chas and I spent the last several months trying to make our marriage work, but we came to the conclusion that the best and healthiest decision for all of us was to separate. I have been blessed over these few months to have a lot of support from my clergy colleagues as well as Bishop Zellmer. And I have received a great deal of support from so many of you, and I appreciate it so much.

One of the things that has always helped me through the most difficult times in my life is my faith. The knowledge that I never walk this path alone, that God is always walking with me. My favorite Bible passage is Romans 8:35, 37-39:

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No matter what happens in our lives, no matter the trauma or grief or pain – or joy – nothing can ever separate us from Christ. Even when we can't feel God's presence. I know I say this often, but one of the gifts of being part of a community of faith is that we hold each other up and remind each other that we are not alone when we are suffering or struggling. I can't imagine going through a divorce – or the death of someone I love, or any kind of struggle – without a community of faith to support me and surround me with prayers and their presence.

Each of us proclaims the love of Christ in all that we say and do, and surrounding each other with love when we are struggling is a wonderful example of that. So thank you for your love, and thank you for being the presence of Christ's love and grace in all you do!

Blessings,
Pastor Pam

PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR PAM WHEN:

- *There is a hospitalization in your family
- *You would like a pastoral visit
- *Someone becomes homebound
- *There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy
- *There is a death in your family
- *There is a birth or adoption
- *Someone becomes unemployed

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
pam_clf@gwtc.net

701-955-5282 (cell)
673-4691 (church)

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

Mark your calendars for Confirmation Orientation on Wednesday, Sept. 11th at 6:30 PM. **This is a mandatory gathering for all parents and students.** You will be receiving a letter in August from Pastor Pam with an invitation to be part of Confirmation this school year. If you have a child entering 6th to 8th Grades and you do not receive a letter, please let the office know. We are excited to be in ministry with the youth of our community and look forward to seeing you at Orientation!

THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This evening Bible study will resume on Thursday, September 12th. We meet each week at 5:30 PM. We finished our third study in July and will take an August break before resuming in September. In this past year, we have studied *Women of the New Testament*, *Meeting the Spirit*, and *Fruits of the Spirit*. It is so wonderful when we hear Pam preaching on a passage and think "Oh, we talked about this in Bible Study!"

Participation in the group is designed to be fluid. New members have joined throughout the year; existing members take breaks for travel or other priorities and then jump back in when schedules allow. There is a closeness and trust that is developing among us as we discuss and ponder God's Word together. And, even more importantly, we are experiencing God's blessing of spiritual growth.

We plan to resume in September with a study on the Gospel of John. Members have the opportunity before the meeting to read a short Bible passage (less than one chapter) and ponder responses to a list of 8-10 study guide questions. In the meeting we re-read the passage out loud and talk about our responses to the questions. The questions are framed to elicit closer reading of the text and personal reflection. Participation in discussion is voluntary. There aren't "right" or "wrong" answers. We are finding the dialogue to be very spiritually rich. If members don't have time to read the lesson ahead of the Bible study, that's OK.

You don't need to be a biblical scholar, or even particularly familiar with the Bible, to participate. As Pastor Pam says when serving communion, "All are welcome here".

If you'd like to participate in the September study of John's Gospel, please notify Joy Smolnisky (605-929-1244) or Ginny Meyers (605) 673-3056 by August 31st and we will order a study guide for you (\$8).

—Joy Smolnisky

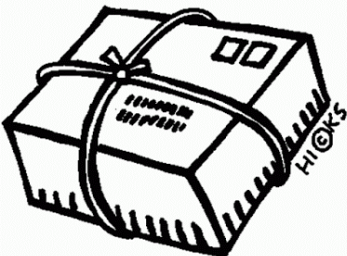
COLLEGE/MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

As part of "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, we will be putting together College & Military Care packages. A sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Center later this month for items needed. Please sign up to bring items so we can brighten up the day of our young people and military families.

If you have a child who is in college or a family member serving in the military, please call (673-4691) or email us at clf@gwtc.net to let us know, so that we can have an idea of how many care packages we will be making. We would like to

know the number of people by August 15th. We will need correct mailing addresses before **Sunday, Sept. 8th**.

We want to make sure everyone receives a package! Thanks for your help!



HOW ABOUT A TRIP TO PRISON? – A VISIT TO ST. DYSMAS

Thursday, August 22nd is our visit to the church behind the walls, St. Dysmas at the State Penitentiary. We will leave the morning of the 22nd and come home the next day. We will stay at the Hospitality House—where inmate families stay. The cost is a donation for their mission.

Please consider joining this important ministry; it truly is an unforgettable experience. You will need to fill out paperwork, found at the Welcome Center, and return it to the church office. **The completed paperwork MUST be returned by Thursday, August 1st** so that it can be mailed to St. Dysmas for processing. **This is a must!**

Questions? Contact Marlene & Glenn Sellevold at 673-5467 or cell #s 360-8963 or 360-8984. The men of St. Dysmas will give you a warm welcome that you will not soon forget!

W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:



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!

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 26, at 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room

HOSTESSES: We will have a potluck luncheon. Each member is asked to bring a dish to share. Board members will meet at 10:30 AM for a brief meeting and to set up for the potluck.

PROGRAM: Marcy Wirth will be our speaker. Marcy, a regular summer attendee of CLF, will share stories of adventures on her trip around the world. Marcy has indicated that the trip was more about people than countries. Her theme will be about "heart desires". Come to learn "who is my neighbor?"

Sack lunches: During the week of July 15-19, W/ELCA provided lunches for the Summer Sack Lunch program in Custer. Thanks to all who helped pack lunches during that week. We packed close to 100 lunches for the children of Custer.

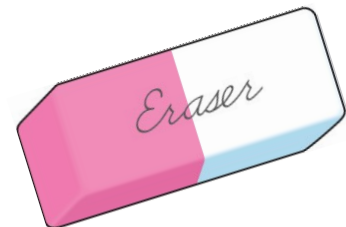
Kitchen Spring-Cleaning: A huge thank you goes to the folks who helped clean the kitchen on July 15. We went in with a mission in mind and it was accomplished! The kitchen is a shining example of the fact that many hands make the task seem less. Not only does the kitchen shine, it smells good!

Quilting will take place the first two Tuesday mornings in August at 9:00 AM. Our quilters provide a valuable outreach and are greatly appreciated. Anyone is welcome to attend quilting — there are jobs for every level of talent — even those who do not know how to quilt.

Bingo at Custer Senior Care—The first Friday of each month, four to five people gather to call and help residents enjoy an hour of Bingo from 2:00—3:00 PM. We welcome new people to join us for a fun afternoon! Any questions, please call Arbutus Winter, 673-5283.

July and August Mission Project: School Items

- ✧ Notebooks of ruled paper
- ✧ Unsharpened pencils
 - ✧ Ruler with cm
 - ✧ Pencil sharpeners
- ✧ Box of 24 crayons
- ✧ 2 1/2 inch eraser



W/ELCA BEAR BUTTE CONFERENCE FALL RETREAT

finally
**BE STRONG
 IN THE LORD
 AND IN HIS
 MIGHTY
 POWER.**
Ephesians 6:10

"Exercising Our Faith"

Friday and Saturday, September 13 & 14, 2019
 at Outlaw Ranch
 5:30 PM Friday through 2:00 PM Saturday
 Speaker: Pastor Deb Grismer

We exercise to improve our health. But what about our faith? Faith is like a muscle and needs to be exercised! Let's gather together as women of God to learn how to build spiritual muscles and practice exercising our faith. Practical and fun ideas will be presented. All ages are invited to come!



CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES..

If you would like to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:

Pam — pam_clf@gwtc.net
 Mary — clf@gwtc.net
 Sara — sara_clf@gwtc.net



OFFICE HOURS.....

The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM—3:00 PM. The office hours for individuals are as follows:

Mary: in office Monday to Thursday
 Sara: in office Tuesday afternoon & Wednesday

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...

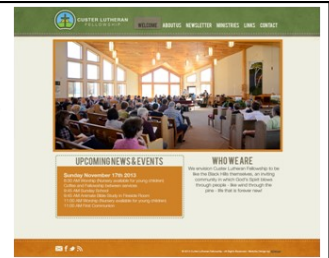


If you have someone in your life who needs some extra comfort and prayers, please pick up a prayer shawl from the office.

Everyone is welcome to do so at anytime—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.



LET'S GET NOISY!

The "Noisy Offering" continues on the second Sunday of each month. This month it will be August 11. The noisy offerings in the summer will go to Emmaus Road, our ministry partner in Colombia. The July offering was \$75. Our offerings from January through July totaled **\$643**. Your spare change **does** make a difference.



AMAZONSMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. **CLF is registered as one of the charitable organizations . . . any donations we receive will go towards additional mission support.**

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply.

DAY CAMP THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who brought their children to Day Camp in June! Everyone had a great time and learned a lot about the love of Jesus from the staff at Outlaw Ranch. Thank you, also, to everyone who provided snacks, to those who provided evening meals for the counselors, and especially to Jackie Hartwick who coordinated volunteers! The delicious snacks and meals were much appreciated by the campers and counselors. We couldn't do this without all of you! — Pastor Pam



FALL PLANNING — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we make plans for the fall, we need more folks to volunteer and help make ministry for children, youth and their families happen at CLF. Please consider how you can give of your time...

- ✧ Nursery volunteers on Sunday mornings
- ✧ SPARK Kids drivers and adult assistants
- ✧ Wednesday NightLife – folks to set-up at 4:00 PM, person(s) to cook meals
- ✧ Confirmation teachers

If you have an idea of how you would like to share your gifts with our children and youth – let us know.

Contact Mary Stutz or Pastor Pam!

RAP GROUP NEWS

I attended a gathering for Black Hills Area youth ministry leaders on July 16. We only met for an hour, but in that short time, we all saw the value in getting together and sharing our experience and perhaps pooling our resources for future trips, service projects, and fun days. I, for one, am very excited to use this resource to help us make our RAP Group a more fun and meaningful experience.

We are getting very close to completing our wood splitting for the year. THANK YOU to all the youth, families, and volunteers who have helped with this project. We are hopeful that the supply will last through Labor Day. We will probably be splitting wood regularly until it is all gone. This has been a great fund-raiser for our group. Between June 1st and July 22nd, we have received \$3,415 in donations.

Thanks — Tim Wicks

SPARK NEWS

We are so excited for our Sixth Year of SPARK Kids which will begin in September. Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to attend this program on Wednesday afternoons after school. Watch for more information in the September newsletter!

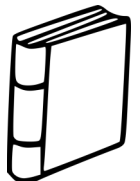
THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the deep cleaning of the kitchen in July! A special thank you to Paul Larson who cleaned the large stove, including the hood and fans. We love our kitchen and it gets a lot of use, so this cleaning was needed very much. Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to our community of faith!



THURSDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY

We meet each Thursday from 9:30—11:30 AM. We will start up on August 1st, when we will decide on a book to read for Fall. Please join us! All are welcome.



PARISH NURSE NEWS

Dealing with **chronic pain** can be treacherous. Here are the differences. **Acute pain** is usually experienced with any injury, surgery, infection or illness. It is caused by a response through our nervous system, telling us that something is wrong and causing reactions, such as pulling away from a fire. It also can be a part of the healing process and lets us know if something is wrong in a body system. It is also short-lived and temporary.

Chronic pain lasts much longer, weeks, months and even years. Sometimes it is caused by our nervous system misfiring, sending the wrong signals, and sometimes amplifying the pain. I am all too familiar with this, as I have dealt with it for over ten years. It can be difficult to diagnose, treat and manage. It can be life-altering, changing how you live your life. It can become debilitating, or you can learn how to manage it. I choose to manage my pain as best I can, by not stopping me from doing what I really want to do. With me, it's usually everything in moderation.

Treatments will focus on controlling the pain and keeping active with physical exercise, to keep muscles and joints moving. Pool exercise was the number one exercise recommended to me. I also felt it gave me the best results, because of the weightlessness. Biofeedback has also had some success. Medication that is used may include vitamins, a nerve desensitizing drug, pain killers, NSAIDS and antidepressants. For a period of time, opioids were encouraged by some doctors. Once the dangers of opioids were known, most people were slowly removed from them. This was a very difficult thing to do for many.

There also are some Pain Rehabilitation Centers. I was introduced to one at Mayo. Unfortunately, I did not have the financial means to stay there for a longer period of time. Which brings me to another big issue that most people experience with chronic pain. The finances get stretched because of either cutting down hours at work or needing to find a job that is less stressful on your body, or even having to stop working altogether. Then there are also extra costs for medical management.

The last issue I will address is the **emotional toll** it can take on you. Many people with chronic pain also deal with depression due to a number of factors. It also causes people to easily become detached and isolated. Having chronic pain is not a defect, or road block. You need to be resolute to avoid the many pitfalls. Share with others your limitations and share your feelings. It is estimated that over 100 million adults experience chronic pain; more than heart, diabetes and cancer combined. **You are not alone!**

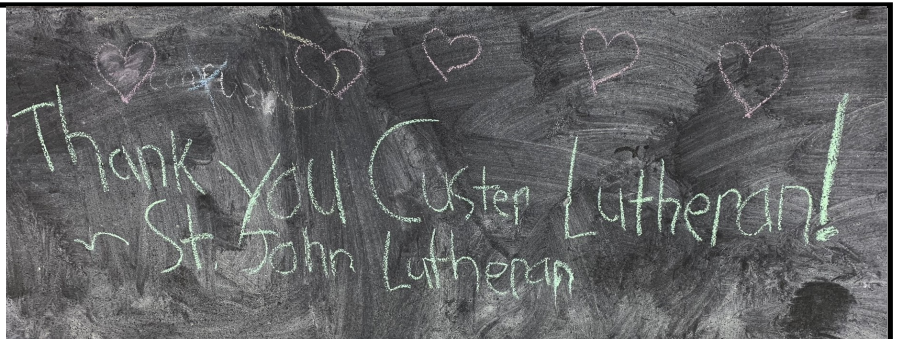
Healthy body, healthy mind.

Mary Klein RN

Parish Nurse

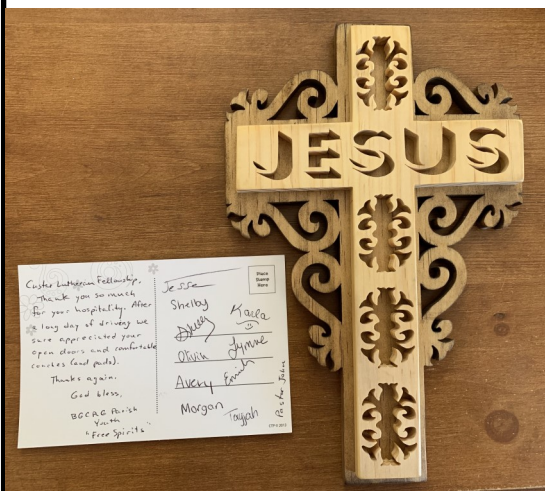
THANK YOU FROM OVERNIGHT GROUPS

Kind words and a gift from Big Grove Parish in Belgrade, Minnesota, below:



A big Thank You from St. John Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa. The group spent five days here in July.

CLF has hosted six overnight youth groups so far this summer, and we will be hosting two more. They have been appreciative of our hospitality and wonderful space to relax and build relationships with the youth and adults in the group. This is a wonderful ministry we provide for groups traveling through or staying in the Black Hills.





Special Music by Jeff Rohr and Emily Hamner



Niemann Family as Coffee Hosts

CLF TREASURER'S REPORT

This past month, Custer Lutheran Fellowship mailed out "Statements of Giving" to those who have made identifiable donations to the church during the first half of 2019. If you have made contributions but didn't get a statement, please check with Mary Stutz, the Office Manager. The cover letter with the statement noted contributions are about 7% short of budget. I'd like to explain this in a bit more detail.

The church uses your offering to cover ongoing operating expenses, budgeted giving to outside missions, and planned one-time expenses. Any gifts you give that you request be restricted to a particular purpose (Lenten offerings, World Hunger, RAP group, etc.) are not used for general operating expenses.

When offerings fall below the expectations in the approved budget, the Church Council has options. The Council can ask the congregation to increase contributions, it can cut expenses out of the budget, or a combination of both.

If contributions continue at 7% below budget throughout 2019, the council will need to cut about \$25,000 from expenses in the 2019 budget. The Council's decision at this point is to:

1. **Inform the congregation** of the situation. Transparency is important and the council wants the congregation to be informed. This also gives you an opportunity to review and pray about your own financial support.
2. **Postpone one-time spending plans**, so that if revenues continue to be below budget, some or all of the below \$32,500 in one-time expenses can be removed from this year's budget.
 - a. \$10,000 Crack-seal parking lot
 - b. \$7,000 Replace deck on parsonage
 - c. \$1,000 Install wall air conditioner in parsonage
 - d. \$12,000 Prepay Mortgage
 - e. \$2,500 CPA consultation on accounting software and system
3. **Carefully monitor** ongoing income/expenses to ensure adequate income to cover ongoing expenses for core operations and mission support.

Custer Lutheran Fellowship is grateful for your generous support of God's work through this congregation. If you have further questions, please contact Treasurer Joy Smolnisky (605-929-1244) or Board President Brad McKinney (308-641-1741).

—Joy Smolnisky, Treasurer

COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 16, 2019

Treasurer's and Finance Committee Report—Joy reviewed the current statement of financial position and the offering/attendance trends. While May had reflected above normal giving, June was at 80% of budget. The year to date trend is at 93% of budgeted amount or \$13,057 less than anticipated. (The cancellation of the June 9th service was a probable factor).

A new checking account has been opened at Black Hills Federal Credit Union.

A letter written by Pastor Pam, with input from the Finance Committee, has been mailed with the six-month statements of giving.

Unfinished Business:

- ✦ **Thrivent Choice**—Received in July —\$4; received \$1,901 year to date.
- ✦ **Property Committee Chair**—The members contacted to be property chair chose not to be. As a means of addressing the needs, a meeting of members that have expertise in building and properties will be held August 15th to prioritize the current needs and to, hopefully, find someone willing to consider the position. .
- ✦ **Parking Lot evaluation and bids**—Gene did not think the parking repaving was a high priority. Laura will contact Larry Noem as a second opinion.
- ✦ **Update on the surge protection** for well pump and electric panels: Surge protectors are ordered and Elmer Smolnisky will install these.

New Business:

- ✦ **Membership Changes**—Baptism of Emerson Josten. Two new members will be joining soon.
- ✦ **Stewardship Team**— Pastor Pam is working to develop a team to review the plans for the upcoming Fall Stewardship drive .
- ✦ **Removing Hazardous Limbs**—A large tree in the outdoor worship area has suffered related to heavy snow fall and then a lightning strike and has four large limbs hanging with the potential to fall. Council approved that Aim High Tree Service be contacted for removal of the limbs, with funding to come from the maintenance budget

Reflections on Mission and Ministry—Pastor Pam reported on Day Camp and its limited attendance, baptism of Marie Curtin's grandson, the CLF worship leading at the Rochford Chapel, and her gratitude to the congregation for support since the announcement of her divorce .

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ✦ **Evangelism and Social Ministry Teams**—have met together to develop plans for the God's Work/Our Hands Day. Some projects may include CLF repairs . .
- ✦ **W/ELCA**—The Kitchen Cleaning Day was successful. Paul Larson has agreed to complete the project by cleaning the grill/stove.
- ✦ **Worship and Music**—Wednesday night Outdoor Services and Walking Worship services are up and going in addition to the Summer Sunday worship, with Outlaw Ranch staff providing many of the worship functions. The Outlaw Ranch staff will be gone after August 4th.

The next council meeting will be August 20, 2019, at 7:00 PM.



SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECIES

“Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are,” writes Amy Weatherly. “If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell the they are kind, they become kind.”

Perhaps Jesus knows this when he tells his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth (and) the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). Clearly they haven't already mastered sharing Jesus' goodness with everyone! They are works in progress, as are we. But Jesus, teacher that he is, seems to set the bar high so his followers will strive to meet his expectations.

“You are Peter,” Jesus tells Simon, “and on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). We can hear Weatherly: “If we tell them they're faithful, they become faithful.” And when Jesus declares, “You are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31), we believe in our worth and live it out. We become what Jesus tells us we are.

—Heidi Mann

ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

Pentecost 8

Thursday, August 1: Psalm 49:1-12; Proverbs 23:1-11; Romans 11:33-36

Friday, August 2: Psalm 49:1-12; Proverbs 24:1-12; Ephesians 4:17-24

Saturday, August 3: Psalm 49:1-12; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Mark 10:17-22

Sunday, August 4: Psalm 49:1-12; Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Monday, August 5: Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 2:1-17; Colossians 3:18—4:1

Tuesday, August 6: Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:8; Colossians 4:2-6

Wednesday, August 7: Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14; Luke 12:22-31

Pentecost 9

Thursday, August 8: Psalm 33:12-22; Job 21:1-16; Romans 9:1-9

Friday, August 9: Psalm 33:12-22; Ecclesiastes 6:1-6; Acts 7:1-8

Saturday, August 10: Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 11:27-32; Matthew 6:19-24

Sunday, August 11: Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Monday, August 12: Psalm 89:1-18; 2 Chronicles 33:1-17; Hebrews 11:1-7

Tuesday, August 13: Psalm 89:1-18; 2 Chronicles 34:22-33; Hebrews 11:17-28

Wednesday, August 14: Psalm 89:1-18; Jeremiah 33:14-26; Luke 12:41-48

Pentecost 10

Thursday, August 15: Psalm 82; Joshua 7:1, 10-26; Hebrews 10:26-31

Friday, August 16: Psalm 82; 1 Samuel 5:1-12; Hebrews 10:32-39

Saturday, August 17: Psalm 82; 1 Samuel 6:1-16; Matthew 24:15-27

Sunday, August 18: Psalm 82; Jeremiah 23:23-29; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56

Monday, August 19: Psalm 32; Jeremiah 23:30-40; 1 John 4:1-6

Tuesday, August 20: Psalm 32; Jeremiah 25:15-29; Acts 7:44-53

Wednesday, August 21: Psalm 32; Jeremiah 25:30-38; Luke 19:45-48

Pentecost 11

Thursday, August 22: Psalm 103:1-8; Numbers 15:32-41; Hebrews 12:3-17

Friday, August 23: Psalm 103:1-8; 2 Chronicles 8:12-15; Acts 17:1-9

Saturday, August 24:

Sunday, August 25: Psalm 103:1-8; Isaiah 58:9b-14; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Monday, August 26: Psalm 109:21-31; Ezekiel 20:1-17; Hebrews 3:7—4:11

Tuesday, August 27: Psalm 109:21-31; Ezekiel 20:18-32; Revelations 3:7-14

Wednesday, August 28: Psalm 109:21-31; Ezekiel 20:33-44; Luke 6:6-11

Pentecost 12

Thursday, August 29: Psalm 112; Proverbs 15:13-17; 1 Peter 3:8-12

Friday, August 30: Psalm 112; Proverbs 18:6-12; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Saturday, August 31: Psalm 112; Proverbs 21:1-4, 24-26; Matthew 20:20-28

Sunday, September 1: Psalm 112; Proverbs 25:6-7; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Monday, September 2: Psalm 119:65-72; 2 Chronicles 12:1-12; Hebrews 13:7-21

Tuesday, September 3: Psalm 119:65-72; Isaiah 2:12-17; Titus 1:1-9

Wednesday, September 4: Psalm 119:65-72; Isaiah 57:14-21; Luke 14:15-24



THANK YOU

FROM THE BRYANT FAMILY

Thanks to you all for the love you've shown Mom. We really appreciated the wonderful service and lunch CLF provided us. CLF has meant so much to Mom for so many years. It was such a special, loving place for her.

—From the family of Doris Bryant.

THURSDAY

MEN'S

BREAKFAST

7:00 AM — "Our Place"

Come join us for breakfast. There's always good conversation and good food! Open to all! Bring a friend!

SATURDAY MEN'S

BREAKFAST

We will meet again on September 14. We meet the second Saturday of each month from 8:00 to 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room at CLF. Join us for a great breakfast and discussion. No book required.



Custer Lutheran Fellowship, ELCA
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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
Office Assistant: Sara Janson
Parish Nurse: Mary Klein
Custodian: Augie Heyne
Music: Margaret Tretheway
Choir Director: Marlene Sellevold
Financial Secretary: Ann Snow
Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky

Ministers: All Members of CLF!