

# CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

## CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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FEBRUARY 2024

### Inside This Issue

2	CLF Happenings/ Social Ministry
3	Pastor's Ponderings
4	Wednesday NightLife & Youth
5	More Youth News
6	From the Church Office
7	Health Ministry/Financials
8	This 'N' That
9	The Women of CLF
10	Council Meeting Highlights
11	Daily Devotions
Inserts	- February Calendar - Birthdays & Anniversaries

## THE SEASON OF LENT IS UPON US

### LENT

#### Definition

Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) of penitence and preparation for the Three Days of Holy Week and Easter.

#### A Very Brief History

The term "Lent" originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten" which means "spring." This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening. The season began as period of fasting leading up to the Vigil of Easter. Catechumens, those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation. For those that were already baptized, Lent was a period to be renewed in their faith by studying the Bible, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the Resurrection. Thus, Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses' forty day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

#### A Few Notes on Current Practice

The appointed liturgical color for Lent is purple because purple has long been associated with royalty. In this case, Christ reigns from a cross. Currently, the ancient understanding of Lent as both a time for baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal is being rediscovered in Lutheran rites and practice. Many congregations hold mid-week services during Lent and a baptismal renewal theme is particularly appropriate for these.

Many congregations refrain from speaking or singing the word "alleluia" during Lent. "Burying" the alleluia occurs at the conclusion of worship on Transfiguration Sunday and it is restored at either the Vigil of Easter or Easter Sunday. A Lenten acclamation replaces the alleluia verse in preparation for hearing the Gospel (See ELW pg. 103 for one example).

Information found at: <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/430/>

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



Lent.

a season of spiritual preparation

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS START ON FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>



Soup Suppers begin starting with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We gather for a simple, yet hearty meal of soup and sandwiches from 5:00 — 6:00 PM on Wednesdays. Lenten Soup Suppers go from February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please consider signing up to bring a batch of soup or sandwiches one of these weeks! Sign-up sheets are located at the Welcome Center.

# LENTEN SEASON OFFERING - HELP US BUILD A MOUNTAIN

“On the **mountain** of the Lord it will be provided.” Genesis 22:14

Your Social Ministry Team is once again planning an exciting way for us to participate in a Lenten Season Offering. As in recent years, we will be building a mountain at the altar with our offerings. Various items needed by non-profits, who are conducting God’s work in our community will be collected during Sunday and Wednesday services for five weeks beginning February 18<sup>th</sup>. We will focus on the following organizations: W.E.A.V.E., The Storehouse, Pine Ridge Diaper Drive and Humane Society—Custer.

Listed below is a list of items needed by each of these non-profit organizations:

### W.E.A.V.E.— Women Escaping a Violent Environment

A very special organization in our community that has been helping women and children in need for over 20 years.

- ✦ Toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo & conditioner, Suave Children’s shampoo, twin sheets that are new or gently used.

### The Storehouse —

Their mission is serve people in Custer County by receiving and distributing with respect and compassion donated food and household items.

- ✦ Canned fruit & vegetables, peanut butter, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce.

### Pine Ridge Diaper Drive —

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

- ✦ Disposable diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6 (some 1s, 2s & 4s as well).

### Humane Society — Custer

- ✦ Dry dog food, Purina, or other name brand, Dry cat food, Purina or other name brand (monetary donations to assist with bills, etc. are helpful as well).

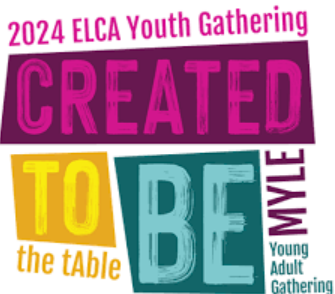
**Watch for more updates in the bulletins.**

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER



PLEASE JOIN US for a Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at about 10:30 AM after service. The Social Ministry Team will be hosting this annual fundraiser and will be cooking up not only pancakes but our “famous” biscuits and sausage gravy, along with mixed fruit cups and juice. This year’s freewill offering will be going to support the CLF Youth attending the National Gathering to be held in New Orleans, LA in July and the Woyatan/Wambli Ska Mission work.

## THE YOUTH GATHERING



The Youth Gathering is 30,000+ 8th-12th grade students from around the country that get together in a large city for faith formation, worship, fellowship and service. This year the Gathering will be in New Orleans, LA. Fourteen kids from our youth group will join Lutherans Outdoors of SD and 200 other SD youth to go together on charter buses on July 13th-21st! South Dakota is once again sending the most kids to the gathering! Way to go! If your business or household would like to make a tax deductible donation, we would greatly appreciate it! With food, travel, housing, and other costs, we will need more than \$20,000 for our group. You can donate with Youth Gathering in the memo line and help us reach our goal! We are also looking for fundraising ideas. Contact Wendi 509-494-3236 with any questions.



How are those New Year Resolutions going? I think I have said before but I will say it again, I don't do New Year Resolutions, because often by February I have fallen back into old patterns, or have forgotten the new habits I said I was going to start. I will say, however, that if I want to contemplate my life and my way of living, Lent has always been the best time for me to do this. When I am partnering with God, things just go better.

Lent is a time for me to really focus my attention on to my relationship with God and my walk with Jesus. Lent is a time for me to remember that Jesus knows me as a human, and sees all of me. It is a time for me to question if I am living out the gifts God has given me and being faithful to my calling as a follower of Jesus.

Some of you may "give up" something for 40 days or add in a spiritual practice for 40 days as part of your Lenten tradition. If you plan on doing this I would like to encourage you to think through the "why." If you are giving up sweets, why? If it is just to lose a little weight, unless you know the deeper "why" my guess is that any weight you lose will be re-gained pretty quickly after Easter. But if your why is to draw closer to God, to think about how you turn to sweets for comfort or escape, maybe this is your chance to turn to God for comfort and discernment.

Some traditions have taught that the giving up of something is to acknowledge the 40 days of suffering that Jesus spent in the wilderness. If that is the case for you, I would like to add that you add gratitude to your practice. Pay attention to the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life during both times of suffering and times of joy.

This Lenten Season during our time of worship we will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall around tables for our worship service time. I will be using the resources from Kate Bowler's book Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! She and her team have also developed a Lenten Group discussion and devotional guide that I will use to design our time together. In a separate article I will outline the services and the topics of prayer and scripture study. This time is meant to open us up to paying attention to how we navigate the ups and downs of being human together with Christ beside us.

The other practice that I will be doing this year is offering an online devotional using her material. I will record a blessing that will launch each day on our FaceBook page at noon. This is as much for me as for you. One of the goals of this Lenten practice, according to the author is "to allow for discussion about life as it really is—not just the Instagram (or FaceBook) worthy parts, but the difficult and the painful too." My "why" for doing this is to challenge myself to be bold in my proclamation that even when life is hard, it can be beautiful when we practice life with Jesus by our side.

I'm looking forward to this time of preparation for Easter with you!

Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Shannon

## CARING HANDS COMMITTEE

If you were at the Annual meeting, you heard about the restructuring of the Caring Hands Committee. This committee has added in the visitation portion of the former Outreach Committee, as well as added a greeting card ministry. This means that there are five teams under the umbrella of the Caring Hands Committee. These five teams are: The Greeting Card team, led by Helena Buehler; The Meal Team, led by Jackie Hartwick; The Transportation Team, led by Cozy Dorton; The Visitation Team led by Pastor Shannon and Mary Klein; and the Prayer Team, led by Cozy Dorton. The committee chair is Helena Buehler. There is a sign up sheet and more information in the Narthex for you to check out and decide which team you would like to be on! Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to care for your brothers and sisters in Christ at CLF and in our community. If you are a "Snow Bird" or not able to get out much, the Greeting Card Team or Prayer Team might just be the perfect way for you to participate in this Committee!

## 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 |                                   |

Hospitals don't notify the pastor that a member is in the hospital, even if they ask your church membership when you arrive. So please let the pastor know if you or a family member is in the hospital. Custer Lutheran Fellowship, the body of Christ, wants to bring you Christ's love in all the seasons of your life.

clf@gwtc.net

673-4691 (church)

## SPARK KIDS

Join us for SPARK Kids! During the school year on Wednesdays, children from Kindergarten through Grade 5 are picked up at the Elementary building after school is dismissed and brought to the church. We sing songs, have a snack, and do a game or craft that ties into the Bible story. It is always a fun time of learning and laughing, with also some great questions and deep thinking! Pickup is 5:00-5:15. There is NO cost for this program! Children need to be registered by their parents/guardians in order to participate. Registration materials are available through the office. Substitute drivers needed if you can help since we have 35 kids signed up now! All are welcome!



## WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE SCHEDULE

### Meal at 5:15 PM

- Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Pizza
- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> Soup Suppers begin
- Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Soup & Sandwich Supper
- Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> Soup & Sandwich Supper

### Worship at 6:00 PM

- Evening Prayer Worship Service
- Ash Wednesday Service
- Lenten Worship Service
- Lenten Worship Service

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>: Ash Wednesday—6-7PM Worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes (in Sanctuary)

### The Following Services will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

- Feb. 21 Theme: Entering the Wilderness — Mark 1:9-15
- Feb. 28 Theme: The Limitless Love of God — Mark 9:2-9
- Mar. 6 Theme: Transformation (Not Perfection) — John 2:13-22
- Mar. 13 Theme: The Depths of Renewal — John 3:14-21
- Mar. 20 Theme: The Compassion of God — John 12:20-33



### Confirmation at 5:30 PM

- Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> TBD
- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> No Class
- Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> TBD
- Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> TBD

### 6:30 PM RAP High School Youth Group



## RAP HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We would love to see all 9th-12th graders join us for Youth Group! We will have our weekly Wednesday night gatherings at 6:30pm. We had a great time chatting about so many topics and playing a wide variety of games. We are using the Bible Study that goes along with the Youth Gathering theme: CREATED TO BE. We talked about BRAVE and now we are discussing AUTHENTIC! Next is FREE! Please contact me if you would like to help with fundraisers or any activity that brings faith and fun to our youth! Wendi Rusch #509-494-3236 for more info!



**YOUTH GATHERING VALENTINE FUNDRAISER**

As a Fundraiser for our Youth Gathering Trip, we are taking orders for Valentine cards! For a donation, people can have us send one to a friend or family member who would appreciate some LOVE! On FEB 7th, we will make VALENTINES at Youth group to mail out the next day! Sign-up sheet at church or contact Wendi for more info! #509-494-3236



**CONFIRMATION PICTURES WANTED**

Do you have or know of a confirmation student from CLF? We are currently looking for pictures to get our youth confirmation pictures updated. If you also have the names and pictures that you would want to drop off at the church office, that would be a bonus for us. Please contact Judy Baldwin with your information at 605-673-1570.



**BURYING THE ALLELUIA**

On February 11<sup>th</sup> during our worship service the youth of the congregation will be bringing forward some special posters they will be coloring with the word "Alleluia" on them. This poster is included in this Newsletter for you to color as well. Then bring it with you to worship on the 11<sup>th</sup> to put in the box. On Easter Sunday these posters will re-appear throughout the sanctuary. We will not be singing or saying Alleluia during the season of Lent or during Holy Week. Then we will lift our voices and Proclaim with all that is within us "ALLELUIA" on Easter Sunday.



**CLF Choir**

We will be singing a piece entitled "And We Remember." It is a thoughtful little melody that will help prepare us for the Lenten journey that we will begin on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> when we gather for Ash Wednesday. We remember the sacrifice of Jesus' death that was made so that our sins may be forgiven.

**February**

**Practice:**

Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM  
 Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

(NOTICE TIME CHANGE- CHOIR WILL BEGIN FOLLOWING THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE)

**Special Music:**

Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 AM church





**CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:

Main address — [clf@gwtc.net](mailto:clf@gwtc.net)

**MARCH NEWSLETTER**

**DEADLINE**

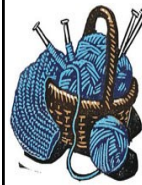
Please have articles for the March Newsletter to the office **by February 16<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!



**OFFICE HOURS**

The church office is open: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30 AM—4:00 PM.**  
**Wednesday's open from 10 AM—7:00 PM.**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**



If you have someone in your life who needs some extra comfort and prayers, please pick up a prayer shawl from the office. Everyone is welcome to do so at any time—just let someone in the office know when you do, as we keep a journal of all activity.



**CLF WEBSITE OFFERS ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS**

On Custer Lutheran Fellowship's website, [www.custerlutheran.com](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 only. You can set up your own login/password and make changes with your giving at any time.



**"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DEVOTIONALS**

The "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **January to March 2024 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.



**CUSTER MEET & EAT**



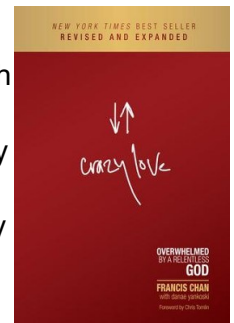
The Custer Meet & Eat will be held on **February 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM** at the Custer Community Church located at 547 Harney ST in Custer. This meal is open to the public and a free-will donation is taken. Come and meet new people and have a great time!

**THURSDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY BY BONNIE THOMPSON**

The Thursday morning, Christian women's book study meets at 9:30 at the Monument Health assisted-living center, which used to be the Wedgwood Assisted Living. We usually have between six and 10 women who get together for about an hour and a half to read discuss, laugh and learn. All women are invited to come.

The new book that we are starting is called "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God" by Francis Chan and Danae Yankowski.

"Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible even radical solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with himself because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of dues and don'ts is falling in love with God. And once you encounter his love, as Francis describes it, you'll never be the same because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything."





February has been designated Heart Health Month and that is a very important topic for all of us. Early on in my career I became very interested in matters of the heart. I began a position in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. I learned so much there that I was hooked. Through the years since, I have worked in different hospitals and cities and states and the evolution of cardiac care has gone so far and yet so many things still hold true. We are so fortunate in our area to have so many new cardiac specialists that can do so much more in the last 10 years than I can remember.

What can we do to keep our heart healthy? Most of these suggestions have not changed in many years, but reminders are often good. Keep active and exercise regularly. Now if you haven't been doing that for a while, check with your Provider about any restrictions. Usually, starting out slow and steadily increasing your routine is wise. If you do develop any new symptoms, contact your Provider for advice. Eating a well- balanced diet including all of the food groups, with vegetables and fruit making up half your diet. Red meats, carbohydrates, starches and salt should be in moderation. Try reducing stressors and quit smoking.

What kind of symptoms should you be aware of? Shortness of breath especially with activity, palpitations, which means that your heart feels like it is skipping a beat or irregular. Lower energy levels for unknown reasons, feeling feint or lightheaded, swelling of your legs, feet or ankles, chest tightness or heaviness and of course chest pain. Chest pain does not necessarily need to be in the left chest or arm. Women often have different symptoms including upper back pain & neck pain and shortness of breath. Women are often misdiagnosed because of these differences. What should you do if you notice any of these symptoms? If the symptoms have been developing over time, leave a message for your provider and/or go to your walk-in clinic. If these symptoms come on more suddenly go to the ER, preferably having another person take you there. If the symptoms are more acute, call 911. Never second guess yourself & take that chance it will all go away, as it might not.

Healthy Heart, healthy body  
Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



Custer Lutheran Fellowship 12-31-2023 Statement of Activities Approved at January 23, 2023 Annual Meeting	Total all Funds January thru December 2023				2024 Approved Budget
	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
Income					
Offering Contributions	320,486	290,208	30,278	110.4%	364,478
Non-restricted Special Donation	7,443	0	7,443	100.0%	0
Temp. Restricted Donations	41,205	0	41,205		0
Miscellaneous Revenue	175	0	175		0
Interest	2,423	300	2,123	807.7%	2,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>371,732</b>	<b>290,508</b>	<b>81,224</b>	<b>128.0%</b>	<b>366,478</b>
Expense					
Pastoral Leadership	69,098	95,523	-26,425	72.3%	81,324
Worship	12,272	11,663	609	105.2%	23,737
Education	32,070	24,400	7,670	131.4%	50,822
Mission Support	53,825	38,776	15,049	138.8%	40,767
Support/Care & Facilities					
Support and care	58,410	59,440	-1,030	98.3%	73,168
Facility Expense	118,496	72,549	45,947	163.3%	109,328
Total Support/Care & Facilities	176,906	131,989	44,917	134.0%	182,496
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>344,171</b>	<b>302,351</b>	<b>41,820</b>	<b>113.8%</b>	<b>379,146</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>27,561</b>	<b>-11,843</b>	<b>39,404</b>		<b>-12,668</b>
Supplemental budget Information					
Total Other Income	11,344	0	11,344		0
Total Other Expense	10,355	8,400	1,955		-43,600
Net Other Income	989	-8,400	9,389		43,600
<b>Net Income (ordinary and Supplemental budget inc. &amp; exp.)</b>	<b>28,550</b>	<b>-20,243</b>	<b>48,793</b>		<b>30,932</b>

- Notes:
- Residual net non-restricted income for 2023 is \$31,916
  - "Other Income" includes \$8,013 unrealized capital gain in Endowments as of 9/30/23.
  - 2024 budget Total net income includes \$43,600 in existing designated and restricted fund spending (youth gathering, capital improvement restricted funds, etc) leaving nonrestricted net income at \$32,852. See Annual Report for details.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

At the 1-21-2024 Annual Meeting, the congregation approved the 2023 budget report and the proposed 2024 Budget. Below you will find a summary report for each year.

2023 End of Year Statement of Activities:  
Please note this end-of-year annual report compares actual income and expenses to the budget originally passed by the congregation on 1-22-2023.

Throughout the year, as CLF's fiscal picture became clearer, the council passed allowable amendments to the original 2023 budget to address unanticipated needs and opportunities. These changes are reflected in the Council minutes and monthly financial reports and were discussed and approved at the annual meeting.

2024 Approved Budget: This budget reflects the anticipated income and expenses for 2024. The budget also allows designation of residual net non-restricted income from 2023 to a Council Discretionary Fund. The goal of the fund is to increase flexibility and reduce the need for mid-year budget adjustments.

## GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD

The Grief Recovery Method® 8-week support group will meet at CLF. Meetings will begin on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup> (will run for eight weeks) from 5:30-7:30 PM. This is not an open support group, which means you must commit to attending all eight sessions. The Grief Recovery Method® is an evidence based emotional healing process to help recover from more than 43 different kinds of losses we can experience. The book, "The Grief Recovery Handbook" by John James and Russell Friedman is the book we use and each participant needs a book. Each week there will be reading and writing assignments to be discussed in the sessions. Cost will be \$150 per person for the eight sessions. This support group is sponsored by the Southern Hills Zonta group. If the fee is an issue for you, contact a Zonta member for assistance. Contact Margie Neugebauer, MA, Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist® at [margeneugebauer@gmail.com](mailto:margeneugebauer@gmail.com) to register or for questions. She can also be reached at (303)590-4403.

## FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING

**The February Noisy Offering will be going to the Feeding Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rapid City.**



## CORRECTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

It has been brought to my attention that the Backpack Program and the Summer Sack Lunches were purchased by the Storehouse. Sorry about the wrong information. Mary Winter



**W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 19th with a potluck lunch at 11:30 am Fireside Room.

At the last meeting held on January 15th, the ladies voted to give \$1,500 to the RAP Group for their National Youth Gathering to New Orleans to help with expenses.

The ladies also decided that they would serve the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on February 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:00 pm — 6:00 pm.

Also, the ladies decided that they would help the RAP High School Youth Group with the Easter Brunch served on Easter Sunday morning. Time to be determined yet.

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**W/ELCA MISSION FOR JANUARY - MARCH**

**Quilts for LWR  
 and local needs**

Thread  
 Cotton Fabric suitable for making quilts  
 Cotton blankets, and/or  
 mattress pads for inside quilts

~~~~~  
**CLF QUILTING NEWS**



Quilting will continue every Tuesday at 9:00 AM through the winter.  
 Thanks for all the supplies we have received. They will be put to good use.  
 Mattress pads in any condition are needed and good flat sheets.  
 "The Busy Quilters"



**CUSTER CARE AND REHAB CENTER**

As many of you know, the nursing home in Custer has re-opened and people are beginning to fill the rooms. My guess is that it will fill up quickly, and we am aware of two people that are connected to or members of CLF who will be moving to the Care Center in the very near future. The Custer Ministerial Association has already agreed to provide worship services every Sunday afternoon at 3:30 PM for the residents by setting up a rotation schedule with several of the Pastors and Lay Leaders. Pastor Shannon would love it if at least one person would be willing to go with her when she is scheduled to help to provide music leadership as well as fellowship. The following dates are the ones that CLF is scheduled to serve:

Feb. 18, April 7, May 26, July 14, Sept. 1, Oct. 20, Dec. 8

Please let Pastor Shannon know when you can assist. All are welcome to come and worship with us, the more the merrier!

**CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB**

"Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow"

It's already showing up, isn't it. And we need volunteer sidewalk shovelers for the Church. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex and you can sign up for whatever days work for you. (If you can't make a week long commitment, that's fine. Sign up for two or three days.)

If you need to be shown how to operate the John Deere snow blower, contact Brad McKinney at 308-641-1741 or any number of "experienced" snow shovelers. Thanks!

"A clean sidewalk reflects a clean heart." ~ Expectations 1:1



## COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 16, 2024 MEETING

### Agenda Additions/Approval

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

**Secretary's Report:** The correspondence was reviewed There was consensus and the minutes for the December meeting were approved. Worship attendance records were reviewed.

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report:** The offerings thru December were 110% (+\$30,287) of budget and expenses were 104% (+\$10,179) over budget.

- ✦ **2023 Pledges** – As of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 receipts were at \$203,573.78 of \$208,808 total pledges with only \$5,234.52 outstanding.
- ✦ **2024 Budget** – Mark moved, Helena seconded to approve the 2024 budget. Motion passed.
- ✦ **SD Synod** – Mark moved, Helena seconded to pay the SD Synod an additional \$1/member. Motion passed.

### Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

### Unfinished Business:

- ✦ **Thrivent Choice** – January \$127.00, YTD - \$127.00
- ✦ **Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – January \$100.00, YTD - \$100.00
- ✦ **Employee Contracts – Review of job descriptions** – Need to update employee job descriptions and have them sign. Dave, Helena, Sara & Donna to work with Pastor Shannon to update them.
- ✦ **Fellowship** – Discussed the issue of people not wanting to sign up to host the coffee hour due to cost. (Need to finish)

### New Business:

- ✦ **Membership changes:** Brenda Anderson transfer to Living Outreach Church, Custer, Non-ELCA
- ✦ **Annual Meeting Draft Agenda** – Agenda discussed and corrected.
- ✦ **Margaret Tretheway's Ministry & Retirement** – Recognition of her ministry was added to the Annual Meeting agenda.
- ✦ **Disposal of Old Computers/Monitors** – Pastor Shannon to research how to dispose of the old unused equipment the church has.
- ✦ **New Computer** – Discussed a computer for the Treasurers to use. We have a donated laptop that is available for their use.
- ✦ **Other** –
  - ◆ **Website** – Working on changing host providers. Will know more next month.
  - ◆ **Constitution** – Discussed the section on how council members & officers are elected.

### Pastor's Report

- ✦ Can't believe it's been almost a year! Still feel the same excitement.
- ✦ Still wrestling with Wednesday night activities and trying to fit everything in.

### Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- ✦ **Caring Hands**, Helena Buehler – Reviewed committee activity.
- ✦ **Christian Education**, Blaine Kortemeyer – Nothing to report.
- ✦ **Endowment**, Blaine Kortemeyer – Nothing to report.
- ✦ **Health Ministry**, John Kirk – Nothing to report.
- ✦ **Mutual Ministry**, Dave Mertz – Have had their first meeting. Plan on meeting a couple times a year.
- ✦ **Property**, Mark Thompson – Nothing to report.
- ✦ **Social Ministry**, Christie Behlings – Reviewed committee activity.
- ✦ **W/ELCA**, Shana Hindman – Nothing to report.
- ✦ **Worship & Music**, Donna McConnell – Discussed having this committee help with Wednesday worship volunteers.

### Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

### Adjournment

Donna McConnell  
Council Secretary

## ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

### Epiphany 5

Thursday, February 1: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Proverbs 12:10-21; Galatians 5:2-15  
 Friday, February 2: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Job 36:1-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-16  
 Saturday, February 3: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Isaiah 46:1-13; Matthew 12:9-14  
 Sunday, February 4: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39  
 Monday, February 5: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37; Acts 14:1-7  
 Tuesday, February 6: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41  
 Wednesday, February 7: Psalm 102:12-28; Job 6:1-13; Mark 3:7-12



### Transfiguration of Our Lord

Thursday, February 8: Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 11:26-40; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17  
 Friday, February 9: Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 14:1-18; 1 Timothy 1:12-20  
 Saturday, February 10: Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 16:1-7; Luke 19:41-44  
 Sunday, February 11: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9  
 Monday, February 12: Psalm 110:1-4; Exodus 19:7-25; Hebrews 2:1-4  
 Tuesday, February 13: Psalm 110:1-4; Job 19:23-27; 1 Timothy 3:14-16  
 Ash Wednesday, February 14: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;  
 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Lent 1

Thursday, February 15: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; 1 John 1:3-10  
 Friday, February 16: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a; 2 Timothy 4:1-5  
 Saturday, February 17: Psalm 25:1-10; Psalm 32; Matthew 9:2-13  
 Sunday, February 18: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15  
 Monday, February 19: Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21; Ephesians 2:1-10  
 Tuesday, February 20: Psalm 77; Job 5:8-27; 1 Peter 3:8-18a  
 Wednesday, February 21: Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11

### Lent 2

Thursday, February 22: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31  
 Friday, February 23: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:1-6; Romans 4:1-12  
 Saturday, February 24: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30  
 Sunday, February 25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38  
 Monday, February 26: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12  
 Tuesday, February 27: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19  
 Wednesday, February 28: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43

### Lent 3

Thursday, February 29: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10  
 Friday, March 1: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40  
 Saturday, March 2: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8;  
 Sunday, March 3: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22  
 Monday, March 4: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23  
 Tuesday, March 5: Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28  
 Wednesday, March 6: Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19

## THANK YOU

Thank you so very much to the person that donated the stethoscope to the Health Ministry Team. It is very much appreciated! Thank you again.

## MISSING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If you have noticed that your birthday or anniversary has been missing from our birthday and anniversary list, please do not be offended! We are not omitting you on purpose! It is because we do not have the information sheet we need that has birthdays, updated phone numbers, and email addresses. This is true even if you have filled out information for your children through the confirmation or SPARK Kids program. We may have children's birthdays, but not the parents. Please stop by the office and fill out a form so we may update our lists to include your very important dates! You can also give us your birthday without providing the year! Thank you!



**Custer Lutheran Fellowship, ELCA**  
**12622 US Hwy 16A**  
**Custer. SD 57730**

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## **Custer Lutheran Fellowship**

**Our Mission ...** is to plant the word of God, nurture growth in children and adults, and scatter the seeds of joy and faith in a diverse community.

**We envision Custer Lutheran Fellowship** to be like the Black Hills themselves, an inviting community in which God's Spirit blows through people – like wind through the pine – life that is forever new! God's spirit inspires us to be:

A **worshipping** community, hearing the life-giving Word of God receiving Christ's very presence in the Sacraments, and raising our voices in joyful songs of praise and prayer;

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

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

A **learning** community, in which people of all ages take advantage of multiple opportunities to deepen their understanding of the grace and justice of God;

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

A **servicing** 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: Mary Winter  
 Parish Nurse: Mary Klein  
 Custodian: Augie Heyne  
 Music & Worship Coordinator:  
 Jennifer Doyle  
 Financial Secretary: Janice Albers  
 Steve Baldwin  
 Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky  
 Youth Coordinator: Wendi Rusch  
**Ministers: All Members of CLF!**