

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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CUSTER, SD 57730

www.custerlutheran.com

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 7

JULY 2023

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**Church Office will be closed on July 4th.
In observance of the holiday.**

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS BY BRAD MCKINNEY

"God Discovery Days" 2023

During this year's Gold Discovery Days, July 21-23, CLF will host a booth (Friday/Saturday only) near the Arts and Crafts Fair along Washington Street. We are very excited about this opportunity.

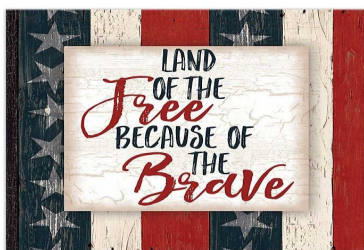
At our booth, we will, with the help of your Social Ministry Team and other volunteers, promote our church family and:

- Hand out our green cloth shopping bags, candy, real "gold" rocks, bubbles, "All Are Welcome" bookmarks, and pocket prayer shawls",
- Have coloring or other kid-friendly activities,
- Provide an opportunity to take prayer requests, either in-person or anonymous written requests.
- And MORE!!



But we'll need your help in staffing the CLF Booth.

Please consider signing up for a two-hour shift or more. There will be a sign-up sheet at church or you may call the office. Find a friend and sign up early to secure the time slot (s) that work best for you!



ANNUAL WOOD SALE BEGINS

The Annual Wood Sale has begun! The wood splitter group has been working hard to get ready for the annual event. We are looking for families to sign up for the filling of the wood shed container next to the driveway. To sign up, please email Wendi Rusch at ruschfamily@gmail.com.



The Wood Splitters are looking for any and all kinds of wood. If you have some that you would like to donate to the group, please contact the church office at (605) 673-4691 and leave a message.

This is the annual fundraiser for our youth, so that they may attend the Youth Gathering Convention next year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUCCESSFUL

A successful **2023 VBS** was held June 19-21st! **22 children** attended the fantastic three-day event planned by **18 volunteers**. The theme was "Fruit of the Spirit" and each day the children learned about three 'fruits' from the list - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control, and Bible stories that matched those virtues. The Volunteers planned some outstanding crafts, STEM activities, snacks, games, songs, and drama activities which kept the participants focused, all while having fun! Also, there was a need for a picnic table and the children showed their kindness by building one for the SPARK program! They also showed their goodness by donating 65.5 pounds of food for the Storehouse Food Pantry and over \$130 toward 'Bread for the World'!

Finally, many of the VBS kids came to church the following Sunday and performed a skit about kindness and shared several of the songs Wendi had taught them. They were fantastic!

A **BIG thank you** to all the volunteers and families that shared their children with CLF for three days!

Linda Fennell



SPECIAL MOMENTS AT CLF

PICTURE OF THE SEVEN PASTORS IN CHURCH ON JUNE 25, 2023



Have you ever wondered on Sunday morning when you get up to get ready to go to church why you are going? I think if you are really honest, you will answer yes, or at least you will say maybe you did when you were younger. I will tell you that the question has crossed my mind more than once. So I'm curious, why do you worship? My guess is that there are a variety of reasons. My hope is that it is because you deepen your faith and hope by gathering with other Christians regularly to be fed and nourished by God's Word and through the Sacraments.



Several years ago, I read a book that was written in 1999 by the author and theologian, Marva Dawn, titled [A Royal Waste of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being Church for the World](#). In her opening paragraphs she writes, "To worship the Lord is—in the world's eyes—a waste of time. It is indeed, a *royal*, of time, but a waste of time nonetheless. By engaging in it we don't accomplish anything useful in our society's terms...Worship is a *royal* waste of time, but indeed it is *royal*, for it immerses us in the regular splendor of the King of the cosmos." She goes on to address the real waste of time that we as Christians have spent arguing about how and when and what to include as worship. She doesn't suggest throwing out tradition or sticking strictly to tradition. She suggests examining why we are there in a deep and meaningful way. While this book is nearly 25 years old, I have decided to pull it off my shelf and dust it off and re-read it. I would like to invite you to possibly join me in a book study this summer. If you order it now and take a month or so to read, highlight it, take notes on it, then at the end of summer we can meet for coffee or breakfast or something to discuss it for a couple of hours. I will determine when or where we will meet once I know how many people will join me. If you want me to order the book for you, please let me know by July 9th.

Speaking of worship, the worship and music committee is very committed to making sure you do have a meaningful worship experience. We are trying a rhythm of worship that includes traditional Lutheran Liturgy on the first Sunday of every month and a less traditional possible more contemporary service on the third or fourth Sunday. The other Sundays will be an abbreviated Liturgy with a mix of traditional and contemporary music and liturgy.

Grateful to spend time in worship with you,
Yours in Christ, Pastor Shannon

PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR 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 Shannon at 563-542-6080 or the church office 605-673-4691

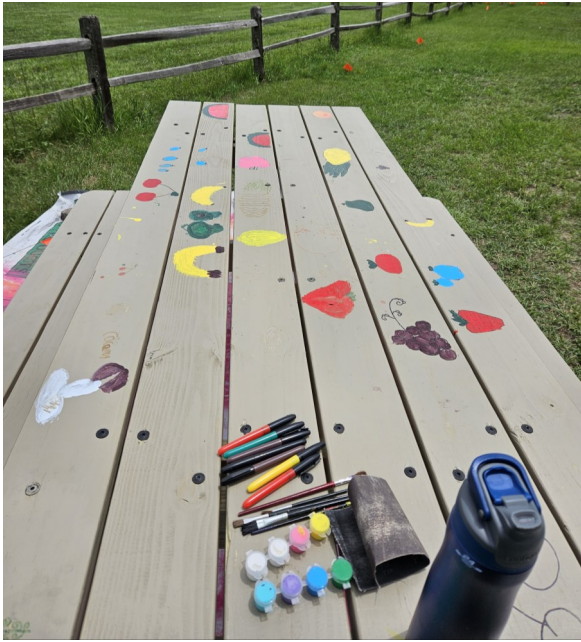
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



I am not sure how many at CLF realize that we have a Pastor's Discretionary Fund that I use to help people, both in this congregation and in the community. I help with a variety of things from rent/mortgage, utilities, grocery items that are not available at the Storehouse like diapers, toilet paper, etc., and more. This account is entirely funded by donations. It is not part of the yearly budget. CLF is also part of the Custer Ministerial Alliance (CMA), who also helps with utilities and rent. I encourage all of you to contact me or the CMA if you are in need in any way. The discretionary fund is completely confidential – I am the only one who knows who is helped. And of course I always welcome donations in any amount to the fund! Again, the money I use in that account is funded entirely by donations. It is a blessing to be able to help someone in need in this way. Please pray for those who I and the CMA have helped, and continue to support in the future. ~ Blessings, Pastor Shannon

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THANK YOU

I want to thank all for the prayers, cards and visits. I am feeling better every day. Jim Hattervig

THANK YOU

To my CLF family;
Thank you for the many cards, hugs, and caring thoughts my CLF family has given me after Mick's passing. I love the prayer shawl and thank Mary Klein for presenting it to me from the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Having a lunch after the funeral service was a tremendous blessing as well. I draw support from the many wonderful people who are also on this journey I now travel. This family truly supports me daily when I think of your strengths, kindnesses and wisdom. What terrific examples you are.
Shana Hindman

SUNNY'S QUILT



The quilt Sunny Reeves received from our CLF Quilters was delivered to her home at Heritage Place Assisted Living (St. Martin's) in Rapid City. Of course, there were wonderful animals on the quilt and we know how Sunny loves animals. Enjoy your lovely quilt Sunny!

PARISH NURSE UPDATE

Sometime in our life, we have experienced grief. It may have been Grandparents, a parent, brother or sister or maybe a child or pet. Do you remember the grief you experienced? Sometimes it is a gut wrenching feeling, that feels like it will never go away. Is there a timeline on how long grief should last? Is it a few months or years? There is no clock on how long it will take or a list of emotions we need to follow. It is a very personal thing, but by being there when they need someone, is so important. I found a saying that paints a picture of the journey.

Grief never ends... but it changes.

Grief is not a sign of weakness nor a lack of faith...

It is the price of love.

Mary Klein RN



MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

What is Major Depressive Disorder? It's not just a sadness, but a state of mind. It can be characterized by changes in activity, sleep disturbances, difficulty concentrating, hopelessness, mood swings, lack of energy and suicidal thoughts. It is more often not a one-time event but is recurrent. What causes it? It can be caused by a trauma event, history of depression in family, drug or alcohol abuse and some health issues. There are a number of ways to treat this disorder. There are a medications and often times it can take some trial and error to find one that will help. There is also talk therapies, including one-on-one and group, electroconvulsive therapy and a combination of therapies. Can it get better? Yes, but it may require lifelong therapy. Nearly one in 10 people will be diagnosed with Major Depression. Years ago they typically called it a "nervous breakdown". If this sounds like you or someone you love, seek help. You can begin with your Primary Care Provider".

Healthy Mind, Healthy Spirit.

Mary Klein RN

CUSTER MEET & GREET



The next Custer Meet & Greet meal will be held on Tuesday, July 11th, from 5-7 PM, located at the Custer Community Church, located at 6th & Harney.

Gather for a meal with friends and neighbors.

(no charge and for more information call (605)673-4090.

Reminder that there is not a Meet and Eat in August.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Community Lutheran Church of Hill City, SD will be hosting a Summer Concert Series this Summer. This concert series will be held in their new pavilion at 705 South Newton Avenue, starting on Friday, July

The first concert will be with Tangled Blue, a band consisting of Rev. Joel & Rev. Aimee Pakan. Joel and Aimee Pakan may sound familiar to some of you as they were the Outlaw Ranch Musician in Residence for a while. The concert is free and you are asked to bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

SUMMER 2023 WEDNESDAY CAMPFIRE WORSHIP

Have you ever attended the Wednesday Campfire Worship @ 6:30PM? It is a very moving experience, especially when you are out in what God has given us to enjoy nature. It isn't a long service, but we start with a campfire burning, along with the Word of God to touch our hearts. When the service is over, we enjoy s'more's or Root Beer Floats depending on the weather.





CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:
 Pastor Shannon: pastor_clf@gwtc.net
 Main address— clf@gwtc.net

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the August Newsletter to the office **by July 19th at noon**. Thank you!



OFFICE HOURS

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

Pastor Shannon has Friday's off!

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 May 31, 2023 Profit & Loss Budget s. Actual January through May 2023

CLF Income & Expense Account (Include Council approved budget adjustments)	Non-Restricted Inc & Exp		
Ordinary Income/Expense	Non-Restricted	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
40000 . Offering contributions	138,870	120,920	112%
Total 40014 . Non-restricted Special Donation	2,713	0	
40300 . Interest	843	125	674%
Total Income	138,426	121,045	115%
Expense			
Total 61000 . PASTORAL LEADERSHIP	26,049	27,749	94%
Total 62000 . WORSHIP	5,256	6,113	90%
Total 63000 . EDUCATION	10,120	11,661	98%
Total 64000 . MISSION SUPPORT	17,053	15,493	110%
Total 65000 . SUPPORT/CARE	44,499	53,967	82%
Total Expense	102,976	108,870	95%
Net Ordinary Income	35,688	12,175	178%



LYNN'S RECEIPTS

We are still collecting receipts from Lynn's Dakotamart. We appreciate so much everyone who brings their receipts. We wanted everyone to be aware that we do not collect the gas discount receipts, though. We want you to keep those to get your gas discount! But continue to drop off your receipts in the office or in the can at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DEVOTIONALS

The "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **July — September 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 call the office.



LITTLE-KNOWN AID PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR CERTAIN LOW-INCOME SOUTH DAKOTANS

Our friends from Bread for the World—South Dakota shared the following information with us about an aid program that low-income members of your worshipping communities might be eligible for:

There is still time to help certain low-income people sign up for the South Dakota's little-known tax refund program called "Sales or Property Tax Refund Program for Senior Citizens and Citizens with Disabilities." The sign-up period is only May-June, with a July 1 deadline.

The program has these income limits (which were just raised by the legislature): One-person household: \$14,949; two-persons: \$20,141.

You can find more information from the state here, (https://dor.sd.gov/newsroom/sales-and-property-tax-refund-program-for-senior-citizens-and-citizens-with-disabilities/?mc_cid=f35ea9fb3c&mc_eid=4ed6372cd1) including a link to a packet with two applications (which may look like it is for 2022, but it's 2023). Applications for the refund should also be available at your county treasurer's office.

According to Bread for the World — South Dakota, those who participated in the program last year received an average of \$200, an amount which can be a big help for those eligible for the program. If you have questions, you can find contact information to the relevant office of the South Dakota Department of Revenue by following the link above.



"WORK WANTED"

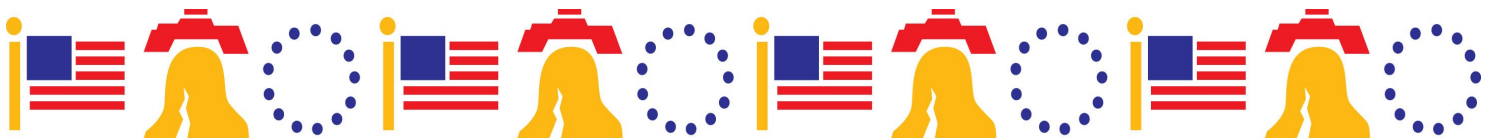
We have often seen signs of "Help Wanted". Now, we have a sign, "Work Wanted". We have a woman who has been attending CLF with her six month old baby, who wants work. Deya Carrero would like work where she can take her child. She is currently offering Spanish classes at the library while she is learning to speak the English language better.

She has also done cleaning in houses and she's willing to help with other projects, where she can bring her little one from filing to cleaning cupboards to walking the dog.

If you have a project that you think might work, but you are uncertain or unsure *please text* Deya at (786)282-0593 or call Cozy 605-673-1187.



VBS 2023 Fruit of the Spirit



W/ELCA HAPPENINGS

The next W/ELCA meeting will be on Monday, August 21st, at 11:30 in the Fireside Room. Note that there is **NOT** a meeting in July. Our August meeting will be a Potluck meeting. Coffee will be provided.

QUILTING

The quilters summer schedule will continue on the first 2 Tuesdays of each month;
July 11th and 18th August 1st and 8th

We will soon be in need of fabric, always good flat sheets for backing and mattress pads for the middle.
Thank You for all of your donations! The Joyous Quilters

JULY & AUGUST MISSION PROJECT:



Items needed are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Notebooks of ruled paper | Unsharpened pencils | 30 cm Rulers |
| Boxes of 24 Crayons | Pencil Sharpeners | 2 1/2 inch eraser |
| Boxes of 12 Twistable Crayons | 4-Pack Highlighters (Usually yellow, blue, orange and green) | |

In the past these items have been shared with LWR, Pine Ridge, and children at Custer Elementary. Thanks for being so generous in your support for our mission projects! We appreciate each of you!!

MORE VBS 2023 PICTURES



ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

July Daily Lectionary

Pentecost 5

Saturday, July 1: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 28:1-4; Luke 17:1-4

Sunday, July 2: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Monday, July 3: Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Tuesday, July 4: Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:17-291; 1 John 4:1-6

Wednesday, July 5: Psalm 119:161-168; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Matthew 11:20-24

Pentecost 6

Thursday, July 6: Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 1:1-6; Romans 7:1-6

Friday, July 7: Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 2:6-13; Romans 7:7-20

Saturday, July 8: Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 4:1-7; Luke 10:21-24

Sunday, July 9: Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Monday, July 10: Psalm 131; Jeremiah 27:1-11, 16-22; Romans 1:18-25

Tuesday, July 11: Psalm 131; Jeremiah 28:10-17; Romans 3:1-8

Wednesday, July 12: Psalm 131; ; Jeremiah 13:1-11; John 13:1-17

Pentecost 7

Thursday, July 13: Psalm 65:1-13; Isaiah 48:1-5; Romans 2:12-16

Friday, July 14: Psalm 65:1-13; Isaiah 48:6-11; Romans 15:14-21

Saturday, July 15: Psalm 65:1-13; Isaiah 52:1-6; John 12:44-50

Sunday, July 16: Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:1-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Monday, July 17: Psalm 92; Leviticus 26:3-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tuesday, July 18: Psalm 92; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Ephesians 4:17—5:2

Wednesday, July 19: Psalm 92; Proverbs 11:23-30; Matthew 13:10-17

Pentecost 8

Thursday, July 20: Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 41:21-29; Hebrews 2:1-9

Friday, July 21: Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:9-17; Hebrews 6:13-20

Saturday, July 22: Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:18-20; Matthew 7:15-20

Sunday, July 23: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Monday, July 24: Psalm 75; Nahum 1:1-13; Revelation 14:12-20

Tuesday, July 25: Psalm 75; Zephaniah 3:1-13; Galatians 4:21—5:1

Wednesday, July 26: Psalm 75; Daniel 12:1-13; Matthew 12:15-21

Pentecost 9

Thursday, July 27: Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:28-37; 1 Corinthians 4:14-20

Friday, July 28: Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:38-48; Acts 7:44-53

Saturday, July 29: Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 2:1-4; Matthew 12:38-42

Sunday, July 30: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Monday, July 31: Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 3:16-28; James 3:13-18

Tuesday, Aug. 1: Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 4:29-34; Ephesians 6:10-18

Wednesday, Aug. 2: Psalm 119:121-128; Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33; Mark 4:30-34



MORE PICS:





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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: Margaret Tretheway
Choir Director: Jennifer Doyle
Financial Secretary: Janice Albers
Steve Baldwin
Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky
Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch
Ministers: All Members of CLF!