

# CLF NEWS

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

### WNL Meal

Wednesday Night Life Returns September 16th!

Join us as we kick off a new season of Wednesday Night Life! This is a wonderful opportunity to fully embrace our mission statement and nurture growth in both our children and adults. Come enjoy a time of fellowship, great conversation, and meaningful connections with our youth and their families.

#### Fellowship Meal Details

- When: Every Wednesday starting September 16th
- Time: Dinner is served at 5:15 PM
- Who: Open to all congregation members!

#### Serve with Us: Volunteers Needed

We need hands and hearts to make these meals possible. Whether you love to cook or prefer to tidy up, there is a place for you to serve.

- Meal Preparers (Arrive between 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM): Help prepare and set out the meal. You will typically finish by 5:30 PM once the food is served.
- Clean-Up Crew (Start around 5:30 PM): Help wash dishes, wipe counters/tables, and sweep. Worship begins at 6:00, you can choose to attend and then finish cleaning afterward to be done around 7:00 PM.

#### How to Sign Up

Please pray about how you can support this ministry! You can sign up in two easy ways:

1. In Person: Visit the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.
2. Online: Click our Online Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet to claim your spot.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xaCSnj3mwnfeO1f\\_vMUn8W4dpoXss93xCKI-kV9eH2I/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xaCSnj3mwnfeO1f_vMUn8W4dpoXss93xCKI-kV9eH2I/edit?usp=sharing)

Questions? If you want to know more about what to expect, please stop in, call, or email Jean. She will be happy to answer all of your questions! We look forward to building relationships and encouraging friendships together.

*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.*

### Round Table Events

There will be four opportunities for Round table Listening Events - come to one, open to all; Sunday 9/6 10:30 am following worship, Tuesday 9/8 early morning 8:00am, Tuesday 9/15 late afternoon, 3:30 pm, and Wednesday 9/16, 7:30 pm; led by Interim Pastor Randy and the Call Committee.

### Confirmation News

Confirmation orientation for students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th will be held with Interim Pastor Randy and Intern Juliana on Wednesday September 9th at 6:30 pm. Please meet in the sanctuary.



### Worship Times

Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM with coffee and fellowship following

### CLF Contact Information

 605-673-4691

 officemanager@custerlutheran.com

 12622 US Hwy 16A  
Custer, SD 57730

 custerlutheran.com

I will always be grateful for summer 2026, and two glorious months ministering with you, Custer Lutheran Fellowship. I have looked through a kaleidoscope of campfire worship, Sunday morning singing, the wilderness loop, ice-cream downtown, motorcycles and walks with my dog around Stockade Lake—and, yes, getting caught out in the rain.

This summer, it's been easy to find contentment and joy. One of my favorite American poets, Wendell Berry, captured the sweet ease of summer in a few short lines

*Given: Poems, IV*

*"The woods and pastures are joyous  
in their abundance now  
in a season of warmth and much rain.  
We walk amidst foliage, amidst  
song. The sheep and cattle graze  
like souls in bliss (except for flies)  
and lie down satisfied.  
Who now can believe in winter? In winter  
who could have hoped for this?"*

Does that sound like Heaven? I think so, too. The Kingdom of God is found in this present moment—not far off or in the distant future, but in the here and the now.

Jesus teaches us, "the Kingdom of God has come near to you." (Luke 10:9) Try taking a walk outside with your eyes and your ears (and your heart) tuned into God's nearness. Every blade of grass sings of God's provision. Every insect's buzz and warm summer breezes testify to God's movement. Every passing cloud is witness to the unfolding story of God's plan.

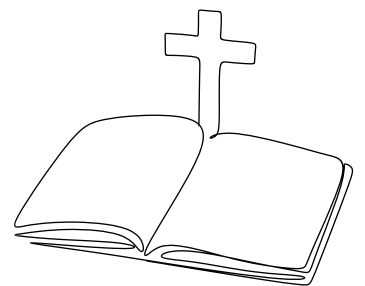
You have something special here at CLF, and I hope you will keep noticing it long after this summer is over: the Kingdom of God already among you in the ordinary holiness of working and playing, gathering and praying, listening and caring for one another and for your neighbors. As the seasons change (and they always do) carry with you something of the warm abundance of this summer. Remember that God is already here, Christ is always near, and there is always more grace unfolding than we can see.

I'll be praying for you, that you'll walk amidst foliage, amidst song.

Pastor Kari



*A growing community, with  
building and grounds  
spacious enough for all;*



*A witnessing community, eager to  
share with everyone the joy we have  
received from Christ.*

Interim is the time between full time called pastors. It's grieving and reviewing, a breathing time, a time for listening well and for ground up - all hands-on deck - all generations input, and a time to sharpen the church's focus. Interim is the spiritual discipline of opening ears to Gods desired and brightly designed future for the church.

Interim Pastor Randy Fett brings his trained intentional ministry work to this ministry. Pastor Randy has been a pastor of the ELCA for 42 years, having served for over 23 years in the South Dakota Synod, along with his partnership in 4 neighboring ELCA Synods, most recently serving as the interim consultant for six congregations. While sitting in the seat of pastor of the church and fulfilling all of the pastoral ministry duties, Pastor Randy's goals are to establish a baseline of input from among leaders and members of the congregation, review and analyze the past, articulate leadership mission and ministry goals for the future, and to work alongside of, train, and launch the church call committee. Interim ministry is a directed, organized, and consecutive path with each stage building upon the other. The end goal is the healthy calling of a new permanent pastor. Interim ministry keeps its sights on the call and moves towards that goal.

Pastor Randy will be serving as 3/4-time Interim Pastor. He lives in Rapid City with his wife, Jan. He will commute down to Custer for Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and will work from home on Thursdays.

Pastor Randy may be reached at the church office, Email at [rfett6@gmail.com](mailto:rfett6@gmail.com), Text/Cell 507-923-3098.

Here's some Partnered Interim times to engage within the next month's together at CLF.

**August:**

- Call Committee appointed by church council
- Church Timeline construction; Review of History led by church council; all member involvement

**September**

- Call Committee installed and trained by Interim Pastor
- 4 Round table Listening Events- come to one, open to all; Sunday 9/6 10:30 am following worship, Tuesday 9/8 early morning 8:00am, Tuesday 9/15 late afternoon, 3:30 pm, and Wednesday 9/16, 7:30 pm; led by Interim/ Call Committee
- Interim teachings on "Anxious systems and Grief Sharing

**October:**

- Congregation members submit names and nominations for Pastoral candidates
- Interim/ Call Committee conduct whole congregation survey. And Deep Leadership Dive survey
- Church Council sets years of experience range and Synod Guideline pay scale for new Pastor, council sets description, gifts, skills, and expectations for new pastor; council reviews pay scales of current staff and comparables, reviews giving trends, stewardship, and financials of congregation, and sets budget for 2027.
- Interim teachings on sizes and styles of churches and pastoral ministry expectations
- Interim/ Call Committee divides up work for church resume description/ MSP

**November:**

- Congregation members submit names and nominations for Pastoral candidates
- Interim leads Four Family Fun Events-congregation divided by names into four groups

- Interim/ Call Committee bring parts of church resume description/ MSP together into one unified document
- Church Council receives Interim/ Call Committee MSP; council edits and revises the document as needed
- Call Committee shares church resume description/ MSP, and what looking for in the new pastor with congregation
- Church resume description\ MSP submitted to Synod Bishop for review
- Interim leads a devotional reading reflection group
- Interim Teaching: Collaboration, Teamwork/ Partnership, and conflict Resolution

**December:**

- Synod Staff meets with Call Committee and whole congregation for a special Congregation Self Study meeting
- Pastoral name nominations shared with Synod Bishops staff
- Advent Worship/ Preaching theme on Sunday's
- Interim leads a devotional reading reflection group
- Interim teachings on Paradigm shifts and change

**January:**

- Interim lines up mock/ practice interviews for Call committee; Call Committee works out types of and order of questions
- Interim Sunday Preaching Series on "What is Church?"
- Interim teaching on Generational Reach, Core Values, Bedrock Beliefs, and Leadership Styles
- Call Committee begins First Zoom Online Interviews with pastoral candidates, and second on-site extended interview with primary candidate

**February:**

- Call Committee Interviews continue
- Lent: Interim Sunday Preaching Series on "Prayer"

**March:**

- Call Committee Final Interview with Final Candidate; Call Committee Recommends candidate to church council; Council Votes to Recommend to congregation for vote; Meet and Greet likely between candidate and congregation; Congregational Vote on pastoral call at specially called congregation meeting
- Interim Lent preaching series continues on "Prayer"

**April:**

- Interim Ministry work is complete
- Congregation in process of calling, and receiving, new pastor
- New pastor installed by Synod Bishops Staff

*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:*

Dave Ruen

How long have you been a member of CLF? **We became members in October 2023. We were frequent visitors whenever we were staying at our Custer property (bought fall of 2016) as we were living full time in MN until June 2023. Phil Lewison had us at “hello”!**

What is your favorite church tradition or event? **Easter Sunday worship.**

Where did you grow up? **On a beef, hog and crop farm in rural Lanesboro in southeastern Minnesota.**

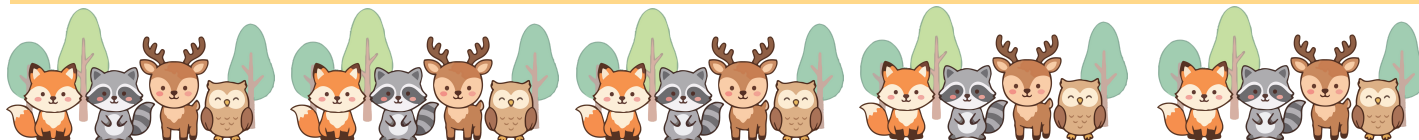
What is the best piece of advice you ever received? **When you receive a communication that really angers you to deliberate and “sleep on it” before providing your response the following day.**

What is your ultimate comfort food? **Tater tot hotdish.**

Which is your favorite season and why? **Fall. It is the Goldilocks “just right” season for me.**

What is one Bible passage that you love? **Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**

What is your ancestry? **Norwegian as all get out.**



Karen Barness

How long have you been a member of CLF? **23 years but not in a row. I was baptized at CLF and remained a member for 20 years before getting married and moving away. I moved back to Custer in 2023.**

Where do you usually sit during Sunday Worship? **On the East side so I can sit in the sun.**

What is your favorite church tradition or event? **I really liked the learning activities we did on Wednesday nights last winter after Advent and before Lent.**

Where did you grow up? **Custer**

What are your favorite hobbies outside of church? **Camping and hiking. (By camping I mean in an RV with water, heat/air and a microwave. My days of sleeping on the ground are long gone.)**

What is the best piece of advice you ever received? **Don't judge people no matter how nasty they are being. You don't know what they have been thru that made them act that way.**

What is your ultimate comfort food? **Lasagna**

Which is your favorite season and why? **Meteorological Fall, (Sept, Oct & Nov). The warm days, cool nights and the changing leaves.**

Where do you feel closed to God? **When I'm in nature and when I'm with my kids. I thank God for them every day.**

Who is one person who influenced your faith and why? **My mom, Jane Olson. She had such a pure heart and lead by example how to live a faith filled life.**

What role would you be willing to play in a Christmas pageant? **Oh, gosh! This is a hard one to answer. There are limited roles for women. I am too old to be Mary and not worthy of being an angel. Would probably be the donkey. :)**

What is one Bible passage that you love? **Jeremiah 29:11 ~ “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”**

What is your ancestry? **Scandinavian – Mostly Norwegian.**



## Women of the ELCA

At our August meeting Beth-Anne Ferley shared the history and mission of the Abbott House Youth Services located in Rapid City. Their services consist of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility, a growing network of Intensive Foster Homes, and an Independent Living Program for youth transition out of foster care. They provide a place of love, hope, and safety. This past fiscal year, Abbott House opened two more Intensive Foster Homes in Rapid City for a total of six homes. They also have Foster Homes in Mitchell and Sioux Falls. CLF WELCA donated \$300 to Abbott House Youth Services. CLF WELCA September Mission is to support the folks at the Pine Ridge Reservation with congregational donations of socks, stocking hats, gloves, etc. You may place your donations in the box located in the church narthex. Your help in fulfilling these needs is greatly appreciated.

The September meeting will be held on Monday, September 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fire Side room. Please bring a potluck item to share for lunch. Our speaker will be a representative from the Growing Roots Preschool & Childcare. Learn about what is happening right in our CLF building with Growing Roots.

## CLF Quilters

Our CLF Quilters have been busy spreading warmth in our community! They recently donated 10 beautiful, handmade quilts to the VA Hospice program in Hot Springs.

How You Can Help

- Animal Bed Donations: We need standard pillowcases to create comfortable dog and cat beds.
- Supplies: A huge thank you to everyone who has generously donated fabric, thread, and other sewing supplies.

Join Us This Fall

Starting in September, we return to our regular weekly schedule.

- When: Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
- Who: Anyone is welcome to join us.
- Skill Level: No prior sewing experience is required.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*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;*

## Bread and Broth Brigade

Our freezer is full of love and ready to share! We are busy cooking and stocking up homemade meals for anyone who needs a helping hand.

How to Get a Meal

- Who to contact: Call the church office or talk to a member of the visiting team.
- Who qualifies: Anyone who needs a cozy, ready-to-heat meal right now.



## Standing Together with Colombia: A Call for Hope and Solidarity

On Monday, August 10th, a devastating 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck northwestern Colombia. In an instant, hundreds of lives were lost, thousands were injured, and countless families lost everything. Our longtime friends Pastors Natanael Lizarazo and Barbara Wangsness (founders of Fundación Camino de Emaús) are providing immediate essential relief to impacted families.

"The people of Colombia need our prayers, our generosity, and our solidarity... Together, we are church without borders."

### How You Can Help

Your generosity provides immediate relief, food, shelter, medical supplies, and pastoral care, to families rebuilding their lives from the rubble.

- Give Online: Visit [www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en](http://www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en) and select Humanitarian Emergencies to make a secure, tax-deductible gift.
- Give by Check: Make checks payable to Southeastern Minnesota Synod with "Earthquake Colombia" written in the memo line. Mail to:

Southeastern Minnesota Synod  
418 Sumner Street E., Suite 200  
Northfield, MN 55057

- Noisy offering: We will be sending September offering collection to Fundación Camino de Emaús

Thank you for your deep compassion, your faithful prayers, and your generous support. Together, we reflect Christ's love where it is needed most.

## Firewood Sales – Red Shirt

A few days after I wrote the July newsletter article, the NFS put out an extensive fire burning ban. As a result, CLF pulled its wood from the Wood Shack, and removed the banner thus shutting down our sales. The ban is in effect until late in December. The odds of removing the ban are slim, but just in case, we are leaving the Wood Shack in place in case there is an opportunity for fall sales. The amount we did sell prior to the ban was \$4,961.09.....(yes, even a 9 cent sale!). That may be our final count for wood sales unless the ban is lifted.

So now we turn our efforts to the other phase of our wood inventory. Social Ministry is planning "An Annual Wood Haul Event," to Red Shirt this fall. Please watch for their information about this event. Our role as the Wood Workers, is to supply them with plenty of split wood. This year's wood supply is not a problem. Between the huge inventory at Outlaw Ranch, and what we have stocked at CLF, we have the wood. The problem is that we have lots of wood at CLF that needs splitting. So, I'm asking that you take it upon yourselves to volunteer at your convenience, to come out back and split wood. In order to effectively split wood, we need working splitters. Bob Dorton has been keeping the older units working. In addition, because of donations by several CLF members, we now have a new splitter. The cost of the splitter was \$1,140, and because of donations, the cost to CLF is only \$270. It would be great to reduce the CLF cost to zero, so if you would like to make a donation, (any amount from 9 cents on up), it would be greatly appreciated. Depending on how splitting goes on a "come when you can" basis, I may plan "splitting events" at CLF in October. More details on loading for Red Shirt will be in the next news release.

God Bless you all,  
Denny McConnell



*We ♥ our  
Volunteers*

## God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 13

If you're like most folks, you probably see God's Work being done at CLF year round - helping out at Outlaw Ranch, developing a preschool facility on site (Growing Roots), providing SPARKS opportunities for the community, collecting/ organizing firewood for those in need, focusing on our Mission of the Month giving,... And the list goes on. But on September 13, we will celebrate God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday with our ELCA brethren from around the world. Following the Sunday Service we will host the following activities and you are encouraged to lend YOUR hands!

### "How," you ask...

- Teacher Appreciation: In the kitchen, we will be assembling trays of food for educators at Custer Elementary/Middle/High/ACE Schools. A team of volunteers will also be needed to deliver the trays to the various schools on Monday the 14th. If interested, you are also invited to bring baked goods on GWOH Sunday and we will include them in the food offering.
- Assembling birthday bags/kits for WEAVE residents. These kits contain cake mix, frosting, candles and other items for residents who are celebrating birthdays during their stay.
- Quilters' hands are doing God's Work every Tuesday morning at CLF. There will be a blessing of the quilts during the GWOH Sunday service.
- Or, you can work at the Hospital Healing Garden. Bring your work gloves and wear your gardening clothing. Work at this important garden will include weeding and mulching. We will do this work following the Sunday service on both the 13th and 20th.
- We will also be writing cards/letters to military, college students and homebound/nursing home congregants. Look for our tables set up in Fellowship Hall. (Who doesn't enjoy getting a personal note in the mail?)
- We'll be conducting our annual highway cleanup following the church service on September 20th (not the 13th). Bring your own water, snacks and gloves. Reflective vests and trash bags will be provided.

Again, celebrate ELCA's God's Work. Our Hands.  
With activities on September 13th (and some on the 20th).  
Mark your calendars!  
And jump in where you feel most comfortable.



*A serving community, reaching  
beyond ourselves to stand with the  
poor, the sick, the hungry and the  
oppressed;*



*A giving community, generously  
offering our time, talent and  
treasure to support each other and  
share in Christ's ministry;*

## Worship and Choir Information

Greetings!

Here we go....ready or not! Our fall season has begun, and we have jumped in with both feet! Although I hate to see our summer come to a close, you can't deny the excitement and anticipation that fall activities bring. The routine of school, choir, Wednesday Night Life, etc. sets our year in motion.

Our choir will be singing a piece called "The Answer." The message is one of promise that after so many questions, hurting, fears, etc., the answer is Jesus. He sees our sadness, feels our sorrow, and is our strength who holds the weight of all our failings. Great is our sin, but greater is the cross! Please join us if you feel moved to do so. All are welcome!

Upcoming Dates:

Noisy Offering/Communion at the Rail ~ Sunday, September 6

God's Work, Our Hands Worship ~ Sunday, September 13

Fall Theological Conference @ CLF ~ Sunday, September 13 - Tuesday, September 15

Wednesday Night Life Begins with worship in sanctuary ~ Wednesday, September 16

Choir:

CLF Choir Practice ~ Wednesday, September 16 @ 4:30 PM

CLF Choir Practice ~ Wednesday, September 23 @ 4:30 PM

CLF Special Music ~ Sunday, September 27 @ 9:00 AM

Blessings in Christ,

Jenn Doyle

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

*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;*

## YTD Financials

| <b>Custer Lutheran Fellowship</b>                   |                      |                       |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>General Fund Budget to Actual</b>                |                      |                       |                     |
| <b>  - - - - Year To Date (July 2026) - - - -  </b> |                      |                       |                     |
| <b>Account</b>                                      | <b>Actual</b>        | <b>Budget</b>         | <b>Variance</b>     |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                               | <b>\$ 223,693.93</b> | <b>\$ 190,533.00</b>  | <b>\$ 33,160.93</b> |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                                 |                      |                       |                     |
| Pastoral Leadership                                 | 46,986.10            | 49,569.00             | -2,582.90           |
| Worship                                             | 11,992.21            | 14,111.00             | -2,118.79           |
| Education                                           | 16,580.53            | 17,132.00             | -551.47             |
| Mission Support                                     | 19,338.49            | 20,093.00             | -754.51             |
| Support/Care                                        | 6,810.38             | 5,710.00              | 1,100.38            |
| Office Administration                               | 35,187.81            | 36,073.00             | -885.19             |
| Office Operations                                   | 4,284.66             | 6,069.00              | -1,784.34           |
| Facilities Expenses                                 | 58,398.42            | 65,665.00             | -7,266.58           |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>                           | <b>199,578.60</b>    | <b>214,422.00</b>     | <b>-14,843.40</b>   |
| <b>Total Other Revenues</b>                         | <b>645.92</b>        | <b>0.00</b>           | <b>645.92</b>       |
| <b>Total Other Expenditures</b>                     | <b>153.98</b>        | <b>0.00</b>           | <b>153.98</b>       |
| <b>Net Transfers</b>                                | <b>-31,746.15</b>    | <b>0.00</b>           | <b>-31,746.15</b>   |
| <b>Change in Net Assets</b>                         | <b>\$ (7,138.88)</b> | <b>\$ (23,889.00)</b> | <b>\$ 16,750.12</b> |

## Spark Kids

Join us for SPARK Kids! Our first Spark is Sept 16th! During the school year on Wednesdays, children from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 5 are picked up at the Elementary building after school is dismissed and brought to the church. We have a wide variety of learning activities that connect to the weekly Bible story....snacks, games, crafts and more! Pickup is 5:00-5:15 and we would if you could stay for supper! There is NO cost for this program! Registration available by email: [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net) or by scanning the QR code! Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

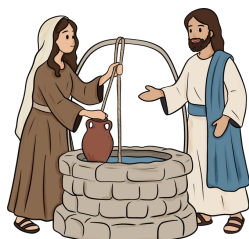
All are welcome!

Contact Wendi with any questions #509-494-3236.



## RAP Youth Group

High School Youth Group will begin Sept. 16th at 6:30pm in the Down Under. We will discuss dates for Lock-In, Progressive Dinner and other fun activities. At this meeting we will also hopefully find out who is interested in joining us for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN in June 2027. We are so excited to be taking another group for this amazing experience with around 30,000 other high school students from around the country! All high school students are welcome to attend, regardless if they are members of CLF or not. Invite your friends! All are welcome! Contact Wendi #509-494-3236, for more info or ways to get involved.



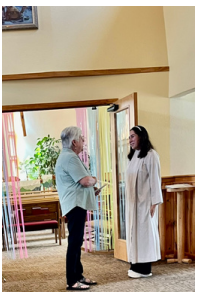
## VBS

We chose "Be The Light" for our 5th year putting together VBS and it was Brilliant! We had 28 kids doing rotations of S.T.E.M., Construction, Arts & Crafts, and Skits & Games...along yummy snacks that all reflected our theme! During lunch we had special speakers that taught us about solar power, electricity with a ride in the "bucket truck", and lighthouses. We had large group time with Bible stories and songs where we also learned about a Global Mission- Pine Ridge After-School prgm and a Local Mission- Custer Fire Dept. We gathered so many supplies and \$100 to share the LIGHT! The Wed campfire of a meal and songs for parents was well attended and was a great way to wrap up the week! Special THANKS to the Youth helpers Jersey, Hayleigh, Kaedin, Sara, Sophie, Ethan and Ezra! And our Outstanding Staff- Janna Jorgensen, Dez Newton, Wanda Harvey, Lise' White, Brenda Versteeg, Linda Nelson, Kim Webster, Cozy Dorton, Donna McConnell, Wanda Omodt, Gene and Linda Fennell, Gail and Eldon Knudson, Carol Niemann, Jean Pulscher, Scott Luikart, Intern Juli and Pastor Kari! We couldn't do it without the many hands that spread "SON"-shine and would love to have you join the crew next year! Contact Wendi #509-494-3236 for more info!



*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.*

*An intergenerational community, nurturing children and youth, young adults, people in mid-life, and older people as one family of God;*



## Thank you

Dear CLF,

The Select-a Gift Committee would like to extend a BIG thank you for your contributions during the July special 'Noisy Offering'! We received \$656.52 and that will be wisely spent on our gifts for the many families in need. CLF is always so generous in your giving to support this important mission. Thank You from the Select-a-Gift committee!

Linda Fennell, Jean Pulcher, Tina Buchanan, and Jean Pulcher

Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Council Minutes — August 18, 2026

Members Present: Karen Barness, Craig Black, , Helena Buehler, Donna McConnell, Sara Mooney, Dave Ruen, Lonnie White, Pastor Kari Webb, Intern Juliana Jimenez and Pastor Randy Fett.

Not Present: Kathy Bradeen

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 were two additions to the agenda. Craig moved, Dave seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.

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

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:** The offerings thru July were 117% (\$32,469.34) of budget and expenses were 93% (-\$14,843.40) of budget.

- Thrivent Choice – July \$ 0.00, YTD - \$628.00
- Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts – July \$200.00, YTD - \$900.00

Loan balance is \$22,463.

8 camperships were paid this year from restricted funds. Lonnie moved, Craig seconded to transfer the money budgeted in general funds to designated camperships for 2027. Motion carried.

Lonnie moved, Karen seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

### **Special Agenda Items:**

There were no special agenda items.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Audio/Visual Bid Discussion – The A/V Committee recommended to go with DB Sound's bid of around \$30,100+. Donna moved, Karen seconded to also purchase a 98" tv from Best Buy for back of church for pastor's use. Motion carried. Craig moved, Dave seconded to approve the committee's recommendations up to \$35,000 at this time. Motion carried.
- Bathroom Remodel Update – Shannon Pulscher will be starting to work on sheetrock that needs to be replaced.
- Call Committee Update – 4 questionnaire/apps have been received with a possible 2 more coming. Names were disussed of potential members to be contacted.
- Star Grant – Pastor Shannon had applied for a grant to help pay for our fire suppression updates which have been completed and paid for. Will notify the Synod that it is not needed anymore.
- Miscellaneous Items – There is a cart with Yoga equipment. Consensus was to keep the cart and give the yoga equipment to either Growing Roots, members, The Trailhouse or YMCA. The small corkboards that used to be in the hallway outside of the rooms will be disposed of.

### **New Business:**

- Membership changes – Loss: Lynn & Peggy Moller, Transfer to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Newcastle, WY  
Loss: William Leschensky – deceased May 16, 2026; Sunny Reeves – deceased June 29, 2026; Helen Sandburg – deceased August 8, 2026
- Wall Chart of Church History – Discussion was to create a timeline of CLF's history from start to present by decades. It will be placed on tables in the Narthex and people are encouraged to add events to the timeline.

Continued on page 14

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, Exodus 21:12-27 The Law Concerning Violence  
 Wednesday, September 2, 2026, Exodus 21:28-36 The Laws Concerning Property  
 Thursday, September 3, 2026, Exodus 22:1-15 Laws of Restitution  
 Friday, September 4, 2026, Exodus 22:16-31 Social and Religious Laws .  
 Saturday, September 5, 2026, Exodus 23:1-9 Justice for All  
 Sunday, September 6, 2026, Exodus 20:17 Do Not Covet  
 Monday, September 7, 2026, Exodus 23:14-19 The Annual Festivals  
 Tuesday, September 8, 2026, Exodus 23:20-33 The Conquest of Canaan Promised  
 Wednesday, September 9, 2026, Exodus 24:1-8 The Blood of the Covenant  
 Thursday, September 10, 2026, Exodus 24:9-18 On the Mountain with God  
 Friday, September 11, 2026, Exodus 25:1-22 The Ark of the Covenant  
 Saturday, September 12, 2026, Exodus 25:23-40 The Table and the Lampstand  
 Sunday, Sep 13, 2026, Gen 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 Flood and Promise  
 Monday, September 14, 2026, Genesis 9:18-28 Noah and His Sons  
 Tuesday, September 15, 2026, Genesis 10:1-14 Nations Descended from Noah

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, Gen 10:15-32 Nations Descended from Noah  
 Thursday, September 17, 2026, Genesis 11:1-9 The Tower of Babel  
 Friday, September 18, 2026, Genesis 11:10-26 Descendants of Shem  
 Saturday, September 19, 2026, Genesis 11:27-32 Descendants of Terah  
 Sunday, September 20, 2026, Genesis 12:1-9 Call of Abraham  
 Monday, September 21, 2026, Genesis 15:1-6 God's Covenant with Abram  
 Tuesday, September 22, 2026, Genesis 21:1-7 The Birth of Isaac  
 Wednesday, September 23, 2026, Gen 25:19-28 The Birth of Esau and Jacob  
 Thursday, September 24, 2026, Genesis 35:16-26 The Birth of Benjamin and Death of Rachel  
 Friday, September 25, 2026, Genesis 37:1-11 Joseph Dreams of Greatness  
 Saturday, September 26, 2026, Genesis 37:12-36 Joseph is Sold by His Brothers  
 Sunday, September 27, 2026, Genesis 39:1-23 Joseph in Prison  
 Monday, September 28, 2026, Genesis 50:15-21 Joseph Forgives His Brothers  
 Tuesday, September 29, 2026, Genesis 50:22-26 Joseph's Death  
 Wednesday, September 30, 2026, Exodus 1:1-22 Oppression of the Israeli

#### Pastor's Report:

- Review Worship & Activities – In August Pastor Kari split the services with Juliana. She is working on plans for the Fall Theological Conference which is to be held in September at CLF and Outlaw Ranch with Pastor Randy and Juliana.
- Pastor Randy has worked with Juliana to set up the Confirmation plans using the "Lutheran Yes!" curriculum. He handed out the preliminary schedule for the year.

**Intern Report:** Report handed out. Will be attending the Fall Cluster Retreat in October with Pastor Randy.

#### Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- Caring Hands, Karen Barness – Will be preparing the next batch of meals on Monday. Next meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Christian Education, Dave Ruen – Next quarterly meeting is September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM.
- Endowment, Sara Mooney – Nothing to report.
- Mutual Ministry, Helena Buehler – Nothing to report.
- Property, Lonnie White – Stair treads for steps to the Down Under are delayed until October. Bathroom partitions should be here next week.
- Social Ministry, Craig Black – Reviewed committee activity. Wood Haul is November 7<sup>th</sup>. Getting GWOH materials out.
- W/ELCA, Kathy Bradeen – Nothing to report.
- Worship, Music & Technology, Donna McConnell – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting: , 2026:

Treats – Karen Barness. Devotions – Intern Juliana.

October 2026 Greeter – \_\_\_\_\_.

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)

**October Newsletter****Deadline**

Please have articles for the August Newsletter to the office by October 22nd. 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

Contact 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 July through September 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 worshiping 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: Randy Fett - Interim  
Intern: Intern Juliana Jimenez  
Office Manager: Jean Pulscher  
Custodian: Rob Conn  
Worship and Music Director: Jenn Doyle  
Financial Secretary: Steve Baldwin &  
Janice Albers  
Treasurer: Sara Mooney  
Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch