

# CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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JANUARY 2020

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## CLF ANNUAL MEETING

### ONE SERVICE ON JANUARY 26—9:30 AM

The Custer Lutheran Fellowship Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall **following the 9:30 AM service**. At this meeting we will celebrate the ministry of the congregation in 2019, share a potluck brunch, and make plans for the coming year.

**This is a brunch potluck, so please bring a brunch item of your choice, such as egg dishes, muffins, rolls, fruit, etc.**

**A special budget forum will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020, at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room** to discuss and answer questions about Custer Lutheran Fellowship's 2020 proposed budget and mission plan.



## ENDOWMENT PRESENTATIONS

The Custer Lutheran Fellowship Endowment Memorial Fund was established by a donation from Lila Van Wie in 2000 to support youth and youth organizations in the Custer community.

On Sunday, December 15, and Wednesday, December 18, the CLF Endowment Committee recognized and presented checks to this year's endowment disbursement recipients. Recognized for the work they do to support youth in our community, this year's recipients are: the Custer County Library, the Custer High School Student Council, the Custer County YMCA, Lifeways (a drug and alcohol prevention and treatment program at Custer High School), and the CLF RAP Group.

If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Committee, contact Camille Riner or email her at [criner@dakotaphoto.com](mailto:criner@dakotaphoto.com).



## CLF CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Our Constitution recommends that a Constitution Review Committee be appointed to review the constitution every five years. Attached to this newsletter is a page with recommended changes to the CLF Constitution, updated slightly from the December insert. These will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on January 26th. If you would like to see the full constitution, please request a copy from the office or pick one up at the Welcome Center.

## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 10

The Custer Lutheran Fellowship Annual Meeting for 2019 will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 11:30 PM.

ALL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS should submit their information for the Annual Report no later than Friday, January 10th.  
Thanks!

## ELCA GOOD GIFTS SUMMARY



The Social Ministry Team sponsored ELCA Good Gifts in December. Animals and other educational and development projects can make a world of difference for a family in need. With our gifts, together we help families escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

Thank you for selecting gifts for others and supporting this worthwhile project. A total of \$3,802 was raised from sales at church. We know that others support ELCA Good Gifts by purchasing them online, so there are many gifts beyond what is listed here.



15 Chicks.....	\$150
3 Roosters.....	\$ 45
4 Goats.....	\$200
3 Pairs of goats.....	\$300
21 Piglets.....	\$630
2 Shares of oxen and plow.....	\$100
23 Honeybees.....	\$460
1 Fish farm.....	\$250
1 Share of a safe water project.....	\$250
2 Farmer's field school for a woman.....	\$150
1 Microloan for a woman.....	\$125
7 School fees & uniform for a girl.....	\$280
6 School supplies for a child.....	\$ 60
2 Solar-powered lanterns.....	\$ 60
2 Fruit-tree seedlings.....	\$ 20
1 Seeds and gardening tools.....	\$ 50
1 Mosquito net.....	\$ 10
2 Stock a health clinic for a week.....	\$150
1 Clinic visit for a child.....	\$ 10
2 Nutrition for a child—one month.....	\$ 50
8 Vaccinations for a child.....	\$240
1 Feed a refugee family for one week.....	\$ 50
2 Blankets.....	\$ 20
1 Bible.....	\$ 12
1 Feed 10 at a soup kitchen.....	\$ 20
11 Stock a backpack with food.....	\$110
Total.....	\$3,802

## BUDGET FORUM ON JANUARY 12

There will be a budget forum held at 9:30 AM on Sunday, January 12, for those who wish to learn about and discuss the budget for 2020 ahead of the Annual Meeting.

## CORRECTION TO STEWARDSHIP LETTER

A letter was sent last month thanking you and acknowledging the amount you committed to give for the year 2020. My name was mistakenly added to that letter.

I want to assure you that as your pastor, I have never known, nor do I want to know, what anyone gives financially to the congregation. My role as your pastor is to be in relationship with you, and I would not want the knowledge of financial giving to affect those relationships.

I apologize for the mistake. I simply forgot to let Mary know to take my name off that letter. Blessings to you all in this new year!  
—Pastor Pam

## 'THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS'

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their  
flocks,

the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

## The Holy Spirit is Working in This Place



I am so excited about all the ways the Holy Spirit continues to work within and through Custer Lutheran Fellowship!

After a lot of prayer, discussion, and review of the 103 worship surveys you all completed, the CLF Church Council has voted to begin one worship service at 9:30 AM beginning on the first Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2020.

We are delighted about the openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit during this time of prayer and discernment for everyone in the congregation, but especially for those on the Worship Survey Team. Thank you to Cindy Anderson, Helena Buehler, Cozy Dorton, Mary Hoscheid, Janna Jorgensen, Liz Kleffner, Ginny Myers, and Bonnie Thompson for their prayerful work in this process.



This decision was not entered into lightly, but instead was considered with a great deal of prayer and discernment for where the Holy Spirit is leading us as a congregation. We looked not only at how we could best serve God as a congregation, but also at what would best serve the community of Custer. We believe strongly that this move is what the Spirit wants us to do.

The church as a whole continually changes and moves with the Spirit, or at least it should. When we stop listening to the movement of the Spirit, we start to stagnate, and we lose our connection with the power of the Spirit. CLF has certainly experienced some changes over the last six to eight

years, some difficult, some exciting. We are celebrating all the ways God has worked through each of you and through this congregation and are moving forward in the way to which we feel called.

Our Wednesday NightLife activities will remain the same with SPARK Kids at 4:00 PM, a meal at 5:15 PM, worship at 6:00 PM, and confirmation, RAP group, and choir at 6:30 PM. These are such an important part of our life at CLF, and the Spirit clearly works through our Wednesday night activities!

We will continue to enjoy our choir, the worship bands, and a variety of music in worship. These are all such important parts of our worship life here, and the Spirit clearly works through all the different music and musicians!

One of the interesting insights that came out of the survey was that virtually everyone checked the box for valuing fellowship here at CLF. We definitely agree that our fellowship and relationships with each other and the community are a big part of who we are. We are looking forward to how this change will strengthen our fellowship and relationship-building with each other, and with the community. We also encourage you all to join in fellowship, coffee, and treats each Sunday after the worship service.

I invite you to celebrate this change enthusiastically with us and celebrate the ways the Holy Spirit continues to lead us at CLF. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or any of the members of the CLF Church Council or the Worship Survey Team.

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 has seen some real progress this fall thanks to the nice weather and a lot of help from our great volunteers. Since September 2018, we have logged more than 2,500 volunteer hours, mostly from members of ELCA churches in our Bear Butte Conference, particularly Custer Lutheran Fellowship, South Canyon, Trinity, and Calvary Lutheran Churches.



We have made significant progress just in the last several weeks as the walls and attic were insulated by project leader Larry Peterson and a group of some of our most regular volunteers -- Chuck Hazlett and Craig Black from Custer; Tom Berg, Kurt Anderson, and Jim Bishop from South Canyon; and Jim Schuh from Trinity. By mid-December, both floors were sheet rocked, taped, and textured.

We are also thrilled to finally have HEAT in the building. In January, we will be looking for volunteers to prime and paint the walls, and also stain doors, windows, and trim. If you would like to get involved with this great project and are not currently on our volunteer list, e-mail [jeffreyrohr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyrohr@gmail.com) or give Jeff a call at 605-787-3255.

Have a Blessed Christmas and we hope to see you at Woyatan in the New Year!

Jeff Rohr  
Volunteer Coordinator

Larry Peterson  
Project Leader



## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION ELDER'S WISDOM, CHILDREN'S SONG

*Custer Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students present a celebration honoring four members of our community. The elders that will be honored through song are:*

*John Culberson, Nina Nielsen, Lore Steinhauer, and Mark Thompson*

*Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM*

*Junior/Senior High School Theater—Free Admission*



Elders' Wisdom Children's Song incorporates the tools of community organization, education and celebration to help us honor the richness of our community through story-telling in song and spoken word. Children listen to the stories of Custer community elders and develop songs and narrations from the words of the elders with the help of their teachers and songwriters from our region. Through owning each other's story, bridges are built, understanding is found, respect is developed and reconciliation occurs. Barriers of age, complexion, religion, gender, and class are diminished.

## ALTAR GUILD HELPERS NEEDED

Our Altar Guild needs new members to serve in March/April, September/October, and November/December 2020. You can sign up at the Welcome Center. We are looking for two people for each two-month period. 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.

## 2020 GIVING ENVELOPES

If your family used the numbered giving envelopes in 2019 and requested a box for 2020, we have a new box ready for you on a table in the Narthex. Please pick them up soon. If you would like to start using the numbered giving envelopes, we have more available. Please sign up in the Narthex. We will issue a box to your family to be picked up the following week.

### 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, January 27, at 11:30 AM at CLF.**

**HOSTESSES:** Arbutus Winter and Pat Hattervig

**PROGRAM:** Continuation of gratitude discussion that was begun with our Thank Offering Program

Thank you to all who donated items and/or bought items at our Craft and Goodie Sale in November. It was a huge success thanks to the over-the-top support of our congregation. We collected over \$1,200 through that sale. Your support gives us the opportunity to support missions in our area and beyond when it is needed.

Quilting will go back to the normal schedule beginning Tuesday, January 7, at 9:00 AM.

We will meet every Tuesday during January. 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—January 3rd.** 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.



### CONFIRMATION NEWS

There has been no confirmation class during the school's Christmas break. Here is the schedule for January:

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 01/08/20 – Class        | 01/22/20 – Class |
| 01/15/20 – Mentor Night | 01/29/20 – Class |

We had a lot of fun at our Christmas Party in December! Thank you to the parents who helped and the students who came! I hope you all had a blessed and fun Christmas!

— Pastor Pam



### \*SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST—JANUARY 18\*

This opportunity, available to all, will meet on January 18th from 8:00 - 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Breakfast is served, then we discuss a NOOMA DVD. Join us for a great breakfast and discussion. Questions? Contact Allen Canete at 673-3753. (We do generally meet the second Saturday, but not this month.)



**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



**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](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.



**LET’S GET NOISY!**

The “*Noisy Offering*” continues one Sunday each month. This month it will be on January 12th. The December offering was \$123. Offerings from September through December, totaling \$391, were sent to Native American Ministries at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. Your spare change **does** make a difference.



**2019 BUDGET THRU NOV. 30**

	<u>Jan-Nov 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Offering Contributions	313,761	335,500
Special Offerings	10,616	3,067
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>324,377</u>	<u>338,567</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Pastoral Leadership	83,728	86,589
Worship	8,769	10,129
Education	12,236	25,222
Mission Support	44,117	40,838
Support/Care*	154,188	193,684
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>303,038</u>	<u>356,462</u>
<b>NET</b>	21,339	(17,895)

\*Support/Care Expenses budgeted but not yet expended:  
 Prepay Mortgage 11,000  
 Special Projects (Parking Lot) 10,000  
 Special Projects 7,000  
 (Parsonage Deck & Window A/C)  
**Subtotal Delayed Expenditures:** 28,000

**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!

**THURSDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY**

New people always welcome. We will start on January 9th. Meets weekly on 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!

**THURSDAY WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Meets Thursdays at 5:30 PM. We will begin on January 9th. 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.

## 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 January Wednesday NightLife Meals follow this schedule:

**January 8th**—Potluck meal—Chicken provided by CLF  
 \*Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.  
**January 15th**—Meal prepared by Jackie Hartwick and Women of the ELCA  
**January 22th**—Make-Your-Own Sandwich Bar  
**January 29th**—Pizza!!

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

**January 8th**—Prayer Around the Cross  
**January 15th**—Communion  
**January 22th**—Holden Evening Prayer  
**January 29th**—Chosen People

## STEWARDS OF CREATION

The CLF Church Council, in an effort to be good stewards of God's creation, is recommending that we strive to eliminate or reduce the use of single-use plastic wares and styrofoam products when using the CLF kitchen. Instead, please consider using the Corelle dishes and silverware provided. Thank you for your consideration.

## WE GAVE AWAY 14 BIBLES IN 2019!



Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade receives the SPARK Story Bible, and 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade receives the SPARK NRSV Bible. What an amazing gift to our children as they grow in their faith!



## SPARK KIDS



We enjoyed celebrating the Christmas season with crafts, skits, yummy treats, and great discussions about the Bible stories. Some of the kids helped frost and decorate cookies to help the Confirmation and RAP youth with their plates of cookies for the Elementary Backpack program. A special THANK YOU to all of those who help assist and drive our SPARK kids. We went to lunch together to celebrate the lives of the many kids we are able to impact. Here's to a Happy New Year of planting seeds for Christ!

There is NO cost for this program. Be sure to invite your Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup>

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 January are as follows:

- ✦ January 8—*Gifts of the Magi*—Matthew 2:1-12
- ✦ January 15—*God Calls Samuel*—1 Samuel 3:1-20
- ✦ January 22—*David is Chosen*—1 Samuel 16:1-13
- ✦ January 29—*Solomon Builds the Temple*—1 Kings Chapter 6

Join us on Wednesdays and experience the fun!



## PARISH NURSE NEWS

Another year has flown by and here we are in 2020. Many of us take this **time to set resolutions** for ourselves. We may vow to lose weight, exercise, and eat better, etc. We need to be more realistic; we may never reach our ideal figures. Maybe our resolution should be to **give more of ourselves to others**. There are so many ways you can volunteer your talents. My Mother always said, it is better to give than receive. How true it is. There is much joy in helping others. And as a bonus, we may forget our own troubles.

I also want to point out that our Health Ministry Team has changed the information table. We are focusing on signs to watch for **heart disease**, what your **blood pressure** number should be and how to **identify a possible stroke**. Lots of great information, and as always we encourage people to take what they want.

We are also going to be scheduling training and demonstrations of our AED in early 2020. Don't be afraid to learn, as you never know when it may be useful.

**I want to wish you a healthy, happy New Year!**

*Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse & the CLF Health Ministry Team*

## MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

I've been following recent news articles giving the high statistics of our state's **addictions rates**. Our governor has started an ad campaign relating to the idea that "we are on it". While it has made the news because of the wording, it is not at all funny. We have to ask ourselves why this is. I believe a big reason is that addiction rates and mental health issues often relate to **increased poverty levels**.

Poverty often claims decades of generations. Being in poverty is painful. It diminishes our self-worth, and often leads to increased criminal activity or to addictions. What can we do? Yes, more treatments for addiction are vital, but it is at least as important, to address our high poverty levels. Giving people more chances at improving living conditions, better nutrition, improving educational opportunities and lifting up their self-esteem is a big step forward. It is not easy, and each facet of help is important, but I know it can be done. We must do it for our families, neighbors, the young and elderly. **Look around our community and you will see many in need of our help.**

**Be generous and kind,** *Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse*

## RAP GROUP NEWS

**RAP Group Mission Statement:** *To provide a safe, fun, learning environment for all young people to navigate through life with and for God.*

During the Holiday Season, the RAP Group was able to serve the church and community. We staffed the Care & Share duties on Nov. 24. We provided readers, singers, ushers, greeters, and coffee hosts.

On December 11, we partnered with the confirmation students to decorate and package Christmas treats for the Elementary Backpack Food Program. It was a little chaotic, but very productive. We put together 78 plates full of cookies and candy. Thanks to everyone who participated, including some in the congregation who donated goodies.

The RAP Group also took a few tags from the giving tree and some youth teamed up and provided presents for Select-A-Gift. We hope we made Christmas a little brighter for others in the Custer community.





## OUTLAW RANCH PASSIONATE QUILTERS RETREATS IN JANUARY

Three relaxed weekends in January/February of quilting, home cooked food, making new friends, and sharing creative ideas. Beginning and advanced quilters are welcome! Bring your own projects. Ask Joyce Jindra, Karen Kraus, and Pat Hudson how much fun these weekends are! To register, go to [www.losd.org/events-and-retreats](http://www.losd.org/events-and-retreats).

## OUTLAW RANCH OFFICE MANAGER

Outlaw Ranch, a non-profit camp and retreat center, is seeking an Office Manager. For 62 years, Outlaw has served campers of all ages through a variety of religious and secular programming. The Office Manager is the first point of contact for most of our groups and guests, and must find joy in providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Applicants should possess significant experience with: customer service, Microsoft Office products, and general office management. This position is year-round, part time, 30-35 hours per week. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Outlaw Ranch, Attn: Matt Rusch, 12703 Outlaw Ranch Rd Custer, SD 57730.

## THANK YOU FROM MARGARET

I want to thank everyone who graciously offered their help with the Advent Program. It was a wonderful concert with so many churches represented.

Thank you to the choir, Marlene, and Cozy for the beautiful job they did and to Bob Timperley for his wonderful offering of "O HOLY NIGHT." Thank you Augie, Pastor Pam, Steve Baldwin, Ginny Myers, Mary and Bill for all the help they gave me with all the various jobs that needed to be done. The concert was well-attended and many compliments to Colleen Mahrt for all the work she does organizing a great concert that gets us in the mood for remembering the birth of our Jesus. — Merry Christmas! – Margaret Tretheway

## CUSTER MEET & EAT JANUARY 14TH

Meet your neighbors from Custer and enjoy a meal together. The free supper is at Custer Community Church, 529 Harney St. Join your neighbors on January 14th from 5:00—7:00 PM.

## AMAZON SMILE

Remember to support Custer Lutheran Fellowship by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) or [smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0374233](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0374233). Amazon donates a percentage to CLF.

## INKJET CARTRIDGES

Remember to recycle all inkjet and printer cartridges in the box at the Welcome Center. The RAP group recently earned \$153 for recycled cartridges. Thanks!

## LYNN'S RECEIPTS

Thank you for continuing to save your Lynn's Dakotamart sales receipts. Once receipts total \$10,000, the church will receive \$100. In 2019, we have earned \$900. Thank you!



## MISSING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your birthday or anniversary is 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 form we need that has birthdays, updated phone numbers, and email addresses. If you have filled out information for your children for confirmation or SPARK Kids programs, we may have children's birthdays, but not the parents. Please ask for a form so we may update our lists. You can also give us your birthday without providing the year! Thank you!

## COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 17, 2019

**Treasurer's Report**—The council reviewed the treasurer's report which was submitted by Joy. The contributions YTD are at 93.5% of the budgeted amount.

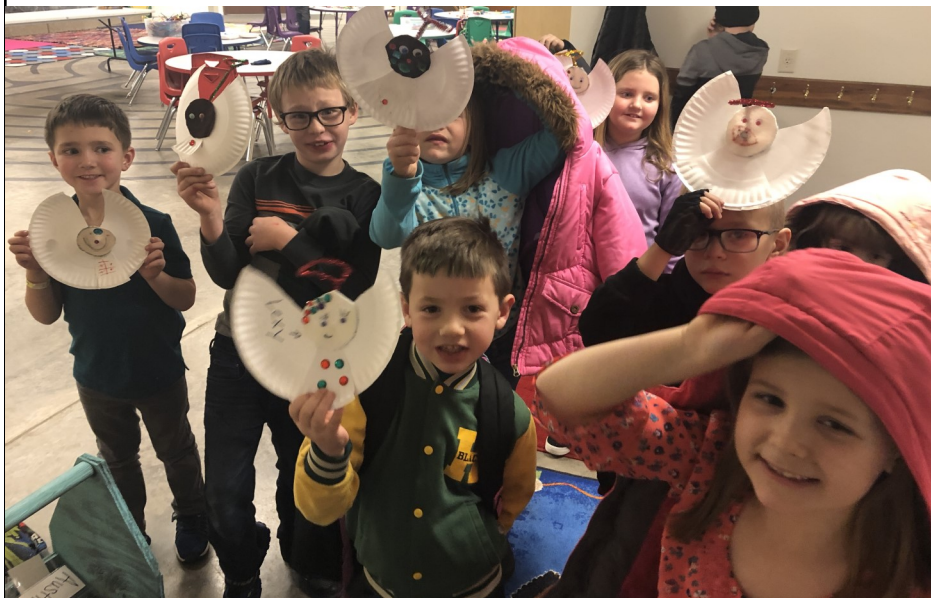
### Unfinished Business:

- ✦ **Finance Committee Report**—The Council reviewed all the Committee's 2019 Budget Recommendations (Attached to council agenda, page 6) The Council specified that the undistributed SD Synod Capital Appeal Funds (\$1,333.33) be redistributed in December 2019, with 50% to Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota and 50% to Lutheran Disaster Relief. Liz moved, it was seconded and the council unanimously approved the Finance Committee's Recommendations.
- ✦ **Thrivent Choice**—Received in November —\$24; received \$1,965 year-to-date.
- ✦ **Amazon Smile**—\$11.23 received in November for 3rd quarter 2019. \$34.48 received year-to-date.
- ✦ **Sanctuary Exit Door**—Gene Fennell noted that there is a serious problem with the Exit door as there is a step with an outward opening exit door. This is potentially a life-threatening problem. Gene will design a change in the exit stairway to meet this need. One of the other problems noted is that there are often items blocking the doorway, such as music stands, stools, etc. A "panic bar" is also needed.

### New Business:

- ✦ **Finance Committee Report**—The council reviewed the proposals for the upcoming 2020 budget year submitted by the Finance Committee. After discussions to understand the proposals, Carol moved to accept the recommendations. Second and approved unanimously by Council.
- ✦ **Membership Changes**—None.
- ✦ **Worship Survey Team Recommendations**—Pastor Pam reported on the Worship Survey Team, noting that the team very much felt led by the Spirit as 103 surveys were completed and discussions had been complete. The council moved, it was seconded, and approved to follow the recommendations of the Team to have one service each Sunday with 9:30 AM starting time; implementation to be March 1, 2020.
- ✦ **Wendi Rusch Mission Trip Support**—Wendi has the opportunity to assist with a program of working with sign language in Jamaica in March and asked for financial assistance. The council felt this was a worthy request as Wendi will most likely bring back ideas and cultural excitement for the SPARK program. The proposed method of fund-raising was to have Wendi do a temple talk with an offering basket and to then supplement the funding as needed. (This provides an opportunity for the congregation to engage in the adventure.)
- ✦ **Annual Meeting Reports**—are due to the office by January 10, 2020.
- ✦ **International Health Partners**—The council discussed the opportunity to have a group involved with building clinics and hospitals in Tanzania come to provide a worship experience. It was the general feeling of the council that unless the group was of Lutheran background, opening up the worship sermon and service to an outside group could lead to an abuse of worship time. A temple talk and a group discussion outside of the worship hour were suggested.

**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:

- ✦ **Endowment**—Liz reported that the recent seminar on endowment funds had been enlightening.
- ✦ **Evangelism**—Rosemary reported the group was still working on a booklet.
- ✦ **Health Ministry**—The Team has a new health board on display and hopes to have an AED training in the new year.

The next council meeting will be January 21, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

**ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY**1 Christmas

Thursday, December 26: Psalm 148; Acts 7:59—8:8

Friday, December 27: Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12

Saturday, December 28: Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:13-23; Matthew 18:1-14

Sunday, December 29: Psalm 148; Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Monday, December 30: Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Tuesday, December 31: Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19

Wednesday, January 1: Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19

2 Christmas

Thursday, January 2: Psalm 72; Genesis 12:1-7, Hebrews 11:1-12

Friday, January 3: Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22

Saturday, January 4: Psalm 72; Exodus 3:1-5; Hebrews 11:23-31

Sunday, January 5: Psalm 147:12-20; Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

Monday, January 6: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday, January 7: Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21

Wednesday, January 8: 1 Kings 10:14-25; Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

Baptism of Our Lord—1 Epiphany

Thursday, January 9: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9

Friday, January 10: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10—4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a

Saturday, January 11: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31

Sunday, January 12: Psalm 29; Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Monday, January 13: Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48

Tuesday, January 14: Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13

Wednesday, January 15: Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21

2 Epiphany

Thursday, January 16: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12

Friday, January 17: Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5

Saturday, January 18: Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, January 19: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Monday, January 20: Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40

Tuesday, January 21: Psalm 40:6—17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4

Wednesday, January 22: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17

3 Epiphany

Thursday, January 23: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24

Friday, January 24: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8; Galatians 2:1-10

Saturday, January 25: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Sunday, January 26: Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Monday, January 27: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14

Tuesday, January 28: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18

Wednesday, January 29: Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79

Presentation of Our Lord—4 Epiphany

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, January 4: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6

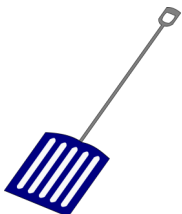
Wednesday, January 5: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26

**CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB**

"Captain Snow" says...

Volunteers are needed for the CLF/CSC—that's the "Clean Sidewalk Club." There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex 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!





**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

**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**