



June 2023



Pastor Brad Miller

GOOD NEWS

Intentional Interim Senior Pastor Brad Miller From the Pastor

One year ago, I was sitting in Jerusalem - the literal Promised Land - in COVID Jail. Being confined to a small room for an indeterminate number of days was rather stressful. Beyond the stress of the moment, my mind was occupied with the brief days that would be available whenever I secured freedom and the long list of tasks awaiting me: wrap-up a complicated Interim in the Detroit suburbs, pack and vacate a full condominium, drive a U-Haul pulling a trailer, move into an apartment that I had never seen in a city and state that I had never been in, and begin what looked to be a rather complicated Interim at Charity.

I turned to scripture for solace and guidance – particularly Paul’s epistles written while he was imprisoned. As I complete a year at Charity, my contemplations are drawn to one of those texts:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

-Eph 4:1-7

My first six months at Charity didn’t feel much like those beautiful verses. I encountered lies, deception, gossip, misconduct, bitterness, pridefulness, dissension, lawyers, more lawyers, threats, and schism. My own patience was tried and my own pride was piqued. None of us ever want to experience those unpleasant trials again. But eventually, the Holy Spirit equipped, encouraged, and led us through all of that. The last six months have seen great steps forward and much solid ministry being done.

(continued on page 4)

EVENTS

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

Wednesday, June 14
Dessert Potluck/Sertoma
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 15
Pinochle Group
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 18
Father's Day

June 19-22
Vacation Bible School
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 27
Bonfire Night
7:00 p.m.

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

The Body of Christ

“Churches that don’t retain their young people and families will eventually cease to exist.” (quote by anyone/everyone) This is not an actual quote by any specific person, but it’s so instinctively true and true through conscious reasoning, that perhaps many people have said it. Churches have a dilemma; attendance is in decline. There are less people going to church in our culture. Pastor Bob Castro addressed this fact in both his sermon at Charity on Mother’s Day and his adult ed time afterwards, which was well attended with almost 50 people there. The topic of his presentation was on the challenges of being both faithful and relevant in a postmodern, post-Christian, post-truth culture: “Where the heck are we? How the heck did we get here? What the heck are we supposed to do now?”

Pastor Castro has provided us with some valuable resources. First, if you weren't able to make it to his presentation, you can view it on Charity's homepage. Click the link at the top "ADULT EDUCATION SERIES SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT." Pastor Bob referenced 4 books. 1) “Preaching to a New Generation” (his complete doctoral thesis); 2) “Master's Thesis - Free for All” (on the human role in justification from a Lutheran perspective as an argument against universal salvation); 3) “Confessing Lutheran” (his blog set up as entries, so it can be used as a daily devotional); and 4) “Jesus Prayed” (a 30-day devotional). If you would like to see a copy of any of these, please contact the office and we will get you one.

Rhonda and I joined Charity at a relatively young age (me 29, she soon to be 28) after our first child, Eric, was born. Over the next seven years two more (almost three) children were born.



Doug Leet

I say ‘almost three’ because we suffered a miscarriage in between Kristen and Kari. We remember experiencing the loving support of our family and faith family during that time. Over the next couple of decades at Charity we were so blessed to be introduced to contemporary Christian music, going to SpiritFest Midwest near DL multiple years in a row, Sonshine Festival in Wilmar, and many concerts since then. It seemed to speak in an energetic way that we enjoyed (and still do!). But before that, we grew up singing hymns in church, and have been so blessed by those too. In fact, when dissected, the old hymns reveal so much scripture (as do some contemporary songs), that I was drawn to a scriptural analysis by John Aron Trandem of “The King of Love, My Shepherd Is” (inspired by the words of the 23rd Psalm), that he posted on Facebook on April 30, Good Shepherd Sunday. Treat yourself to it, I think you’ll find it interesting.

All this is to say that I think that Pastor Castro is onto something when he talks about speaking peoples’ language in church, whether it’s in worship or in preaching. And that our faith family needs to learn to share those differences, just as we do in our natural families; it’ll make us stronger and help us to retain and reach all demographics. Check out Pastor Castro’s follow-up article to his visit on page 7 of this newsletter.

Financial Report

April Actual Income \$58,572
April Budgeted Income \$73,849
Difference **\$15,277**

April Actual Income \$58,572
April Actual Expenses \$56,535
Difference **\$2,037**

YTD Actual Income \$192,420
YTD Budgeted Income \$295,396
Difference **\$102,976**

YTD Actual Income \$192,420
YTD Actual Expenses \$225,441
Difference **\$33,021**

Memorials & Gifts

CHARITY TRUST FUND

With gratitude for our church family! Matt & Penny Kaldor
 In memory of Jon Mielke by Dave and Nancy Jensen
 In memory of Duane Kuehn by Donavon Hatzenbuhler

Vision Council Update

Greetings from the Vision Council.

May has been great with long warm days, yard and garden work, and the beginning of all the graduation parties. Seeing all the boats on the river just makes you happy. What a great start to the summer after a long winter.

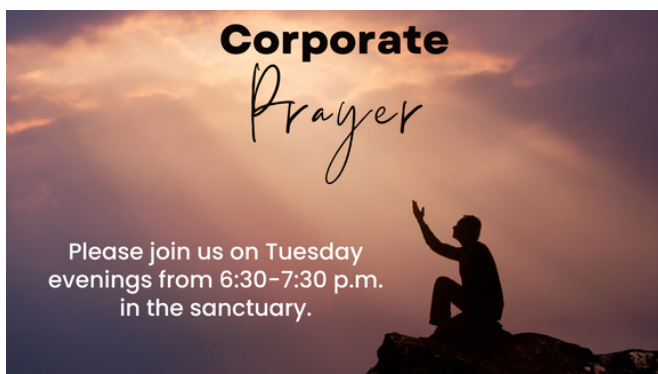
The May Vision Council meeting covered a couple of items worth mentioning. As most of you know we have been looking for a Children's and Youth Coordinator and a Worship Leader. Neither position posting has received any applications or generated any interest. After a good deal of discussion, Staff and the Vision Council have decided to rewrite both positions into one full-time position. We believe that a full-time job might expand the candidate pool and many of the qualifications overlap.

The other item of significance is Charity's email prayer chain. Staff and the Vision Council are united in the belief that it is a much needed and a wonderful tool for communicating the need for prayer, but there has never been a policy in place to administer it. We have never had formal guidelines for eligibility to receive it, privacy guidelines, or obligations and responsibilities of those of us receiving it. We hope to have a policy in place in the next month for review. If there is anybody with thoughts or comments about a prayer chain guideline policy, we would be more than happy to hear from you.

I would also like to remind everyone that Charity's corporate prayer service will continue through the summer months each Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. I encourage you to attend as your schedule allows. Staying in prayer for our staff, leadership, and church is so very important. If a prayer service has not been something you have experienced before or are not comfortable praying aloud in a group, I want to assure you that simply attending is enough. Those leading and praying aloud receive encouragement from your presence and we all need encouragement from time to time.

God Bless
Mike Fluharty
Vision Council President

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



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.*"

1st Week - Healing Service
2nd Week - Bulletin Congregational Prayer
3rd Week - Vision Council Meeting Agenda
4th Week - Senior Pastor Call Process
5th Week - World Peace

From the Pastor

(continued from page 1)

If, as Charity moves forward, we earnestly desire to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, how shall we accomplish that? Paul's text has some obvious clues. He starts with helpful characteristics (humility, gentleness, patience, love) and then pivots to sound doctrine (one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all) and concludes with that essential and powerful gift: GRACE.

Biblically instructed character, Biblically sound doctrine, and Biblical grace will be the ways that Charity remains healthy and united. There are mechanisms for keeping us within these guardrails. We need to be genuinely rooted in the Word. We cannot go back to pridefully strutting upon snippets of the Word and pretending that we could be healthily rooted in superficial strings of random Bible verses: not in preaching, not in Sunday School curricula, and certainly not in the abandonment of catechesis.

The last twelve months has left me tired and carrying some fresh scars. I am well aware that others also bear fatigue and hurts. But, I am incredibly grateful and hopeful to see what God has done in our midst. We have moved from peril and ill health to stability and a sound foundation for future growth. Keep praying that God's will for Charity will unfold!

Peace be with you,
Pastor Miller

Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Thursday, June 15 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768. **July 20 and August 17 are the next Pinochle nights.**

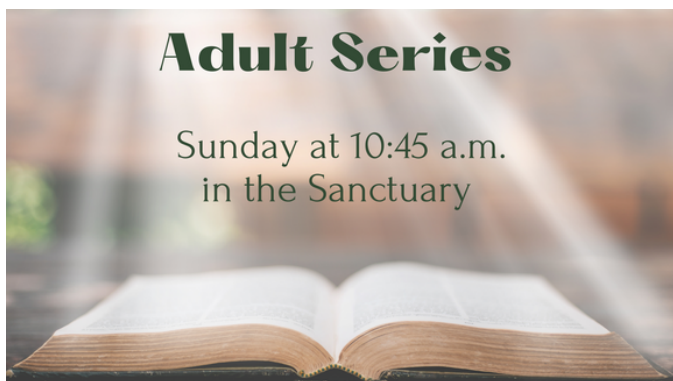


Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m. for a a barbeque of burgers and brats. followed by treats with Andrew Hershey's FOMO ice cream trailer. Come and enjoy dinner and some sharing with those at your table. **Please RSVP to Renee at 400-1201 by June 9 so we know how many to prepare for.**



Also note that we will be going to New Rockford to the Dakota Prairie Regional Arts Center for "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" on **July 19**. We will also be going to Medora on **August 16** so put these dates on your calendar and wait for further details to come.



June Events



All Ages Welcome!



Charity Call Committee Report

In May, the Call Committee followed up with some earlier applicants to determine their continued interest in the senior pastor position and conducted Zoom interviews with two candidates. We have had follow-up conversations with one of them and some members of the committee plan to meet that candidate in person this month.

We are also responding to feedback from the letter about the position that was sent to all LCMC pastors last month. Our last meeting was on May 30, and we intend to meet again later in June.

We ask for your continued prayers for our congregation and for the Senior Pastor God is preparing to send to us. Please reach out to us either individually or through our email at callcommittee@charitylutheran.org with any questions, comments or concerns.

Call Committee members - Beth Allen, Andrea Collin, Melissa Hill, Laura Kourajian and Scott Carter.

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

Confirmation


Confirmation Sunday



Please join us in celebrating
all of our Confirmands as they affirm
their baptisms and profess their faith.

Amara Baumeister
Alivia Dendy
Donavon Hatzenbuhler
Jaxon Hill
Kassidy Kaldor
Vanessa Kaldor
Addison Klemin
Valerie Kuhn
Kari Leet
Emmerson Lubbers
Kellen Okerson
Sophia Okerson
Lexis Orn

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 2023. Donate now and your name will remain on this list for the year!!

2023 Spud Club Members

- Mark & Lisa Aamodt
- Duane & Darlene Bentz
- Alvina Fueller
- Donavon Hatzenbuhler
- Dave & Nancy Jensen
- Matt & Penny Kaldor
- Georgia Kingsbury
- Chad & Laura Kourajian
- Mark & Liz Landis
- Dave & Barb Lee
- Doug & Rhonda Leet
- Wayne & Marie Levang
- Craig & Sandra Lohstreter
- Brad & Pam Miller
- Don & Kathy Nordquist
- Norlyn & Patty Swenson
- Jerry & Renee Walz
- Kathy Wermager



Congratulations to all of our Confirmands!



Gospel Sing-Along

Wednesday, July 12

6:30-8:00pm

Charity Lutheran Church

This is for you, your Gospel Loving friends and/or family who enjoy listening to or singing along to Gospel and Patriotic Music and many hymns/songs from years gone by. Words are projected up on the screen! Led by the Fueller sisters Lorri Mittleider and Christie Neumiller. Open to the public. Coffee fellowship following. (Anyone can bring a treat to share.) The offering taken is for Heaven's Helpers Soup Cafe.



GOSPEL & PATRIOTIC HYMNFEST SING-ALONG

Wednesday, July 12
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Contact Lorri Mittleider at (701) 400-1849 for more information.

Where the heck are we? How the heck did we get here? What the heck are we supposed to do now?

Rev. Dr. Robert Castro

Dear Friends in Christ and Fellow Ministers,

It was a blessing to be among you on Mother's Day to share The Message of The Gospel during worship and to speak with you after worship. If you were not able to be with us, or not able to stay, John has loaded both the worship service and my presentation onto your YouTube channel. Thank you, John.

Why? Why did I come? Why did I share? You have Sunday School children in your congregation. You have teens, and young adults. And, as low as young person participation in the life of The Church has been over the past couple decades, it is far lower now, and dropping like a stone. I want what your leaders want; and, your leaders want what you want; to retain your young people in the life of the congregation. The reality of our current culture is that change has changed. Change is a constant. Change is the only constant. In such a culture, "change or die" is a real thing.

What? "Graduating from church" is a huge issue. In general, those who are participating in the life of the congregation want your young people to continue to participate in the life of the congregation after confirmation. So, what would that look like? What would help make that happen? Using the Marvel Movie quote from my Q&A, "I'm asking, 'What are you prepared to do?'"

How? What I had the opportunity to share with you is that modernism is the language the church has been speaking since the 16th Century. Postmodernism is the language that the culture has been speaking since the 70s. And they are different languages. The HOW is being willing to speak postmodern in your worship service, including both music and sermons. I am not suggesting that all worship be contemporary worship with postmodern language. I am suggesting that postmodern worship with truly contemporary music (today music) be included regularly on a rotational basis so that young people will feel included and welcomed in worship. That is the concept of rotational worship. It means encouraging your pastor to learn to speak postmodern, and convincing the congregation to allow your pastor to speak it on Sunday morning because your children and young adults are worth it. It demonstrates that you are prepared to show them that you want them to stay. It shows you are willing to embrace changes in The Method, without ever changing The Message, to demonstrate your commitment to them.

At the end of my presentation, I shared four books that I have written. The four books are available through your office digitally as WORD documents. Again, the presentation, along with the worship service, are available on your YouTube channel and on the homepage of the website under ADULT SERIES SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT. The four books are: [Free for All](#); [Preaching to a New Generation](#); [Confessing Lutheran](#); and, [Jesus Prayed](#).

[Free for All](#) is a thesis on systematic theology: the human role in justification from a Lutheran perspective as an argument against universal salvation.

[Preaching to a New Generation](#) is a thesis on how preaching to younger worshipers is different than preaching to seniors.

[Confessing Lutheran](#) is a blog made into a book on how The Lutheran Confessions are still helpful today in understanding Christianity, what C. S. Lewis called "Mere Christianity."

[Jesus Prayed](#) is a 30-day devotional from the four Gospels on the times that Jesus either prayed or taught about prayer.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to worship among you.

Yours and His, but not in that order,

Rev. Dr. Robert Castro



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1
Brandon Bauman

June 10
Brynley Becker

June 2
Stephanie Kuhn
Angela Oakland

June 11
Mark Murdock
Kellan Okerson
Evan Weaver

June 4
Paul Kuetemeyer

June 12
Lyla Allen

June 8
Craig Lohstreter

June 13
Carson Braun
Paul Coughlin

June 9
Signe Penn

June 14
Diane Melby

June 15
Ray Eckroth
Allan Knutson

June 17
Jason Weaver

June 19
Greer Custer
Ione Leet

June 20
Duane Bentz
Torius Johanson

June 21
Eric Johanson
Kelsey Nisbet

June 22
Ella Erickson

June 24
Hudson Bullock
Halvor Placek

June 25
Connie Carter

June 26
William Nisbet

June 28
Alaina Hill
John Kuhn

June 29
Audrey Liudahl
Roland Wiedrich

June 30
Team Pukmith
Amber Torgerson



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

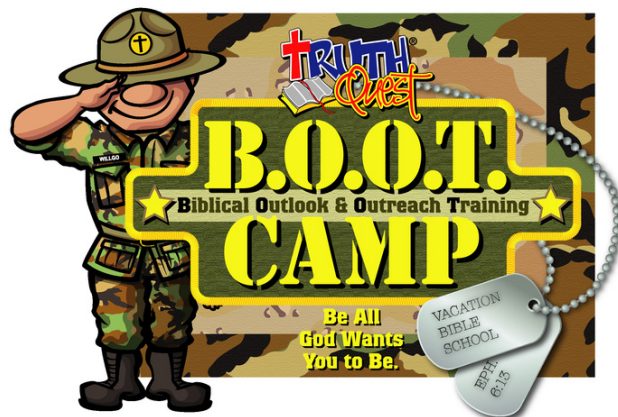


- June 7** - Allan & Cheryl Knutson
- June 12** - Kevin & Debi Selby
- June 12** - Jeff & Deb Uline
- June 14** - Bruce & Autumn Roth
- June 17** - Derek & Melissa Hill
- June 22** - Roger & El Rita Nelson
- June 24** - Ryan & Kristen Faragher
- June 24** - Bob & Pam Nelson
- June 26** - Daniel & Allison Lubbers
- June 27** - Roland & Dorine Wiedrich
- June 28** - Kevin and Dawn Kindel
- June 29** - Jeff & Rose Gitter
- June 29** - Jerry & Renee Walz
- June 30** - Duane & Faye Wangen



Vacation Bible School

We are looking forward to Vacation Bible School June 19-22. It takes many volunteers to make this a success. In addition, we need help with supplies and snacks. There is a snack sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Below we have need for volunteers in various areas and we also have a list of items we need for decorations and/or skits.



VBS Volunteers Needed

We are still in need of some volunteers to help in various places. If you can help out in one of these areas, please contact Sandy Seedorf. **See contact information below.**

- Group age co-leads
- Craft helpers
- Game helpers
- Drama director
- Snack helpers
- Floaters
- Volunteer Meal prep and clean up.
- Photographer for all four nights (and Friday)
- Decoration helpers for June 18th evening/June 19th

VBS Items Needed

We are looking to **BORROW** the following items for Decorations and/or Skit supplies. Please label everything so we can return it to you after VBS. These items should be dropped off in the office so we can ensure they are safely stored until VBS.

- 2 pairs of night vision goggles
- 2 small silk trees
- Camouflage netting (the more the better)
- Army fatigues... different sizes
- Campaign hat
- Combat boots
- Duffle bag(s)
- Army belt(s)
- Army helmet(s)
- Army footlocker
- Sand bay bunkers
- Army tents (small to set up for drama skit display) or camo poncho
- Flags
- Christian flags

If you can help in any capacity, please call or text Sandy Seedorf at (701) 426-9802 or email her at sandyseedorf1@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY *by the* NUMBERS

Charity Lutheran Church

10

Since Enrollment, we've sent a total of 10 members to be trained as Stephen Leaders at Stephen Ministries' regional training conferences.

Since beginning Stephen Ministry, over 153 hurting people have received Christ-centered care from Charity Lutheran Church Stephen Ministers.

153

19

Charity Lutheran Church has been enrolled as a Stephen Ministry Congregation since 2004.

43

Our Stephen Leaders have trained 43 lay Stephen Ministers to provide high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in our congregation and community.

5 of our Stephen Ministers have been active in caregiving for over 7 years.

5



The Stephen Leader team estimates that Stephen Ministry at Charity Lutheran Church has provided over 3500 hours of care!!

3500

To learn more about our Stephen Ministry, visit charitylutheranchurch.org or contact the church office 258-1228.

CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations 2023 Seniors



Callie Bosch



Jaxon Hill



Joshua Kuhn



Sophia Okerson



Lexis Orn



Samuel Stelter



Beckler Wangen



Sydney Weaver



Connor Wrolstad



Congratulations to all of our seniors in the graduating class of 2023! Each senior received a quilt from the Charity Quilting Group. We thank them for sharing their time and talent to make these beautiful gifts for our seniors!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 Aspen Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503

Phone: 701-258-1228 or Fax: 701-258-4398

Email: office@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 19-22, 2023

6-8 P.M.

**FAMILY CAMPING NIGHT JUNE 22
AFTER VBS PROGRAMMING**



FOR: 3 years old through 5th grade

******preschoolers must be potty trained.***



**Register Here
by June 16**