

Never place a period....

where God has placed a comma. —Gracie Allen



February 2026

547 Harney Street ~ PO Box 769 ~ Custer SD 57730

Address Service Requested

PASTORAL CARE...

If you are in need of pastoral care, know of someone ill or in the hospital, please contact the church office at the following number.

Church Office: 673-4350

Web Site:

custercommunitychurch.org

Emails directed to Joann in the office can be sent to joannbogs@yahoo.com

Joann's Cell Phone: 605-673-1651

Rev. Barry Rempp

402-460-7000

Email: beardad2001@gmail.com

Office Hours Monday 8-12 noon,

Wednesday 2-5pm

ARTICLES FOR "Life's Compass" must be received in the office no later than the 23rd of each month in order for them to be printed.

Electronic Giving Instructions:

Go to the church website: custercommunitychurch.org

Click on links. On this page you will see **myEoffering.com**.

On that site you will be asked to register. Fill out the registration and click "register now" Once you have registered you will be in the system so each time you want to make a donation, you will only have to put in your user name and password.

Once you have registered, you will receive an e-mail within a few minutes from myEoffering. Click that link to verify your email address. Sign in using your email address as your user name and your password that you chose. Click on **new donation** to bring up the new donation screen. Fill in the donation amount, frequency, start date and number of donations. Select type of payment. Fill out your necessary information for your account, then select **Authorize Payment**.

Custer Community Church Mission Statement

"To build a family of faithful believers through community service, inspiring worship, and a welcoming and inclusive space where people of all ages can grow"

From the Pastor's Desk:

It takes some people longer than others to put away their Christmas decorations. I've known some people who pack up Baby Jesus on December 26, and some who don't get around to the task until mid-March.

Either way, it's important for all of us to realize that Baby Jesus grew up. In our worship services since the conclusion of the Christmas *season* (twelve days beginning on December 25 and running through January 5), we have seen the adult Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptizer, and we have encountered him on the beaches of the Sea of Galilee as he called his first disciples.

Soon, we will travel with Jesus into the desert wilderness of Judea where he was tempted to team up with the devil to accomplish the mission for which he had been born. He rebuffed the devil by quoting scripture opposing each tempting proposal. There are no shortcuts to bringing about God's will on the way to the Realm of God.

While we carry Christmas in our hearts all the year 'round, we do move on from our festivities to the serious business of following in Jesus' footsteps. This includes the important matters of the church's Annual Meeting, electing church officers, and planning our mission for the new year.

We are guided and strengthened for our mission by the rhythms of the church's liturgical calendar. On February 18, Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. We tend to stereotype Lent as a harsh period of self-denial — testing our faith by giving up something we enjoy. While 'fasting' is one of Lent's disciplines, it's accompanied by prayer, Bible study, alms-giving (that is, generosity toward charities, especially those that serve the poor), and repentance (which is more than sorrow over our sins, but also taking a new direction in life). These disciplines of Lent are not tests of faith but tools of introspection by which we evaluate the quality of our lives and our devotion to God's loving intentions for us. Through these disciplines, we may emerge from Lent with greater clarity of purpose and deepened resolve to follow the way of Jesus.

Yes, Baby Jesus did grow up. He put away his toys and

Calendar of Events

Feb 1 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
	Communion Sunday	
Feb 2 (Mon)	Bible Study	5:00 pm
Feb 4(Wed)	Choir Practice	5:00 pm
	Bell Choir Practice	6:00 pm
Feb 8 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
	Hat Day and Flannel Shirt Day	
	Council Meeting	10:45 am
Feb 10 (Tues)	Meet and Eat	5:00 pm
Feb 11 (Wed)	Stitching in Faith	9:30 am
	Fidelis	Noon
	Choir Practice	5:00 pm
	Bell Choir Practice	6:00 pm
Feb 14 (Sat)	Valentine's Day	
Feb 15 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
	BRING YOUR COINS FOR THE BUILDING FUND	
	Care Center Service	3:30 pm
Feb 16 (Mon)	President's Day	
	Bible Study	5:00 pm
Feb 18 (Wed)	Stitching in Faith	9:30 am
	Ash Wednesday Service	5:30 pm
Feb 22 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
Feb 25 (Wed)	Stitching in Faith	9:30 am
	Choir Practice	5:00 pm
	Bell Choir Practice	6:00 pm
Mar 1 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
	Communion Sunday	



Income and Expenses for January 2026

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
General Fund	\$ 13,375.00	\$ 10,861.25
Building Fund	\$ 389.64	\$ 30.98
Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00
Fidelis	\$ 36.00	\$ 0.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 150.00	\$ 0.00
Youth Group	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,950.64	\$ 10,992.23

Traditions of Custer Community Church

1st Sunday of Each Month : Communion

2nd Sunday of Each Month: Hat Day and **Flannel** Shirt Day

3rd Sunday of Each Month: Change for Change

Bring your coins for the Building Fund

Custer Community Church, 1/14/2026

The Storehouse gratefully appreciates your gift of \$100 for Storehouse food.

Barbara Lewison, Storehouse Board

If you have any thoughts or suggestions to the safety plan presented at the Annual Meeting, please contact the safety committee: Mike

Murphey, Lisa Graue, John Henderson, Nancy Smith or Pat Walker.

February Birthdays

5-Feb Juanice Paulsen
7-Feb Buffy Schlichting
8-Feb Sandy Huffman
9-Feb Darlene Bergeron
9-Feb Debra Kuhn
19-Feb Shari Perrault
21-Feb Kay Baumann



No Known February Anniversaries

took up the adult life that we all lead. Because he did, we are assured that the life-giving presence of God is still with us, with our church, and with this world, now and always.

May Christ's peace be with you all,

Pastor Barry

Thank
you



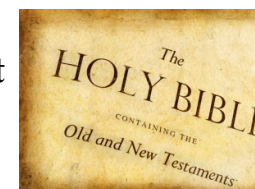
Thank you members and friends of Custer Community Church!! You have been gracious and kind to us during the Christmas holiday.

In particular, thank you for the generous cash gift we received with a card from the congregation

Your thoughtfulness touches us deeply!

Barry and Kass Rempp

Bible Study is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. It is held at 5 pm in the Baldwin Room. They are studying a video series and soup is served before the study.





Custer Community Church
January 11, 2026
Council Meeting
Unapproved Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Susan. Pastor Barry offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was approved without change or additions. Darlene moved to approve the minutes and Deb Kuhn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Office Manager Joann Boggs reported a shortfall and had to seek funds from the Davis Fund to pay the bills. Joann noted this happens quarterly when the property insurance bill is due. Other than that we are going along fairly well. Joann told Council she was pleased to see how close our income came to meeting the budget in 2025. Good work.

PASTORS REPORT: Pastor Barry reported he continues to call on elders and is happy to report that Kass is now able to come with him. Open House at the parsonage is planned on January 17, from 2-4.

TRUSTEE COORDINATOR, Pat Walker told Council there are no big issues or plans at the present time. Deb Kuhn asked to have the door behind the piano looked at as it makes a loud bang when it closes. Pat said he will take a look.

DIACONATE COORDINATOR, Darlene Bergeron noted it's a slow time right now. She continues to be on the alert for new members or those wishing to reinstate their membership. Darlene also keeps up the bulletin board and posted the local newspaper story on Marge McColley a longtime Custer Community church member. Great story and well deserved.

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: Mike Murphy said things seem to be humming along well.

OUTREACH COORDINATOR, Deb Kuhn reported a "special

You Make a Big Difference

Thanks so much for your time, your help, and your hard work.

Thank you for hosting a 2025 Select a Gift tree and donation box. You were able to help 242 Custer County families have a special Christmas present.

Have a wonderful New Year!

We appreciate you,

Select a Gift committee members:

Julie Ames-Curtis, Meg Schwartz, Tina Buchanan, Peg Ryan, Linda Fennell, Jace Woodward and Michaela Miner

From the Heart;

1/7/2026

Happy New Year!

I am still at my daughter's in MN, but will fly to AZ on January 12. I will be there until late March when I will return to Custer.

Hope all is well with you.

Love

Bonnie Cobb

Fidelis and our Church family and friends,

Thank you so very much for all the nice cards you send to us, and all the delicious goodies and the nice caring phone calls. It means so much to be remembered. You are all missed. I know the prayers always help and are a real blessing.

Pastor Barry and Kass come visit and make deliveries of those goodies and others. We enjoy communion in home. We are so blessed to have Mitch be in our home.

Thank you all and God Bless everyone.

Gladwin and Juanice

#KnowYourHeart
#LoveYourHeart

Women's Heart Health AWARENESS

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

for Heart Health:

Body Mass Index:

Less than 25

HDL Cholesterol:

More than 50

LDL Cholesterol:

Less than 100

Fasting Blood Sugar:

Less than 100

Waist Measurement:

Less than 35 in.

1 in 3 women dies of
cardiovascular
diseases



Heart disease
is the number one killer
of women in the United States

Cardiovascular diseases
affect an estimated
43 MILLION
women in the United States.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

of a possible heart attack

- ♥ Chest pain or discomfort
- ♥ Shortness of breath
- ♥ Upper body pain or discomfort in jaw, arms, or upper stomach
- ♥ Nausea, lightheadedness, or cold sweats



Christmas offering was received on Christmas Eve and was close to \$400. Thanks to all who helped with this offering. This is a slow time but Deb feels events and efforts will pick up about March.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR, Lisa Graue was absent so Mike Murphy reported on her behalf. Mike said Bible Study continues with Session 6 coming up. This study is well attended and very interesting.

GROUP & COMMITTEE REPORTS: Endowment report from Susan noted the balance in the account on 12/31/25, was \$40,582.26. Office Manager Joann noted there needs to be a change when money is withdrawn so it goes directly to the building fund not to the general fund. Pat Walker suggested the Endowment people meet in a special meeting following the Council meeting.

FIDELS GROUP REPORT: Darlene reported the Christmas Tea had good attendance but the Tea time following was not so good. Fidelis folks are giving thoughts about going forward.

No Memorial Committee report.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business Joann Boggs told Council the property insurance has increased for 2026. Increase was from \$8500 to \$10,220. The budget that was approved at the Budget meeting will need to be adjusted to show this increase. This need will be addressed at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE has been in touch and will meet when there are requests for scholarship funds. There was a discussion about Church use for graduation parties. John Henderson made a motion NOT to charge our church families for church use for a graduation party. Mike Murphy seconded, motion carried.

SAFETY PLAN for our church was presented by Mike and John.

Details such as bar locks, exit signs, knowledge of location of fire extinguishers and other items were discussed. Mike reiterated this is a living document and subject to change whenever necessary. Mike will boil this writing down and present such as an overview which he hopes to provide to the congregation on Sunday, January 18th. Mike and John hope this plan is ready for approval or amendment and approval at the Congregational Meeting on January 25th.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE reported that Phyllis Boggs has accepted the nominations for position of Vice-Moderator for our Church Council. Phyllis was in attendance and the Council welcomed her and thanked her for stepping up to this role. Blessings Phyllis.

Congregational Meeting set for January 25, following worship.
Next Council meeting will be February 8, 2026 following worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Nettinga, Secretary

Endowment Fund

This fund was established to provide a stable financial base as well as a means for extending the mission of the church and is intended to exist in perpetuity with the principal preserved and invested, with only the interest/dividend income to be expended.

To date many building projects have been accomplished using this interest/dividend income of the Endowment Fund.

Now is a great time to make a gift to this important fund in the life of your church. For further information, please contact Paul Nettinga or Pat Walker, or place your offering in the plate with a memo of "Endowment Fund"

5 FACTS ABOUT HEART HEALTH

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Heart disease is the
1 leading cause of
deaths in men &
women in the U.S.



Heart attacks affect women
differently

Women may experience different symptoms than men. These include pain in the back, arm, neck, or shoulder; nausea; fatigue; shortness of breath; and vomiting.

Check your
cholesterol.

High blood cholesterol is a key risk factor of heart disease. If you're over age 20, you should have your cholesterol checked every four to six years as part of a cardiovascular risk assessment.



Men have a greater
risk of heart attack
than women do, and
men have attacks
earlier in life.



Heart attacks can be silent.

One in five heart attacks occurs without the person even knowing they had one.



NEW BUSINESS

The annual meeting is the 25th of January in the basement with a church wide pot luck. We need a minimum of 11 people to have a quorum.

Pastor's report: Pastor gave a report on our members who have illnesses and are struggling. Pastor announced that Ash Wednesday is February 18th, 2026.

Our next meeting is February 11, 2026.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Kuhn, Secretary/ KJ stood in for Deb

\$52 for 52 Weeks Fundraiser

This is a Fundraiser. Sponsors of each week give \$52 to the church in sponsorship to honor someone or something, a memorial, birthday, anniversary, etc. Feel free to add more than one donation per Sunday.

Feb 1 **John Henderson** in support of the Church

Feb 8 **Joann Boggs** in memory of her son Michael Boggs

Feb 15 **Marge McColley** in memory of Ken McColley

Feb 22 **John and Nancy Gausman** in memory of Chet and Mary Gausmann

There is a sign up sheet in the upper Narthex, plan early and get the dates you would like to sponsor.

We are still saving

Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts.

For Every \$10,000 worth of receipts, the church receives \$100.

Please bring your receipts and put them in the container in the Upper Narthex.

MINUTES OF 146TH ANNUAL MEETING CUSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH JANUARY 25, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Susan Merchen. A quorum was declared and Pastor Barry offered prayer.

The unapproved minutes of the 145th Annual Meeting were approved as presented. Motion to approve by Joann Boggs, second by Darlene Bergeron, motion carried.

The unapproved minutes of the Annual Budget meeting were approved as presented on motion by Pat Walker, second by John Henderson, motion carried.

Moderator Susan declared all reports were included in this annual report and were there for all to read. She did not offer to read them to the attendees.

There was no Old Business to come before the group, so discussion moved to new business.

Under new business Joann Boggs noted the need to adjust the budget to note the increase in property insurance rates. The budget had been approved using prior year insurance premium. After approval of the budget at the November 16, 2025 using the current premium amount, the church was notified of an increase in premium. Mary Myers offered a motion to increase that line item in the budget to reflect the new premium amount. Darlene Bergeron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: John Henderson led a discussion of a Safety Plan that has been in the works for some time. As John and other committee members explained other thoughts came to the surface and nothing was really accomplished. Kathy Johnson moved that all members review the plan that was provided and share those thoughts with committee members. John Henderson seconded Kathy's motion and it passed unanimously. There will be more on this item later. It does need to be noted that Mike Murphy was the original architect of this plan and has worked

diligently on incorporating new thoughts. Pat Walker noted that this writing is very fluid and is subject to change if change is needed.

The slate of new Council Members and terms of office as noted in the Annual Report booklet were presented by Moderator Susan. Nancy Smith moved to approve, Kathy Johnson seconded and the motion carried.

Endowment Committee members who will serve new terms were presented with terms of office. They were approved as presented. It was noted that the Endowment Committee elects its own officers.

Delegates to conference and Black Hills Association were presented and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Paul Nettinga, Secretary

Custer Elementary School **invites you** to a Community Celebration Honoring Elders' Wisdom. Our community elders that will be honored through song are: **LaVonne La Follette** and **Bonnie Thompson**. Custer School District's 4th grade students will be performing the song written about these elders.

Monday, February 2, 2026

At 6:30 pm in Custer Jr/Sr High School Theater

Free Admission

Elder's Wisdom Children's Song incorporates the tools of community organization, education, and celebration to help us honor the richness of our community through storytelling in song and spoken word. Children listen to the stories of Custer community elders and develop songs and narrations from the words of elders with the help of their teachers and songwriters from our region.

Through owning each other's story, bridges are built, understanding is found, respect is developed and reconciliation occurs. Barriers of age, complexion, religion, gender and class are diminished.

UNAPPROVED FIDELIS MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2026 NOON

Chairman Darlene opened our meeting with the Opening Prayer. There were 11 in attendance.

Hostess was Darlene and devotions were given by Joann.

Previous meeting minutes were read. Minutes were approved with the following change: There was a motion last month (December) to buy supplies, a large coffee pot and a small coffee pot, 2 roasters, a small table, a steam table, and sturdier tubs. The motion was made by Kass and seconded by Phyllis.

Treasurer's Report was given by Joann Boggs. Fidelis has a current balance of \$2874.69. The report was approved as presented. Motion was by Linda and seconded by Edie. Motion carried.

Cares & Concerns shared by Sheila Thomas. The month was all about Marge. There was also a card sent to Merle for his surgery.

OLD BUSINESS

Silent Auction: The Silent Auction was a success and we brought in \$546.00. We still have \$32.25 to collect.

Christmas Tea: We had 56 in attendance upstairs and 42 came downstairs to participate in the tea service. The program was really good, however due to Lois's illness we no longer have a person to run the tea. The time of the tea was also discussed as well as the possible combination of the tea and the advent program. Joann will call the Lutheran Church to see if they would let us host it here and then do a combined event. A motion was made to table the discussion by Mary and seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

The walking group is moved to 10:00 after the balance class. Meet at the Y at 10 on Tuesdays.

Open house at the parsonage was moved to 2-4 on January 17th.