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Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT:

Charity is a shelter in Jesus Christ welcoming all into faith and fellowship, and preparing disciples for meaningful service in the world through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 Aspen Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

**CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022 - 12:00 NOON**

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Vision Council President, Mike Fluharty. A motion to skip items 7 - 10 of article VII section 2 order of business was made and seconded. The motion passed.

2. Scripture Reading and Prayer

Mike Fluharty led a prayer and provided a scripture reading.

3. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Declaration of a Quorum

Al Jaeger was appointed Parliamentarian, and he declared a quorum.

4. Acknowledgement of New Disciples Qualified to Vote

Doug Leet reported that there have been no new members since the Jan. 2022 voters' assembly meeting.

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve annual meeting minutes from Jan. 9, 2022 annual voter's assembly meeting

6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was given by Dallas Sailer

7. New Business

a. Consideration of Pastor Sam to be offered Senior Pastor position.

1. According to Article VI of Charity Lutheran's by-laws, Call committee was formed.

b. Consideration of an Intentional Interim Pastor

1. According to Article VI of Charity Lutheran's by-laws, Call committee recommended to hire Intentional Interim Pastor.

c. Requirements for the Senior Pastor Position (is Master's of Divinity Degree required)

1. LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) requirement to become a certified pastor will have earned an M.Div. Degree. (lcmc.net/becoming-a-pastor)

d. Sam's workload

1. Vision Council will monitor and address matter as needed though transition process.

8. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Mike Fluharty closed in prayer, Adjourned at 3:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

/s/John W. Seedorf

Vision Council Secretary

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

12:15 p.m., Jan. 8, 2023

1. Call to Order

2. Scripture Reading & Prayer

3. Appointment of Parliamentarian and declaration of a quorum

4. Acknowledgement of new disciples qualified to vote

5. Approval of minutes of:

Feb. 27, 2022, Voters' Assembly Meeting

6. Treasurer's Report

7. State of the Congregation Report

8. Unfinished Business

A. Aug. 22, 2022, Voters' Assembly Meeting request

9. New Business

A. Presentation of 2023 Budget

1. Vote on the 2023 Budget

B. Ratification of Dennis Simenson & Matt Kaldor appointment to Vision Council

C. Consideration and vote on members for the vision council:

1. Craig Lohstreter and Ray Eckroth

D. Consideration and vote on members for trust fund committee:

1.

E. Consideration and vote on members for nomination committee

1. Jerry Walz, Randy Traynor, and Mike Smith

10. Pastors Report

11. Special Reports

A. Trust Fund

B. Call Committee

12. Closing Prayer

13. Adjournment

President Mike Fluharty

Pastor Brad Miller

Ken Geiger

Exec. Dir. Of Ministries Doug Leet

Treasurer Dallas Sailer

Mike Fluharty

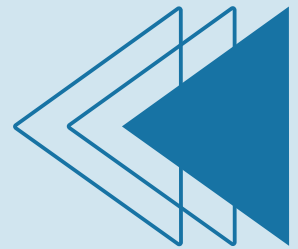
Doug Leet

Pastor Brad Miller

Wayne Levang

Beth Allen

President Mike Fluharty





From the Vision Council President



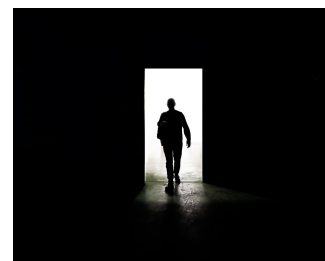
Mike Fluharty
Vision Council President

As we approach the end of the year, I am drawn back to Matthew Chapter 7. The entire chapter gives us a lot of direction in how to deal with our circumstances in a Christian way. Do not be judgmental, critical of others, and continuously ask and seek His will. But it also has warnings about the wider road leading to destruction, false prophets and yes even wolves. Our journey this year has touched on all of that.

Our mission this year has been to focus on Matthew Chapter 7 Verses 13 & 14. *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."* We have been broadening our road by straying from our governing documents that defined our confession of faith clearly spelled out in Article II of our Constitution. We strayed with good intentions of accommodating all but that ended with a division in cultures too diverse to resolve. It has been a difficult return to the narrow path and not everyone has made the journey with us. We continue to pray for all.

So, the State of the Congregation is smaller but stronger and eager to enter into 2023. The budget will be tighter and challenging but God will see us through that. The call committee is ready to move forward in our search for a new senior pastor. We have much to be thankful for as I see Charity poised to go forward renewed and rebuilding on the rock.

*"Enter through the
narrow gate"*



From Pastor Brad Miller

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
- Jeremiah 29:11

Though we are not Israelites in the midst of Babylonian exile, it is nonetheless reassuring that God has a good plan – because 2022 for Charity did not unfold the way that anybody expected. When I arrived at the beginning of June, the most immediate presenting issues were that the former Senior Pastor (Scott) had needed to resign because of a long pattern of pornography use and the remaining Associate Pastor (Sam) aspired to become the Senior Pastor despite not having the requisite education and roster status. Despite these serious complications, I expected a fairly normal Interim tenure focused on unpacking Charity’s history and pivoting toward the future armed with the lessons learned from the past.



Pastor Brad Miller
Intentional Interim Senior Pastor

What I did not expect was that fresh allegations from a variety of sources would place us in a situation where lawyers were threatening us if we were to dare to tell the congregation the truth about what accusations were made and what incidents had been readily admitted to (after documentation by a variety of witnesses). There are “best practices” in ministry. These practices represent what are broadly recognized to be the healthiest and more fruitful ways to deal with challenging circumstances. When something bad happens, truth-telling is the most basic best practice. When a congregation is undergoing a complicated Intentional Interim, truth-telling is, again, a basic best practice.

So, it is a bit of an understatement to declare that lawyers have left us seemingly hamstrung. Still, we have persevered. We discovered that many of our staff were not merely indifferent to the statement of faith in our governing documents – they were actually overtly hostile towards those essential beliefs.

But, we are restoring our preaching and teaching to the standard of Biblical integrity that our Constitution and Bylaws have been calling for all along. Much like our hollow paper statements of faith, we had hollow protections for our youth and our young adults. We have offered counseling services for those whom we know to have been harmed and we have ceased the practice of having “safety procedures” which were mere window dressing susceptible to bypass by key staff members.

It would be easiest to move forward by simply telling the truth. As long as those hiding from the truth can afford teams of lawyers, we are compelled to accommodate these inconveniences and move forward through a more complicated process. It is indeed a great irony that those who were screaming for transparency a few months ago are now building a new organization reliant upon the hiding of important truths. They may build an organization, but no church can be built defiantly upon the rejection of John 8:32: *you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.*

We will move forward by focusing on God’s Word and God’s mission. We have a faithful core of disciples whom I believe are ready for the tasks ahead! It is a privilege, even in the hard times, to serve as your Intentional Interim Senior Pastor. God bless us all with wisdom and faithfulness in the year ahead.

-Pastor Miller

Numbers

Total Baptized Members	536
Total Confirmed Members	339
Total Voting Disciples	187
Total Family Units	239
Members Removed by Death	5
Infant Baptisms	16
Confirmands (Affirmation of Baptized Members)	8
Weddings	2



Current Staff Positions

- Pastor Brad Miller** - Interim Senior Pastor
brad.miller@charitylutheran.org (FT)
- Doug Leet** - Executive Director of Ministries
doug.leet@charitylutheran.org (FT)
- Judy Smith** - Accountant/Bookkeeper
judy.smith@charitylutheran.org (FT)
- Jennifer Braun** - Communications Director
jennifer.braun@charitylutheran.org (FT)
- Liz Landis** - Secretary
liz.landis@charitylutheran.org (PT)
- Nathaniel Oakland** - Connections Coordinator
nathaniel.oakland@charitylutheran.org (PT)
- Doug Sprynczynatyk** - Facilities Manager
doug.sprynczynatyk@charitylutheran.org (PT)

Dedicated Gifts

As of November 30, 2022

Tithe	\$35,994.00
Tartu Academy of Theology	\$48,841.00
Memorials	\$20.00
Freedom Fellowship	\$1,226.00
Vision Fund	\$150,543.00
Care Company	\$3,833.00
Amazing Grays	\$113.00
Crisis Fund	\$10,729.00
Interfaith Fund	\$1,791.00
Special Gifts & Offerings	\$204,207.00
Youth Fund	\$11,209.00
Nordvall Mission Fund	\$7,500.00
Josh Morrisette Memorial Fund	\$22,835.00
TOTAL	\$498,841.00

701-258-1228

www.charitylutheran.org

 contact@CharityLutheran.org

 facebook.com/CharityLutheran

 twitter.com/CharityBismarck

Average total weekly service attendance through December

Winter
Weekly 359

Summer
Weekly 292

2023 Proposed Budget Summary

Charity Lutheran Church 2022-2023

	2022 BUDGET (approved 1/9/22)		2023 BUDGET		
Offering	\$1,239,147.77		\$886,189.00		
Total Income	\$1,239,147.77		\$886,189.00		
EXPENSES		BEFORE TITHE		BEFORE TITHE	%CHG
Vision Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Worship/Music	23,600.00	23,600.00	16,100.00	16,100.00	-31.8
Children/Youth	42,600.00	42,600.00	19,675.00	19,675.00	-53.8
Adult Ministries	7,725.00	7,725.00	5,730.00	5,730.00	-25.8
Properties	102,300.00	102,300.00	90,100.00	90,100.00	-11.9
Management	168,916.72	168,916.72	123,470.00	123,470.00	-26.9
Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Tithe & Offering	132,765.83		94,948.85		-28.5
Staff	761,240.22	761,240.22	536,165.40	536,165.40	-29.6
Total Expenses	\$1,239,147.77	\$1,106,381.94	\$886,189.25	\$791,240.40	
(Annual giving x 12% equals Tithe & Offering)					
(Overall change of -\$352,958 or -28.5%)					

Statement of Activities

Through November, 2022

INCOME

	November Actual	November Budgeted	January-November Actual	January-November Budgeted
General Fund Income	\$47,673.00	\$103,262.00	\$840,917.00	\$1,135,885.00

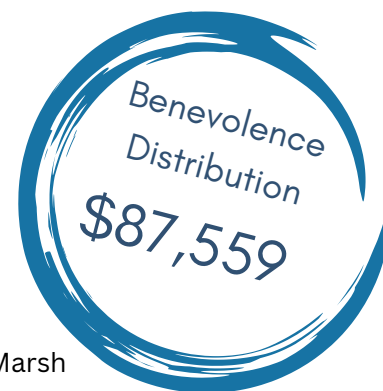
EXPENSES

Worship & Music	2,521.00	1,967.00	21,632.00	21,632.00
Children/Youth	787.00	3,550.00	29,835.00	39,050.00
Adult Ministries	85.00	644.00	2,728.00	7,081.00
Properties	7,563.00	8,525.00	92,093.00	93,775.00
Management	9,072.00	15,201.00	120,281.00	167,215.00
Evangelism	6,100.00	11,064.00	101,322.00	121,702.00
Staff	41,223.00	62,798.00	499,077.00	690,783.00

Total Expenses	\$67,351.00	\$103,749.00	\$886,968.00	\$1,141,238.00
Income-Expense	\$19,678.00	\$487.00	\$26,051.00	\$5,353.00

2022 Benevolence Report

through third quarter



CHARITY MISSIONS

- Go Missions - Kraft Family
- CRU - U of Minn. (Steven Ose)
- Freedom Fellowship, McLaughlin
- Adventures in Missions - Hershey's
- Voice of the Martyrs
- LAMP - Canada
- Lutheran Bible Translators
- Monterrey, Mexico - Enrique Estrada
- Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT)
- Overseas Council
- Missions Fund
- Revival Prayer Fellowship
- Interfaith
- CRU - NDSU (Neal Brown)
- CRU - Coord. (Troy Shirley)
- CRU - MSU (Stacy Walz)
- Charity Crisis Fund
- Tipi Wakan, Cannonball - Boots Marsh
- Martin Luther Schools
- Shiloh Christian School
- Crystal Springs Bible Camp
- Circle C Ranch
- Family Policy Foundation
- One More One Less
- Monthly McLaughlin Ministry

Kids and Students



2022 has been a challenging year in many areas of ministry at Charity, including the Children & Youth areas. Charity has continued to offer exciting programming and events throughout the fall and winter months, and we've been preparing for the resumption of programs after Christmas and into the new year. Thank you to all who volunteered during 2022 and continue to be engaged with our children and youth.

Communications

www.charitylutheran.org

WEB PAGE (Jan. - Dec. 2022)

Page Views **37,485**
+100% from yr/yr

Unique Visits **8,220**
+100% from yr/yr

Trust Fund

How can I make a gift that supports our church or faith-based nonprofit into the future?

ACCOUNT	FUND BALANCE
Charity Endowment	\$192,805.83
Trust Checking	\$4,497.48

Total	\$197,303.31
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TO DATE DISTRIBUTION

\$22,340.37

Our endowment fund is designed to provide long-lasting support for our mission. Only a portion of the annual earnings from our endowment fund are used each year, so the fund continues to grow. Through careful investing and growth, this fund provides a buffer against inflation and a permanent source of support for the mission of our organization.

Charity ministries benefiting from this fund are the Sunday School and youth programs and Freedom Fellowship.

[illegible]