

# CROSSROADS

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

### Bread and Broth Brigade

We had a successful 1st cooking/baking day. We were able to make 6 meals of Tator Tot hotdish and oatmeal raisin cookies to put in the freezer. We will be meeting once a month to make meals and plan to have a meeting quarterly. If anyone has any good recipes please pass them on to us.



### Graduates

We celebrated some of our Seniors on Mother's Day with a gift and a cake! On Graduation Day there was a breakfast for families. Thank you to everyone who provided food and especially Alesha Glasgow and Danielle Wheeler for serving!

We are proud to be a part of your faith journey and know that CLF will keep you in our prayers as you begin your next chapter!



### OUTLAW VOLKSMARCH

Outlaw Ranch along with the Black Hills Volkssport Club, is sponsoring the 8th annual volksmarch at Outlaw Ranch near Custer on Sunday, June 7th. Start time is from 6:30 until 9:30 and you must finish by 12:00. The cost for the walk is \$4 for all participants. You will have the option to do a 5K (3 mile) or 10K (6 mile) hike. This is an opportunity to walk on the trail system that has been developed on Outlaws property and goes through parts of the property that are very seldom seen. For more information contact Pastor Duane Neugebauer at donman1948@gmail.com or 303-489-9313.

### Directory

If you are interested in having online access to our photo directory, you can download the Directory app on your phone, computer or tablet. This is a picture of what the app will look like. You will log in with the email address you provided for the directory. Let Jean know if you have any questions or need assistance.




### Custer Meet and Eat


The Custer Meet and Eat is held every 2nd Tuesday at Custer Community Church on 6<sup>th</sup> 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 June 9th.

### CLF Office Contact Information

 605-673-4691

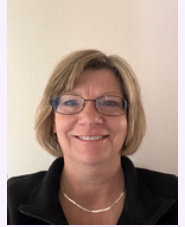
 clf@gwtc.net

 12622 US Hwy 16A  
Custer, SD 57730

 custerlutheran.com

Pastor Shannon Witt

What is your favorite church tradition or event? **My favorite church holiday is Pentecost because it seems to be the one that has been the least commercialized...no gifts need to be purchased, no big meal needs to be prepared...it just feels like it is still an awesome and fun celebration just for the sake of the presence of the Holy Spirit! Also, one of my favorite colors is red, and it's fun to pull out my red shoes on Pentecost Sunday.**



What are your favorite hobbies outside of church? **I love to read, walk, garden (although this has been dampened since moving here...I was totally spoiled in Iowa!) and I like to paint and listen to music. I would add that just being with people is a hobby...I love hearing people's stories and getting to know them. My favorite hobby right now is spending time with my grandchildren. They are ages 4 and 7 and they love to participate in all of my other hobbies that I listed, and their joy and creativity is infectious!**

What is the best piece of advice you ever received? **"Do not become that which you despise." Example, if I am frustrated by the anger and violence in this world, I must be diligent to pay attention to my own strong emotions when I am upset and not let my words or actions be violent or my behaviors be dictated by anger. Thankfully Jesus shows us a better way!**

What is your ultimate comfort food? **Plain potato chips and French onion dip are my go to! I am a salt before sugar person, so desserts aren't usually a temptation, but put a bag of chips (Cheetos are my second choice) in front of me, and my self control takes a beating.**

What is one Bible passage that you love? **My favorite book of the Bible is Ecclesiastes, and I read it a couple of times a year at least. This book reminds me of the mystery of faith, and to not strive so hard to figure everything out and to remember that God is in control, and sometimes we just need to sit back and be patient. My favorite verse is on a bracelet that I wear every day: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.( Ecc. 3:1)**

What is your ancestry? **Honestly, I think I might need to do one of those DNA tests, because I have heard several versions of my ancestry. At the very least I know I do have some Irish in me, my mom named me after the Shannon River in Ireland, and my brothers all have Irish names as well, Kelly, Michael, and Rory. I may have in another life kissed the Blarney stone once or twice, lol! (Supposedly when you kiss the Blarney Stone, you receive the "gift of gab" or what I like to say is the "legendary ability to speak with eloquence, charm, and persuasive wit.")**

Jean Pulscher

How long have you been a member of CLF? **We have been members for 5 years**

What is your favorite church tradition or event? **Attending the Sunrise Easter Worship Service, I think it is one of the most beautiful times to worship, getting to watch the sunrise and feeling the hope of the future is pretty powerful for me.**

Where did you grow up? **I grew up on the East side of the state in Flandreau, SD**

What are your favorite hobbies outside of church? **I would say my favorite hobbies outside of church are reading and spending time with my family.**

What is the best piece of advice you ever received? **"Choose to be happy"**

What role would you be willing to play in a Christmas pageant? **Sound tech, I very much prefer to stay in the background but like to be able to help wherever I can.**

Who is one person who influenced your faith and why? **I think the people who most influenced my faith are my mom and dad. They made sure we understood the importance of going to church and believing in God. They didn't often talk about their faith, but watching them choose to put church ahead of a lot of other things and being faithful to their beliefs showed me how important it was to them and in turn made it important to me.**

What is one Bible passage that you love? **Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Being kind is one of the things I have tried to live by, I think it is one of the things that has shaped who I am today. I have hope that if kindness can spread it can change the world!**



Jenn Doyle

How long have you been a member of CLF? **I have been a member at CLF for about 10 years since we moved to the Black Hills. Originally, I was going to sit in the congregation and just attend. I had always served in some capacity at our old church. I taught Sunday School, was Sunday School Superintendent, served as Music Coordinator and Choir Director, and played for services. However, that idea didn't last very long. It was quickly discovered that I played piano, and I became a disciple spreading God's word once again. To be honest, I wouldn't have it any other way!**



Where do you usually sit during Sunday Worship? **It has always been a tradition or habit in our family to sit in the same pew every week for some reason! I guess it's designated the "Doyle" pew by our family. It was always the third row on the left when facing the altar at Our Savior's Lutheran in Flandreau, and it is still the third row on the left when facing the altar at CLF!**

What is your favorite church tradition or event? **My favorite church tradition has always been the candlelight Christmas Eve services when the entire church is peaceful and dark, and the congregation sings "Silent Night." The soft glow of the candles illuminates the faces of our loved ones and offers a calm, serene sense of hope.**

Which is your favorite season and why? **I have always loved Lent and Easter. The music always affects me. I love the somber minor chords that make me think about the gravity of the whole story. I have never been able to wrap my head around the ultimate gift that God gave us when He sacrificed His son to forgive our sins. I know that I am undeserving in so many ways, so when I think about this extraordinary gift, I am filled with overwhelming emotions of disbelief and gratitude. There is no greater feeling than on Easter morning when the story comes full circle, and Jesus is raised from the dead. It is the ultimate victory.**

Where do you feel closest to God? **I feel closest to God when I feel like I am the smallest part of something. Standing at the bottom of a gulch surrounded by mountains, or beside a vast ocean, makes me feel closest to God for some reason. I guess I always think that with all the majestic and amazing creations, it amazes me that He took the time to create little, old me.**

Who is one person who influenced your faith and why? **I can't give the award for influencing my faith to just one person. There have been so many along the way. My grandparents and parents nurtured my faith by taking me to church and Sunday School throughout my life and modeling what a Christian should be like. As a teenager, my youth pastor, Jamie Desai, was instrumental in helping shape my faith life. As an adult, I have had the privilege of working closely with Pastor Mary Sacco. She always had a way of bringing out the meaning in all of the services she planned. I enjoyed working with her for many years. After moving to CLF, I have also been blessed to be able to work with Pastor Shannon. Her passion, giving, and caring for every soul are inspiring. All of these people have helped lift me up spiritually and shaped my path. A pastor whom you deeply connect with is difficult to find, but I have been blessed to have had three in my lifetime.**

What role would you be willing to play in a Christmas pageant? **I usually like to be behind the scenes on the piano, but I have been known to depart from my comfort zone on occasion. I actually played Patty Simcox during a community performance of Grease once upon a time. That was a stretch for me, but so much fun! I guess now it would be safer for me to stick to the narrator. I guess I could be a shepherd. I feel that would depict me in my everyday life...shepherding children around every day!**

What is one Bible passage that you love? **I have always loved the verses from Chapter Three of Ecclesiastes. There are so many different stages of life, and this verse seems to encompass them all. We all go through so many things, but if we have God at our side, there is nothing that we can't endure.**

**To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: <sup>2</sup> A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; <sup>3</sup> A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup> A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup> A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup> A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; <sup>7</sup> A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup> A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.**



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## Middle School Youth Group Summer Activities

We are hoping to schedule at least one fun activity once a month this summer. These dates are tentative, and Pastor Shannon will be confirming them with the families via email and text. These activities are open to the recent 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduates through students who have completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

June 3 and 17—4:00pm-7:30pm

Outdoor games, hot-dog roast, and then stay for first campfire worship

July 8-9—starting at 4pm July 8 and ending July 10 at 8am

Camping trip at the church. This will involve a cook out before the Wed. Night worship service, camping near the Outdoor Ministry area, and weather permitting, canoeing/kayaking/fishing at Stockade Lake on Thursday, camping again on the church property Thursday night, and concluding after breakfast on Friday morning

Aug. 7-9—leaving Friday morning at 8am and returning Sunday evening by approximately 6pm  
Church on the Street Immersion trip...cost is \$50/student (more information will be sent out)

Mentors and parents are welcome to participate in any or all of these activities!

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## Worship and Choir Information

Greetings!

Choir is officially wrapped up for the season. I look forward to spending time choosing music for next year over the summer. I heard that there may be a few members who would be interested in doing some small group selections, so I will do some looking for some of those opportunities.

If you know of anyone who would like to share their musical talents during a service over the summer, please reach out and let me know. We love to have special music each week. It gets a little trickier during the summer with everyone's busy schedules, but we will still do our best to try to schedule as many as we can.

As always, if you have a hymn or song that you would like to have included in the services, please pass that on to me as well. I do try to plan a variety of music, but I would hate to miss someone's favorites! I am always open to suggestions!

Campfire services will begin on June 3 at the outdoor worship area. Services will be held on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM. The plan is always to have s'mores following the service. This will depend on the fire danger in our area. If there is inclement weather, the service will be held inside with ice cream to follow.

Here's to soaking up the sunshine and rejuvenating ourselves for the fall!

Blessings in Christ,

Jenn Doyle

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

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### Spark Kids

We have had a lot of fun learning and growing together each Wednesday during the school year at SPARK Kids! There was a small gift for our 5th graders moving up: Nash Myers, Nick Shepard, Grayson Brainard, Oaklie Whitney, Austyn Jaure, and Brielle Webster. We will miss you!! 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, Gary Williams and Phil Lewison! We are on summer break, but we will start back up in September! Contact Wendi Rusch 509-494-3236 for ways to volunteer!



### 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! Volunteers still needed and welcome 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](mailto:ruschfamily@gmail.com)) or Linda ([lindafennell@hotmail.com](mailto:lindafennell@hotmail.com)).

Bible Stories!  
Crafts!  
Snacks!

Songs!  
Games!  
STEM!

FREE!!

**BE THE LIGHT**

FREE!!

**Vacation Bible School**  
at Custer Lutheran Fellowship  
12622 US HWY 16A  
July 27, 28, 29 (M,T,W)  
9am -3pm  
4&5 yr olds, K-5<sup>th</sup> grades completed

Bring a sack lunch.  
Rides to Y Kids Camp available!

Register #605-673-4691, [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net), or here!



### RAP Group - Youth Group

What a great year of developing friendships and faith! The high schoolers closed out the school year with our annual campfire at the Rusch house. Youth group will begin again in September for all 9-12th graders! We would love to see you there!  
Contact Wendi #509-494-3236 with any questions!



## WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

Connie Curry, Executive Director of the Custer YMCA, gave a presentation at our May WELCA meeting. She shared updates on the current programming at the Custer Y. Connie and the staff at the Custer YMCA are compassionate, caring people. We are thankful that they offer a place for socialization, exercise and education for all ages in our community. At our business meeting our members voted to donate \$500 to the YMCA and \$1,000 to Lutheran Outdoors to use for CLF camperships at Outlaw Ranch. Funds are made possible by the generosity of our congregation during the Annual WELCA Auction of Talents held in April. Over \$3,500 was raised for our missions. We are beyond thankful! Barb presented our friend, Jackie Hartwick, with a farewell gift as she is moving from Custer. Jackie was WELCA president for 10 years and a generous volunteer at CLF and in the Custer community. Blessings and best wishes to Jackie!

The June WELCA meeting will be on Monday, June 15 in the church Fireside Room. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM with a potluck brunch. Please note a special time for this meeting. Brunch items may include egg bakes, quick breads, muffins, fruit and juice. No worries if you are unable to bring food. There is always plenty of food to share! Sam Smolinsky from Custer Search & Rescue, will be our speaker. Bring a friend!

WELCA will be making lunches for Custer's Summer Sack Lunch Program for kids. Lunches are provided for 11 weeks of the summer break. Our week to prepare lunch is June 15 – 19. The Summer Sack Lunch Program is financially supported by the Storehouse in partnership with the YMCA where the refrigerator for the lunches is stored. If you want to help pack lunches, we will meet at 8:00 AM on Monday, June 15 before our potluck brunch and again at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, June 17 in the CLF kitchen. Your help is greatly appreciated in supporting kids in the Custer community!

The SD WELCA Convention is June 16 – 20 at Grace Lutheran Church in Watertown.

The Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention is in Des Moines, Iowa, July 17 – 19. If you are interested in attending, check out the website [www.womenoftheelca.org/new/triennial-event-page](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/new/triennial-event-page) The theme is "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14 "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." A bus will be leaving from Sioux Falls for \$125.

### CLF Quilters

We gifted 10 quilts to the Childrens home in Rapid City and are currently working on quilts for Hospice Veterans through the VA in Hot Springs.

The CLF Quilters gifted a quilt to Jackie Hartwick who is moving to Ohio, she will be missed!

Starting in June-August we will be quilting the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of the month



## Firewood Sales / Haul

It's that time of the year to get ready for our annual firewood sales. The funds we raise will help pay for our youth to attend the National Youth Gathering next year in Minneapolis. It would be great if we could raise enough money to fully fund their trip, or a huge part of it. Funds are also used by the Church Council for other needs, such as Social Ministry events. Historically we had some great years making well over \$10,000. Barring any fire restrictions this summer, we can do this again with your help.

Wendi has made a weekly schedule for volunteers to fill the wood shack out front, each week, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The signup list is on the Welcome Table in the Narthex or contact Jean at the office to volunteer. Please pick one or multiple weeks. What it involves is loading the pickup parked by the woodshed, (behind the Outdoor Worship Area), and driving it down to the shack and filling it up daily. Maybe an hour at most each day will do the job.

In order to make sure we have a supply of wood to sell, I will coordinate that part of the project. With all the wood available because of the windstorms, we have a great inventory of wood. As we enter this selling season, there is already a huge inventory of split wood, ready for sale. That is mainly responsible for Brian Albers, John Kirk, and Cindy Heyne, working on cutting and splitting the wood logs out back. Thanks to you folks and others this winter for all this hard work!

In order to keep our supply ready for sale, I'll need your help with hauling, chunking, splitting, and stacking wood in our wood production area. The best way for me to communicate our needs and schedule when we will have workdays, is by sending out emails. If you are willing to help with this huge fundraiser, please get me your contact information, email, phone number or whatever, to either myself or Jean at the office. Even if you just want to know what is going on, put your name on the contact list.

Later this fall Social Ministry has their annual "Wood Haul" to Red Shirt. We want to be prepared for this great mission project also, so stay tuned for more information as we get closer to that time this fall.

Thanks to all, and God Bless.

Denny McConnell  
605-440-1028  
rckyknol@gwtc.net

## Firewood Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help keep the firewood sale rack full for tourists to purchase wood. We hope to sell as much as we can before another fire ban is in place. Please make sure it is at least half full once every day (More if you like, especially during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Gold Discovery days, Rally and Labor Day). If you can split firewood or have wood to donate let Denny know. #605-440-1028 or [rckyknol@gwtc.net](mailto:rckyknol@gwtc.net)

We are raising funds for community Children's programs and the Youth Gathering next June 28-July 2, 2027!! Graduating Classes of 2027-2031 are eligible to go! Thanks to those who have split firewood and volunteered with this project to support the community! All are encouraged to help! Contact Wendi #509-494-326 to sign up or use the sheet in the narthex.



## Social Ministry Committee asks

“Will you join us to advocate for the hungry poor in our country?”

The 2026 Farm Bill, which has passed the house and is under consideration in the Senate, includes the largest cuts to nutrition programs in over 30 years, almost \$30 Billion over 10 years – a 20-30% cut in current spending.

The Social Ministry Committee’s Mission Statement is: “Rooted in faith, we raise awareness of social issues and support people in need by offering love and advocating Justice.” We ask for your support in advocating for justice for poor hungry households.

We have drafted letters to each of our Federal Delegation asking them to modify the policy changes to minimize hunger among the most vulnerable in American Society.

A copy of the letter to Thune is printed in the June newsletter. You can also find copies of the letter and Sign-On sheets on the raised tables on Sunday May 24th and 31st.

We hope you add your name on the sign-on sheet to show CLF’s congregation-wide support for continued adequate nutritional programs for the poor.

Senator John Thune  
U.S. Senate – South Dakota District 511  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thune:

Thank you for your work as the Senate Majority Leader and continued service on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee on the 2026 Farm Bill.

We, the members of Custer Lutheran Fellowship, are writing to you to express our appreciation for and concerns about policy changes in the House version of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 that the Senate is now considering.

We are pleased the Farm Bill is getting serious attention and support the major benefits for producers and rural communities. We have the following concerns about the policy changes in nutrition programs which implement the deepest cuts (nearly \$30 billion according to CBO[1]) in the program’s history:

- Cost shifting to states (saves Federal Government \$155 billion). Increasing state responsibility for administration from 50% to 75% and adding an unfunded mandate for states to assume 5%-25% of the total cost of benefits puts an added fiscal burden on states which, unlike the federal government, must balance their budget every year. We fear that in a recessionary environment states may be forced to choose between nutrition programs and other critical programs leaving health and life sustaining food programs on the chopping block.

- Thrifty Foods Plan 5-year Freeze (saves Federal Government \$37 billion). The cost of healthy food varies from year to year depending on producer costs and availability of products. Annually reassessing these costs and adjusting benefits is necessary to meet individual nutritional needs. Children’s development is especially susceptible to nutritional deficits. Women, Infant and Children fruit and vegetable benefits are also cut.

- Expanding work requirements (saves Federal Government \$92 billion) Policy changes save billions but are accomplished by removing individuals – children, adults, elderly - from the program if the household is unable to document that they worked at least 20 hours per week. While working is laudable, family circumstances are unique and in areas with insufficient jobs or during recessionary periods food is still a necessity.

- Ending SNAP eligibility for people granted refugee, asylum or certain other immigration statuses (\$4 billion).

Please try to ensure that these policy changes are modified by the Senate to minimize hunger among the most vulnerable in American society.

We pray God’s Blessings on you, your family and the service you provide to the citizens of South Dakota and the Nation.

Social Ministry Committee  
Custer Lutheran Fellowship

[1] All cost estimates drawn from Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate.

Cc: John Thune Senate Office, Rapid City, SD

Attached please find approval signatures from Custer Lutheran Fellowship Members

## New Wine

Mark your calendars! June 14th we will be hosting a New Wine Performance at Custer Lutheran Fellowship! They will be performing the musical *Children of Eden* at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. See the posters on the right for more information. We will be providing at potluck supper starting at 5:00 pm to have with the cast and crew!



# MUSICAL Theatre

## Valinor Trio Biography

The Valinor Trio, coached by GRAMMY-nominated Desirée Ruhstrat, unites violinist Cecilia O'Malley, cellist Gabriel Raviv, and pianist Joseph Gallwas. Ranking among Chicago's foremost young soloists, the trio's members have garnered acclaim on both the national and international stage. Individually, they have collaborated with such prestigious ensembles as the Oistrakh Symphony, the Lakeview Symphony, the Elmhurst Symphony, the Lincoln Symphony, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the DuPage Symphony, the Highland Park Strings Orchestra, the SEEN Orchestra, and the TIMM Ensemble Orchestra of Todi, Italy. Over the past two years, all three musicians have been selected as finalists in the CSO Young Artist Competition, sponsored by the Crain-Maling Foundation. As a trio, they have been awarded grand prize in the ENKOR International Competition, first prize in the Rembrandt Chamber Music Competition, first prize in the American Virtuoso International Competition, and honorable mention in the Chicago National Chamber Music Competition. Most recently, they were semifinalists in the world-renowned Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

Outside the rehearsal room, they share a steadfast friendship and enjoy simply spending time together and adding to a bucket list of future group adventures. The name of their ensemble, Valinor (the heavenly realm in J.R.R. Tolkien's masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*), encompasses the trio's conviction that music is capable of transporting listeners to the sublime.

### ORION CHAMBER MUSICIANS' ANNUAL FESTIVAL



4

**JUNE**

Doors Open  
6:00 PM

## VALINOR TRIO

**LOCATION:** CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP  
**AWARD-WINNING YOUNG ARTISTS**  
CECILIA O'MALLEY, VIOLIN  
GABRIEL RAVIV, CELLO  
JOSEPH GALLWAS, PIANO

RSVP at:



AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

## CLF Endowments

We have two endowments: the Youth Endowment and the Mission Endowment.

The Youth Endowment was established by the Lila Van Wie Memorial in 2001. Up to 5% of the December balance can be distributed while preserving the \$100,000 initial investment. The most recent distribution supported the following:

Custer County Library	\$1,000
YMCA	\$1,000
High School Angel Fund	\$1,000
Freshman Impact	\$1,000
Custer County 4H	\$600
CLF Scholarship Fund	\$600
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>\$5,200</b>

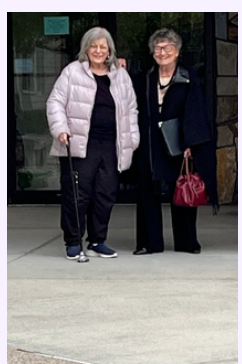
We are grateful to these organizations for their continued dedication to Custer County youth and appreciate the vital work they do!

The Mission Endowment balance continues to grow! Once the principle of \$50,000 is established, distributions could potentially be made the following year. Recently, we received a donation of over \$6K, increasing the balance to approximately \$45K! We're getting closer!

Thank you!

## April YTD Financials

<b>Custer Lutheran Fellowship</b>				
General Fund Budget to Actual				
Account	- - Year To Date (April FY 2026) - -			
	Actual		Budget	Variance
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$ 123,481		\$ 115,724	\$ 7,757
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Pastoral Leadership	28,563		28,446	117
Worship	7,185		8,751	(1,566)
Education	10,378		10,821	(443)
Mission Support	10,651		11,507	(856)
Support/Care	2,917		2,592	325
Office Administration	20,107		20,384	(277)
Office Operations	3,343		3,868	(525)
Facilities Expenses	36,174		40,753	(4,579)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>119,318</b>		<b>127,122</b>	<b>(7,804)</b>
<b>Other Revenues</b>	<b>299</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>Other Expenditures</b>	<b>(739)</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(739)</b>
<b>Net Before Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 5,201</b>		<b>\$ (11,398)</b>	<b>\$ 16,599</b>
<b>2025 Transfers (See Annual Report)</b>	<b>\$ (32,651)</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (32,651)</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (27,450)</b>		<b>\$ (11,398)</b>	<b>\$ (16,052)</b>





Let's  
Pray



## Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Council Minutes — May 19, 2026

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

Not Present: None

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

Pastor Shannon led the devotion and prayer.

Agenda Additions/Approval

There were no additions to the agenda. Craig moved, Dave seconded and the agenda was approved.

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

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru April were 106% (\$7,343.98) of budget and expenses were 94% (-\$7,804.29) of budget.

- Thrivent Choice – March \$311.00, April \$188.00, YTD - \$578.00
- Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts – March \$200.00, April \$200.00, YTD - \$700.00

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

Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

Unfinished Business:

- Policy and Procedure update – Copies have been made and are available. Plans are to review a couple each year starting with February 2027.

v Intern update – Juli will start on August 1<sup>st</sup> and will work 20 hours/week then starting January 1, 2027 her hours will increase to 40 hours/week thru the end of July.

- Building Use Goals update – Goals have been met for now – will review annually.
- Audio/Visual bid discussion – Discussed the 2 bids we have received. Action: to set a work day to move banners over and raise candle.
- Bathroom remodel update – Construction for Growing Roots to start on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Will have a timeline of construction in the June Newsletter.

New Business:

- Membership changes: None
- New Wine performance June 14, 2026 – Potluck at 5 PM with the performance at 6:30 PM. They will stay overnight and leave the next day.
- Staff yearly reviews – Pastor will send out some possible dates in June to the committee.

Pastor's Report:

- Review Worship & Activities –

May 26<sup>th</sup> will be helping lead Outlaw Ranch staff training.

May 28-30 attending the Synod Assemble in Sioux Falls.

June 1-2 is internship training w/ Wartburg Seminary via zoom.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> Outdoors worship begins.

- Had a conversation with Jean Witt who is stepping down as Parish Nurse.

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- Caring Hands, Karen Barness – Bread & Broth Team met Monday to prepare meals. The Visitation Team will deliver them. Will be setting up a Google spreadsheet to keep track of data.
- Christian Education, Dave Ruen – SPARK Kids done until Fall. Next VBS meeting is June 7<sup>th</sup>.

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Sunday, May 31, 2026, Ruth 1:1-22,  
Loss and Loyalty  
Monday, June 1, 2026, Ruth 1:1-5  
Elimelech's Family Goes to Moab  
Tuesday, June 2, 2026, Ruth 1:6-7  
Naomi and Her Daughters-in-Law  
Wednesday, June 3, 2026, Ruth 1:8-14  
Naomi and Ruth  
Thursday, June 4, 2026, Ruth 1:15-18  
Naomi and Ruth  
Friday, June 5, 2026, Ruth 1:19-21  
Naomi and Ruth  
Saturday, June 6, 2026, Ruth 1:22  
Naomi and Ruth  
Sunday, June 7, 2026, Ruth 2:1-23  
Gleaning and Hope  
Monday, June 8, 2026, Ruth 2:1-3  
Ruth meets Boaz  
Tuesday, June 9, 2026, Ruth 2:4-13  
Ruth meets Boaz  
Wednesday, June 10, 2026, Ruth 2:14  
Ruth meets Boaz  
Thursday, June 11, 2026, Ruth 2:15-16  
Ruth meets Boaz  
Friday, June 12, 2026, Ruth 2:17-20  
Ruth meets Boaz  
Saturday, June 13, 2026, Ruth 2:21-23  
Ruth meets Boaz  
Sunday, June 14, 2026, Ruth 3:1-18  
Daring to Act

Monday, June 15, 2026, Ruth 3:1-5  
Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor  
Tuesday, June 16, 2026, Ruth 3:6-7  
Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor  
Wednesday, June 17, 2026, Ruth 3:8-9  
Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor  
Thursday, June 18, 2026, Ruth 3:10-13  
Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor  
Friday, June 19, 2026, Ruth 3:14-15  
Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor  
Saturday, June 20, 2026, Ruth 3:16-18  
Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor  
Sunday, June 21, 2026, Ruth 4:1-22  
New Life  
Monday, June 22, 2026, Ruth 4:1-4  
The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz  
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Ruth 4:5-6  
The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz  
Wednesday, June 24, 2026, Ruth 4:7-10  
The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz  
Thursday, June 25, 2026, Ruth 4:11-12  
The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz  
Friday, June 26, 2026, Ruth 4:13-17  
The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz  
Saturday, June 27, 2026, Ruth 4:18-22  
The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz  
Sunday, June 28, 2026, Esther 4:1-17  
For a Moment Like This  
Monday, June 29, 2026, Esther 1:1-22  
King Ahasuerus Deposes Queen Vashti  
Tuesday, June 30, 2026, Esther 2:1-23

- Endowment, Sara Mooney – Nothing to report – distributions were done in March.
- Mutual Ministry, Helena Buehler – Nothing to report – committee met last week.
- Property, Lonnie White – Playground mulch will be installed on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Reviewed some information regarding the remodel of the rooms for Growing Roots Infant to 3.
- Social Ministry, Craig Black – Reviewed committee activity. Possible immersion trip to Pine Ridge in August. Gene Fennell to present information on Habitat for Humanity.
- W/ELCA, Kathy Bradeen – Connie Curry from the YMCA was the speaker at the May meeting.
- Worship, Music & Technology, Donna McConnell – Need to schedule the quarterly meeting. Outdoor worships begin Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2026:

Treats – Kathy Bradeen. Devotions – Karen Barness.

July 2026 Greeter – Dave Ruen.

Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary

**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)

**July Newsletter Deadline**

Please have articles for the April Newsletter to the office by June 23rd.  
 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 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