

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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MAY 2021

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You are invited to



CELEBRATE THE CONFIRMATION OF OUR 8TH
GRADERS IN WORSHIP AS THEY AFFIRM THEIR FAITH.

Sunday, May 9, 2021 / 9:30 a.m.

Brook Bennett
Reed Fortune
Kincade Lehman
Kenley Parker
Kyle Virtue
Hadley Wragge



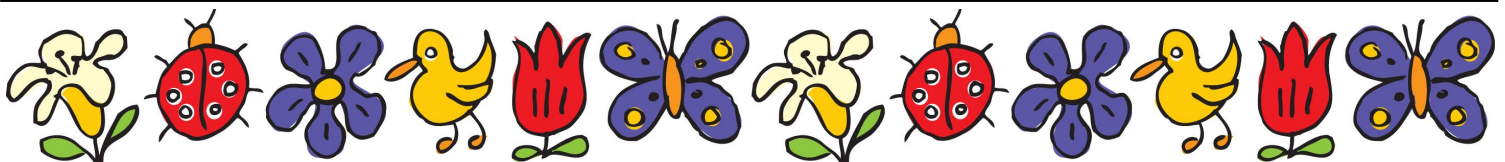
UPDATE ON COVID-19 GUIDELINES....



On April 20th, our Church Council voted to make some changes to our pandemic guidelines. Effective Sunday, May 2nd, the following changes will begin for worship and all church activities:

- ✦ Masks will no longer be required, but are encouraged
- ✦ Coffee and fellowship after worship will begin
- ✦ Funeral lunches will be offered
- ✦ Sign-in sheets for worship are no longer required

We want to thank the congregation for following the guidelines for the last year, and we appreciate your patience as we continue to make decisions for the good of all. If you have any questions, contact a council member or Pastor Pam.



MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER – MARY MOE!



Greetings CLF! I'm Mary Moe and I've been hired as the new Office Manager. A little about myself...

I grew up and graduated from high school in Howard, SD where my mom currently resides. I then attended USD/Springfield for a one-year clerical diploma as the college closed in 1984.

I have 4 children: Anna Rose (stillbirth), Kellen, Keith and Kyle. All my children live in Sioux Falls. I have a significant other that many of you know. He is Jack Winter, Jim Winter's son and Arbutus Winter's step-son.

I have had a variety of jobs from a 911 Communications Officer, Transit driver, CNA, activities coordinator, and a Paraprofessional for Sped for Kindergarten through 12th grade. As you can tell, I am very much a people person!

I also enjoy dancing, reading, sewing, cooking, movies, quilting and spending time with family and friends.

I am very excited to meet all of you at CLF and the Custer Community!

SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY GROUP....

will meet for breakfast and Bible study starting with breakfast at 8:30 AM on May 8th. Hope to see you then!

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.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES—CONTACT US!



A special Graduation Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 22nd at 9:00 AM**, for all 2021 high school graduates who are members of CLF. We want to celebrate with your graduate and your family. We want to be sure we are aware of all who are graduating and that we have their names spelled correctly. Please let the office know if your child will be graduating this year. Please e-mail clf@gwtc.net.

RAP GROUP

Join us for fun and fellowship at 6:30 pm after worship downstairs in the Youth Room. These are the dates we will meet through the rest of the school year:

May 12th May 26th

Come join us for fun, games, and conversation!

PENTECOST WORSHIP – MAY 23, 2021

In order to reflect the reality of multiple languages being spoken on the original day of Pentecost, we are inviting you to participate in our own version on May 23rd during worship. We are looking for people to speak these verses at the same time during the reading:

"Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

Please contact the office or Pastor Pam with questions, and to let us know you will be participating in recreating the cacophony of Pentecost!



Here is part of a devotion for April 27th from "Jesus Always" by Sarah Young. These devotions are always from the perspective of God speaking:

You are troubled by fear of failure, by my love for you will never fail. Let me describe what I see as I gaze at you, beloved. You look regal, for I have clothed you in my righteousness and crowned you with glory and honor. You are radiant, especially when you are looking at me. You are beautiful as you reflect my glory back to me. In fact, you delight me so much that I rejoice over you with shouts of joy! This is how you appear through my grace-filled vision. I want you to learn to look at yourself – and others – through the lens of my unfailing love. As you persevere in this, you will gradually find it easier to love yourself and others.



This struck me because too often I do not see myself through God's eyes. I only see the things I don't like, the things I am unhappy about, the mistakes I make, the regrets I have. This is a good reminder that God doesn't see those things. God sees me through the grace-filled eyes of love. Yes, God is well aware of my failings, but those not God's focus. God's focus is on the miracle I am and the love God has for me.

Do you have the same problem of only seeing the bad in yourself? The same is true for you – God's focus is on the miracle **you** are and the love God has for **you**. Remember – *In fact, you delight me so much that I rejoice over you with shouts of joy!* So the God of the entire universe knows you and rejoices in who you are. Not that God ignores all the mistakes we make. God wants us to continue to grow into who God created us to be. But God does not hold our mistakes against us. God sees us with the grace-filled eyes of love and sees us as radiant, regal, beautiful, crowned with glory and honor.

This reminds me of something I share at weddings frequently. I talk about the gospel of John, and how John sees himself as "the one Jesus loves" above all else. What would it be like if we saw ourselves as "the one Jesus loves." How about it we saw each other in that light? Whenever you find yourself thinking negatively or saying negative things about yourself, remember how God sees you. And let us remember that when we see each other. God sees each and every one of us through those same eyes of love, even those people we don't like or agree with. God loves them just as much as God loves you and I. Jesus sees each of us as the one he loves.

My prayer for each of us is that we begin to see ourselves and each other as God sees us – as beautiful, radiant, and surrounded by God's love.

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 tree thinning project around CLF is complete, and the brush has been piled ready for burning next winter. A lot of firewood was piled up for a future Wood Haul as well. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this project.

A couple of late-season snowstorms kept the "Snow Team" busy this past month. Fortunately it didn't stick around long after each snow event.

After an insurance inspection, three bids were received for installing new shingles on the main building as well as the parsonage. The roofs were damaged in hailstorms last year. After due consideration by the Council a local roofing contractor was selected and installation of our new roof will likely begin in late May or June.

Council also approved replacement of the walkway bridge from the Upper Sunday School Room to the trail on the north hillside. Work to begin in May.

SOCIAL MINISTRY.....

The Social Ministry Team would like to thank everyone for their generous offerings made during the CLF Build-a-Mountain event. Carloads of needed items were delivered to each of our five local non-profit organizations doing God's Work in our community. In addition to the "wish list" items, cash offerings were also collected: W.E.A.V.E will receive \$106, Pine Ridge Diaper Drive - \$185. Operation Black Hills Cabin - \$410, Custer Humane Society - \$207, and The Storehouse received \$116 from your cash offerings. Again, thank you fellow parishioners.

"God Discovery Days" - During this year's Gold Discovery Days, July 16th-18th, CLF will host a shelter/tent near the Arts and Crafts Fair (1881 Courthouse) where we will offer a place for visitors to take rest and make prayer requests. We will be handing out Earth Day Shopping Bags, prayer resources and mementos. Where we could use some help from the congregation....**does anyone have or have access to a standard 3- sided fair/event shelter we could use during Gold Discovery Days?** If so, please let the office know.

The Social Ministry Team is seeking new recruits! Have you ever/often thought that you'd like to reach out and help others in our community and the community of God, but weren't sure how or weren't comfortable going it alone? Consider joining the Social Ministry Team here at CLF! We have a great core group of worker bees with good hearts and good ideas but...we could always use more thoughtful minds and helpful hands. We have been accused of having too much fun but, don't let that stop you. Interested? Talk to Pastor Pam.

WORSHIP & MUSIC....

Looking out the window in the last week and seeing the beautiful trees covered with sparkling white snow, reminded me that our sins are washed away- white as snow. We celebrated his death, his resurrection and our life eternal given to us. It was so wonderful to see beautiful, familiar faces on Easter at the church. We could hear the voices singing and sharing in the joy of knowing our Savior lives. Perfect love, forgiveness, peace, protection and promises He made if we accept His gift of love. Nothing can compare in church when surrounded with life and care. There has been so many losses of friends and family members in this past year and we honor them and will miss them so very much. Yes, there are happy moments too with new babies, families communicating with each other in their own ways. We will be talking about our summer services and I will start working on them after getting the proper information. We will rejoice on May 9th with the confirmation young people. We rejoice as they set out to continue their faith walk. This is such a meaningful service to see and hear the thoughts and affirmations of their faith. We are looking forward to having Richard & Marlene Tucker back in Custer for a visit. We will be honored with harmonica music by Richard. (I don't know if Marlene will be dancing or playing her tambourine - tee-hee). We also look forward to some guests singers from college and hopefully from Outlaw Ranch. Carol Torgerson will be back from Arizona and will help with sharing her piano talent. Thanks to Jennifer Doyle for helping us out. It is with a humble heart that I thank all of you, my accompanists, soloists, office people, the board and PASTOR PAM for the patience to help us keep going. MUSIC helps us cope with sadness, illness and happiness. It helps us recognize beauty. MUSIC will help us have something to cling to and have more love, compassion, more gentleness, more good—in short, more LIFE. I read those words at one time off of Bill's band program many years ago.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL and see you soon....

Margaret and Bill Tretheway

PARISH NURSE UPDATE.....

Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse



I don't know about many of you, but I am feeling a lot less anxiety than I have in this past year. I have finally been able to tell myself it is OK to go back to church. I am not so stressed going into the grocery store. I remain careful, wearing a mask & maintaining distance measures, but the fear is (almost) gone. Why? Well I'm sure you know what I'm talking about. Getting Vaccinated! So now that we have the supply of vaccine needed to restore our nation's health and well-being, there seems to be many people, for many reasons, not getting the protection. I've heard all the reasons people give, but frankly I haven't heard one that is reasonable enough, to not get vaccinated. There are still many sick & dying. The young are not exempt from this virus. It may have taken longer, but now the virus has mutated multiple times and it is affecting our younger population. Our 14 y/o grandson is recovering from COVID and thankfully he did not need hospitalization, but we still were concerned. If you haven't had COVID affect anyone you know, you will not be able to say that for long. The mutated virus is more virulent and so it spreads easier and now is making even the young, sick and dying. Unless you have severe reactions to vaccines, there is not a good excuse. Do it for yourself, your family and your community. I pray that we can defeat this virus and families once again may gather together.

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS.....

I have heard from many people about the anxiety they are experiencing from this pandemic. You are not "crazy", but you do have a recognized Mental Health Disorder. It is natural for most people to experience anxiety, but when it overwhelms you, it is time to do something to help yourself. Some people are able to reduce their anxiety by taking care of their bodies... relaxation techniques, breathing exercises, physical exercise, whatever makes them calm their anxiety. Sometimes you may need help to get help from others, It may be a friend, doctor, minister or a counselor. Anxiety in its more extreme form, can cause many different symptoms. If you are all of a sudden feeling more physical symptoms. It's time to get help. Continued stress can be deadly.

Healthy mind, healthy body
Mary Klein RN, Parish Nurse

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



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



CALLING WITH LOVE

Many of our members are still struggling with loneliness and isolation because of COVID-19. Please reach out with a phone call to let them know they are not alone, and that they are loved.

YOGA CLASSES

Gentle yoga with Jackie will begin in May. We will meet in the Narthex at 10:30 AM on Monday mornings. Masks will be optional. A six foot distance between participants will be practiced. The first yoga session will be held on Monday, May 3rd at 10:30.





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

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the June Newsletter to the office by May 18th. Thank you!



OFFICE HOURS.....

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...



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

CLF WEBSITE OFFERS ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS...

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



ALTAR GUILD HELPERS NEEDED

Our Altar Guild needs new members to serve: One needed for July/August, September/October and 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!

2021 BUDGET THRU MARCH 31ST

	Non-Restricted	
	Actual	Budget
Income		
Offering Contributions	73,505	67,500
Non-Taxable PPP Grant	27,733	26,667
Interest	86	100
Total Income	101,324	94,267
Expenses		
Pastoral Leadership	22,002	22,966
Worship	1,972	2,074
Education	0	261
Mission Support	10,994	11,105
Support/Care	26,842	28,431
Total Expenses	61,810	64,837
Net Ordinary Income	39,514	29,430

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!



LYNN'S RECEIPTS....

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

"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DEVOTIONALS

The "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **April through June 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.



The church office will be closed on Monday, May 31st for observance of Memorial Day.

CONFIRMATION PARTY.....





“THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED”.....

To the beloved people of God at Custer Lutheran Fellowship, grace, and hope from the crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ. As your brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, we praise God for Custer Lutheran Fellowship and for the life-giving ecology of families, friends, congregations, essential workers, medical/scientific community, social networks, and every blessing which sustains our lives in these challenging yet hope-filled times of the Covid-19 global pandemic.

The words of Native American Bishop Steve Charleston: **“relationships cannot be made warm in the microwave of quick encounters”**, have always inspired, challenged, and guided our ministries. They witness to the Spirit-given relationships since Barbara first arrived at Trinity Lutheran Church in Edgemont as a seminary student. As Barbara was ordained and married Natanael, together they returned to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in 1988. While serving Trinity The Emmaus Road Foundation was born at the crossroads where human tragedy, the healing grace of God and the solidarity of the Christian community mutually intersect.



Everything started at Trinity in Edgemont in 1991 when Barbara and Natanael lost their second child to death and were devastated by loss and grief. We shared our grief with the congregation. Serendipitously, the small Sunday School class of 12 children asked what they could do to lessen such loss. After intense prayer, the children were asked to gather pennies so that one poor child in Colombia could attend elementary school. The children got excited as piggy banks in the shape of a church were given to them. **By the end of 1991, the children collected U\$112.96 and provided the fertile seed for what is today Emmaus Road Foundation.** A small group of children, with small resources, from a small congregation, in the small town of Edgemont, South Dakota gave the first scholarship for a poor child in Colombia. Many more scholarships would follow in part thanks to the generosity of Custer Lutheran Fellowship.

30 years later, hundreds of students have been blessed with scholarships to get elementary, secondary and university education. Most students have gone through the whole educational process.

In joyful celebration of the historical milestone of 30 years, at the National Assembly, on March Emmaus 27, 2021 Emmaus Road Foundation has officially become the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. Seen here left to right are Deisy, Mauricio and Nathaly, graduates of Emmaus Road Foundation; all three are national Lutheran leaders! **Picture taken during the National Assembly of the Lutheran Church of Colombia.**



As part of the Foundation's commitment to formal education and Christian leadership development, **our expanded mission now includes partnering with four Lutheran Schools impacting 1,700 K-12 students in four geographical regions of Colombia.**

Particularly during this time of COVID-19 filled with unemployment, governmental regulations, social distancing restrictions and virtual teaching, **our ongoing pressing need is The Emergency Schools Project which ensures these four Lutheran schools remain opened and viable toward the future.** Ensuring technology, computers, PPE supplies and help with assistance toward salaries for teachers, is very critical. We thank you, Custer Lutheran Fellowship, for all that you are doing to be integral part of this formative mission project.

With joy and thanksgiving, **we are reporting an estimated \$14,000 have been committed for the Emergency School Project toward our total goal of \$20,000.** This project will remain open. We are also delighted to announce that our next virtual time of **Music, Prayer Mission** is now scheduled **for June 12, 2021 at 4:00 PM Central Time** To celebrate the social impact of our shared mission, please check our English website www.ielco.org/en.

To you the People of God at Custer Lutheran Fellowship, our heartfelt gratitude! **Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Yes, “the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed”...**



GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK....



PALM SUNDAY



EASTER SUNDAY



A Blast from the Past... It's been a while! This one is from May, 1995

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MAY NEWS & NOTES!

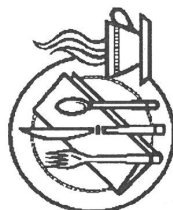


8th Grade Confirmation Dates:

Wednesday, May 3rd - Confirmation Dinner
You are invited to come share the celebration and listen to their faith stories at about 6:45 pm (after the dinner).
Sunday, May 7th 11:00 - Confirmation

The 8th Grade Confirmation Class:
Jesse Higgins
Daniel Mooney
Ben Noble
Adam Walz

Sherri-Lynn Harrington
Jolene Johnson
Sara Mooney
Andrea Twedt
Katie VanderHeide



YOUTH HOUSE FUNDRAISING DINNER
"INVEST IN THE YOUTH OF CUSTER!"
MAY 11th, 5:30 PM at THE BAVARIAN INN

Things are going great at the Youth House! Jenni has been working hard at programming events for different ages and interests, using community adults as mentors. Funding is the key emphasis now.

Anyone who is interested in supporting the Youth House should attend. There is no cost, however you will be asked to make a donation to "INVEST IN THE YOUTH OF CUSTER". If you would like to attend, please contact the church office 673-4691, so we can mail you the information packet.

"IN GOD'S POCKET!"

Mother/Daughter
Salad Supper
May 13, 6:00 pm

Bring a layette item!
TICKETS \$3.00

All Mothers and Daughters are invited to attend this salad supper. The theme will center on putting your cares and prayers "In God's Pocket". Special music will be provided. Tickets can be purchased in the church office or from Ellen Winter.



MORE IN MAY...

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MAY 14 XYZ ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY OUTING

Watch for more information in the bulletin as the final details unfold. XYZ'ers will be called.

MAY 21
9:45am LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL (FOR THE SUMMER)
12:00 noon POTLUCK PICNIC!

This is a busy day for Sunday School. It is the day that we show our appreciation to the Sunday School Teaching Staff, recognize perfect and near-perfect attendance in the classrooms, and finish off the year with a Potluck Picnic! Hot dogs, buns, chips and a drink will be provided, we ask that families please bring a salad or dessert to share.



MAY 28 - 9:45am SENIOR/GRADUATION BRUNCH for CLF SENIORS & THEIR FAMILIES!

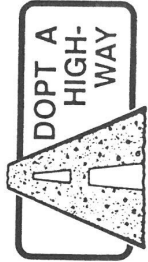
Our way of saying "Congratulations! You are special to us!" to the following CLF seniors:

Michael Striplin
John-David Harrington
Leah Noem
Jason Groves
Dane Nielsen

Fawn Grablander
Brian Kraus
Wendi Diedrich
Travis Rust
Marissa Bliss

MAY 6th - 9:00 am ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY Clean Up Day!

In conjunction with the city clean up day, we will be walking our CLF stretch of highway to pick up trash. Bring your walking shoes and meet at the church!





REDEEMED, RECONCILED AND UNITED

By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

April 9, 2021



Twice in the Gospels there is a story about a woman anointing Jesus with pure nard, one in Mark and one in John. In Mark, an unnamed woman comes to Jesus and anoints his head. In John, it's Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, who anoints Jesus' feet. In both Gospels the anointing happens just days before the crucifixion. In both stories the disciples criticize the women for their wanton extravagance. In both stories Jesus defends the women and declares that they have anointed his body for burial.

This is a very human Jesus facing his impending death and pausing in the midst of all the turmoil to be ministered to so tenderly. Jesus is with his friends sharing a meal in their warm company. Soon his head and feet would be pierced by thorns and nails. But in these moments, his head and hands are soothed. In John we hear the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume (12:3).

Not long before this, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Impatient Martha ran to meet Jesus and chided him for not coming sooner. When Jesus commanded that the stone be rolled away from the tomb, Martha cautioned, "Lord, already there is a stench, because he has been dead four days" (John 11:39). Quite a different fragrance.

Not long after Jesus was anointed with the pure nard, he would gather with his disciples to eat the Passover. Dear friends, good food and wine, and the remembrance of not only the spiritual struggle for freedom but of the physical experience of oppression and violence against their own bodies in Egypt. The bread and wine of that supper fed and warmed the bodies of the disciples.

I had a colleague who once said that our lack of awareness of our spiritual hunger—distracted as we are by all the cares of life—is like someone not even realizing that she was hungry until she smelled baking bread. Stephen Bouman, former executive director of the Domestic Mission unit, remembers as a child that when his parents came back from receiving communion, they smelled different—certainly the wine, but also a fragrance of life.

**In significant and sometimes disastrous ways,
we have separated ourselves from the creation and the Creator.**

All of this points to creatureliness—Jesus' and ours. In significant and sometimes disastrous ways, we have separated ourselves from the creation and the Creator. Adam was formed from Adamah, the dust of the earth. Adam was the earth creature. We are earth creatures.

At the beginning of Lent we heard: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Too often in Western thought the material, created world has been deemed inferior to the spiritual—as if God would divorce God's self from the universe God created in love. "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice," the 1993 ELCA social statement, acknowledges humanity's separation from God and from the rest of creation as a central cause of the environmental crisis. Can we return home to God, the creation and ourselves?

Just before his crucifixion Jesus said to his disciples: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). It falls into the earth, the created earth. God keeps creating.

Back to nard. Nard was rare and expensive. It was also pungent. It has been described as earthy, woody, dank, musty. In short, it smelled like the earth. And it was strong. The account in John says that the fragrance filled the room. It's likely that that fragrance clung to Jesus' body on the cross and in the tomb. Here was the complete accomplishment of the Incarnation—the earth creature of Eden is redeemed by the earth creature of Calvary, Emmanuel, God with us. All of creation is reconciled. This April we celebrate Easter and observe Earth Day. Heaven and earth meet—redeemed, reconciled and reunited in the beauty of the Creator's loving handiwork.



SD SYNOD NEWS

Seek the Welfare

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29.7)

These words from Scripture were lifted up by the Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson at the Spring Theological Event in April. The theme for the 3-day, on-line event was: Prophetic Words of Hope. God's people are always in need of hearing prophetic words of hope, which often come to us through poetry and song. Think of the Psalms and the Word of God spoken through the prophets!

People are wondering what ministry and worship look and feel like post-pandemic. For many, the last year has felt like the wilderness or even exile. I just saw a Facebook post of a friend who wrote: "Last night I hugged my first human in over thirteen months."

The words of Jeremiah come to the people of God who are in exile. They long for what was, and do not know what the future holds. It is in this state of grief and uncertainty that God asks the people to not fight their way home, or huddle together in fear, but rather to seek the welfare of the city. Keep in mind, this is the city of the ones who conquered Jerusalem. Not only are God's people to seek the welfare of the new city in which they didn't ask to be in, but they are to also "pray to the Lord on its behalf." What?!

The prophet then adds: "for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

This hopeful way of being made me wonder about all of our churches and cities throughout the SD Synod. What if in all circumstances we find ourselves, we seek the welfare of where we live? This requires us to think about abundance rather than scarcity, to go out into our communities rather than who we can get into our pews, and to trust that God is bringing new life and healing to all circumstances.

Pr. Jacobson planted seeds for thought at the Spring Theological Event. He said:

"Invite people to write poetry on hopes and hurts in the community so people can join them in ministry and blessing."

"How would you bestow hope as a congregation to your community and the world through your generosity and a proclamation of hope?"

And here are some additional questions to ponder in all of our communities of faith as we live into this Easter season: What is the nature of where God has planted your congregation? How is God blessing your community? What are the hopes and hurts of the people in and around your community? How does your mission and ministry connect with these hopes and hurts? What possibilities are out there that haven't yet been tried?

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29.7)

Uncomplicated Generosity

We sometimes discuss unfamiliar terms and tools at Lutheran Planned Generosity that might seem intimidating—charitable remainder unitrusts, gift annuities, donor advised funds. However, each of them is a great strategy to accomplish tax savings, increase income, and/or make generous gifts that might very well be something for you to consider.

There are ways to honor your faith and make a planned gift that are less complicated, too. Whether it's a retirement/investment account, you have the ability to name beneficiaries to receive those funds at your death. Simply request a beneficiary change form from your investment or life insurance company. Complete it with the percentages of the funds that you'd like to go to family and specific ministries, sign and return.¹

Perhaps you'd like to divide your gift amongst several different ministries, but your insurance company doesn't allow multiple beneficiaries. Lutheran Planned Generosity can work with you to create a distribution agreement that permits up to ten (10) charitable organizations to benefit from your generosity or establish an endowment in honor of your family, all while meeting the company requirements.

If you'd like to know more about beneficiary designations, contact Kathy McHenry at (605) 274-5030 or kmchenry@sdsynod.org. You can also find information on our website, www.lpgsd.org, or our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LPGSD>.

¹ It is important to coordinate your beneficiary designations with estate planning documents to accomplish your wishes. Always consult your legal and tax professionals for advice specific to your financial situation.

W/ELCA HAPPENINGS...

Next meeting: **Monday, May 24th** at 11:30 in the Fireside Room.

Hostess to be announced.

Our program will be provided by Angela Wiederich. Angela is the Volunteer Coordinator for the West River Hospice programs. She will give us information concerning the many ways that folks can help patients and care givers.

Rex Jorgenson was the speaker at our April meeting. Rex told us about all of the new and good things that have been happening at the Y and gave us a look to the future. If you have not been in contact with the Y recently, it would benefit you and your family to get information about the exciting programs that are offered there. It seems that there truly is something for everyone! We are fortunate to have the Y in our community!

Speaking of good news, the ladies at W/ELCA are happy to share the fact that we will be hosting an **Auction of Talents on June 27th**. A reminder that everyone is invited to present a talent to be auctioned. We have had some interesting items and experiences offered in the past. Of course, items that folks have made are greatly appreciated. Talents that provide a service are also fun to put into the auction. Meals, pies, wood splitting, raking yards, washing cars, hand made stationary, teaching a craft, walking a dog are just a few examples of what can be offered. An offered talent is only as good as a person's imagination about what that person wants to give. This is a fun filled event for the givers of the talents and the folks who bid on the items. Our auctioneers have a way of making the event lively and special. We always appreciate the support of the congregation for this event. Money made from this event helps us to help others in need. Local, national and international missions reap the benefit of our auction. Watch for the date. **Again, the auction will take place after worship on Sunday, June 27th.**

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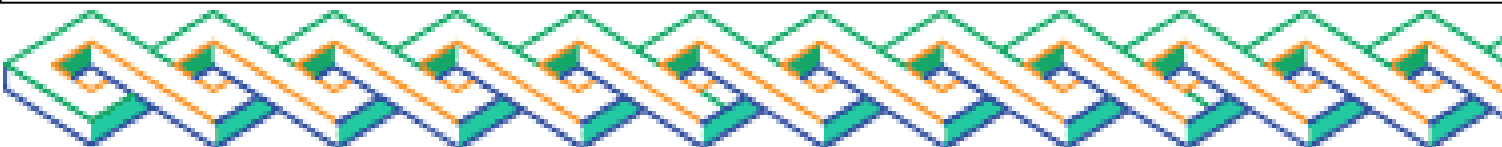
## QUILTING....

The quilters have been very busy. Twenty-six quilts were just sent off to Lutheran World Relief and nine to SD Children's Home Society in Rockerville.

Thanks for all the supplies you give us. We do need an iron . . .

Come join us Tuesday mornings. We have fun and enjoy the Fellowship.

The "Happy" Quilters



### Help us celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rudy Anderson!

You are invited to an Open House on **Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, from 2:00-4:00 PM, at the Bauer Home:

11853 Hay Creek Rd., Custer, SD;  
973-222-7406 or 605-673-4001.

If you are not able to join us, cards may be sent to Rudy Anderson, 630 Lincoln St., Custer, SD 57730.

### MACHELLE WICKS SENIOR PROJECT...





## COUNCIL MINUTES — APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 MEETING

*Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:* The year to date offering is 109% of budget. March expenditures were less than the monthly budget and are 95% of budget year to date. The Council reviewed the cost of filling the Office Manager position in May and paying a part time position for training. Liz moved, it was seconded to approve the budget overrun of approximately \$5,000 for filling the Office Manager position in May. Dave Pickford discussed the upstairs access bridge project. Emily moved, it was seconded to approve the Property Committee moving forward on replacing the upstairs access bridge, as outlined in option #2 of their report, within a cost of \$2,300. A report and request for additional funds will be made to the council if during the project costs are projected to exceed \$2,300.

### *Unfinished Business:*

- ✦ **Review worship and activities** – Guidelines for wearing face coverings, social distancing, fellowship following services and meals after funerals were discussed.
  - ◆ Samuel moved, it was seconded to approve starting May 2<sup>nd</sup> mask wearing language will be revised to wearing face coverings is encouraged instead of mandated at worship and activities.
  - ◆ Emily moved, it was seconded to approve having fellowship time following Sunday Worship starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Initially refreshments will be limited to cookies and coffee.
  - ◆ Dave moved, it was seconded to approve discontinuing the use of worship attendee sign in sheets starting Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - ◆ Emily moved, it was seconded to approve providing a lite meal after funerals when families request it and people comfortable serving are available.

### *New Business:*

- ✦ **Custodian alternate** —Having an alternate custodian to fill in when Augie is on vacation or unavailable was discussed. Pastor Pam will work with Augie to formalize a paid alternate.
- ✦ **Summer Worship** —Pastor Pam discussed summer worship plans and will start Wednesday evening services June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Services will be outside as weather allows.
- ✦ **Other —**
  - ◆ Pastor Pam reviewed a letter from Lutheran Outdoors asking if they can make a presentation at an upcoming worship service on their Keep the Campfires Burning campaign. The council agreed with the request. A motion was not required.
  - ◆ Pastor Pam reviewed a letter from Bishop Hagmaier outlining Custer Lutheran Fellowship's commitment to the Listen! God is Calling campaign. Emily moved, it was seconded to approve paying the remaining \$166.67 of the pledge.
  - ◆ A discussion was held on allowing outside groups to use Custer Lutheran Fellowship facilities. Each request is to be addressed separately. Emily asked if a local group could hold free yoga classes at CLF. The council approved the use. Emily will talk with the group and arrangements are to be worked out with Pastor Pam.

*Reflections on Mission and Ministry* — Pastor Pam reviewed her report. A candidate has accepted the Office Manager Position. A start date in May is pending. Pastor Pam was asked and accepted to be an intern supervisor for a pastor interning at Trinity Lutheran Church in Edgemont.

### *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 & Dave Pickford** – Nothing to report.
- ✦ **Social Ministry, Scot Hoscheid** – The committee discussed having a relationship building activity with Woyatan Youth Dancers and/or Jonathan Old Horse Drum Corp at an outside worship service. Another item was having a prayer tent at Gold Discovery Days.
- ✦ **W/ELCA, Jackie Hartwick** – The next meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>. Rex Jorgenson will be talking about what's going on at the YMCA.
- ✦ **Worship & Music, Emily Hiatt** – Nothing to report.

**Next Meeting: May 18, 2021** Treats – Jackie Hartwick. Devotions – Scot Hoscheid.  
April 2021 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – Jackie Hartwick.

## ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

### Easter 5

Saturday, May 1: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 9:7-15; Mark 4:30-32  
 Sunday, May 2: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8  
 Monday, May 3: Psalm 80; Isaiah 5:1-7; Galatians 5:16-26  
 Tuesday, May 4: Psalm 80; Isaiah 32:9-20; James 3:17-18  
 Wednesday, May 5: Psalm 80; Isaiah 65:17-25; John 14:18-31

### Easter 6

Thursday, May 6: Psalm 98; Isaiah 49:5-6; Acts 10:1-34  
 Friday, May 7: Psalm 98; Isaiah 42:5-9; Acts 10:34-43  
 Saturday, May 8: Psalm 98; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; Mark 10:42-45  
 Sunday, May 9: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17  
 Monday, May 10: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 7:1-11; 1 Timothy 6:11-12  
 Tuesday, May 11: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:1-17; 1 Timothy 6:13-16  
 Wednesday, May 12: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:18-21; Mark 16:19-20

### Easter 7

Thursday, May 13: Ascension of Our Lord; Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93;  
 Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53  
 Friday, May 14: Psalm 47; Exodus 24:15-18; Revelation 1:9-18  
 Saturday, May 15: Psalm 47; Deuteronomy 34:1-7; John 16:4-11  
 Sunday, May 16: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19  
 Monday, May 17: Psalm 115; Exodus 28:29-38; Philippians 1:3-11  
 Tuesday, May 18: Psalm 115; Numbers 8:5-22; Titus 1:1-9  
 Wednesday, May 19: Psalm 115; Ezra 9:5-15; John 16:16-24

### Week around Pentecost

Thursday, May 20: Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 2:4b-7; 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49  
 Friday, May 21: Psalm 33:12-22; Job 37:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57  
 Saturday, May 22: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 15:6-11; John 7:37-39  
 Sunday, May 23: Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;  
 Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15  
 Monday, May 24: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
 Tuesday, May 25: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Genesis 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27  
 Wednesday, May 26: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 20:19-23

### Week around Holy Trinity

Thursday, May 27: Psalm 29; Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20; Romans 8:1-8  
 Friday, May 28: Psalm 29; Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 8:9-11  
 Saturday, May 29: Psalm 29; Isaiah 5:15-24; John 15:18-20, 26-27  
 Sunday, May 30: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17  
 Monday, May 31: Psalm 20; Numbers 9:15-23; Revelation 4:1-8  
 Tuesday, June 1: Psalm 20; Exodus 25:1-22; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10  
 Wednesday, June 2: Psalm 20; Numbers 6:22-27; Mark 4:21-25



## 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!!





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

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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 **serving** 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*



christd.tumblr.com

### **Ministering at Custer Lutheran Fellowship**

Pastor: Pamela Power

Office Manager: Mary Moe

Parish Nurse: Mary Klein

Custodian: Augie Heyne

Music: Margaret Tretheway

Choir Director: Marlene Sellebold

Financial Secretary: Ann Snow

Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky

SPARK Kids: Wendi Rusch

**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**