



February 2024



Pastor Ron Dahle

GOOD NEWS

From Pastor Ron Dahle

Church Year Unfolded

As you know, I have been referring to the church calendar in my past articles. I think it is important to look at how things have been laid out for us. After Christmas, we referred to the Feast of the Epiphany. Usually this has been connected to the visit of the Wise Men, but it is more. In each of these events, we discover how God chooses to reveal God to us. Each revelation tells us more about God, and God's love for the creation – including each one of us.

Epiphany by definition is how God reveals important growth aspects of our life of faith. In this season, we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. It is important for us to understand why Jesus needed to be baptized.

Jesus came as God and Man, born under the Law, so that He might reconcile all of us, born under the law. So therefore, He followed the law to the letter. It is not strange that the God who gave the Law on Mount Sinai should follow it. The Law has a couple of important functions. The civil side is to keep people safe. On the spiritual side, it points out how we fail to keep the law. We know what to do, but don't do it!

In mid February, we observe the 'Transfiguration of Our Lord.' Again, God reveals something more about Jesus. His life as God and Man transcends or perhaps, bridges the gap between Heaven and Earth.

On this occasion two great prophets of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah are displayed with Jesus as being alive! Again, God says that there is life after this life. The reason Jesus was sent from Heaven is to prepare the way to have creation restored to the condition it was before the fall.

Now, the beginning of the 40 days of preparation for the Holy Week begins. We call it Lent. This is a time for preparation for all of God's children to be restored with God through faith in Jesus and what He has done to and for us in His death and resurrection.

(continued on page 4)

EVENTS

Tuesday, February 13
Amazing Grays
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday Services
12:10 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 16
Pinochle Night
6:00 p.m.

Monday, February 19
Presidents' Day
Office Closed

February 23-24
Crystal Springs Retreat
4th & 5th Graders

Saturday, February 24
Quilting Group
9:00 a.m.

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

A Frugal Mind...and a Generous Heart

In this newsletter, you'll see an update from Pastor Michael Salemink (Exec. Dir. Lutheran's For Life) about his recent experience at the March for Life in Washington D.C., and the involvement of our youth in important life issues. Charity has a long history with Lutheran's For Life (LFL). In my younger days, I recall when Madeline Birst and Karen Nordvall would attend the LFL convention, and then report back to our congregation. Charity was pleased to have Scott Licht (LFL's CFO) visit and preach in November 2022. Here is a little bit about LFL from their "About" page on their website, which you can check out at lutheransforlife.org:

Mission - Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Vision - Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same.

Philosophy - Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless... therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society on these and other related issues...

Periodically, in Charity's newsletter, we include a brief report from a ministry or mission organization that we support through our benevolence dollars. To maybe resurrect an idea from a dozen years ago, we're reprinting an article from Charity's February 2012 newsletter:



Doug Leet

"A Frugal Mind...and a Generous Heart"

"Little things add up. This truism manifests itself in different areas of our lives. For example, we've all experienced clutter, whether in our office, kitchen, garage or elsewhere. Things just gather, add up and get in the way. It works that way in our other behaviors as well. We see the benefits when we live a life that pays attention to the little things that need to be done, or over time we see the negative results of neglecting those things. We learned during the Crown Financial studies at Charity that even adding debt a little at a time with the accompanying interest can result in a life where, "...the borrower is slave to the lender." (Proverbs 22:7b) On the flip-side, a little consistent saving can really add up too. Dave Ramsey, of Financial Peace University, illustrates the time value of money with the story (which every young person should be taught!) of Ben and Arthur. Both save \$2,000 per year (\$167 per month) at 12% interest. Ben starts at age 19 and stops at 26 (total investment of \$16,000), and Arthur starts at age 27 and stops at age 65 (total investment of \$78,000). At age 65, Ben has accumulated \$2,288,996, while Arthur has accumulated \$1,532,166 – Arthur never caught up, even with the larger investment!

Financial Report

Dec. Actual Income	\$90,486
Dec. Budgeted Income	\$73,849
Difference	\$16,637

Dec. Actual Income	\$90,486
Dec. Actual Expenses	\$48,174
Difference	\$42,312

YTD Actual Income	\$669,723
YTD Budgeted Income	\$886,189
Difference	\$216,466

YTD Actual Income	\$669,723
YTD Actual Expenses	\$602,403
Difference	\$67,320

Memorials & Gifts

GriefShare

In Memory of Paul Kuetemeyer by Alvina Fueller and Lorri Mittlreider

Being responsible for our finances and getting out of debt helps you to attain certain goals in life, allowing us to live simpler lives and to share our resources with others. Starting in March, we will share some "Frugal Mind" tips that will save a little money here and there. We will also give a brief profile of one of the mission organizations that Charity supports through our tithes and distribution of benevolence dollars (**Generous Heart**). So, if you have any frugal habits/tips that you would like to share, please email them to doug.leet@charitylutheran.org.

Vision Council Update

Greetings from the Vision Council. I was really enjoying the winter till about halfway through January. Sure had a few brutal days then but fortunately it didn't last a real long time and it looks like fairly nice weather ahead. Well at least nice for a North Dakota winter.

At the January meeting of the Vision Council new officers were elected. The Vision council members and officers for 2024 are:

Mike Fluharty	President
Craig Lohstreter	Vice President
John Seedorf	Secretary
Matt Kaldor	Member
Ray Eckroth	Member
Sonja Murray	Member
Robert Nelson	Treasurer <i>*non-voting ex officio</i>

I am also sorry to announce Pam Miller resigned in January so the Nominating Committee will be selecting a replacement for the seventh Council member. We do want to say thank you Pam for the time and effort you have put in the last couple of difficult years on the leadership team at Charity.

Another item of discussion was a review of Charity Lutherans core ministries. This subject was brought up at the Annual Voter's Assembly Meeting and generally highlighted our lack of focus and disorganization where core ministries are concerned. This is an issue that will not be resolved quickly but it will be on the front burner for 2024 to get resolved. We also identified the need for a Visitation Ministry team to be reestablished. We do have many caring members doing this vital function, but we also need to bring more intention and focus to the process. We still have members in need that are being missed without an organized effort. So, if there are interested members that feel God tugging on their heart to get involved, please contact a council member.

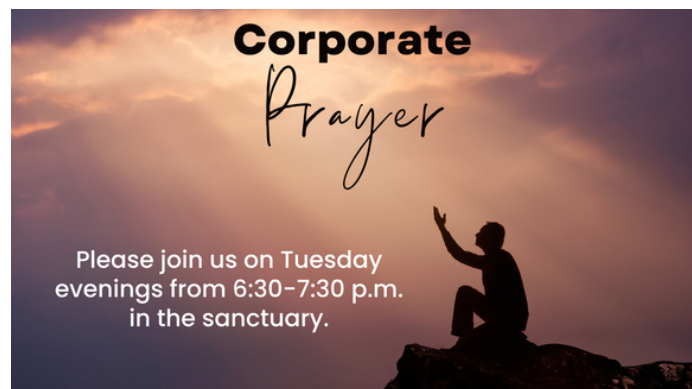
Our Tuesday evening prayer service is also continuing in 2024. It is at 6:30 every Tuesday evening. I encourage you to stop in and join us in prayer as you are able. God continues to bless us as a church, and we need to continue to thank and glorify him in prayer for being part of his Kingdom.

God Bless
Mike Fluharty
VC President

Vision Council questions can be emailed to:
vision.council@charitylutheran.org

Corporate Prayer

Corporate Prayer will be held Tuesday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to fill the sanctuary with those coming to pray, however even two is good because Matthew 18:20 states "*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*"



From Pastor Ron Dahle

(continued from page 1)

As you prepare for the Holy Week, God invites you to grow through the experience of what God has done, to and for you, in the greatest event in history – the death and resurrection of Jesus. More about this in March. Have a great month as you grow up in the Lord!

-Pastor Ron Dahle

Charity Call Committee Report

Call Committee chair Andrea Collin presented a report to the congregation at the January 7 annual meeting. Also in early January, we re-posted the revised pastor job position on both the LCMC and Charity websites.

We have received some inquiries and applications and hope to schedule an interview with one applicant in early February.

Thanks also to those who have suggested names of pastors we should reach out to, which we intend to do. We also encourage everyone else to mention this opening to pastors you know from other LCMC congregations and let us know how we can assist in outreach.

Laura Kourajian left the committee at the end of December and we thank her for her invaluable contributions over the past two-and-a-half years. We look forward to welcoming some new committee members this month.

Please continue your prayers as this process moves forward. Here's a prayer from the 31-Day Prayer Guide that some of you have been following in recent months. May it guide us as we move ahead in 2024.

Day 20 -- Hebrews 13:17 - Pray that the church as a whole would trust the Call Committee through the process of finding a new pastor. Pray that the congregation would trust that the committee members are being led by the Spirit as they search for the person God is bringing to Charity Lutheran Church and there would be no division.

Call Committee Members - Scott Carter, Sarah Erickson, Clark Johnson and Andrea Collin

Call Committee questions can be emailed to:
callcommittee@charitylutheran.org

2024 Trust Fund Committee and Nominating Committee Members

Trust Fund Committee

Steve Miller	President
Don Nordquist	Vice President
Mark Landis	Secretary
Renee Walz	
Nancy Jensen	

Nominating Committee

Randy Traynor
 Deb Uline
 Jerry Walz
 Deb Selby
 Barb Weaver

February Events

Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. for a catered dinner.



Speaker is yet to be determined. Stay tuned for more information.

Please let Renee Walz know if you plan to attend by Sunday evening, February 11, so she can order food Monday morning, February 12. Please RSVP to Renee at 400-1201 by text or phone call.

Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768. **March 15 is the next evening.**



Quilting Group

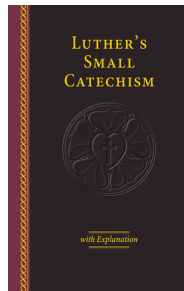
The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, February 24 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we make graduate quilts for May 2023. We will meet from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Gazebo. Contact Liz Landis at 258-1228 in the main office for more information. **March 23 is the next meeting.**



“Luther’s Small Catechism” Sunday Educational Offering

**Sundays at 10:45 a.m.
Charity Sanctuary**

Pastor Ron Dahle will lead a 7 week offering on Luther’s Small Catechism. If you have a catechism book, please bring it with. If you are in need of one, please let us know when you fill out the sign-up sheet. **Begins February 11.**



Youth Event

Arctic Blast is an overnight retreat for 4th-5th graders. They can expect a fun, friendly atmosphere where they will worship and develop a clearer understanding of who Jesus is and what He did for each of us. Thrown into the mix will be our annual pickle spitting competition & our rock, paper, scissors tournament! Be prepared for 24 hours of fun, faith, and friendship!

Activities include: A Climbing Wall, Gym (basketball, volleyball, roller skating, etc.), Snow Tubing, Ice Skating (bring your own skates), Sledding, & Ice Fishing

ARCTIC BLAST

February 23-24, 2024

Winter Retreat at Crystal Springs Camp for 4th-5th Graders

Registration Begins at 4:00pm on Friday
Retreat Ends at 4:00pm on Saturday

CAMPERS: \$65

\$10 late fee after Feb. 9, 2024



Scan QR code for more information and to register

Register online: www.csbcamp.org

As You Go On Your Way

Laura Kourajian

As you go on your way, may Christ go with you.
 May He go before you to show you the way.
 May He go behind you to encourage you,
 Beside you to befriend you,
 Above you to watch over,
 Within you to give you peace.

Ahhhh.

How many of us leave the service on Sunday mornings feeling peaceful, comforted, uplifted and ready to face the week with Pastor Dahle's benediction floating through our minds? There's something about that song, and certainly Pastor Dahle's mellifluous rendition of it, that has many of us humming it throughout the week.

Like many of us, the song has roots in North Dakota. The tune was written by John Ylvisaker (pronounced Yil-va-socker, served best with a strong Norwegian lilt), who was born in Fargo, attended elementary school in Moorhead, Minn., and graduated Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo, just a couple years ahead of Esther and Pastor Ron Dahle. Pastor Dahle described him as a "Christian hippie." "He was extremely talented," Pastor Dahle said.

On one of his websites, Ylvisaker, who died in 2017 at the age of 79, is described as "the godfather of Lutheran folk music" and "a legend in community song leading in the lineage of Pete Seeger." Ylvisaker graduated from Concordia College where his father chaired the Religion Department and his mother was a librarian. He is perhaps best known as the composer of "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry," a song often sung at funerals.

The Dahles said they didn't know him well in high school since he was several years ahead of them, but his reputation was well known. They got to know him better when their son Michael, who has serious singing talent, was attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., where Ylvisaker recruited musicians to record music with him. (Michael attended Luther Seminary several years before his father, the son of a Lutheran pastor, decided to pursue the ministry and attended the same seminary.)

The Ylvisaker-Dahle paths crossed periodically, and sometimes randomly or, perhaps, divinely. For instance, once when the Dahles were visiting an art gallery in Bergen, Norway, they began visiting with a Norwegian citizen, who, it turns out, happened to have a musically talented daughter living in Minnesota who was recording with Ylvisaker.

Pastor Dahle can't remember when he first learned the song "When You Go On Your Way," but he didn't use it as a benediction song until he and Esther moved to Bismarck five years ago. "I just kind of liked it," he said. "I'm intrigued by it." Since moving to Bismarck, he has sung it at the close of services he has led in churches in Golden Valley, Dodge, Writing Rock (Alkabo), Dickinson and, now, at Charity.

"It's always been a blessing to me and I like to share it," he said. "I can't tell you how many people shake my hand and thank me for that song."

(If you are interested in downloading any of Ylvisaker's recordings, including "When You Go On Your Way," they can be found at johnylvisaker.bandcamp.com .)

Introducing the



Plant a single potato, give it time to grow and it will produce multiple potatoes. So it is with any memorial, honorarium, donation or gift to the TRUST FUND. It grows and lasts forever while producing earnings for gifting. With a single donation become a SPUD CLUB MEMBER for 2024. Donate now and your name will remain on this list for the year!!

Lutherans for Life

Pastor Michael Salemink



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Dear brothers and sisters at Charity:

The Lord be with you!

Thank you for your Gospel-motivated voice For Life. And thank you so much for your recent offering to make our ongoing activities possible!

I've just returned from the annual national March For Life in (windy!) Washington, DC. Tens of thousands (mostly students!) endured the elements to declare and demonstrate how God creates, redeems, and calls every human life for us to receive as gift and privilege. We hosted over three hundred of those youth (and their adult chaperones) for a conference about life issues including surprise pregnancy, depression and anxiety, and sexuality and gender. (All three of my own children participated!) Not only did all involved enjoy the fellowship and encouragement, they came away enthusiastic about furthering the conversation and service in their home communities (attendees came from across the country!).

Your partnership and support made this happen. Not only have your contributions and collaborations preserved the sanctity of life by proclaiming it to future generations, you've profoundly affected the present by making immediate differences in the hearts of young people and the lives of their neighbors. Because of you, we'll engage in hundreds more of these interactions and relationships from coast to coast throughout the coming year.

I don't often have the opportunity to personally express how much your involvement means, but I wanted to reach out while I am thinking of you. Well done, you have our sincerest gratitude, and God continue to bless our work and witness together!

In truth and love,

Pastor Michael Salemink
Executive Director, Lutherans For Life



Visitation Team

**Volunteers
needed**

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of the Charity Lutheran Visitation Team. Do you have a heart for serving others, displaying empathy or demonstrating sensitivity in challenging situations? We are looking for volunteers to visit those in the hospital or nursing homes, or those that are homebound. If you feel like you may be called to help in this important and vital ministry, please contact the office at 258-1228 or email us at contact@charitylutheran.org.



BIRTHDAYS

February 1
Jessica Carlson
Andrea Collin

February 6
Dorine Wiedrich

February 2
Jen Anderson
Dawn Kindel
Carol Mielke
Melinda Pudwill

February 7
Sadie Amundson

February 3
Micheal Farley

February 9
Emmerson Lubbers

February 5
Jeff Carlson

February 12
Nancy Fuchs

February 14
Keith Soiseth
Faye Wangen

February 15
Valerie Kuhn
Linda Okerson

February 16
Delores Soiseth

February 18
Beth Allen

February 21
Daniel Lubbers
Melissa Okerson

February 22
Nancy Jensen

February 23
Jonathan Kuhn
Pamela Nelson

February 24
Kirsten Lindsay
Marshall Liudahl

February 25
Heidi Brown

February 26
Callie Bosch
Jackson Brown

February 27
Barb Weaver



*Those who remain
in love
remain
in God
and
God
remains
in them.*
1 JOHN 4:16



February 14 - Mike and Judy Smith
February 15 - Paul and Marlys Coughlin
February 18 - Chad and Laura Kourajian



stephen at Charity Lutheran MINISTRY.

What Is Charity Lutheran's Stephen Ministry?



Bear one another's burdens, and in this way,
you will fulfill the law of Christ
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Stephen Ministry involves three main groups:

- **Stephen Leaders** are lay leaders, church staff, and pastors trained to provide ongoing leadership for their congregation's Stephen Ministry. They are equipped for this key role through the Bridge Leader's Training Course offered by Stephen Ministries St. Louis.
- **Stephen Ministers** are lay congregation members trained by their Stephen Leaders to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or perhaps a relocation due to their job or other reasonings, to people who are hurting from a variety of other situations.
 - A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour.
 - A Stephen Minister comes from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.
 - Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 13,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers. At Charity Lutheran we have 14 trained and active Stephen Ministers in our congregation.
- **Care receivers** are individuals in the congregation or community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. Potential care receivers first meet with a Stephen Leader called a Referrals Coordinator, who assesses their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or if you or someone you know would benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact the church office at 258-1228.

Lent

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. We will offer two services for Ash Wednesday. Please plan to join us. **We will NOT have the WOW meal or WOW programming on Ash Wednesday.**



This Lent at Charity, Pastor Ron Dahle will lead an I AM study from the book of John.

These I AM sayings together with the SEVEN SIGNS (Miracles) of Jesus in the Book of John, are clearly written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, and that believing, you have life in His name. John 20:30-31.

Faith of Jesus and faith in Jesus are one and the same thing. Jesus announces, "I and the Father are one." John 10:30. Jesus extends this unity to all believers, so that you may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10. We are invited to spiritual life here in this world, and then in the world to come, for all eternity.

I AM
Wednesday Lenten Series

Feb. 14 *Who I Am*
Feb. 21 *the Bread of Life*
Feb. 28 *the Light of the World*
Mar. 6 *the Good Shepherd*
Mar. 13 *the Resurrection & the Life*
Mar. 20 *the Way, the Truth, & the Life*
Mar. 27 *the True Vine*

Pastor Ron Dahle
12:10 & 6:15 P.M.
***Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday 12:10 & 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday Schedule During Lent

WOW Meal 5:00-5:45 p.m.
Lenten Service 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Bethel Series 6:50-7:30 p.m.

Youth Programming 6:15-7:30 p.m.
Wings (Pre-K - 5th grade)
Middle School (Grades 6-8)
High School (Grades 9-12)

Youth Ski Trip



Everyone had a good time during the ski trip. They enjoyed indoor and outdoor activities, as well as time for food and fellowship.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Email: contact@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org

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