

CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

12622 US HWY 16A

CUSTER, SD 57730

PHONE: 605-673-4691

EMAIL: clf@gwtc.net

www.custerlutheran.com

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2023

Inside This Issue

2	CLF Happenings
3	Pastor's Ponderings
4	Committees
5	Parish Nurse Ministry
6	From the Church Office
7	Miscellaneous
8	Youth Happenings
9	CLF Life/Graduation Brunch
10	The Women of CLF
11	Outlaw News
12	Financials
13	VBS 2024 Flyer
14	Council Meeting Highlights
15	Daily Devotions
Inserts	- June Calendar - Birthdays & Anniversaries - Worship Help



2024 VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Registration for the 2024 Vacation Bible School "You are God's Masterpiece" is open. VBS will be held on **June 17th-19th from 9AM-3PM**. It is **FREE** to all entering Kindergarten — entering 6th Grade. Rides can be arranged, if needed.

Early registration is helpful. You can register by calling 605-673-4691, email at clf@gwtc.net, or stopping by the office at 12622 US HWY 16A, during normal business hours of 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Come join in on the fun of Bible stories, games, crafts, drama, STEM, food & FUN!

Reminder that students will need to bring a sack lunch.

An offering will be taken for: WELCA Quilting Projects and the YMCA Child Care Center. **Next Planning Meeting will be following church on June 2nd.**

2024 WEDNESDAY CAMPFIRE WORSHIP



Join us for Campfire Worship this summer! We meet in the Outdoor Worship Space in the woods behind the church on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm beginning June 7th. There will be singing, prayer, scripture, communion, and reflection around our campfire. Afterwards, we can linger over the making and eating of s'mores. In the event of rain, we will hold worship inside the church in the Fellowship Hall. We will substitute root beer floats for the s'mores. Bring a friend for this fun mid-week time of worship, music, and conversation.

Sign up to be a campfire starter/tender — Wednesdays — be there by 6:00 PM.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



Pictured are: (Left to Right) Sierra Swanson; Drew Lehman, Cristina (Foreign Exchange Student); Abby Studt; Lauryn Robb, Kai Rusch and Youth Advisor Wendi Rusch.

Keep these young people in your prayers as they make this big change in their lives.

Blessings as you begin your next adventure!



ALL SUMMER FIREWOOD SALES

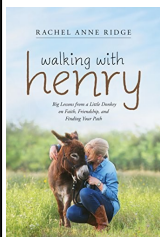


Last month several folks met to discuss the future of our firewood sales. The decision has been made that we want to continue to sell firewood, but that access to dry wood for this season is limited. If you have any wood, green or dry, that you can donate, please let us know! We have people who are willing and able to split and sort it! We also want to make sure that we have enough dry wood split to take to Pine Ridge this fall. The plan is to have our youth, their families, and anyone else willing to help, focus on selling the firewood for 3-4 days at a time from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The proceeds of the wood sales will continue to go toward Rap Group activities as well as other CLF Mission and outreach activities will continue the tradition of selling and providing firewood for our neighbors and visitors to the Beautiful Black Hills.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study will not be meeting over the summer months. We do look forward to seeing you again when we start this fall. May God be with you until we meet again.

LADIES BOOK STUDY



The Christian Book Study ladies are reading "Walking with Henry: Big Lessons from a Little Donkey on Faith, Friendship, and Finding Your Path". Just when you think it's the end of your story...grace shows up. Sometimes it arrives as a moment of joy in the middle of despair. Sometimes you find it next to a trusted friend along an old, well-trodden path. And sometimes, grace has fuzzy ears, a bristled mane, and hope for a new start. We meet Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:00 at Monument Health Assisted Living (formerly Wedgewood) and all ladies are invited to attend.

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 will "kick off" this year on Saturday, June 15th 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 8th, 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

YOUTH GATHERING TO THE BAYOU

Excited to take our crew to the bayou!

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. Thirteen 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! 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! To those who have already donated so generously — Thank You! Contact Wendi 509-494-3236 with any questions. Here's a peek at our t-shirt:



"Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray."

These are words often spoken just before we are invited to clasp hands with a person next to us before we begin the Lord's Prayer. This month we will be spending time contemplating and learning about what the words of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples meant 2,000 years ago and still today. You will hear that the two Gospels where the Lord's Prayer appear have slightly different words in them. As we know, Luke and Matthew were writing with two very different audiences, or readers in mind, and so would use a different instructional approach to prayer.



After the initial address to the God, the prayer itself is composed of seven petitions. There are three "thy-petitions" (thy name, thy kingdom, thy will) followed by four "us-petitions" (give us, forgive us, lead us not and deliver us). Then at the end there is a final phrase that doesn't appear in the Gospels but was added much later by the early church leaders as a doxology, or a prayer of praise, to finish the prayer.

While I was in seminary my oldest daughter was confirmed in a small rural Lutheran church that I was serving along with one of my seminary professors. This professor taught her confirmation class, which was a class of one...just her. One of the exercises that he had her do that I now try to incorporate into the confirmation classes I teach has to do with the Lord's prayer. He explained the basic structure and then gave her the assignment to write the Lord's Prayer in her own words. He asked her to think about how she addresses God in prayer, how to include others in the prayer, and what words would she use that felt the most familiar. What an interesting exercise! Now I try to write it in my own words every few years or so. Notice that this is not an individual prayer, it is a prayer for all of Jesus' disciples. I would encourage you to take some time and write a prayer to God using a similar format. If you do, I would love to have you bring it to me so I could read it during one of our services this month.

One thing that I do think is important is that we continue to teach it in the common language of the congregation. The more we say this prayer the more it becomes part of our very deep memories, and can be recalled under stress and even at our deathbed. So, I will continue to teach and encourage people to learn and memorize the traditional Lord's Prayer. And I will also continue to encourage us and teach us to really understand the meaning of the words.

Here is my personal "Lord's Prayer":

Hi God. I know that you are everywhere because Jesus brought Heaven to earth. You are so amazing to me. I want to experience what it means to have your kingdom here, and I want to know what you want for your creation right here and right now. Help us get through this day with what you know that we need. Forgive us for the ways we have taken your gifts for granted, and help us to be more forgiving of people who take us and our generosity for granted. Help us not to be tempted to make decisions that could hurt us or our community, and keep us safe from dangerous situations. You are the one we look to in awe, for strength, and the one we worship and praise. Amen.

I can't wait to hear *your* prayer!

Your sister in Christ, 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
1-563-542-6080(cell)

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

CLF WORKDAY –JUNE 15TH

The traditional day in the ELCA for God's Work, Our Hand's is September 8th this year. As you read in the God's Work, Our Hands article, we are going to make it a summer effort and kick it off on June 15th in our own CLF "House."

A workday is set for June 15th from 9:00-12:00 to clean and repair numerous items around the building. Items include window cleaning, some painting, fix a few lights, replace a basement faucet, decluttering where needed. Anticipate enjoyable conversation and treats as we care for CLF's (God's) facility.

Watch for a sign-up task list in the Narthex and/or just show up the first week of June in the Narthex. Then please sign up for one or more projects. If you aren't able to come on June 15th, just write down the day and time that works best this summer for you and let Mary, our office administrator know to make sure there aren't other activities going on at that time.

We will supply the cleaning supplies, but if you have your own personal favorite supplies, feel free to bring them. There will be other God's Work, Our Hands activities throughout the summer, so be listing for those opportunities to be announced!

GOD'S WORK OUR HAND'S T-SHIRTS

We still have a few t-shirts left from last year if you don't have one! They can be purchased from Mary in the office for \$10. Pastor Shannon will be ordering more at the end of June. Please let her know by June 25th if you would like to order one for you.



90TH BIRTHDAY GET TOGETHER

Who: Sunny Reeves - 90th Birthday Get Together.
 When: Wednesday, June 19th at 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM.
 Where: Heritage Place. Private Dining Room. 4811 St Martins Drive Rapid City SD 57702 (See map below)
 What: Cake and Ice Cream will be served.
 No gifts are requested.
 Your presence is the best present!



RSVP: Please send an email to Kevin at Rockerville@yahoo.com if you are able to attend so we can plan.
 If you're unable to attend, an email to our Mom can be sent to sunleigh@gwtc.net

We'll publish an announcement in the Custer Chronicle but aren't publishing Mom's address (for security).

Directions from Rapid City

- North on Sturgis Road about 1.6 Miles
- Turn Left at St Martins Drive then about 1/2 Mile to St Martin's Village.
- Building is a large U shaped building. Heritage Village will be the building on the Left.

Come through Security doors (noted by the Red Star on the map), then straight ahead to the Private Dining Room.

CHILD OF GOD

WYATT WESLEY HARTMANN

MAY 19, 2024



WELCOME TO THE
 KINGDOM OF GOD!

PARISH NURSE UPDATE



I have wondered a long time about how effective acupuncture is in treating symptoms caused by a number of conditions, including Mental Health issues, sleep disorders, neurological conditions, digestive issues, chronic inflammatory or degenerative diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and low white blood counts due to chemotherapy. How it works in the body isn't fully understood. For pain conditions the procedure likely stimulates pain fibers that close the "pain gates" in the central nervous system, weakening the pain signal transmitted in the brain. Evidence shows that it also works to release endorphins, your body's natural painkillers. People experiencing chronic pain due to migraines, back problems, fibromyalgia and other conditions may benefit from acupuncture.

What are the risks involved? Overall the risks are very low if you are treated by a certified acupuncture practitioner. The needles are sterile and disposable to reduce infection risks. Possible side effects include minor issues such as temporary bruising at the needle sites. Although extremely rare, injury may occur if needles are pushed too deeply. This would only occur with the use of longer needles. The majority of treatments involve the use of shorter needles. Let the practitioner if you are pregnant, have a pacemaker or have a bleeding disorder.

Does acupuncture hurt? Treatments should not be painful. You may initially feel a small prick when the needle is inserted, after that you may feel a sensation of pressure, deep ache or warmth with the needle stimulation. That means the needle has made contact with the "energy, or qi". Typical treatments last 20 to 30 minutes after the needles are placed.

What should you expect afterward? People often report a general sense of relaxation and rejuvenation after an acupuncture treatment. How frequent the treatment is and how long it lasts depends on your condition and treatment plan agreed upon by you and your practitioner. Typically, chronic conditions may require more frequent treatments, longer courses of treatment or both.

Is acupuncture covered by insurance? Check with your insurance provider as not all will cover these treatments. It also may be dependent on your provider. In the 2024 Medicare coverage book it did state that Medicare will cover treatments but some people have had issues with them paying. The treatments are costly so that may play into decisions regarding acupuncture.

Healthy body/ Healthy soul
Mary Klein RN Parish Nurse



2024 CLF CHOIR



RAP High School Youth



FUN!!





CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES..

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

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the July Newsletter to the office **by June 21st**. 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.



CLF FIREWOOD

It has been a longstanding tradition of our youth to participate in the splitting and selling of firewood to help support their activities, mission trips, and the National Youth Gathering. It has also been a longstanding tradition to take several cords of split firewood to Red Shirt Table for the Great Wood Haul in November. We are going to maintain these traditions but add a little twist. We are no longer going to have separate piles of wood, but will try to keep enough split to sell all summer and have enough to split and keep dry to take to Red Shirt Table.

The youth and their families will still be expected to participate in the splitting and selling of the wood and will still have access to the funds to continue to participate in youth activities. The twist is that our whole congregation is invited to help with the splitting and the selling and the gathering of trees to be bucked up, transported to the church throughout the year. The money raised during the summer will also be available for other CLF mission and outreach activities. Some examples would be if there is a need at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center that we can assist with, we could access this fund. Or if next year we decide to take an intergenerational mission trip, we could use some of these funds as seed money. The list of ideas for mission and outreach is long and beautiful! Our wood cutting and selling and giving away efforts will be part of our God’s Work, Our Hands ministry!

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or let Wendi, our Youth and Family Coordinator know if you can help keep our wood stocked near the East entrance of the church this summer! Please let Pastor Shannon know if you have any wood that can be brought to the church for us to cut and split.

NOISY OFFERING

ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF JUNE, THE NOISY OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED FOR CORNERSTONE MISSION.

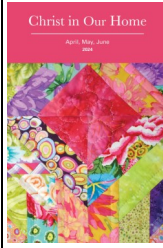
WE COLLECTED
\$ 109.67
IN MAY FOR LUTHERAN
DISASTER RESPONSE.



LYNN'S RECEIPTS

We are still collecting receipts from Lynn's Dakotamart. We appreciate so much everyone who brings their receipts. We want 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. We have collected **\$ 600.00** so far for 2024. Thank you for your assistance!

"CHRIST IN OUR HOME" DEVOTIONALS



The "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklet is issued quarterly by Augsburg Fortress. The **July through September issue** is here. We give thanks to W/ELCA for providing this devotional for your personal use.

If you would like an issue, you can stop by the office to pick one up, or contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Greetings!

The CLF choir will be taking a break over the summer to rest and rejuvenate. We will begin practices and special music again in September. Please consider joining us for a time of fellowship and spreading God's word through song. If you know someone or would like to offer special music during the summer months to help fill the choir gap, please let me know. You can give me a call at (605) 864-1322 or email me at: jenniferkaydoyle@gmail.com. We would love to have a variety of different voices and/or instruments for the congregation to enjoy.

I wish to personally thank everyone that has volunteered their talents with special music during this past year. I appreciate your willingness to share and help make our services even more meaningful with song. A huge thanks to our wonderful worship band that gets our toes tapping. I cannot forget a special thanks to our wonderful accompanists. They are a dedicated group of ladies who work hard to prepare the music for each and every service. Thank you Cozy, Janice, and Tranda for having an open mind and trying any piece of music I throw at you! We look forward to having Carol Torgerson here for the summer to help us out. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by such talent! Finally, thank you to the congregation for your patience during my transition as music coordinator. I know that I have big shoes to fill and am trying hard to accommodate everyone's desires. There is nothing better as an accompanist than playing a song where the congregation comes alive and sings along. The energy in the room is magnificent! You are all truly amazing and make my job so much fun!

Summer services will begin on Wednesday, June 5th at the outdoor campfire area. A time of fellowship and smores follow the services. If the weather is questionable, services are held inside with root beer floats to follow. Join us for a time of worship with fun music sung around the campfire.

We will continue to have a variety of services throughout the summer months with a mixture of sacred and secular hymns. There will be something for everyone. We look forward to worshiping with you!

Blessings,
Jenn Doyle

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



SPARK KIDS

We have had a lot of fun learning and growing together each Wednesday during the school year at SPARK Kids! We will keep them all in our prayers as we hope to see the K-5th graders this fall for SPARK or those who graduate to start Middle School Youth Group. There was a small gift for those 5th graders moving up: Kaedin Rusch, Olyver Netzley, Phoenix Barrick, Easton Dooley, Paisley Neimann, Ezra Myers, and Paige Pennington. Special THANKS to all of the assistants and drivers who helped with the 36 kids registered! We are on summer break, but invite your 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 ways to volunteer!



HIGH SCHOOL RAP YOUTH GROUP

We concluded the last youth group of the school year with what has become a tradition- a campfire at the Rusch house! Nearly twenty kids ate, played frisbee or basketball, rode the plasma cars, played on the zipline or trampoline...enjoying each other's company. The year went quickly as we made great connections & memories. There were 4 Seniors that came to be honored at Grad Sunday and 6 that came for the grad breakfast, but there are over a dozen that have come throughout the year. We will keep them all in our prayers as we hope to see 9-12th graders this fall for youth group or as the seniors graduate and start new adventures.



GRADUATING 5TH GRADERS FROM SPARK



Olyver Netzley, Phoenix Barrick, Kaedin Rusch, Paige Pennington, Paisley Neimann, Ezra Myers and Wendi Rusch (Easton Dooley not pictured)

2024 GRADUATION BRUNCH

The Graduation Breakfast for the church's Seniors and families was wonderful! Thank you to everyone who signed up to help bring egg bakes, fruit, baked goods and juice! We also appreciate all of the help to set-up, arrange & serve the food and clean. What a fun tradition that Senior families appreciate each year when they have a graduate!



Prayers and the best in the future!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE ALL THE FATHER'S AND FATHER-LIKE ROLE MODELS IN OUR CHURCH AND AROUND.

THANK YOU FATHER'S, GRAND FATHERS AND GREAT-GRANDFATHERS!

A FATHER'S DAY READING

Father's Day is the 3rd Sunday in June. It is a day to celebrate fathers and father-like role models and all that they do for us. Today, over 50 countries celebrate Father's Day, but they might have a different date for it.

It is important to look at what fathers bring to their families. Every father is different. Does he teach you how to play games? Does he help with your homework? Does he read you bedtime stories? Thank him for all he does!

Father's Day isn't just for fathers, either. Its also for grandfathers and great – grandfathers! Your parent probably even call their fathers, which are your grandfathers!

W/ELCA HAPPENINGS

Next meeting: Monday, June 24th at 9:30AM with the meeting in the Fireside Room with a Potluck Spring Brunch.

Program: There will be no program. Just a casual meeting to talk about summer plans and get ideas for the fall meeting.

We will be **packing the sack lunches** that go to the **YMCA for Monday, July 8th at 9:00 AM** for the Summer Sack Lunch Program. This will be then followed with brunch and conversation.

We will also be helping with the All Church clean-up on Saturday, June 15th. Our thanks to Dave Pickford and Denny McConnell for the handles on the drawers and cupboards in the kitchen. It makes them so much easier To open.

We made the following donations at our May Meeting: WEAVE ~ \$500 was designated for a billboard "Against Sex Trafficking"; Pastor's Discretionary Fund ~ \$500; and \$500 for Camperships.

QUILTING

"Quilter's will take a break"

New Summer Schedule:

June 6th and 13th

July 11th and 18th

August 1st and 8th

NEEDED: a cutting ruler and good flat sheets for quilt backs.



OUTLAW RANCH SUMMER STAFF HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!

The Summer Staff at Outlaw Ranch have arrived! It has been a very long tradition of CLF to support the ministries of OR, and part of that includes supporting the amazing folks that come to serve the campers all summer.

Would you and/or your family be willing to support one or more of these wonderful people? This is what it means to be a Host Family or Sponsor:

Send notes or small gifts of encouragement regularly throughout the summer. Be willing to sit with them in worship on Sundays...invite them to join you and be willing to pick them up and drop them off if they don't have their own transportation. Invite them to have a meal with you at least 3 times during the summer. Offer a weekend or two where they could maybe come and do a load or two of laundry (they do have laundry facilities, but they get pretty busy on the weekends when everyone is trying to do laundry at the same time.) If they are an international student, or have never been to the Black Hills before, be willing to take them to some of the traditional "tourist" sites or maybe even on one of your favorite hikes! Really the sky is the limit! One thing that happened last year that we'd like to avoid is that some of the staff was really showered with love from their sponsor, and some only had one or two interactions. One idea to level things out is to make the suggestion that at the beginning of the summer, the first week of June, to introduce yourself personally if possible, to be here on the day of their blessing and installation, June 9th during worship and fellowship, then after that try to touch base a minimum of twice a month and no more than once a week. However, it is largely up to you! Let Pastor Shannon know if you are interested and how many staff you will be willing to sponsor (we already have one family that plans to sponsor up to 6 staff). You not only will be a gift to the staff person(s) you sponsor, you will also be very blessed by their faith and energy and willingness to work at our partner in ministry, Outlaw Ranch.

MATT'S MESSAGE

"After 10 years of service to Outlaw Ranch and Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota, I've made the decision to step down as Camp Director. Many thanks to the Custer Lutheran Fellowship congregation for all their support over the years. From volunteers to financial donations, Outlaw is better because of the close, encouraging relationship.

Denali was six months old when we began the full time camp life, so it's all our kids have known. Camp was a great environment to raise them in, surrounded by incredible mentors and camp family. Thanks to the kids for riding along throughout all these experiences and the many ways that you pitched in to help get things done. And the biggest thanks to my greatest champion, Wendi. Without your support, none of this would have been possible. We are planning on staying in Custer and I'm working on finding the next adventure!"

There are also two photos attached, one is when we started and one from last Friday when I ended.

Thank you!
Matt



Matt and Family,
We here at CLF wish you and your family all the best in finding your next adventure.
Your Friends in Christ,
CLF Members and Friends



PROPERTY TEAM KEEPS FACILITIES MISSION-READY

The CLF "Property Team" has been busy accomplishing and/or planning projects to keep our buildings and grounds in good shape. Here's a summary:

- **Lighting:** Two lampposts on the front entry walk, and the parking lot security light above the office were replaced. Working on the southwest parking lot security light and walkway lights to the pre-school. All ceiling lights have been converted to energy-saving LED daylight bulbs.
- **Kitchen:** Problematic kitchen drawer slides will be upgraded and adding handles to every drawer and cupboard.
- **Outdoor Worship Area:** Benches are being refurbished, a new fire ring is anticipated, the firewood mission area is cleaned up. A small building for splitter and firewood storage will be constructed in June.
- **Basement/crawlspace drainage:** Leakage into the crawlspace and basement has been occurring during intense rainstorms. A solution this summer includes regrading the front boulevard area to improve out-sloping, add a waterproof membrane and decorative rock veneer on the south and west-facing walls, and improve the gutter system.
- Preparing a list of maintenance items for the June 15th workday. We're seeking volunteers 😊

Project accomplishments are possible only with dedicated volunteers who work to keep our facility in top shape To deliver our worship and service ministries.

MORE PICTURES



MARY STUTZ MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be a Memorial Service honoring the life of Mary Stutz on Saturday, June 22nd, at 1 PM at Custer Lutheran Fellowship, with a lunch following the service.



Blessed Be Your Memories
Of Mary!

Custer Lutheran Fellowship

Statement of Activities

For the Year-to-Date Ending April 30, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Contribution Revenues	\$ 138,382.44	\$ 121,494.00	\$ 16,888.44
Operating Expenses			
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 26,468.24	\$ 27,121.00	\$ (652.76)
Worship	8,853.60	9,157.00	(303.40)
Education	23,445.35	19,112.00	4,333.35
Mission Support	12,180.00	13,890.00	(1,710.00)
Support/Care	17,973.15	16,568.00	1,405.15
Office Operations	8,130.14	7,182.00	948.14
Facilities Expenses	23,196.91	45,826.00	(22,629.09)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 120,247.39	\$ 138,856.00	\$ (18,608.61)
Other Revenues	\$ 7,947.30	\$ 668.00	\$ 7,279.30
Other Expenditures	1,097.98	-	1,097.98
Net Other Revenue & Expenditures	\$ 6,849.32	\$ 668.00	\$ 6,181.32
Total Net Revenue(Loss)	\$ 24,984.37	\$ (10,522.00)	\$ 35,506.37

Contributions continue to be generous through April. Education expenses exceeded budget due to the timing of the RAP trip payments. Facilities expense depends on the timing of projects, which there are plenty upcoming! Overall, CLF continues a strong financial position through April. Please let me know if you have questions! Sara Mooney (605-440-1899).



“We are God’s Masterpiece”



**Custer Lutheran Fellowship’s
12622 US Hwy 16A**

Vacation Bible School

June 17-19 9am-3pm

Free for ages K-5th (completed)

**Bring a sack lunch. Rides can be arranged from
YMCA Kids Camp.**

**To Register - call 605-673-4691 or
email clf@gwtc.net**

Bible stories, games, music, ART, food & FUN!

CUSTER MEET & GREET

The next Custer Meet & Greet meal will be held on Tuesday, June 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.

COUNCIL MINUTES — May 14, 2024

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

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru April were 96% (-\$4,554.23) of budget and expenses were 86.6% (-\$18,608.61) of budget.

Discussed how much should be in Operating Reserves according to ELCA guideline.

Kathy moved, Mark seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

Unfinished Business:

- **Thrivent Choice** – April \$ 93.00, YTD - \$917.00
- **Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts** – April \$200.00, YTD - \$600.00
- **Growing Roots Update** – They are 99% sure they will remain licensed which gives the parents \$ assistance. For the time being, they will move to the upstairs rooms and use the hallway bathrooms.
- **Pictorial Directory** – Still working on gathering info. Will have more to report by next month.
- **Other** –

New Business:

- **Membership changes:** Jonathan & Wanda Dahlstrom to Our Savior's Lutheran, Spearfish, SD
- **VBS** – Pastor Shannon asked council members to assist with the different areas, if possible.
- **Other** –
 - ◇ **Apostle's Creed Poster** – Poster was done by Edith Gage and needs to be framed. Helena offered to get it done.
 - ◇ **Constitution** – Need someone to research the connection between the Constitution and the By-Laws which no longer are in the Constitution. Donna to research.

Pastor's Report:

- **Review worship & activities** – Excited to start outdoor worship on June 5th. Will continue to use the Narrative Lectionary and has been renewed. Will also continue to use Sundays & Seasons on a limited basis so need to reduce the number of members to reduce cost.

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

- **Caring Hands**, Helena Buehler – Have not met, but committee has been busy.
- **Christian Education**, Sara Mooney – Nothing to report as VBS was discussed under New Business.
- **Endowment**, Sara Mooney – Nothing to report.
- **Health Ministry**, Kathy Bradeen – Nothing to report.
- **Mutual Ministry**, Dave Mertz – Nothing to report.
- **Property**, Mark Thompson – Reported on the many projects the committee has going on. Work day will be June 15. Work has begun on outdoor worship area. Wood shed construction will begin soon.
- **Social Ministry**, Craig Black – Reviewed committee activity.
- **W/ELCA**, Shana Hindman – Nothing to report.
- **Worship & Music**, Donna McConnell – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting: June 18, 2024, 6 PM:

Treats – Pastor Shannon Devotions – Pastor Shannon
June 2024 Care & Share Calling Coordinator – _____.

**Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer
Adjournment**

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary



ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

Pentecost 2

Thursday, May 30: Psalm 81:1-10; Exodus 31:12-18; Acts 25:1-12

Friday, May 31: Psalm 81:1-10; Leviticus 23:1-8; Romans 8:31-39

Saturday, June 1: Psalm 81:1-10; Leviticus 24:5-9; John 7:19-24

Sunday, June 2: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23—3:6

Monday, June 3: Psalm 78:1-4, 52-72; Exodus 16:13-26; Romans 9:19-29

Tuesday, June 4: Psalm 78:1-4, 52-72; Exodus 16:27-36; Acts 15:1-5, 22-35

Wednesday, June 5: Psalm 78:1-4, 52-72; 1 Samuel 21:1-6; John 5:1-18



**F a m i l y
D e v o t i o n
H e l p s**

Pentecost 3

Thursday, June 6: Psalm 130; Isaiah 28:9-13; 1 Peter 4:7-19

Friday, June 7: Psalm 130; Deuteronomy 1:34-40; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Saturday, June 8: Psalm 130; Genesis 2:4b-14; Luke 8:4-15

Sunday, June 9: Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Monday, June 10: Psalm 74; 1 Samuel 16:14-23; Revelation 20:1-6

Tuesday, June 11: Psalm 74; 1 Kings 18:17-40; Revelation 20:7-15

Wednesday, June 12: Psalm 74; Isaiah 26:16—27:1; Luke 11:14-28

Pentecost 4

Thursday, June 13: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; Genesis 3:14-24; Hebrews 2:5-9

Friday, June 14: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 1 Kings 10:26—11:8; Hebrews 11:4-7

Saturday, June 15: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Kings 14:1-14; Mark 4:1-20

Sunday, June 16: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

Monday, June 17: Psalm 52; Ezekiel 31:1-12; Galatians 6:11-18

Tuesday, June 18: Psalm 52; Psalm 53; Jeremiah 21:11-14; Revelation 21:22—22:5

Wednesday, June 19: Psalm 52; Jeremiah 22:1-9; Luke 6:43-45

Pentecost 5

Thursday, June 20: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 29:1-20; Acts 20:1-16

Friday, June 21: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 29:21—30:15; Acts 21:1-16

Saturday, June 22: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 37:1-13; Luke 21:25-28

Sunday, June 23: Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Monday, June 24: Psalm 65; Exodus 7:14-24; Acts 27:13-38

Tuesday, June 25: Psalm 65; Exodus 9:13-35; Acts 27:39-44

Wednesday, June 26: Psalm 65; Joshua 10:1-14; Mark 6:45-52

Pentecost 6

Thursday, June 27: Psalm 30; Lamentations 1:16-22; 2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Friday, June 28: Psalm 30; Lamentations 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Saturday, June 29: Psalm 30; Lamentations 2:18-22; Luke 4:31-37

Sunday, June 30: Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

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



GRADS AND MOMS HONORED ~ MAY 12TH



Abby & Sue Studt, Lauryn & Jackie Robb,
Wendi & Kai Rusch, Drew & Michelle Lehman



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

Return Service Requested

U.S. Postage Paid
Non Profit Organization
Permit #5
Custer, SD 57730

Place label here.

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!