

# CROSSROADS

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

### Pancake Breakfast - 2026

Nearly 100 hungry CLF'ers and guests enjoyed breakfast and fellowship at this year's Pancake Breakfast. Nearly \$900 was collected from the free will offering. Such proceeds this year will go to support the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center and its partner, Iglutheca.

Iglutheca (ee-gloo-teh-chah) is a Lakota word meaning "to renew yourself" or "to make yourself new". Its Mission is to provide a pathway for homeless Lakotas out of addiction and poverty.

Thank you for your generosity!

Iglutheca provides shelter to those in need during inclement weather.



### Easter Brunch

Easter Brunch between 6:30am and 9:30am Worships: ALL volunteers from the church are invited to help provide egg bakes/breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, baked goods- like muffins or donuts, juice and youth to serve the food. This is a MS/HS Youth fundraiser for our trips. Contact Wendi Rusch #509-494-3236 or see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



### Reminder

Daylight Savings Starts March 8<sup>th</sup>, remember to "spring forward" and set your clock 1 hour ahead before going to bed March 7<sup>th</sup>!



### Easter Lilies



If you are interested in providing an Easter Lily to help decorate the church for Easter, please bring them to the church by April 2<sup>nd</sup>. If giving in honor or memory of someone please let the office know by Marc 30<sup>th</sup> so the names can be listed in the bulletin.

### CLF Office Contact Information

 605-673-4691

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

 12622 US Hwy 16A  
Custer, SD 57730

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

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## Pastors Ponderings

During the week right before Lent began I had the awesome opportunity to take a one week retreat at the Spirituality Ministry Center in Ocean Beach, California. While being in CA, it was all the things you can imagine being this time of year (warm, sunny, beautiful), it was better than I imagined. I brought with me a list of all of the things I wanted to accomplish and the Spiritual Director had me throw my list away and start over! She said the main purpose of this retreat center was to learn to spend time with God again with no list of productivity, just a commitment to connect with God.

At first I felt completely untethered...I asked, "What do you mean no productivity?" She laughed and reminded me that I was on God's time, not my time, for the next six days. It took me a good two days to settle into a slower rhythm of praying, reading, doing art, walking, and writing my thoughts. By day five I was in a good pattern, but then panicked a bit knowing I only had one more day and told her I didn't feel like I had accomplished much. Once again, she laughed. I'm still in that trap, but I am excited to see how I can work my way out of it and into a more healthy and sustainable way of living.

Maybe some of you are like me and fall into a productivity and accomplishment trap when it comes to how we feel like we need to live our lives. The one thing that my Spiritual Director did on my last day was to ask me to write down a Rhythm and Rule of Life and commit to it during the season of Lent. She said it didn't need to be in great detail, but in enough detail that I would have to look at it and hold myself accountable to it each day. I'd like to share with you the outline and suggestions that she gave me.

Perhaps it is something you could use as well.

- List your Core Values
- What do you need to stay focused on your values?
- What are your Gifts, your Desires, your Vision, and your Mission?
- What does Sabbath look like and when will you take it?
- Daily Spiritual, physical, and vocational goals
- Weekly Spiritual, physical, and vocational goals
- Monthly Spiritual, physical, and vocational goals
- Quarterly Spiritual, physical, and vocational goals
- Yearly Spiritual, physical, and vocational goals

At the top of the page, the answer to what I need to stay focused on my values is: put more time in prayer and solitude. That is what my Lenten focus is going to be, more prayer and solitude. I'd love to hear what your Rhythm and Rule of life look like! What do you need to make it a healthier and more sustainable way of living?

Blessings on the journey, Pastor Shannon



### MS YOUTH GROUP/CONFIRMATION

Beginning Feb. 25 and through March 25 this will be our schedule:

5:15-6:00pm Supper

6:15-6:45pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship Service

6:45-7:30pm Class/group activities

Mentors are invited to join us on March 25<sup>th</sup> for the whole evening!

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**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](mailto:clf@gwtc.net)  
 Pastor: [pastor\\_clf@gwtc.net](mailto:pastor_clf@gwtc.net)

**April Newsletter Deadline**

Please have articles for the April Newsletter to the office by March 19th.  
 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.

**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!

**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.

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

**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

Pastor Shannon at 563-542-6080; [pastor\\_clf@gwtc.net](mailto:pastor_clf@gwtc.net);  
 or the church office at [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net) or 605-673-4691.

**"Christ in Our Home" Devotionals**

The "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The January to March issue is here. We give thanks to W/ELCA for providing this devotional for your personal use. If you would like an issue, you can stop by the office to pick one up, or contact the church office to have a copy.

**Mission of the Month**

As you know, we do a Mission of the Month with our noisy offering, this year we are going to be supporting the philosophy of "kids helping kids" and have decided that the noisy offering will go to help Pine Ridge kids projects. Thank you for all of your support that you have continually given to our Mission of the Months! The noisy offering will be gathered on the first Sunday of each month.

## W/ELCA Auction of Talents

The Auction of Talents will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2026. The Auction of Talents provides an opportunity for fun and involvement for the entire congregation. Folks are invited to share their talents to help support the missions of W/ELCA.

Talents can be in the form of food items, craft items, or an offering of a service.

Examples of food items:

Frozen pheasant, salmon, farm fresh eggs, pies, rolls, cookies and cakes.

Craft items have come from wood, ceramics, paper, yarn, and fabric.

Examples of service products:

Babysitting, baking cookies for a particular event, providing a meal, providing wood for heat, and dog sitting or walking.

Let your imagination be your guide!

This year, the donated items will be brought to church and then sold with the help of our own talented auctioneer---Alan Webster. Whether you are a person who likes to donate or a person who likes to bid or both, come prepared to have fun. Also, see a competitive side of the folks in our congregation that you have not seen before!

Please save the date and plan to attend the CLF Auction of Talents. That date is Sunday, April 26 after the worship service. Of course, coffee and refreshments will be provided!

Come and be amazed at all that is offered!

## GROWING ROOTS POSSIBLE EXPANSION

Please join together for a brief congregational meeting to hear about the possibility of the expansion of Growing Roots Preschool to include children ages birth to 3 years old. In order for this expansion to occur, two of the storage rooms in the education/office wing of the church would need to be renovated. Our church council has approved the preliminary work and would like to offer the opportunity for the congregation to ask questions, hear more details, and dream about ways that we can support this opportunity. The meeting will be March 8<sup>th</sup> during our fellowship time after worship.

## Choir Information

Greetings!

Our choir will meet on the following Wednesdays in March. Please note that we will be meeting at 4:30 PM, and we will also have a break on one Wednesday between practices. We will be singing a song entitled "I Heard Him Once." All are welcome.

March Choir Schedule:

Rehearsal ~ Wednesday, March 4 @ 4:30 PM

Rehearsal ~ Wednesday, March 18 @ 4:30 PM

Special Music ~ Sunday, March 22

Blessings in Christ,

Jenn Doyle

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



## 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. We currently have 21 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! Please come on Wed to sit with a family or help with the meal. We want to keep the SPARK alive! Thanks Linda Fennell for leading the week I was gone! Contact Wendi for more info! #509-494-3236



### VBS

Please save the date for VBS this summer! It will be July 27th, 28th and 29th! (Mon-Wed with closing campfire at Wed Worship) Let me know if you are interested in being a part of the team and how you would like to help. You can volunteer as much or little as your schedule allows and in a variety of ways. Our first meeting is March 15th to discuss our theme and rotations. The next mtg will be April 12th. Both mtgs are after worship in the Fireside Room. Come see how you can help!

Contact Wendi  
([ruschfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ruschfamily@gmail.com)) or  
Linda ([lindafennell@hotmail.com](mailto:lindafennell@hotmail.com))  
to join the adventure!



### RAP Group - Youth Group

We are so excited to welcome all 9th-12th graders to join us at Youth Group! Each Wed we meet downstairs around 6:30 following worship at the church. We are looking forward to learning more about our faith, having fun and enjoying friendships. You don't have to be a member of the church to join Youth Group! Invite your friends! All are welcome! Contact Wendi #509-494-3236, for more info or ways to get involved.

April 5th- Easter Brunch between 6:30am and 9:30am Worships: we need food items and people to serve them. This is a Youth fundraiser for our trips. Summer 2027 is the next Youth Gathering! (Current 7th-11th graders will be going!) See sign-up sheet in Narthex or let Wendi know how you can help!



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## 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 February 22nd. We will focus on the following organizations: W.E.A.V.E., The Storehouse, Pine Ridge Diaper Drive, Lutheran Social Services, and Custer Humane Society. Listed below you'll find items needed by each of these non-profit organizations:

### **Shopping Lists:**

#### **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.

- Angel Soft toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo & conditioner, small bottles of dish soap, body wash, body lotion

#### **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 chicken, canned peaches, canned pears, spaghetti sauce, cereal of all kinds

#### **Pine Ridge Diaper Drive/Sock Collection**

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

- Disposable diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6 (some 1s, 2s & 4s as well). Also, adult socks are always needed

#### **Custer Humane Society**

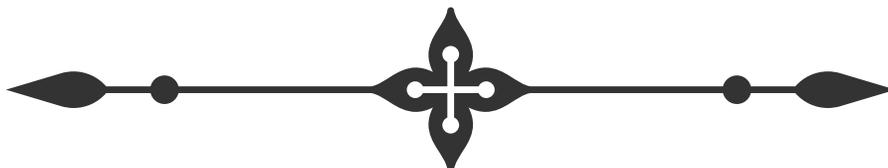
This is a no-kill animal shelter serving Custer County. Sole support comes from private donations and fundraisers. Many of the animals are older or have health issues and will live out their lives at the shelter.

- Dry dog food, Purina, or other name brand, dry cat food, Purina or other name brand, blankets, monetary donations to assist with vet bills, etc. are needed as well.

#### **Lutheran Social Services**

LSS provides a wide range of services to support and empower families, youth, older adults and refugees. Everyone who enters their doors receives support unique to their circumstances.

- Individual packed snacks such as jerky, beef sticks, crackers, cookies.





Please color me and cut me out and bring to church before Easter.



We had 60+ people attend each Wed of the 6 weeks of Winter learning classes! It was great to see intergenerational relationships enjoying time together in fellowship choosing between four options. A huge THANKS to Shana Hindman, Shannon Witt, Helena Buehler, Wendi Rusch, Connie McKinney, Jackie Hartwick, Jean Pulscher, Matt Rusch, Whitney Bischoff, Jenny Behlings, EJ Reid and Jenn Doyle for leading the classes. If you have an idea or would like to volunteer to lead a one hour class next year, contact Donna McConnell, Helena Buehler, or Wendi Rusch.

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## **DISCIPLESHIP TEAMS UPDATE**

Please be watching for an email for the Discipleship Team(s) that you signed up for. We are hoping to fill in the calendar for volunteer opportunities for the rest of 2026. Thank you to those of you who signed up! If you didn't get a chance to sign up, let Jean Pulscher in the office know which team you would like to be on.



Thank you to everyone who has cooked and cleaned up the Wednesday Night Life meals! Your help has been appreciated so much! It is truly a blessing and gift to those that are able to join in and partake in this fellowship!

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## Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Council Minutes — January 13, 2026

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

Not Present:

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

Craig Black led the devotion and prayer.

Agenda Additions/Approval

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

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

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru December were 107% (\$24,819.38) of budget and expenses were 91.8% (-\$28,225.69) of budget.

Dave M moved, Craig seconded to approve the 2025 financial report and the proposed 2026 budget. Motion carried.

Craig moved, Dave M seconded to allocate the remaining General Fund Cash as follows:

Operating Reserves - \$10,000; Capital Improvement-FFE - \$6,746.15; Capital Improvement-Reserve - \$15,000. Motion carried.

Special Agenda Items:

.. Potential Intern – There is a possibility to host Julianna Jimenez as an intern. We can fill out an application while we determine the feasibility, but are under no obligation to do so. Craig moved, Dave M seconded to fill out the application. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

.. Thrivent Choice – December \$150.00, YTD - \$1,592.00

.. Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts – December \$ 0.00, YTD - \$1,400.00

(These will now be included in the Treasurer's Report instead of Unfinished Business)

.. Policy & Procedures Update – Last of the Policy & Procedures were handed out. Any corrections, etc. need to be to the office by January 19<sup>th</sup>...vote by email will take place on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

.. Growing Roots Fundraiser Update – The fundraiser total was \$7,535 which will go towards the sprinkler update.

.. January/February WNL Update – The first night was great. Over 60 people attended the meal and participated in the classes.

.. Nomination Committee Update – Have 3 open positions and have 3 candidates.

.. Coffee Pot – Jean & Dave R still working on specifics.

.. Book Study – Started today and will run for another 7 weeks.

New Business:

.. Membership changes: None – there will be a new member class after worship on Sunday.

.. Building Use Goals – Will create a sub-committee to work with Pastor Shannon to determine optimal building use. Committee will be Pastor Shannon, Jean P, Robb C, Donna Mc, Helen B & Karen B.

.. Soup Suppers – Discussion to use Lynn's DakotaMart receipts \$ to buy the ingredients for the Lent soups and then have a group that will prepare them.

.. Council Retreat – Will hold 2 half days. Will set the dates at the February meeting.

.. Other –

Pastor's Report:

.. Review Worship & Activities – Will periodically do a time audit on her activities. Would like to have yearly reviews done. At this time, the council executive committee will do the annual staff reviews.

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Sunday, March 1, 2026, John 13:1-17  
 Jesus Washes Feet  
 Monday, March 2, 2026, John 12:36-43  
 The Unbelief of the People  
 Tuesday, March 3, 2026, John 12:44-50  
 Summary of Jesus' Teaching  
 Wednesday, March 4, 2026, John 13:18-30  
 Jesus Foretells His Betrayal  
 Thursday, March 5, 2026, John 13:31-35  
 The New Commandment  
 Friday, March 6, 2026, John 13:36-38  
 Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial  
 Saturday, March 7, 2026, John 14:1-14  
 Jesus the Way to the Father  
 Sunday, March 8, 2026, John 18:12-27  
 Peter's Denial  
 Monday, March 9, 2026, John 14:15-31  
 The Promise of the Holy Spirit  
 Tuesday, March 10, 2026, John 15:1-17  
 Jesus the True Vine  
 Wednesday, March 11, 2026, John 15:18-16:4a  
 The World's Hatred  
 Thursday, March 12, 2026, John 16:4b-15  
 The Work of the Spirit  
 Friday, March 13, 2026, John 16:16-24  
 Sorrow Will Turn into Joy  
 Saturday, March 14, 2026, John 16:25-33  
 Peace for the Disciples  
 Sunday, March 15, 2026, John 18:28-40  
 Jesus and Pilate

Monday, March 16, 2026, Psalm 145:10-13  
 All God's Works Give Thanks  
 Tuesday, March 17, 2026, Isaiah 45:18-19  
 Lord Speaks the Truth  
 Wednesday, March 18, 2026, Amos 5:6-13  
 Hate for the One Who Speaks Truth  
 Thursday, March 19, 2026, John 17:1-19  
 Jesus Prays for His Disciples  
 Friday, March 20, 2026, John 17:20-26  
 Jesus Prays for His Disciples  
 Saturday, March 21, 2026, John 18:1-11  
 The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus  
 Sunday, March 22, 2026, John 19:1-16a  
 Jesus Condemned  
 Monday, March 23, 2026, Psalm 146  
 Praise for God's Help  
 Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Isaiah 6:1-5  
 Holy Lord  
 Wednesday, March 25, 2026, Isaiah 28:5-6  
 Spirit of Justice  
 Thursday, March 26, 2026, Isaiah 32:1-6  
 King of Righteousness  
 Friday, March 27, 2026, Isaiah 42:1-4  
 Suffering Servant  
 Saturday, March 28, 2026, Jeremiah 23:5-6  
 Branch of David  
 Sunday, March 29, 2026, John 19:16b-22  
 The Crucified Messiah  
 Monday, March 30, 2026, Psalm 24  
 Entrance Into the Temple  
 Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 2 Samuel 22:2-8

### Council Minutes Continued

#### Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

• Caring Hands, Helena Buehler – Held their quarterly meeting – looking for additional volunteers.

• Christian Education, Kathy Bradeen – Meeting on Monday.

• Endowment, Sara Mooney – Nothing to report.

• Mutual Ministry, Dave Mertz – Nothing to report.

• Property, Karen Barness – Nothing to report. A firewood meeting was held last Sunday.

• Social Ministry, Craig Black – Reviewed committee activity. Pancake Breakfast to be held on February 15<sup>th</sup> with the proceeds to go to Pine Ridge's day shelter and night shelter. Build-A-Mountain missions have been selected.

• W/ELCA, Dave Ruen – Nothing to report.

• Worship & Music, Donna McConnell – Need to schedule quarterly meeting. Maundy Thursday & Good Friday service times is 6:30 PM.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2026:

Treats – Dave R. Devotions – Pastor Shannon.

February 2026 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – \_\_\_\_\_.

Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary



## 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

# MARCH



### Ministering at Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Pastor: Shannon Witt  
Office Manager: Jean Pulscher  
Parish Nurse: Jean Witt  
Custodian: Rob Conn  
Worship and Music Director: Jenn Doyle  
Financial Secretary: Steve Baldwin & Janice Albers  
Treasurer: Sara Mooney  
Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch