

# CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2020

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### SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN FEB. 26TH

Soup suppers begin starting with Ash Wednesday on February 26 and continue for six weeks. We gather for a simple, but hearty meal of soup and bread from 5:15—6:00 PM. Worship follows at 6:00 PM each week.

Please consider signing up to bring a batch of soup or some bread one of these weeks! Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center.



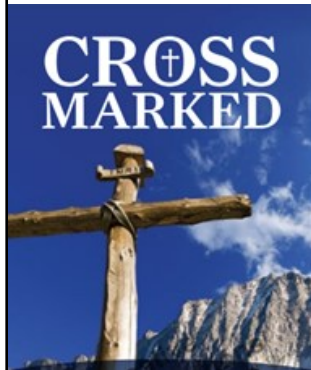
## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30AM

Remember to mark your calendars for our exciting worship change starting **March 1<sup>st</sup>**! We will be moving to one worship service at 9:30 AM starting the first Sunday of Lent, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We are so excited for this change in our worship life together! Join us for worship followed by coffee and fellowship!

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26, with a service at 6:00 PM. In worship during Wednesdays in Lent, we will reflect on ways Jesus was marked by the cross, and reveal ways in which our lives are marked, too, by His sacrifice for us. We will explore themes of Rejected, Silent, Pierced, Forsaken, Finished, and Trusting. Join us as we explore Jesus' journey, and how our lives have been and continue to be marked by the sacrifice of our Savior.

## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

LIVING OUR BAPTISM...Five gifts of discipleship

We will be holding our Leadership Retreat at Outlaw Ranch, Saturday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM.

All who serve in a leadership role in the congregation are invited to attend, as well as anyone who is interested in being part of this fun day! We will be spending some time talking about how we live out our baptism both inwardly and outwardly, and developing action steps for areas of ministry we would like to focus on this year and in the years to come. Come, long-time members, new members, visitors – remember, all are welcome! New ideas and insights are always welcome as we listen to where the Holy Spirit leads us! Please sign up at the Welcome Center, or let Pastor Pam or Mary know if you will be attending.

## LENTEN SEASON OFFERING—HELP US BUILD A MOUNTAIN

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

Your Social Ministry Team has planned an exciting way for us to participate in a Lenten Season Offering. Once again, we will be building a “mountain” at the altar with our offerings. Various items needed by non-profits, who are conducting God’s work in our community, will be collected during Sunday and Wednesday services for five weeks beginning March 1st. We will focus on the following organizations: The Storehouse, W.E.A.V.E., Pine Ridge Diaper Drive, Battle Mountain Humane Society, and Operation Black Hills Cabin.

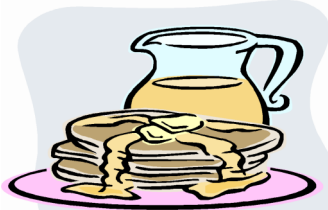
Each Sunday and Wednesday service, in addition to our usual offering, you will be asked to bring up to the altar your offering for that particular non-profit. For example, one week we might be asking for canned goods, another week might be diapers. There will also be an opportunity for you to bring to the altar a special monetary offering for the non-profit. We will let you know in advance what our focus offering will be for the following week. It will be fun watching the mountain of our collective offerings grow this Lenten season!

In order to help you plan ahead, here are some suggested items needed:

- **The Storehouse** – peanut butter, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, food with protein, and toilet paper.
- **W.E.A.V.E.** – toilet paper, paper towels, canned food, personal hygiene items.
- **Pine Ridge Diaper Drive** – disposable diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6 (and some 4s).
- **Battle Mountain Humane Society** – Purina dog chow, Purina indoor cat chow, Pine Sol, bleach, monetary donations for vet bills, and old towels and blankets (without stuffing).
- **Operation Black Hills Cabin** – inexpensive small items for gift bags that will be given to women, men, girls and boys visiting the Cabin. Some examples may include: patriotic themed items, Black Hills themed items, ball caps, small toys and activity books for children, and bandanas. Donated items are stored in an outdoor shed - please avoid anything subject to heat damage. Other items to avoid include sized items, like t-shirts, as volunteers putting the gift bags together won’t know family sizes. Also please avoid markers and stickers.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST— FEBRUARY 23

PLEASE JOIN US for a Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, February 23rd, between services. The Social Ministry Team will be hosting this annual fundraiser and will be cooking up not only pancakes but our “famous” biscuits and sausage gravy, along with mixed fruit cups and juice.



This year’s freewill offering will be going to support the Cornerstone Rescue Mission in Rapid City and the Lutheran/Lakota Job Corps at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center.

## WORSHIP NEWS

We begin the New Year with news of one service starting at 9:30 AM on March 1. We are eager to see new and old elements combine and we look forward to an adventure similar to the summer service. Both contemporary and traditional elements will be used.

Pastor Pam met with the music accompanists (Becky Black, Cozy Dorton, Jennifer Doyle, and me) and choir director Marlene Sellevold to establish an order to the first few months. We all gave opinions and ideas to help us get started.

We are open to any suggestions that you might have for us as we are keeping an open mind. My home number is 673-2468 and cell phone is 673-1470.

Here is to a year of joy and celebration ahead as we celebrate our Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Thanks to everyone for all you do to support the music of the church—Margaret Tretheway, Music Coordinator

## The Holy Spirit is Working in This Place



We're going to be entering the season of Lent at the end of this month. A time when we begin to follow Jesus on his journey to the cross. There is often talk and images of darkness. It often feels like a darker time of year because it's cold and there may be snow and ice on the roads. We long for the light.



I want to remind all of us that right now we are still in the season of Epiphany which is full of images of light. But of course you can't have light without darkness. I don't think we fully appreciate the light without the darkness to compare it to. Think how much you love a bright, sunny day after a few days of clouds and rain. It makes you want to stand outside with your face turned up to the brightness of the sun, feeling its warmth and heat surrounding you.

I think in some ways Epiphany does prepare us for the darkness of Lent. It's a reminder that we are, in fact, surrounded by the light of Jesus all day, every day. Even when we don't feel it or see it. Even on those days when we feel helpless or hopeless. When we feel lost in the darkness of pain, grief, loneliness, fear, anger, or any number of other things. Jesus is still our light and our hope.

We've been talking in worship about seeing God working in the world and in our lives; keeping our eyes and hearts open to the presence of the Holy Spirit working in and through each of us. It's also about being aware of the light all around us – even on those dark days. Because it's the light that we see and feel on those good days that gets us through those dark, difficult ones.

We certainly will have difficult days and weeks in our lives. We all know that just because we belong to Jesus, the light doesn't mean bad things won't happen in our lives. What it does mean, though, is that the light Jesus shines on and in us will never go out. It will never dim, or go away, or go out. Jesus' light and hope are *always* with us.

Remember that the day always follows the night. Wherever there is darkness, there will be light. The difference with Jesus is that no matter how deep and dark it seems, Jesus' light never, ever goes out. Even though we don't always see it or feel it, it's there. As we continue our journey through Winter towards Lent, always remember the light and hope that shine in you always.

Remember to shine that light and hope on all whom you encounter, too!

Blessings,  
Pastor Pam

## THANK YOU SO MUCH

Thank you to everyone for all the cards, gifts and support during Christmas! Here it is February already and I'm only now thanking you! Know that I appreciate you all so much, and feel so blessed to serve you here at CLF! Thank you again for blessing me so much in so many ways! — 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)

## WOYATAN RETREAT CENTER

Construction of the new Woyatan Retreat Center is progressing rapidly thanks to the help from our great volunteers. In the final week of January all the walls were primed and painted. In February, the electricians are back to install all the switches, outlets and fixtures. We hope to see you at Woyatan this year!

Larry Peterson,  
Project Leader

Jeff Rohr,  
Volunteer  
Coordinator

The first floor hallway sheetrock is hung and ready for taping and texturing.

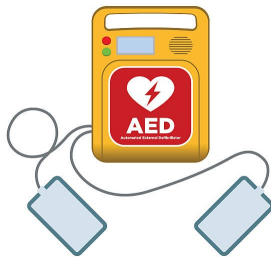
Our drywall pro Jonathan does a final sanding in preparation for spray texturing all the walls.



### BE INFORMED, BE PREPARED

CLF Health Ministry Team has organized an opportunity to learn more about our AED (Automatic External Defibrillator), along with demonstrations about the use of this life saving device. You never know if you will encounter a situation to save a life. The demonstration will be presented by a member of the Custer Ambulance Service. Along with the AED demonstration, there will be a refresher on CPR and the Abdominal Thrust (Heimlich maneuver).

All interested people are invited to attend! The demonstration will be held at Custer Lutheran Fellowship on February 29, at 10:00 AM in the Narthex.



### CUSTER MEET & EAT FEBRUARY 11 AND 25

Meet your neighbors from Custer and enjoy a meal together. The free supper, held at Custer Community Church, 529 Harney St., has now expanded to twice a month—the second and fourth Tuesdays. Meals are prepared by community sponsors. Join your neighbors on February 11th and 25th from 5:00—7:00 PM for delicious food and fellowship.

### SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 15

This opportunity, available to all, will meet February 15th from 8:00 - 10:00 AM in the Fire-side Room. Breakfast is served, then we discuss a NOOMA DVD. Join us for a great breakfast and discussion. (We usually meet the second Saturday, but not this month.) Questions? Contact Allen Canete, 673-3753.

### BEAR BUTTE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

The yearly Spring Assembly of the Bear Butte Conference will be held on Sunday, March 29, at 4:00 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City. All are welcome to attend. Agenda items will include conducting the business of the conference and discussion of any items to be referred to the Synod Assembly in June. Come join with fellow members of ELCA churches in western South Dakota and get a bigger picture of what the work of the conference is all about.

### THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST 7:00 AM — "Our Place"

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



## 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, February 24, at 11:30 AM at CLF.**

**HOSTESSES:** Barb Lewison and Jackie Hartwick

**PROGRAM:** "Fun in February"



We will continue our discussion on blessings and the importance of recognizing them. We will do this while we celebrate the fact that even though winter is still in the air, spring is in our hearts. To help show the spring in our hearts, women are invited to wear hats to the meeting as we share a mini "high tea" as presented by Barb and Jackie. Please keep in mind that while we have mentioned hats and "high tea," dress will be casual. Jeans, casual slacks and comfortable shoes are suggested. Just wear a hat (any hat) that will remind us of spring!

At our January meeting, Pastor Pam told us about the progress that the Custer County Long Term Recovery Group has made, as well as what is needed to help make this group successful in the future. Discussion was held concerning how our group can help that endeavor and we decided to give a \$200 donation to the work of the Long Term Recovery Group.

Future events for W/ELCA include the following:

- Our **March meeting** will be held on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held at Regional Senior Care at 11:30 AM in the Activity Room. We will have lunch and visit with some of the ladies who are residents of the nursing home.
- On **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, W/ELCA will prepare and serve the meal that will be served at the Meet and Eat at the Custer Community Church. We will serve from 5:00-7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend and take out is available.
- This year, the **Auction of Talents** will be held on Sunday, April 26, at 10:30 AM. More information will follow in future newsletters. Please mark this fun event on your calendar!

**Quilting** takes place every Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Remember that everyone is welcome to quilt. There are spaces available even for those who do not know how to quilt! There are jobs for every level of talent! Please feel free to join this very worthwhile outreach program.

**Bingo at Custer Senior Care—February 7th.** 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.

### January—March Mission Project: Quilts for LWR & Local Needs

- ✂ Thread
- ✂ Cotton fabric suitable for making quilts
- ✂ Cotton blankets, and/or mattress pads for inside quilts

Your donations may be left in the sewing room.



## THANK YOU

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and kind words. A special Thank You to Pastor Pam and all the musicians who made Jim's service so memorable for all the family. Thank you to all the support staff at the church and the women for serving a delicious lunch. God Bless all of you.  
— The Jim Winter Family

## LET'S GET NOISY

The Noisy Offering will be on February 9th. The Social Ministry Team will be selecting offering designations for 2020 at their next meeting. Your spare change **does** make a difference.  
Thanks so much!



## 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
- Mary — clf@gwtc.net
- Sara — sara\_clf@gwtc.net

## 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.

If you would like to help make prayer shawls, please ask in the office for instructions.



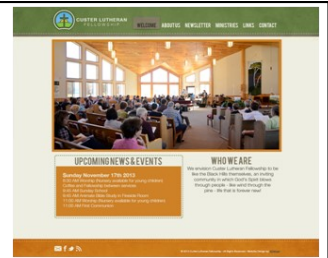
## OFFICE HOURS.....

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

## 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.



## 2020 Approved Mission Plan & Budget

Income	2019 Actual	2020 Budget Non-restricted	2020 Budget Restricted
General Offering Contributions	\$ 351,189	\$ 347,903	
Non-Restricted Special Donations	\$ 11,711	\$ 2,600	
Restricted Donations	\$ 16,611		\$ 7,000
Distribution from Permanent Endowment	\$ 12,100		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 391,611</b>	<b>\$ 350,503</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 91,172	\$ 92,748	
Worship	\$ 9,516	\$ 10,662	
Education	\$ 11,559	\$ 11,565	\$ 1,984
Mission	\$ 59,865	\$ 41,701	\$ 2,500
Care of Members	\$ 73,100	\$ 74,158	\$ 7,000
Facility	\$ 101,581	\$ 118,420	\$ 4,000
Transfers in/out of Designated/Restricted Funds	\$ 30,201	\$ 11,100	\$ (8,484)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 376,994</b>	<b>\$ 338,154</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>

### Definitions:

**Restricted:** Funds that are donated without donor restrictions on how the church may use them

**Non-Restricted:** Funds that are donated with donor restrictions on how the church may use them

**Transfers in/out of Designated/Restricted Funds:** Movement of funds between CLF set-aside accounts or restricted accounts and checking account.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE!

This program is a mid-week faith recharge for your family. Our weekly schedule is:

- SPARK Kids from 4:00 to 5:15 PM**
- Family Meal from 5:15 to 6:00 PM**
- Worship from 6:00 to 6:30 PM**
- Confirmation from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**
- RAP Group from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**
- Choir Practice at 6:30 PM**

The February Wednesday NightLife Meals follow this schedule:

- February 5th**—Potluck meal—Chicken provided by CLF  
\*Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.
- February 12th**—Meal prepared by Jackie Hartwick and Women of the ELCA
- February 19th**—Pizza! Supplied by CLF
- February 26th**—Soup Supper begins!!

Worship will rotate between different styles of worship. The February worship schedule is as follows:

- February 5th**—Prayer Around the Cross
- February 12th**—Communion
- February 19th**—Holden Evening Prayer
- February 26th**—Ash Wednesday Service

## RAP GROUP

The RAP Group is beginning to split firewood for 2020. We will be splitting wood on Saturdays, February 1 and February 15, from 10:00 AM to noon. We are in need of chainsaws and operators to help. Please join us! Call Tim Wicks at 673-5180 with questions.



## CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

- February 5 Parent Night
- February 12 Class
- February 19 Class
- February 26 Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 PM

Throughout the season of Lent, confirmation youth are expected to be at the Lenten services each Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

## SPARK KIDS

We have a great time each Wednesday at SPARK Kids with 30+ kids registered! The kids are full of energy and eager to share about their lives and the connections they make with the Bible story. There was a special hot cocoa craft because "Jesus Warms our Hearts" with a cocoa packet to take home. Check out photos from our time together on the church's Facebook page.

There is NO cost for this program. Be sure to invite your Pre-K thru 5th grade friends and neighbors. All are welcome! Every child needs to be registered by a parent in order to participate.

Registration materials are available through the church office. It is never too late to register! The Bible story themes for February are as follows:

- ✦ February 5- Queen Esther—Esther 2:5-18; 3:1-6; 8:1-17
- ✦ February 12- Daniel and the Lions—Daniel 6:1-28
- ✦ February 19- Simeon and Anna—Luke 2:22-40
- ✦ February 26- The Boy at the Temple—Luke 2:41-52

Join us on Wednesdays and experience the fun!





## PARISH NURSE NEWS

We celebrate February as National Heart Month, and our Health Ministry Team and I are right on point. We have some great resources on our Information Table in the Narthex on heart disease, stroke and blood pressure. Check it out!! We also have arranged for a trainer with the Custer Ambulance Service to demonstrate the use of our AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). Many of us probably do not even know where it is located in our church, much less how to use it. We are hoping to also have a refresher for CPR and "Abdominal Thrust" (Heimlich maneuver). We hope you can attend this life-saving presentation.

My topic this month focuses on **Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)**. CHF does not mean that the heart has "failed". What it means is, the heart isn't working as well as it should. There are different factors that may cause this to happen, as the *heart muscle becomes weakened* in one of the chambers of the heart. The heart muscle may also become enlarged, as it must work harder to pump the blood through the heart to the lungs and rest of the body.

*Symptoms of CHF* may include shortness of breath with regular activities, a dry cough, feeling tired, difficulty sleeping flat, swelling of the legs, feet or ankles or a rapid weight gain (three pounds or more a day).

What can be done to *live better with CHF*? Regular activity and exercise after consulting your doctor is important. It is also important to eat a heart-healthy diet. Limit red meats by eating more chicken or fish, and steamed or broiled is best, rather than frying. Limiting salt intake is also important. Use other herbs and salt-free seasonings. Also avoid canned or processed foods. Salt will cause you to retain more fluid which will strain the heart further. Sleep with the head of your bed raised. If you don't have a bed frame that can do this, place the head of the bed on blocks of wood. Some find an extra pillow or two will work well for them.

Another form of *treatment often includes medication* that may strengthen the heart muscle, and manage heart rate and blood pressure, or medications that help your body eliminate the extra fluid.

You can live a fairly active happy life by following your doctor's recommendations.

**Live life, Live strong** — Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse

### THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meets Thursdays at 5:30 PM. We are currently studying the Gospel of John. All are welcome to join us. Call Ginny Myers at 673-3056 or Joy Smolnisky at 605-929-1244 for information and so we can order a study guide for you.

### YARN FOR ST. DYSMAS



The knitters in the South Dakota State Penitentiary are in need of yarn. They knit hats that are distributed to various shelters and places that serve people in need. If you have yarn to donate, you can drop it off at CLF. Thank you for your generosity.

### THURSDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY

New people always welcome. We meet Thursdays, 9:30—11:30 AM with coffee, treats and good conversation. We are currently reading Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by author Debby Irving. Please join us!

## MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

I think one of the most frustrating things that I hear, is dealing with a person who clearly needs mental health treatment. Too often the person will refuse to go to a doctor or mental health counselor. **They either do not want to deal with the issues that cause them great distress, or fail to see that there is a problem.** We can see it and we often see how it affects the rest of the family. Maybe it is a matter of them stopping their prescribed medications, either because of the side effects, or they believe they do not have any problems anymore. You can't force them to take the meds. **If they are an adult, they have the right to refuse treatment,** unless they are deemed a threat to themselves or others. Often times they look to drugs or alcohol to self-medicate. Now there is an even bigger issue. Where can the line be drawn? Unfortunately, the only thing you can do is to take care of yourself and your family. **I also recommend getting more information to understand the person's illness and getting counseling for yourself and your family.** Please contact me for assistance.

**Healthy Mind/ Healthy Soul** — Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse



## OUTLAW RANCH RETREATS

**March 13-14—Middle School Retreat**—for grades 6th—9th. Friday 7:00 PM to Saturday 5:30 PM. We will gather in community, have fun, worship and sing, eat good food and enjoy the outdoors!

**March 19-23—Creative Souls Retreat** for all who love to create. Friday 10:00 AM to Sunday 2:00 PM. This retreat offers you the time, space, and fellowship to work on your passions. Bring your own projects, share ideas and techniques, go for a walk in the woods, eat delicious meals, and meet new friends.

**March 27-29—Women's Retreat** for women of all ages. Friday 10:00 AM to Sunday 2:00 PM. Who do I say that I am? Who do You say that I am? Who is ME? Spend quality time with other women in the beautiful Black Hills. Discussion surrounding Identity will be lead by **Natalie Cutler** and **Jamie Duprey**.

For more information or to register for any of these retreats, go to [www.losd.org/events-and-retreats](http://www.losd.org/events-and-retreats)



**Sign  
Language  
Class**

**MONDAYS 4-5 P.M. @ CHS**

**CLASS FOR BASIC SIGNS AND SONGS:  
FEBRUARY 3RD, 10TH, 17TH AND 24TH**

**COST: DONATIONS**

**CHILDREN AND ADULTS WELCOME!**

**\*FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
WENDI RUSCH (509) 494-3236  
RUSCHFAMILY@GMAIL.COM**

**RSVP BY FEBRUARY 1**  
Please RSVP to Wendi Rusch for this class.

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JANUARY 26, 2020

Good brunch, fellowship, and meeting! 56 people in attendance. Thanks to all who attended!

**President's Report**—Thank you to the council, Joy Smolnisky as treasurer, and all who work to make this congregation what it is. We continue with the target goal of reaching \$50,000 in capital improvement funds set-aside.

**Approval of 2019 Financial Report.** See Treasurer's Narrative Report on page 18 in the Annual Report. Mission giving was at 15.3% in 2019. CLF closed the year with a positive non-restricted cash flow position of \$10,583. *Financial Review summary:* "In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Custer Lutheran Fellowship as of December 31, 2019."

### **Elections and Appointments Approved:**

Congregation Council—Sam Ainsley, Jackie Hartwick, Scot Hoscheid for three-year terms.

President—Christie Behlings

Vice-President—Dave Pickford

Synod Assembly Voting Delegates—Christie Behlings, Joy Smolnisky, Elmer Smolnisky

Bear Butte Conference Spring Assembly—Mary Stutz, others can sign up at Welcome Center.

Nominating Committee—Brad McKinney, Rex Jorgensen

Finance Committee—Lori Goth, Allen Canete

Endowment Fund Committee—Selena Spring, Camille Riner

**Pastor's Report**—Thank you to Brad McKinney for his term as president, and to all of you and how you live out your faith. This is a most joyful, loving, welcoming congregation. Thank you for letting me be here to serve you. God's spirit is working through each of you.

**Old Business:** Constitution updates reviewed and amended. Approved as amended.

**2020 Mission Plan and Budget** presented by Joy Smolnisky. Funds will now be separated into non-restricted and restricted. Cost-of-living increase of 1.9% for all CLF regular mission distributions and staff salaries. Goals: to again be able to pay down the mortgage an additional \$12,000 this year, and contribute to a capital improvement reserve. The 2020 budget was approved as presented. **See approved budget plan on page 6 of this newsletter.**

**Installation of New Council Members and Officers.**

Closing Prayer and Adjournment.

## COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 21, 2020

**Treasurer's Report**—The council reviewed the treasurer's report submitted by Joy. The stewardship drive was successful with pledge amounts totaling \$262,252 for 2020. The year 2019 ended with contributions at 96% of the budgeted amount. Council approved that the proposed budget for the 2020 budget year repeat the \$12,000 principal pay down that was included in the 2019 budget. Careful monitoring of the budget for this year has resulted in a successful financial picture.

### Unfinished Business:

- ✦ **Sanctuary Exit Door**—Gene Fennell presented a plan that will meet the safety code requirements. The Council approved that "\$5,000 of 2019 net unrestricted funds be transferred to the Capital Improvement Account for a Fellowship Hall heater, replacement pumps, and emergency exit upgrade to code."

### New Business:

- ✦ **Membership Changes**—Death of Jim Winter. Pastor Pam plans to have a new member class in March.
- ✦ **Signers of Safe Deposit Box at bank**—the Council approved having Pastor Pam, Mary Stutz, and Joy Smolinsky as signers.
- ✦ **Draft Agenda of Annual Meeting**—the Council approved the agenda for the Annual meeting.
- ✦ **Noisy Offering Designation**—the Council charged the Social Ministry Committee to determine where the Noisy Offering proceeds are sent.
- ✦ **Leadership Retreat**—After brief discussion, Pastor Pam determined that a Leadership Retreat will be held February 22 from 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM.
- ✦ **Request by Claire Stevens**—for dog training space. The Council determined that CLF was not the space she needed because of potential allergy concerns, but recommended contacting the YMCA and Fire Hall as possibilities.

**Reflections on Mission and Ministry**—Pastor Pam has been busy with the usual church activities as well as serving with the Custer County Long Term Recovery Group. The first checks have been distributed for the flood victims. Planning the Advent and Christmas festivities have been part of the work.

### Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ✦ **Financial Review**—Joy will contact the Financial Review Committee for the annual review.
- ✦ **Health Ministry**—CLF does have an AED and training for its use will be in February.
- ✦ **Social Ministry**—The committee made plans for a fund-raising breakfast to raise money for Cornerstone Rescue Mission and for Pine Ridge. The Lenten focus will be similar to last year with five different areas of need.

The next council meeting is February 18, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

Some members of your Congregation Council: L to R: Pastor Pam, Dave Pickford, Scot Hoscheid, Liz Kleffner, Jackie Hartwick, Christie Behlings.



## CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB

Volunteers are needed for the CLF/CSC—that's the "Clean Sidewalk Club." There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center for weekdays or weekends through mid-May. There are two spaces for each grouping.

Thank you for helping to keep our sidewalks free of snow!

## ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

### 4 Epiphany—Presentation of Our Lord

Thursday, January 30: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12  
 Friday, January 31: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17—25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24  
 Saturday, February 1: Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35  
 Sunday, February 2: Psalm 15; Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12  
 Monday, February 3: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25  
 Tuesday, February 4: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6  
 Wednesday, February 5: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26



### 5 Epiphany

Thursday, February 6: Psalm 112:1-10; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5  
 Friday, February 7: Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18  
 Saturday, February 8: Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 29:13-15; Mark 7:1-8  
 Sunday, February 9: Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 58:1-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20  
 Monday, February 10: Psalm 119:1-5-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10  
 Tuesday, February 11: Psalm 119:1-5-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12  
 Wednesday, February 12: Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30

### 6 Epiphany

Thursday, February 13: Psalm 119:1-8; Genesis 26:1-5; James 1:12-16  
 Friday, February 14: Psalm 119:1-8; Leviticus 26:34-46; 1 John 2:7-17  
 Saturday, February 15: Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-9  
 Sunday, February 16: Psalm 119:10-8; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37  
 Monday, February 17: Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8  
 Tuesday, February 18: Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 23:21—24:4, 10-15; James 2:1-13  
 Wednesday, February 19: Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12

### Transfiguration of Our Lord

Thursday, February 20: Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7  
 Friday, February 21: Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28  
 Saturday, February 22: Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20—29; Mark 9:9-13  
 Sunday, February 23: Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9  
 Monday, February 24: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34  
 Tuesday, February 25: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; romans 11:1-6  
 Wednesday, February 26: Psalm 51:1-17; Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;  
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Isa 58:1-12;

### 1 Lent

Thursday, February 27: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7  
 Friday, February 28: Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17  
 Saturday, February 29: Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7  
 Sunday, March 1 : Psalm 32; Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11  
 Monday, March 2: Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18  
 Tuesday, March 3: Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14—5:10  
 Wednesday, March 4: Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14

## LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SD—ADULT TRAVEL MINISTRY EVENT WINTER BLUES GETAWAY—FEBRUARY 18-20, 2020

Join Paul Hanson, Lutherans Outdoors Executive Director, and his wife Sara on a three-day winter getaway to Minneapolis-St. Paul. Enjoy two major productions – ‘Mama Mia’ at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, and ‘An American In Paris’ at the Ames Center. Let Paul and Sara take care of all the details and hospitality of the trip while you enjoy some time away in the middle of a cold winter! For information and to register, go to [www.losd.org/winter-blues-getaway](http://www.losd.org/winter-blues-getaway).





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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 Sellevoid  
Financial Secretary: Ann Snow  
Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky

**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**