

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2026

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DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

If you have a wedding anniversary in December, please join us for lunch Monday, January 12th at 11:30 at Crazy Horse. This tradition started in either 2008 or 2009 with couples joining for dinner in January, after the busyness of the Advent and Christmas season. Last year we had 7 couples totaling 320 years of wedded bliss. [If you have an anniversary in December](#), please join us. Please let Judy Baldwin (605-673-1570), Jan Thom (605-440-1099) or Bonnie Thompson (605-673-1047) know if able to attend. We will follow up with phone calls as reminders, or to catch up with those who haven't contacted us.

NEW MEMBER MEETING

Are you interested in joining Custer Lutheran Fellowship? There will be a Meeting on January 18th after Worship in the Fireside Room for anyone interested in joining. If you have any questions please call (605-673-4691) or stop by the office.



CLF (God's) FACILITIES — A LOOK AT NEEDS FOR 2026

As 2025 is wrapped up the property team has been looking at facilities needs for 2026. The Fellowship Hall was constructed about 1974 followed by the "Education Addition" (classrooms) in 1983 and finally a new sanctuary and offices in 2004. While the facility is in good condition and well cared for, some parts are showing age and perhaps more effective use of space could be made with some modifications to meet current and emerging needs. Investments are needed, but first discussions should be held about future use of CLF facilities for God's mission, including summer visitation, pre-school/daycare, youth programs, and storage space. A list of proposed projects for 2026 includes:

- Replace carpet with vinyl plank in the administrative office, education and office wing hallway and stairs to the "Upper Room". Floors in the three offices could be included.
- Replace the carpet on stairs to the "Down Under" with vinyl plank. It is a high-use area, and the carpet is worn and has lingering odor from water damage.
- Update the two education wing bathrooms by painting, and replacing countertops, sink/toilet fixtures and stall dividers and maybe flooring. Modifications for childcare may be needed.
- Construct a small storage room for worship and fellowship supplies in the relatively non-functional space in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall (by the east exit door).
- In the future the exterior of the building needs painting and some windows in the parsonage and church could be replaced.

Preliminary cost estimates could be \$8-12,000 for materials, assuming donated labor. Thus, comes an opportunity for stewardship. "Stewards" could participate by leading/helping with a specific project via time and talent or financially supporting a project.

We strive to steward God's gift of facilities to provide safe, welcoming, and sustainable spaces for worship, fellowship, and community service.

Happy New Year!

I pray that 2026 will be a year filled with blessings of deep joy, good health, and profound love for each and every one of you! I'm the type of person who loves looking forward to all the hope of a new year. However I recently came across this meditation by author Joyce Rupp in her book Out of the Ordinary. The meditation invites us to look back as well as forward. I started filling out my answers, in my journal, then decided this would be a great exercise for anyone. I will share my answers here, and would love to read yours!

A New Year's Meditation

As you look back on the year just completed:

1. What Name would you give to your journey of the past year? **Growth**
How would you describe it to your of your friend? **Growth is hard work!**
What image or metaphor would you use to talk about it? **Growing pains with good results.**
2. What were some of your "epiphanies" of the past year (year discoveries of the Holy One in your midst)? **When I give up trying to do everything by my own strength, and trust that God is cheering me on, that's when the most growth occurs.**
How did you grow because of them? **I was able to see where I needed to clarify my goals and focus on specific areas of needed growth in my life.**
3. Who were your wise persons? **Long time spiritual mentors and friends, my colleagues, my mother and father in law.**
What did they reveal to you? **Growth takes a lot of time and patience and is always changing**
How did this influence your life? **It helped me be patient with myself while at the same time kept me motivated and determined.**
4. Did any of your hopes and dreams become a reality? **Yes! I was able to get to the bottom of some of my health mysteries, specifically food allergies.**
5. What was most satisfying about the year? **Feeling more settled here at CLF**
What was the least satisfying? **So much division in our world!**
6. How did your experience of the past year affect the world in which you live? **It strengthened my resolve to be a peacemaker, and sometimes this is harder than it sounds. I pray that the world I live in can find more peace.**

As you look to the year before you:

1. What name would you like your new year's journey to have? **Courage**
What gifts do you bring with you into the year before you? **Hope and determination**
2. Do you find any resistance within you? **Yes, sometimes courage can be disruptive, and that feels scary.**
Of what are you most afraid as you enter a new year? **Not having the impact that I hope to have in my personal and professional life.**
3. What is your greatest need for the coming year? **Physical, emotional, and spiritual strength.**
4. Who do you bring with you for your support and strength as you begin to journey through the year? **My spouse, adult children, friends/family, colleagues, and congregation**
5. How is your relationship with the Holy One as you pause on the threshold of the new year's vast landscape? **Full of possibility and deeply vulnerable and open to change**
What is at the heart of your new year's prayer? **To trust that God is working to bring goodness and light, I want to have the courage to follow God's deepest calling for my life**
6. What do you hope to contribute to society in this coming year? **To be a wise, thoughtful and loving leader and participant in society**

At the heart of all of my hope for this new year is my gratitude for all that life has to offer! I look forward to hearing what is at the heart of your new year!

Pastor Shannon



CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

Main address— clf@gwtc.net

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

Please have articles for the February Newsletter to the office by **January 20th**. Thank you!



OFFICE HOURS:

The church office is open from 8:00 AM—4:30 PM Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 10:00 AM—7:00 PM on Wednesdays.



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



DO YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES?

Please let the church office know of any recent address changes, new email addresses or changes in your phone numbers whether home or cell phone. We are trying to keep our records up to date. Thank You for your assistance!

THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

7:00 AM — Maria's Mexican Restaurant

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

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE 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

Pastor Shannon at 563-542-6080; pastor_clf@gwtc.net; or the church office at clf@gwtc.net or 605-673-4691.

JOIN A DISCIPLESHIP TEAM: A NEW WAY TO SERVE!

We're changing how we coordinate volunteers for Sunday worship, and it's simpler than ever. We're assembling teams of 12 people each—Discipleship Teams—to share their time and talent with Custer Lutheran Fellowship starting January 2026.

Why Teams?

You might have noticed we often struggle to fill the weekly sign-up sheets for roles like Reading, Ushering/Greeting, Communion Assisting, Videoing, PowerPoint Operation, and Fellowship Hosting. We assume many of you are willing to help but may miss the sign-up sheet or have an unpredictable schedule.

With this new team rotation system, **you only need to volunteer once every three months!**

Look for the white board in the Narthex soon, and prayerfully consider which team you would like to join for 2026.

(You can sign up for more than one team!)

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING CHALLENGE

Custer Lutheran Fellowship has completed the "1,000 Pounds in One Year." It started January 5, 2025, and was actually reached on November 5, 2025.

This means that a bench has been ordered for the fenced playground. A new challenge will be started early in January, 2026. For now, we will be "stockpiling" bags for the new challenge.

Thank you to the gatherers: Linda Fennell—Custer Y, Shana Hindman—Senior Center, Donna McConnell—Storehouse, Sarah Myers—Courthouse Annex, Laura Burden—Wild Spruce, and Phil Lewison—Custer Lutheran Fellowship.

Thank you to those who take the bags to Rapid City—Gene and Linda Fenell, Jeff and Betty Rohr, and Monni Kariem.

A special thanks to Scott Luikart for technical assistance.

Thank you to everyone who recycles plastic film.

A friendly reminder to not recycle pet food bags or crackly plastic like grape bags or hard plastic containers.

CHOIR NEWS

Greetings!

What a beautiful Advent season! I want to extend a huge thank-you to Jaycie Pulscher for accompanying our choir on the flute in December. She did a wonderful job and added so much to our December piece. As I look back over the past year, I can't help but reflect how much our choir has grown and how much I truly enjoy singing with them. Thank you so much to those that come and dedicate themselves to praising our Lord through song. I am blessed to work with such a talented group of people and look forward to a new year together!

Last month, we also tried a younger student choir during the Christmas program. Students in grades five and above gave up recesses to prepare the piece. It was so much fun to work with them as well! I am hoping that we can do that again soon. The youth have so much energy and push me to practice! It is a joy to see them happily and willingly join together in song even with all of their busy schedules.

Our choir will meet on the following Wednesdays in January. Please note that we will be back to our 4:30 PM time and will also have a break on Wednesdays between practices. We will be singing a spiritual song entitled "*I Must Tell Jesus*."

January Choir Schedule:

Rehearsal ~ Wednesday, January 7 @ 4:30 PM

Rehearsal ~ Wednesday, January 21 @ 4:30 PM

Special Music ~ Sunday, January 25

Ready to praise our newborn King,

Jenn Doyle

jenniferkaydoyle@gmail.com or (605) 864-1322

ANNUAL MEETING TIME

Please add January 25th to your calendars as we prepare for the Annual Congregational Meeting that will start at 10:30 AM following Worship. Remember to bring a dish to share as we enjoy a potluck meal during the meeting.

Grab a cup of coffee and a treat and join our Treasurers in the Sanctuary for the budget forum on January 11th following Worship to get all of your budget questions answered.



SPARK

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. We currently have 20 kids signed up for Spark. CLF is committed to the spiritual education of the kids from our church and community and we would love you to come support Wed dinners, worships and our youth! The attendance for Wed meals and worships has declined in the past few years but we want WNL to continue for years to come! You can come join the fun! Contact Wendi for more info! #509-494-3236



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The kids did a great job for our Children's Christmas Program! We had 24 preschool- elementary kids and even enjoyed having some who had moved away come back to be a part of this special tradition! Thanks to Linda Fennell for putting it together, all the asst teachers... especially Lise' White, Carol Niemann, and Linda Schleman who were there for the performance. Thank you to Keri Cochran on piano and Jean Pulscher & Cindy Heyne who put together 50 treat bags for our kids and those in the audience. What a special reminder of the "reason for the season"!



RAP GROUP

The High School Youth Group had a great time in December! We delivered singing Christmas telegrams with Santa hats and jingle bells. It was touching to see how this made people so happy to receive them. For the 3rd year we joined the Outlaw Ranch hayride in the Christmas parade to toss candy. This time we even won the "Holiday Spirit" award! There were 13 youth at the Christmas Party! We laughed and played games, snacked, and did a white elephant exchange! Our last Wed of the year we baked cookies and even had some former Youth home from college join the fun! We meet on Wednesdays and would love to have ALL 9th-12th graders join us!

Contact
Wendi Rusch
#509-494-3236
to get involved!



W/ELCA HAPPENINGS!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 19, 2026 at 11:30 in the Fireside Room. We will begin our meeting with a potluck luncheon at 11:30.

The program for that meeting is TBD. Please watch the church bulletin for details as the time of the meeting gets closer.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation once again for your support of the Craft and Goodie Sale that occurred in November. Thanks to those who donated and to those who shopped, we were able to add close to \$1800 to our treasury. That in turn will be shared with local as well as national missions that are in need. We appreciate being able to do that! Bless you for your continued support!

Our mission project for January through March is to collect items for the quilters at CLF. The quilters work to make quilts and lap robes for various groups and individuals in need throughout the year. It is a marvelous outreach program! The materials needed by the quilters are as follows: thread; cotton fabric suitable for making quilts; cotton blankets, and/or mattress pads for inside quilts. Items can be left on the oxcart in the Narthex or in the quilting room. We appreciate our quilters and we appreciate you for your support of this very worthwhile program. We wish each of you a a blessed new year!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR INTERFAITH DAY 2026

Join the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota for the annual Interfaith Day at the State Capitol in Pierre on **January 29, 2026**.

Honoring our commitment to the free exercise of religious faith, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, we would be grateful if you could join us for a day at the Capitol as we engage in conversations and pray for peace with our neighbors of all faiths across the state of South Dakota.

2026 ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Every year, the Fund for Leaders awards approximately 30 full-tuition scholarships to future ELCA pastors and deacons who are planning to attend an ELCA seminary. In spring 2026, the Fund for Leaders will once again offer scholarships to ministry candidates pursuing seminary study — and we need your help to spread the word!

The application window for full-tuition scholarships will be open through Feb. 20, 2026. If you know of promising and gifted people discerning a call to rostered ministry in the ELCA, encourage them to visit [ELCA.org/FundForLeaders](https://www.elca.org/FundForLeaders) today to learn more.

The Fund for Leaders team is ready and willing to answer any questions about the application process. **Reach out to them at fundforleaders@elca.org or 800-638-3522.**



CARING HANDS COMMITTEE NEEDS A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS

Just in case you need a refresher about what this committee involved in, here is a quick summary:

The Caring Hands Committee consists of five teams:

The Prayer Team

The Meal Team (new name: The Broth and Bread Brigade)

The Transportation Team

The Visitation Team

The Card Team

The purpose of the committee is to provide care and love in Jesus's name for the members of our congregation and community during times of both difficulty and celebrations. We are currently in need of adding a few more people to our some of the teams. The teams currently needing volunteers are the Meal Team, the Transportation Team, and the Visitation Team. The Meal Team is currently headed up by Jackie Hartwick and she is hoping to pass the reigns to a new leader as she is planning to move closer to family in the near future. This team provides meals for families when there is a need, whether it is because of illness, surgery, or the birth of a child, and many other occasions. As you will read in a different article, we have some ideas to get more meals prepped ahead of time. The Transportation team is headed up by Cozy and Bob Dorton. They help to arrange a ride to and from appointments in Custer and as far as Rapid City if needed. We need a few more people who can be called when a ride is needed. The Visitation Committee is headed up by Pastor Shannon. She is willing to offer training to people who would be willing to join this team to make home, hospital, and care center visits to members of our congregation when they are experiencing illness or loneliness.

Finally we are looking for a Caring Hands Committee Chairperson. This person is the one who schedules quarterly meetings and provides reports for the Council.

Prayerfully consider which team you feel called to serve on and let Pastor Shannon know. You will not only brighten the life of another person, you will also have fun getting to know the members of our congregation even better!

THE BROTH AND BREAD BRIGADE

Do you love to cook in a beautiful kitchen beside others who share your love of cooking? Then we have a fun opportunity for you to join others with the same love! The concept of this group that we are forming is to support our Caring Hands Meal Deliver Team. We are in the beginning stages of building this ministry and would love your input. Our first meeting will be Monday, Jan. 19 from 5-6pm. At this meeting we will be looking at leadership, a mission statement, and some strategies to make it a sustainable group. The basic structure will be to come up with a day a month where we gather to cook and package meals that can be frozen and ready to deliver as needed. If you aren't able to attend, but would like to be part of this ministry, please let either Pastor Shannon or Jean Pulscher, our Office Manager, know.

One of my favorite seasons of the church year is Epiphany and it unfortunately collides with one of my least favorite seasons of the Western Hemisphere's seasons. Please don't judge me for this...but yes, Winter is my least favorite Season! However, this year one of my resolutions is to combine the two and enjoy both!

THANK YOU!

Darryn and I would like to thank you all for the love you showed to us over the holidays. The kind words, cards, thoughtful gifts, and prayers mean so very much. We feel very blessed to be part of such an incredible congregation. With love and gratitude, Pastor Shannon and Darryn

WEDNESDAYS OF FUN! JAN 7- FEB 11

Wednesdays of Fun! Jan 7- Feb 11

The six weeks before Ash Wed, we will be having Family Learning classes at the church. There will be the regular meal 5:15-6:00, but instead of Worship and MS/HS Youth Grp, you can choose a class to attend. Each Wed 6-7pm we will have four options to pick from. Sign up in the Narthex so teachers have enough materials. The whole family can attend the classes as we have fun making memories together! Let's build friendships and share our gifts! All are welcome!



Jan 7th:

Cake decorating- Helena Buehler
Sign Language- Wendi Rusch
Line Dancing- Shana Hindman
Painting- Shannon Witt

Jan 14th:

Cupcake decorating- Helena Buehler
Sign Language- Wendi Rusch
Line Dancing- Shana Hindman
Birds & Flowers- Connie McKinney

Jan 21st:

Cookie decorating- Helena Buehler
Sign Language- Wendi Rusch
Gentle Yoga- Jackie Hartwick
Bible 101- Shannon Witt

Jan 28th:

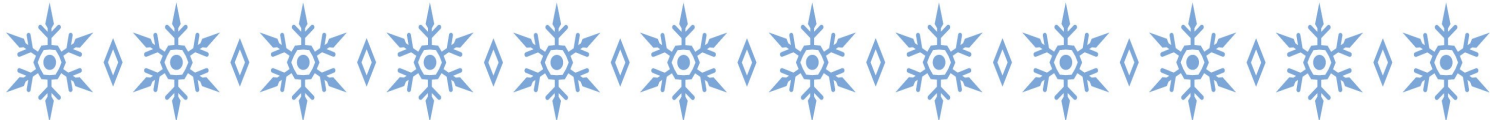
Cooking- Jean Pulscher
Help for Anxiety- Whitney from United Way
Line Dancing- Shana Hindman
Camp Games- Matt Rusch

Feb 4th:

Cooking- Jean Pulscher
Flower Arrangement- Jenny Behlings
Gentle Yoga- Jackie Hartwick
Painting- Shannon Witt

Feb 11th:

Cooking- Jean Pulscher
Calligraphy- EJ Reid
Gentle Yoga- Jackie Hartwick
Music- Jenn Doyle



ONLINE PHOTO DIRECTORY

Are you interested in having access to the photo directory online? Download the "Instant Church Directory" app from your app store. Look for this picture in the app store. Open the app and click on the create login button. Enter **your email address that is used in the directory**, create a password and click login. Check your inbox for an email from service@instanchurchdirectory.com. Verify your email by clicking on the link sent. Then you can open the app and click **sign in**. If you need help, you can always stop by the church office and we will do our best to help you out!



If you have joined CLF this year and your picture is not in the current directory, please email or drop off a picture that you would like us to add to the directory along with your address, email, and any phone number you would like to be included. If you need a picture taken, we can do that too. Just let Jean know and we can set something up! It would be great to get the directory updated!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Custer Lutheran Fellowship

General Fund Budget to Actual

- - - - Year To Date (November FY 2025) - - - -			
Account	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Revenues	\$ 338,075.70	\$ 325,092.00	\$ 12,983.70
Expenditures			
Pastoral Leadership	75,189.11	82,298.00	(7,108.89)
Worship	19,816.46	22,227.00	(2,410.54)
Education	24,941.43	25,349.00	(407.57)
Mission Support	34,301.40	33,943.00	358.40
Support/Care	5,021.00	7,998.00	(2,977.00)
Office Administration	51,322.45	51,510.00	(187.55)
Office Operations	5,313.64	15,197.00	(9,883.36)
Facilities Expenses	73,130.77	82,219.00	(9,088.23)
Total Expenditures	289,036.26	320,741.00	(31,704.74)
Total Other Revenues	1,476.82	-	1,476.82
Total Other Expenditures	1,284.05	-	1,284.05
2024 Net Transfers	(24,763.00)	-	(24,763.00)
Change in Net Assets	24,469.21	4,351.00	20,118.21

DELTA DENTAL MOBILE TRUCK

The Delta Dental mobile program has been able to provide services to the children of Custer because of the generosity of a previous donor from Custer Lutheran Fellowship. That money has now been used up and CLF has been continuing to fund the program. If you are interested in helping with a monetary donation, please make a notation on your check or let the office know. Here is a summary of what was done this past September.

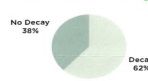


DELTA DENTAL[®]

Mobile Program Truck Visit Summary

Location: Custer Kids Served: 39
 Date: September 8-12, 2025 Value of Dental Care: \$51,627

Percentage Of Kids With Tooth Decay



The Kids' Oral Health*

- 1 missed school because of dental pain in the last year. 56% drink sweetened beverages daily.
- 11 indicated tooth ache. 0% use tobacco.
- 2 visited an ER/Hospital because of dental pain in the last year. 82% brush daily.
- 4 had never seen a dentist before.

Care Provided

Each child was provided a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and a lesson on how to use them and better care for their teeth at home.

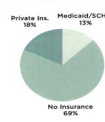
Diagnostic Procedures: 92 | \$5,299 Preventive Procedures: 312 | \$17,335
 Exam, X-Ray Cleaning, Sealants, Fluoride Varnish
 Restorative Procedures: 130 | \$28,993
 Cavity Fillings, Crowns, Extractions

Sealants Placed

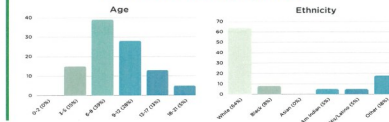
185

Dental sealants are thin coatings applied to molar (back) teeth to prevent cavities. Generally for kids age 6-13, sealants reduce the risk of tooth decay by up to 80% for several years.

Benefits/Coverage



Patient Demographics*



Household Income/Size*

20% with income less than \$10,000 with an average of 2.3 children
 14% with income between \$10,000-\$20,000 with an average of 3.0 children
 9% with income between \$20,000-\$30,000 with an average of 2.7 children
 57% with income more than \$30,000 with an average of 2.9 children

Gender

54% male
 46% female

All data with * was reported by parent/guardian on the Patient Information form.

Delta Dental of South Dakota www.deltadental.sd.com | (605) 627-3961

Custer Lutheran Fellowship**Council Minutes — December 16, 2025**

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

Guest: Pastor Wilbur Holtz, Trinity Lutheran Church, RC, who is the rostered leader for the Bear Butte Conference on the Synod Council.

Not Present: Dave Mertz

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Helena Buehler.

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

Dave Ruen led the devotion and prayer.

Pastor Holtz spoke to the Council about Synod happenings and asked if we had any concerns.

Agenda Additions/Approval

There were two additions to the agenda. There was consensus and the agenda was approved as amended.

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

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru November were 104% (\$12,983.70) of budget and expenses were 90% (-\$31,704.74) of budget. Part of the reason that expenses were less was from using designated funds instead of general funds. Karen moved, Dave R seconded to approve the Treasurer's report.

Motion carried.

Approve Furnishing Allowance 2026 requested by Pastor

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to designate \$5000.00 of the total cash salary for 2026 to be paid to Rev. Shannon Witt as a furnishing allowance in response to minister's request and acknowledgment that the allowance so designated will not exceed actual expenses for their home including utilities, upkeep and repairs, insurance, and furnishings. Therefore, cash salary shall be \$56,808.00. and furnishings allowance shall be \$5,000.00. Donna moved, Karen seconded to approve the 2026 Furnishing Allowance. Motion carried.

Proposed 2026 Budget – Joy and Sara went over the proposed budget and some the changes that may be necessary. Council will vote on budget at January meeting.

Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

Unfinished Business:

Thrivent Choice – November \$ 0.00, YTD - \$1,442.00

Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts – November \$200.00, YTD - \$1,400.00

Policy & Procedures Update – Most are completed. Will approve all at the January meeting.

Growing Roots Fundraiser Update – They raised about \$3,500 and reached their match. They will have \$6,500 to go towards the sprinklers.

January/February WNL Update – Have a wide variety of classes planned. Working on getting the first 3 weeks filled.

Nomination Committee Update – Still working on potential names.

New Business:

Membership changes: None

Leadership Book – Pastor Shannon passed out the book, "Dare to Lead" by Brene' Brown. Plans on holding classes during the day, evening and weekend.

Building Use Goals – Table until January meeting.

Coffee Pot – Need to research purchasing Bunn coffee pots to reduce coffee waste. Dave R will work with Jean.

Insurance Gift – Pastor Shannon working with Kathy McHenry about a potential insurance gift from a member who would like to donate a life insurance policy to CLF. We would have to pay the premiums. Sara moved, Craig seconded not to accept this gift as it doesn't follow the gift acceptance policy. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Review Worship & Activities – Recovering from a virus, but other than that, all is going well.

Thursday, January 1, 2026, Psalm 32:6-7

The Joy of Forgiveness IV

Friday, January 2, 2026, Psalm 32:8-9

The Joy of Forgiveness V

Saturday, January 3, 2026, Psalm 32:10-11

The Joy of Forgiveness VI

Sunday, January 4, 2026, John 1:35-51

Jesus Says Come and See

Monday, January 5, 2026, Psalm 66:1-5

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel I

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, Psalm 66:6-7

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel II

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Psalm 66:8-12

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel III

Thursday, January 8, 2026, Psalm 66:13-15

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel IV

Friday, January 9, 2026, Psalm 66:16-19

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel V

Saturday, January 10, 2026, Psalm 66:20

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel VI

Sunday, January 11, 2026, John 2:1-11

Wedding at Cana

Monday, January 12, 2026, John 2:12

Jesus Goes to Capernaum

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, Psalm 104:1-9

God the Creator and Provider I

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Psalm 104:10-23

God the Creator and Provider II

Thursday, January 15, 2026, Psalm 104:24-26

God the Creator and Provider III

Friday, January 16, 2026, Psalm 104:27-30

God the Creator and Provider IV

Saturday, January 17, 2026, Psalm 104:31-35

God the Creator and Provider V

Sunday, January 18, 2026, John 2:13-25

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Monday, January 19, 2026, Psalm 127:1-2

God's Blessing in the Home I

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Psalm 127:3-5

God's Blessing in the Home II

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, Psalm 128:1-2

The Happy Home of the Faithful I

Thursday, January 22, 2026, Psalm 128:3-4

The Happy Home of the Faithful II

Friday, January 23, 2026, Psalm 128: 5-6

The Happy Home of the Faithful III

Saturday, January 24, 2026, Psalm 129:1-8

Prayer for the Downfall of Israel's Enemies

Sunday, January 25, 2026, John 3:1-21

Nicodemus

Monday, January 26, 2026, John 3:22-30

Jesus and John the Baptist

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, John 3:31-36

The One Who Comes from Heaven

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, Psalm 139:1-6

The Inescapable God I

Thursday, January 29, 2026, Psalm 139:7-12

The Inescapable God II

Friday, January 30, 2026, Psalm 139:13-18

The Inescapable God III

Saturday, January 31, 2026, Psalm 139:19-24

The Inescapable God IV

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

Caring Hands, Helena Buehler – Held quarterly meeting. Will make changes to committee in 2026. Need someone to chair.

Christian Education, Kathy Bradeen – Youth Christmas program was great. Need to set a meeting date.

Endowment, Sara Mooney – Nothing to report.

Mutual Ministry, Dave Mertz – Nothing to report.

Property, Karen Barness – Dave Thom conducted a walk-thru of the church to go over the proposed 2026 updates.

Social Ministry, Craig Black – Reviewed committee activity. Discussed the firewood funds and Build-A-Mountain.

W/ELCA, Dave Ruen – Nothing to report.

Worship & Music, Donna McConnell – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2026:

Treats – Donna McConnell Devotions – Craig Black

January 2026 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – _____.

Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary



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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: Rob Conn

Worship & Music Director:

Jennifer Doyle

Financial Secretary:

Janice Albers &

Steve Baldwin

Treasurer: Sara Mooney &

Joy Smolnisky

Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch