



CROSSROADS

Monthly Newsletter for:

CUSTER LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

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JANUARY 2025

Inside This Issue

2	CLF Happenings
3	Pastor's Ponderings
4	Wednesday NightLife & Youth
5	Worship & Music
6	From the Church Office
7	Lila Van Wie Endowment
8	CLF Youth
9	The Women of CLF
10	Mission of the Month
11	Constitutional Revisions
12	Miscellaneous
13	O CLF Christmas Tree
14	Council Meeting Highlights
15	Daily Devotions
Inserts	- January Calendar - Birthdays & Anniversaries

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Custer Lutheran Fellowship Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 26th**, after worship at 10:30 AM, with a **Potluck Brunch**.

It is vital that all members attend this meeting so that we can approve the 2025 Budget for the church, as well as vote on council and committee members. Our Treasurer, Joy Smolnisky, will be holding a Budget Forum on **January 19th** at 10:30 AM after worship. See you there!

All Committee activity groups and Team leaders, please submit your reports to the church office by **January 4th**.

Christmas Blessings

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas Program was amazing! The kids did a great job with their lines, the songs, playing the bells and looked great in their costumes. So many people came up to me afterward to say how meaningful it was to them. A huge THANK YOU to Linda Fennell, Bonnie Thompson, Carol Niemann, Lise' White and Matt Rusch on piano. Thank you MS youth for assisting and parents for getting your kids there during the busy holiday season. What a wonderful reminder of joy and peace this Christmas season!



SOCIAL MINISTRY – "GOOD GIFTS" SUMMARY

Your Social Ministry Team sponsored ELCA "Good Gifts" in early December. Farm animals, educational and development projects can make a world of difference for a family in need. With our gifts, together, we help families escape the cycle of hunger and poverty.



Purchased this year were: Goats (8), Piglets (8), Chicks (7), School Supplies package (2), Serve 50 Feeding Ministry (2), Honey Bee package (2), Community Vegetable Garden (1), Rooster (1), School Fees for Girl (1), and Water Filter (1). A total of \$ was raised from sales at church. We know that others at CLF support "Good Gifts" online, so there are many gifts beyond what are reflected above. Thank you for selecting gifts for others and supporting this mission work.

RUSCH ATTENDS LUTHER SEMINARY

Wendi Rusch has been admitted as a Graduate Certificate student at Luther Seminary. The program begins January '25 and requires 6 courses to complete the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Certificate. There is also an option to apply these courses to complete a Masters degree. She is excited to further her education and improve the ministry she is already doing at CLF. Wendi will receive the Jubilee scholarship that covers 100% tuition but this does not cover books, campus fees or the three times she must travel to campus for onsite intensives. Contact Pastor Shannon for ways to support Wendi and we trust you will join her in prayer as she begins her seminary journey.



THURSDAY'S LADIES BOOK STUDY BY ARBUTUS WINTER

The Women's Book Study group meeting at Monument Assisted Living are now reading "The Wedding Dress Sewing Circle" by Jennifer Ryan. Three women lift the spirits of home-front brides in wartime Britain when clothes rationing leaves wedding dresses scarce, in this heartwarming novel based on true events.

GOOD NEWS ON THE IMPACT OF CLF'S MISSION GIVING!



For a number of years individual members of Custer Lutheran Fellowship have provided restricted donations to the church to fund the Delta Dental mobile program in Custer, SD.

This program, run by the Delta Dental of SD Foundation, brings a mobile dental unit to Custer each fall and provides preventive and restorative dental care to Custer children. In 2024, 26 Custer area children received services valued at \$33,183 (a 10 fold return) on the \$3,000 participation fee.



RAISING UP LEADERS

Last year one of the Outlaw Ranch Staff, Julianna Jimenez, officially joined our congregation. Julianna is from Columbia, but has worked at Outlaw and worshipped at CLF for 5 seasons. This fall, she discerned a call to ministry and is pursuing her MDiv at Wartburg Theological Seminary. We are considered her Home congregation and she is a student of the South Dakota Synod. As a congregation, we can share in her joy and in her journey! As a council, we have decided to add a line item to our 2025 budget that if passed, will offer her some financial support. As a congregation, I'd invite you to pray for her, as this is a long and arduous journey. Not only is she far away from her family, she is also now studying at a graduate level with English as her second language. I have no doubt that Juli will succeed and thrive, but also want her to know that she is not alone! If you would like to know more about Juli, and find ways you can support her, please don't hesitate to ask me! Thank you in advance for all of your support! ~Pastor Shannon

Happy New Year!

As many of you are aware, for the last year Jenn Doyle (our Music and Worship Director) and I have been planning our Sunday Worship around the Scripture readings from the Narrative Lectionary. This is slightly different than the three year Revised Common Lectionary in that it begins in September with readings from the Old Testament, then after Christmas focuses on one of the four Gospels until Easter, then moves into the Letters of Paul. The Narrative Lectionary is a four year cycle in order to give us time to really focus on one Gospel per year. This year, beginning on January 12th, we will be diving into the Gospel according to Luke. Last year we gathered together at my house and read the entire Gospel of Mark in one setting.

I would like to do the same thing this year! It took us almost two hours to get through Mark, and Luke is a little bit longer, so I'm planning a whole evening around it. If you came last year, you remember that we were pretty cozy (as in scrunched together) because so many of you came. What a wonderful time it was! Therefore, I'm going to schedule two opportunities to join me at my home and put out sign up sheets so I can have plenty of food and beverages to share while we read. The first opportunity will be Sunday, January 5th from 3:00 PM until we finish (hopefully by 7:30 at the latest). The second opportunity will be Saturday, January 11th same times, 3:00 PM until we finish. The limit per group will be 15 which will still be cozy, but comfortable. If I need to schedule another time because so many of you want to join in...what a lovely problem that would be!!!

If you are not able to attend, I would strongly encourage you to take some time to read through the whole book of Luke, and try to read it like you would any other book, but try to do it in as few settings as possible.

The purpose for this suggestion to read it all the way through is to help us all engage more fully in the Sunday Sermons each week. Narrative is another word for Story...and if you are aware of the full story, then each chapter and verse makes a little more sense.

This year my prayer is that we as a congregation can continue to grow in our Biblical studies, to let God's Word sink into our souls and open our hearts and minds to Jesus' mission in the world today and in this New Year. I know that every time I study the Bible something inside of me changes and grows, and I would love that to be the case for you, too!

Looking forward to letting God's Word be New for us again in 2025!

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Shannon



PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ⇒ There is a hospitalization in your family | ⇒ There is a death in your family |
| ⇒ You would like a pastoral visit | ⇒ There is a birth or adoption |
| ⇒ Someone becomes homebound | ⇒ Someone becomes unemployed |
| ⇒ There is a cause for sorrow or a cause for joy | |

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

Pastor Shannon at 563-542-6080; pastor_clf@gwtc.net; or the church office at 605-673-4691.

CLF LIFE



WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIFE SCHEDULE

Meal at 5:15 PM

Jan. 1st NO MEAL
 Jan. 8th To be decided
 Jan. 15th To be decided
 Jan. 22nd To be decided
 Jan. 29th No Meal-Family Night

Worship at 6:00 PM

No Service
 Holy Communion
 Holden Evening Prayer
 Prayer Around the Cross
 No Service-Family Night

Confirmation and RAP HS Youth Group at 6:30 PM



Jan. 1st No Class
 Jan. 8th Class
 Jan. 15th Class
 Jan. 24th Class
 Jan. 31st Family Night (No Class)



SPARK KIDS



Join us for SPARK Kids! During the school year on Wednesdays, children from Kindergarten through Grade 5 are picked up at the Elementary building after school is dismissed and brought to the church. We sing songs, have a snack, and do a game or craft that ties into the Bible story. It is always a fun time of learning and laughing, with also some great questions and deep thinking! Pickup is 5:00-5:15. There is NO cost for this program! Children need to be registered by their parents/guardians in order to participate. Registration materials are available through the office. Substitute drivers needed if you can help since we have 28 kids signed up! All are welcome!

RAP HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The High School Youth Group had a fun December! We delivered Christmas-grams and it was a joy to see the recipients so pleased to receive them. We had a great time on the Outlaw Ranch hayride for the Christmas parade and the kids looked great in their holiday hats! Thanks to everyone who helped toss candy and shared the Christmas spirit! There were 16 youth at the Christmas Party! We played games, snacked, and did a white elephant exchange! Fun to laugh together! We closed out the month by baking cookies....and tasting them! A "sweet" way to end the year! We meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and would love to have 9th-12th graders join us! Contact Wendi Rusch #509-494-3236 to get .involved!



Welcome 2025!

First of all, a huge thank you to the choir members for their generous Christmas gift. I truly enjoy making music with each and every one of you! I look forward to much more fun during the upcoming year!

We will be singing a song called *"Shine On, Great Savior"* in the month of January. Some of our members are taking flight as "snow birds" to escape the cold and snow. If any of you winter weather lovers are sticking around and wish to join us, I know there will be a few open chairs! We wish everyone safe travels and warm weather!

The CLF choir will be meeting during the following times in January:
Wednesday, January 8 ~ Practice @ 6:30 PM in Sanctuary
Wednesday, January 15 ~ Practice @ 6:30 PM in Sanctuary
Sunday, January 19 ~ Special music @ 9:30 AM church service

Happy New Year!

Jenn Doyle
jenniferkaydoyle@gmail.com or (605) 864-1322



CLFRPFPT

Custer Lutheran Fellowship Recycling Plastic Film Project Team - the title will never fit on a sweatshirt! Would you consider being part of the team? For the past year, CLF has worked with the Custer Lions Club with our one collection box. We collected over 200 lbs. (20) bags.

The Lions Club is discontinuing their collection as a project, so I'm asking CLF members to join me in caring for creation by expanding to take over their collection boxes. There are 5 collection boxes around Custer. I think 5-6 people to collect. They would be weighed and set aside at the church and then people going to Rapid City could drop them off at Kohl's. You literally drop them off just inside the main door - "No checking in". We keep the record of the bags with the weight and photos and report each month. There is a TREX bench awarded for each thousand pounds in a year, but that's just the "frosting".

It's about caring for the earth God created and calls us to be His stewards.

If you would like to help in the New Year please contact me - Phil Lewison pblewison@hotmail.com
 Cell 605-440-0751 or contact the church office or Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Recycling Plastic Film

The Social Ministry Team has started to recycle plastic film. They have a collection box located in the Narthex for you to help recycle various forms of plastic film.

WHAT IS FILM PLASTIC?

More info is located at trex.com/recycling



CLEAN SIDEWALK CLUB

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

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

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



"A clean sidewalk reflects a clean heart." ~ Expectations 24:7



CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you would like to e-mail someone in the church office, our e-mail address is:

Main address— clf@gwtc.net

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles for the February Newsletter to the office by **January 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.



DO YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES?

Please let the church office know of any recent address changes, new email addresses or changes in your phone numbers whether home or cell phone. We are trying to keep our records up to date. Thank You for your assistance!

THURSDAY MEN’S BREAKFAST

7:00 AM — “Outlaw Ranch”

Come join us for breakfast each week. There’s always good conversation and good food! Open to all! Bring a friend!

**Custer Lutheran Fellowship
Statement of Activities
For the Year-to-Date Ending November 30, 2024**

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Contribution Revenues	\$ 372,971.84	\$334,105.00	\$ 38,866.84
Operating Expenses			
Pastoral Leadership	\$ 74,220.80	\$ 74,550.00	\$ (329.20)
Worship	21,782.27	21,517.00	265.27
Education	46,961.18	48,943.00	(1,981.82)
Mission Support	41,741.78	38,172.00	3,569.78
Support/Care	42,853.15	45,438.00	(2,584.85)
Office Operations	25,560.57	19,851.00	5,709.57
Facilities Expenses	99,632.14	103,947.00	(4,314.86)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 352,751.89	\$352,418.00	\$ 333.89
Other Revenues	\$ 24,403.57	\$ 1,834.00	\$ 22,569.57
Other Expenditures	1,261.52	-	1,261.52
Net Other Revenue & Expenditures	\$ 23,142.05	\$ 1,834.00	\$ 21,308.05
Total Net Revenue(Loss)	\$ 43,362.00	\$ (16,479.00)	\$ 59,841.00

**CLF MEN’S
BREAKFAST/BIBLE
STUDY**

The Men’s Breakfast will meet on **January 11th** at 8:00 AM in the Fireside Room. The men gather for a breakfast first then move on to their Bible study for the day. All are welcome to join this group. We have great discussions.



November contributions were comparable to October. The total contribution revenue in excess of the budget are attributed to restricted donations and firewood sales. November year-to-date unrestricted contributions and operating expenses were 95% and 99% to budget, respectively.

LILA VAN WIE ENDOWMENT

Decades ago, Lila Van Wie bequeathed a gift of \$100,000 to the CLF Endowment Fund. The annual interest is dedicated to support Custer County youth.

On Sunday, January 12th the Endowment Committee will be presenting funds to support the following programs: Custer County Library Summer Youth Reading Program, Custer YMCA After School Program (Kid Stop), Freshman Impact, CLF Scholarship Fund, and CLF Outlaw Ranch Camping Scholarships.



CUSTER MEET & EAT



Custer Meet & Eat is being offered on January 14th. Meet your neighbors from Custer and enjoy a meal together. The free supper is offered the second Tuesday of each month at the Custer Community Church, 529 Harney Street.

Join us from 5:00pm — 7:00pm. Everyone is Welcome!



SPARK KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM BY LINDA FENNEL

SPARK Kids presented "The Little Christmas Tree" during worship on December 8th. It was directed by Linda Fennell and Wendi Rusch. Approximately 35 children participated, including several preschoolers and the middle school Confirmation class that read the scripture of the Christmas story. The play was written by Eve Trandem about 10 years ago, and it was fun to revive it with this group of very active preschool – 5th grade SPARK participants. They learned the story of Christ's birth while practicing and performing the play. They also learned 5 Christmas carols and surprised the audience with playing the bells to 'Joy to the World'.

A special thank you to all involved, especially the volunteer assistants; Bonnie Thompson, Lise' White, Carol Neimann and Matt Rusch on the piano. Thank you to Pastor Shannon for her support and cooperation throughout, as well. A special appreciation for the many families provided cookies for the reception, as well. May the true meaning of Christmas fill everyone's hearts this holiday season!



RAP HS YOUTH GROUP FUN





W/ELCA HAPPENINGS:

Next meeting: Monday, January 20, 2025 @ 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Luncheon: Please bring a dish to pass. Our meeting will begin with a potluck luncheon.

Program: CLF member, Joan Ruen, will give a presentation about the Old Order and Swartzentruber Amish.

W/ELCA did not meet in December. We hope that each of you enjoyed a blessed Christmas and that you are looking forward to new adventures in 2025.

We are excited to begin the new year with our January meeting on the 20th. CLF member, Joan Ruen will give a presentation about the Old Order and Swartzentruber Amish. Joan and Dave owned and operated Bluffscape Amish Tours in Lanesboro, MN for 14 years and gained a close relationship with many Amish families. Folks who attend our January meeting will learn about Amish culture. That will include their history, daily living, church, schools and much more.



A reminder that we are all Women of the ELCA. Having said that, all are welcome to attend the program in January, and, of course, to stay for the meeting or not.

We will also review our 2025 W/ELCA booklets, missions and programs.

Mission: January — March LWR Quilts and Local Needs

Our mission for January through March is making and providing quilts for LWR and local needs. The quilters might need some help in the form of supplies. Those needs will be made known as they occur. We appreciate all that you do to support this important outreach.

QUILTING —

Summary for the year:

We sent out approximately 175 quilts to the following organizations:

VA Hospice; Children's Home Society; Lutheran World Relief; Red Shirt; Pine Ridge

Special events such as CLF members who have transitioned to Care Centers; Lap quilts to Custer Hospital

Pet beds to various shelters in Custer, Hot Springs ,and Rapid City.

We celebrated with a Christmas potluck to honor Ginny Meyers for her leadership over the past several years.

We will resume quilting January 7th at 9:00 AM.

MERRY CHRISTMAS,

From Wanda Omodt And the Quilting Gals!



MISSION OF THE MONTH

This year CLF will be sponsoring a Mission of the Month Program, highlighting an outreach mission each month. In the past our noisy offering, taken once a month, was used to donate to these mission projects. This year, the noisy offering will continue to be given to the monthly project, but it will be expanded so that persons who wish to donate more than their loose change can have an opportunity to donate throughout the whole month. An offering canister will be set up in the hallway of the church, with the name of the month's project so persons can donate to the cause anytime. Hopefully this offers an opportunity for persons to give more to specific mission causes as they choose.

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH—WOYATON CHURCH WARMING BUS AND HOMELESS MINISTRIES

The following is a letter from Tracey Sigdestad who works with Wambli Ska, a part of Woyaton, which is the ELCA Lutheran Lakota Church in Rapid City.

“Urban Native American Community in Rapid City: The Indigenous community, primarily Lakota, makes up about 10% of Rapid City's population but faces significant hardships, including poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing, and limited healthcare access. Particularly in North Rapid City, where our organization is based, conditions resemble third world scenarios, with stark disparities in income, education, health, and safety. Native Americans comprise nearly 50% of the city's homeless population, despite being only a tenth of its residents.

Strengthening Connections Street Outreach Program: Strengthening Connections, the state's only 100% Indigenous led and culturally responsive street outreach program, is made possible by the support of our community. We actively engage homeless individuals through outreach efforts that provide basic necessities, connect them to our programs, and help them navigate available resources. Our teams work tirelessly to build trust, offer support, and help individuals navigate their paths toward stability and self-sufficiency. Street Outreach is a process of building a personal connection that may help a person improve his or her housing, health status, and/or social support network. Through these relationships, many chronically homeless people have moved from the streets to permanent housing and toward independence. Service Recipients include youth, adults, and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, intoxicated, experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis, or engaging in disruptive behavior or experiencing crises.

Emergency Shelter and Day Center: Our street outreach program uncovered critical gaps in services, particularly the absence of culturally responsive support and emergency shelter, especially during SD's harsh winters. Many relatives have been lost due to exposure to these conditions. To address this, we opened an emergency shelter at Woyaton Church, providing shelter during the winters of 2021 & 2022. The shelter offered 100 beds, served 3 meals daily, and fed nearly 200 people per day. Staff assisted guests with obtaining documents, housing applications, medical appointments, job searches, and transportation to services. In 2023, after the closure of the Hope Center, we assumed its services by establishing the Pejuta Waste Otipi Day Center and Emergency Shelter. In the first six months, we served 4,213, overnight guests, providing mail services to 162 individuals, served 20,651 meals, facilitated 627 showers, & engaged 642 volunteers; Pejuta Waste Otipi has since become its own 501 c3 although we work closely together.

Warming Bus Program: For over two years, the warming bus has served as a mobile warming center during the coldest months in Rapid City. This initiative was born out of necessity when our emergency shelter faced operational challenges due to city restrictions. With shelters in the area consistently at full capacity, many of our homeless relatives were left with no options for safe shelter. The warming bus provided a dignified, life-saving alternative, offering warmth, seating, blankets, hot beverages, and a space for individuals to rest and recharge. Our outreach workers also use this opportunity to connect individuals with longer term resources such as housing assistance, healthcare, and mental health services. Thank you for your consideration of supporting our integral programs. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out. Wambli Ska Okolakiciye tracymato.wambliska@gmail.com PO Box 2004 Rapid City SD 57709



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR POSITION RESTRUCTURE

As many of you are aware, there will be some changes coming to the CLF office. After much discussion and prayer, the CLF council has decided to restructure the position description of the Office Administrator to reflect more use of technology and computer software and programs. Mary has graciously been willing to continue to serve in her position until another person has been hired. The position has been announced and we have begun receiving and interviewing applicants. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any CLF council member or Pastor Shannon.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

The church council is currently in the process of reviewing policies and procedures for CLF. One of the first things we are working on is a Council Handbook. After much discussion it was approved by the council to make some revisions to the current constitution regarding the election of council members. The purpose of this is to have a more consistent approach to terms of all council members. Basically what is being proposed is that all members of the council will be considered at large and are elected to a three year term, but can serve two consecutive terms. Then the council will elect from within the 8 people the officers, President, Vice President, and Secretary. The Treasurer will continue to be appointed by the Council. Whomever is elected then would be eligible to serve up to 3 years as opposed to two years.

At the Annual meeting, we will have a special meeting of the congregation at the very beginning to vote on these changes. Once the vote is taken, if passed will go into effect immediately. Then we will proceed with the Annual Meeting. Following are the proposed changes:

***C5.03.** Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:

- j. elect its ~~President, Vice President,~~ Congregation Council, and other committees as specified in Chapter 13 and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and/or continuing resolutions; and

Chapter 11

OFFICERS

***C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a **president, and vice president, and secretary.**

- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified herein.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- c. **The officers shall be selected from the elected membership of the congregation council.**

***C11.02.** The congregation council shall elect from its own members a president, vice-president and a secretary who shall be ~~its officers and they shall be~~ the officers of the congregation. ~~The officers shall be elected by written ballot (except in cases where a unanimous ballot is cast) and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected.~~ **The officers shall be elected in the first congregation council meeting following the annual meeting and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin immediately upon being elected.** ~~at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.~~

~~***C11.02.02** The congregation council shall appoint a person to serve as congregation secretary. This person will have the privilege of voice without vote unless elected to the congregation council and shall serve for one year or until a successor is appointed. The term shall begin at the close of the meeting at which he or she is appointed.~~

***C11.02.02** The congregation council shall appoint a person to serve as congregation financial secretary. This person will have the privilege of voice without vote unless elected to the congregation council and shall serve for one year or until a successor is appointed. The term shall begin at the close of the meeting at which he or she is appointed.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

***C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the [senior] pastor, ~~the president and vice president of the congregation, and six~~ **eight** at-large members of the congregation. The congregation may elect a youth representative as an additional voting member for a one year term. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which the congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

***C11.03.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than ~~two~~ **three** consecutive terms in the same office.



PRAYER RIBBON FRAME



A Prayer Ribbon Frame sponsored by WELCA was made by Wanda Omodt. Tie a color coded ribbon on the frame as you say a prayer.

SPARK KIDS CELEBRATE JESUS BIRTHDAY

The SPARK Kids celebrated Jesus Birthday this way.

How did you celebrate Jesus' Birthday?



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH/CONFIRMATION FUN

Our Middle School Youth/Confirmation class had a fun Christmas Party. They finished decorating the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary, played some fun games, and had a gift exchange. Thanks for holding the ladder Scot! We would like to say a special thank you to the adults who have agreed to be Mentors for our MS youth. An extra special thanks goes to Scot and Mary Hoscheid for coming each week to help with the classes. Their love, support, and wisdom are so very valuable to this group of young people. Also, a reminder that our next Mentor night will be on January 22nd.



BUDGET FORUM REMINDER

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 2024 BUDGET AND PROVIDE INPUT ON THE 2025 BUDGET. PLEASE ATTEND AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE ON **January 19, 2025**. THANKS!

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Committee & Ministry Team Reports:

Caring Hands, Helena Buehler – Held quarterly meeting. Things going well. Welcomed Jean Witt as Parish Nurse.

Christian Education, Sara Mooney – The 18th is the last WNL until January.

Endowment, Sara Mooney – Checks will be presented on January 12th.

Health Ministry, Kathy Bradeen – Will now be part of the Caring Hands Committee.

Mutual Ministry, Dave Mertz – Nothing to report.

Property, Mark Thompson – Meeting held tonight. The next major project is to fix the water issue in the basement – to be completed in 2025. Snow removal needs to be done daily M-F for safety reasons for Growing Roots. Mark moved, Sara seconded that Growing Roots pay 25% of costs on week days. Motion carried.

Social Ministry, Craig Black – Committee recommended the following changes to the mission allotments: Lutheran Outdoors – 25% to 20% with the funds going directly to Outlaw Ranch; LSS – 17% to 15%; Lakota Lutheran – 15% to 17% with the funds going directly to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center; Woyatan 11% to 16%; St Dymas – 11% to 10%; LuMin – 9% same; CMA – 7% to 5%; Emmaus Road Foundation – 7% to 8%. For the Social Ministry Restricted funds they recommend that \$5,000 go to the Youth and \$2,000 to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. Shana moved, Sara seconded to approve the committee’s recommendations. Motion carried. After discussion about student seminary support Kathy moved, Sara seconded to add a line item to the budget for \$1,000 seminary support. Motion carried.

WELCA, Shana Hindman – Doing the WNL meal on the 18th.

Worship & Music, Donna McConnell – Community Advent Program was well attended. Donna will be meeting with Jenn during Christmas break to show her how to use the software for making the music slides.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2025.

**Closing Prayer, Lord’s Prayer
Adjournment**

Donna McConnell, Council Secretary



O CLF
CHRISTMAS
TREE!



COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 17, 2024 MEETING

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

Treasurer's and Finance Committee's Report: The offerings thru November were 94.8% (-\$17,352.92) of budget and expenses were 96.2% (-\$13,823.99) of budget.

Joy reported that we have received 72 pledge cards for 2025 totaling \$271,092. There are 13 people who pledged in 2024 who have not pledged yet for 2025 and there were 13 new pledges for 2025.

Mark moved, Craig seconded and the Treasurer's report was approved.

Special Agenda Items:

There were no special agenda items.

Unfinished Business:

Thrivent Choice – November \$ 0.00, YTD - \$ 965.00

Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts – November \$200.00, YTD - \$1,300.00

Pictorial Directory – Paul has finished processing the photos. There were 92 photos taken and around 22 photos submitted.

Safe for Large Record Books – Will have Mary research and obtain prices for a safe.

Other –

New Business:

Membership changes: Remove Mitchell Witt from membership

Delta Dental Mobile Bus Program – New Dates: September 8-12, 2025. Have enough funds for one more year.

Constitution Amendment – To change how council officers are elected. Congregation would elect 8 at-large members (minimum of 2 each year) instead of 6 then the council would elect the officers.

Wendi Continuing Education – Wendi has applied and been accepted at Luther Seminary to take classes for a Youth & Family Graduate Certificate. There are a total of 6 classes and will take 2 classes a semester. Shana moved, Kathy seconded to pay up to \$2,000 a year towards her expenses with the funds coming from the Youth & Family restricted account. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting Potluck? – We will do a potluck meal before the meeting. Council is responsible for set-up and clean-up.

January Council Meeting Date – January 14th. Move the council meeting up one week so 2025 budget can be approved before the budget forum on Sunday, January 19th.

Other –

Fence – Growing Roots has established a committee to look at fencing in a portion of the area out back of church. Has been tabled until spring when the ground is not frozen. They will pay the costs.

Interview for Office Manager Position – Mary Winter has been let go from her position as Office Administrator due to a restructuring of the position description to include more technology and computer program/software skills. She will receive one month severance pay after her last day in the office. Have interviewed one candidate. The position has been posted on Facebook and an ad will be in this week's Chronicle.

Pastor's Report:

Review Worship & Activities –

- Reminder of Blue Christmas service Saturday at 6:30 PM.
- Didn't do as much continuing education classes as would have liked but already planning for next year.
- Will be gone from December 26-30. Pastor Randy Fett to cover.

Minutes Continued on page 13.

ELW DEVOTIONS FROM THE DAILY LECTIONARY

January 2025

Wednesday, Jan. 1: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11;
Luke 2:15-21

Epiphany

Thursday, Jan. 2: Psalm 147:12-20; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18

Friday, Jan. 3: Psalm 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21

Saturday, Jan. 4: Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53

Sunday, Jan. 5: Psalm 72; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:1-18

Monday, Jan. 6: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17--5:1

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20

Baptism of Our Lord

Thursday, Jan. 9: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Friday, Jan. 10: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Saturday, Jan. 11: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Sunday, Jan. 12: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Monday, Jan. 13: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17;

Tuesday, Jan 14: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; 1 John 5:13-21

Wednesday, Jan 15: Psalm 106:1-12; Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 11:33-36

Epiphany 2

Thursday, Jan. 16: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24

Friday, Jan. 17: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Saturday, Jan 18: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23

Sunday, Jan. 19: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Monday, Jan. 20: Psalm 145; Isaiah 54:1-8; Romans 12:9-21

Tuesday, Jan. 21: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-17

Wednesday, Jan. 22: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:9—5:1; Luke 5:33-39

Epiphany 3

Thursday, Jan. 23: Psalm 19; Isaiah 61:1-7; Romans 7:1-6

Friday, Jan. 24: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 2:1-10; Romans 12:1-8

Saturday, Jan. 25: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Luke 2:39-52

Sunday, Jan. 26: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;
Luke 4:14-21

Monday, Jan. 27: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:1-10; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Tuesday, Jan. 28: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:11-26; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Wednesday, Jan 29: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:27-32; Luke 4:38-44

Epiphany 4

Thursday, Jan. 30: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7; Acts 10:44-48

Friday, Jan. 31: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27; Acts 19:1-10

Saturday, Feb. 1: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51

Sunday, Feb. 2: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Monday, Feb. 3: Psalm 56; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Tuesday, Feb. 4: Psalm 56; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25

Wednesday, Feb. 5: Psalm 56; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Luke 19:41-44





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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:

Office Manager: Mary Winter

Parish Nurse: Jean Witt

Custodian: Augie Heyne

Worship & Music: Jenn Doyle

Financial Secretary: Janice Albers

Steve Baldwin

Treasurer: Joy Smolnisky

Youth & Family Coordinator:

Wendi Rusch

Ministers: All Members of CLF!