

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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VOLUME 17, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2019

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SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

Starting Sunday, June 2, there will be one Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 AM. Please come for a variety of styles of worship this summer. Join us for coffee and fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

CAMPFIRE WORSHIP 6:30 PM WEDNESDAYS

Join us for weekly Wednesday Night Worship this summer. We meet in the Outdoor Worship Space in the woods behind the church beginning at 6:30 PM. There will be music and singing, prayer, scripture, communion, and reflection around our campfire. Afterwards we can linger over the making and eating of s'mores with friends. In the event of rain, we will hold our Campfire Worship inside the church building. We will substitute root beer floats for the s'mores. Yummy! It almost make us want to pray for rain.... Bring someone along with you for this quiet mid-week time of re-centering your faith life!



Love to take Videos with your Phone?



Have we got a project for you! We are looking for a variety

of people who would record sermons and special music during worship at both Sunday and Wednesday worship. Right now we have one person taking videos and we would love to have more people doing this. It's very simple – take a video with your phone, then upload it to the church Facebook page. We even have a tripod that you can use for your phone. Please contact the church office if you would like to be part of this team.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



We had a wonderful graduation brunch on May 18th to celebrate the graduation of three CLF seniors. Thank you to all who provided food and who helped with serving and clean-up.



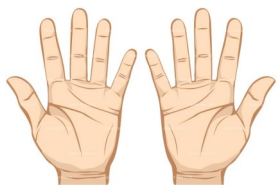
From left: Katy Bradeen, Wyatt Hudson, Marlee Schneider.

The graduates were presented with a Message Bible, a laundry bag, a 'Jesus Calling for Graduates' devotional book, and a CLF "Who is Welcome Here" bookmark.



IDEAS??.. .GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

The Social Ministry Team is looking ahead to September 8 when CLF will be hosting our annual "God's Work. Our Hands." event. If you have ideas or suggestions for new community projects that we can participate in as a congregation, or ways of improving old projects, please let Team members or the church office know. Many thanks! – Brad McKinney



EVANGELISM TEAM

Are you creative? Do you love coming up with new ideas to spread the Gospel? Then you need to be part of the Evangelism Team! We are looking for people who have a passion for sharing God's word and will help us create new ways to help the Custer community know who we are as CLF. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM in the large Sunday School room. Come join us as we dream about ways to help the Custer community know about us and about Christ. In June, we will meet on the 18th.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY...



On **Sunday, May 5th**, twelve young people of Custer Lutheran Fellowship were surrounded in prayer and blessing. After they affirmed the promises made at their baptism, they received a blessing and a prayer with family and friends literally surrounding them.

You are encouraged to continue to pray for these young adults in their journey of faith.

This month's newsletter includes faith papers from the confirmation students. As you read their faith statements, please pray for them in their continued life in Christ!



Back row: Tristan Spring, Jackson Drew, Sam Whitaker, Preston Drew, Quade Parker, Aiden Suelflow.
Front row: Denali Rusch, Ramsey Karim, Peyton Helfer, Hadyn Golder, Allie Kelley, Alice Sedlacek.



Pentecost this year is on Sunday, June 9th, which seems strange to me. Usually it falls sometime in May, so having it in June seems odd. But Pentecost moves around based on the date of Easter, so it's no wonder it's later this year since Easter was later.



So what's the big deal about Pentecost? If I asked you what Pentecost means and why we celebrate it, what would you say? The simple answer is that Pentecost is the day we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church. It always happens 50 days after Easter.

The bigger answer is that Pentecost is not just one, single day. It is not something that happened once way back in the early church and it's over and done with. It's not something that happened to a handful of people, but continues to happen all over the world to all kinds of different people. And that includes each of us!

As Lutherans, we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to us at our baptism. But like the early church, this isn't a one-time event that we can then forget about. We celebrate the Holy Spirit's ongoing presence in our lives and in the life of our faith community every day. Or we should!

Recently in worship I asked if anyone could give an example of a time when they experienced the Holy Spirit working in their lives. And most people had a difficult time coming up with a concrete example. It's not because the Spirit isn't working; it's because we don't always look for it, or recognize it when we see it.

The Spirit works and shows up in so many different ways. Part of the struggle is to open our eyes and become aware of it. Often for me, the Spirit works by putting certain people in my life when I need them. Or maybe I am put into someone else's life when they need me. Often we attribute different events to coincidence, but I don't believe in coincidence. I think it's often the Holy Spirit at work.

I invite you during this month to actively look for how the Holy Spirit is working in you, in our faith community, and in the world. And you never know, I may ask in worship again where you've seen the Spirit at work!



And don't forget to wear Holy Spirit Red on June 9th as we celebrate this amazing gift!

Blessings,
Pastor Pam

PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR PAM WHEN:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| *There is a hospitalization in your family | *There is a death in your family |
| *You would like a pastoral visit | *There is a birth or adoption |
| *Someone becomes homebound | *Someone becomes unemployed |
| *There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy | |

Hospitals don't notify the pastor that a member is in the hospital, even if they ask your church membership when you arrive. So please let the pastor know if you or a family member is in the hospital. Custer Lutheran Fellowship, the body of Christ, wants to bring you Christ's love in all the seasons of your life.

Pastor Pam Power
pam_clf@gwtc.net

701-955-5282 (cell)
673-4691 (church)



ROCHFORD CHAPEL SERVICE

Twenty members of Custer Lutheran Fellowship attended the Sunday evening service at the Rochford Chapel on May 12. Pastor Phil Lewison lead the service and preached. Cozy Dorton, Bob Timperley, and Mary Stutz led the music. Everyone else sang along and joined in a cake and ice cream fellowship after the spirit-filled service!

SOMETHING NEW AND FUN THIS SUMMER



Do you have a favorite hymn or song? We would love to hear what they are so we can include them in worship during the Summer. Even if they are not in the hymnal, let us know anyway! They can be anything – Christmas hymns, Easter, anything! Wouldn't it be fun to sing some Christmas songs in the Summer! There will be slips of paper on the Welcome Center where you can write the name of the song. You may include your name, but don't have to. Then put the paper in the offering plate, or in the basket on the Welcome Center. The sooner you can get us the names of your songs, the sooner we can include them in worship! You can also email Margaret Tretheway at samanne@goldenwest.net.

We can't wait to learn what your favorite hymns are!

SHAREE JOHNSON RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Rev. Sharee Johnson is celebrating her retirement on June 22, 2:00—5:00 PM at her home in Custer. Rev. Sharee served 29 years as a United Methodist Pastor in the Nebraska Annual Conference, serving 13 different churches (two or three at a time). She also served the past nine years as the pastor of the Upton Wyoming United Methodist Church in Upton, Wyoming. Sharee's address is 25246 Holiday Trail, Custer.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Pam is offering a New Member class on Saturday, June 15th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon. We will learn about CLF, what it means to be a Lutheran Christian, and look at the gifts that God has given us. We will explore what it means to be part of a community of faith, the ministries here at CLF, and ways to use our gifts in ministry and throughout our lives. We would love to have some current members be part of this class to begin building relationships with our new members, and share your experience here. Please let Pastor Pam know that you will attend so she can plan appropriately.



BISHOP ZELLMER THANK YOU

Bishop Zellmer has toured the synod to thank everyone for twelve years of ministry together. He was at Woyatan Lutheran Church on May 14th where he was presented with a hand-sewn star quilt from the women at Woyatan.

Those gathered enjoyed the drum circle as we all celebrated his ministry and prayed for his continued ministry in whatever way the Holy Spirit calls him. Blessings on this new journey!



CHAPEL IN THE HILLS—50TH ANNIVERSARY—JULY 5-7, 2019

The Chapel in the Hills is celebrating its 50th anniversary. There is a flyer included in this newsletter with a schedule of activities. If you did not receive a flyer, there are some available at the Welcome Center.

A TRIP TO SIOUX FALLS — A VISIT TO ST. DYSMAS

Prepare for a visit to St. Dysmas to worship with the men who are members of this Lutheran Church located behind the walls of the State Penitentiary. Our visit is set for **Thursday, August 22nd**. We will leave Thursday morning and return the next day. We will stay at the Hospitality House—a place where inmate families stay. The cost is a donation for their mission. Please consider joining us in this important ministry. You will need to fill out paperwork, which can be found at the Welcome Center, and return it to the church office. **The completed paperwork MUST be returned by Thursday, August 1st** so that it can be mailed to St. Dysmas for processing. **This is a must!** Questions? Contact Marlene & Glenn Sellevold at 673-5467 or cell phones, 360-8963 or 360-8984. . .The men of St. Dysmas will give you a warm welcome that you will not soon forget!

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, June 17 @ 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room (please note the date and time). This is a brunch meeting and it is being held the third Monday of the month.

HOSTESSES: Bonnie Thompson and Ann Snow

PROGRAM: To be announced

Wendi Rusch was the speaker at our meeting in May. Wendi shared some of the activities that occurred during SPARK over the 2018-2019 school year. Her presentation of pictures showed children enjoying themselves as well as learning from Bible stories that were shared each week. The church community as well as the Custer community benefits from this very worthwhile program. We are fortunate to have Wendi and her passion to share with the children that God loves us all of the time. No matter what we have done or what is happening in our lives, we have the love of God on our side! Wendi is quick to recognize that there are many people who come together to make SPARK a success—Linda Fennell, various teacher aides and weekly drivers all contribute their talents. Thanks to each of these folks!

- ✦ We voted to give **\$200 to campus ministries** to put toward the “giving gardens” that they are going to plant this summer. The campuses that will benefit are School of Mines in Rapid City and BHSU in Spearfish.
- ✦ A motion was also made and passed to **buy a Hoover Wind Tunnel vacuum for Outlaw Ranch.**
- ✦ Anyone who would like to **help pack lunches** for the Summer Sack Lunch program, please see article below.
- ✦ At our June meeting, we will set a date to **clean the kitchen.** This is an annual event. We have a kitchen set up that is the envy of all who see it. We need to work to keep it clean and organized. We will inform the congregation when we set our cleaning date. Each of you will be invited to participate in this activity that is a fine example of the fact that many hands make short work.
- ✦ **Is this dish yours?** Many folks have brought items for meals at church over the past year. Many of the dishes that contained those meals have been left behind. Please check the table in the Narthex. It is possible that there is a dish there that belongs to you!
- ✦ Our **next meeting** will be **Monday, June 17, at 9:00 AM.**

In the summer months, **Quilting** takes place the first two Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM. Our quilters provide a valuable outreach and are greatly appreciated. Anyone is welcome to attend quilting — there are jobs for every level of talent — even those who do not know how to quilt.

Bingo at Custer Senior Care—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.

**June Mission Project:
W.E.A.V.E.—Women Escaping a Violent Environment**

- ◇ Paper products—tissue, toilet paper
- ◇ Shampoo, soaps, lotions
- ◇ Feminine products
- ◇ Laundry soap



SUMMER SACK LUNCH PROGRAM



W/ELCA will provide lunches for the Summer Sack Lunch program during the week of July 15-19. Please mark your calendar to come to the kitchen at CLF to help pack lunch items on Monday, July 15 and/or Wednesday, July 17. Lunches will be packed at 9:00 AM on both days. Thanks in advance for any help that you can give! This is a well-received program and support is greatly appreciated.



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 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.



RAP GROUP NEWS...

We have received a lot of help splitting wood to prepare for the campfire wood fundraiser. Thanks everyone for all your help. Our next wood splitting party is on Saturday, June 1st, at 1:00 PM.

Thanks to Joy and Elmer Smolnisky for building a new iron ranger to hold the donations from the campfire wood fundraiser. It should be installed soon.

Let us know if you have Rent-A-RAP projects for us to do.

We will not be having any official RAP group meetings until school starts again, but will plan on having a couple of “fun days” during the summer.

Rent-A-RAP Work Force

An eager work force consists of teens from our youth group. We are available to help with work such as babysitting, light yard or house work, moving furniture, errands, dog walking, or pet sitting. We are willing to help you for a donation in the amount of your choice to go towards our trips and activities. We appreciate your support and hope we can help you out! Call Tim or Tammy Wicks, 673-5180.

2019 BUDGET THRU APRIL 30

	Jan-April 2019	Budget
Income		
Offering Contributions	107,460	122,000
Special Offerings	<u>4,283</u>	<u>1,533</u>
Total Income	111,743	123,533
Expenses		
Pastoral Leadership	30,570	31,487
Worship	4,141	4,520
Education	4,771	5,420
Mission Support	18,783	16,397
Support/Care	<u>59,398</u>	<u>60,255</u>
Total Expenses	117,664	118,079
NET	(5,920)	5,454

Custer Meet & Eat ...June 11

This gathering is a time to meet your neighbors from Custer and enjoy a meal together. The free supper is offered the second Tuesday of every month at the Custer Community Church, 529 Harney St. Join your neighbors on June 11th from 5:00—7:00 PM.

Let Your Light Shine Energy Plan

We have accomplished so much to help conserve energy at CLF! Thank you to all who helped make these sustainable changes.

The 2019 Goal is to gradually replace 108 fixtures of 4-foot fluorescent bulbs.

DAY CAMP

A WEEK OF CHRIST-CENTERED FUN FOR ALL.

Bible Study | Arts & Crafts | Games | Service Projects | Worship | Songs

Theme: "Where You Are"

Who? For children completing Grades K—5. Bring your friends!

When? Monday to Friday, June 24—28
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Mon. to Thurs.,
9:00—noon Friday

Where? Right here at CLF

What does it cost? It is FREE for all.

How can we sign up? There are sign-up sheets on the Welcome Table at church. Parents will need to complete a registration form for each child.



PARISH NURSE NEWS

I hope you have been enjoying some of these nice days. The Health Ministry Team spent a few hours cleaning up the Labyrinth area, behind the Parsonage, next to the Outdoor Worship area. If you have never walked it, try it sometime. There is information in a covered stand out there. I see that Pastor Pam will be starting a Walking Worship and will be including the Labyrinth.

With summer comes more injuries, especially to children. Moms, Dads & Grandparents, make sure the kids are involved in the outdoors. Have them take a long break from "screen time" and get outside. Take walks, ride their bicycles and play outdoor games. Not only is it good for them to take a break from the TV, video game or phone, the exercise is great and they will learn to appreciate nature. I see that the city has been working on replacing some of the older equipment in the parks. Be prepared for more cuts, bruises and insect bites. Have a first aid kit stocked with a wound cleanser, antibiotic ointment, band aids, gauze pads and tape. If you are unsure an injury should be seen by a Doctor, most often it is better to err on the side of caution. If you suspect a broken bone, most certainly they should be seen. If they have a broken bone that has pierced through the skin, they have a very serious fracture & should be taken to an ER. Any wound that will not stop bleeding after applying pressure with a clean cloth for 15 minutes, should be taken in. If they are bitten by a dog, take them in and find out which dog has bitten them, so the dog can be quarantined and tested for rabies. Even an insect bite that swells up and is reddened and warm, should be watched closely. If the swelling continues, or they become ill from it, take them in. **Make the outdoors a family affair, as adults will benefit from it as well!**

Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit
Mary Klein, RN, Parish Nurse

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

I recently heard about an **amazing new medication to treat Depression**. What is so great, is that they have found that the response to treatment with the medication is fast acting, with a good response within days! As a person who has suffered with Depression for many years, I know the frustration of first going through a number of medications to find one that you respond to. During that time, it takes weeks to even know if it will help, before starting all over with a new one. All this time, the Depression is hanging over you, which can have very serious consequences. Another thing with medications are all the side effects they can cause. With this new med, the side effects are also less than the older medications. At this time, I'm not sure how well it's covered by insurance, but often there are also coupons to reduce cost from the manufacturer. If you are someone who is resistive to typical treatments, talk to your Doctor about trying this new treatment. Of course, along with medication, individual or group therapies are helpful. This can be a total game changer!

Healthy Mind, Healthy Life
Mary Klein, RN, Parish Nurse

Jackson Drew

I believe that God created everything such as heaven and earth. I also believe that Jesus is God's one and only son and came to earth to save us from our sins by dying on the cross. I believe that the Holy Spirit is in all of us through God and he helps guide us through life day by day through him.

I believe that baptism shows that you are committed to God and that you will live for God for years and years until death. It also makes your parents promise that they will raise you in the church and help you through your faith journey. Also it shows that you are one of God's followers and you will do everything through him and stay faithful to him.

I believe that Holy Communion represents how Jesus at the last supper said, "this bread is my body broken for you, this is my blood that was shed for you." This shows that when we take communion, it's to honor the last supper and Jesus' ultimate sacrifice to save all of us from our sins.

To be a Christian teenager in today's world can be tough because everyone sins around you, people bully others at school and on social media. So you constantly have your faith tested because you have to try to make the right decisions and stay faithful to God. Even if your friends may be doing something illegal and want you to join them, you have to stay true to your faith and the law and not do it.

I hope to use my gifts in the church community by doing jobs for the RAP group such as cutting and stacking wood to help earn money for when the RAP group travels to places. I also hope to use my gifts to help bring some of my friends to RAP group and introduce them to church and God and help them start their faith journey.

My favorite verse from the bible is Philippians 4:13 because it states, "*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*" This verse reminds me that I can do anything even if it's very challenging or tests my faith. I'll know that God will help me and give me the strength to push through it.



Preston Drew

I believe that God is the one and only God. I believe that he will always be forgiving and he has everlasting grace. I believe that Jesus is God's one and only son and that he was sent by God to save us from our sins. I believe that the Holy Spirit is within all of us and helps guide us.

I believe that baptism is when you are being cleansed of your sins. I also believe it is being accepted into the church and into God's kingdom. It is also the beginning of your faith journey. If you get baptized later in life it is a reaffirmation of your faith.

I believe that Holy Communion is when you take the blood and body of Christ. By taking communion, you remember the sacrifices he made for us to save us from our sins. It is important in remembering who he was.

In today's world, it is difficult to be a Christian at times, especially as a teenager. We are under a lot of pressure and influence to do things that are against our faith. We see and hear things every day that are bad, and our friends can pressure us to sin. My faith helps me to try and stay away from the bad things and to know what is good or bad for me.

I hope to use my gifts to help educate people about God and to help people out with my knowledge and to help advance humanity. I hope to use them to make our community and the world a better place.

I chose 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 as my Bible verse. "*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.*" I feel like this Bible verse illustrates how I use my faith in my life. I always try stand firm in my faith. I try to be on guard for things that could harm my relationship with God. I try to be courageous and strong in my faith and my life. I also do things out of the goodness of my heart, not for money or attention.

Hayden Golder

I believe that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will continue to lead me down my path in faith through the Bible and going to church after getting confirmed with a positive outcome. I believe that Jesus died on the cross to save us of our sins that we have committed. I believe that God is the everlasting father and the redeemer for all that believe in him.

Baptism to me is a requirement to enter heaven or the kingdom of God. It is also what you must do to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. I also believe that baptism is a way of receiving forgiveness for our sins and eternal life by me keeping my promise to follow and remember Jesus Christ and keep following his commandments.

Holy Communion to me is another way that shows that Jesus had given himself for us. I think it is also a way to show that Jesus had gone through suffering and that shows how much love he has for all the people that believe in him even though we can't see him.

To be a teenager and a Christian in today's world means to get involved in what the church is doing and bring new ideas for ways that kids our age can get involved in church to learn more about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. My faith helps me to make the right decision on everything that I do inside of church and outside of church.

I would like to take what I have learned in confirmation class to help bring new people into the church community. I think by doing this, they will become closer to the church and learn more about what Jesus has done for us to be saved and forgiven.

My favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 43:2a – *“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”* This is my favorite verse because it shows that the Lord is always by your side even when you don't think he is. It also shows that there will be hard times in your life, but you can get through them with help from the Lord.

Summary: I believe that Jesus gave himself for our sins. I think he did this to show how much love he has for us. I believe there is everlasting life in heaven after being baptized and following his commandments.

Ramsey Karim

I believe that Jesus is God's only son, that he was sent down to earth so we can be forgiven for our sins. I believe that Jesus taught and led the people. Jesus did what God told him to do and helped his followers understand his teachings which made more people want to be followers of God. Jesus also did amazing things like rising from the dead after three days, which shows that he really was special and could do things that hadn't even been thought of. Without Jesus being so courageous, I don't know what the world would be like today. I think that the Holy Spirit is always present and helps us find the good in little things and the happy in bad things. I think the Holy Spirit keeps us going throughout the day, although you can't see it, you can feel it within and around you.

To me, baptism shows that you are going to commit to be a Christian and promise to follow God throughout your life. Most people were baptized when they were young, so they don't usually remember it. As we grow in our faith journeys, it can mean a lot watching little babies be baptized. I can understand how amazing it is because they are welcoming God into their lives so young, and they have now taken a huge step in their faith journey.

I believe that Holy Communion is a celebration of God's grace given to us by Jesus. I also believe that Communion is about having Jesus present with us. I also feel closer to Jesus during Communion because when they hand you the bread/wafer and wine/grape juice, whoever is giving it to you is saying the words that Jesus said himself.

Being a teenager and a Christian in today's world can be challenging sometimes. There are so many people who have different beliefs, and personally I try not to let that affect the way I feel about them. This usually works because religion can be a sensitive topic. I am fortunate to have lots of my friends go to the same church, which brings us all closer to each other. But friendships can be hard as a teenager, and even if something bad happens, I know that God has a reason for everything, and eventually everything will work out even if it seems like the “worst thing in the world” at the time.

The Bible verse I chose as most meaningful to me was Ephesians 2:8 – *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”* I chose that verse because it really stands out to me. The way I see it is that we cannot earn God's love; it was given to us. I also think that it says that you can't earn your way into heaven. You get there by believing and trusting God. He really can do great things, and you might just have to open your eyes a little bit wider to see what God can do.

For the past three years of confirmation, I would like to thank everyone who invested their time to help some rowdy little middle schoolers like us. I would also like to thank my mentors, Heather Hiltunen in 6th grade and Hallie Webster in 7th and 8th grades for helping me grow in my faith journey and understand what it's like to be a Christian. Confirmation 7th grade year with Don Helfer was one of the most fun times I have had in confirmation, so thank you to him. I also feel grateful that I had this opportunity and can't wait to be a part of RAP group.

Peyton Helfer

What do you believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?

I believe that God is my lord and savior whose love for me is infinite. I think that the Holy Spirit is what resides in you. I believe it is God's spirit which helps us and guides us. God's voice reminds me to make the right choices and good decisions. I think the Holy Spirit is something like the feeling in our gut. I believe Jesus is the Son of God and that he died for my sins, so I may have eternal life. I know that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all connected. I believe that all of these aren't three different things, but are all just pieces of God.

What Baptism means to you?

Baptism to me means that you are being washed of your sins and are seeing the world in a different view. When I was baptized, I felt like I was being cleansed of my sins and being renewed. I felt as if I was truly giving my life to God. After my baptism, I was seeing the world in a different light. As my faith mentor says, "It's like putting on Jesus goggles." I started asking myself important questions and really making sure each day that I was making decisions God would want me to. Stressful situations became easier to deal with because I knew that God was there and always would be. After my baptism took place, my life has never been the same. I became a better me, better understood God, asked more deep and meaningful questions, and understood that God was here for me and died on the cross for my sins.

What Holy Communion means to you?

Holy Communion is a time in which we remember when Jesus gave his life to save us from our sins. We eat and drink to remember him and what he did for us. Holy Communion for me is a time to connect with God. It reminds me of just how great God's love is. Each time we do Holy Communion I feel like I get even closer to Christ. It makes me feel the need to spread God's word everywhere so people can know how great his love is. Holy Communion brings us closer together as the body of Christ.

What does it mean to be a teenager and a Christian in today's world?

In today's world, being a teenager means being moody, selfish, and tired frequently. For Christian teenagers, it's even more difficult because we struggle with those things, but also making sure our actions fit what God would want us to do. Not only do you have to worry about the latest trends, your friendships, technology, social media, etc., but you also always have to make sure that you don't put those things above your relationship with God. Easier said than done. I have lost count of how many times I have stopped and asked myself, "Is this really what God would want me to do?" There are so many influences in today's world which make it hard to even grow up. Many choices we make each day affect who we are, but we always need to remember God first. We can turn to God when it gets challenging and we know that he's there every step of the way. Those who don't have a relationship with God believe that they are taking the load of life alone. Even though life as a teenager is hard, I know that God will help me through. It's tough being a Christian in today's world as a teenager or an adult because of society's views on Christianity. Even though it is hard being a Christian, I wouldn't want to be anything else. I hope that I continue to strengthen my relationship with God so that I can serve him my whole life.

How do you hope to use your gifts in the church and wider community?

I hope to use my gifts in the church and wider community by sharing my gift of art which can be used in many different ways. In the future I plan to sell paintings and drawings to go toward a good cause. I am still discovering the gifts I have from God and hope to share those in the future to improve the church and community as a whole.

My favorite Bible verse and how it illustrates my faith

My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23:1-3. "*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.*"

These verses illustrate my faith by showing how I trust in God and trust he will provide for me. I have faith that he will provide for me in tough times and no matter what, he will be there when I need him. The Lord will never lead me astray. He will always help guide me in the path that I have chosen. Even when I choose the wrong path, Christ will help lead me back to the right one no matter how long it takes. I know God will protect me and pick me up when I fall. He will be there when no one else is.

Before I finish, I would like to thank my faith mentor Wendi, and a few other people. Wendi, thank you for encouraging me to explore my faith and spread the word of God. Thank you for being my faith mentor and role model. I've loved every step of the way. I couldn't have chosen a better person. I would also like to thank my parents for always being there and helping me understand the word of God better and raising me in a Christian home. I have no idea where I'd be without your help. Thank you to my friends for making confirmation the most crazy, wild, and fun three years. I was glad to have you all be part of the journey. Thank you!



Allie Kelley

What I believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit

I'm not going to lie, I don't really know what to truly believe and all my beliefs, but I do know I believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I believe that they are there for me no matter what and they will hear my prayers. I believe God is the creator of earth and some people believe God decides what happens for us, and I don't really know if I believe that because I believe he takes a part in what happens, but we make the decisions and decide what happens, but he is a part of that choice. Some also believe God talks back or responds to what the person says. I believe he hears us and sometimes helps us with our decisions and choices, but sometimes he lets us make our own choices and decisions to get through life not only on our own, but with his help as well.

What baptism means to me

For me, baptism as an infant means it's your parents' choice to raise you according to God's word, but as you get older, it's your choice if you get baptized or not. Some people say getting baptized is you getting accepted into God's kingdom. I think getting baptized is belonging to something bigger and being accepted into the Christian life. For me, baptism is very important because from my point of view and from me watching my grandma who couldn't recall getting baptized as a little kid, she got baptized two years ago because it was very important to her and she wanted to show her faith in God before her memory faded and about that same time, she started suffering from Alzheimer's.

What Holy Communion means to me

For me, the Holy Communion is celebrated as the last supper. It reminds us that Jesus died to forgive all our sins and that the bread is his body and the wine is his blood.

What does it mean to be a teenager and a Christian in today's world? How does my faith impact my decisions, my relationships, and reaction to current events?

What does it mean to be a teenager and a Christian in today's world? It means a lot, being a teenager and a Christian in today's world because there's a lot of decisions you must make based on your beliefs. My faith impacts my decisions, my relationships, and my reaction to current events because of how the world has evolved since ancient times with the internet and other things. Today teenagers even cuss to be cool or to seem cool, but my faith impacts that because I know it's not the right thing to do.

How do I hope to use my gifts in the church and wider community?

I can use my gifts in the church and in the community by being kind and helpful. I can volunteer at places to help around our community and actively participate in our community and church. I can apply teachings from the church and our community.

How does my Bible verse relate to my everyday life?

My Bible verse is John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*" It relates to my everyday life because it asks for Jesus to give me strength every morning and reminds me that he is part of my everyday life.

Summary

Confirmation has strengthened my belief in God and reassured me that he is present in my life every day. God helps guide my decisions and gives me strength. Through baptism I can accept God more fully into my life. NO matter your age, you can accept God into your life. I am inspired by my grandma who showed her commitment to God by being re-baptized two years ago before she lost her memory to Alzheimer's. I am reminded through Holy Communion that God sacrificed his only Son for us. By following his example, I hope to be a person that my family and community can be proud of.

Sam Whitaker

I believe that God and the Holy Spirit are the things that help guide us in life to make the best decisions, that we can be as successful as possible, and as positive as possible. And Jesus is portrayed as the "Top Dog," although a lot of biblical people are just as good in my opinion.

Baptism, to me, means that you are receiving a protective barrier from God. You are getting a little re-affirmation that he will always be there for you. Sort of like you are receiving a confirmed assistance in life that you would need in rough times.

Communion, to me, means I am being forgiven for my sins from Jesus.

I feel like being a teenager and a Christian means that your decisions should be better with the help of the Lord. We should be driven to make the best decisions we can in every decision. We should be guided by God.

I hope to use my gifts to spread positivity throughout my community, although some people may not care.

My Bible verse is Philippians 4:6-7 – "*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" This relates to me because it is my mindset in sports.

Quade Parker

The perfect example that describes my belief of God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit is the Apostle's Creed. I believe in God creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son seated at the right hand of the father, conceived by the holy spirit, born of the virgin Mary. He was crucified and died; on the third day he rose again. It perfectly encompasses my belief as a Christian.

As an infant my parents made the decision to have me baptized. This was also the decision that stated my parents agreed to be there to teach me about Jesus throughout my life. During my baptism, the sign of the cross was traced on my forehead with the water and the words for baptism were said, which represented Christ claiming me as one of his children.

One of the practices that my parents taught me since baptism, as well as a way to remember what Christ has done for me, is participating in Holy Communion. By receiving the bread that signifies his body given for us and the blood shed for us, we recall that the Lord our God gave his son to die for the forgiveness of our sins.

Being baptized as an infant was a decision made by my parents, however, being confirmed as a child of God is my choice to become a Christian teenager in today's world. Being a Christian as a teenager in today's society isn't always easy because there will be people out there to judge you because you are Christian. If you look at statistics only 33% of the world is Christian, that means 67% of the world isn't Christian.

I hope I use my gifts in the church by helping others learn about Christ. I hope to use my gifts in the community by helping those in need.

My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13 "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*". This verse illustrates my life by telling me I can do anything with Christ by my side.

Denali Rusch

I believe that Jesus was crucified for us and the sins that we will commit and the sins we have not done yet. He paid the price for our sins that we constantly have made. I believe that God is our father and creator in heaven. The Holy Spirit is flowing through us and was given as a gift that will someday get us into heaven.

Baptism to me is when you confirm that you believe in God and your faith as a Christian and you would like to show it. When you are dunked under the water you come up as a new person clean of your sins and made new. We remember our baptism as when we chose to follow God.

Communion is when you remember that Jesus sacrificed his body and blood so that we could have eternal life. When we take communion, we remember his sacrifice that was shed for us and sins we have committed.

Being a teenager in today's world is hard. You are open to so many things at the touch of a button. Being a Christian in today's world is hard because you must stand up to what you believe in and sometimes it is hard to do. My faith impacts my decisions but I will pray for the correct decision. My faith impacts my relationships by choosing to be around people who I hope will build me up and help me grow as a person.

I hope to keep using my gift of loving to teach and be with younger kids by continuing babysitting, Spark, and Day Camp. By continuing to keep doing these, I hopefully make an impact in some of these kids' lives. I hope that by helping with Spark and other stuff at the church, that the kids will see that there are people there for you to support your faith in God who are not adults. By being a teenager, you have this cool factor that your peers sometimes don't see, but the kids think that you are this great influence, and by encouraging them to come to Spark and be involved hopefully they can see that Spark is not another after-school program. That there are people out there who care enough to take the time and teach them something that hopefully they will use their whole life.

My favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11 – "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" I think that this means no matter what is happening in your life, it is not God's plan to harm you. I do not think that this means God has a direct set of plans for you, but he is there to whisper and guide you along your journey no matter where that leads.

I want to say a quick thank you to everyone in the congregation who has supported me through the years of confirmation and even before that, too. Thank you, Pastor Pam, for the last year of confirmation, I know that our class was not always the easiest to teach but you stuck with us. Thank you to Camille for being a wonderful faith mentor and someone I could count on to talk to. Thank you to Mark and Bonnie for being grandparent figures in my life and being a good support. Thank you Grandma and Papa for also being there and encouraging me in my life and my faith life also. Then last to my parents for always encouraging me to go for things and being my rock when I need it most. You have always been there when I need support or just someone to talk to, so thank you for everything.

Alice Sedlacek

Confirmation has been a very fun and spiritual experience for me. I have learned so much about myself and where I have come from. I have learned about who I want to be and the decisions that I make. Not only did I have my mentor, I also got to take this journey with my best friends. This has been a great experience for me and my faith.

What do I believe about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

That is a very complicated question. I have never questioned whether he is there or not. I will admit that I have questioned whether he will always look out for me and do what's best, though. I believe that he does certain things to make us better people. He brings us to the people that will make us better people. I also believe God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one. They are all different but represent the same things. I believe they will do what is good for us and teach us the lessons we need to learn. I believe that all people who practice different forms of Christianity have different ideas of what the Bible can represent and that it doesn't matter what you believe about them; as long as you have faith and try to do what's right.

What does Baptism mean to me?

I think that God will protect us and forgive us no matter what, even if someone doesn't believe in him, he will still forgive them, love them, and treat them the same. I think baptism is just reassurance for people. Reassurance that we will be forgiven and reassurance that he will always love us no matter the sin. In confirmation this year, I was taught that you can't judge people based on the sin, based on what they did; think that is what baptism is about. It's a time when you can bring family and friends together to celebrate the unconditional love that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit show us. I don't think it's as simple as being washed of sin, because I think that no matter who you are or what you believe, that will happen. I believe that it is a time of love, peace, and unity among the church family.

What I believe about being a Christian and a teenager in today's world

Being a Christian and a teenager in today's world can be difficult. It can be hard when you know that you must have faith and must keep moving forward. Teenagers, especially nowadays, can be faced with challenging obstacles that we must endure, knowing God is with us. That can be very hard. It is hard to know that God is with us when we face some pretty terrible things. During our teenage years, we try new things, go through awkward phases, face heart-break, and most importantly, we learn how to love and grieve. Teenage years are when we become the adult that we are set out to be. So these years can be hard if you don't have faith. My faith affects the decisions I make because I want to be the best I can be.

The relationships that I have with people are also affected by my faith. I want to be able to have people who believe the same things I do, but also want to have people in my life who don't. People that I can be able to talk and agree with and people can show me new ideas. I know that God is always with me and watching, so I want to always be kind to people, not talk about people in negative ways, and just be a good person in general. In today's world, current events can be very good; people showing each other love and hope; or can be very horrific. My faith assures me that I can make a difference in society and teach people that you have to believe things will get better for results.

How do I use my gifts in the church and wider community?

This is another complicated question. I think that when we are in our teenage years, we don't necessarily know what all of our gifts are. I think the church and wider community help us find and showcase these gifts. I am good at basketball and track, and I use these to set a good example for younger kids and use them to teach me to work hard. I am good at writing and enjoy doing it. I use this to write stories and things that will help people, help people relate to things, and to help people enjoy something. I am good at math, which can help me later in life. It can help me with jobs and possibly be something that I study in college. These are a few of the gifts that I know about. I think the church and society will help us find our gifts, too, though. I think we will be faced with challenges and opportunities that will show us many things about ourselves.

Bible Verse

The Bible verse that I chose that illustrates my faith is Jeremiah 29:11 – *“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* This is the Bible verse that I find the most inspiring and the verse that gives the most hope and assurance for the future. It shows me that God does everything in my life for a reason and that he has plans for me. It shows me that I am a part of something bigger than myself, his love, and the unity he shows the world. This illustrates my faith very well. I believe that God is a friend and wants the best for me and this shows me that he truly does.



Tristan Spring

I believe that God created the earth and heaven. I believe that Jesus was a leader and wanted people to follow in his steps. I believe that he forgives people no matter what they did. I believe that he wants people to become leaders also. I believe the Holy Spirit gives us faith and trust in others.

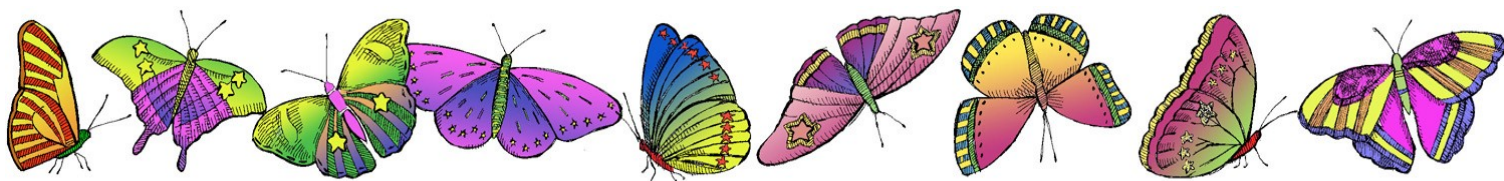
Baptism means to me that when the pastor put the water on my head, I am welcomed into God's family. It also means that I am purified. I think that it also washes away our sins. My uncle Stephen and aunt Michele are my Godparents. They will always be supporting my decisions in my faith journey.

Holy Communion means to me that Christ has given his body for us and that he has shed his blood for us and that he will bless us with the bread and the wine. It also means to me that he wants us to remember him and the sacrifices he made for us. I like how our church allows all to come to the Lord's table to accept his body and blood, whereas not all churches allow that.

My faith impacts my teenage and Christian decisions by me doing the right things every day. I believe people trust me to do the right things because I know I should make the right decisions. It impacts my relationships by having to trust them and them having to trust me. It impacts my reaction to current events by making sure I don't do what other people are doing wrong. I also know that there are good people in this world whom I can follow in their footsteps as well as not make bad decisions that others are making.

I hope to use my gifts by helping the church out. I could help it out by joining RAP group and doing the community services. I could get wood for the church and get it for RAP group. I also hope to help out the community by cleaning up trash. I also could help out people who would need their yard raked or mowed.

My favorite Bible verse is Hebrews 11:1 – *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* It illustrates my faith because I have to have faith for what I want to accomplish in the future.



Aiden Suelflow

I believe that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will always be with me and will help guide me to do the right things in life. No matter what, his mercy and Grace will forgive me. God sent Jesus to walk the Earth and teach us, and the Holy Spirit to always be our guide.

I was baptized so that I can always be part of God's family. Being baptized at CLF means that I will always be part of that church. I am glad to have been baptized as it will let me be part of God's eternal kingdom.

Holy communion is a gift from Jesus Christ. By taking Holy Communion, I am fed and nourished by God. It symbolizes Jesus' sacrifice for us. When I received my 1st communion, I was committing my heart to God.

Being a Christian teenager is helping me to grow into a Christian adult. Being a Christian who believes in God helps me to make choices to do the right things. Being a Christian helps me to be a good friend, and a good family member. I hope that my Christian faith will help me throughout my life.

I can use my gifts of grace from God by being helpful in my community. I can be nice to others, be helpful, and be a kind person around the community. God gave me gifts of friendship and humor to help those around me.

My Favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9 – *"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* This verse reminds me to stay strong, be confident in who I am and who I am going to become. It reminds me that God is always with me. This verse reminds to me to stand up for myself and not fear other people, or let other people push me into doing things I don't want to do.

DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY7 Easter

Thursday, May 30: Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Kings 6:23-38; 2 Corinthians 5:11-17;

Friday, May 31: Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Kings 8:14-21; 2 Corinthians 11:1-6

Saturday, June 1: Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Kings 8:31-40; Luke 4:31-37

Sunday, June 2: Psalm 97; Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Monday, June 3: Psalm 5; Jonah 4:1-11; Acts 8:26-40

Tuesday, June 4: Psalm 5; Nehemiah 1:1-11; Acts 3:1-10

Wednesday, June 5: Psalm 5; Isaiah 56:1-8; Mark 7:24-30

Day of Pentecost

Thursday, June 6: Psalm 30; 2 Samuel 14:1-11; Acts 22:6-21

Friday, June 7: Psalm 30; 2 Samuel 14:12-24; Acts 26:1-11

Saturday, June 8: Psalm 30; 2 Samuel 14:25-33; Matthew 9:2-8

Sunday, June 9: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-27

Monday, June 10: Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20; Genesis 22:1-14; Galatians 2:1-10

Tuesday, June 11: Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20; Judges 11:29-40; Galatians 2:11-14

Wednesday, June 12: Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20; Jeremiah 8:14-22; Luke 8:40-56

The Holy Trinity

Thursday, June 13: Psalm 32; 2 Samuel 13:23-39; James 4:1-7

Friday, June 14: Psalm 32; 2 Samuel 15:1-12; Romans 11:1-10

Saturday, June 15: Psalm 32; 2 Samuel 18:28—19:8; Luke 5:17-26

Sunday, June 16: Psalm 8; Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Monday, June 17: Psalm 130; 2 Chronicles 29:1-19; Galatians 3:1-9

Tuesday, June 18: Psalm 130; 2 Chronicles 30:1-12; Galatians 3:10-14

Wednesday, June 19: Psalm 130; 2 Chronicles 30:13-27; Mark 2:1-12

Pentecost 2

Thursday, June 20: Psalm 22:19-28; Isaiah 56:9-12; Romans 2:17-29

Friday, June 21: Psalm 22:19-28; Isaiah 57:1-13; Galatians 3:15-22

Saturday, June 22: Psalm 22:19-28; Isaiah 59:1-8; Matthew 9:27-34

Sunday, June 23: Psalm 22:19-28; Isaiah 65:1-9; Gal 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

Monday, June 24: Psalm 64; Job 18:1-21; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Tuesday, June 25: Psalm 64; Job 19:1-22; Ephesians 2:11-22

Wednesday, June 26: Psalm 64; Ezekiel 32:1-10; Luke 9:37-43a

Pentecost 3

Thursday, June 27: Psalm 16; Leviticus 9:22—10:11; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Friday, June 28: Psalm 16; 2 Kings 1:1-16; Galatians 4:8-20

Saturday, June 29: Psalm 16; Deuteronomy 32:15-27, 39-43; Luke 9:21-27

Sunday, June 30: Psalm 16; 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Gal 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Monday, July 1: Psalm 140; Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67; 1 John 2:7-11

Tuesday, July 2: Psalm 140; Jeremiah 3:15-18; Ephesians 5:6-20

Wednesday, July 3: Psalm 140; Jeremiah 23:16-22; Matthew 10:16-25



COUNCIL MINUTES — MEETING RESCHEDULED TO MAY 29 DUE TO SNOW



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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 Sellevold
 Financial Secretary: Ann Snow
 Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky

Ministers: All Members of CLF!