

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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GROWING ROOTS PRESCHOOL TO MOVE TO THE UPPER ROOM

As Growing Roots Preschool begins their second year they will be moving to a different place in the church. CLF is currently partnering with them to add two bathrooms to the Upper Room where they will move in the middle of August. We are so excited about this partnership and look forward to getting to know the kids and their families even better this year. The council approved a budget for the addition of the bathrooms as well as a remodel of the small kitchenette area. Our hope is that the preschool will be there for many years, but in the event that they outgrow the space and need to move, the remodel committee is looking to the future. The plan is to make sure the Upper Room is usable space for many years either for retreat use, or temporary living quarters, etc. Growing Roots will be organizing some fundraisers in order to help offset the cost of the addition/remodel. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please feel free to make a donation to CLF with "bathroom remodel" in the memo line! If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Pastor Shannon or any members of the CLF Church Council. The committee that is heading up this project and organizing other volunteers consists of Lonnie White, Craig Black, Elmer Smolnisky, and Gene Fennell. We are so grateful for their hard work and expertise!

A lot of time, planning, work and effort has been put into getting the Upper Room, above the offices, ready for the Growing Roots Preschool. The preschool plans to make their move upstairs prior to school starting in the fall. The Upper Room is being remodeled to include some bathrooms and etc. for the preschool which will be a great asset for them.



Hello August!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND LAPTOPS

Please join us on Aug. 25th during worship with your Backpacks and Laptops for a special blessing as the School Year kicks off! Teachers, school staff, students and parents will be invited to come forward for a prayer and words of support and encouragement!



CLF WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, July 7, 2024, CLF welcomed new 14 members. They are (L to R) Cole, Kaylee and Sawyer Staples; Duane & Carrie Schuh; Pastor Shannon Witt (center); Lise' & Lonnie White; and Annette & Greg Peterson.

Welcome to the newest CLF Members!

PROPERTY CREW PROJECTS

Property Team Completes Woodshed for Firewood Ministry

A long-anticipated woodshed for the firewood ministry was completed July 16. The building will shelter CLF's two wood splitters and cut/split firewood. Fourteen volunteers contributed an estimated 140 hours over six days. Materials cost \$9,500. The firewood supports youth missions (sales) and the Pine Ridge ministry.

Other work in the outdoor worship area completed this spring included a new campfire ring, refurbished benches, four new (rebuilt) picnic tables, grass seeding and general cleanup. This work enhances the outdoor worship experience and invites additional uses for the area.

Project accomplishments are possible through dedicated volunteers who work to keep our facilities in top shape to deliver our worship and service ministries.

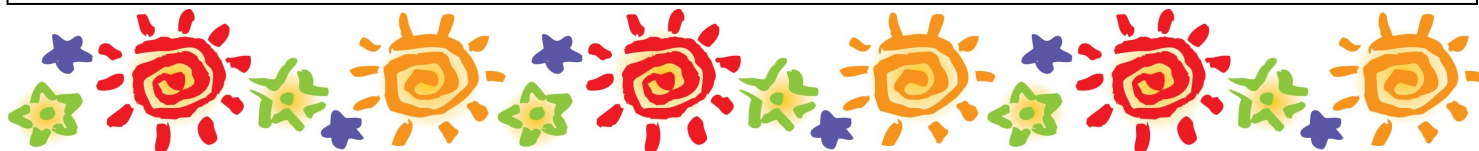
Also recently, you may have noticed that the parking lot lights have not been working correctly. Thanks to some volunteers and Freeman's Electric, they are now working. Thank you so much volunteers for all that you do!



L to R: Craig Black (distant), Merrill Hoveskeland, Scot Hoscheid, Jack Winter (June 2024).

LAST SUMMER CAMPFIRE WORSHIP

It is sure hard to believe that I am placing this item in the newsletter already. The last summer Campfire Worship will be held on August 21st at 6:30 PM. Thank you so much to the musicians, Pastor Shannon for her words, and to all that attended to help make this a success. Hoping to see all of you again next year!



FIREWOOD SALES

Thank you to the youth and church families who have worked so hard on our firewood sales! We started putting out the wood on Memorial Day weekend and will end sales in August. We have raised over \$7,000! There will be more wood gathering days and splitting days to get ready to deliver wood to Red Shirt Table and to dry out wood for sales next summer. Thanks again for reviving this long standing tradition to raise money for our youth and to bless others in our community.



Congratulations

And

Best Wishes

Bob & Seda
Timperley



Whenever August arrives, I always get a little panicky about all the summer things I still need to squeeze in! This August is no different. There are still so many picnics to be had, hikes to be hiked, kayak trips to take, etc. But what a wonderful summer it has been so far! At CLF so much has been accomplished. We had a fabulous VBS, we've raised nearly \$7,000 in wood sales, the wood shed has been completed, the bathroom remodel in the Upper Room is well under way, several groups traveling through Custer have spent the night on the CLF floors, and then to top it off, 14 of us (12 youth and Wendi Rusch and me) had an incredible experience at the Youth Gathering in New Orleans.



To all of you who helped make it possible for us to take our youth to the Youth Gathering, THANK YOU! If was an experience that I will never forget. I pray the other participants feel the same way. On top of all the fabulous music, speakers, activities, it was awesome to connect with so many familiar faces. I got to see Pastor Tom, Bishop Manlove, and Hilary Dietrich...who by the way was one of the youth on a Rap Group camping trip that I got to help chaperone nearly 30 years ago!

The thing that stands out the most to me are the words of Presiding Bishop Eaton. She reminded us that our youth are not the future of the church, as we often refer to them. Our you are the church TODAY! They are not a distant hope, they are a present hope. And members of CLF, I know you will agree that our youth are amazing! It was so much fun to see them praying, singing, praising God unapologetically, and eager to know more about their own faith. I came home more convicted than ever that we need to do whatever it takes to make sure our youth know that we value them as part of our congregation and that we need them.

We are so blessed to have a passionate Youth and Family Coordinator and so many of you who volunteer to keep our youth ministry going strong. However, we need more of you. As we begin to gear up for our Fall youth programming, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of growing our youth ministry activities. We really need someone, or a group of you, to step forward and be willing to coordinate our meals for our Wednesday Night Life. We need volunteers for all ages, our after school Spark program, Confirmation, and Rap Group (High School).

The other group of people that I really want to get to know better are those of you who are recently or have been empty nesters for a few years. Now that your own children are raised and starting their own adult journey, how can you now continue to foster relationships and support the upcoming youth? The torch is being passed to you to now be the adults who model and inspire the youth to be active members of this congregation. The kids are paying attention...they want to know that active membership in CLF is worth it, that they matter to us and that worship and community life matter to us and to them.

Please reach out to me if you are interested in assisting in our youth programming in any way. Dates haven't been set yet, but I'm going to try to squeeze in some informational meetings and training for anyone who is interested in helping this Fall. Those dates will be announced in the Sunday announcements. And who knows, we just might get in a cook out or two with all ages still this August!

Enjoying the last bit of summer with you,
Pastor Shannon

PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR SHANNON 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.

Pastor Shannon Witt
(563)542-6080 (cell)

pastor_clf@gwtc.net
605- 673-4691 (church)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFE STARTING SEPTEMBER 11TH



4:00 PM SPARK Kids
5:15 PM Meal
6:00 PM Worship
6:30 PM Choir, and
RAP High School Youth Group
6:45 PM Confirmation

LOOKING AHEAD TO CONFIRMATION



Confirmation Classes will begin Wednesday, Sept. 11th at 6:45 (after worship) until 8pm. We will be meeting every Wednesday after that during that time- 6:45-8:00pm. If you have a child in your home grades 6-8 they are encouraged to participate. Pastor Shannon has a fun curriculum planned and lots of activities to look forward to!

RAP HS YOUTH GROUP

We are so excited to welcome all 9th-12th graders to join us at Youth Group! Our first Wednesday will be a campfire at our house (112 Mustang Ct) on **Sept 11th**. Bring a friend!! We try to have a monthly fun activity on the weekend like scavenger hunts, lock-ins, progressive dinners, Christmas caroling and more! Let me know if you have ideas or would like to get involved! It's so fun to learn more about our faith, have fun and enjoy friendships. For more information, contact Wendi Rusch #509-494-3236



SPARK KIDS



We are so excited to begin Spark Kids with the Back to School season approaching. Our first day will be **Sept 11th!** 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. Pick up is 5:00- 5:15. We have so much fun learning about Bible stories with games, crafts, and snacks that tie into the Bible story. 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. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors! All are welcome! We are looking for adults to be drivers, assist with crafts/games and set up for Wed meals. Contact Wendi Rusch for more info! #509-494-3236



Dear Friends in Christ:

As I am writing this, I can't believe what my calendar is telling me! School will be starting very soon, and we will be back into the full swing of our fall and winter activities. I swear that summer gets shorter every year!

On that note, you will still have the opportunity to attend Campfire Worship services in August. Our plan is to have our last Campfire Worship service on August 21st. We will NOT have a Campfire Worship on Wednesday, August 28th. A special thank you to Bob Timperley, Jeff Rohr, Dave Pickford, and Matt & Wendi Rusch for graciously leading these outdoor services with their talented guitar picking! You are truly appreciated!

We have had some talented special music this summer and thankfully celebrate those that are willing to share their time and talents with our congregation. If the spirit moves you to share some special music, please don't hesitate to reach out. I will make sure that you have a reserved spot on our calendar.

As we look forward to September, our first indoor Wednesday worship service will be held in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, September 4th. Now is the time to prayerfully consider joining our CLF choir. Take the month of August to relax and then join us on Wednesdays to help share God's word through song. We welcome you with open arms. Enjoy your last month of summer.

God's Blessings,
Jenn Doyle

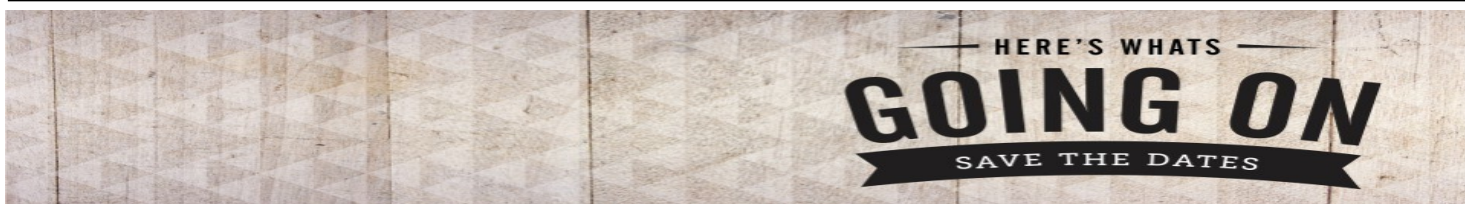
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Looking for ways to get involved at CLF? There are so many ways! Here are a few suggestions:

- Meal Coordinator (s) needed for our Wednesday Night Life
- Worship help: Ushers, Readers, Communion Assistants, Special Music, Liturgists, Videographers, Coffee hosts
- Wood Splitters for our donation of firewood to Red Shirt Table in the fall
- Adult helpers for Spark, Confirmation, and Rap/High School Youth Group
- Parish Nursing duties
- Participation in Committee work
- Website management



Please contact Pastor Shannon, Mary Winter or any of our Council Members if you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions!



CAMPFIRE WORSHIP



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS

While we will be celebrating GWOH Sunday with our ELCA brethren around the world on September 8th, we can't seem to contain ourselves here at CLF. With your help, we're planning activities to express *God's Work* beginning in August! We will focus *Our Hands* this year in assisting those in need through the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. From August 1st through August 31st, we will be collecting your offerings, at the altar, for specific needs that have been identified by the Center. Please consider donating new underwear*, new socks* and diapers for this effort. Such items can be taken to the CLF altar on Sunday mornings or anytime throughout the week at your convenience. (*Adult sizes are of greatest needs.) At the end of August we will organize a trip to the Reconciliation Center to drop off our offerings and enjoy some fellowship time with residents of the Pine Ridge. Please join us! On traditional *God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 8th*, after the service, we will also host the following activities that you are encouraged to lend a hand with:

- 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.
- We'll be conducting our annual highway cleanup. Bring your own water, snacks and gloves. Reflective vests and trash bags will be provided.
- Quilters will be focusing on GWOH during their weekly, Tuesday morning, gathering at the church. Much of their efforts have been towards making quilts that will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. If you are interested in helping with this activity, let Ginny Myers know.
- Volunteers can work independently at the Hospital Healing Garden at any time. Weeding is an ongoing need.
- We will also be writing cards/letters to homebound and nursing home congregants and our military family. We will be asking ALL congregants to sign such cards to let recipients know they are being thought of by many. Pastor Shannon will be providing a special blessing of the cards prior to their mailing. What could possibly be more fulfilling than all of that? A POTLUCK you say? OK then. Before these in-house activities we will gather for a POTLUCK - for fortification! Simply bring a dish to pass. Again, Sunday, September 8. Mark your calendars!

RECYCLE MUCH?

January through July, CLF members have recycled nine bags (or 110 lbs.) of plastic film. You have also recycled ink cartridges that equates to \$120 in credit for the church at Office Depot. Thank you for being stewards of God's creation.

THANK YOU!



Thank You to all of the good and faithful servants at Outlaw Ranch that touched many lives this summer.
You have done amazing work!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED!



As many of you are aware, we have been recording our Sunday worship service and posting it on Facebook and YouTube for people to watch and worship with us if they are not able to be with us in person on Sundays. The feedback from this has been very positive and people would like to continue to be able to have this opportunity to worship with us online. However, in order for us to continue to record the service, we need volunteers to run the video camera. There will be an extra column on our Care and Serve sign up sheet titled: VIDEO for you to sign up each week. If you are willing but need some training, we will happily provide that for you! During the school year our acolytes have provided this service, and their commitment has been wonderful. However, I have let them know that now if they choose to sign up they can, but they are no longer expected to as part of their confirmation process. Prayerfully consider if this is a gift you can offer so we can continue to provide this ministry.

Celebrate National Make-A-Will Month with LPGSD

As you continue to support your church and other ministries that best represent your family's faith journey, we're excited to share another step you can take during **National Make-A-Will Month this August**.

Each of us is called to play an active role in the stewardship of our time, talents, and resources as we journey with Christ. As a gift of appreciation for your generous support, Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD, a ministry of the South Dakota Synod, recently introduced a **new will-writing tool** at www.lpgsd.org that we're highlighted again this month.

- **What is Make-A-Will Month?** This month is designated in recognition of the importance of making a will as an act of faithful stewardship.
- **How can I participate?** In thanks for your support of the ministry partners of LPGSD, we're offering an online tool to make it simple, accessible, and 100% free to create a will, powers of attorney and funeral directives.
- **Why does it matter?** Most adults don't have a will, missing an opportunity to protect their loved ones and their blessings. This month is the perfect time for everyone to complete this important process. It only takes a few minutes to complete - visit www.lpgsd.org today.

We are called to protect the family, finances, and faith God has entrusted to our care. **We hope you'll take this step during Make-A-Will Month and put your faith into action.**

Kathy McHenry
Executive Director and Generosity Coach
Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD
kmchenry@sdsynod.org 605-274-5030
www.lpgsd.org

THE PASQUE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Have you heard the news? The South Dakota Synod is launching its very own Learning Community! This free resource is available to every ELCA congregation in our Synod, hosting community discussions, live events and online learning created specifically for YOU. You can find this brand-new site at www.sdsynodlearns.org.

Pasque Learning Community is named after the South Dakota state flower—a resilient little perennial that blooms every spring, no matter how long or cold the winter. We trust that the Pasque Learning Community will be the same—a digital space that will bring new growth as we build confidence, capacity and courage among God's people in South Dakota.

Right now, the *Fellowship Hall* is up and running with over 150 members! Sign in to Pasque, and then introduce yourself to join the conversation. Last week, we launched our first "Deeper Learning: course, *Foundations of Lutheran Worship*. We will offer this course again with live sessions and group learning in early September. Our new bible study on the *Gospel of Mark* will be released in August.

This platform is just emerging, like the pasque flower pushing through the snow. Watch for a wide variety of new resources as we grow! You will soon find learning opportunities like "Word and Watercolor," a weekly text study for sermon preparation, and "*Called to Lead*" a course specifically designed to encourage and connect leaders (like you!) to consider new ways that God may be calling you to ministry.

God is at work among us, stirring us to love and to good work. Please reach out with questions and ideas as we *Journey Together in Christ*.

With Good Courage,
Rev. Kari Webb
Director of Digital Community and Learning
Project Director, Journeying Together in Christ





CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you would to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail addresses are:
 Pastor Shannon — pastor_clf@gwtc.net
 Main address— clf@gwtc.net

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the September Newsletter to the office **by noon August 22nd**. Thank you!



OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM—4:00 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 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.



Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Statement of Activities
 For the Year-to-Date Ending June 30, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Contribution Revenues	\$ 207,805.89	\$ 182,240.00	\$ 25,565.89
Operating Expenses			
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 39,128.11	\$ 40,676.00	\$ (1,547.89)
Worship	12,293.61	12,649.00	(355.39)
Education	27,161.25	38,889.00	(11,727.75)
Mission Support	28,919.33	20,948.00	7,971.33
Support/Care	24,095.92	25,394.00	(1,298.08)
Office Operations	10,385.25	10,744.00	(358.75)
Facilities Expenses	41,418.09	74,988.00	(33,569.91)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 183,401.56	\$ 224,288.00	\$ (40,886.44)
Other Revenues	\$ 15,517.68	\$ 1,002.00	\$ 14,515.68
Other Expenditures	1,270.20	-	1,270.20
Net Other Revenue & Expenditures	\$ 14,247.48	\$ 1,002.00	\$ 13,245.48
Total Net Revenue (Loss)	\$ 38,651.81	\$ (41,046.00)	\$ 79,697.81

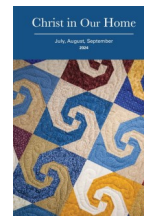
Generous contributions continue to be received. General offerings are slightly under expectation, however this is offset by donations specified for specific purposes. Overall operating expenses are under budget primarily between education and facilities due to the timing of expenses for the youth trip and ongoing special projects. CLF continues to have a strong financial position!

“CHRIST IN OUR HOME”

DEVOTIONALS

The “Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **July — 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 mailed to you.



Director for Rural Ministry Column

Beloved Travelers,

I am writing to you from the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. I mentioned this because I would not have known about an especially helpful resource without the experience of “the tAble.” This is our church-wide gathering of youth and their accompanying adults who are under the umbrella of ELCA Disability Ministries. Here we put into practice the ever widening welcome for people of all abilities, and especially for young people of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities.

This past week I had the privilege of working at the tAble with its Director, Pastor Jonathon Vehar (yes, he’s our synod Director for Evangelical Mission) and USD Campus Pastor Lisa Heffermam. In the course of our work, Lisa and I engaged in a conversation about funding resources. She let me know that funds are still available in the 2024 Disability Ministries Grants. These are designated funds for ELCA congregations that have identified a need that “would be of a benefit to the disabled people in your setting and your ministry.” Applications are being accepted through July 31, and more information can be found at <https://blogs.elca.org/disabilityministries/disability-ministries-grants-2024/>.

I fly back to South Dakota tomorrow, and I am eager to hit the road and begin the work of partnering with our South Dakota STaR congregations where we love to tell the story (as the lines from that much-loved hymn calls out) because we know it’s true...that when fellow travelers of all backgrounds and abilities come to a STaR congregation we put into practice the ever widening welcome of Christ “which satisfies our longings as nothing else would do.”

See you soon,
Pastor Joel Pakan
Director for Rural Ministry
jpakan@sdsynod.org



What an amazing trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering!! We drove to Sioux Falls joining Lutheran Outdoors to head to New Orleans! There were 6 charter buses for 280 of us from around SD. We drove 19 hours with a stop in St. Louis to see the arch at night. One huge highlight was trying new foods like alligator appetizers, gumbo, jambalaya, and seafood! We went to the beach, a museum with a view of the city and on a swamp tour where we held a baby alligator! We had mornings that helped encourage our beliefs and each night was a mass gathering that was like a rock concert with inspirational speakers in a huge arena with 16,000 other youth! How can we put into words such an extraordinary experience? One of our Youth summed it up as "incredibly awesome"! Thank you to our church family for supporting us in our faith building adventure!





2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table BE Young Adult Gathering



We are overwhelmed with gratitude for your remarkable and generous support! Your thoughtfulness has helped us to have a life changing experience at the youth gathering and it truly means so much to us. We are inspired by your generosity and cannot thank you enough for your contributions and investing in our youth.

From the Bishop's Desk

Friends in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Risen One, Christ our Lord!

Traveling around the state and speaking to you this year has been challenging. It doesn't matter whether it's wind, rain, or hail that puts a damper on our hope, the matter of fact is that we find ourselves with the psalmist asking; "how long, oh Lord?" (Psalm 13:1). And as we take stock, count our losses and try to save what there is, we buckle down, pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and work harder. That's the kind of people we are. But what happens when our bootstraps reach their end or break?

That's one reason for Christ's vision for the church to be a community. In Acts, we hear about the formation of the early church and how they came together to support each other (Acts 4:32-35) for the sake of ministry. Many of you have been recipients of STaR (Small Town and Rural) grants, which range between \$1500 and \$5000, depending on the unexpected expense your congregation incurred. These STaR grants are meant to support your ministry in need. They are how your community, the SD Synod team, and the almost 200 congregations, show up when you are close to running out of bootstraps. Where does the money come from?

The simple answer is YOU! Annually, I invite you in the summer to gather for a fundraiser to support rural ministry in the South Dakota Synod. I would love to welcome you to this year's "Farm To Table Dinner" on Sunday, September 8th at Grand Valley Lutheran Church, rural Canton. I promise you an evening of delicious food and drink, delightful entertainment, and first-hand testimonies of how the STaR grants make a difference. The people of Grand Valley are excited and ready to host us that evening despite the high water in their community. Please, consider attending this dinner event with your friends, parishioners, or anyone who cares about our rural communities and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Tickets can be purchased through the synod office or on the website www.sdsynod.org/dinner. If you cannot come but would love to sponsor the event, please call me at (605)274-4020. I look forward to welcoming you that evening.

Journeying in Christ with you,
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the SD Synod



What Gifts Do You Have?

Dear People of God,

Discernment: it's a big word. Essentially it means: "Perceiving the will and way of God in the church and in your life ... The question is not, "Do I have gifts for ministry?" The question is, "What gifts do I have and for which ministry are they best suited?" (What Shall I Say? Discerning God's Call to Ministry, P. 5)

There is a discernment resource called, "Call to Lead." Not only is it a great document for people who are considering public, ordained ministry, it has wonderful and thought-provoking questions throughout the whole resource. Over the course of the next several synod newsletters, I will include language and questions from the document in order that we can be in self-contemplation, as well as conversations of faith with others synod-wide. Invite someone to coffee and put these questions in front of you. Christ promises to be present: For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them (Matt. 18:20)."

Should you wish to see the whole resource, you can find it on the Pasque Learning Community (www.sdsynodlearns.org).

Starting on page 5, the document focuses on baptismal language and vocation: Baptism connects us to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in particular and public ways, forever joining our story to his, and his story to ours. In baptism we are clothed in Christ so that we become representatives of his presence and ambassadors of his good news. To live one's baptism involves responding to Jesus' call both to follow him and to go forth in his name, engaging in his own ministry to the word...

God's richest blessing be upon your reflections and conversations!

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson
Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy, Congregation,
and Rostered Minister Accompaniment

W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:

It seems that the summers keep going faster each year. Hoping that all of you are having a good one. We will gather to start the fall meetings on MONDAY, August 19th. This will be a potluck at 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room. We will get a nominating committee together as we hope to have all new officers for this coming year. WELCA is an important and active group of the total CLF Family. Our missions contribute to many organizations that contribute in other areas. Please consider saying "YES" when the committee calls.

THANKS to Jackie Hartwick and the women who made sandwiches to go to the "Y" for kids sack lunches this summer.

REMINDER: September 6 & 7 is the Bear Butte Conference (of which we are a member of) Retreat at Outlaw Ranch. Faith Lutheran in Rapid City is hosting this. There will be speakers, with the program being author Elisa Morgan from her book "Hello Beauty Full" along with fellowship and good food. I have registration forms now for those who are interested in attending. Please call Mickey at 605-255-4123 for more information.

QUILTING

We will meet on 8/6 and 8/13 at 9AM. After Quilting on 8/6 those who would like to stay and help work on Christmas crafts for the Fall Arts and Craft Show can do so. We will brown bag our lunch. Others are also welcome starting about 11 AM. Thanks to Vacation Bible School kids and adults for the supplies and money gifted us to help towards making more quilts. We greatly appreciate it.

Thank you to so many of you that have supported us with your gifts, your kind words and encouragement.

We will be back to a full schedule starting in September.

THE HAPPY QUILTERS



W/ELCA Mission for August: School Kit Supplies

You can bring in one item or a variety. The collection area is on the ox cart is located in the Narthex.

Notebooks of ruled paper unsharpened #2 pencils pencil sharpeners 30 cm rulers

Box of 24 crayons 2 1/2 inch eraser box of twistable crayons

4-pk highlighters (yellow, blue orange and green)

School Supplies are being collected for Lutheran World Relief, Pine Ridge and the children of Custer.

Grant Writing for Congregations

Rev. Jonathon Vehar, Associate to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission, wanted to pass along this opportunity found in the ELCA July 2024 Mission Support Memo:

"As communities work to find ways to fuel their ministries that incorporate other streams of funding, grant writing can be confusing and intimidating. Though not all communities of faith are eligible for all grants, there are some grants for those who are going new and innovative ministry, especially with communities on the margins and vulnerable populations.

This webinar will explore both the technical side of grant writing (what you are funding and why?) as well as the process of funding grants and deciding if you fit the criteria. Though finding grants and writing grants can be intimidating, it can also be rewarding, as you're able to bring something new to life in and for your community through outside fueling."

Here is the Zoom meeting information: "Grant Writing for Congregations"

Monday, August 19—6-7 p.m. Central Time Meeting ID 847 9500 8544 / Passcode: 869038

Rev. Jonathon Vehar

Associate to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Custer Lutheran Fellowship Council Minutes – July 23, 2024

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

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru June were 91% (-\$16,240.99) of budget and expenses were 81.8% (-\$40,886.44) of budget. Craig moved, Mark seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

Unfinished Business:

Thrivent Choice – June \$24.00, YTD - \$941.00

Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts – June \$ 0.00, YTD - \$900.00

Pictorial Directory – Donna gave update. The best option is still to do it in-house.

Upper Bathroom – Craig gave update on progress. Three bids have been confirmed – Freeman Electric, Mayer Plumbing and Western State Fire. All are under budget.

New Business:

Membership changes: Transferred in: Duane & Caroline Schuh from South Canyon Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD (ELCA); Cole Staples from First Presbyterian Church, Pipestone, MN (Other); Kaylee (Doyle) Staples from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Flandreau, SD (ELCA); Greg & Annette Peterson from Brandon Lutheran Church, Brandon, SD (ELCA)

Transferred out: Jonathon & Wanda Dahlstrom to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD (ELCA); Kay Walsh to Our Savior's Lutheran, Merrill, WI (ELCA); Marion Bangsund to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Benson, MN (ELCA); Larry Peterson to St Mark's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD (ELCA)

SD Synod Assembly Report – Mary Winter/Joel Ziebarth – Written report in agenda packet. Both enjoyed the assembly and learned lots.

Growing Roots Contract – Pastor Shannon will have the contract ready for signing in August.

Other –

Pastor's Report: Review Worship & Activities –

Things going well, excited for fall programming

New copy/printer will be installed on August 20th

The fire permit for outdoor worship fire ring has been renewed for another 3 years

Really enjoyed attending the National Youth Gathering

Discussed how to get Generation X people involved in church

Discussed what to do to keep people energized and motivated

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

Property, Mark Thompson – Wood shed is completed. Grateful for all the dedicated, experienced volunteers who help with all the projects.

Social Ministry, Craig Black – Next meeting is Sunday, July 28th.

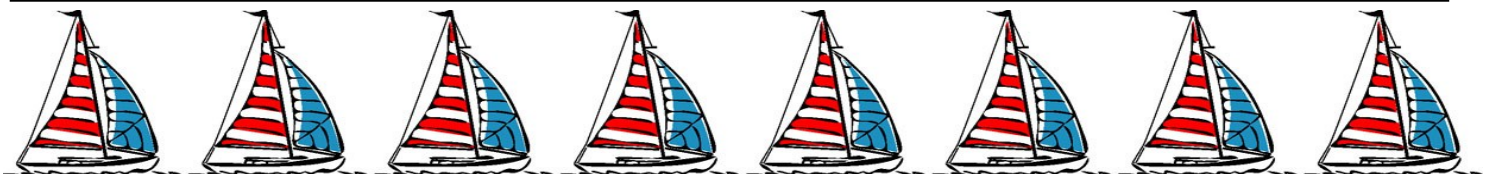
Worship & Music, Donna McConnell – Will be having a meeting next week.

Next Meeting: August 20, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary



August Daily Devotions**Pentecost 11***Thursday, August 1:* Psalm 78:23-29; Exodus 12:33-42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-22*Friday, August 2:* Psalm 78:23-29; Exodus 12:43—13:2; 1 Corinthians 11:27-34*Saturday, August 3:* Psalm 78:23-29; Exodus 13:3-10; Matthew 16:5-12*Sunday, August 4:* Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35*Monday, August 5:* Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Numbers 11:16-23, 31-32; Ephesians 4:17-24*Tuesday, August 6:* Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Deuteronomy 8:1-20; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31*Wednesday, August 7:* Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Isaiah 55:1-9; Mark 8:1-10**Pentecost 12***Thursday, August 8:* Psalm 34:1-8; 1 Samuel 28:20-25; Romans 15:1-6*Friday, August 9:* Psalm 34:1-8; 2 Samuel 17:15-29; Galatians 6:1-10*Saturday, August 10:* Psalm 34:1-8; 1 Kings 2:1-9; Matthew 7:7-11*Sunday, August 11:* 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25—5:2; John 6:35, 41-51*Monday, August 12:* Psalm 81; 1 Kings 17:1-16; Ephesians 5:1-14*Tuesday, August 13:* Psalm 81; Ruth 2:1-23; 2 Peter 3:14-18*Wednesday, August 14:* Psalm 81; Jeremiah 31:1-6; John 6:35-40**Pentecost 13***Thursday, August 15:* Psalm 34:9-14; Job 11:1-20; Acts 6:8-15*Friday, August 16:* Psalm 34:9-14; Job 12:1-25; Romans 16:17-20*Saturday, August 17:* Psalm 34:9-14; Job 13:1-19; John 4:7-26*Sunday, August 18:* Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58*Monday, August 19:* Psalm 36; Genesis 43:1-15; Acts 6:1-7*Tuesday, August 20:* Psalm 36; Genesis 45:1-15; Acts 7:9-16*Wednesday, August 21:* Psalm 36; Genesis 47:13-26; Mark 8:14-21**Pentecost 14***Thursday, August 22:* Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*Friday, August 23:* Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:10-20; Romans 13:11-14*Saturday, August 24:* Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:21-34; Luke 11:5-13*Sunday, August 25:* Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20;
John 6:56-69*Monday, August 26:* Psalm 119:97-104; Nehemiah 9:1-15; Ephesians 5:21—6:9*Tuesday, August 27:* Psalm 119:97-104; Nehemiah 9:16-31; Ephesians 6:21-24*Wednesday, August 28:* Psalm 119:97-104; Isaiah 33:10-16; John 15:16-25**Pentecost 15***Thursday, August 29:* Psalm 15; Exodus 32:1-14; James 1:1-8*Friday, August 30:* Psalm 15; Exodus 32:15-35; James 1:9-16*Saturday, August 31:* Psalm 15; Exodus 34:8-28; John 18:28-32*Sunday, September 1:* Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*Monday, September 2:* Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48; Deuteronomy 4:9-14; 1 Timothy 4:6-16*Tuesday, September 3:* Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48; Deuteronomy 4:15-20; Peter 2:19-25*Wednesday, September 4:* Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48; Deuteronomy 4:21-40; Mark 7:9-23



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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!