

CROSSROADS

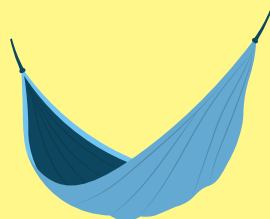
CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

OUTLAW SUMMER STAFF SUPPORT

For the last few years many of you have signed up to be a friend and support for the summer staff at Outlaw Ranch. I know that it has been a wonderful gift to the staff to have people from CLF offer a little love and encouragement to them for the 8-12 weeks that they are here doing this amazing ministry of serving young people and families of all shapes and sizes. Please prayerfully consider signing up either again or for the first time to be part of this ministry that we can offer to the staff. The commitment is to send notes and small gifts/care packages periodically through the summer, to invite the staff out to eat or to join you and/or your family in some fun Black Hills activities, and to pray for them. This year, we are trying to organize a potluck meal at the beginning and at the end of the summer with all of the host families and the Outlaw staff. The first gathering will be during the staff training either at the end of May or beginning of June and then again at the beginning of August. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex, but you can also call, text, or email Pastor Shannon if you are interested. When you sign up, you will be able to indicate how many staff you would be willing to support, I would recommend between 2-4. Thank you for all the ways you support the ministry of Outlaw Ranch!

OUTLAW RANCH SUMMER CAMP

If any HS or MS or Elementary students are still thinking about going to camp at Outlaw Ranch this summer, remember to let me know once you register them, and we will help pay the registration fee! We have a goal of sending 10 children to camp this summer, and are offering a \$500 scholarship to the first 10 registrants. Right now we still have half of the scholarships left! So please let us know when you get your child registered!



Plastic Recycling

Thank you to everyone who has brought in, hauled, or sorted plastic! We have currently recycled 337 pounds of plastic so far this year!


As a reminder of what kind of plastic we can accept: **clean, dry, and stretchy polyethylene plastic film, including grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, and case overwraps. Materials must stretch when pulled, not crinkle, and be free of food residue. Common acceptable items include Ziploc food storage bags, dry cleaning bags, and newspaper sleeves.**

Church Office Closed


The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day.



CLF Office Contact Information

 605-673-4691

 clf@gwtc.net

 12622 US Hwy 16A
Custer, SD 57730

 custerlutheran.com

Pastors Ponderings

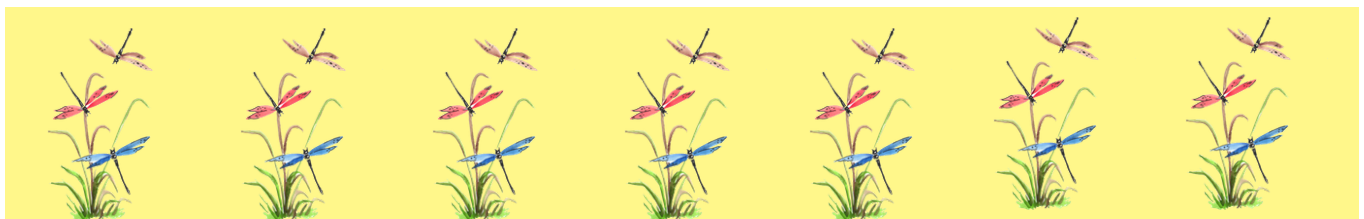
The Monday Morning Coffee gatherings with Pastor Shannon have been so valuable! Every time we have gathered our conversations have been very rich and insightful to me, and from the feedback I have received, from all of the participants. The purpose of these conversations is to give you opportunities to ask me how I feel about certain topics as well as for all the participants to be able to share their ideas, stories, and experiences related to the topic being discussed.

One of the topics that has come up more than once that I would like to address is the topic of Christian Nationalism. My opinion, and that of the ELCA, is that Christian Nationalism is dangerous for both our country and for Christianity overall. This summer I am planning on organizing a time for us to have a presentation looking deeply at this subject to demonstrate why I believe it is so dangerous.

In no uncertain terms I have been told by many that they do not want me to preach or address politics from the pulpit. However, just as strongly, I have been encouraged by others to address what is happening politically in our country and in the world. I am called and committed by the church to preach from the Gospel, and to remain faithful to proclaim the teachings and salvation brought to us unconditionally from the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. Our coffee times together have been a wonderful opportunity to discuss what that means to each individual, and to me. My definition from my reading and research of Christian Nationalism is this. When we blend religion and government in a way that bends political positions toward the belief of one religion or one set of religious beliefs in favor of one country, that is Religious Nationalism. This happens in many countries, and not just with Christianity. In largely Muslim countries, fundamental religious fanatics of the Muslim faith will try to convince the politicians to govern using radical interpretations of Islam. This happens in countries where Christianity, Judaism, or other world religions are predominate. An example where Religious Nationalism has fundamentally changed entire countries is ISIS. Yes, I think Christian Nationalism in the United States of America can become as dangerous as ISIS. When we declare the triune God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, as the God on "our side" we exclude God's abundant and unconditional Grace for all of creation. God's Grace through Jesus Christ belongs to all nations, to all people and for all times. Christian Nationalism promotes a belief that both Christianity and the Government of the United States of America should basically be tied together for governing purposes, but leaves out mention of loving our neighbors or our enemies. It takes on a very fundamental, literal, and exclusive interpretation of the Bible. The interpretation of the Bible that I ascribe to and believe calls me to preach peace, love, and mercy in Jesus' name. Sometimes that feels political during times of violence, war, and civil unrest. It can also feel political when the Gospel message is in direct opposition to governmental or political policies that make any leader or any one country into something to be worshipped or revered above our Triune God.

I will be announcing the date and time for an in depth look at Christian Nationalism open to our congregation and perhaps to the public as soon as I have speakers and materials lined up. In the meantime, I am more than happy to have a conversation with you out of mutual respect. And of course, anytime we have a Monday Morning Coffee, all are welcome to come listen and share.

Trusting in God's Mercy as we navigate life together,
Pastor Shannon



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP/CONFIRMATION

We only have two more weeks of class together...and I'm already missing the students! Here is our schedule for those two weeks:

May 6—5:15pm-6:00pm supper

6:00-Devotion with HS and others who would like to join

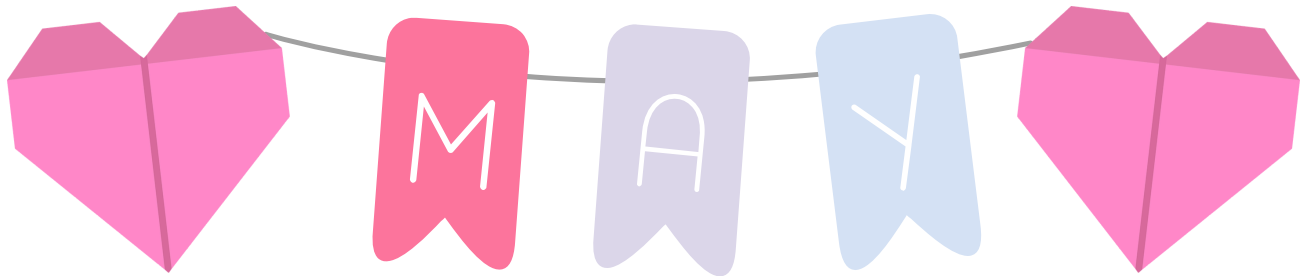
6:15-7:30-Class

6:15-7:30 Parent discussion with Rev. Jeff Rohr in sanctuary

May 13--5:15pm-6:00pm POT-LUCK SUPPER

6:00—Worship service

6:30-7:30—Mentor Night and maybe campfire (depending on burn ban)



Worship and Choir Information

Greetings!

It's amazing to me how quickly a year goes by! This will be our last practice and special music for choir until September. I want to extend a sincere thank you to all the members of the CLF choir. I value the time we spend together. The hard work paired with laughter is music to my soul, and I treasure the family we have become. Thanks for all of your commitment and dedication this past choir season. You are all disciples spreading the word of God through song. As you enjoy your summer break, please be assured that I will be preparing for next year and look forward to our time together.

Our choir will meet on the following Wednesday in May. Please note that we will be meeting at 4:30 PM. We will be singing a song entitled "The Wideness of God's Mercy." All are welcome.

May Choir Schedule:

Rehearsal ~ Wednesday, May 6 @ 4:30 PM

Special Music ~Sunday, May 17

Blessings in Christ,

Jenn Doyle

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



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. CLF loves to give kids their very own SPARK bibles! Let us know if your child would like a Storybook Bible or a full Bible! We will hand them out on Sunday, May 3rd during the 9:30 AM worship service. Our last day of SPARK for this school year will be the 13th. THANK YOU to all of the volunteers assisting or driving: Linda Fennell, Linda Schleman, Lise' White, Carol Niemann, Camille Riner, Pastor Shannon, Jean Pulscher, Shannon Pulscher/Outlaw crew, Larry Noem, and Phil Lewison! We couldn't do it without you! Contact Wendi #509-494-3236 for info!



RAP Group - Youth Group

We would love to see all 9th-12th graders join us for Youth Group! We have a great time chatting about so many topics, playing games, and even getting ice cream! Our last Wed mtg before summer break will be May 13th @6:30 at the Rusch house! A HUGE thanks to Matt Rusch for being my assistant! Contact Wendi #509-494-3236 for info!

May 10th- Grad Sunday: honoring our Seniors at 9:30am worship Let us know if you will be there!

May 16th- Graduation Breakfast @ 9am: 9th-11th grade families provide egg bakes, fruit, baked goods, juice and help serve/clean-up for Grad families.

Seniors let me know how many in your group will attend!



VBS

This summer we will have our FREE Vacation Bible School 9am-3pm on July 27, 28, 29 M-W with a closing campfire at Wed night worship! We are having fun making plans, with the theme "Be The Light", but could still use more volunteers! If you want to join the fun, come to our next mtg on June 7th after worship in the Fireside room. Please invite ages 4yrs old through completing 5th grade to participate! Kids who are finishing 6th grade and older can be helpers. Register with the QR code to save your spot! Rides available! If you have questions contact Wendi (ruschfamily@gmail.com) or Linda (lindafennell@hotmail.com).



WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

The April Women of the ELCA meeting was conducted as an organized visit to Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in Rapid City. Our group of six began at the LSS office, with an informative tour of their facility followed by a light luncheon with Jessica Lillebo, Director of Donor Relations. We then drove over to the LSS Arise Facility to learn about their programming and support services for youth in Juvenile Justice Services. Arise is an alternative detention center that began about 13 years ago. WELCA is glad to support the important programming at LSS. What a wonderful difference they make in people's lives! The May WELCA meeting will be on Monday, May 18 in the church Fireside Room. The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch. Our speaker will be Connie Curry, Executive Director of the Custer YMCA. Come and learn what is happening at the Custer YMCA! After the presentation we will have our regular business meeting.

We plan to participate in Custer's Summer Sack Lunch Program for kids during the week of June 15. The Summer Sack Lunch Program is financially supported by the Storehouse. It will be our job to shop for the items for the sandwiches, pack the lunches and to deliver them to the Y each day of that week.

CLF Quilters

We recently donated 8 dog beds to the local humane society and 8 quilts to Lutheran Social Services. We are currently working on getting 15 quilts ready for Lutheran World Relief.

We will be meeting all summer.

Wanda Omodt



This month we celebrate the gift of motherhood in all its forms. Whether you are a mother by birth, adoption, or through a caring heart, may you feel God's peace and pleasure all month long!

BREAD AND BROTH BRIGADE

We are so excited to get started cooking together! Right now we have a strong group of 6 people interested in coming together monthly to cook healthy, hearty, delicious food to have available to deliver to our CLF family during times of illness, grief, celebration of the birth of a child, etc. If you are interested in joining this group, please let Jean in the office know and she will get you connected.

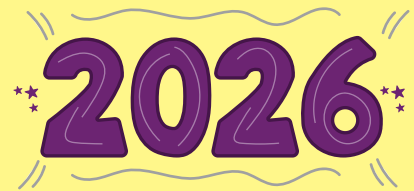
PRESENTATION ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

All parents/grandparents/teachers, anyone involved in the care of youth, are invited to join in a conversation and presentation from Pastor Jeff Rohr. He will be discussing the material of author Jonathan Haidt who wrote the book *The Anxious Generation*. This presentation will take place on Wednesday, May 6th in the sanctuary following supper and our devotion, beginning approximately at 6:15 and wrapping up by 7:30pm. Please sign up to attend so that we have plenty of materials! There will be books given away during the presentation as well.

High School

Graduates—contact us!

A special Graduation Breakfast will be on Saturday, May 16th, for all 2026 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 by May 4th if your child will be graduating this year and how many people will attend the breakfast. Email clf@gwtc.net.



Dayspring Ribbon Cutting and Open House



OUTLAW RANCH
DAYSPRING RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE

Join Lutherans Outdoors for a special celebration as we officially unveil the newly remodeled Dayspring lodging facility at Outlaw Ranch.

May 5, 2026
 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 Program at **4:30 PM**

Enjoy refreshments and tours of the newly renovated Dayspring facility. This fully donor-funded project expands year-round hospitality at Outlaw Ranch. All are welcome to celebrate with us.

To RSVP Please Contact
 Carol at Lutherans Outdoors
 Email: carol@losd.org
 Phone: 605-274-5332
 2703 Outlaw Ranch Road
 East of Custer

2026

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Custer Meet and Eat

The Custer Meet and Eat is held every 2nd Tuesday at Custer Community Church on 6th and Harney in Custer from 5 - 7 PM. Gather together for a meal with friends and neighbors at no charge to you. This months Meet and Eat will be May 12th.

Easter Brunch Update

The Youth group partnered with the CLF Congregation to provide Easter Brunch between the Sunrise Service and 9:30 Worships. We had a great turnout and appreciate EVERYONE'S help providing food and Bonnie Thompson applying for the Thrivent card for supplies!

Thanks to Ayden, Easton and Mindy Dooley; Sam, Sara and Keri Cochran; Denali, Kai, Kian, Kaedin and Matt Rusch; Jersey and Phoenix Barrick; Taylor Bland, Sam Shepard and Nancy Suelflow for serving and cleaning up!

We raised over **\$800** for our Youth Gathering trip next summer!



Build-a-Mountain Summary

Your Social Ministry Team thanks everyone for their generous altar offerings during our Build-a-Mountain Lenten event. Your donations included 161 pounds of food for The Storehouse, more Angel Soft toilet paper for W.E.A.V.E. than you can shake a stick at, boxes and boxes and more boxes of diapers for the Pine Ridge, and more bags of pet food (and pet beds) for the Custer Humane Society than a dog has fleas, and more individually wrapped snack items for Lutheran Social Services than Carter's has pills. You guys ROCK!





Fun, Fellowship, Community, Family at Custer Lutheran Fellowship!



Friday, May 1, 2026, Acts 16:6-10
Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia
Saturday, May 2, 2026, Acts 16:11-15
The Conversion of Lydia
Sunday, May 3, 2026, Acts 17:16-31
Paul's Sermon at Athens
Monday, May 4, 2026, Acts 18:1-17
Paul in Corinth
Tuesday, May 5, 2026, Acts 19:1-10
Paul in Ephesus
Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Acts 21:27-36
Paul Arrested in the Temple
Thursday, May 7, 2026, Acts 21:37-22:5
Paul Defends Himself
Friday, May 8, 2026, Acts 23:12-22
The Plot to Kill Paul
Saturday, May 9, 2026, Acts 28:23-30
Paul Preaches in Rome
Sunday, May 10, 2026, Philippians 1:1-18a
Partnership in the Gospel
Monday, May 11, 2026, Philippians 1:18b-30
Partnership in the Gospel
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Philippians 2:14-30
Timothy and Epaphroditus
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Philippians 3:1-11
Breaking with the Past
Thursday, May 14, 2026, Philippians 3:12-4:1
Pressing toward the Goal
Friday, May 15, 2026, Philippians 4:2-9
Exhortations
Saturday, May 16, 2026, Philippians 4:10-23
Acknowledgment of the Philippians' Gift

Sunday, May 17, 2026, Philippians 2:1-13
The Christ Hymn
Monday, May 18, 2026, Acts 1:1-5
The Promise of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, Acts 1:6-11
The Ascension of Jesus
Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Acts 1:12-26
Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas
Thursday, May 21, 2026, Acts 2:37-42
The First Converts
Friday, May 22, 2026, Acts 2:43-47
Life Among the Believers
Saturday, May 23, 2026, Acts 3:1-10
Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar
Sunday, May 24, 2026, Acts 2:1-21;
Philippians 4:4-7
Pentecost; Rejoice in the Lord
Monday, May 25, 2026, Acts 3:11-16
Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico
Tuesday, May 26, 2026, Acts 3:17-26
Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico
Wednesday, May 27, 2026, Acts 4:1-12
Peter and John before the Council
Thursday, May 28, 2026, Acts 4:13-22
Peter and John before the Council
Friday, May 29, 2026, Acts 4:23-31
The Believers Pray for Boldness
Saturday, May 30, 2026, Acts 4:32-37
The Believers Share Their Possessions



Thank you!

Many, many thanks to those that helped with our Spring Cleaning/Organization day, April 11th. We were able to get so many things organized and sorted, windows cleaned, tables scrubbed, and closets cleaned out. We would not have been able to do that without the help of the volunteers who showed up to work!

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
 Pastor: pastor_clf@gwtc.net

June Newsletter Deadline

Please have articles for the April Newsletter to the office by May 21st.
 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 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;
 or the church office at 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 April to 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, 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.



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 and Music Director: Jenn Doyle
 Financial Secretary: Steve Baldwin & Janice Albers
 Treasurer: Sara Mooney
 Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch