

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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Inside This Issue

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2 | Social Ministry |
| 3 | From Pastor Pam |
| 4 | CLF Happenings |
| 5 | Health Ministry |
| 6 | From the Church Office |
| 7 | Miscellaneous |
| 8 | SD Synod News |
| 9 | The Women of CLF |
| 10 | Council Meeting Highlights |
| 11 | Daily Devotions |
| Inserts | - February Calendar - Birthdays & Anniversaries |

MINISTRY RETREAT

Join me on **Saturday, February 27th** from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall, as we explore questions such as:



- ❖ What have I learned, or what has been revealed to me about my faith life over this last year?
- ❖ What do I bring into this year (hopes, goals, dreams, fears, worries, ideas)?
- ❖ When we reflect on our ministry, is there anything we would like to let go of? Something we would like to try?
- ❖ What am I hungry for?

This half day retreat will be a time to reflect on what we have experienced over this last very strange year, and where we see God leading us this year. Our focus verse will be, *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19.* All are invited to be part of this discussion. I value different ideas and viewpoints as we explore where the Spirit is leading us together at CLF. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or let me know that you plan to attend. I am looking forward to a lively discussion!

Blessings, Pastor Pam

Happy Valentine's Day

IN GOOD COMPANY: STORIES OF BIBLICAL WOMEN



In Good Company
Stories of Biblical Women

Pastor Pam will be leading a five week Bible study during the season of Epiphany. This is a study developed by the Women of the ELCA to explore stories of women in the Bible. In-person discussion will begin on **Sunday, January 17, 2021** after worship at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. For those who cannot attend in person, Pastor Pam will lead a Zoom discussion online on Thursday's starting **January 21st** at 7:00 pm. Please let Pastor Pam know if you would like to be involved in the Zoom group and she will send the link. This will be a fun study learning about people such as Deborah, a determined leader and Rahab, a faithful business woman. Come join us!

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17, with a service at 6:00 PM. In this Lenten series we will explore the wounds which we laid on Christ, beginning with the Wound of Blasphemy on Ash Wednesday. Our Lenten worship series reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in him through the cross.

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 February 21. We will focus on the following organizations: The Storehouse, W.E.A.V.E., Operation Black Hills Cabin, Custer South Dakota Humane Society, and Pine Ridge Diaper Drive.

Listed below is a list of items needed by each of these non-profit organizations:

- ✦ The Storehouse—Shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bathroom tissues
- ✦ W.E.A.V.E.—Toilet paper, paper towels, personal hygiene items, new or gently used infant clothes, new or gently used women’s clothes plus sizes 18-24
- ✦ Operation Black Hills Cabin - Inexpensive small items for gift bags that will be given to men, women, 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, bandanas, “woody”-type picture frames and homemade potholders.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Custer South Dakota Humane Society—Dry Purina and/or Pedigree dog and cat food, and monetary donations for vet bills.
- ✦ Pine Ridge Diaper Drive—Disposable diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6 (some 1s, 2s & 4s as well).

You are welcome to bring any and all donations to the altar (or church office) during the first 5 weeks of Lent. You’re also welcome to bring a special monetary offering for the non-profit to the altar (or church office) as well.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, with a Twist!

Because we cannot host the Annual Pancake Breakfast here's a "virtual" alternative that we hope will work for all. You'll be able to have your very own, personalized breakfast of your choice while helping others, with your donations to the Cornerstone Mission. Here's how it will work - we ask that folks at home make their own family "pancake breakfast" anytime from January 1 to January 24. Participants can serve up whatever kind of breakfast they choose and, if they'd like, take a photo of their breakfast event. Pictures of food, menus, and/or of your smiling faces are encouraged. Be creative and have fun. (Your "pancake breakfast" may be a bowl of oatmeal!) Then, send your digital photos to the church office where your picture may be included in the February Crossroads and CLF Facebook page. We'll also be asking folks to make a donation through the CLF Church office to Cornerstone Rescue Mission, a traditional recipient of our annual fundraiser. Let's make a difference in someone's life! Here are some of the yummy breakfasts we have received so far!



CONFIRMATION

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE:

- ✦ February 3rd Crucifixion
- ✦ February 10th NO CLASS
- ✦ February 17th Ash Wednesday—NO CLASS
- ✦ February 24th



FAITHFUL, HOPEFUL, LOVING



During 2021, we will be engaging in a year-round emphasis on Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving Stewardship. The focus scripture is the 13th Chapter of 1 Corinthians, especially verse 13, “And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.” A good steward has A faithful, hopeful, and loving heart.

Faithfulness—not size, status, wealth, or heritage—is God’s measurement for Christians and congregations. All of Christ’s disciples and all of Christ’s congregations are called to be faithful to God’s mission and purpose. Generosity is a faithful act of discipleship, wrapped in trust in God and God’s purposes, whether we see them clearly or in a mirror dimly.

Hopefulness is a basic Christian characteristic. Despair and hopelessness can be damaging to congregations and their members. God offers the victory of hope through Christ and the Holy Spirit. To have a future we must live with hope. Generosity is a hopeful act of discipleship, made as a statement that God is still at work in the world, and we partner in these acts of redemption through our generosity.

Loving – in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, the apostle Paul unpacks love’s characteristics: patience and kindness, and a lack of envy, boasting, arrogance, edginess, resentment, and bullying. Christians and congregations must experience and share love that looks like this. It is not optional: it is imperative. Generosity is a loving response, made in gratitude for God’s love for us, and celebrates a unity in Christ that surpasses the difficulties that seem to work so hard to divide us.

Each month in the newsletter and in worship we will unpack more of what it means to be a faithful, hopeful, and loving steward. I am looking for several people to be part of the team who will steward this ministry. These are the positions we will need:

Chairperson
 Communication Coordinator
 Event Planner

Calling Team Coordinator
 Education Facilitator

I know these sound like very involved positions, but they are truly not. Please let me know if you have interest in being part of this team, or have questions about what the different positions entail. Together we will grow in our Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving response to God’s blessings!

Pastor Pam

Faithfulness to the call from the Holy One hinges on the awareness that God calls us to be true to who we are. Yes, calling requires us to grow and mature. Still, the beginning is grounded in what is already there.

As God has allowed us to be faithful and true to our identity, out of gratitude for such we should respond to the call to go wider, deeper, higher, and farther. Faithful stewardship is holding in tandem where and who we were when Jesus called, with what we are called to be here and now.

Stewardship as a response to our grounding in identity frees us to display care for all things. It is treating people and institutions with a sense of historical value and cultural and spiritual purpose. The past informs the present and provides insight for the future.

It is only in recognizing
 who we are
 that we can move
 forward
 and remain
 faithful.

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PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The CLF Properties Committee is currently doing a project to make CLF's property "Fire Wise" by thinning our smaller trees and removing branches over power lines. A contractor will fell trees and cut everything up, but we can save money by asking volunteers to build the slash piles (for burning next winter). You can work on this any time in the weeks to come. It's great exercise! Piles should not exceed about 4 to 5 feet in height, and 6 feet in diameter and be built compactly where they will burn completely and safely (no overhanging branches, etc). We'll save any firewood for Rap Group or the Pine Ridge Wood Haul. For questions contact Dave Thom (673-1459) or Paul Horsted (673-7898).

CARING HANDS MINISTRY...

It is a blessing and privilege to be part of the Caring Hands Teams. This is a group that welcomes others who desire to serve in one of these ways. More information is available in the Annual Report.

The three Caring Hands Teams are:

- ❖ Caring Hands Meals Team
- ❖ Caring Hands Transportation Team
- ❖ Caring Hands Prayer Team

If you were previously serving on one of these teams and would like to be removed, let Cozy know.

If you would like to be added to any of these teams, please let Cozy know for more information and questions answered.

Cozy Dorton 673-4974 673-1187 dididirector@goldenwest.net

One purpose the Body of Christ shares is drawing nearer to our Lord and Savior, no matter the circumstances. May we continue to grow together in love and service throughout 2021

CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!

It will be coming soon enough and we need shovelers
Here's how it works:

There's no longer a sign-up sheet at Church.

Instead, we're using a dedicated Google Calendar for signing up volunteers.

To view the calendar, go on-line and visit: bit.ly/clfsnow

Find an open slot(s) that works for you.

THEN, contact bradmckinney@gmail.com; (308) 641-1741

(or paul@paulhorsted.com; 673-7898)

Brad or Paul can then edit the Google Calendar to show your dates. Thank you!



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!



PARISH NURSE UPDATE

Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



Are you staying hydrated? Here is some information that I didn't realize and plan to use going forward. I found this info in a magazine article. Quite interesting!

Thirst is a late indicator of dehydration. By that time you have lost 2% of your water content.

Why is this important? Dehydration can affect physical & mental functioning. Other signs would include headache, fatigue, poor exercise functioning, dizziness and hunger.

Feeling tired midday? You maybe are dehydrated. You also may feel irritable or anxious. Lack of adequate fluid can impair cognitive abilities, interfering with memory, mental energy and focus.

Consider other hydrating drinks in addition to water. Milk & orange juice may hydrate you better than water as they include electrolytes that help maintain fluid balance in your body. Also water isn't any better than soda or beer! (doesn't factor in calories!)

Another means of staying hydrated is eating fruits & vegetables like celery, cucumbers, lettuce, apples & grapefruit. Again this is because of the electrolytes they contain. 4-5 servings a day can give you about 18% of your daily fluid needs.

Next time you plan on a hike, a car ride or even hanging around at home, grab some milk, an orange or salad, get hydrated and nutrients at the same time!

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

What are some common side effects of psychiatric medications?

1. Sleepiness or insomnia. This is one of the most common side effects. It is also a main reason why some people will go off their medications. Rather than stopping medication, talk with your provider to see if another medication can be tried or check if the medication can be taken at a different time of day. Not everyone has the same reactions to medications.
2. Often medications can cause constipation. In that case, eat more fiber, take in adequate fluids and get exercise. If that doesn't help, try stool softeners.
3. Weight gain. Now none of us like to gain weight and not everyone will gain weight. Try watching your diet and get plenty of exercise.
4. Mental fogginess. This can be very difficult to deal with. Sometimes this will lessen once your body gets accustomed to it. Talk with your provider about trying another medication. You must be aware that you should be cautious about driving or working with machinery
5. Not everyone has the same reactions, so working with your provider to find the right medications for you. Also remember, not everyone has the same side effects. Sometimes side effects need to be tolerated to maintain mental health.

**“CHRIST IN OUR HOME”
DEVOTIONALS**

The “Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **January to March 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.



**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)



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
 Sara — sara_clf@gwtc.net

MARCH NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Please have articles for the March Newsletter to the office by February 17th. 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.:

Sara: in office Tuesday afternoon & Wednesday
 Chris: in office Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

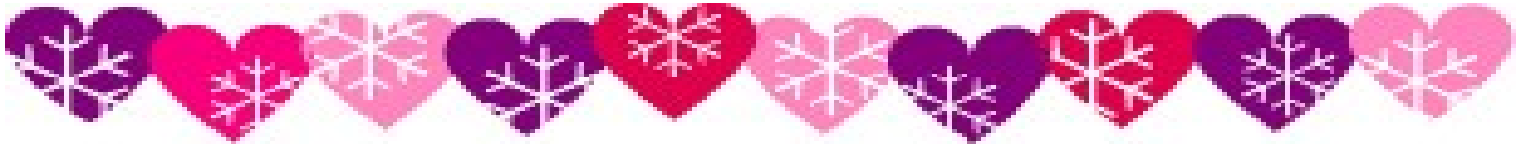
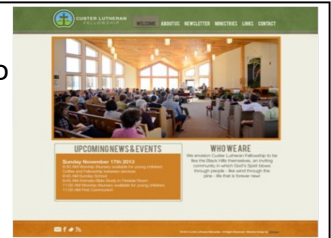
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...



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.



| Custer Lutheran Fellowship 2020 EOY BUDGET and 2021 Budget Approved at 1-24-21 Annual Meeting | 2020 EOY Stmt. of Activities | | | 2020 Budgeted Total | 2021 Approved Budget | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Non- Restricted | Restricted | Total | | Non- Restricted | Restricted | Total |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| General Offering Contributions | 327,768 | | 327,768 | 347,903 | 270,000 | - | 270,000 |
| Interest | 502 | | 502 | | 400 | | 400 |
| Nonrestricted Special Donations Total | 2,509 | 5,641 | 8,150 | 2,600 | 27,967 | | 27,967 |
| Temporarily Restricted use donations Total | | 21,434 | 21,434 | 7,000 | | 17,000 | |
| Permanent Endowment Distribution | | 5,500 | 5,500 | | | | - |
| Total Income | 330,780 | 32,575 | 363,355 | 357,503 | 298,367 | 17,000 | 315,367 |
| Expense | | | | | | | |
| Total PASTORAL LEADERSHIP | 87,244 | | 87,244 | 92,748 | 92,366 | | 92,366 |
| Total WORSHIP | 8,674 | | 8,674 | 10,661 | 9,625 | | 9,625 |
| Total EDUCATION | 4,013 | - | 4,013 | 13,548 | 4,296 | 1,983 | 6,279 |
| Total MISSION SUPPORT | 41,716 | 12,815 | 54,531 | 44,201 | 41,823 | 28,000 | 69,823 |
| Total STEWARDSHIP/CARE OF MEMBERS | 47,777 | - | 47,777 | 81,157 | 50,834 | 7,000 | 57,834 |
| Total FACILITY | 92,342 | 472.35 | 92,814 | 122,420 | 136,800 | - | 136,800 |
| Total Expense | 281,764 | 13,287 | 277,704 | 364,735 | 335,744 | 36,983 | 372,727 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 49,015 | 19,288 | 85,651 | (7,232) | (37,377) | (19,983) | (57,360) |

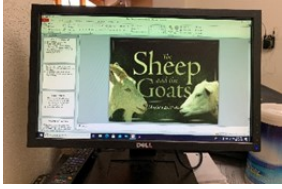
| Custer Lutheran Fellowship Supplemental Fiscal Information | 2020 Actual Current Inc. & Exp. | | | 2020 Budgeted Total | 2021 Proposed Budget | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|-------|------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------|
| | Non- Restricted | Restricted | Total | | Non- Restricted | Restricted | Total |
| EOY uncommitted Income after Transfers | (3,321) | 3,830 | 509 | 3,868 | (5,284) | 4,517 | (767) |



UPDATE FOR WENDI RUSCH'S MISSION TRIP...

Based on current COVID safety guidelines and Jamaican travel restrictions, we are unable to proceed with the rescheduled March 2021 mission trip that was originally planned for March 2020. The church leading the mission trip will offer donors a refund for any trip donations or have the option to leave their donation in order to help cover the expenses. If you wrote a check directly to Nazareth Lutheran Church, they should have contacted you on how you would like to refund/leave your donation. Since the church is unable to receive full refunds from vendors, airlines, and hotels, it resulted in an \$18,000 deficit for this trip. If you donated to me, I will be leaving my donations to cover losses for cancelling the trip due to COVID. Everyone is saddened by our inability to spend time with our partners at the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Jamaica, and I know you are disappointed too. Looking to March 2022 is too far away for them to plan for the next missions trip, but maybe I will get to go someday. Thank you for your support!

PA HELP URGENTLY NEEDED...



We are looking for new people who are able to help run the PowerPoint slides during worship, both on Sundays and Wednesdays. Due to a few illnesses, and of course COVID-19, we have a smaller pool of people to call on to help. It is not a difficult job, but it is so important. We will train you in all you need to know. Please contact Pastor Pam or the church office for more information, or to sign up to be trained. Thank you



ALTAR GUILD HELPERS NEEDED

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



Journeying Together in Christ

As the new fiscal year of the synod begins in February, we want to thank you for journeying with us in 2020.

The 5 year vision of the South Dakota Synod is "Journeying Together in Christ." Guided by the Emmaus Story in Luke 24 and your input in 2019, your synod staff dreamt together of this new vision for the synod.

We are no longer the people we were when we first left our buildings in March 2020, nor is the world around us -- and it won't ever be. New life and possibilities have emerged. Let's embrace our current situation and reimagine it as a classroom. How would that reshape our experience today?

Come on the road with us. The journey awaits.

Let's journey together in Christ. Visit JourneyWithFaith.org to learn more.

All Things New

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

Happy New Year! The word "new" shows up a number of times in Scripture, and most often it has to do with God's activity. Let us start out this new year meditating on the following verses from Scripture:

Psalm 40.3 – "He put a new song in my mouth a song of praise to our God."

Isaiah 43.19 – "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 65.17 – "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth ..."

Lamentations 3.22-23 – "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."

Ezekiel 36.26 – "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

John 13.34 – "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

1 Corinthians 11.25 – "In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

2 Corinthians 5.17 – "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Ephesians 2.15-16 – "He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it."

1 Peter 1.3 – "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 ..."

Revelation 21.5 – "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"

As we enter into 2021 with all of its uncertainties, let us pay attention to the ways God is doing a new thing in your life and in the life of our church. When all else is uncertain, one thing is for certain: God's love for you in Christ Jesus our Lord. And this love always has the power to put a new song in our mouth, to give us a new heart and a new spirit, to give us new birth, and make all things new.

Work for Justice and Peace

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

"So that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." In these baptismal promises we lay out our hopes for what discipleship looks like, in response to the Good News that we have already been saved by Jesus Christ. These are our callings as people of faith. If you, like me, are looking at the recent events of our world and wondering what to do about it, remember these promises. Remember that we have committed ourselves to trusting God, to knowing that even if the worst should happen, God's promise of resurrection still holds fast. Remember that we don't just say things, we act out the love of Jesus for our neighbors, being the manifestation of the body of Christ. Remember that we care for others rather than tear them down. Remember that we seek God's justice and peace, caring for the vulnerable and oppressed.

God has work for us to do as people of faith, especially in times where the world is chaotic. As a disciple of Christ, as someone filled with the strength of the Holy Spirit, let's continue to lift up these promises for one another. God is already at work, and is calling us into it.





W/ELCA HAPPENINGS...

Our next W/ELCA meeting will be held on Monday, February 22nd at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

QUILTING — We meet in the Fireside Room Tuesday's at 9:00 am.. Enjoying the Fellowship! Thank you for the continual flow of supplies we need to get the job done.

Needed: Someone to deliver quilts to Abbott's Home in Rapid City. Call 673-3056 if you can help.



CLF ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE.....

The Custer Lutheran Fellowship Mission Endowment consists of two funds: the Lila Van Wie Memorial Fund and a General Fund. Following the instructions established by the Lila Van Wie Endowment Memorial Fund, the CLF Endowment Committee met (via Zoom!) on Sunday, November 22, 2020 to consider 2020's funding disbursement of \$5,500. The Fund was established in 2001 by a donation from Lila Van Wie to support youth in the Custer community. Funding from the Endowment initially helped to support the Custer Youth House and has since evolved to support a variety of funding needs throughout the community that support our youth.

Lila was born and raised in Wall, SD and was a longtime resident of Custer. She passed away in 1999 and, although she had no children of her own, she had a special commitment to young people. In her estate planning, her wish was to create a memorial that would provide enduring benefits to Custer youth. The annual disbursement and blessings realized from the Memorial Endowment Fund are Lila's wishes coming true.

The following distributions from the Lila Van Wie Memorial Fund were unanimously recommended by the endowment committee and approved by council at their monthly meeting December 15th: \$300 Custer YMCA for youth basketball jerseys and youth basketball, \$1325 to Southern Hills Freshman Impact an Interactive Drug and Alcohol Prevention Education One-Day Program for high school freshman and sophomores, \$1125 to Outlaw Ranch for Outlaw Ranch youth camp programing, \$1125 to Custer County Library for youth and teen reading programs and \$1625 to Lifeways a drug and alcohol prevention and education program to Custer MS and CHS.

IMPORTANT NEWS FLASH: You will not want to miss the power point presentation recognizing CLF's 2020 recipients and a temple talk about the endowment that will be given at church February 7, 2021. And for a more

detailed report of the Endowment Committee's work, be sure and read the CLF Annual Report that was provided on January 24, 2021 at the annual meeting. You can also pick up a copy at church, located on the table in the Narthex.

If you have any questions on how to provide for an endowment in your estate planning or as a memorial to a loved one, please contact the church office and they will put you in contact with a committee member who can provide you with additional information.

submitted by Rick Hudson, Endowment Committee member



COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2021 MEETING

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The December giving rate was above budgeted so the overall giving levels were 92.6% of budget. The end of the year total was \$321,839. The Black Hills Federal Credit Union has also notified that our Loan Forgiveness Application for the full \$26,667 has been forgiven. The Finance Committee had a number of recommendations for the coming year. Scot moved, it was seconded and approved that: Capital Improvement expenditures for 2020 totaled \$15,636 and will be paid using excess 2020 current income rather than being charged to Capital Improvement Savings. (M/S/A) Jackie moved, it was seconded, and approved to adjust the proposed budget for the 2021 budget to \$270,000 for contribution income, increase expenses on Accompanists line item by \$800.00, to write in \$2,500 for treasurer services and to add \$12,000 mortgage prepay. (M/S/A) Laura moved, it was seconded, and council approved the use of Electronic Payment Authorization. (M/S/A) The council also recognized the treasurer's request to reconfirm previous allocation of residual 2020 income to operational reserve savings, to establish target amount for holdings and require monthly council update in Treasurer's Report on status of operational reserves and capital improvement reserves.

Unfinished Business:

- ❖ **Thrivent Choice**—\$1949 for the year of 2020.
- ❖ **Review of worship and activities**—Worship in-person has gradually increased and on-line has remained steady. The long range plan shoots for full resumption of in person activities by Fall of 2021. However, continued on-line presence will be used.

New Business:

- ❖ **Membership Changes**—none
- ❖ **Fire Sprinkler Inspection Proposal**—Tabled until the Building Committee reviews the proposal and has recommendations for council.
- ❖ **Treats for February council**—Dave accepted • Care and Share for February—Jackie accepted, and Scott will provide devotions for CLF council meeting
- ❖ **Draft Agenda for Annual Meeting**—Dave moved CLF Annual Meeting Agenda be approved as amended. Seconded and approved...(M/S/A)
- ❖ **Leadership Retreat**—The meeting will be held at the CLF Fellowship Hall on February 27th to allow for more spacing of participants for Covid 19 avoidance.
- ❖ **New Bank Authorization** —This was tabled until next month as new council will be in place.
- ❖ **Policies for Sexual Harassment and Misconduct**—Scot moved, it was seconded, and council approved the renewal of this ongoing policy. (M/S/A)

Reflections on Mission and Ministry: Pastor Pam has received her first Covid immunization as a care provider. She is excited about the new Bible study about Biblical women in person and on Zoom. As usual, the events of the congregation are keeping her very busy.

Committee & Ministry Team Reports :

- ❖ **Health Ministry**—Mary's messages in the newsletter are appreciated.
- ❖ **Property Committee**—Trees have been cut down. Dave Thom has applied for a SD Forestry grant to assist in coverage of expenses. There will be some volunteer work to do in the near future. The new boiler has been installed. Gutters have been cleaned. Basement has continued to be dry!
- ❖ **Social Ministry**— Families have slowly begun to submit online photos for Virtual Pancake project which is raising money for Cornerstone Mission in Rapid City. Wood haul work continues year round with April wood splitting to occur. Earth Day will have special activities as well.
- ❖ **W/ELA-** will be meeting next Monday for planning of coming year.
- ❖ **Worship & Music**—Blue Grass and Chosen People liturgies will be used in the near future.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2021

Treats—Dave Pickford Devotions—Scot Hoscheid
February 2021 Care & Share Calling Coordinator—Jackie Hartwick

Lord's Prayer Adjournment Laura Burden, Council Secretary



ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

Epiphany 4

Monday, February 1: Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26
 Tuesday, February 2: Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:22-28; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40
 Wednesday, February 3: Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20

Epiphany 5

Thursday, February 4: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Proverbs 12:10-21; Galatians 5:2-15
 Friday, February 5: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Job 36:1-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-16
 Saturday, February 6: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Isaiah 46:1-13; Matthew 12:9-14
 Sunday, February 7: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
 Monday, February 8: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37; Acts 14:1-7
 Tuesday, February 9: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41
 Wednesday, February 10: Psalm 102:12-28; Job 6:1-13; Mark 3:7-12

Epiphany 6

Thursday, February 11: Psalm 30; Leviticus 13:1-17; Hebrews 12:7-13
 Friday, February 12: Psalm 30; Leviticus 14:1-20; Acts 19:11-20
 Saturday, February 13: Psalm 30; Leviticus 14:21-32; Matthew 26:6-13
 Sunday, February 14: Transfiguration of Our Lord; 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;
 Mark 9:2-9
 Monday, February 15: Psalm 110:1-4; Exodus 19:7-25; Hebrews 2:1-4
 Tuesday, February 16: Psalm 110:1-4; Job 19:23-27; 1 Timothy 3:14-16
 Wednesday, February 17, **Ash Wednesday**: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;
 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-2

Lent 1

Thursday, February 18: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; 1 John 1:3-10
 Friday, February 19: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a; 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 Saturday, February 20: Psalm 25:1-10; Psalm 32; Matthew 9:2-13
 Sunday, February 21: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
 Monday, February 22: Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21; Ephesians 2:1-10
 Tuesday, February 23: Psalm 77; Job 5:8-27; 1 Peter 3:8-18a
 Wednesday, February 24: Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11

Lent 2

Thursday, February 25: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31
 Friday, February 26: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
 Saturday, February 27: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30
 Sunday, February 28: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
 Monday, March 1: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12
 Tuesday, March 2: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19
 Wednesday, March 3: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43



OUTLAW RANCH 2021

Lutherans Outdoors has opened registration for summer 2021. Program sizes will be smaller and Covid precautions will be in place, but at the core it will be the same summer camp experience that our campers know and love. Visit www.losd.org to register for your summer adventure!

MEALS ON WHEELS

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





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 Sellevoid
 Financial Secretary: Ann Snow
 Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky
 SPARK Kids: Wendi Rusch

Ministers: All Members of CLF!