



CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

12622 US HWY 16A

CUSTER, SD 57730

PHONE: 605-673-4691

EMAIL: clf@gwtc.net

www.custerlutheran.com

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Custer Lutheran Fellowship Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 21st**, after worship at 10:30 AM, with a Potluck Brunch.

It is vital that all members attend this meeting so that we can approve the 2024 Budget for the church, as well as vote on council and committee members. Our Treasurer, Joy Smolnisky, will be holding a Budget Forum on **January 14th** at 10:30 AM after worship. See you there!

All Committee activity groups and Team leaders, please submit your reports to the church office by **January 4th**.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas program called "Advent Tree" was so wonderful! We had 26 Spark kids and a few confirmation kids who participated by reading about the ornaments' symbolism and hanging them on the tree. The children also played a few songs on the handbells that sounded amazing! It was a great way to start the celebration of the season! They are very focused! Great Work, kids!



SOCIAL MINISTRY – "GOOD GIFTS" SUMMARY

Your Social Ministry Team sponsored ELCA "Good Gifts" in late November and early December. Farm animals, 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.



Purchased in 2023, through CLF, were: 9 chicks, 3 roosters, 5 goats, 1 herd of goats, 8 piglets, 12 honeybee units, 2 water filters, 1 irrigation project, 1 community center computer, 2 microloans for a woman, 4 school fees & uniform for a girl, 5 school supplies for a child, 1 school supplies for a classroom, 3 fruit-tree seedlings, 1 one-year nutrition for a child, 4 vaccinations for a child, 1 feed-a-refuge family for a week, 1 month of trauma counseling, 3 bibles, and 1 feed 10 at a soup kitchen. A total of \$4,371 was raised from such sales at church (compared to \$2,246 in 2022!). We know that others at CLF support "Good Gifts" online, so there are many gifts beyond what are reflected above. Thank you for selecting gifts for others and supporting this mission work.

SOCIAL MINISTRY – "RECYCLING PLASTIC FILM"



Recycling Plastic Film - Wondering what the new collection box in the Narthex is all about? The Custer Lions Club shared an invitation for CLF to join their effort to recycle various forms of plastic film. We have now established this collection point and encourage the congregation to deposit their appropriate plastic. A list of the types of plastic to recycle is available at the collection box. Once 1,000 lbs of plastic has been recycled, Trex will donate a bench to the Lions Club. The next 1,000 lbs. of plastic will then be turned in for a Trex bench for CLF. Additional information is available through [trex.com/recycling](https://www.trex.com/recycling).



THURSDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY BY BONNIE THOMPSON

The Thursday morning, Christian women's book study meets at 9:30 at the Monument Health assisted-living center, which used to be the Wedgwood Assisted Living. We usually have between six and 10 women who get together for about an hour and a half to read discuss, laugh and learn. All women are invited to come.

The new book that we are starting is called "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God" by Francis Chan and Danae Yankowski.

"Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible even radical solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with himself because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of dues and don'ts is falling in love with God. And once you encounter his love, as Francis describes it, you'll never be the same because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything."



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

The Youth Gathering is 30,000+ 8th-12th grade students from around the country that get together in a large city for faith formation, worship, fellowship and service. This year the Gathering will be in New Orleans, LA. Our youth group will join Lutherans Outdoors of SD and 200 other SD youth to go together on charter buses on July 13th-21st! South Dakota is once again sending the most kids to the gathering! Way to go! If your business or household would like to make a tax deductible donation, we would greatly appreciate it! With food, travel, housing, and other costs, we will need more than \$20,000 for our group. You can donate with Youth Gathering in the memo line and help us reach our goal! We are also looking for fundraising ideas. Contact Wendi 509-494-3236 with any questions.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the Table Young Adult Gathering

Every year I find it so interesting how so many of us respond to the beginning of the New Year. In reality, there is no huge difference between December 31st and January 1st. Only one day. Yet, there is something so deeply ingrained in us that this new calendar year is a clean slate. I love to get my new calendar that is completely blank and hang it on my wall and consider all of the possibilities that this new year will bring! I also enjoy flipping back through my old calendar and reminiscing about all of the people I've seen, places I've been, events I've been to.

My prayer for all of us as we move into 2024 is that we do so gently, intentionally, and wisely. My prayer is that we carry what we have learned with us into the New Year. At the end of this month we will have our annual congregational meeting. During this time we will review the wonderful ministries that CLF has been part of for the last 12 months. We will also look ahead and contemplate how we will work toward living our commitment to bringing the Good News of Jesus to our community and to the world. We will consider how we will use our resources, how we will shape or re-shape our ministries, and elect three new leaders to the Church Council. We will all have the opportunity to sign up for service opportunities, join committees, or think of new ways we will use our time and talents and treasures.

As you look back at 2023, what did you do that you loved doing? What do you wish you would have done more or less of? What brought you life and energy or was draining for you? As you answer those questions, use them to guide you as you begin to fill up your new calendar. There are so many wonderful ways that we can join together and be a strong community where people know what love and joy and hope look like when they are involved with any aspect of CLF. If you are a long-time member, take a new member under your wing and support and encourage them as they make decisions about how they want to be involved. If you are a new member, be brave and jump in and try something new! Whether you are an old member or a new member, invite others to participate in the life of CLF and share your stories with others.

I am beyond grateful for the ways I have been blessed as your Pastor in the last year, and know that the blessings will continue to flow from last year to this year. Thank you to all of you for the prayers, words of support and encouragement, and the many thoughtful cards and gifts that you gave to Darryn and me for Christmas.

With much love, your sister in Christ, Pastor Shannon

A TIME OF CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION

On Sunday, December 17th, was a time of celebration for Liz Kleffner's 80th birthday and recognition for the years of service to Outlaw Ranch and Custer Lutheran Fellowship for Larry Peterson. We wish you both the best!



PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE 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 Shannon at 563-542-6080; pastor_clf@gwtc.net; or the church office at 605-673-4691; clf@gwtc.net

SPARK KIDS



Join us for SPARK Kids! During the school year on Wednesdays, children from Kindergarten through Grade 5 are picked up at the Elementary building after school is dismissed and brought to the church. We sing songs, have a snack, and do a game or craft that ties into the Bible story. It is always a fun time of learning and laughing, with also some great questions and deep thinking! Pickup is 5:00-5:15. There is NO cost for this program! Children need to be registered by their parents/guardians in order to participate. Registration materials are available through the office. Substitute drivers needed if you can help since we have 35 kids signed up now! All are welcome!



WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE SCHEDULE

Meal at 5:15 PM

Jan. 3rd NO MEAL
 Jan. 10th Sandwich Bar
 Jan. 17th BBQ's
 Jan. 24th Pizza

Worship at 6:00 PM

No Service
 Holy Communion
 Evening Prayer
 Evening Prayer

Confirmation at 5:30 PM

Jan. 3rd No Class
 Jan. 10th Class
 Jan. 21st Class
 Jan. 24th Class

RAP HS Youth Group 6:30 PM



RAP HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We would love to see all 9th-12th graders join us for Youth Group! We will have our weekly Wednesday night gatherings at 6:30 PM. We had a great time during our Outlaw Ranch hayride in the Custer Christmas parade! Special thanks to Scot & Mary Hoscheid for hosting the chili and games afterwards. Please contact me if you would like to help with fundraisers or any activity that brings faith and fun to our youth! Wendi Rusch #509-494-3236 for more info!



CHRISTMAS GRAMS



We had a great time delivering our Christmas-grams! There were 14 of us (even former youth group college kids) that sang carols and jingled bells around town. We gave them a candy cane, cocoa packet and cards made by Spark kids to enjoy! It was so touching to see the smiles and tears by those receiving this gift. Thank you to everyone who helped us raise over \$650 to go towards our National Youth Gathering trip!

"NEW LIFE" FOR EXPIRED SD LICENSES

Last call for expired South Dakota license plates. They are used as souvenirs for the international students at Augustana University. So far 139 plates have been delivered to the Augustana University International Program office. There is a collection box on the table by the coat rack. Thanks for your effort to support this program. Phil Lewison



PARISH NURSE UPDATE :

Hope your Christmas was Blessed. Now as we enter another New Year, it's time to look forward. Most of us will have the usual resolutions, but my hope for the New Year is for Peace. It's obvious that we should pray for Peace in Israel and Ukraine, but also Peace between other countries and how about here at home in our country. How about Peace in our region, in our communities, even between friends and families. Let's begin our New Year with more caring and compassion for those among us and respect for others. Let this year begin with Peace.



I hope everyone has gotten themselves protected by now for the flu and COVID. This year the RSV vaccine is now available for pregnant women to protect their newborns, also for babies and toddlers and also now for adults over 60 and especially for those more vulnerable. These are covered by most insurances. I finally got smart and my husband & I got our first shingles shot. Of course I had to go through a shingles outbreak to learn my lesson. I was lucky it was fairly mild but don't take that chance because you may not be so lucky. Our 52 y/o son is recovering from a nasty outbreak of shingles. The vaccine is available for those 50 and older.

I hope everyone has a healthy happy New Year. Remember, as your Parish Nurse, I am always happy to make visits after a surgery or an illness. Please let me know if you have a planned surgery, are in the hospital or going through cancer therapy or are dealing with chronic issues. I also provide grief support. Let me know if you have lost an important person in your life. I am not always aware of these situations, so if I don't contact you, please contact me.

Healthy body/ healthy soul
Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE :

As your Parish Nurse I am also available for assistance as I am able when you are dealing with Mental Health Issues. I will direct you to local resources as needed. I am here if you want someone to listen to you. I am not a Therapist or a Mental Health Professional. I am someone who has worked around Mental Health and have been trained in support for those dealing with Mental Illness. I also am a person who has been through my own battles with Mental Illness and so I understand the challenges. Let me know if I can help you.

Healthy Mind/ healthy life
Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse

CLF LIFE:



CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB

"Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow"

It's already showing up, isn't it. And we need volunteer sidewalk shovelers for the Church. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex and you can sign up for whatever days work for you. (If you can't make a week long commitment, that's fine. Sign up for two or three days.)

If you need to be shown how to operate the John Deere snow blower, contact Brad McKinney at 308-641-1741 or any number of "experienced" snow shovelers. Thank You!



"A clean sidewalk reflects a clean heart." ~ Expectations 24:7



CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

Main address— clf@gwtc.net

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Please have articles for the February Newsletter to the office by **January 22nd**. Thank you!



OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM.



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.



DO YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES?

Please let the church office know of any recent address changes, new email addresses or changes in your phone numbers whether home or cell phone. We are trying to keep our records up to date. Thank You for your assistance!

THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

7:00 AM — "Outlaw Ranch"

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

Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Statement of Activities
YTD 11-30-2023

Non-Restricted

Restricted

Designated
(Previously "set-aside"
Funds spent)

Ordinary Income/Expenses

Income			
Offering Contributions	291,788		
Non-restricted Special Donations	6,454		
Temp. Restricted Donations		34,197	
Miscellaneous Revenue	265		
Interest	2,404		
Total Income	300,911	34,197	0
Expense			
Pastoral Leadership	60,905		772
Worship	10,222	425	0
Education	20,491	9,341	
Support/Care & Facilities	122,071	12,330	15,267
Total Expense	247,188	33,988	16,039
Net Ordinary Income	53,723	209	-16,039

CLF MEN'S BREAKFAST/ BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Breakfast will meet on **January 13th** at 8:00 AM in the Fireside Room. The men gather for a breakfast first then move on to their Bible study for the day. All are welcome to join this group. We have great discussions.





CLF Choir

We will be singing a piece entitled "Amen! Go Tell it on the Mountain." It is a jazzy spiritual that will be sure to get you swinging in your seats! Please join us.

January

Practices:
NO CHOIR on Wednesday, January 3rd!
Wednesday, January 10th @ 6:30 PM ~ Sanctuary
Wednesday, January 17th @ 6:30 PM ~ Sanctuary

Special Music:
Sunday, January 21st @ 9:30 AM church



We had a good 2023 studying and discussing some notable Parables of the Kingdom: The Sower and the Seed; The Good Samaritan; The Prodigal; The Wheat and the Weeds, The Pearl of Great Price; The Treasure in the Field; The Parable of the Net; The Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents. All of these, in allegorical form, told of one or more truths of God's Kingdom---simple stories that help us remember the precious gift we possess in the Word of God.

We will begin 2024 with a study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11. Why should we care? Because the first eleven chapters of the Bible in Genesis are the prologue to the rest of the Scriptures. This is the Introduction to the story of God's redemption of His people through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And just like with any good book or movie, you can't skip the introduction. If you do, you'll fail to grasp the tension, the main themes and the plot lines and trajectories that are going to be dealt with; the conflict and how it gets resolved in the end.

So, Genesis 1 - 11 is the Prologue. It explains why the world is in such a mess that it is in. It explains both supernatural and human evil. Here's what humanity is up against: We are estranged from God; we have all kinds of problems that can't be resolved by human means, and not only that, there are spiritual powers that are opposed to God's interest in having us back. Because rebellion and sin have separated us from God, we also have another problem: death. Every living thing dies because of sin. In addition, there's also the problem of supernatural (angelic) and human depravity---practices and customs that are totally ungodly. And finally, humanity is fractured---separated not only from God, but from one another. The rest of the Bible is the story of God not giving up on His original plan. But now, He has rivals and enemies on both sides. So, this is the story. And how Jesus, God Incarnate, walks everything back and reverses the curse of sin, and brings everything to resolution. But to fully appreciate all that, Genesis 1 through 11, from Eden to Abraham, lays the foundation for the story of redemption.

We shouldn't skip the Introduction. It is vital to fully understanding the story.

Allen Canete

BUDGET FORUM REMINDER

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 2023 BUDGET AND PROVIDE INPUT ON THE 2024 BUDGET. PLEASE ATTEND AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE ON JANUARY 14, 2024 THANKS!

CHRISTMAS PICTURES



W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:

Next meeting: Monday, January 15, 2023 @ 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Hostesses: Potluck

Program: Wendi Rusch, RAP Trip to National Youth Gathering New Orleans, LA

Other business will be approving the budget for 2024 and get ready for the new year.

All women are welcome to attend.

We wish a Happy New Year to each of you!

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**Mission: January — March LWR Quilts and Local Needs**

Our mission for January through March is making and providing quilts for LWR and local needs. The quilters might need some help in the form of supplies. Those needs will be made known as they occur. We appreciate all that you do to support this important outreach.

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QUILTING — "Quilting" will start again on Tuesday Jan 9th and every Tuesday after that at 9 AM.

Thank you for all the gifts you have given us that keep us going making beautiful quilts.

After a December break we are ready to "get back to work" again! ~ "THE JOYFUL QUILTERS"



THANK YOU!

Dear Custer Lutheran Fellowship,

We very much appreciate y'all's amazing support and kindness. Y'all have been a great part of helping the women and children we assist. We can't tell you how much it means to our program.

Donna Talley, Director & W.E.A.V.E. Board

THANK YOU!



Outlaw Ranch held a Living Nativity on December 17th and had over two hundred visitors over the course of the evening, as we brought to life the scene of the humble birth of Jesus. Many thanks to those that came out to visit the Nativity scene and partake in the activities and treats! We greatly appreciate all the W/ELCA members who donated items for the bake sale and to the many Outlaw volunteers, friends, and staff who helped to put the event together. It was such a success that we plan to make it an annual event!

~ Matt Rusch, Outlaw Ranch Director

CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB

"Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow"

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If you need to be shown how to operate the John Deere snow blower, contact Brad McKinney at 308-641-1741 or any number of "experienced" snow shovelers.



Wesley Ray Williamson, Child of God December 24, 2023



CARING HANDS MINISTRY

Welcome to 2024.

Letting go of the old and welcoming some new is a common occurrence in a new year. And it will be happening with this Caring Hands ministry. The Church Council voted at their last meeting for this committee to absorb the Outreach Committee. Many of you have served in the past on the meals team, the transportation team, the prayer team, or more than one of these. Now you will also have the opportunity to serve on the visitation team. This team will take the lead in visiting our members who are either homebound, in a care facility, or are hospitalized.

We will be examining how we serve our people with our caring hands and examining additional and better ways to reach more of people. And, of course, ideas are always welcome.... do you see a way that we could offer caring hands that we are not currently doing?

As in past years, and as we are doing this year, we check on people's availability and ability and willingness to continue volunteering in these areas. It is understandable that some change interest and also some abilities change. There are many ways to search at CLF. We know people pray about the best way to use their time in service. We know you will carefully consider your gifts again this year.

We are meeting soon as the new year begins. We'll take a look at the whole picture and the number of volunteers still interested. Since things are changing, it is important that you indicate your desire to be involved in which ministry(ies) you prefer. Thank you for taking time to do this. At our Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 21st there will be an opportunity indicate which team(s) you would like to serve on and who of you will be willing to serve as the leadership of the overall Caring Hands Committee.

God's blessings to you this day and the coming year.

Cozy

PRECIOUS MOMENTS



WOYATAN LAKOTA CENTER
522 ANAMOSA ST, RAPID CITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Interested?

Call us at 605-348-0247 or visit

URBANROOTSANCIENTWISDOM.ORG/HEALTHY-COMMUNITIES

WE NEED HELP WITH:

- Providing a meal
- Mail Distribution
- Sorting clothing
- General Volunteer support



2024

GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD

The Grief Recovery Method(R) 8 week support group will meet at CLF. Meetings will begin on Monday, Feb. 5th and will run for 8 weeks from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. This is not an open support group which means you must commit to attending all 8 sessions. The Grief Recovery Method(R) is an evidence based emotional healing process to help recover from more than 43 different kinds of losses we can experience. The book, "The Grief Recovery Handbook" by John James and Russell Friedman is the book we use and each participant needs a book. Each week there will be reading and writing assignments to be discussed in the sessions. Cost will be \$150 per person for the 8 sessions. This support group is sponsored by the Southern Hills Zonta group. If the fee is an issue for you, contact a Zonta member for assistance. Contact Margie Neugebauer, MA, Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist(R) at margeneugebauer@gmail.com to register or for questions. She can also be reached at 303.590.4403

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 11TH

Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study: Beginning January 11th.

For our next unit, rather than studying a book of the Bible, Pastor Shannon is going to use a combination of scripture and the book Spiritual Rhythms for the Enneagram by Adele and Doug Calhoun and Glare and Scott Loughrige. As part of her training to become a certified Spiritual Director, Pastor Shannon also became a certified practitioner of the Enneagram. You do not need to purchase the book to participate, but it is recommended. You can purchase it on Amazon for approximately \$25. Prior to the beginning of the class, please take an online assessment to find out your Enneagram Type.

Here are the links to take the assessment for the Enneagram; the first one costs \$12 and the second one is free. If you are new to the enneagram, don't worry too much about getting it right...that is why this class is being offered, to help us to navigate our results and learn more about ourselves together!

<https://www.wepss.com/> <https://www.youenneagramcoach.com/>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Shannon.

THE LILA VAN WIE MEMORIAL FUND 2023 DISTRIBUTION

Decades ago, a farsighted, child-of-God left a legacy. Lila Van Wie bequeathed a gift of \$100,000 to the Custer Lutheran Fellowship Endowment Fund. The annual interest of this fund is designated to be used for the benefit of children and youth of Custer County. Twenty-some years later, her legacy of generosity lives on.

On Sunday, January 14th, members of the Endowment Committee will present the following distributions to representatives of the following programs:

- Children's Assistance Fund of Custer County Schools (\$500)
- Custer County Library, Summer Youth Reading Program (\$1,000)
- Freshman Impact Program (\$1,000)
- Custer YMCA After School Program (\$2,000)
- CLF Outlaw Ranch Camping Scholarship Fund (\$500)

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I would like to thank everyone who helped make my 80th birthday celebration so memorable, especially Pr. Shannon, Cozy, the kitchen crew, my children, and all of you who gave cards and hugs. I am truly blessed to have such a kind and loving church family. May God bless you all.

Liz Kleffner

CUSTER MEET & EAT



Custer Meet & Eat is being offered on January 9th. Meet your neighbors from Custer and enjoy a meal together. The free supper is offered the second Tuesday of each month at Custer Community Church, 529 Harney Street.

Join us from 5:00pm — 7:00pm. Everyone is Welcomed!



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D FROM PG. 14

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ❖ **Outreach**, Helena Buehler – Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Christian Education**, Blaine Kortemeyer – Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Endowment**, Blaine Kortemeyer – The committee met to disburse the \$5,000 funds that are over \$100,000. Donna moved, Christie seconded to allocate the funds as follows: \$500 – Needy Children Fund in Custer County Schools; \$1,000 – Custer County Library Summer Youth Program; \$1,000 – Freshman Impact Program; \$2,000 – YMCA After School Program; \$500 – Outlaw Ranch Camperships. Motion carried. Checks will be cut in December and the check presentation will be on January 14th.
- ❖ **Health Ministry**, John Kirk – Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Mutual Ministry**, Dave Mertz – Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Property**, Mark Thompson – Dave Pickford has put a window in the pastor office door, same as the general office door.
- ❖ **Social Ministry**, Christie Behlings – Reviewed committee activity.
- ❖ **W/ELCA**, Shana Hindman – Nothing to report.
- ❖ **Worship & Music**, Donna McConnell – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting: January 16, 2024:

Treats – Blaine Kortemeyer. Devotions – Blaine Kortemeyer.
January 2024 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – Blaine Kortemeyer.

Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary

COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING

Secretary's Report: The correspondence was reviewed There was consensus and the minutes for the September meeting were approved. Worship attendance records were reviewed.

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru November were 118% (+\$4,378) of budget and YTD income is at 109.7% (+\$25,764) over budget.

YTD expenses are only \$705 over budget.

- ❖ **2023 Pledge Receipts as of 12/12/23:** are at 97.5% with \$203,573.48 of \$208,808 total 2023 pledges received with only \$5,234.52 outstanding.
- ❖ **2024 Pledges as of 12/12/23:** 66 pledge cards have been turned in (same number as 2023). The total pledge amount is \$248,000, an increase of \$39,192 from last year.

Council Actions

- ❖ **Discretionary Fund** – Christie moved, John seconded to create a Council Discretionary Fund with the net offering income left at year end. Motion carried.
- ❖ **Music & Worship Coordinator Position** – Mark moved, Shana seconded to combine the Choir Director and the Music Director positions into one part-time W2 status position known as the Music & Worship Coordinator. Motion carried.
- ❖ **Allocate Restricted Other Income** – Christie moved, Mark seconded to use Lynn's WeCare and Wednesday NightLife Meal Income to offset the WNL Meal expenses. Motion carried. Mark moved, John seconded to establish a longevity bonus fund of \$1,500 to use where applicable. Motion carried. Christie moved, John seconded to use the residual funds to go to the Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment Account. Motion carried.
- ❖ **Youth Coordinator Restricted Funds** – Mark moved, Donna seconded to change name of the Funds to the Youth & Family Discretionary Fund. Motion carried.
- ❖ **Finance Committee 2024 Budget Recommendations** – Shana moved, John seconded to approve the Finance Committee's Recommendations as presented. Motion carried.

Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

Unfinished Business:

- ❖ **Thrivent Choice** – December \$ 0.00 YTD – \$ 539.00
- ❖ **Amazon Smile** – December \$ 0.00 YTD – \$ 18.44
- ❖ **Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – December \$ 200.00 YTD – \$1,200.00
- ❖ **Wednesday NightLife Worship** – Will continue worship if attendance stays up. The Confirmation students like helping with worship. Would still like more help to help with the meals.
- ❖ **Growing Roots Update** – A grant was received to help them to look at ways to move the pre-school into the nursing home building.
- ❖ **National Youth Gathering** – The next payment is due in February. The RAP Group funds will be depleted after the gathering. Need to look for fundraising ideas.
- ❖ **2024 Budget** – Joy went over draft budget.
- ❖ **Potential Council Members** – Have two individuals but will need a third person to complete a term.
- ❖ **Other** – None

New Business:

- ❖ **Membership changes:** None
- ❖ **Bonus for Margaret & Presentation at Annual Meeting** – discussed during Treasurer's Report.
- ❖ **Annual Meeting Date** – Annual Meeting will be held on January 21st after the worship service along with a potluck meal. The budget forum will be held on January 14th after the worship service.
- ❖ **Re-Name Outreach Committee** – Committee has been re-named to the Caring Hands Committee. Pastor Shannon will hold a meeting for potential members to explain what the committee does.
- ❖ **Stethoscope** – Shana has one she will donate to the church.
- ❖ **Other – Apostle's Creed Calligraphy** – Tabled until next meeting

Pastor's Report:

- ❖ **Review Worship & Activities** – Lots of worship services coming up. She is very determined to do strategic planning in 2024.
- ❖ **Worship Services** – December 21st, Longest Night at 6:30 PM; December 24th, Christmas Eve @ 9:30 AM, 4:30 & 9:30 PM

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ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

January 2024 Daily Lectionary

Monday, January 1: Name of Jesus; Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7 or
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21

Tuesday, January 2; Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18;

Wednesday, January 3: Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:20-33; James 4:1-10

Days Around Epiphany

Thursday, January 4: Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17

Friday, January 5: Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31

Saturday, January 6: Epiphany of Our Lord; Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 7: Baptism of our Lord; Psalm 110; Exodus 1:22—2:10; Hebrews 11:23-26

Monday, January 8: Psalm 110; Exodus 2:11-25; Hebrews 11:27-28

Tuesday, January 9: Psalm 110; Exodus 3:7-15; John 8:39-59

Epiphany 1

Thursday, January 11: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 9:10-19a

Friday, January 12: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Timothy 4:11-16

Saturday, January 13: Psalm 29; 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, January 14: Baptism of Our Lord; Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Monday, January 15: Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12

Tuesday, January 16: Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16

Wednesday, January 17: Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34

Epiphany 2

Thursday, January 18: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11

Friday, January 19: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25

Saturday, January 20: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, January 21: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Monday, January 22: Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

Tuesday, January 23: Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 15:10-31; Acts 5:1-11

Wednesday, January 24: Psalm 86; Genesis 16:1-14; Luke 18:15-17

Epiphany 3

Thursday, January 25: Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 19:1-15; Revelation 18:11-20

Friday, January 26: Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:7-13; 2 Peter 3:1-7

Saturday, January 27: Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Luke 10:13-16

Sunday, January 28: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Monday, January 29: Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Tuesday, January 30: Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25—46:7; Acts 5:33-42;

Wednesday, January 31: Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a

Epiphany 4

Thursday, February 1: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18

Friday, February 2: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17

Saturday, February 3: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1

Sunday, February 4: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Monday, February 5: Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26

Tuesday, February 6: Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:22-28; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wednesday, February 7: Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20





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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: Shannon Witt
Office Manager: Mary Winter
Parish Nurse: Mary Klein
Custodian: Augie Heyne
Music & Worship Director:
Jennifer Doyle
Financial Secretary: Janice Albers
Steve Baldwin
Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky
Youth & Family Coordinator:
Wendi Rusch
Ministers: All Members of CLF!