

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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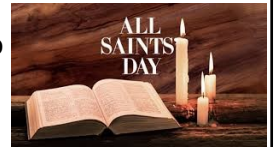
NOVEMBER 2023

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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 5TH

All Saints Sunday is held the first Sunday after November 1st (All Saints Day) and we remember and commemorate of all who have died in the past year. At Custer Lutheran Fellowship, we remembered these loved ones through prayer and song and all had the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance during the service. All Saints Sunday is also a chance to remember all of the "saints" in our lives and to give thanks for the unending grace of God.



CONSECRATION SUNDAY AND POTLUCK BRUNCH

On November 19th, we will have a Consecration Potluck Brunch following the worship service. Please be watching your mail for the letter with more details as well as your estimate of giving card for the CLF 2024 budget.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS

Pictured from L to R:



Koleden Niemann, Jayse Noem, Brandon Suelflow, Ayden Dooley & Austin Drew on the Affirmation of your Baptism!

Blessings today and always!



Saturday Night before bed one hour on November 5th.



SPECIAL CELEBRATION FOR MARGARET TRETHERWAY

How many lives are impacted by 42 years of Music Ministry? The answer to that question is more than any of us can even begin to guess! For 42 years we have been blessed by the talents and time and faithful service of Margaret Tretheway. She has made the important decision to shift her focus and retire from her position as Music Coordinator for CLF. Thankfully she has agreed to continue to occasionally provide special music for us, as has her amazing spouse, Bill. For this we are so relieved and happy! As a sign of our gratitude for her willingness to dedicate her life's work to providing beautiful and transforming music for this community, congregation, and the church throughout the world, we would like to honor her. On **Sunday, November 26th** the music during worship will be dedicated to her ministry as we will be singing many of her favorite hymns. She and her daughter, Tania, will bless us with singing for our special music during the offering. During the worship there will be special blessing for her as she begins this new chapter of retirement. Following the worship there will be a reception in the fellowship where we will honor her and take some time to thank her. If you know of any of her former students who might like to participate in the worship service or in the reception, please feel free to invite them! If you would like to do something special, please let Pastor Shannon know and we will find a way to make it happen. The good news is, even though she is retiring, her voice will still be heard loud and clear whenever she feels like singing for us. Thanks be to God!

THE GREAT WOOD HAUL EVENT – NOVEMBER 4TH

The CLF Annual Wood Haul has been a part of our ministry for many years, the last several years working in partnership with the people of the Red Shirt Community on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The 2023 project is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th. Participants can bring their own firewood or pick up wood from behind the parsonage prior to 9:00 AM that Saturday. Along with firewood we will also be delivering socks, gloves and quilts to our Red Shirt families and friends.

We will caravan to Red Shirt leaving CLF around 9 AM. The Social Ministry Team will be bringing lunch to be enjoyed in fellowship with Red Shirt residents and the wood haulers. Everyone is welcome to come and join in this service event on November 4th.



THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

7:00 AM — "Calamity Jane's"

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

SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY

November 11th from 8:00 - 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Breakfast is served first, then we will continue with our study. Questions? Contact Allen Canete at 673-3753.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Christmas Shopping? Your Social Ministry Team is again sponsoring ELCA Good Gifts. This program provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that fight hunger and transform lives. Such gifts, starting at \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at market. With such a gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. Contributions can also be made toward projects such as safe water developments and educational opportunities. Need a gift for that "hard to buy for" someone? When you purchase your Good Gifts, you'll get an ornament and/or card for that special someone to show you're honoring them by giving to those in need with their name in mind. Say "goodbye" to traditional gift-giving and hello to meaningful gifts that really make a difference in the world. There will be a table set up in the Narthex on **Sunday, November 26th** and **Sunday, December 3rd** to help you select gifts.



It wasn't until I was in my late 30's that I really understood how a church functioned, which happened to be during my first year of seminary. I knew that my parents always gave a check every week during the offering, but we never talked about how much they gave or why they gave. I had heard the words 'tithe' and 'stewardship' in the annual stewardship campaigns here at CLF and in other churches that I belonged to in my twenties and thirties, but still, didn't give much thought to it. Then during a small group discussion on generosity, I listened to a man talk about his approach to giving to the church and I was humbled and awed and decided then that giving would become a regular discipline in my life.

I have always been transparent about my life as a public servant but haven't always known how much to share about my giving because I do believe that the decision should be a personal decision between the giver and God with no guilt attached. However, I want to share with you a bit of our journey. There have been times in our life, particularly when I was in seminary and the early years of my life as a Pastor that Darryn and I were living paycheck to paycheck. There have been times in our life where we didn't always spend and save our money responsibly. During these times we learned and grew and had to have deep conversations about priorities. The story that the person told that made such a difference was one that I have heard others tell since then. He said that a pastor talked about how one could really determine what their priorities are if they took out their bank statement and looked at where they spent the most money. When we did that, we noticed that the money that we gave away was way down on the list. So we made some decisions and gradually have changed that mindset.

It took about fifteen years to get to the point where we could actually give away 10% of our income (this is a tithe). We were tithing with our time many years before that, meaning for every 40 hours we worked, we volunteered at least 4 hours a week somewhere in our community. We could still work on figuring out how to tithe our talents for the sake of the human family, and we have lots of creative ideas that we pray God will use to bring more love and joy in the world.

My question for you is, do you know that without your giving each week or month, the church cannot do the ministries we feel called as a congregation to be involved in? Do you know what our annual budget is? Did you know that the church is not subsidized by anything other than the giving of our members? How do you decide how much to contribute each week? When you are away do you still have the practice of regularly giving to maintain the budget?

Regardless of how you answer these questions, the most important one to consider is this: Do you know how important you are to the Body of Christ, in all ways, your time your talents and your treasures? We as a church do not function as individuals, we live and move and have our being through the Grace of God as a Body. We give as a sign of our trust in God and our faith that God will use and every single aspect of our lives to bring peace to the Kingdom of God. You are needed, you are wanted, and you are loved by God and the world needs the Body of Christ to be active and alive. How will you participate in this calling?

Your sister in Christ, Pastor Shannon



PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE 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 office 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.

605-673-4691 (church) Pastor Shannon: pastor_clf@gwtc.net Phone: 1-563-543-6080

Ayden Dooley

My parents have influenced my faith journey by showing the way of the church and how God can help me with everything. They also helped by taking me to church. I probably wouldn't be in confirmation if they weren't so involved in my life.

One story in the bible that I remember is Noah's Ark because it is told to kids multiple times, and it is told in multiple ways and for different ages. This story for the little kids is fun and happy, but it is actually a gory and sad story. Some people don't get how bad the story is. God only let Noah's family and two of each kind of animal, one male and one female, on the ark, and this was God's judgement to restore the goodness of his creation.

Being a Christian affects the way I live my life because knowing that God is with me can help me overcome obstacles. If something doesn't go right then I know God will help me through it, and when things go right then I know I am one step closer to reaching part of God's plan. Being a Christian helps me find friends that believe the same things I do.

Psalm 23:1 — The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.

**Austin Drew**

My journey of faith has been influenced by a passage from the book of Romans 5:3-5. This verse reminds me that during challenging times, I can become stronger, and it is a test of my character. I believe in the one and only God, who sent His son Jesus Christ to die for my sins.

Romans 5:3-5 is my favorite verse because it helps me remember that I will be a better person after going through a difficult situation. It reads, "And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." To me, this verse shows that challenges are not impossible to overcome and that they can be an opportunity for personal growth and spiritual strength. I believe that these hard times can show our character and the power of faith in our lives.

My faith centers around my belief in God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe in the one and only God who created the universe and helps guide my life. I believe that God sent His son, Jesus Christ, to save me and other believers from sin. Jesus was crucified for my sin, died, and on the third day rose into heaven. My faith reminds me that I am never alone. Knowing that God walks beside me tough times makes me feel like I can make it through anything.

In conclusion, my faith is a guide in my life. The verse *Romans 5:3-5* reminds me that hard times are opportunities for growth and strength. I believe in the one and only God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. This helps me know that I am never alone, and I can always rely on God to guide me. As I prepare for my confirmation, I know that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**Jayse Noem**

I believe that faith is believing in God and knowing I am saved. Another thing is that you have complete trust and confidence in the Lord. I believe God is the Holy Trinity.

I believe that the Trinity is inseparable from the Gospel. Jesus is the way and the truth.

My Grandma Carol is the one who greatly influenced my faith journey. Being a Christian makes me want to be more like Jesus and strive to be like Jesus.

Philippians 4:13 — I can do all things through him who strengthen me.

John 14:6 — Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Koleden Niemann

How do I define Faith. Faith is not just a feeling. It means being certain about something, it is a trust that when God makes a promise, it is true and right. It is the assurance that you trust and believe in something you are confident about. You have faith in yourself whether that is in a game or on a test, but you also have faith that there is more in the world, helping guide you through certain parts of life. So, when we have struggles with doubt, we can fight them. We look for reassurance from God. I would say that my faith is also my trust in God. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

I believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are the key when we are in church and learning from the Bible. I also believe that they are the ones that watch over me on my faith journey. They are there to hear us during our scriptures, our prayers and when we need a little extra guidance. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are also key in guiding us to be better people.

My grandparents are key to my faith journey. They are always there to encourage me. They have helped me build my faith. They bring us to church and have taught me a lot about Jesus. They are always there for me if I have questions and need guidance. My grandparents are very important to me in my life, but also in my faith journey. I owe a lot to them. Thank you, Grandma and Grandpa. Being a Christian affects the way I live my life by teaching me to show love and respect to everyone and that God knows there is good in everyone. This helps me in turn to see the good in everyone. I believe that being Christian helps guide you in all aspects of life, not just at church, but also at school, in sports and at home

The Story in the Bible that sticks out most to me is Mark:12:31. I remember this verse because it is very important to me, and it helps to teach us to love my neighbor as myself and I remember that every day. It helps you understand and to also see the good in people.

Some fun memories that I have being a member of Custer Lutheran Fellowship was when my family and I first moved to Custer. I was signed up to go to the bible camp that summer and that helped me meet my friends and it was a fun time. Another fun memory is when my cousins and I came to church and after worship everybody said that they were impressed by how well behaved we were and that showed me what nice people we have in our congregation.

My Mentor is my grandma. I picked her because she has been very important to me in my faith journey and she has helped guide me to learn a lot about my faith. She has taught me many things about the Bible and Church, one of the most important and special things she has taught me is why Jesus dies on the cross for us.

Mark 12:31—You shall love your neighbor as yourself, there is no greater commandment.

**Brandon Suelflow**

To me faith is believing in God. It is believing in God's plan for my life. I have faith that he will guide my life and I can always go to him so he can guide me.

People who have supported me in my faith journey would be my friends and family. My mentor Gene and my great aunt Linda, my god parents I've known my whole life. The rest of the confirmation students because they understand me better than anyone else. And my parents because they have been there for my whole life and have taught me a lot about life.

Being Christian effects my life in two ways; and that is being able to find friends who understand what I understand. And it is learning about how we can be better so we can get to places in life and stay away from all the bad things in life. My bible verse is:

Psalm 32:8 —

I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.

I will advise you and watch over you.



SPARK KIDS

Join us for SPARK Kids! During the school year on Wednesdays, children from Kindergarten through Grade 5 are picked up at the Elementary building after school is dismissed and brought to the church. We sing songs, have a snack, and do a game or craft that ties into the Bible story. It is always a fun time of learning and laughing, with also some great questions and deep thinking! Pickup is 5:00-5:15, and you and your family can stay for supper. There is NO cost for this program! Children need to be registered by their parents/guardians in order to participate. Registration materials are available through the office. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join the 32 signed up so far! All are welcome!



RAP YOUTH GROUP

We would love to see all 9th-12th graders join us for Youth Group! We will have our weekly Wednesday night gatherings at 6:30 PM. Highlights from October were pumpkin carving, a great turn out for wood splitting, and the Lock-in! A favorite activity this month will be our annual Storehouse scavenger hunt for non-perishable food items on the 15th!

We are also organizing a monthly weekend Fun Activity! Mark your calendars for **Friday, November 10th for a Progressive Dinner!** We will travel together to four different spots for each course of our meal: Appetizers, Soup/Salad, Main course and Dessert! Please contact me if you would like to help with this or any activity that brings faith and fun to our youth! Wendi Rusch #509-494-3236 for more info!



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

The National Youth Gathering is 30,000+ 8th-12th grade students from around the country that get together in a large city for faith formation, worship, fellowship and service. This year the Gathering will be held July 14th--20th in New Orleans, LA. Our youth group will join Lutherans Outdoors of SD and 200 other SD youth to go together on charter buses.

If your business or household would like to make a tax deductible donation, we would greatly appreciate it! With food, travel, housing, and other costs, we will need more than \$20,000 for our group. You can donate with Youth Gathering in the memo line and help us reach our goal! We are also looking for fundraising ideas . Contact Wendi at 509-494-3236 with any questions.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

November 1st 5:30-6:30, supper provided beginning at 5:00 PM, students arriving later can bring their food to the classroom

November 15th 5:30-7:30, class from 5:30-6:30, Scavenger Hunt 6:30-7:30

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

November 15th — Scavenger Hunt. We will meet in the parking lot at 6:30 PM then travel as a group to different homes of people we know in the community to collect food for the Holiday Food Boxes and for the Storehouse Food Pantry. Drivers are needed. We will be competing for the coveted trophy for most points against the High School classes.



CHILDREN'S PRE-CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Be sure to mark your calendars for **December 10th 9:30 AM during church.** We will be having a special Advent service —A pre-Christmas Children's program. The service will be led by all ages of our CLF youth!



SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

While CLF has a contractor to keep the parking lot clear of snow, we need volunteers to keep the sidewalks clear.

- ✦ CLF has shovels and a snow blower on site. (As well as a supply of chicken grit for icy spots.) If you need to be shown how to operate the snow blower, contact Brad McKinney at (308)641-1741 or any number of “experienced CLF snow shovelers.
- ✦ You can choose which days work best for you. If you can’t make a week long commitment, that’s fine. Can you help? Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.
“A clean sidewalk reflects a clean heart.” Expectations 1:1.



WOOD SPLITTERS NEWS

Woodcutters Celebrate Core Values: *Mission and Fellowship*

The saws were buzzing, wood chips flying and tractors growling on October 4th, as fourteen busy beavers cut and hauled about 14 cords of wood to CLF’s wood yard where it will eventually be split into firewood. The wood is to support youth (RAP) mission trips and the annual wood haul to the Red Shirt community on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Participants remarked the beautiful autumn morning demonstrated serving together in fellowship for these important CLF missions. Besides, remarked John Kirk, “...we had a good time...”! A big thanks to Marvin and Sharee Johnson who provided the wood and hosted with treats. The 2023 “Great Wood Haul” to Red Shirt is scheduled for November 4th.

Pictured L to R: Brian Albers, Marvin Johnson, Gary Williams, Dave Pickford, Shannon Pulscher, Scot Hoscheid, Larry Hoegermeyer, Gary Chappell, Dave Versteeg, John Kirk, Denny McConnell, Larry Peterson, Wayne Boots (photo by Dave Thom)



Sharing the Dream in Guatemala was a big success this year. We had beautiful items to purchase and gave them checks totaling \$1,866.22. Thanks to everyone who made this possible!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE SCHEDULE



- 4:00 PM Spark Kids
- 5:15 PM Meal
- 5:30 PM Confirmation (1st & 3rd Wednesday's)
- 6:00 PM Prayer Around the Cross Worship– November 1st
- 6:30 PM RAP High School Youth Group
Choir

See You There!



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY PICTURES



PARISH NURSE NEWS



Welcome to November. This is a month to celebrate thankfulness. First, I want to say how beautiful our fall has been! The beauty & the weather is something to be truly grateful for. Just being able to live here in the beauty of our Black Hills is something to thank God for as it is his creation.

By now you may have noticed that our Health Ministry was at work again providing valuable information on our information table. For the next several months the focus is on how to take medications and treatments safely. If you don't follow the Doctors instructions, you could find yourself in serious trouble. In fact, be your own advocate and make sure you understand any medication you take. When being started on any new medication, ask for the name, the reason you are being prescribed the med, how to take it, what is the dosage, what are common side effects and if there is a compatible generic form of the medication. Another good resource is your pharmacist. That is their area of expertise. Your Provider & pharmacist are also tasked with making sure the new medication is compatible with your other medications. Next, take the medication as directed and if you are not tolerating it, call your Provider for further instruction. Do not be your own Doctor! Another important thing to do is watch for outdated medication & medications you no longer take and dispose of them either at your Clinic or Hospital, or at the Sherriff's office in their approved disposal containers. Many people do not count over the counter medications as part of their medication profile. They can also sometimes interfere with your prescription medications more than you are aware of. Keep a list of your medication and other over the counter meds & treatments with you and also at your home in case of an emergency. Something else to consider is the foods you eat. Talk to your pharmacist or provider about any foods that may interact with your medication.

Last, now is the time to get your flu shot. Late October and early November is a good time for that so they stay active through the majority of the flu season. A new COVID vaccine should be available. The clinic asks people to make an appointment for any shots. There are also Pharmacies the will provide that service. On our table there are different lists of recommended vaccines recommended for different ages.

Spend some time looking at everything. Any info on the table may be taken. Info on the standup board should stay. As always if there are any questions, please ask me and I will do my best to answer.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Depression is more than a sad feeling or going through a rough patch. It's a serious mental health condition that requires understanding and medical care. Left untreated, depression can become devastating for those who have it and the families. Fortunately with early detection, diagnosis and a treatment plan consisting of medication, psychotherapy and healthy lifestyles, many people can and do get better.

Some will only experience one depressive episode in a lifetime but for most, depressive disorder recurs. Without treatment, episodes may last a few months to several years. About 21 million US adults-8.4% of the population, had at least one major depressive episode in 2020. People of all ages, racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds experience depression, but it does affect some groups more than others.

Symptoms of depression include changes in sleep, changes in weight & eating habits, lack of concentration, loss of energy & a lack of interest in activities. There is also hopelessness, guilty thoughts & feelings, slowness in movements or agitation, physical aches and pains and suicidal thoughts. There are different causes but most often there isn't a singular cause. It can be triggered by a life event, physical illness or something else and it can occur spontaneously. It may be caused by some sort of trauma, genetics, life circumstances, brain changes, and other medical issues including sleep issues, medical illness, chronic pain, anxiety, ADHD and alcohol and drug abuse.

Although depressive disorder can be devastating, it often responds to treatment. The key is to get a specific evaluation and treatment plan. Safety planning is important for those with suicidal thoughts. After a medical cause is ruled out or other possible causes, a patient-centered treatment plan can include any combination of the following:

Psychotherapy including cognitive and behavioral therapy, family focused therapy and interpersonal therapy.

Medications including antidepressants, mood stabilizers and antipsychotic medications.

Exercise can help with prevention and for mild to moderate symptoms.

Brain stimulation therapies can be tried if psychotherapy and/or medication are not effective. These include ECT (electroconvulsive therapy), for depressive disorder with psychosis or rTMS (repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation for severe depression).

Light therapy, which includes a light box to expose a person to full spectrum light in an effort to regulate hormone Melatonin.

Help is out there
Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

Main address — clf@gwtc.net
Pastor Shannon — pastor_clf@gwtc.net

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

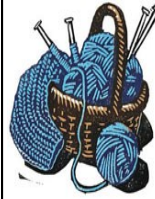
Please have articles for the **December Newsletter** to the office by **November 21st**. Thank you!



OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Mon., Tues. and Thurs. from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM. Wed. hours are 9:30 AM—6 PM.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

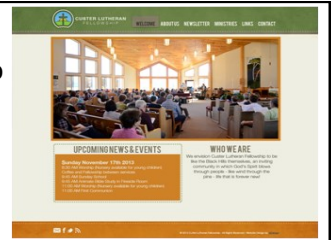


If you have someone in your life who needs some extra comfort and prayers, please pick up a prayer shawl from the office. Everyone is welcome to do so at any time—just let someone in the office know when you do, as we keep a journal of all activity.



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.



“CHRIST IN OUR HOME” DEVOTIONALS

The “Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **October to December 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.

ARE YOU LEAVING FOR THE WINTER?

If you are leaving for the winter, please let the office know your address so your newsletter will get delivered. We would like to know approximate departing and returning dates. Thank you for your help!



LIVE NATIVITY AT OUTLAW RANCH



Outlaw Ranch would like to invite you to our live nativity on December 17th from 3-7pm. Activities will include a baked goods sale, craft fair, hot cider and cocoa. If you would like to help as an actor bringing the scene to life (no speaking involved), please call Matt at 605-673-1014.



SELECT-A-GIFT, 2023

LAUNCHES GIVING SEASON WITH NOVEMBER 4TH BENEFIT CONCERT.

The Select-A-Gift program has made Christmas special for many families from the Custer area for over 37 years. Please help us continue to spread Holiday Joy as we launch the 2023 Select-A-Gift giving season.

Last year, we provided over 500 gift cards and 60+ gifts to the members of 197 families in Custer County. That includes 26 families in Buffalo Gap, whose food pantry also distributed food baskets and gifts on the same day.

Help us kick off this year's giving season by attending our Benefit Concert at the Custer Beacon on November 4, starting at 5:30pm. Entertaining the young and young at heart Magician Phil Heckman will usher in the evening followed by music provided by "String Tied" and "??Jimmy Ray & The Stingers". Your entry \$10 donation (under 16 free) will register you for one of our many door prizes.

Many generous businesses and individuals have donated amazing items for you to bid on during our silent and live auctions during the concert. Not into auctions? Simply grab an envelope off the Select-A-Gift tree, enclose a donation, and deposit it in the red donation box.

Starting November 1, Custer Lutheran Fellowship will have a tree in the Fellowship Hall. Just place your check or cash in one of the envelopes provided, then drop it in the secure red lock box. If donating by check, please make it out to **Custer Ministerial Alliance with Select-A-Gift in the memo space.**

The day of gifting will be held at CLF Saturday December 16 from 10am-noon.

Questions?? Call or text Juli Ames-Curtis at 970-391-9921.

MUSIC MOMENTS BY MARGARET

As most of you know, I have resigned my position as Music Coordinator. I have been so blessed, in the 42 years, to have had this wonderful gift.

I have had the honor of knowing and working with most of the pastors we have ever had in Custer. Each one of the pastors helped me with support. Here is my story.

What a wonderful position this has been. Pastor Chuck Hazlett offered me the position of being in charge of the music here at CLF. I received my music degree from Northern College in Aberdeen, SD.

I will tell you how I fell in love with all types of music. All my family loved to sing, so I memorized many musicals before college. My first solo was in first grade at the Java schools. I had the hiccups during the whole solo. I then decided, that I would never sing again, but that lasted about a month. Then, my teacher started a girls group. We did not have choir in my school, but I took piano lessons, when I was a Sophomore in high school. While I was to be working on a classical number to sing at the big contest, I ended up with a serious case of Yellow Jaundice and couldn't sing. I did a sing the solo my Junior year at contest and my Judge handed me my solo and never said a word to me and I said that "I am done". The next morning, my band teacher came to see me and he said that he wanted to tell me the day of the concert that he offered me a complete 4 year scholarship to Northern State College in Aberdeen. He had one thing that I had to do and that was coming 60 miles by bus to Aberdeen twice a month and he would give me free lessons. My parents said "they would find the 4 dollars for a trip to Aberdeen". My father died that year, when he was 59, but my Mother moved to Aberdeen and I was able to have such wonderful experiences. I sang operas, musicals, all kinds of religious cantatas and sang with a pop band. My first solo at Northern was a descant to a special song as a Freshman for homecoming. I got a charlie horse, so they closed the curtain, and took care of it then we then finished the song.



Why am I telling you all this because I was so blessed to keep singing and experiencing all the various songs inspire of these strange happenings.

We have so much talent in Custer and I am so happy that Jennifer Doyle will take over. What a gift we have been given.

I am going to stop now and finish my story in December, which will be my final report. It will include how I ended up in this church.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.

Thanks to this congregation and all the Pastors I have known. Thanks for your patience in my finishing this part of my life.

"O Sing to the Lord, O sing God a new Song"

God bless all of you - Margaret Tretheway

**GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS
OCTOBER 15TH, 2023
ROAD CLEAN UP**



CLF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<u>NON-RESTRICTED</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4000 - Offering Contributions	283,373	217,656
Total 40014 - Non-restricted Special Donation	4,468	
46430 - Miscellaneous Revenue	265	
40300 - Interest	1,569	225
Total Income	<u>244,645</u>	<u>217,881</u>
EXPENSE		
Total 61000 - Pastoral Leadership	49,293	52,934
Total 62000 - Worship	8,270	8,781
Total Education	15,594	17,288
Total Mission Support	28,214	27,742
Total 65000 - Support/Care	92,245	90,221
Total Expense	<u>193,615</u>	<u>196,967</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>51,030</u>	<u>20,914</u>
2023 YTD Nonrestricted Expenses vs budget	193,615	196,967
Other Income/Expense		
Total Other Income	1,215	
Total Other Expense	9,008	6,300
Net Other Income	-7,793	-6,300
Net Income (ordinary & off-budget Inc & Exp)	43,236	14,614

W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:

The Next W/ELCA meeting will be on **Monday, November 20th** at 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Program: will be the Thank Offering Service. The women are asked to each bring a poem or bible verse that is meaningful to them as it will be their "Thank Offering Service".

The meal will be a potluck luncheon — please bring a dish to share.

The women voted to give \$500 to Larry Peterson to help complete the coffee house at Red Shirt Table.

The Craft & Goodie Sale will be held on November 19th. Lefse will be made on Saturday the 18th at 9:00 AM until ??? Anyone who wants to help or learn is welcome. Please bring your lefse supplies if you have any to assist with making the lefse that day.

QUILTING —

- * Help is needed to sew quilt edges together.
- * Help is also needed to sew quilt squares together.
- * Help still needed to deliver 5 boxes of quilts to Midwest Trucking, located in the NE corner of Rapid City.

If you can fill any of these needs call Ginny at 673-3056.

Thank you for all the fabric received. We are busy sorting it by size and color before cutting it into squares.

Quilters will take a break the last 2 weeks in November and December. We will gather again on 1/9/24.

Fifteen quilts are ready to go to Red Shirt Table along with the Wood Haul in November.

~ THE BUSY QUILTERS

October—November Mission Project: The Storehouse

Canned food – meats, vegetables, fruits, soups
 Spaghetti, pasta & sauce
 Sugar, Flour
 Peanut Butter
 Paper towels, toilet paper & tissues

Cereals
 Stuffing Mix
 Soaps – laundry, dish, body
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Cake Mixes/Tubs of Frosting



Any other food items you'd like to bring.



THANK YOU MEN'S CHOIR

LED BY JENN DOYLE
 (CHOIR DIRECTOR)

FOR SINGING

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS
 IS OUR GOD”

ON REFORMATION SUNDAY

COUNCIL MINUTES – OCTOBER 17, 2023 MEETING

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru September were 99% (-\$183) of budget and YTD remains above budget by 109.5% (\$20,687). 2023 Pledge YTD receipts are at 95% with \$161,501 of \$168,356 pledges received and \$6,854.52 outstanding. People who did not pledge contributed \$76,842. Expenses were 98% (-\$3,352) of budget.

Council Action:

- ◆ **Approve Error Correction** – A Pay-Down-the-Debt deposit was accidentally deposited in the Savings Capital Improvement sub-account instead of the Checking Pay-Down-the-Debt sub-account. Mark moved, Christie seconded to leave the funds in the Capital Improvement account and used Operating Reserve funds to correct the error. Motion approved.

Unfinished Business:

- ◆ **Thrivent Choice** – October \$ 98.00, YTD - \$ 539.00
- ◆ **Amazon Smile** – October \$ 0.00, YTD - \$ 18.41
- ◆ **Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – October \$ 200.00, YTD - \$ 900.00
- ◆ **Firewood-Red Shirt Table** – Wood Haul is on Saturday, November 4th. Will leave church at 9 AM. Time to load wood to be determined.
- ◆ **Sprinkler System-October 25th** – Date for annual Fire Sprinkler System Inspection.
- ◆ **Job Description for Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator** – Was handed out to Council to look over and give input.
- ◆ **Job Description for Worship & Music Coordinator/Choir Director** – Was handed out to Council to look over and give input.
- ◆ **Wednesday Night Life Worship** – Will hold a service on the first Wednesday of each month – November 1st and December 6th.
- ◆ **Growing Roots Update** – Updated contract has been signed.
- ◆ **Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser Update** – Made 750 burritos. Profit so far is about \$500. Still have some in freezer to sell. Funds to go in Social Ministry Outreach line item.
- ◆ **National Youth Gathering** – Handed out budget. Have 14 youth and 2 adults registered so far.
- ◆ **Other** – None

New Business:

- ◆ **Membership changes:** Adds: by Transfer from ELCA church – Joel & Sharon Ziebarth, David & Joan Ruen, Karen Barness & Caden Barness, Dick & Darla Klinger, Pastor Shannon & Darryn Witt; by Affirmation of Faith – Deserie Newton, Juliana Jiminez; by Transfer from Non-ELCA church – Jack & Mary Winter, Renae Scofield
- ◆ **New Boiler Bid** – Mark moved, Donna seconded to replace downstairs boiler using Witt's Heating & Air Conditioning at a time to be determined by Witt's. Motion approved.
- ◆ **Other** –
 - ◇ **Parsonage Washer & Dryer** – Dryer in parsonage is shot. Discussion to replace both. Christie moved, John seconded to purchase both from Karl's. Motion approved.

Pastor's Report

- ◆ **Review Worship & Activities** – Attended the Bear Butter Pastor's Conference this week. Will graduate on November 5th from a two-year Spiritual Development program. The graduation service will be in Michigan. Sharee Johnson to cover. Need to set the date for the Children's Christmas Program.
- ◆ **Worship Services** – November 5th – All Saints; December 21st – Longest Night; December 24th, Christmas Eve @ 9:30 AM, 4:00 & 6:00 PM

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ◆ **Christian Education**, Blaine Kortemeyer – Will be a meeting on Tuesday, October 24th.
- ◆ **Health Ministry**, John Kirk – Mary Klein is thinking of retiring as Parish Nurse. Pastor Shannon to talk with her.
- ◆ **Mutual Ministry**, Dave Mertz – Committee members have been confirmed – Dave Mertz, Blaine Kortemeyer, Judy Baldwin, Craig Black and Jan Thom.
- ◆ **Property**, Mark Thompson – Discussed water drainage situation out front of Narthex.
- ◆ **Social Ministry**, Christie Behlings – Reviewed committee activity.

Next Meeting: November 21, 2023:

Treats – Christie Behlings. Devotions – _____. November 2023 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – John Kirk.

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary

NOVEMBER 2023 DAILY LECTIONARY



Pentecost 22

Wednesday, Nov. 1: Psalm 119:41-48; Proverbs 16:1-20; Matthew 19:16-22

Pentecost 23

Thursday, Nov. 2: Psalm 70; Amos 1:1—2:5; Revelation 8:6—9:12

Friday, Nov. 3: Psalm 70; Amos 3:1-12; Revelation 9:13-21

Saturday, Nov. 4: Psalm 70; Amos 4:6-13; Matthew 24:1-14

Sunday, Nov. 5: **All Saint's Sunday:** Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Monday, Nov. 6: Psalm 63; Amos 8:7-14; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Tuesday, Nov. 7: Psalm 63; Joel 1:1-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Wednesday, Nov. 8: Psalm 63; Joel 3:9-21; Matthew 24:29-35

Pentecost 24

Thursday, Nov. 9: Psalm 90:1-12; Ezekiel 6:1-14; Revelation 16:1-7

Friday, Nov. 10: Psalm 90:1-12; Ezekiel 7:1-9; Revelation 16:8-21

Saturday, Nov. 11: Psalm 90:1-12; Ezekiel 7:10-27; Matthew 12:43-45

Sunday, Nov. 12: Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Monday, Nov. 13: Psalm 9:1-14; Zechariah 1:7-17; Romans 2:1-11;

Tuesday, Nov. 14: Psalm 9:1-14; Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Wednesday, Nov. 15: Psalm 9:1-14; Job 16:1-21; Matthew 24:45-51

Pentecost 25

Thursday, Nov. 16: Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Kings 22:13-23; Revelation 14:1-11

Friday, Nov. 17: Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Chronicles 17:1-15; Revelation 22:1-9

Saturday, Nov. 18: Psalm 95:1-7a; Isaiah 44:21-28; Matthew 12:46-50

Sunday, Nov. 19: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 70:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Monday, Nov. 20: Psalm 7; Esther 2:1-18; 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Tuesday, Nov. 21: Psalm 7; Esther 8:3-17; Revelation 19:1-9

Wednesday, Nov. 22: Psalm 7; Ezekiel 33:7-20; John 5:19-40

Thanksgiving

Thursday, Nov. 23: Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

Friday, Nov. 24: Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Chronicles 17:1-15; Revelation 22:1-9

Saturday, Nov. 25: Psalm 95:1-7a; Isaiah 44:21-28; Matthew 12:46-50

Sunday, Nov. 26: **Christ the King:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Monday, Nov. 27: Psalm 7; Esther 2:1-18; 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Tuesday, Nov. 28: Psalm 7; Esther 8:3-17; Revelation 19:1-9

Wednesday, Nov. 29: Psalm 7; Ezekiel 33:7-20; John 5:19-40



**SHARING
THE
DREAM
2023**



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!



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Custer Lutheran Fellowship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Bedrock Beliefs are...

We grow in faith through worship and sacraments

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

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

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

We have faith only through God's grace.

Our Core Values are:

*Faith, Family, Mission,
 Service, Worship*



Ministering at Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Pastor: Shannon Witt
 Office Manager: Mary Winter
 Parish Nurse: Mary Klein
 Custodian: Augie Heyne
 Music: Margaret Tretheway
 Choir Director: Jennifer Doyle
 Financial Secretary: Janice Albers
 Steve Baldwin
 Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky
 Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch

Ministers: All Members of CLF!