



March 2023



Pastor Brad Miller

GOOD NEWS

Intentional Interim Senior Pastor Brad Miller From the Pastor

March Madness is upon us. It is pretty much the only time of the year that we use the word "Bracketology." It is a unique cultural phenomenon. People who otherwise never bet, seem drawn to complete a bracket or pick a choice for the office pool. And - it always overlaps some sizable portion of Lent.

Indiana University (my Alma Mater) is having a pretty good year and if we were near their region (we are not) I would probably be tempted to look for a game ticket. Almost every relative of mine by birth or parental remarriage is a Purdue fan.

And Purdue is having an exceptionally good year. Long after IU loses, I will receive texts and Facebook messages gently reminding me about Purdue's progress. One of those fans is my beloved youngest brother - who incidentally has two degrees from IU and zero degrees from Purdue. March Madness is not a rational endeavor!

Bracketology (the art, science, or evil religion of picking the winners among every contest between the 68 teams) is a long series of "what-if" considerations. If you make too many wrong choices in the first round, then few of your hypothetical match-ups will actually occur in the second round.

Imagine what an insider scoop it would be if you knew the exact final match-up and you even knew the outcome? You could make huge bets in complete safety.

Here is an ultimate final game guaranteed scoop: On Judgment Day you will stand before God. If you have been baptized and if you believe and trust in Jesus Christ, then Christ has already won the battle for you. Knowing this precious fact, what wise gambles are you making? Are you fully living your life as a grateful expression of thanks for this powerful truth? Are you sharing this secret with others? Are you serving with all of the gifts and resources entrusted to you by the same Jesus Christ?

(continued on page 4)

EVENTS

Wednesdays During Lent
Midweek Service
12:10 and 7:00 p.m.

March 10-12
Winter SOULstice Retreat
6th-8th Graders

Tuesday, March 14
Amazing Grays
6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 17
Pinochle Night
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 18
Confirmation Retreat
9:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 25
Quilting Group
9:00 a.m.

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

Charity Family

When a Pharisee, who was an expert in the law, tested Jesus with the question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40 NIV). Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 from the Old Testament.

In his brief answer, Jesus summarizes the whole of the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments that Moses brought down after forty days on Mount Sinai. His answer also lays the foundation for thinking about biblical stewardship. Bill High, from The Signatry, lays out five simple truths in his 5 Principles of Biblical Stewardship: 1) It's All God's; 2) It's Not Mine; 3) I'm Accountable; 4) There is Reward (and Loss); 5) Invest in Eternity (contact Charity's office for the 3 page pdf).

As was mentioned in the February newsletter article in this space, stewardship is "all-encompassing" and not just about money, but our view and handling of money and resources is a big part of it. The Bible has a lot to say about money and stewardship. Did you know that there are over 2,000 verses in the Bible concerning money, and that about a third of the parables that Jesus taught concerned money?

For this reason, we are looking to utilize Larry Burkett's series on stewardship over the summer months, either on Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings (or both). The Stewardship Series includes four short books:



Doug Leet

- Caretakers of God's Blessings (examines six key biblical passages on being faithful stewards)
- Where Your Treasure Is (compares our attitudes on money with what God teaches)
- Living on Borrowed Time (biblical teaching on borrowing and debt)
- Gifts from the Heart (giving to God what belongs to God)

Historically, January, following the largest giving month of the year, has not been a gangbuster revenue month in churches, Charity included. The financial chart on this page indicates that this year is no different. Charity's average monthly budgeted revenues (general fund giving) for 2023 is just under \$74,000. As you can see, Charity's revenue for January was just over \$44,000. Fortunately, January spending was not as high as budgeted, resulting in \$16,000 in actual expenses over actual revenue.

Thank you for your faithful giving to Charity, financially and otherwise. Consistent giving is the key to supporting Charity financially. While tithing is biblical, it should be done as a grateful response for God's grace, rather than a legalistic obligation. If you're giving a certain amount each week or month, pray about progressively increasing your giving towards ten percent of your income.

Financial Report

Jan. Actual Income	\$ 44,596
Jan. Budgeted Income	<u>\$73,849</u>
Difference	\$29,253
Jan. Actual Income	\$ 44,596
Jan. Actual Expenses	<u>\$60,639</u>
Difference	\$16,039

And if you are currently tithing (literally means tenth in Hebrew), and have the means, pray about contributing more this year. With the calling of a new senior pastor, and all of the transition that we are experiencing, 2023 really is a defining year in the life of Charity Lutheran. Ultimately, as we grow in faith and discipleship here in this family we call Charity, we can count on God's leading and provision. Soli Deo gloria! (Glory to God alone!)



Vision Council Update

Greetings from the Vision Council.

"Holy Spirit, we welcome you. Make us into the church you want us to be so that all may know Jesus and His love". For those of you who don't recognize that prayer it is our March Sunday bulletin prayer. Each month there is a different prayer in the Sunday bulletin. I particularly like this one. We welcome, or submit to the Holy Spirit to guide us and direct our actions in rebuilding Charity. It seems like the ideal start to our daily prayers this month for Charity and we hope all of you join us in that prayer.

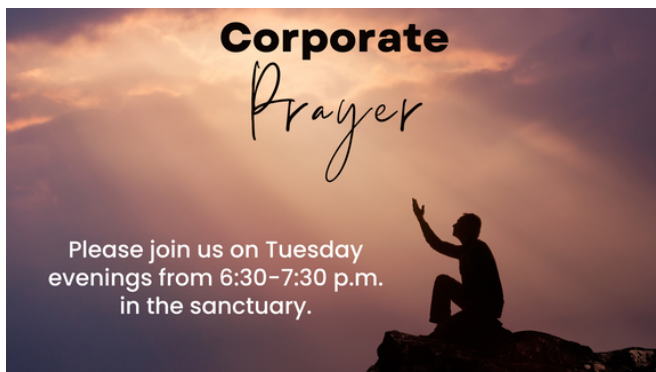
Charity has posted the Worship Leader job and we need to keep this position in our prayers. Staff and the Vision Council are also working on updating the job description for Youth Director and intend to post that soon.

You have probably noticed during Doug's weekly announcements reminding us to sign the Blue Book that is in each row tucked away in the pocket behind the chair on the center aisle. We fell away from that practice several years ago and stopped it completely during Covid. Leadership has been stressing the need to get back to it. Tracking membership attendance is important for a number of reasons. It is a valuable tool in maintaining accurate membership rolls, trending attendance through the year for service planning, and helps establish future budgets. But the most important reason to me is we are a family. A big family to be sure, so it is easy for absences to go unnoticed sometimes. We are called to watch out for each other and sudden changes in attendance may be a warning that we need help or support.

Our corporate prayer services are continuing every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. I encourage any that can to join us. We have added a little more structure to the schedule also. The first Tuesday of each month is a healing service, the second Tuesday is focused on the bulletin congregational prayer, third Tuesday is Vision Council meeting agenda, and fourth Tuesday is praying for the Senior Pastor call process.

God Bless
Mike Fluharty
Vision Council President

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



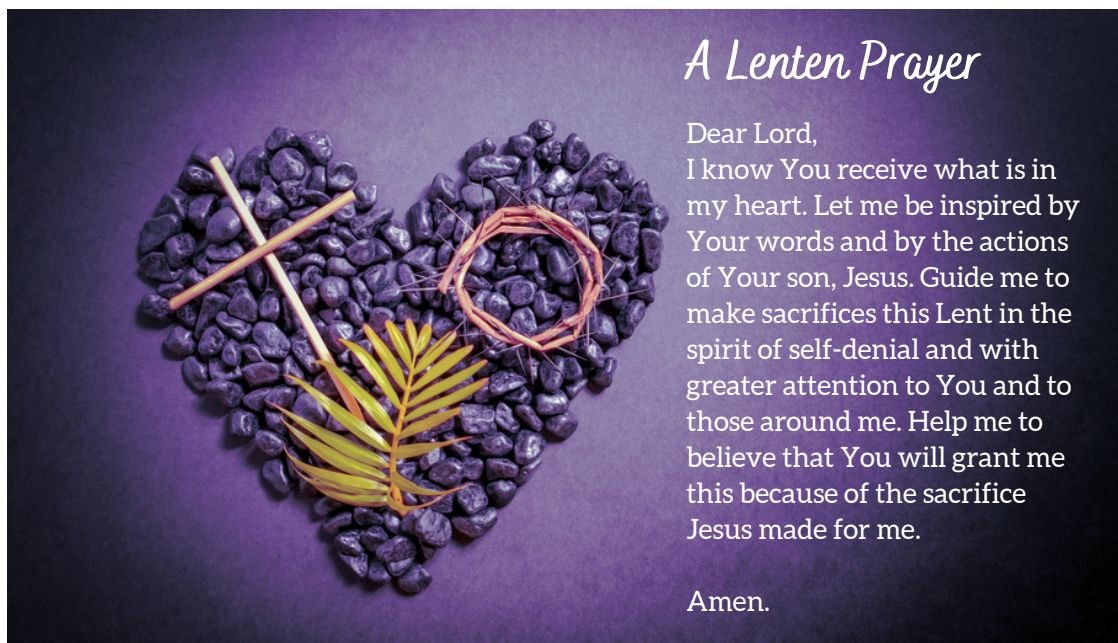
Corporate Prayer will be held Tuesday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to fill the sanctuary with those coming to pray, however even two is good because Matthew 18:20 states "*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*"

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)

Lent is our reminder of the cost that Jesus paid. Easter is a reminder of the victory won for us. Both are a powerful opportunity to pause and reflect on a simple question: Is my life a worthy reflection of the great gifts that I have received?



Charity Call Committee Report

The Senior Pastor job position was posted on the LCMC website and elsewhere at the end of January, and the Call Committee has responded to several inquiries. Information about our congregation and the Bismarck community has also been sent out to those requesting it.

We have selected four individuals to initially reach out to with some preliminary questions. Based on their responses, we will move ahead with scheduling more extensive interviews. Our last meeting was on Feb. 28, and we will present an update to the congregation during the Sunday, March 5 service.

We praise God for leading us to where we are today and 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

First Communion Class

Charity's First Communion class will be starting on Sunday, March 12 and will be held on each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening for five sessions concluding on Sunday March 26, and will be held during the same time as existing programming. The schedule is as follows:




First Communion Class
5th grade Begins March 12th
5 Sessions

- Sunday, March 12 at 10:45 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 15 at 6:15 p.m.
- Sunday, March 19 at 10:45 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 22 at 6:15 p.m.
- Sunday, March 26 at 10:45 p.m.

Contact the office at 258-1228 to sign up or email: contact@charitylutheran.org

Each fifth-grader that participates in the First Communion classes will then be able to celebrate Holy Communion during our Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. on April 6. There will be no cost to the family for the curriculum. Please contact Charity's office at contact@charitylutheran.org or call 701-258-1228 to get your fifth-grader signed up, or if you have any questions.

Confirmation Catch Up Information



"CONFIRMATION CATCH UP"
Saturday, March 18th
9am-7pm

Anyone past 8th grade who has participated in youth events at Charity without being confirmed, will be able to cover the catechism basics in one day. We will schedule an Affirmation of Baptism service in May. Those who complete this event will be ready to be confirmed - regardless of service hours, mission trips, or other former requirements. Please reserve your spot! An alternative course will likely be offered in the summer or fall for those who cannot attend.

lunch, dinner, and snacks provided.

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. Become a "SPUD CLUB FAMILY" for 2023 and donate now!!!! Your name will remain on this list for the entire year.

February Gifts

Donavon Hatzenbuhler - in memory of Duane Kuehn
 Dave & Barb Lee
 Craig & Sandra Lohstreter

****Acknowledgement of gifts to Trust fund in current newsletter. Listed as a member in following months newsletter.*

2023 Spud Club Members

Donavon Hatzenbuhler
 Mark & Liz Landis
 Doug & Rhonda Leet
 Wayne & Marie Levang
 Brad & Pam Miller
 Don Nordquist
 Jerry & Renee Walz

"Tipi Wakan (Sacred Tent)"

Pastor Boots Marsh

Dear Charity members, the Pastor, Deacons and members of Tipi Wakan Baptist Church in Cannon Ball, North Dakota send greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

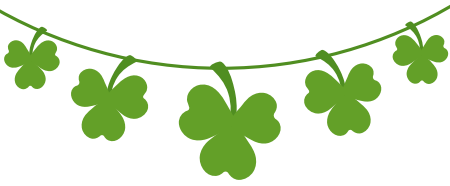
We sincerely thank the body of Charity Lutheran for their generous and faithful donations to the work here on Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Following is a brief explanation of the work of the ministry here made possible in part by your contribution.

As you may or may not know, three families have moved to North Dakota from Virginia to add workers for the harvest since 2015. We are so grateful for their decision to follow God's calling and complement the work here in their various capabilities. The following events and helps have been made possible with your contribution:

- Easter Egg Hunt - April 2022: An annual Easter egg hunt is held for the children in the Cannon Ball community. Our last "hunt" had 50 community members in attendance.
- Professions of Faith: Seven members of the community made professions of faith.
- Baptisms - March 6, 2022: 6 young members were Baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Community Day - June, 2022: 70 children and 40 adult community members enjoyed fellowship, musical entertainment, bounce house, games, and hot dogs & hamburgers.
- Vacation Bible School - June and July, 2022
- Five different teams from Virginia and Texas made their way to Cannon Ball to aid in the Christian education of our children during the summer. They are also given lunch and/or dinner and gifting of various items, shoes, school supplies, etc.
- Elder Christmas Dinner - December 8, 2022 for 52 Elders: this dinner has been an annual event since 2003. It is to honor the Elders here that do so much in guiding and in some cases raising the children in this community. Various outstanding Elders are invited from other communities as well.
- Christmas Celebration - December, 2022: Christmas usually held at the south campus building, was held at the Cannon Ball Elementary due to the growth of this event. There were 95 children and 50 adults in attendance. Gifts were given to all in attendance as well as a brown bag lunch. The Christmas story was enacted by the children for their parents. It was a glorious day!
- Each week we have Adult Worship Service at the north campus with an average attendance of 25 adults.
- Children's Church held at the south campus with an average attendance of 32 children with a meal provided.
- Men's Bible Study - weekly, Monday night with an attendance of 6-15 and meal provided.
- Adult Bible Study - weekly, Tuesday night north campus, with average attendance of 10
- Ladies Bible Study - average attendance of 16 with a meal provided.
- Children's Bible Study - weekly, Thursday night with an average attendance of eight, with a meal provided.
- Food Pantry - We provide a food pantry once a month on the next to last Wednesday of the month. We purchase, inventory and store the food until the day before the pantry. We pack each box individually, weighing each box. Each box contains dry goods, canned food and frozen meat. At this time we serve 164 families.
- Equine Ministry - for the past ten years we have held a horse camp for children, and at a separate time, riding for women from the community. Through this ministry and other outreach programs that are made available to us through Sitting Bull College, we believe that the children and ladies may be reached by the Gospel. The Equine Ministry is solely provided for by separate donations from outside donors who are in agreement with our philosophy that "horses heal." We also maintain a small benevolence fund for community emergencies.

Thank you for your support of this ministry. Without your participation, and the help of other generous donors, we would not be able to provide assistance for many of our children, women and men, meeting the needs of their spiritual and physical lives.

In His Service,
Pastor Boots Marsh
Tipi Wakan Baptist Church



march

BIRTHDAYS

March 1
Cindy Gums
Ian Schlecht

March 10
Georgia Kingsbury
Arlene Schamberger

March 2
Vanessa Kaldor
Mark Landis

March 11
Nicholas Murdock

March 4
Julie Bernhardt

March 12
Charlie Chamley
Siri Penn

March 5
Shelley Traynor

March 14
Gracie Wangen

March 7
Jennifer Farley

March 15
Nancy Leno

March 24
Julie Kost

March 29
Doug Leet
Marie Levang
Robert Nordvall

March 16
Jax Gums

March 27
Marlin Fried
Melissa Hill

March 30
Sue Balcom
Cheryl Knutson

March 20
Lydia Carlson
Alivia Dendy
Jeanne Hartert

March 28
Amy Hoffman
Kent Theurer

March 22
Russ Bosch
Kathy Nordquist
Patti Nordvall

March 23
Mike Miller



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



March 6 - Dennis and Jan Greenstein
March 16 - Dennis & Amber Torgerson
March 19 - Gary & Nancy Fuchs
March 25 - Luke & Annie Dukart



stephen at Charity Lutheran MINISTRY.

For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside but full of pain on the inside, and the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Ministers or call the Church Office 258-1228. Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!



Lent 2023

Burden Board



Charity has a "burden board" in the hallway this Lent. We are encouraging you to write down the burden/s you are carrying (no personal names, please). We will pray for your burdens as a special prayer intention during our Sunday worship services. As you stop by the board, take some time to read the burdens people are carrying and take a moment to pray for them.



Please join us for our midweek services during Lent. These services will be based on the text of the Lenten devotional booklets.

March Events

Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. for a catered dinner.



Speaker is yet to be determined.

Please let Renee Walz know if you plan to attend by Sunday evening, March 12, so she can order food Monday morning, March 13. Please RSVP to Renee at 400-1201 by text or phone call.

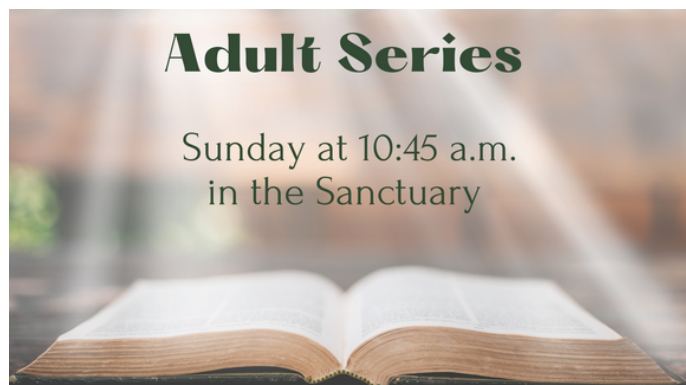
Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768.



Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, March 25 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.



New Member Meeting Steps 1 & 3

Thursday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.

Step 1: Get Interested

This step happens when you express interest in becoming a member disciple of Charity. This meeting will last approximately two hours. Please email liz.landis@charitylutheran.org or call 258-1228 by Thursday, March 16 to RSVP.

Step 3: Get the Vision

This step concludes with a "joining the family" membership meeting. Topics of discussion will include the vision of Charity and core discipleship expectations. Please call 258-1228 or email liz.landis@charitylutheran.org to RSVP by Thursday, March 16.

*****be prepared to have your photo taken to introduce you to the congregation.**



Graduate Photos Due

Class of
2023!

Graduation Sunday is
May 21, 2023

We need your baby & senior photos!

Please email your photos to:
jennifer.braun@charitylutheran.org
by Sunday, April 15.



Youth News

Wednesday Schedule for Preschool-Middle School



March

Classes will meet from 6:15-7:00 p.m. followed by the Lenten service from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

WINTER SOULSTICE
MARCH 10-12, 2023
CAMPERS: \$85
\$10 late fee after Feb. 24, 2023

Winter Retreat at Crystal Springs Camp for 6th-8th Graders
Registration Begins at 7:00pm on Friday
Retreat Ends at 11:00am on Sunday



Scan QR code for more information and to register

Winter SOULstice is a weekend of fun for middle schoolers in 6th-8th grade! Come hang out with your friends, tube on the snow, play broomball, but most importantly hear God's word & spend time in worship! High Ropes Course, Climbing Wall, Gym (basketball, volleyball, skating, etc.), Gaga Ball, 9 Square In The Air, Disc Golf, Archery Tag, Coffee House/Snack Shack, Snow Tubing, Ice Skating (bring your own skates), Sledding, & Ice Fishing.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking to add volunteers to our tech team. If you like computers and technology, we have a place for you. We are looking to add people to run our ProPresenter (screens) during worship services and are also looking to train a couple people on our soundboard and video equipment. Please contact John Seedorf at 701-426-9768 or by email at john.seedorf@charitylutheran.org if you would be interested in helping with this important ministry area in our church. Training will be provided.

Gospel Sing-Along

Sunday, April 16
2:00-3:30pm
Charity Lutheran Church

This is for you and your Gospel music loving friends and family who enjoy listening to or singing along to Gospel music. Words are projected up on screen. Led by Fueller sisters, Lorri Mittleider and Christie Neumiller. Open to public. Coffee fellowship following. (Anyone can bring a treat to share.) The offering taken is for Heaven's Helpers Soup Café.



The Importance of Music in Worship

Why is music such an important part of worship? Did you know that there are over 400 references to singing in the Bible? The Psalms is actually a book of songs. *"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." Psalm 96:1-2.*

When we gather to worship and join in song we not only unite as one voice, but we unite as one heart. It is also one of the ways in which we glorify God. Think about this reality. Every weekend, all throughout the world, congregations gather to give praise to our wonderful God. We gather to hear scripture, pray, receive communion, sing, and enjoy fellowship with others.

So, the next time you are at church, I encourage you to boldly sing and give it all to God as we gather as one people, one church, one body of Christ!



Jennifer Braun



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

Email: office@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 2
9:30 a.m.



MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 6
7:00 p.m.



GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 7
7:00 p.m.



EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 9
9:00 a.m.
11:00a.m.