

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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CUSTER, SD 57730

www.custerlutheran.com

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 7

JULY 2024

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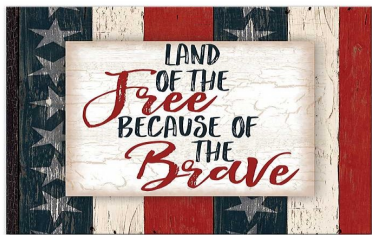
**Church Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th.
In observance of the holiday.**

2024 VBS SUCCESSFUL

"We are God's Masterpiece; designed, created, empowered for Good Works" was the theme for the amazing 2024 Vacation Bible School, and all 28 children and 20+ volunteers experienced a terrific three days! The activities centered around creative Art activities in which the result was good works. Pavers for the outdoor labyrinth were made, quilted crosses which demonstrated the WELCA Quilters' project were designed; music, games, songs and other art projects that showed God's love for us and our love for God were created through VBS.

We also had guest artist, Leah (Pastor Shannon's daughter who came from Colorado) and Emma Halverson helped create, with the help of the VBS kids, a beautiful mosaic on a small table that will be used during coffee hour for the littles that are at worship. As a special treat we had nine artists share their personal art work with the children. They explained quilting, word burning, painting, photography, song writing, hardanger, crocheting, and nature art.

We concluded the event with a VBS Art Show, a hot dog roast, sharing our theme song and camp songs during outdoor worship, and making s'mores. Everyone left happy and a little exhausted, but ready to go out into the world as God's Masterpieces!!



2024 VBS Volunteers

Director: Linda Fennell; STEM: Cozy Dorton & Jennifer Doyle; Arts & Crafts: Wanda Harvey, Dez Newton, and Keira Alfson; Music & Games: Lise' White & Wendi Rusch; Sculpture & Wood Working: Gene Fennell, Jack Winter, and Wyatt Alfson; Handprint Quilt: Wanda Omodt; Snacks: Gail Knudson, Rae Mooney, Wanda Omodt, Donna McConnell; Resident Artist: Leah Blake and helper Emma Halverson; Slide Shows: Donna with help on projector from Jean Diedtrich; Large Group: Pastor Shannon, Wendi Rusch, and Linda Fennell; Photographer Linda Fennell & Wanda Omodt; Helpers: Ayden Dooley and Brooks Wheeler; Guest Artists: Rae Mooney, Cozy Dorton, Harold Snow, Marie Curtin, Clarinne Koepe, Barb Lewison, Jean Witt, Bonnie Thompson, Jeff Rohr, Brandon Suelflow, and Pastor Shannon. Quilters: Jean Diedtrich, Arbutus Winter, Wanda Omodt.

Thank You so Very Much for your assistance with VBS!!

ANNUAL WOOD SALE BEGAN

Thanks SO much for pitching in to help sell firewood! Happy to see several Middle and High School youth families!! We have raised \$2,689.95, so far and have over half of the spots on the sign-up sheet covered for the summer! Anyone can sign-up to put out firewood to sell, so please consider taking a shift to raise money for our Youth and Missions. Contact me with any questions and Darryn Witt with any wood-splitting questions. We appreciate all of your support in this effort to continue the tradition of selling and providing firewood for our neighbors and visitors to the Beautiful Black Hills. Wendi 509-494-3236



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY - COMING SOON!

"Wait,...what? I thought we celebrated GWOH in the fall?"

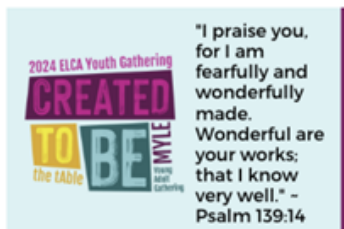
We HAVE celebrated GWOH Sunday with our ELCA brethren around the world on the second Sunday in September - and we will again. But here at CLF, we do so many things throughout the year that would be considered "God's Work" that we want to celebrate each and every event - in God's name. These events are blessings we can share with each other and with those in need.

GWOH was launched this year on Saturday, June 15 with the Church Work Day. God's Work will continue with projects throughout the summer, supporting our youth, Outlaw Ranch, Woyatan, and the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. An immediate way we can further God's Work is to provide underwear, socks (adult sizes are a particular need) and diapers for Pine Ridge residents. The Social Ministry Team is establishing a continual collection area in the Narthex where such donations can be made anytime, throughout the year, and continue as long as the need exists.

On GWOH Sunday, September 8, we will have a final celebration, with perhaps an all-church picnic, and include some traditional activities such as road-side litter pick up, Birthday Bags for WEAVE, letters to military members, and Healing Garden maintenance.

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs: 11: 24-25

IT'S YOUTH GATHERING TIME



It's finally here! Saturday the 13th, we head to Sioux Falls to meet up with several SD youth groups joining Lutheran Outdoors for the Youth Gathering! We will board 6 charter buses and make our way to New Orleans. Can't wait to experience the sights, sounds and flavors of the Big Easy... even getting to the beach one morning! We will have a Synod Day, an Interactive Learning Day and an Accompaniment Day with Mass Gatherings each evening

full of music and guest speakers. We will make our way back to Sioux Falls and drive back to Custer on Sunday the 21st with our hearts full of memories! Excited to take our crew to the Bayou! Contact me with any questions! Wendi 509-494-3236.



SPARK YOUTH NEWS

We have a great time each Wednesday during the school year at SPARK Kids! It is so fun to use games, crafts, and snacks that go with the Bible story. We are on summer break right now, but invite your K-5th grade friends and neighbors to get registered for the next school year 2024-25! We will start back up in September! There is NO cost for this program! Contact Wendi Rusch 509-494-3236 for more info!



My daughter was almost 6 years old when we finally told her that she shares her birthday celebration with our country's celebration of their independence. I think she suspected as much when she turned 5 and we finally went to see the public fire works! To this day, she loves to celebrate not only her birthday, but all kinds of occasions!



July seems to be the month that we try to fit all of the celebrations of summer in...this is when we take our big vacations, celebrate the 4th of July, and Gold Discovery Days in Custer. I know personally, I am so excited to be celebrating with our youth during the big Youth Gathering this month in New Orleans.

I will say, all this celebrating seems to gobble up our summer relaxing days. I know that my calendar is full pretty much through the whole summer! But do you know what is something that we can celebrate every single week? The resurrection of Jesus. Every Sunday is considered a "little" Easter. This celebration is different than any other we participate in. Instead of it being about being busy, busy, busy, it is an opportunity to receive rest and be restored for whatever is next on our calendar. This is our opportunity to hear the story of Jesus life and death and to celebrate new life through him!

Wherever your busy and fun schedule takes you, I hope that you still find time to celebrate this amazing gift that we are given through worship. I'm so grateful for the people who are willing to continue to volunteer to assist with worship through music, fellowship, running the sound and powerpoint, ushering, and pulpit supply. I am looking forward to the worship services while we are in Louisiana and plan to bring back lots of good ideas! I pray that all of us involved come back renewed and re-energized to celebrate the love of God and all of the gifts we have received from the power of the Holy Spirit.

Whatever it is that you find yourself celebrating this month, my prayer is that you are healthy and safe and finding joy in as many moments as possible!

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Shannon

PLEASE NOTIFY PASTOR 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 at 563-542-6080 or the church office 605-673-4691

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



I am not sure how many at CLF realize that we have a Pastor's Discretionary Fund that I use to help people, both in this congregation and in the community. I help with a variety of things from rent/mortgage, utilities, grocery items that are not available at the Storehouse like diapers, toilet paper, etc., and more. This account is entirely funded by donations. It is not part of the yearly budget. CLF is also part of the Custer Ministerial Alliance (CMA), who also helps with utilities and rent. I encourage all of you to contact me or the CMA if you are in need in any way. The discretionary fund is completely

confidential – I am the only one who knows who is helped. And of course I always welcome donations in any amount to the fund! Again, the money I use in that account is funded entirely by donations. It is a blessing to be able to help someone in need in this way. Please pray for those who I and the CMA have helped, and continue to support in the future. Blessings, Pastor Shannon

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Greetings!

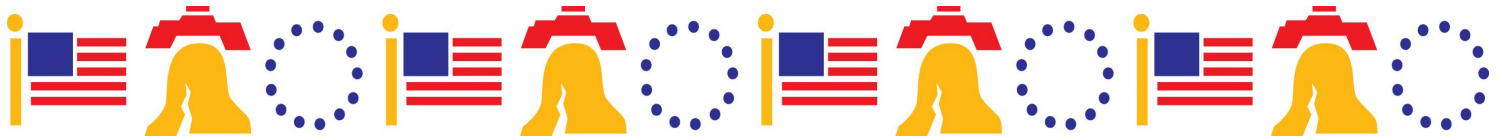
It's hard to believe that we are heading into July already. June went by in a blur. Here are a couple of things that kept the worship committee and accompanists busy during the month.

One of the things the worship committee discussed at our meeting was our church piano. Did you realize that our current piano is 100 years old? That shocked me as it is such a beautiful sounding instrument that doesn't seem to show its age when you listen to or play it. However, I was advised that the strings are extremely fragile and difficult to tune without the risk of breakage. The reality is that everything has a season, and, unfortunately, it will not last forever. I assure you that there are no immediate plans to replace our current piano, but we do need to be prepared for the future. Pianos are extremely expensive, and it is important that we begin saving for a different one in the event that our current one is no longer repairable. If you would like to donate to the Piano Fund, you can designate an offering or memorial to that specific purpose. Please notate specifically in the memo of your check if you want your money to go toward the Piano Fund. Hopefully, our current piano will last for many more years to come, but it will be financially responsible for us to plan ahead for the future.

The accompanists also had a workday to aide in the spring cleaning of CLF. We put together binders to be used during the Campfire Worship Services. We also started to clean out the music room. It feels good to know where things are again and have everything organized in the music department. I thank Tranda Nelssen and Janice Albers for attending and helping sort through everything. It was a job well done!

Blessings in Christ:

Jenn Doyle
CLF Music Coordinator



THANK YOU, MARY KLEIN

Mary Klein was recently honored for her years of service to Custer Lutheran Fellowship. Mary has Decided to retire from her position as Parish Nurse after 11 years. Mary and her husband, Dwight have made the decision to move closer to their family in Sioux Falls, SD.

We say a heartfelt thank you to you Mary on your years if dedicated service to CLF. We wish you and Dwight all the best with your move.

Enjoy your retirement!



SUNNY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY



Happy 90th Birthday to our friend, Sunny Reeves. Sunny recently had a birthday party held in her honor at Rapid City.

Several friends from Custer Lutheran Fellowship were able to join her for her celebration and to celebrate her day with her.

We wish you many more years, our friend.

MORE VBS PICTURES 2024



CUSTER MEET & GREET

The next Custer Meet & Greet meal will be held on Tuesday, July 11th, from 5-7 PM, located at the Custer Community Church, located at 6th & Harney.

Gather for a meal with friends and neighbors.

(no charge and for more information call (605)673-4090.

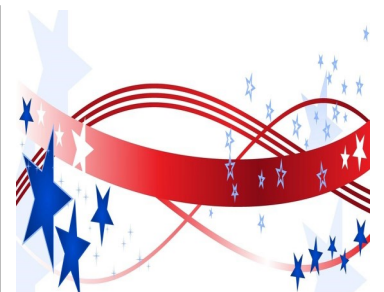


Reminder that there is not a Meet and Eat in August.

JOAN EGGERS 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The family of Joan Eggers is hosting a celebration to honor Joan on her 90th birthday on Sunday, July 21st from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM at Custer Lutheran Fellowship.

Everyone is welcome to come and share this excitement and many memories with her that day. No gifts are requested! Your presence is the best gift.





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

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the August Newsletter to the office **by July 19th at noon**. Thank you!



OFFICE HOURS

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

**Pastor Shannon has
 Friday's OFF!**

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 May 31, 2024**

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Contribution Revenues	\$177,098.96	\$151,867.00	\$25,231.96
Operating Expenses			
Pastoral Leadership	\$33,625.66	\$33,899.00	\$ (273.34)
Worship	10,889.24	10,957.00	(67.76)
Education	26,020.50	28,890.00	(2,869.50)
Mission Support	19,217.00	16,735.00	2,482.00
Support/Care	23,193.08	20,623.00	2,570.08
Office Operations	9,480.46	8,963.00	517.46
Facilities Expenses	31,113.49	69,031.00	(37,917.51)
Total Operating Expenses	\$153,539.43	\$189,098.00	\$(35,558.57)
Other Revenues	\$ 15,117.77	\$ 835.00	\$ 14,282.77
Other Expenditures	1,132.03	—	1,132.03
Net Other Revenue & Expenditures	\$ 13,985.74	\$ 835.00	\$ 13,150.74
Total Net Revenue (Loss)	\$37,545.27	\$ (36,396.00)	\$73,941.27

General offerings were 93% and operating expenses 81% of year-to-date budget. Expenses will increase over the summer with all the great mission, education, and support projects planned!



LYNN'S RECEIPTS

We are still collecting receipts from Lynn's Dakotamart. We appreciate so much everyone who brings their receipts. We wanted everyone to be aware that we do not collect the gas discount receipts, though. We want you to keep those to get your gas discount! But continue to drop off your receipts in the office or in the can at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

"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 yet. 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 call the office.



2024 VBS PICTURES



SEMI-ANNUAL GIVING REPORTS

Watch for your **Semi-annual Giving Reports** which will be mailed out in July. These reports are CLF records of your 2024 pledge and year-to-date giving. Thank you for your generous support of Custer Lutheran Fellowship.

For those of you who made contributions from non-deductible accounts (like IRAs) check that they are included on your report. It is your responsibility to exclude such giving from your tax deduction.

Any questions or discrepancies? Please contact the office and ask to visit with one of the financial secretaries. We appreciate your feedback. Joy Smolnisky

VBS 2024 "You Are God's Masterpiece"



W/ELCA HAPPENINGS

The next W/ELCA meeting will be on Monday, August 19th, at 11:30 in the Fireside Room. Note that there is **NOT** a meeting in July. Our August meeting will be a Potluck meeting. Coffee will be provided.

QUILTING

Will continue on the summer schedule of the first two Tuesdays of July and August and then back to every Tuesday at 9 AM starting September 10th.

Thanks for all the supplies you have given us to make possible what we do.
THE THANKFUL, JOYFUL QUILTERS

JULY & AUGUST MISSION PROJECT:



Items needed are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Notebooks of ruled paper | Unsharpened pencils | 30 cm Rulers |
| Boxes of 24 Crayons | Pencil Sharpeners | 2 1/2 inch eraser |
| Boxes of 12 Twistable Crayons | 4-Pack Highlighters (Usually yellow, blue, orange and green) | |

In the past these items have been shared with LWR, Pine Ridge, and children at Custer Elementary.

Thanks for being so generous in your support for our mission projects! We appreciate each of you!!

OUTLAW RANCH STAFF COMMISSIONED

On Sunday, June 9th, the Outlaw Ranch Staff was Blessed & Commissioned for the 2024 Summer.

It is so great to have these faithful friends to help share the word of God with the youth campers, family campers and visitors .

May God continue to bless each and everyone as they do his work .



Council Minutes — June 18, 2024**SD Synod Assemble Report – Mary Winter/Joel Ziebarth**

Tabled until July 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 Motion by Craig, seconded by Sara and the minutes for the May meeting were approved. Worship attendance records were reviewed.

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru May were 93.3% (-\$10,218.37) of budget and expenses were 81.2% (-\$35,558.57) of budget.

Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

Unfinished Business:

Thrivent Choice – May \$ 0.00, YTD - \$917.00

Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts – May \$500.00, YTD - \$900.00

Pictorial Directory – Have only received 2 proposals. Still researching.

Upper Bathroom – Committee is Lonnie White, Gene Fennell, Craig Black and Elmer Smolnisky. Have received some estimates of the costs. Will meet next week to finalize.

Reception for Mary Klein/June 23rd – A blessing will be held during the service with a reception to follow afterwards.

VBS Update – Things are going well – have 27 children registered.

Apostle's Creed – The calligraphy was framed by Michaels Craft Store.

Constitution/By-Laws – Have determined that sometime in the early 2000's, the By-Laws were combined into the Constitution.

New Business:

Membership changes: None

Scholarship for Denali & Kai Rusch – Motion by Craig, seconded by Helena to give \$500 each to Denali & Kai Rusch from the scholarship budget to go to Augustana's matching PACT Grant. Motion passed.

National Youth Gathering-Donation for Zero Hunger & Wendi's Pay – Motion by Shana, seconded by Mark to give a \$100 donation to Zero Hunger at the National Youth Gathering. Motion passed. Motion by Mark, seconded by Craig to pay Wendi a salary of \$2,000 for the month of July due to extra hours due to the National Gathering. Motion passed.

LSS Wish List – Wish list was passed out to council members. We were tasked to determine what areas to focus on.

Bear Butte Conference – Conference dues are based on the confirmed members – ours is 672 confirmed members.

Other – None

Pastor's Report:

Review Worship & Activities – Busy, but things are going well.

Time off – Will be gone from Wednesday, June 26th to Saturday, June 29th to help her brother move to a facility.

Next Meeting: July 23, 2024: 6:00 PM

Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary

ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

July Daily Lectionary

Monday, July 1: Psalm 88; Leviticus 21:1-15; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24;

Tuesday, July 2: Psalm 88; Leviticus 15:19-31; 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Wednesday, July 3: Psalm 88; 2 Kings 20:1-11; Mark 9:14-29

Pentecost 7

Thursday, July 4: Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:1-15; 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

Friday, July 5: Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:16-26; 2 Corinthians 10:7-11

Saturday, July 6: Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:27-34; Matthew 8:18-22

Sunday, July 7: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Monday, July 8: Psalm 119:81-88; Ezekiel 2:8—3:11; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Tuesday, July 9: Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:1-13; James 5:7-12

Wednesday, July 10: Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:14-21; John 7:1-9

Pentecost 8

Thursday, July 11: Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 2:6-16; Colossians 2:1-5

Friday, July 12: Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 3:1-12; Colossians 4:2-18

Saturday, July 13: Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 4:6-13; Luke 1:57-80

Sunday, July 14: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

Monday, July 15: Psalm 142; Amos 5:1-9; Acts 21:27-39

Tuesday, July 16: Psalm 142; Amos 9:1-4; Acts 23:12-35

Wednesday, July 17: Psalm 142; Amos 9:11-15; Luke 7:31-35

Pentecost 9

Thursday, July 18: Psalm 23; Jeremiah 10:1-16; Colossians 1:15-23

Friday, July 19: Psalm 23; Jeremiah 10:17-25; Acts 17:16-31

Saturday, July 20: Psalm 23; Jeremiah 12:1-13; Luke 18:35-43

Sunday, July 21: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Monday, July 22: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 50:1-7; Hebrews 13:17-25

Tuesday, July 23: Psalm 100; Zechariah 9:14—10:2; Acts 20:17-38

Wednesday, July 24: Psalm 100; 2 Samuel 5:1-12; Luke 15:1-7

Pentecost 10

Thursday, July 25: Psalm 145:10-18; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Colossians 1:9-14

Friday, July 26: Psalm 145:10-18; 2 Kings 3:4-20; Colossians 3:12-17

Saturday, July 27: Psalm 145:10-18; 2 Kings 4:38-41; John 4:31-38

Sunday, July 28: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Monday, July 29: Psalm 111; Genesis 18:1-15; Philippians 4:10-20

Tuesday, July 30: Psalm 111; Exodus 24:1-11; Romans 15:22-33

Wednesday, July 31: Psalm 111; Isaiah 25:6-10a; Mark 6:35-44



MORE PICS:





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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*

**4TH OF
JULY**

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!