

# CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

12622 US HWY 16A  
 PHONE: 605-673-4691  
 EMAIL: [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net)

CUSTER, SD 57730

[www.custerlutheran.com](http://www.custerlutheran.com)

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2022

### Inside This Issue

2	CLF Happenings
3	Council President's Message
4	Wednesday NightLife & RAP
5	Health Ministry
6	From the Church Office
7	Financial Report
8	Committees
9	The Women of CLF
10	Synod Assembly News
11	Miscellaneous
12	Outlaw Benefit/ Miscellaneous
13	Men's Bible Study
14	Council Meeting Highlights
15	Daily Devotions
In- ser ts	- Calendar - Birthdays & Anniversaries - Worship Help



## SEPTEMBER 11 - OUR NINTH ANNUAL "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY!

We are excited that once again CLF will be participating in a nationwide Day of Service in our community. ELCA churches from around the country will be a visible witness of the faith as members step outside of the church doors and into the community to serve our neighbors.

9/11 is a sobering day for our country. This year marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of this dreadful day that changed us all forever. This is also a day that made us realize the significance of our first responders and health care workers who live and work in our community. **As such, our GWOHs focus this year will be recognizing these heroes and their families with a luncheon/picnic from 11:00am to 1:00pm.** We will be serving a meal of bbq pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, chips, drinks and cookies. Please consider assisting your Social Ministry Team as a server or kitchen aid for this activity.



We will also continue our tradition of conducting service projects that benefit our community at large. We will ask our CLF congregation to assist in a variety of volunteer projects this day following the 9/11 Sunday service:

- Assembling birthday bags for W.E.A.V.E.,
- Writing letters to our military family.
- CLF Sing-a-Long at 3:00pm at Wedgwood Nursing Home,
- Work at the hospital Healing Garden independently whenever convenient, and
- Following **Oct. 2 church service**, trash pickup along the roadway

We look forward to this event and we hope you do too!

## YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR HIRED

### EXCITING NEWS FOR CLF YOUTH

We are pleased to announce and welcome Wendi Rusch as the Youth Ministry Coordinator at Custer Lutheran Fellowship effective September 1. Wendi will be leading the Spark group and coordinating the RAP group.

Wendi has led the Spark ministry and been instrumental in the ministry of the RAP group in the past. She is ready to tackle coordinating both groups and we are happy to have her take on this important ministry.

Wendi and her husband Matt (who has been the director of Outlaw Ranch the last nine summers) live in Custer and she is the busy mother of 4 school age children. Wendi graduated from Augustana with degrees in Deaf Education K-12 and Elementary Education. She taught before having kids, homeschooled and brings a wealth of knowledge through her involvement in Vacation Bible School and church camps.

### BLESSING OF BACKPACKS



Bring your backpacks – and briefcases! – to worship on Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am or Wednesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to receive a blessing for the school year. All are welcome to receive a blessing, including the adults!



### BLESSING OF TEACHERS

Along with blessing backpacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering a blessing for all teachers as they begin the school year. If you are a teacher or staff at a school, please come to worship to receive a blessing!

### CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

#### CONFIRMATION SEEDS OF FAITH



- 1) Rooted & Grounded  
*Faith as Identity*
- 2) Strength & Growth  
*Faith as a Resource*
- 3) Branching Out & Bearing Fruit  
*Faith as a Way of Life*

Join us as we introduce our new Confirmation ministry called “Seeds of Faith.” There are a variety of options the students may choose from to make the program unique to them. A few of the new options include: create art (drawing, scrapbook page) about one of Jesus parables; read a book of the Bible; do FAITH 5 with your family; set up or serve Communion; attend worship at a non-Lutheran church. And there are many more!

All students in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to the Orientation on **Wed., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** to learn more. We are excited to be in ministry with the youth of our community and look forward to seeing you at Orientation!

THANK YOU  
FOR ALL YOU DO  
FOR OTHERS!



### MILITARY BOARD

We love to support and honor our members and families who serve in the military. We have a board in the Gathering Area with information on our families that we need to keep updated with their pictures and where they are serving. We are in need of someone new to keep the information on the board up to date. If you have a love for our military and want to honor them by keep the board current so that we can celebrate our service members, please talk to our Office Manager Mary.

### NEW MEMBER CLASS



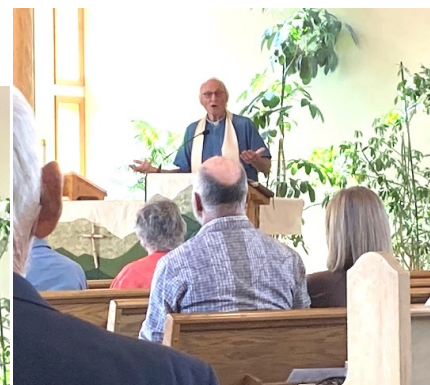
CLF will be offering a New Member class on **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00am – 12:00pm. We will learn about CLF, what it means to be a Lutheran Christian, and look at the gifts that God has given us. We will explore what it means to be part of a community of faith, the ministries here at CLF, and ways to use our gifts in ministry and throughout our lives. We would love to have some current members be part of this class to begin building relationships with our new members, and share your experience here. Please register on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

## WEEKLY HOLY COMMUNION



Since the beginning of the movement we call the Lutheran Church, the celebration of Holy Communion was encouraged weekly during worship. Holy Communion is a tangible sign of God's love and grace for each of us. We continually need to be reminded of Jesus sacrifice for us on the cross, and the salvation we have through him. Many of us miss Communion when we do not have it as part of worship. At our August council meeting we discussed having Holy Communion each week during worship and decided we would begin weekly Communion in September. We especially want to ensure that all of our visitors are able to celebrate Holy Communion with us regardless of what week they are here. We will use intinction each week with the exception of the third Sunday where we will use bread and the individual cups. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Pam or a council member.

## PICS



## PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH 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 church 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.

Email: [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net)

673-4691 (church)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

We are so excited to begin Wednesday Night Life again!

### SCHEDULE

Spark Kids – Down Under	4:00 pm
Meal – Fellowship Hall	5:15 pm
Worship – Sanctuary	6:00 pm
Confirmation – Fellowship Hall	6:30 pm
RAP Group – Down Under	6:30 pm
Choir Practice – Sanctuary	6:30 pm



### MEALS

Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	No Meal
Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sandwich Bar
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Potluck
Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Pizza

### WORSHIP

Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	No Worship
Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Prayer Around the Cross
Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Holden Evening Prayer

## Welcome back to Wednesday NightLife!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT



### CAMPFIRE SERVICES



### SUNDAY WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Join us for worship on Sunday's at 9:30 am followed by coffee and fellowship.

- September 4 – Chosen People
- September 11 – “God’s work. Our hands” Sunday  
with “For the Healing of the Nations” prayer
- September 18 – Children’s theme service
- September 25 – Traditional Worship



**PARISH NURSE NOTES** BY MARY KLEIN, RN PARISH NURSE

We continue to have elevated numbers of people contracting COVID. That is expected with our population growing during summer from tourism. With the virus continuing to develop new strains through mutations the virus always tries to outsmart us. People continue to get ill. Thankfully most are down for only a few days, but there are a number of people getting very ill and dying from it. I have a personal experience with this. My 60 year old sister-in-law who is rarely ill and no known risk factors developed COVID. Within days she needed to be hospitalized in the ICU with Heart failure. It was so serious they were preparing for a heart transplant. In the interim she was kept alive basically on a heart bypass pump for about 5 days. We were all very concerned she would not make it. Miraculously she began improving, (I credit many prayers), and looks like she will be alright. Not all the stories end this way. Please, please, get your vaccine and/or boosters. They are probably coming out soon with an updated vaccine booster which works better on our recent mutations. If you have concerns talk to your doctor. Healthy body, healthy life

**Mental Health Update** BY MARY KLEIN, RN PARISH NURSE

I'm not sure how many of you read Governor Noem's article a recently on the ways our state is planning to address the Mental Health of our state. They have been working on developing ways to get the help out. Curious, I went to the website BeThe1SD.com to see what they are putting in action. They are researching the prevalence and subgroups of people who need help. They have developed an action plan to work on educating our school systems on Mental Health identification and plan of action. They are also developing resources for the person in crisis. They also have most of the information needed to help someone in crisis including a chat site for someone in crisis. It explains how the new **Suicide Prevention Hotline (988) works** and what kind of help to expect. There are other resources for family members and those who want to help. I ordered a tool kit and pamphlets which I should be getting in a few weeks. I will get them out for people to take home and I will also have many of the resources they are providing. Healthy mind, healthy soul.

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY**

**God's Work, Our Hands will be recognizing these heroes and their families with a luncheon/picnic on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 1:00 PM.**

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND HOPE:** Marvin Hansen, father of Lisa & Dave Pickford; Sunny Reeves; Ralph Bueschel; Rudy & Lois Anderson; Sunny Reeves granddaughter, Kendra; Jeremiah, Zyriah, Emily; Stacey Bauer; Cozy's brother, Fred Johnson; Terry Reetz; Susan Osterson; Marge Baldwin; Dave Johnson, Barb & Phil Lewison nephew; Walker Witt, Neil & Joanne's son; Phil Lewison; Sue Studt; Margaret Tretheway; Patti Couch; Neil Witt; Don Kraus; people who live with violence & abuse.

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE:** Janet Serino, loss of husband of Dick Serino; Father-in-law to Linda Zachow's son Brad; Clay Studt & Family, on loss of Clay's father, Bob Studt; Clarinne Keoppe, loss of brother, Todd Gunnerson; Terry Reetz, on loss of wife, Arle; Gary Williams, loss of wife, Li Fjerestad.

**PRAYERS FOR NURSING HOMES AND STAFF:** We pray for nursing home residents and staff everywhere; we pray for our CLF friends in nursing homes: JoAnn Evans @ Wedgewood Assisted Living. Darlene Kainz at Fountain Springs in Rapid City and Rose Marie Scott at VA in Hot Springs, Sharon Linde at Scotland Good Samaritan Center. Ruth & Duane Swedlund at Peaceful Pines in Rapid City.

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY:** **Damon Belleville**, grandson of Jim & Pat Hattervig; **Asa Johnson**, nephew of Phil & Barb Lewison; **Graysen Trandem**, son of Casey & Eve Trandem; **Eli Witt**, grandson of Neil & Joanne Witt; **Zach & Kelly Fennell**, son and daughter-in-law of Linda & Gene Fennell; **Chris Frank**, CLF member –family Tracy, Dylan & Ethan; **Bryan Matz**, grandson of Joyce Naugle; **Sam Mertz**, son of Dave & Doris Ann Mertz; **Matt Noble**, son of Bill & Betty Noble; **Eric & George Schaertl**, grandsons of Darlene Kainz; Dean Suelflow, CLF member-family Nancy, Aiden, & Brandon; **Carl Thompson**, son of Mark & Bonnie Thompson; **Nicholas Vigants**, grandson of Ginny Myers.



### CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

Main address— [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net)

### OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the October Newsletter to the office **by September 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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](http://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.



### SNOWBIRD INFORMATION

Snowbirds, if you would like to continue to receiving the Crossroads Newsletter, please make sure that the office has your snowbird address and the beginning and ending dates.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE ACTIVITIES BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 4 PM



### MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLF TREASURER

Time for an update on CLF's fiscal status for the first seven months of 2022. In compliance with 2022 Annual Meeting Approvals, the mortgage at First Interstate Bank has been paid off. The only debt CLF now carries is a 10-year fixed-rate (5.375%) unsecured loan for \$81,229.06 from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund with a monthly payment of \$917.80. CLF expenses thus far this year have come in slightly under budget. Per annual meeting decisions, this amount includes funds set-aside for capital improvement and any unspent youth coordinator salary.

CLF offering contributions through 7-31-2022 have fallen short of budget by \$25,000 (15% below budget). It is possible with the beginning of fall activities in September members will have an opportunity to catch up on their pledges and the situation will improve. The council monitors the budget on a monthly basis and will keep the congregation informed as CLF finishes the 2022 calendar budget year.

Submitted by:  
CLF Treasurer, Joy Smolnisky

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION REPORT**

Dear CLF Member,

The Council became aware there may have been errors in the Contribution Reports sent to members in July. The Contribution Report shows your year to date giving toward your pledge for January 1 to June 30, 2022. The errors have been corrected and a new Contribution Report will be sent to you in September. Not all the Contribution Reports had errors, however everyone that pledged, will receive a report showing your year to date contribution on file with the church.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Scot Hoscheid, Council President  
605-517-0254

**CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP  
Statement of Activities, General Fund Budget vs. Actual**

January through July 2022

	<u>Jan - July 22</u>	Budget	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expenses			
Income			
Offering Contributions	148,225	173,542	-25,317
Non-restricted Special Donations	2,932	1,445	1,488
Interest	129	175	-46
Total Income	<u>151,286</u>	<u>175,161</u>	<u>-23,876</u>
Expense			
Pastoral Leadership	54,551	55,250	-699
Worship	5,825	6,784	-959
Education	799	1,683	-885
Mission Support	23,516	24,212	-696
Support/Care	66,119	77,219	-11,100
Total Expense	<u>150,810</u>	<u>165,149</u>	<u>-14,339</u>
Net Ordinary Income	476	10,012	-9,536
Other Income/Expenses			
Miscellaneous Unbudgeted Other Income	663		
Miscellaneous Unbudgeted Other Exp.	-524		
Capital Improvement Fund			
set aside budgeted	-4,900	-4,900	0
Youth Coordinator Designated Set Aside	-8,899	-8,899	0
Total Other Income Expense	<u>-13,661</u>	<u>-13,799</u>	<u>138</u>
Net Income	<u>-13,185</u>	<u>-3,787</u>	<u>-9,398</u>

## WORSHIP & MUSIC BY MARGARET TRETHERWAY

Two of my favorite music quotes that I say to myself often are:

"If I cannot fly, let me sing" -Sondheim

"The greatest respect an artist can pay to music is to give it life" Casals

I start this report with welcoming our new Choir Director , Jennifer Doyle. Jennifer's biography told us of her life as a musician. She has some new ideas and will bring them to our choir. She said she started her love of music as a young child. Jennifer's skills are excellent and she offers her love and care about music to our church. We send an invitation for all to come and join the choir. Rehearsals for choir begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7th at 6:30 pm.

When the music committee met: pastor Pam, Jennifer Doyle, Cozy Dorton and myself, we put our ideas together for the coming three months. We covered the months of October, November and December. I am always looking for people to help with special music help as song leaders. Please contact me if you can help. We hope to have some young people — all grades — add some special songs to our services. We do look forward to having the choir sing and also like to have special music (all ages).

CLF's musical outreach extends to a "Sing Along at Wedgewood". They love it and they share their love with us. We also have the opportunity to go with Pastor to Rochford on a Sunday evening service in their quaint church.

We have enjoyed the musical talents that some of the guest pastors shared with us also.

We thank the congregation for your support as we go into fall and winter. We are open to any ideas that you might have. If you have some suggestions, please call me at 605-673-2468 or grab me at church. We need all of you. If you know of anyone that you would like to come and be a quest soloist or in a group, call me and I will contact them. I close with saying "by day God directs our love and at night His song is in us". He helps us to new things and yet keeps the old. Let the song God gives us, watch over us wherever we are.

### Choir Quote

I read: "I love to sing in my bathtub and I am good too.

I would sing in a choir but I don't think that my bathtub

Would fit into the rows of seats".



## MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A Mutual Ministry Committee has been formed. The purpose of the committee is:

- Serve as a source of support for the pastor and other leaders.
- Serve as a "focus group", representative of the congregation to share ideas for ministry and how best to accomplish what is being proposed.
- Support the pastor's need for spiritual care.
- Dialogue about perceptions and concerns within in the congregation.

These are the committee members who are ready to discuss concerns you may have.

Scot Hoscheid	605-517-0254
Christie Behlings	605-673-1196
Susan Culberson	605-440-0820
Gene Fennell	605-673-2913
Brad McKinney	308-641-1741
Larry Noem	605-440-0497



**W/ELCA HAPPENING**

**Next meeting:** Monday, September 19th at 11:30 AM in Fireside Room.

**Hostesses:** Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be provided.

**Program:** Our speaker will be Duane Martinz. The topic is "Bring the Joy".

The program at our August meeting was an informal discussion of how we would like the next year to look. We decided to focus even more on local missions and needs than we have in the past. With that in mind, a Motion was made and passed to donate \$500 to the Custer YMCA for its scholarship program.

We will also be supporting the Backpack Program at the elementary school by packing items for the backpacks during the last week of November and the first three weeks in December.

The W/ELCA Bear Butte Fall Retreat was discussed and registration forms were passed out to folks who want to attend. The Retreat will be held at Outlaw Ranch on Friday, September 9th and Saturday, September 10th. The Retreat theme is based on 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 "Quilts: God is our Comforter".

At this time, there is not a mission project scheduled for September. Thank you for your generous support of the mission projects that we have sponsored this past year. We appreciate each of you!



**QUILTING** will resume weekly on Tuesday's starting September 6th. We are in need of more fabric, mattress pads, and good full sheets of any color.

More help is always welcome as some of our regulars are "the walking wounded!" We need people to help cut fabric squares and sew edges on new put together quilts. This can be done at Home.

Come, be ready to work and have lots of fun!

"The Cheerful Quilters"



**September Mission Project:**

The W/ELCA is collecting socks for elementary school age children during the month of September. The socks will be taken to Red Shirt Table to be distributed during the Annual Wood Haul in October. The donations may be left on the Ox Cart in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

**HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY  
MARGE BALDWIN!**



Marge will be celebrating her 95th Birthday at the Annex on September 24th from 2-5pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Marge is requesting no gifts, you may send her cards at:

Marge Baldwin  
133 North 3rd ST  
Custer, SD 57730

**WINTER  
WEDDING CELEBRATION**

Jack & Mary Winter will celebrate with cake there recent wedding with their family and friends on Sunday, September 18th, after church in the Fellowship Hall.

Jack & Mary were recently married on May 20th, 2022 at the Huron Airport.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS



The sixteenth Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA met August 8-12, 2022, worshipping together in services of Eucharist and lament, experiencing a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and hearing a public apology in a non-legislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and this church. The following key actions were taken by the assembly:

- Elected Mr. Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the ELCA.
- Directed the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure, and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention' and directed an external audit of the governing documents of this church to consider diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- Authorized revisions to the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of "bound conscience."
- Encourage members, congregations, and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- Referred a proposed study of pay gaps for rostered ministers to the Church Council.
- Mandated a review process of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, On Leave from Call status, and protocols for removal from the rosters, and encourage bishops and synod councils to use sparingly the process of removal from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons.
- Approved the budget proposal for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with spending authorization of \$22,930,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Affirmed limits on the use of non-disclosure agreements by the churchwide organization and urged synods, congregations, and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- Reaffirm the commitment of this church to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of reducing net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Called for a review of the nomination and elections process used by synods and the churchwide organizations. Responded to memorials, including among others those on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, D.C., statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; Roe v. Wade; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave' a process for pre-identification of nominees for the office of presiding bishop; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; a affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.
- Approved or ratified amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, Most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately incorporated ministries; and election procedures for officers and the Churchwide Assembly.
- Elected members of the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and boards of the Separately Incorporated Ministries [see "First Common Ballot Results"].

### REMEMBER MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

CLF Men's Bible Study will be meeting this Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Our focus this Fall continues with the final three of the seven "Letters to the Seven Churches", which are all found within the first three chapters of Revelations. *Everyone is welcomed to attend.*

## FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY DONNA MCCONNELL

Feeding South Dakota's COVID response in 2020 was to close their distribution center to the public and then deliver boxes of food to communities throughout the Black Hills as mobile food pantries. Feeding South Dakota



started bringing boxes of food to Custer during the summer of 2020 once a month for distribution to the community. The truck pulls up and unloads the boxes of food. Typically, each family receives approximately 75 pounds of fresh and frozen produce, dairy, meat, breads and other non-perishable food items. Families pull up in their car, get checked in, and then

the volunteers load the boxes straight into the cars. Storehouse and community volunteers have been showing up for this distribution shine or snow to partner with Feeding South Dakota.



These food box distributions have continued on the second Tuesday of each month since 2020. The number of families has continued to grow so the distribution moved from The Storehouse parking lot to the Buffalo Ridge Resort parking lot to accommodate the growth. The number has grown from 40-50 families at the beginning to currently 150-170 families each month. In July, the distribution was held in the CLF parking lot due to the rally and went so well that Feeding SD would like to continue holding it at CLF as the parking lot is longer and the flow of traffic is better. The Council has graciously approved the use of the parking lot for the food distribution for which Feeding SD is very grateful. If anyone has questions about this program, please feel free to contact me.



## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS AT WEDGEWOOD ASSISTED LIVING

BY COZY DORTON

When the Custer Senior Care Center was open, CLF pastors, musicians, and parishioners led the worship services there, including communion, every three months on a Sunday afternoon. We took turns with other churches. When COVID hit our area, things changed and those services were not allowed or provided. We were sad about it — most especially because we knew the isolation it brought for all residents.

After it was determined in 2022 that we could return, Pastor Pam and a few of us were able to enter the facility and provide services again for a couple of turns. Then, the decision was made to close the Custer Senior Care Center. We responded with sadness and anger for families and residents to be on the search for a place for their loved one to live.

Throughout this time, Sandy Huffman was Activities Director at the Nursing Home. When that closure occurred, she and other staff were transferred to Wedgewood, an assisted living facility near the older hospital and the former nursing home. If you are not familiar, 343 North 10th is the address — on the way to the Custer football and track complex.

Sandy called this summer and asked if we could come on the second Sunday of each month — not as a complete service, but as a singalong. We went on July 10th and it was enjoyable. Some stayed and had lemonade on the patio with JoAnn Evans. Things didn't work out in August, but we are now scheduled for the second Sunday in September, which is September 11th ... a perfect activity for us to share on "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.

On September 11th, CLF will be very busy fulfilling the promise of "God's Work, Our Hands" as they provide and serve a meal to all our Custer County First Responders. It is one way we can express our gratitude for the protection and caring services they provide for our community. There are sign up pages where help is needed; they are at the Welcome Table.



**JAMES HERSCH  
IN CONCERT**

PROCEEDS  
BENEFIT  
OUTLAW  
RANCH

**AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH JAMES HERSCH & FRIENDS**  
**SEPT 17, 2022 | 7 PM**  
**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, RAPID CITY**  
**\$25 TICKETS | OUTLAWRANCH.ORG**

### RAP GROUP TO MEET



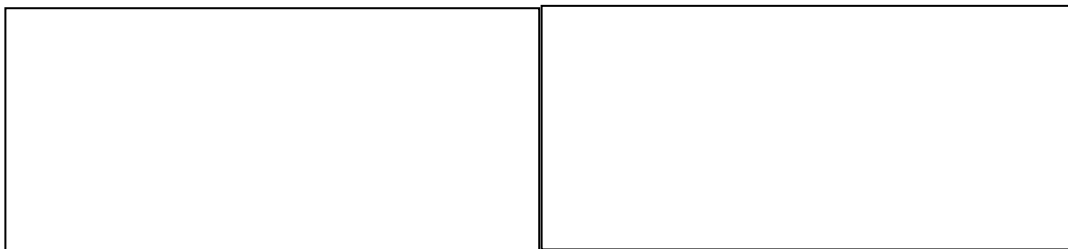
Hey, high schoolers (9th –12th) Graders! Do you like to have fun or be apart of a fun group?

Here is your chance to be a part of a fun group at CLF. New Youth Coordinator Wendi Rusch, would like to meet with you on Wednesday, September 14th to discuss the agenda for the month and future.

She is excited to be meeting with you. Come and be apart of this fun group. If you have questions please call the office at 605-673-4691

Thank you to everyone that places Lynn’s receipts in the can at the Welcome Center. We receive \$100 for every \$10,000 of receipts that we turn in to Lynn’s. Through all of your efforts this year so far, you have helped to bring in a donation of \$900. Let’s keep it going!

*Thank You!*



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE!  
HAVE A GREAT YEAR!  
WHEN WE BACK YOU, WE BACK THE BEST!



## “CHRIST IN OUR HOME” DEVOTIONALS

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



## MONTHLY SATURDAY MEN’S BIBLE STUDY BY ALLEN CANETE

If you asked the average Bible-believing Christian when the last time they read the book of The Revelation, you might get responses ranging from "never have", to "I have, but didn't understand it" to "it's important, so I read it".

It's too easy for us as Christians to skip over this important book of the Bible, with all its mystery, symbolism, destruction, doom and gloom and apocalyptic writing. But, we are reminded that, "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." (Revelation 1:3). This is the only book of the Bible that promises a blessing to both the reader and the hearer who, "takes to heart what is written in it". On that basis, Revelation is probably one of the most, if not the most important book/letter for us to study to increase our knowledge and faith in Christ.

By reading Revelation, if all we walk away with is confusion and fear, we are missing the whole point of the amazing work of God to save his people and "make all things new" that is revealed in this book of the Bible.

Our focus this Fall continues with the final three of the seven "Letters to the Seven Churches", which are all found within the first three chapters. These letters are sort of like the "epistles of Jesus" penned by the Apostle John, the beloved disciple, "whom Jesus loved", and who leaned on Christ's breast during the last supper. This same John who witnessed the events surrounding the Lord Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration, but this time the vision described in Revelation that he has of the Risen Christ is even more glorious,---that it literally slays him. "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead."

In each of the letters that the Lord instructs John to write, there is a familiar pattern. Jesus usually gives a commendation, but also the problems indicated by "what I have against you", and an exhortation and a promise to the overcomer. In each case, these seven churches have different challenges and issues going on within, whether a lack of devotion (Ephesus), persecution (Smyrna), false doctrine (Pergamum) or worldliness (Thyatira). The last three churches He addresses are Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, which we will cover in September through November. Some Bible scholars also are quick to point out that each of the churches are prophetically representations of the different historical progression/regression within the Church Age. It is an interesting observation that we have just touched briefly on.

Even though these letters were written to churches that existed over 1,900 years ago, the message to the churches are also for us today. Much can be gleaned and lessons learned from these churches and how their problems and issues are the same for us today. These letters are like report cards that help all the churches know and understand the trials and tribulations of long ago and also today; and what we should be doing to address them and stay focused. (Hint: it always involves a stronger commitment to and a closer walk with our Lord Jesus Christ).

In addition to studying these letters to the seven churches, the rest of the book of Revelation reveals that it is really a book of hope for us as believers. It dares to look at the evil in this world and the evil ruler of this age squarely in the face and still proclaim that great "nevertheless" of faith and victory that is ours now, and will be forever in Christ. Revelation reminds us that we are really more like colonists from the future, the age that is to come, and the things that we experience in the sacraments and the liturgy are actually from "the kingdom that is to come", that we now live in, in this present world in which we are the real "aliens".

Following the study of the letters to the churches, a study of the remaining chapters 4 - 22 in Revelation is an undertaking that would require more in-depth time, study and commitment, if people so choose and are ready and interested, and would be well worth the future study.

In Christ,  
Allen Canete

## COUNCIL MINUTES — August 16, 2022

**Agenda Additions/Approval**—There was one addition to the agenda. Carol moved, Donna seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.

**Secretary's Report:** The correspondence was reviewed. Mark moved, Carol seconded and the minutes for the July meeting were approved. Worship attendance records were reviewed.

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:** The offerings thru July were 85% of budget (\$25,317) and expenses were 91% (-\$9,536) of budget.

- **Council Action Requested** – discussed offerings and pledge shortfall. Due to the fact that some of the pledge amounts were entered incorrectly in the database, giving statements will be sent out again for the months January – August so that members can verify their pledges and amounts given.
- **Parsonage windows** – the proposal has been received to replace windows in the parsonage over a two-year period. Emily moved, Mark seconded to allocate \$6,000 to replace the windows listed under year one. Motion approved.

**Special Agenda Items:** There were no special agenda items.

### Unfinished Business:

- **Thrivent Choice** – July \$0.00 YTD - \$963.00
- **Amazon Smile** – July \$0.00 YTD - \$ 5.00
- **Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – July \$0.00 YTD - \$800.00
- **Financial Secretary Update** – still looking for names of people to train for this position.

### New Business:

- **Membership changes:** None
- **Montessori Pre-School Update** – They have met their minimum goal of 12 students enrolled. They are hoping to have 15-16 enrolled.
- **Youth Coordinator Update** – Because of Visa restrictions it is a “no go” for Julianna, a counselor at Outlaw Ranch.
- **Sabbatical Policy** – Scot handed out some draft policies for members to look over and make suggestions.
- **Feeding SD** – The food distribution went very well at the CLF parking lot. So well, that the drivers want to continue holding it at church. Emily moved, Mark seconded to allow Feeding SD to use the parking lot for food distribution once each month. Motion approved.
- **Weekly Communion** – Pastor Pam would like to do communion each week. This will start in September.
- **Wednesday Dinner Church** – Pastor Pam is thinking of doing this. It is based on Jesus and the early church. Could meet somewhere in town or at church in the Fellowship Hall and not in Sanctuary.
- **Pastor Performance Review September** – Scot handed out the Pastor Annual Performance Evaluation. Members to each fill out and then will meet September 6<sup>th</sup> to compile.

### Reflections on Mission and Ministry:

Pastor Pam's report was not available. September 9-10 the Bear Butte W/ELCA Meeting will be held at Outlaw Ranch. Pastor Pam will be the speaker.

### Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- **Endowment**, Donna McConnell – reported on account balances thru the second quarter
- **Health Ministry**, Shana Hindman – Nothing to report
- **Mutual Ministry** – has been meeting – will keep info in bulletin
- **Outreach Committee** – will be meeting next Wednesday
- **Property Committee**, Mark Thompson – Will work with Shannon P and get parsonage windows ordered. Meeting this week about main boiler.
- **Social Ministry**, Scot Hoscheid – Reviewed committee activity.
- **W/ELCA**, Jackie Hartwick – Nothing to report
- **Worship & Music**, Christie Behlings – Meeting on Friday to plan upcoming months.

### Next Meeting: September 20, 2022:

Treats – Shana Hindman Devotions – Shana Hindman  
 September 2022 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – Christie Behlings  
 October 2022 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – Jackie Hartwick

### Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer Adjournment

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary

## ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY



### Pentecost 13

Thurs., September 1: Psalm 1; Genesis 39:1-23; Philippians 2:25-30  
 Fri., September 2: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 7:12-26; Colossians 4:7-17  
 Sat., September 3: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 29:2-20; Matthew 10:34-42  
 Sun., September 4: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21  
 Mon., September 5: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 17:24-41; 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
 Tues., September 6: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 18:9-18; 1 Timothy 4:4-16  
 Wed., September 7: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7; Luke 18:18-30

### Pentecost 14

Thurs., September 8: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:1-11;  
 Fri., September 9: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-10a  
 Sat. September 10: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 8:20-9:7; John 10:11-21  
 Sun., September 11: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17  
 Mon., September 12: Psalm 73; Amos 7:1-6; 1 Timothy 18:18-20  
 Tues., September 13: Psalm 73; Jonah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 3:8-13  
 Wed., September 14: Psalm 73; Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6; Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

### Pentecost 15

Thurs., September 15: Psalm 113; Exodus 23:1-9; Romans 3:1-8  
 Fri., September 16: Psalm 113; Ezekiel 22:17-31; Romans 8:31-39  
 Sat., September 17: Psalm 113; Isaiah 5:8-23; Mark 12:41-44  
 Sun., September 18: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7  
 Mon., September 19: Psalm 12; Proverbs 14:12-31; Acts 4:1-12  
 Tues., September 20: Psalm 12; Proverbs 17:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23  
 Wed., September 21: Psalm 12; Proverbs 21:10-16; Luke 20:45—21:4

### Pentecost 16

Thurs., September 22: Psalm 146; Proverbs 22:2-16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15  
 Fri., September 23: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10  
 Sat., September 24: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:11-28; Luke 9:43b-48  
 Sun., September 25: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19  
 Mon., September 26: Psalm 62; Amos 6:8-14; Revelation 3:14-22  
 Tues., September 27: Psalm 62; Hosea 10:9-15; James 5:1-6  
 Wed., September 28: Psalm 62; Hosea 12:2-14; Matthew 19:16-22

### Pentecost 17

Thurs., September 29: Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Kings 18:1-8, 28-36; Revelation 2:8-11  
 Fri., September 30: Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37; Revelation 2:12-29  
 Sat., October 1: Psalm 37:1-9; Isaiah 7:1-9; Matthew 20:29-34  
 Sun., October 2: Habakuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-4  
 Mon., October 3: Psalm 3; Habakuk 1:5-17; James 1:2-11  
 Tues., October 4: Psalm 3; Habakuk 2:5-11; 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21  
 Wed., October 5: Psalm 3; Habakuk 2:12-20; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

## CUSTER MEET & EAT

The monthly Meet and Eat will happen on September 13th  
 5:00 PM— 7:00 PM.

It is located at Custer Community Church  
 6th & Harney in Custer.

Gather for a meal with friends & neighbors. (No Charge)

Everyone is Welcomed to attend.

*Meet & Eat*



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

**Return Service Requested**

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

Place label here.

## **Custer Lutheran Fellowship**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Our Bedrock Beliefs are...**

We grow in faith through worship and sacraments

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

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

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

We have faith only through God's grace.

### **Our Core Values are:**

*Faith, Family, Mission,  
 Service, Worship*



**Ministering at  
 Custer Lutheran Fellowship**  
 Pastor: Pamela Power  
 Office Manager: Mary Winter  
 Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch  
 Parish Nurse: Mary Klein  
 Custodian: Augie Heyne  
 Music: Margaret Tretheway  
 Choir Director: Jennifer Doyle  
 Financial Secretary: Ann Snow  
 Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky  
 SPARK Kids: Wendi Rusch  
**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**