

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

12622 US HWY 16A
 PHONE: 605-673-4691
 EMAIL: clf@gwtc.net

CUSTER, SD 57730

www.custerlutheran.com

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2021

Inside This Issue

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

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



Join us at 6:00 pm for our Wednesday Lenten series, "By His Wounds We Are Healed." We will be exploring the commandments through the wounds we cause Jesus. We will be reminded that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in him through the cross.

GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK -April 2nd at 6:30 AM:

One of the favorite traditions at Custer Lutheran Fellowship is the "Cross Walk" around Stockade Lake. We gather at 6:30 AM to carry the cross together in remembrance of Jesus' journey through the streets of Jerusalem. The pace is not fast and we stop several times to hear the words of Jesus from the cross and to pray for those who suffer near and far. We will have a car with us for anyone who needs a lift to attend, or needs a ride back to church after we walk around the lake. Back at CLF, we celebrate the beginning of this best and worst of all days with a hearty potluck breakfast. There are signup sheets at the Welcome Center for people to carry the cross and pray as well as to bring breakfast items



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK

Palm / Passion Sunday, March 28th at 9:30 am – We will enter waving our palms, then tell the story of the Passion together.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 6:30 pm – We will serve one another by washing each other's hands, and listen to Psalm 22 as the altar is stripped.

Good Friday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm – A service of readings, prayer, and silence as we contemplate Jesus death on the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 4th – Sunrise service at 6:30 am as we welcome the Light of the World, and 9:30 am as we celebrate the hope we have through Jesus resurrection.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND HOPE



The Caring Hands Prayer Team of Custer Lutheran Fellowship invites everyone to join in a 24 -hour time of prayer for Healing and Hope.

Who: Pray-ers from CLF and beyond who wish to join in this prayer time for healing and hope

When: Noon, Friday, March 12 until Noon, Saturday, March 13

There are no time slots for a schedule for those coming to pray. Come anytime.

Where: Come to Custer Lutheran Fellowship in person or your home or wherever you are

Why: During Lent, we are especially conscious of the many kinds of wounds and grief and the need for healing and hope. We desire to have this focus and to draw nearer to our God through prayer.

How: The church will be open during this 24 hours. In the Narthex a person(s) from the prayer team will be available to greet those coming in person. They will show the table of possible resources, which will be available the Sunday before or by requesting them.

The Prayer area in the sanctuary will be set up as we do our Prayer around the Cross service with candles to light and areas to sit or kneel. A table with a CD player will be available if someone wishes quiet music. On this table will also be a basket for people to share prayer requests with other pray-ers attending in person.

There are no requirements of time or limits of number of people. CLF mask policy is in effect. The prayer team person will also read a prayer at the beginning of each hour.

CLF Caring Hands Prayer Team Leader, Cozy Dorton. 673-4974. didirector@goldenwest.net
Please Contact Cozy if you would like to be part of helping with this Prayer Time Event.

LENTEN SEASON OFFERING - HELP US BUILD A MOUNTAIN

"On the **mountain** of the Lord it will be provided." Genesis 22:14

Your Social Ministry Team has planned an exciting way for us to participate in a Lenten Season Offering. Once again, we will be building a mountain at the altar with our offerings. Various items needed by non-profits, who are conducting God's work in our community, will be collected during Sunday and Wednesday services for five weeks beginning February 21. We will focus on the following organizations: The Storehouse, W.E.A.V.E., Operation Black Hills Cabin, Custer South Dakota Humane Society, and Pine Ridge Diaper Drive.

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

- ✦ The Storehouse - Shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bathroom tissues
- ✦ W.E.A.V.E. - Toilet paper, paper towels, personal hygiene items, new or gently used infant clothes, new or gently used women's clothes plus sizes 18-24
- ✦ Operation Black Hills Cabin - Inexpensive small items for gift bags that will be given to men, women, girls and boys visiting the Cabin. Some examples may include: patriotic themed items, Black Hills themed items, ball caps, small toys and activity books for children, bandanas, "woody"-type picture frames and homemade potholders. Donated items are stored in an outdoor shed - please avoid anything subject to heat damage. Other items to avoid include sized items, like t-shirts, as volunteers putting the gift bags together won't know family sizes. Also please avoid markers and stickers.
- ✦ Custer South Dakota Humane Society - Dry Purina and/or Pedigree dog and cat food, and monetary donations for vet bills.
- ✦ Pine Ridge Diaper Drive - Disposable diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6 (some 1s, 2s & 4s as well).

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



This was part of the devotion for Feb. 23rd in the devotional book, "Jesus Always" by Sarah Young. Her devotions are written from the perspective of God speaking.

"One of my names is Wonderful Counselor. I understand you far, far better than you understand yourself. So come to me with your problems and insecurities, seeking my counsel. In the light of my loving presence you can see yourself as you really are: radiantly lovely in my brilliant righteousness. Though my righteousness is perfect, you will continue to struggle with imperfections – yours and others – as long as you live in this world. Still, your standing with me is secure. Nothing in all creation can separate you from my love!"



What struck me in this devotion was the statement that in the light of God's presence, we can see ourselves as we truly are. Too often we see ourselves with jaded, negative, critical eyes. I know I do! We don't see ourselves as God sees us. We find all the flaws and all the things we don't like about ourselves. But Jesus does not see the flaws that we see. Jesus sees His beloved child.

I read in a Bible commentary once that if someone asked the writer of John's gospel what his primary identity was, he wouldn't say "I'm a disciple, an apostle, an evangelist, an author of one of the gospels." He would say, "I am the one Jesus loves"

So what would it mean if we all came to a place in our lives where we saw our primary identity as "the one Jesus loves?" Sociologists have a theory that you become what the most important person in your life thinks you are. So how would your life change if you looked in the mirror and saw someone who Jesus loves – if you saw yourself as Jesus sees you? How would your self-image change? Would you finally be able to see yourself as "radiantly lovely" as the devotion says?

Also, how would our relationships change if we applied this same idea to the people around us? What would happen if you saw everyone you encounter as "the one Jesus loves?" Would the way we speak to and treat strangers change? Would what we post on social media change?

I fully believe that if we truly see each other through God's eyes as His beloved children, the world would be a very different place. Not that it's easy. It's definitely not. But if we can begin to see ourselves through Jesus eyes as we truly are – beloved and beautiful inside and out – that will change our whole demeanor, not only about ourselves, but in how we live and treat others.

As we continue our journey through Lent, let us each practice seeing ourselves as we truly are – God's beloved. Not perfect, but loved. And let us see everyone we meet as God's beloved child, too. Not perfect, but loved.

Remember, nothing in all creation can separate you from God's love! And nothing can separate the people you meet from God's love. We are all God's beloved children, walking this journey together.

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
701-955-5282 (cell)

pam_clf@gwtc.net
673-4691 (church)

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The Properties Committee continues work on a tree-thinning "Fire Wise" project around the church grounds. A contractor has thinned the trees following recommendations of State Forestry. He cut up all the slash into smaller pieces so it's ready to be piled for burning next winter. Some of this work has already been completed but we could use some more help. Please call Dave Thom at 673-1459 or Paul Horsted at 673-7898 if you can help. Work as little or as much as you have time for, on your own schedule. Did we mention it's great exercise? And that with warmer weather it's a beautiful time to work in the woods? Thank you!

CONFIRMATION DURING LENT....

During Lent, mentors are asked to meet with your student three times to have conversations. Pastor Pam has the discussion sheets out on the tall cocktail table next to the Confirmation Table. You may meet with your student before worship, after worship, or make arrangements with the student's parents to meet with them another time. Enjoy this time of building stronger relationships between mentors and youth! Please let me know if you have any questions.



For Holy Week, which starts on Palm Sunday, March 28th, all confirmation students who have not already done a **Holy Week Journal** should complete one. This is especially true for the 8th graders. You only need to complete it once during the three year confirmation ministry, so if you have already done one, you do not need to complete another. Blank copies will be put out on the confirmation table the week before Palm Sunday. They may be done at CLF, or another church if you are traveling to visit family.

OUR 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL....

Thank you for all you do for Christ's ministry here at CLF



Jackie Hartwick, Christie Behlings, Samuel Ainsley, Carol Niemann, Scot Hoscheid, Liz Kleffner, Emily Hiatt, Pastor Pam (missing: Dave Pickford)

"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DEVOTIONALS

The "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **January to March issue** is here. We give thanks to W/ELCA for providing this devotional for your personal use.

If you would like an issue, you can stop by the office to pick one up, or contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.



CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB

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

It will be coming soon enough and we need shovelers

Here's how it works:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PARISH NURSE UPDATE

Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse

We appear to be making great strides in our fight against COVID. I have been keeping track of our positive cases hospitalizations and deaths for many months. We have been finally making some great progress in getting control of this situation. I see more people in the community wearing a mask, and I think that is a part of the improvement. Also, this time of year, we don't have all the tourists coming to our area to escape from the mandates in their local areas and now we are getting the vaccine out. It seems too slowly, but we are gaining ground on that part of defeating this virus. They are now expanding eligibility to those 65 and above. There are a whole lot of us in that group! Make sure you get yourselves registered on the waiting list when you can. If you need help with that, ask for help from a family member or me. Now we all have to be patient for our turns. I have only heard of some very minor side effects from the vaccine, which I know was concerning to many initially. With the new variants of the virus, there may also need to be a booster of some sort. Viruses are notorious for mutating, but I believe with the technology available, the scientists can make necessary adjustments in this fight. We all want some kind of normalcy back in our lives. This has been a very difficult year for all of us, but we also are strong enough to get there.



MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

As humans we have learned how to nurture others from our parents and other family as well as friends. What we often are not taught is now to nurture ourselves. Some of us don't know how to do that or don't feel the need. I think this past year has taught us the need to nurture ourselves. Some of us feel nurtured by a comfy robe, or soft warm blanket. *But how do we nurture our soul, which has been starved this year.* Begin by realizing how important we are and that we sometimes need to make ourselves number one. Think of the things that you love to do that makes you happy. For some it's gardening, reading a book or going for a walk in our beautiful area. I must admit I still struggle with this. All of my years of nursing instilled in me the role of nurturing others. Yes, by doing what I loved I did nurture myself to a certain extent. But, like many of us, I always felt the need was greater to care for others. I think that is one thing I have begun to realize this past year. I can't say it hasn't been a struggle, but I am making some progress. I'll be I am not the only one who has begun to realize this. After all, eventually we will lose that ability to nurture others and along with that, we will be unable to care of our own soul.

WORSHIP & MUSIC....

"BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED"

Our Wed. night services are around those words. It is with tears that I realize the depths of love that our Savior went to for us. It is overwhelming to me, even with the knowledge that I was raised with, I am now much more in tune with what these words mean to me.

He took our place as our substitute, so that gave us a bridge back to fellowship with Christ.

As I reviewed songs for the services for these next two months, I became so aware of what the words really mean for us. Looking over the words and realizing that Christ died for people who lost their way. It was a choice. A choice made in love. The Cross is a symbol of His love. How wonderful to know that songs were written to help us know that by His wounds we are healed.

As we enter this period of time in our church and we accept the love that He gives us, I share these words with you.

BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE

BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE! OH, WHAT A FORETASTE OF GLORY DIVINE
HEIR OF SALVATION, PURCHASE OF GOD, BORN OF HIS SPIRIT WASHED IN HIS BLOOD
THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG, PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG

We all have experienced some pain, hurt, loss of loved ones, and problems. Jesus has taken them on Him. So many of the songs that I have been reviewing, tell us to look at the Cross as we receive salvation. He fought for us.

It has been good to see many of our people sharing services with us through various outlets. We continue to share music that can help comfort you and help celebrate His love. We, at CLF, care about each of you.

Thanks to Pastor Pam, all the staff, council the many that help with the services, sharing their talents to help us bring the message of our Savior, whether it be through music, words spoken, or praying. We are the children of God.

He loves us. Many of the songs I read through offer that constant reminder that JESUS LOVE US, THIS WE KNOW.

We will keep striving to give you music and are always looking for people who would like to help us.

God bless you and we look forward to the Lenten, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services.

Margaret Tretheway



CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES..

If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:

Pam — pam_clf@gwtc.net
Main address— clf@gwtc.net
Sara — sara_clf@gwtc.net

APRIL NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Please have articles for the April Newsletter to the office by March 22nd. Thank you!

OFFICE HOURS.....



The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM. The office days for individuals are as follows but hours may not be until 4:00 PM.:

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

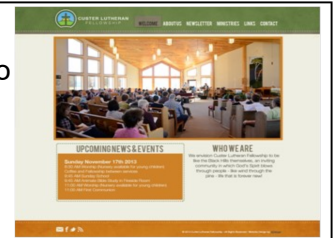
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...



If you have someone in your life who needs some extra comfort and prayers, please pick up a prayer shawl from the office. Everyone is welcome to do so at any time—just let someone in the office know when you do, as we keep a journal of all activity.

CLF WEBSITE OFFERS ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS...

On Custer Lutheran Fellowship's website, www.custerlutheran.com you will find the option to support Custer Lutheran Fellowship's mission and ministry through the "ONLINE GIVING" link. Whether you'd like to make a one-time donation or set-up regularly scheduled donations, you can do this easily through a secure server by following the instructions. At this time, CLF accepts bank account (ACH) transactions only. You can set up your own login/password and make changes with your giving at any time.



SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP....

It's been a while since we got together as a group. So...for those of us who would like to get together for breakfast and Bible study, and feel comfortable with being in a small group, we propose that we resurrect our monthly Saturday meetings (starting with breakfast at 8:30 AM) again. Though it doesn't feel like it, summer is only 4 months away. So, before that anticipated time arrives with all the activities, vacations and travel, how about we shoot for three meetings over the next 3 months starting in March, April and May? Here's what I'm thinking we could do to get us back in form....

March 13

Study and Discussion Topic: The Sovereignty of God (Psalm 97)

During this time of COVID-19, we have experienced many life-altering changes. But one thing will never change: God's sovereignty. He rules over all things. We don't have to worry about whether our world is under control. God rules. We just have to learn to continually trust Him, even when His rule isn't evident to us.

April 10

Study and Discussion Topic: What is Biblical Faith? (Hebrews 11)

Faith in Christ is not just about knowing the truths of the Gospel, but living them as well. How do we do this? Let's talk about it and how we live the Gospel through faith!

May 8

Study and Discussion Topic: What is "Our Daily Bread"? (Matthew 6:11)

We pray the Lord's Prayer so often, but do we really stop to think about what we are actually saying and what the implications are? "Give us this day our daily bread...." We are not really ever independent or self-sufficient, but dependent on the goodness of God for our needs---every day. Independence is an illusion. Even the atheist is dependent on God for life and bread. No one can actually live a self-sufficient life. Everyone needs the blessings that come from God.

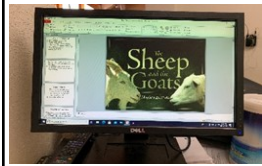


BEST WISHES TO SARA JANSON.....



We wish safe travels and best wishes to Sara Janson, our Office Assistant for many years, as she and her husband Mike move South. They have sold their house and will do some traveling as they make their way down to the Dallas, TX area. We will miss Sara in the office, and in the choir, but we wish her all the best on this new journey!

PA HELP URGENTLY NEEDED....



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

ALTAR GUILD HELPERS NEEDED

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

EASTER LILIES...



If you would like to provide lilies to help decorate the church for Easter, please bring them to the church by Thursday, April 1st. If given in honor of or in memory of someone, please let the office know by Monday, March 29th, so the name will be listed in the bulletin. Email clf@gwtc.net or call 673-4691.

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!



Journeying Together in Christ

Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! - As you read these lines, you are already deep into the wilderness of Lent. I hope you took advantage of our joint Lenten journey "40 Days with our Neighbors in Solidarity." It's never too late to join the journey. Details are available at sdsynod.org.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 2021 Synod Assembly, which will be held on June 4-5. Usually we gather in person, but this year we will gather from across the synod virtually. "Oh, no!" you may cry out. "We have never done that before. How will that work?" I am writing to you to assure you that your synod council, synod staff, synod assembly planning team, production company and a host of others are already working feverishly on creating an event where every participant will arrive confident and feeling well equipped to fully participate in the assembly.

Please, do not let the new format scare you away, but know that we are already working on paving the path for you to show up confident and with good courage to be in ministry together. In order for every participant to be well equipped we must adhere to firm deadlines, please be diligent in your registration and participation. While we are all about that grace, when it comes to registration deadlines this year the law prevails. It prevails, because we want to have enough time to equip and educate our voting members well. Watch for communication to come from your synod office soon and choose to participate, either as a voting member from your congregation or as a visitor in the first ever virtual South Dakota Synod Assembly. Let's journey together in Christ and make some history.

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier, Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

God the Vinegrower

Lent is a time of preparation, of self-examination, of taking on a spiritual discipline to focus on our relationship with God. Jesus tells us that God is the vinegrower, that he is the vine, and that any branch that bears no fruit is removed, and every branch that bears fruit will be pruned to bear more fruit (John 15:1-2). So I ask you to reflect, what are the branches in your life - your habits, your thoughts, your actions - that do or do not bear fruit? What does it mean to cultivate yourself as a branch that bears fruit as God desires?

While we enter into this practice personally, I think this is also an opportunity for congregations to ask these questions of themselves. What does it mean to remove a branch that bears no fruit in your congregation? What would it mean to let go of a ministry that is not having an impact, that doesn't proclaim the Gospel, grow disciples, or serve our neighbors? What does it mean to prune those ministries that do bear fruit, so that they bear even more?

This pandemic has brought us a time to ask these questions, and the season of Lent highlights that need again. In your council meetings or leadership teams for ministries, ask these questions. Examine what has been done, and talk about what is worth investing resources into for the future. God has incredible dreams for us, but is also not afraid to prune away dying branches. We should also be brave enough to let go of what no longer works. ~ Rev. Jonathan Steiner

A season of generosity

What are you giving up for Lent this year? A commonplace question, with the answer usually involving an "extra"—something enjoyed, but nothing we couldn't live without. Chocolate. Coke. Coffee. Facebook. And then we start counting. 37 days 'til Hershey's is back on the menu. 17 days and I'll be back, Starbucks! This season when we are called to reflect on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection risks becoming a deprivation countdown, a contest of whose longings and cravings are more respected and spiritual. It's not too late to consider shifting gears, focusing on what we can GIVE AWAY, not what we're GIVING UP. Maybe we can change the world, one generous act at a time.

Here are a few ideas to get started:

- ◇ Secretly clean your neighbor's driveway and sidewalks when that predictable March snowstorm hits.
- ◇ Commit to a different way of spending for a few weeks. Long ago, a wise friend shared this with me: Use it up. Wear it out. Make it do, or do without. Use those dollars that might have gone for a cute new pair of shoes to make a difference for someone without any shoes.
- ◇ Make this a season of "Yes", where you say yes to any request made of you (within reason). If a coworker asks you to do a favor, if a friend asks for help moving, or if someone wants to do a different activity, then say yes without complaint.
- ◇ Apologize. Forgive. Offer a fresh start to an old relationship.
- ◇ Think of those you know are lonely. They might be awkward, mentally ill, hard to get along with or hard up. Give your real, intentional time and attention to them, not just a few spare minutes.
- ◇ When you cook a meal, cook extra and safely share with an elderly person living alone, or a caregiver with no extra time to spend in the kitchen. (Think about their menu needs as you plan your own.)
- ◇ Follow through on the gift plans you've talked about but never found time to make a reality. It might be something you can do today, or maybe a planned gift as a part of your faith-based legacy. Not measured against anyone's ruler except your own. During Lent, and throughout the year, your life can make a difference.



W/ELCA HAPPENINGS...

Next meeting: Monday, March 22nd at 11:30. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

You are invited to bring a sack lunch for yourself.

Program: We will have a Make and Take led by Shana Hindman. Shana will teach us to make springtime gnomes. We will make the gnomes at our meeting, then the gnomes will be taken to Custer Regional Senior Care to be given to the folks from CLF that are residing there.

Donna McConnell gave us an update about what is happening at the Storehouse at our February meeting. The Storehouse is a busy place and there was much for her to share. One of the changes is that the Storehouse now provides service to Buffalo Gap. We appreciate all that the Storehouse does for so many folks!

W/ELCA will be collecting items to make personal care kits for LWR. The simple items included in a personal care kit provide much needed self care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. We will be collecting the following items during the month of March: bath size bars of soap in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars —adult size toothbrushes; singles or multi packs in original wrapping) — sturdy combs (no picks or fine tooth combs) —metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

If you would like to support this project, please leave your donations in the sewing room with a label of “LWR”. We will start collecting items immediately and go through the end of March. Thanks you for any support your can give to this project. LWR is making this a Lenten activity. It is part of Lent: A Season of Hope.



QUILTING — Thank you for the continual flow of supplies we need to get the job done. We continue to need good flat sheets, all sizes, all colors. All the blankets and flannel sheets we can’t use have ben delivered to the Cornerstone Mission. Thrivent Funds have helped to purchase large pieces of backing & padding making the process go faster. We are enjoying being together Tuesday mornings. Thanks for all the ways you help this “serving” continue.

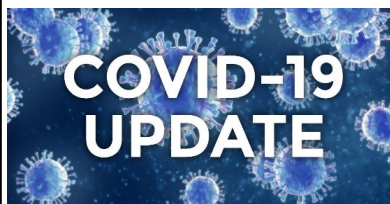
~ The Quilters

SD SYNOD NEWS CONT’D.....

ELCA Youth Gathering - New dates. Same Boundless God! As a new month starts, plans for the **2022 ELCA Youth Gathering** begin again! I’d love to invite you to a Zoom Meeting on either **Friday March 12th at 2:00 PM Central** or **Saturday March 13th at 10:00 AM Central**. We will touch on general information as well as key dates to put on your calendars for upcoming webinars and deadlines.

At each meeting we’ll be giving away a prize pack that includes a Youth Gathering water bottle, the volunteer handbook and a few extras! You’ll find the registration link at sdsynod.org under events. You can contact gathering@sdsynod.org if you have any questions.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 GUIDELINES....



During our February council meeting, we discussed our current guidelines for physical distancing and masks. We made the decision to plan to remove the seating restrictions in the sanctuary effective Palm Sunday, March 28th. This is tentative, though, depending on how the month progresses with COVID-19 in our community. We also discussed the possibility of relaxing the mask requirement once those 50 years old and older are able to be vaccinated. All of this is highly dependent on how our community is doing with active cases. Our church council is committed to doing all we can to protect our community, while also recognizing that we are all tired of restrictions and masks. Continue to keep the council in prayer as we make these decisions for the good of all.

MISSING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If you have noticed that your birthday or anniversary has been missing from our birthday and anniversary list, please do not be offended! We are not omitting you on purpose! It is because we do not have the information sheet we need that has birthdays, updated phone numbers, and email addresses. This is true even if you have filled out information for your children through the confirmation or SPARK Kids program. We may have children’s birthdays, but not the parents. Please stop by the office and fill out a form so we may update our lists to include your very important dates! You can also give us your birthday without providing the year! Thank you!

COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16TH, 2021 MEETING

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The year to date offering is 111% of budget, January expenditures are 88% of budget and the non-restricted account balances were reviewed. Joy discussed treating the endowment account as a CLF asset on the Statement of Financial Position and booking the income monthly or quarterly. The accounting changes will be made in 2021 and approved at the 2022 annual meeting. The Council agreed with this process. Carol moved, it was seconded and approved to adjust to 2020 Annual report fiscal documents to deduct a 2020 endowment donation that should have been included in 2021. Also, to add Scot Hoscheid to the Bank Authorization Document. Liz moved, it was seconded and approved to hire a full time (36 hour) office manager per the updated job description as soon as possible and to approve the resulting budget increase.

Unfinished Business:

- ◇ **Thrivent Choice** - \$0 received in January.
- ◇ **Review of worship and activities** – Relaxing some COVID 19 restrictions for in person Worship were discussed and will be included on the March meeting agenda. The plan is still for full resumption of in person activities by Fall of 2021 with a continued on-line presence.

New Business:

- ◇ **Membership Changes**—none
- ◇ **Fire Sprinkler Inspection Proposal** – The Property Committee is reviewing the proposal.
- ◇ Council member committee liaison assignments were made and are shown in the Committee and Ministry Team Reports.
- ◇ **The Council Care & Share** rotation sign-up for the rest of February and all of March was passed around.
- ◇ **The Council meeting treats/devotions** sign-up schedule was passed around.
- ◇ **Leadership Retreat**—The meeting will be held at the CLF Fellowship Hall on February 27. A sign-up sheet was passed around and Council members were encouraged to attend.

Reflections on Mission and Ministry: Pastor Pam reviewed her report. The Council agreed with Pastor Pam's recommendation to have a retirement recognition for Sarah Jansen who will be leaving February 28.

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ◇ **Endowment**—Liz Kleffner – Nothing to report.
- ◇ **Evangelism**—Pastor Pam – Nothing to report.
- ◇ **Health Ministry**—Carol Niemann – Nothing to report.
- ◇ **Property Committee**—Samuel Ainsley and Dave Pickford – Progress on cutting down and cleaning up trees on the property continues.
- ◇ **Social Ministry**—Scot Hoscheid – Build a Mountain activities are scheduled through March. Information will be included in the Crossroads, Sunday bulletin and Sunday Service.
- ◇ **W/ELCA**—Jackie Hartwick – The next meeting is scheduled for February 22 and will be a discussion of activities at the Storehouse.
- ◇ **Worship & Music**—No Assignment – Nothing to Report.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2021 Treats – Carol Niemann: Devotions – Samuel Ainsley:
March 2021 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – No Assignment

OUTLAW RANCH 2021

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

MEALS ON WHEELS

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



ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY



Lent 2

Monday, March 1: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12

Tuesday, March 2: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Wednesday, March 3: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43

Lent 3

Thursday, March 4: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Friday, March 5: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40

Saturday March 6: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8

Sunday, March 7: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Monday, March 8: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tuesday, March 9: Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28

Wednesday, March 10: Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19

Lent 4

Thursday, March 11: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6

Friday, March 12: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14

Saturday, March 13: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13

Sunday, March 14: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Monday, March 15: Psalm 107:1-16; Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6

Tuesday, March 16: Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wednesday, March 17: Psalm 107:1-16; Isaiah 60:15-22; John 8:12-20

Lent 5

Thursday, March 18: Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13

Friday, March 19: Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14—5:4

Saturday, March 20: Psalm 51:1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13; John 12:1-11

Sunday, March 21: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Monday, March 22: Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tuesday, March 23: Psalm 119:9-16; Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24

Wednesday, March 24: Psalm 119:9-16; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23; John 12:34-50

Week around Passion Sunday

Thursday, March 25: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11

Friday, March 26: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18

Saturday, March 27: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:10-16; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a;

Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

Monday, March 29: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 30: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday March 31: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

2021 BUDGET THRU JANUARY 31ST

	Non-Restricted		Restricted	
	Jan. '21 Actual	Budget	Jan. '21 Actual	Budget
Income				
Offering Contributions	24,984	22,500	0	0
Non-Taxable PPP Grant	26,667	26,667	0	0
Endowment Savings Fund	0	0	10,000	10,000
Interest	32	33		
Total Income	51,683	49,200	10,000	10,000
Expenses				
Pastoral Leadership	7,097	7,572		
Worship	306	828		
Mission Support	3,539	3,539		
Support/Care	7,793	9,296		
Total Expenses	18,735	21,235		
Net Ordinary Income	32,948	27,966	10,000	10,000



Custer Lutheran Fellowship, ELCA
12622 US Hwy 16A
Custer. SD 57730

Return Service Requested

U.S. Postage Paid
Non Profit Organization
Permit #5
Custer, SD 57730

Place label here.

Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Our Mission ... is to plant the word of God, nurture growth in children and adults, and scatter the seeds of joy and faith in a diverse community.

We envision Custer Lutheran Fellowship to be like the Black Hills themselves, an inviting community in which God's Spirit blows through people – like wind through the pine – life that is forever new! God's spirit inspires us to be:

A **worshipping** community, hearing the life-giving Word of God receiving Christ's very presence in the Sacraments, and raising our voices in joyful songs of praise and prayer;

A **growing** community, with building and grounds spacious enough for all;

An **intergenerational** community, nurturing children and youth, young adults, people in mid-life, and older people as one family of God;

A **learning** community, in which people of all ages take advantage of multiple opportunities to deepen their understanding of the grace and justice of God;

A **giving** community, generously offering our time, talent and treasure to support each other and share in Christ's ministry;

A **servicing** community, reaching beyond ourselves to stand with the poor, the sick, the hungry and the oppressed;

A **witnessing** community, eager to share with everyone the joy we have received from Christ.

***We believe in the Cross and
our risen Lord and
that through Christ
we have eternal life***

Our Bedrock Beliefs are...

We grow in faith through worship and sacraments

The Word of God is our hope, Support comes from within our family of believers who see and serve Jesus in others

Through prayer we evoke God's love and power as the Spirit intercedes for us "with sighs too deep for words to express"

In crisis God is our strength. He is all loving and accepting and He helps us through these times.

We have faith only through God's grace.

Our Core Values are:

*Faith, Family, Mission,
Service, Worship*



**Ministering at
Custer Lutheran Fellowship**
Pastor: Pamela Power
Office Manager: Mary Stutz
Office Assistant: Sara Janson
Parish Nurse: Mary Klein
Custodian: Augie Heyne
Music: Margaret Tretheway
Choir Director: Marlene Sellevoid
Financial Secretary: Ann Snow
Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky
SPARK Kids: Wendi Rusch
Ministers: All Members of CLF!