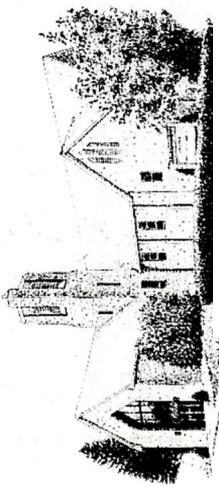


Never place a period....
where God has placed a
comma. —Gracie Allen



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547 Harney Street ~ PO Box 769 ~ Custer SD 57730

SS&T COMMIT

A Publication of
Custer Community Church

June 2026

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 joannboggs@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

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”

Electronic Giving Instructions:

Go to the church website: custercommunitychurch.org

Click on links. On this page you will see myOffering.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**.

From the Pastor's Desk: "Be Awe-Full"

One of the joys of becoming a resident of the Black Hills is an expansion of fresh opportunities to experience a sense of awe. I have found awe at our church's Easter Sunrise Worship Services in the overlook pavilion at Heddy Draw. I have felt it on the peak of Mount Coolidge at its Lookout Tower. I experience it on Custer State Park's Wildlife Loop Road and on Wind Cave National Park's Red Valley Road, when a herd of buffalo crosses in front of me, or when a massive, full-grown bison bull steps close to my car and curiously studies me. I am awe-filled when I gaze into a brilliant, starlit sky. I also find awe in the intimate gathering of our church's Maundy Thursday worship services, and — especially and consistently — when we light the congregation's candles during our Christmas Eve worship service. And awe has overcome me in musical performances, in art galleries, and during meaningful conversations.

I recently learned that scientists are studying the experience of awe. In a recent paper published by the National Institutes of Health, entitled "Awe as a Pathway to Mental and Physical Health," the authors stated, "Awe arises in encounters with stimuli that are vast, or beyond one's current perceptual frame of reference." Scientific explorations of awe indicate that these experiences actually change the human brain, and affect the human body, in ways that are enduring. People who expose themselves to opportunities for awe tend to live longer than the general population. Such people also experience lower levels of anxiety and depression. Simply put, one aspect of the scientific explanation for these outcomes is the psychological state of mind called "the small self," in which the world and universe we inhabit seem larger and more secure, and our problems seem smaller and less significant. One of the hazards that these scientists identify in our Twenty-First Century world is that opportunities for awe have become limited, and are declining, making life for modern people increasingly "colorless" and uninspiring.

Of course, the scientific insights into this phenomenon are much more detailed and complex than the simple summary I have offered here. But I would encourage us all to view awe not

Traditions of Custer Community Church

- 1st Sunday of Each Month : Communion
- 2nd Sunday of Each Month: Hat Day and **Flannel/Hawaiian** Shirt Day
- 3rd Sunday of Each Month: Change for Change
Bring your coins for the Building Fund

June Birthdays

- 3-Jun Wade Johnson
- 3-Jun Robin Lizotte
- 9-Jun BJ Burger
- 16-Jun Lois Wells
- 16-Jun Melissa Linde
- 19-Jun Gertrude Martin
- 22-Jun Gladwin Paulsen
- 24-Jun Joe Ronge
- 25-Jun Joyce O Connor
- 26-Jun Susan Merchen



June Anniversaries

- 6/2/1973 Kenneth and Sue Kainz (53 years)
- 6/3/1983 Wade and Kathy Johnson (43 years)



Calendar of Events

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Jun 7 (Sun) | Worship Service | 9:30 am |
| | Communion Sunday | |
| Jun 14 (Sun) | Worship Service | 9:30 am |
| | Hat Day and Flannel Shirt Day | |
| | Council Meeting | 10:45 am |
| Jun 16 (Tues) | Meet and Eat | 5:00 pm |
| Jun 21 (Sun) | FATHER'S DAY | |
| | Worship Service | 9:30 am |
| | BRING YOUR COINS FOR THE BUILDING FUND | |
| Jun 28 (Sun) | Worship Service | 9:30 am |

Thank you all for your prayers for us!

God has walked with us through this journey and your prayers have certainly helped to hold us up.

Tay has now received not only 2 new lungs a year ago, but has now been blessed with a healthy liver and a healthy kidney.

We leave Mayo in Rochester on Friday.

God is Great! We are praising and we are ready to get back to the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota.

With thanksgiving!

Ray and Kim Berberich

Income and Expenses for May 2026

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
General Fund	\$ 6,869.38	\$ 7,874.51
Building Fund	\$ 70.29	\$ 24.72
Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00
Fidelis	\$ 214.00	\$ 0.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 890.00	\$ 0.00
Youth Group	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,043.67	\$ 7,949.23

\$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.**

Jun 7 **Ed and Fran Himrich** in memory of their sons Matthew and Mark Himrich

Jun 14 **Joann Boggs** in memory of Mark Boggs

Jun 21 **Phyllis Boggs** in memory of Mark Boggs

Jun 28 **Susan Merchen** in honor of her birthday

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

as one more “self-help” strategy but as a spiritual experience that deepens our connection with our inner selves and with God, our ultimate reality.

In Celtic Christian spirituality, its theologians and practitioners speak of “the thin spaces.” This refers to places and experiences where the “veil” that separates physical reality from spiritual reality is especially “thin.” In those “thin spaces,” the veil becomes permeable, porous. Eternity can “leak” across the veil and touch our experience of limited time. The Holy Spirit can “breathe” through the veil and touch our experience of limited physicality. Some Celtic mystics speak of this experience as “the eternal now.” I think of it as a moment of “awe.”

We are blessed to live in a place that is naturally “awe-some.” I hope I can encourage us all to avail ourselves of experiences conveying majesty, inspiration, and fulfillment. May we be “awe-full” people!

~Pastor Barry

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am very grateful to be the recipient of the Custer Community Church Scholarship and the Louis “Punk” Pettit Scholarship. These scholarships will be put to good use in my college career. I am eager to embark on new endeavors and challenges in college. I am excited to continue my education and learn new skills.

I try appreciate the belief and faith you have in me. I am very excited about whatever adventures come next and what paths I will have before me. Thank you so much for your generosity, which makes my education at the University of South Dakota possible.

Sincerely,

Saylor Rice



Custer Community Church
May 17, 2026
Council Meeting
Unapproved Minutes

The May meeting of the Custer Community Church Council was called to order by Moderator John Henderson. Pastor Barry offered an opening prayer. The minutes of the April 2026 meeting were read and approved along with the agenda by motion from Pat Walker, second by Joann Boggs, Motion carried.

The Financial Report was given by Church Office Administrator Joann Boggs. Report showed the quarterly insurance bill had been paid and that always reduces the dollars in the bank. As the Council knows, this happens each quarter. Finances in general look good

Pastor Barry reported he continues to make calls on the elderly. He and Kass were able to attend the 100th birthday party for Wayne Martin. Wayne reached that milestone on May 9, 2026.

TRUSTEE COORDINATOR Pat Walker tells a faucet in the ladies restroom needs to be fixed as it drips slowly. He and Joann will do the repair. Pat reminded the members the summer screens need to be put up. He will call for assistance in the near future.

DIACONATE COORDINATOR, Darlene Bergeron was absent, but Joann Boggs noted that at this time all events and items are up to date.

WORSHIP COORDINATOR, Mike Murphy reported things are humming smoothly.

Susan Merchen, **OUTREACH COORDINATOR** reported that there will be a “special offering” that will take place later this month. It is noted as “Strengthening the Church” which is a part of Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) effort. There was a clarification about “Meet and Eat” times. Joann Boggs said,



**Thank
You!**

Hunter and Saylor Rice came and cleaned up the branches from the Apple Tree that were broken during the heavy snow storm.



Scholarships Received



Zayden LaPlaca and Saylor Rice each received scholarships from Custer Community Church Scholarship Fund and the Louis “Punk” Pettit Scholarship.

KJ Johnson presenting them

Custer Community Church, 5/21/2026
The Storehouse gratefully appreciates your gift of \$70 for
Storehouse food .
Barbara Lewison, Storehouse Board

**We are looking for a organist/pianist
for the church.** If anyone knows of
someone that could fill that capacity,
please let the council know.



**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.**

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"

"Meet and Eat happens the second Tuesday of each month other than August when there is no Meet and Eat due to our Biker Breakfast."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Coordinator Lisa Grau told the Council the Bible Study will go on summer break soon. Mary Myers has done a wonderful job as the leader. Lisa encouraged all to participate is whatever style of study you would like. It's a real experience and the current study is very well attended.

Pat Walker gave a report on the **Endowment Committee** noting this Committee has about \$5,000 available for capital improvements/purchases. Pat also told that the committee will likely plan a campaign to add value to this account. Already this fund has paid out several thousands of dollars on items such as the new lights in the basement and the purchase of new safety equipment just to mention a couple. More on Endowment later.

Fidelis report was given by Joann where she corrected the dates for the backpack program. Fidelis will do this program the week of June 29th. Sheila Thomas is in charge.

Scholarship committee member Joann Boggs reported that scholarships were presented to Saylor Rice and Zaden LaPlaca on May 2nd.

New Business: Thank you Bonnie Cobb and Mike Murphy for offering to help in the office when Joann Boggs may need help. Always great to have people step up.

The church received a notice of intent to make improvements to HWY 16 (Mt. Rushmore Rd.). Changes are planned for 2028-2029. Council feels the need to keep on top of this as the planned improvements may require us giving up some property. More on this later.

Mike Murphy is now preparing an updated *draft* of the **safety plan**. This will be presented to members as soon as Mike gets it done.

Moderator Henderson asked Council if it would be okay with them if he and Lisa Grau put ads in the Custer and Hill City papers advertising for a keyboard player for our church. Council said it would be okay. Joann will draw up ad for them.

Paul asked if it would be okay for him to contact First Congregational and South Park churches to let them know we need a keyboard player. Council said okay.

Joann Boggs brought to the Council what upgrades in our sound and video systems need be made in the near future. The current system is out of date. Here are thoughts as to how to proceed.

Buy a new computer system for the sound booth.

Buy two (2) monitors (75 inch screens) to be mounted above the doors on either side of the chancel area.

Mike Murphy moved to allow Joann to purchase a new computer using monies from the Memorial Fund. Lisa Grau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

In addition to the new computer purchase, Joann will seek two bids on the cost and installation of monitors.

Next meeting will be June 14, 2026 following worship.

Respectfully submitted
Paul Nettinga, Secretary



Saylor Rice's graduation party at the church following graduation was well attended by friends and family.

UNAPPROVED FIDELIS MEETING MINUTES May 13, 2026 NOON

Chairman Darlene opened our meeting with the Opening Prayer. There were 9 in attendance.

Hostess was Edie, and devotions were provided by Sheila.

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report was given by Joann Boggs. Fidelis has a current balance of \$1486.23. The report was approved as presented.

Cares & Concerns shared by Sheila Thomas. Cards were sent to: Wayne Martin, and Ed Himrich.

OLD BUSINESS.

Summer Sack Lunches: Begins the 29th of June to July 3rd. Sheila is coordinating and is looking for volunteers.

Jerry Cobb's memorial and celebration of life service on May 2nd was very nice. Thank you to all the people who participated and brought cookies.

NEW BUSINESS

Communion was discussed. We will be getting fresh bread for communion

Pastor's report: Barry again gave an update on some of our parishioners who are shut-ins or in a nursing home. Barry has tried to get a hold of Bob and Martha's son to no avail.

The Walt Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament was presented. The tournament will be run by the Thomas family. The date is July 19th (the Sunday of Gold Discovery Days). Awards baskets for donation are appreciated. The baskets will be used as "pin prizes".

Our next meeting is September 9th, 2026.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55.

Respectfully Submitted,
KJ Johnson