



# CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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Happy Easter

## HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY



Holy Humor Sunday, April 27th, is going to be "Silly Sunday!" Come dressed in your silliest, brightest clothes while we laugh and play and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! It will be so much fun!

## COUNCIL RETREAT

On March 21-22, the CLF council met for a retreat to discuss ways that we can continue to work together, to trust God, and to work with all of the members of CLF to really live by our mission, our welcome statement, and the core values of this congregation. The staff joined us for the Saturday morning session and it was a very fruitful discussion. We agreed to make sure that whatever activities we plan, worship services we participate in, ministries we participate in, we will line them up with our mission. We would invite you to do the same. When we agree to volunteer, participate, or lead anything with CLF, we are encouraged to ask our selves these three questions: How does this Plant God's Word? Does this Nurture Growth in children and adults? Are we scattering seeds of joy and faith in our community? If the answer is YES, then let's work together to make things happen! Feel free to ask questions about our discussion to any of your council members. They are: Helena Buehler, Dave Mertz, Donna McConnell, Sara Mooney, Kathy Bradeen, Craig Black, Karen Barness, and Dave Ruen. Please keep the strong leadership of the council, staff and your pastor in your daily prayers.

## GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK — APRIL 18TH AT 6:30 AM

One of the favorite traditions at CLF is the "Good Friday Cross Walk" around Stockade Lake. We gather at the church at 6:30am to carry the cross together in remembrance of Jesus journey through the streets of Jerusalem. The pace is not fast, and we stop several times to hear scripture and pray together for those who suffer near and far. Back at CLF, we celebrate the beginning of this best and worst of all days with a potluck breakfast. There are sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center for people to read a scripture, carry the cross and pray, as well as bring breakfast items.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Worship at 9:30am

We will begin outside, weather permitting, and process in waving our palms. We will be reading together the Passion of Our Lord according to Luke, a dramatic reading.

Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>: NO WNL (no meal, or worship)

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm, service of Holy Communion

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday—cross walk, 6:30am, worship service 6:30pm

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>: Easter Vigil at Outlaw Ranch

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: Easter Sunday, 6:30am Sunrise Service, breakfast, 9:30am service



## EASTER VIGIL AT OUTLAW RANCH



Outlaw Ranch will be hosting an Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19th with lunch served at noon and an interactive service will be from 1-3 p.m. The Easter Vigil service is a celebration of Jesus' passage from death to life using deep symbols (new fire, spreading light, waters of baptism, etc.) and profound stories (creation, flood, dry bones, etc.) that proclaim God's salvation and love! We will explore these symbols and stories in creative ways at Outlaw Ranch. If the weather is nice we will be moving around the camp, so bring your outdoor shoes and walking sticks. This vigil will be an interactive experience for children/students and their families, and anyone else who joins us in the celebratory fun!

## LAST SUPPER/FIRST COMMUNION

The Spark Kids learned about Communion with Pastor Shannon while Linda Fennell brought the Last Supper to life with costumes and a snack. What a fun way to learn more about Jesus! Let me know if your child would like to participate in their "First Communion" on Maundy Thursday April 17. Contact Wendi 509-494-3236 for more info.



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 2025

Nearly 100 hungry CLF'ers enjoyed sharing breakfast and fellowship at this year's Pancake Breakfast. Our Youth helped out in a big way with cooking, serving and cleaning up chores.

Over \$900 was collected from the free will offering. Our proceeds this year will go to support our Youth programs and Lutheran Disaster Relief (California Wildfires). Thank you for your generosity!



## PARSH NURSE

Jean Witt is a native of South Dakota and mom to 3 grown boys, plus 2 active poodles. She has attended CLF for approximately 35-36 years. Right out of high school she got her nursing education at the Rapid City Regional Hospital School of Nursing and earned her baccalaureate after that. Over the years she has worked in: hospital, medical, rural health, emergency room, oncology, eye institute, psychology, nursing home, office and school nursing. She chose nursing because she likes people and gets satisfaction from helping them navigate the medical system and providing comfort to those in need. As a parish nurse she hopes to assist Pastor Shannon in helping members of the congregation and others, provide support, provide education, be a friendly face, help with medical system navigations, offer blood pressure monitoring and health monitoring, provide education on health topics of interest to the congregation and home visitation as needed. If you have questions, feel free to call her through the church office or visit with her on Sunday mornings.

(written by Rosemary Chappell, Parish Nurse Support)

A relationship  
with God is  
the best  
relationship  
you can have.

I know we can all feel it in the air. Spring. Isn't it lovely? Most of us are longing for that green grass to burst through the brown, cold earth. But here we are, still in Lent. The New Life of Spring, and of the Resurrection is just around the corner. Just not yet. Isn't that how life is when we are waiting for something good to happen, but we can't rush it no matter how hard we try. I was told a few months ago that there are brake people and gas pedal people. People who take things a little more slowly and patiently, and people who like to put the pedal to the metal! When I am driving, I am a "stick to the speed limit" girl, but in life, I am a gas pedal person. When something good is on the horizon, I don't like to wait! During these last few weeks of Lent, I would like to encourage all of us to savor this time of reflection. Our mid-week Lenten services with the theme Bread of Life have been so meaningful. We have learned new prayer practices, new songs, and hopefully even made some new friends. Like most things, learning to do new things also takes time. As we contemplate what is next in our lives, it's important to remember that. Lately it feels like the world is moving at a pace faster than ever, even for me who is a gas pedal person. My new learning during Lent is to take more pauses, pay attention more to what is happening right in front of me. Watching and waiting for what good things are on the horizon rather than trying to run to the edge of the earth to get there first.

God willing there will be green grass very soon, and all those plants that have been staying warm under the earth will be pushing their way through soon enough. In a few weeks, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, but for now, we imagine him in the wilderness preparing for his journey to the cross. Give yourself permission not to rush through this time. We still have Holy Week to reach in order to fully embrace the sacrifice Jesus made for our sake. How will you savor this remaining time of Lent? Praying more, studying more, sitting with friends a little longer? Whatever it is, keep your focus on the Cross, be prepared for the joy of the empty tomb and the new life that is waiting for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Your sister in Christ~Pastor Shannon

## PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR SHANNON WHEN:

- ✦ There is a hospitalization in your family
- ✦ You would like a pastoral visit
- ✦ Someone becomes homebound
- ✦ There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy

- There is a death in your family
- There is a birth or adoption
- Someone becomes unemployed

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 Shannon Witt  
(563) 542-6080 (cell)

[pastor\\_clf@gwtc.net](mailto:pastor_clf@gwtc.net)  
673-4691 (church)



## RAISE THE ROOF ON DAY SPRING AT OUTLAW RANCH

60 years ago, at Outlaw Ranch, Custer Lutheran Fellowship was "born." It was there that the seeds were planted so that we could grow into the congregation we are today. Over the last 60 years hundreds of our young people have had life-changing experiences at summer camp. Young and old alike have participated in retreats, activities, horse-back rides, hikes and adventures at their amazing facility. As we all know, over time the facilities take a lot of wear and tear. One of the buildings that is the home for the female counselors during summer camp, Day Spring is the name of the building, is ready for some renovation. As a Thank Offering for 60 years of ministry partnership, CLF is going to help Raise the Roof and Renovate Day Spring. Our goal is to raise \$60,000 in honor of these last 60 years and to look forward to the next 60 years. Three families have made a commitment for the first \$25K in hopes that our congregation will match that. The other \$10K we hope will be raised by the former members around the country who are excited to celebrate this special relationship between CLF and Outlaw Ranch. If you are willing to contribute, and if you bring a check, please indicate in the Memo line: Day Spring. Make sure and stay tuned about all the fun activities that are being planned to celebrate this Milestone in our ministry!



## 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.

Pickup is 5:00-5:15.

There is NO cost for this program! Contact Wendi 509-494-3236 for more info!



## VBS 2025: July 30th, 31st and Aug 1st! (Wed-Fri)

Volunteers are needed to make it possible for our amazing kids! Our meetings are April 6th & May 18th after Sunday worship around 10:45am. Come see how you can help! Contact Linda at: ([lindafennell@hotmail.com](mailto:lindafennell@hotmail.com)) or Wendi at: ([ruschfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ruschfamily@gmail.com)) to join the adventure!



## RAP YOUTH GROUP

We would love to see all 9th-12th graders join us for Youth Group! We have our weekly Wednesday night gatherings at 6:30pm. During Lent (Mar 12- April 9) we will be combining our Worship, MS and HS youth groups at 6:30 to one big learning group in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome!

THANKS to the eight MS/HS youth who helped with the Pancake Feed!

Contact Wendi #509-494-3236 for more info!



**Youth Spring Sleepover-** Over Easter Break on Thursday, April 17th 7pm-6am! The High school youth and college age young adults are invited to have a Sleepover at the church! It will end for us to do the sunrise Good Friday Crosswalk with breakfast or kids can head home. Let me know if your youth would be interested. Contact Wendi 509-494-3236 for more info!



Easter Brunch will be served between the 6:30am Sunrise Service and the 9:30am Easter Service. Join us for egg bakes, fruit, baked goods, juice and coffee! Sponsored by the High School youth group as a fundraiser for future trips. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would also like to help bring food. Contact Wendi 509-494-3236 for more info.



## Easter Morning Breakfast



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFE

We will continue with our midweek Lenten services until Holy Week with supper from 5-6pm and worship beginning at 6:15pm.

After Easter, in order for Pastor to spend more time working with the Middle and High School youth, there will be no worship following the meal.

Wednesday services will resume when we begin our Outdoor Campfire services on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm with s'mores to share after the service.

**WEDNESDAY  
WORSHIP**



### WORSHIP AND NOISY OFFERING

#### Noisy Offering Monthly Mission Focus

On the second Sunday of the month, we collect a Noisy Offering for our Monthly Mission Focus. This month we are collecting loose change for Lutheran Social Services.

**Contributions may be dropped off anytime during the month as a can will be placed in the Narthex for you to do so.**





**CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

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

Pastor Shannon — pastor\_@gwtc.net

Main address — clf@gwtc.net

**MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please have articles for the May Newsletter to the office by April 23rd. Thank you!

**OFFICE HOURS**

The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 8:00 AM—4:30 PM. The office days and hours are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 AM—4:30 PM

Wednesday 10:00 AM—7:00 PM

Friday OFFICE CLOSED

**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. You can set up your own login/password and make changes with your giving at any time.

**FINANCIAL REPORT****Custer Lutheran Fellowship**

For the Year-to-Date Ending February 28, 2025

	General Fund			Capital Assets, Designated, Restricted & Endowments	
	Actual	Budget	Variance		Total
Total Revenues	\$ 64,842.74	\$ 59,108.00	\$ 5,734.74	\$ 46,958.00	\$ 111,800.74
Total Operating Expenses	58,274.53	63,186.00	(4,911.47)	2,407.13	60,681.66
Other Revenues & Expenses, Net	(131.57)	-	(131.57)	8,902.52	8,770.95
Net Change of Funds	\$ 6,436.64	\$ (4,078.00)	\$ 10,514.64	\$ 53,453.39	\$ 59,890.03

Our general fund has a strong balance at the end of February. The loan balance was \$42,200 at the end of the month. Contributions for mission support were received, including \$292.48 of Noisy Offering for the Good Samaritan Program. We were excited to receive the piano in February as well!



### CUSTER MEET & GREET

The next Custer Meet & Greet meal will be held on Tuesday, April 8th from 5-7 PM. at the Custer Community Church located at 6th & Harney.

Gather for a meal with friends and neighbors  
(no charge and for more information call (605)673-4090)

### 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!

### "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.

### 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!

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

Hello!

The past few months of choir selections have been taken from a cantata entitled, "Come, Touch the Robe" published by the Lorenz Corporation. The publishers state that, "This cantata uses the simple garment that Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of those who were with Him during His last days on Earth. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciples' eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death. It is through these personal, touching moments that our hearts are fully prepared to meet Jesus in an intimate way, allowing us to experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ, and rejoice in the stirring celebration of the resurrection of the Lamb of God."

May we all be willing to touch His robe as we continue our Lenten journey and head into Holy Week. May the music from this cantata allow us to encounter the Christ of healing, glory, authority, humility, and victory as we pass from Lent to Easter reliving the seasons of Jesus' amazing grace. We are excited to share the story through our music together.

We will be putting together a committee to plan the music for CLF's 60th Anniversary service. Please let me know if you would be interested in serving on that committee with me and helping make our celebration meaningful through the music realm.

**The CLF choir will be meeting during the following times in April:**

**Wednesday, April 2 ~ Practice @ 5:30 PM in Sanctuary**

**Wednesday, April 9 ~ Practice @ 5:30 PM in Sanctuary**

**Sunday, March 13 (Palm Sunday) ~ Special music @ 9:30 AM church service**

**Wednesday, April 16 ~ Practice @ 5:00 PM in Sanctuary**

**Thursday, April 17 (Maundy Thursday) ~ Special Music @ 6:30 PM church service**

**Friday, March 18 (Good Friday) ~ Special music @ 6:30 PM church service**

**Sunday, March 20 (Easter) ~ Special music @ 9:30 AM church service**

Blessings in Christ,

Jenn Doyle

[jenniferkaydoyle@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferkaydoyle@gmail.com) or (605) 864-1322

## LOAN PAYOFF

As Custer Lutheran Fellowship enters into it's 60th year the Anniversary Committee would like to challenge the congregation to help pay off our loan. We only owe \$42,000!

Prayerfully consider what you can do to help with this awesome challenge and think how great it would be to start our 60th year debt free!

Thank you for all you do at Custer Lutheran Fellowship, we would not be here without each and everyone of you!





# HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

## SAVE THE DATE:

Join us in Celebrating Custer Lutheran Fellowship June 14 & 15, 2025  
Come and enjoy an evening meal at CLF on the 14th  
along with a program and then a campfire at Outlaw Ranch.  
Sunday June 15th join us for Worship with an Ice Cream Social to follow

To help make this a successful event  
please consider joining one of the

following committees:

Invitations & Marketing

60th Anniversary booklet

Meal Planning

Weekend Photographers

Historical Photography

Testimonial Videos

Saturday evening program

Sunday Worship

Music

Thank Offerings

Faith Stories Booklet

Table displays of Ministries and Missions

60th Anniversary Float for Gold Discovery  
Days

Let Cozy Dorton, Bonnie Thompson, Janna  
Jorgensen or Judy Baldwin know where  
you are able to help

## Other Ways to contribute:

We are celebrating 60 years at  
Custer Lutheran Fellowship and  
would love to give back \$60,000  
to Outlaw Ranch where we began!  
This Thank Offering has generous  
donors that have already agreed to  
match up to \$25,000. We are  
challenging the local  
congregational members to donate  
\$25,000 to this Thank Offering as  
well as challenging our non local  
members and supporters to raise  
another \$10,000 to hopefully reach  
our goal of \$60,000!

## LENTEN SEASON OFFERING - HELP US BUILD A MOUNTAIN

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

Your Social Ministry Team is once again planning an exciting way for us to participate in a Lenten Season Offering. As in recent years, we will be building a mountain at the altar with our offerings. Various items needed by non-profits conducting God's work in our community will be collected during Sunday and Wednesday services for five weeks beginning March 2. We will focus on the following organizations: W.E.A.V.E., The Storehouse; Pine Ridge Diaper Drive, Humane Society—Custer, and Lutheran Social Services.

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

### Shopping List

#### W.E.A.V.E. (Women Escaping a Violent Environment):

A very special organization in our community that has been helping women and children in need for over 20 years.

- ✦ Toilet paper, Paper towels, shampoo and conditioner, Suave Children's shampoo, twin sheets that are new or gently used.

#### The Storehouse:

Their mission is to serve people in Custer County by receiving and distributing with respect and compassion donated food and household items.

- ✦ Canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauce, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce boxed cereals, 32 oz. shelf milk, canned meat and soups.

#### Pine Ridge Diaper Drive:

Diapers are as essential to a child's basic needs as food and shelter—yet state and federal programs do not offer special funding for those in need.

- ✦ Disposable diapers, especially sizes 5's & 6's.

#### Humane Society—Custer:

- ✦ Dry dog food: Purina, or other name brand,
- ✦ Dry cat food: Purina or other name brand
- ✦ Monetary donations to assist with bills, etc. are helpful as well.

#### Lutheran Social Services

Arts and Crafts supplies for Residential Youth Homes and the Women's Re-entry Program

- ✦ Craft kits – any and all kinds
- ✦ Color by number, or paint by number
- ✦ Colored pencils
- ✦ Beading materials (especially for Native American beading)

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

🎵 *Ain't No Mountain High Enough* 🎵





## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES—CONTACT US!

A special Graduation Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 17th**, for all 2025 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 and how many people will attend the breakfast. Email [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net).



# Class of 2025



all healthy  
safe  
accepted



**LSS**  
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

### Who We Are

Since 1920, LSS has partnered with the SD Synod of the ELCA to serve the state and respond to the evolving needs of families and communities.

Our vision: a South Dakota where all are healthy, safe, and accepted.

At the heart of our vision is a diverse range of services dedicated to:

- Strengthening families
- Keeping children in their homes and communities

Learn more about our work at [LssSD.org](http://LssSD.org)

SOUTH DAKOTA  
**CARES**  
LSS DAY OF GIVING

Our Day of Giving is inspired by our very first donation day in the spring of 1921, when more than 100 women and church leaders came together to prepare supplies for the opening of the House of Mercy—the first of many LSS services.

In honor of that historic moment 104 years ago, we come together to celebrate stories of positive change, inspire generosity through matching and challenge gifts, and raise vital funds to support children, families, and communities across South Dakota.

Donate April 24-30 to help build a future where all South Dakotans are healthy, safe, and accepted.



**GIVE EARLY!  
DONATIONS  
ARE MATCHED  
APRIL 1-30!**

[SOUTHDAKOTACARES.ORG](http://SOUTHDAKOTACARES.ORG)



## W/ELCA

Next meeting: Monday, April 21, 2025 @ 11:30 in the Fireside Room  
 Luncheon: Please bring a dish to pass. Our meeting will begin with a potluck luncheon  
 Program: Jessica Lillebo will speak concerning LSS. Jessica will tell us what is new at LSS in the Black Hills. She will also share information about the LSS Day of Giving.

At our February meeting, we were fortunate to have Gene and Linda Fennel share information regarding the month that they spent at the historic Battery Point lighthouse in California. They explained what work and life is like in and around that lighthouse.

Mary Kettl was our speaker at our March meeting. Mary entertained us with a slide show and information about the Lutherans' Outdoors bus tours that she has been managing. She talked mostly about a tour that she hosted last year to Michigan and Wisconsin. The next tour will be to Chicago April 22-26, 2025.

A reminder to each of you that W/ELCA will host the Meet and Eat on April 8, 2025. The event will be held at the Custer Community Church. We will serve from 5:00 till 7:00. All are welcome! We would love to see you there!

## QUILTING

Quilters have been busy despite having to cancel a couple times due to the weather. Twelve quilts have been donated to the VA in Hot Springs. These quilts are used for their Veterans in the Hospice program. Thank you to all who have donated fabric, sheets, and gifts of money to purchase supplies for quilting, it is truly appreciated.  
 Wanda Omodt



## AUCTION OF TALENTS

We want to give one more reminder concerning our annual auction of talents. The auction will be held Sunday, April 27th after the worship service. If you would like to donate an item for the auction, please fill out an "auction of talents" form. Those forms are available on the welcome center. Please fill one out for each item that will be donated. Turn your form or forms into the church office on or before Sunday, April 13. You can also give your form to Barb Lewison, Bonnie Thompson, Julie Taylor or Jackie Hartwick. These forms give us an idea of how to set up for the auction. If you are wondering what can be donated, there is a sign in the narthex. There are also purple "Auction of Talents" sheets on the welcome center. Feel free to take one. Specific food items, service products and craft items are mentioned, but let your imagination and your specific talent be your guide. Auction items to be donated can be dropped off at the church on Saturday, April 26th from 1:00-2:00 in the afternoon. They can be left in the sewing room any time with a label that they are for the auction of talents. They can also be brought to the auction tables on Sunday, the 27th before the worship. Again, please be certain that each item has an auction slip.

Thank you in advance for your support of this fun event. The proceeds of the auction make it possible for us to support local, national and international missions as we learn about their needs. We appreciate the ability to be able to help those in need as God leads us. This month we will be putting together hospice kits to be sent to Pine Ridge and to Global Health Ministries.  
 The W/ELCA ladies wish you a blessed and meaningful Easter!



**Custer Lutheran Fellowship****Council Minutes — February 25, 2025**

**Members Present:** Karen Barness, Craig Black, Kathy Bradeen, Helena Buehler, Donna McConnell, Dave Mertz, Sara Mooney, Dave Ruen, Pastor Shannon Witt and Joy Smolnisky.

**Not Present:**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Acting President Dave Mertz.

**Gathering of Personal Concerns and Joys**

Members shared concerns and joys.

**Reading of CLF Mission Statement and Council Covenant**

Members read the mission statement and council covenant.

**Devotions and Prayers**

Pastor Shannon led the devotion and prayer.

**Agenda Additions/Approval**

There were three additions to the agenda. There was consensus and the agenda was approved (as amended).

**Special Agenda Items:**

**Election of Officers** – Kathy moved, Craig seconded to approve Helena Buehler as President, Dave Mertz as Vice-President and Donna McConnell as Secretary. Motion carried. Helena Buehler took over as President.

**Appointment of Treasurer** – Sara moved, Donna seconded to appoint Joy Smolnisky as Treasurer. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** The correspondence was reviewed. Craig moved, Dave M seconded and the minutes for the **January** meeting and the **Annual Meeting** were approved. Worship attendance records were reviewed.

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:** The offerings thru **January** were 110% (\$2,951.86) of budget and expenses were 93% (-\$2,561.21) of budget.

Dave R moved, Craig seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Thrivent Choice** – January \$ 0.00, YTD - \$ 0.00

**Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – January \$200.00, YTD - \$200.00

**Pictorial Directory Update** – Donna gave an update. Hope to publish by the end of March.

**Internet/WiFi** – Router and optic fiber are installed at the east end of the building. Marcus at Vector will be installing cable throughout the building to connect to it. Pastor Shannon applied and received a \$2,500 STAR grant thru the Synod to help pay for the internet upgrades.

**New Business:**

**Membership changes:** **Loss:** Dick & Darla Klinger to Christ Lutheran, Hartford, SD (ELCA) **Adds:** Morgan Doyle from Our Savior's Lutheran Flandreau, SD (ELCA); Greg Conrad from ; Pam & Jim Erickson from Bethlehem Lutheran, Aberdeen, SD (ELCA); Gregory Conrad from American Lutheran, Huron, SD, (ELCA); Shawn, Keri, Silas, Sam & Sara Cochran, Martin, Courtney & Elara Coombs, Arianna & Grayson Arseneault, and Ena Beaudry (Affirmation of Faith)

**Approval of Bank Signatures** – Craig moved, Dave M seconded to approve the Bank Signatures Form with the adjusted titles. Motion carried.

**Growing Roots Fence and Teepee** – Council gives approval to the fencing and movable structure in back of the church.

**Insurance Update** – Pastor Shannon has met with Jim Welch to figure out our insurance.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Actual anniversary date is in April – we will celebrate on June 21-22. A suggestion was made to do a special offering to commemorate the anniversary by paying off the mortgage. Joy to write a newsletter article.

**Gold Discovery Days Float** – Discussed having a float in the parade celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Membership List** – Helena, Pastor Shannon and Donna to go thru the membership lists to update and get more accurate.

**Pastor's Report:**

**Review Worship & Activities** – Bread of Life is the theme for Lent. There will be no communion after Ash Wednesday until Maundy Thursday. Mid-week services will start at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall with clean-up from 6-6:30.

**Committee & Ministry Team Reports:**

**Caring Hands**, Helena Buehler – Will hold quarterly meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Christian Education**, Kathy Bradeen – Met last Tuesday. Focused on the who, what and where with the committee. VBS – July 30-August 1. Worship help on March 30<sup>th</sup> will be furnished by RAP and SPARK.

**Endowment**, Sara Mooney – Nothing to report.

**Mutual Ministry**, Dave Mertz – Nothing to report.

**Property**, Karen Barness – Nothing to report.

**Social Ministry**, Craig Black – Reviewed committee activity.

**W/ELCA**, Dave Ruen – Auction of Talents – April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship & Music**, Donna McConnell – New grand piano is here. Will meet soon.

**Next Meeting: March 21, 2025: at Retreat**

Treats – Kathy Bradeen Devotions – \_\_\_\_\_.

March 2025 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – \_\_\_\_\_.

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary

**Custer Lutheran Fellowship****Council Minutes — March 21, 2025**

**Members Present:** Karen Barness, Craig Black, Kathy Bradeen, Donna McConnell, Dave Mertz, Sara Mooney, Dave Ruen and Pastor Shannon Witt.

**Not Present:** Helena Buehler and Joy Smolnisky.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dave Mertz.

**Agenda Additions/Approval**

There were one addition to the agenda. There was consensus and the agenda was approved (as amended).

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

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:** The offerings thru **February** were 109.7% (\$5,734.74) of budget and expenses were 92.2% (-\$4,911.14) of budget.

Dave R moved, Craig seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Special Agenda Items:**

There were no special agenda items.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Thrivent Choice** – March \$779.00, YTD - \$949.00

**Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – March \$200.00, YTD - \$300.00

**Pictorial Directory** – Donna gave update. Have entered 127 families so far.

**Growing Roots fence update** – They have started the process for installing a fence in the back. Will be using black chain link fence so is not so noticeable.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Will be held the weekend of June 14-15. Discussed a possible fun fundraising event for Outlaw Ranch.

**New Business:**

**Membership changes:** Transfer – Patrick Witt to Calvary Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD (ELCA)

**Budget for 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Need to set a budget for the event. Craig moved, Dave R seconded to set a budget of \$5,000 with \$3,000 coming from the budgeted student loan payoff and \$2,000 from the Council Discretionary Fund. Motion carried.

**Alternate Giving Options: Venmo & QR Codes** – Donna moved, Dave R seconded to setup a committee comprising of Joy, Sara, Jean and Pastor Shannon to research alternate giving options. Motion carried.

**Other –**

**Chicken Coop/Chickens** – Growing Roots would like to build a chicken coop within their fenced in area and have some chickens. Kathy moved, Karen seconded to allow them to do so. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

**Review Worship & Activities** – Discussed internet options throughout the building. Will have both Golden West Tech and Marcus at Vector to give us one more bid on costs before we make a decision.

**Committee & Ministry Team Reports:**

**Caring Hands**, Helena Buehler – Please let them know if a card needs to be sent to someone.

**Christian Education**, Kathy Bradeen – Meeting next week.

**Endowment**, Sara Mooney – Meeting next week.

**Mutual Ministry**, Dave Mertz – Nothing to report.

**Property**, Karen Barness – Karen passed out an update Property To-Do List from Dave Thom.

**Social Ministry**, Craig Black – Reviewed committee activity – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Build-A-Mountain. The pancake breakfast raised \$925 which will be split between Youth and Lutheran Disaster Relief.

**W/ELCA**, Dave Ruen – Mary Kettl was the program for the March meeting.

**Worship & Music**, Donna McConnell – Haggerty's Music will be turning the new grand piano for the first year.

**Next Meeting: April 15, 2025:**

Treats – Dave Mertz. Devotions – \_\_\_\_\_.

April 2025 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – \_\_\_\_\_.

**Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer****Adjournment**

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary



## ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

### Week around Lent 5

*Thursday, April 3:* Psalm 126, Isaiah 43:1-7, Philippians 2:19-24

*Friday, April 4:* Psalm 126, Isaiah 43:8-15, Philippians 2:25—3:1

*Saturday April 5:* Psalm 126, Exodus 12:21-27, John 11:45-57

*Sunday April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent,* Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

*Monday April 7:* Psalm 20, Exodus 40:1-15, Hebrews 10:19-25

*Tuesday April 8:* Psalm 20, Judges 9:7-15, 1 John 2:18-28

*Wednesday April 9:* Psalm 20, Habakkuk 3:2-15, Luke 18:31-34

### Week around Passion Sunday

*Thursday April 10:* Psalm 31:9-16, Isaiah 53:10-12, Hebrews 2:1-9

*Friday April 11:* Psalm 31:9-16, Isaiah 54:9-10, Hebrews 2:10-18

*Saturday April 12:* Psalm 31:9-16, Leviticus 23:1-8, Luke 22:1-13

*Sunday April 13: Sunday of the Passion,* Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

*Monday April 14: Monday in Holy Week,* Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 36:5-11, Hebrews 9:11-15  
John 12:1-11

*Tuesday April 15: Tuesday in Holy Week,* Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71:1-14, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, John 12:20-36

*Wednesday April 16: Wednesday in Holy Week,* Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 70, Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

### Three Days—Easter

*Thursday April 17: Maundy Thursday,* Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

*Friday April 18: Good Friday,* Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9,  
John 18:1—19:42

*Saturday April 19: Resurrection of Our Lord—Vigil of Easter,* Romans 6:3-11, John 20:1-18

*Sunday April 20: Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Day,* Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43,  
Luke 24:1-12 or John 20:1-18

*Sunday April 20: Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Evening,* Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 114,  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8, Luke 24:13-49

*Monday April 21:* Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Joshua 10:16-27, 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

*Tuesday April 22:* Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a, Revelation 12:1-12

*Wednesday April 23:* Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 2 Samuel 6:1-15, Luke 24:1-12

### Week around Easter 2

*Thursday April 24:* Psalm 150, 1 Samuel 17:1-23, Acts 5:12-16

*Friday April 25:* Psalm 150, 1 Samuel 17:19-32, Acts 5:17-26

*Saturday April 26:* Psalm 150, 1 Samuel 17:32-51, Luke 24:36-40

*Sunday April 27: Second Sunday of Easter,* Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

*Monday April 28:* Psalm 122, Esther 7:1-10, Revelation 1:9-20

*Tuesday April 29:* Psalm 122, Esther 8:1-17, Revelation 2:8-11

*Wednesday April 30:* Psalm 122, Esther 9:1-5, 18-23, Luke 12:4-12

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who is helping with the Lent soup and sandwich meals!





**Custer Lutheran Fellowship, ELCA**  
**12622 US Hwy 16A**  
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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*

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

Pastor: Shannon Witt

Office Manager: Jean Pulscher

Parish Nurse: Jean Witt

Custodian: Augie Heyne

Music & Worship Coordinator:

Jennifer Doyle

Financial Secretary: Janice Albers

Steve Baldwin

Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky

Sara Mooney

Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch

**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**