



March 2024



**Pastor Ron Dahle**

# GOOD NEWS

## From Pastor Ron Dahle

### On Humility

As we journey through life, and on our Lenten Journey, we come across all sorts of things that are confusing to many. The question surfaces: 'Why is humility such a big deal to a Christian?'

We are in the midst of Lent. We are anticipating Holy Week. This is a time for spiritual renewal, but we are not always sure that we are following the right kind of path to Easter! Humility keeps us on the right path.

One of the reasons that I love to follow the Church Year and explore each of the seasons is that we find a natural path of Spiritual growth laid out for us.

In addition, things that seem backwards in the Scriptures have to do with letting God be God in your life, and having an attitude of gratitude to God for the gift of life. Letting God's word speak to us, to be humble before God, letting God be God in your life, is the gift of life. If we let self have its way in our lives, it ruins our growth in the Spirit of God.

James 4:10 says; "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." That seems to go against what we learn in life. We have to be successful! We have to be 'self-motivated' to be successful. This seems to be the guiding principle of a successful person of the world. However, it does not fulfill us!

How many 'successful people,' that you know about, are satisfied with their lives. We see people of every walk of life seeking 'fulfillment.' Doesn't this quote from James seem out of place?

Well, then check this out! Matthew 11:28-30  
"28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Here are words from Jesus that have nothing to do with 'so called success.' But words like 'rest' and 'gentle' and 'lowly in heart' come before us.

**(continued on page 4)**

## EVENTS

Wednesdays during Lent  
**Midweek Service**  
12:10 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 7  
**New Member Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, March 12  
**Amazing Grays**  
6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 15  
**Pinochle Night**  
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23  
**Quilting Group**  
9:00 a.m.

## Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

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

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

In Charity Lutheran's preamble to its constitution, the verse noted above is referenced with one of the eight areas that Charity is called to as a congregation: *"Witness to the community, nation, and world."*

Charity has supported Lutheran Asian Ministries (LAM) since its inception (11 years ago), and before that supported its predecessor organization, Lutheran Vietnamese Ministries. LAM is an international partner of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and has expanded its mission work into Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar (formerly Burma), in addition to Vietnam, with a regional population of about 241 million people. Three of these countries fall into the top 30 countries persecuting Christians.

Please see the update in this newsletter from Pastor Mark Vander Tuig, who serves as LAM's Ministry Coordinator. Charity's generous support for LAM in spreading the good news of Jesus to the people of Southeast Asia is helping to make a difference in that region.

As individuals, a big part of what allows us to be generous is our attitude towards money. To quote Charity member Sue B. Balcom, "Let go of the idea that money equals happiness. Money being the center of our happiness can create more problems and may encourage you to spend more money and potentially be miserable in the end." Sue B. also mentioned, "The quote, 'If you live for having it all, what you have is never enough' is attributed to Vicki Robin, author of *Your Money or Your Life* (one of the best books on Frugal Living!)." She added, "The quote is a bit of a punch in the gut...because we know, deep down, that it is absolutely true."



**Doug Leet**

In this section of the monthly newsletter, we will attempt to describe ways that Charity has a generous heart by highlighting a featured mission organization, and maybe offer some ideas on how we can serve our neighbors. We also welcome you to provide any "frugal" tips or personal practices that help in reducing household expenses. I will bet you 10 dollars to a Dilly Bar (updated due to inflationary pressures) that Sue B. has some of those to share as well!

*\*UPDATE\** I was right! Sue B. came through with a few practical ideas to help save household dollars. I guess we shouldn't be surprised that at the top of her list was: "Learn to cook!" and "Eat leftovers!" I will spread her other tips out over upcoming newsletters. But to give you an example of one of Sue B.'s practices that I'm aware of; she would save her used coffee grounds and add them to her garden as fertilizer.

## Financial Report

<b>Jan. Actual Income</b>	<b>\$52,574</b>
<b>Jan. Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$57,150</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$4,576</b>
<b>Jan. Actual Income</b>	<b>\$52,574</b>
<b>Jan. Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$40,006</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$12,568</b>

## Memorials & Gifts

**Memorial Trust Fund**  
In Memory of Audrey Liudahl by Alice Reichenberger and Charity Amazing Grays.

Also, Sue B. cans a lot of her produce, and another practice she has is to "maximize the value of every single item you spend money on (like the coffee grounds). Purchase quality items (like canning equipment), because you may spend more replacing cheap items. The main thing to remember about being frugal, is that little things done over a long period of time really add up to major savings. Whether it's putting money away regularly into a savings account, or by practicing money-saving behaviors when it comes to expenses. Let us know what works for you!

# Vision Council Update

Greetings from the Vision Council. I hope you all have been enjoying this weather as much as I have. It is a nice break from last year's endless snow and now spring is right around the corner.

At the February Vision Council, we got our first review of the 2024 proposed budget versus January's actual income and expenses. I am very pleased with how well it matched up. We have a surplus with the unfilled Pastor and Youth Coordinator positions but as those positions are filled income and expenses are going to align with the proposed 2024 budget presented at the Annual Voter's Assembly. God has provided all of our needs through his faithful givers and a diligent staff.

A significant amount of our time was also dedicated to getting our Core Ministries organization and structure back in line with our member needs and best practices. In 2023 a self-forming committee came together identifying themselves as the "Adult Education Committee". They filled an immediate need and much needed function in Charity Lutheran. Now we need to duplicate their success with our other ministry areas with accountability, reporting, and communication paths and processes keeping leadership, staff, and membership up to date and involved. The utilization of Core Ministries is not new to Charity but the turmoil of the last decade has seen many of the best practices fall to the wayside.

A new item on our agenda in February was exploring the possibility of forming a new geographic district in the LCMC covering all the congregations in our state. The formation of a regional district would give churches in that region an opportunity to work together for developing best practices in ministry, sharing of resources and skills, and developing relationships with our neighboring LCMC congregations. We plan to reach out to our LCMC neighbors with an invitation to an event sponsored by Charity in late April. An LCMC representative would be scheduled to lead a discussion about the process of forming a district and the benefits for member churches.

I will close as always with a reminder and invitation to corporate prayer every Tuesday at 6:30 PM.

God Bless  
Mike Fluharty  
Vision Council President

Vision Council questions can be emailed to:  
[vision.council@charitylutheran.org](mailto: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)

These words seem again to go against what the world requires of us to be successful, but no real satisfaction!

Well, maybe they are addressing separate situations. Rest for your SOUL is the most important thing in life! This can't come from being successful by the standards of the world. But on the other hand, God did create us with a brain! We are to use it. God gave us responsibility to be managers of the world, but we usually are not content to do that without having more control than we are given. Then we start venturing into God's affairs. When this happens, we set up a fictitious 'kingdom' called SELF. We now set ourselves up to be king of this creation of our own making. We get to set the rules, and we get to judge everything and everyone, even God. We exalt ourselves, and think this will bring peace of heart, mind and soul.

Jesus was born in a barn. He was raised in an obscure pagan village at an out of the way place. He was raised as a carpenter. He didn't attend proper schools. He owned nothing in this world. He was humble and lowly of heart, but provided rest for those who were struggling in life with things that were too difficult to understand. He died as a common criminal on a cruel instrument of death. Yet, He is KING of kings, and LORD of lords.

During this Lenten season, let's try to figure out the truth! Let's look to Jesus to provide us with humility, God's wisdom and knowledge, and find rest for your soul! Then, you can truly celebrate the greatest day, 'Easter.' May God bless you on your journey!

-Pastor Ron Dahle

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## Charity Call Committee Report

The Call Committee welcomed three new members at our February 8 meeting, Khalin Dendy, John Kuhn and Dawn Kindel. Please thank them for stepping up to serve the next time you see them.

Since re-posting the open pastor position on the LCMC and Charity websites in January, we have had a few inquiries and two interested prospects. After some additional research, we are not moving forward with one. We are still further considering the second at this time. We have also researched the list of certified pastors on the LCMC website who have indicated they are available for a call and have developed a plan to reach out to them personally.

We continue to encourage everyone in the congregation to mention this opening to pastors you know from other LCMC congregations and let us know how we can assist in outreach.

We will plan to meet again early in March. Please continue to pray for our work and share with us any and all concerns and suggestions.

Scott Carter, Sarah Erickson, Clark Johnson, Khalin Dendy, John Kuhn, Dawn Kindel and Andrea Collin.

Call Committee questions can be emailed to:  
[callcommittee@charitylutheran.org](mailto:callcommittee@charitylutheran.org)

# March Events

## Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, March 12 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, March 10, so she can order food Monday morning. Please RSVP to Renee at 400-1201 by text or phone call.**

## Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768. **April 19 is the next evening.**



## Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, March 23 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we make graduate quilts for May 2024. 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. **April 27 is the next meeting.**



**Easter Plant Order Form**

Join us in decorating the church for our Easter Celebration, Sunday, March 31

or see bulletin for order form



Scan QR Code

**Sunday, March 10**

Spring Forward

## New Member Meeting

**Thursday, March 7, 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](mailto:liz.landis@charitylutheran.org) or call 258-1228 by Tuesday, March 5 to RSVP.

### Step 2: Get Involved

Attend church, get plugged into serving, and attend various church functions.

### 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](mailto:liz.landis@charitylutheran.org) to RSVP by Tuesday, March 5. **\*\*\*be prepared to have your photo taken to introduce you to the congregation.**

**New Member Sunday**



**MARCH 10, 2024**  
**9:30 A.M.**

# Upcoming Men's Bible Study

**What: Men's Bible Study**

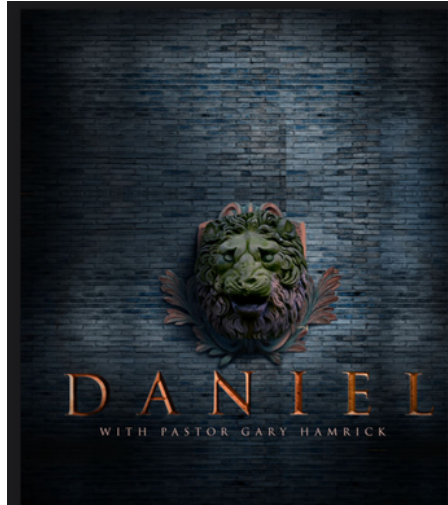
**When: Wednesday Evenings 7:45 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Begins March 6**

**11 week study**

**Where: Fireside Room**

It has often been said, "Daniel is to the Old Testament what Revelation is to the New Testament." It is a book rich with prophetic elements concerning End Time events. But it also communicates things that were futuristic to Daniel but now historical for us. From our vantage point on the timeline of human history, we have the perspective of recognizing that many of Daniel's prophecies have been fulfilled just as the Lord predicted through him. Likewise, we can be sure that the remaining events Daniel predicted concerning the End Times will come to pass as well.

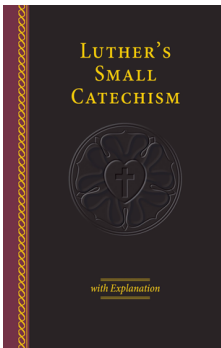


## Introducing the



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!!

**If you have any questions, please reach out to Ray Eckroth or John Seedorf.**



## “Luther’s Small Catechism” Sunday Educational Offering

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

Pastor Ron Dahle will continue an educational offering on Luther’s Small Catechism. If you have a catechism book, please bring it with. We do have some catechism books available for purchase. **Goes through March 17.**

## Gospel Sing-Along

**Sunday, April 7**

**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.



# Lutheran Asian Ministries Update

## Pastor Mark Vander Tuig

Because of our generous and faithful supporters, we were able to once again travel to Southeast Asia this last November. This trip we went to focus on just three of the five countries that we serve: Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. Our mission is to train and equip indigenous leaders and work with them toward self-sufficiency. We were able to do that on this trip!



We started in Thailand and met with missionaries, Mike and Dara Rasavanh serving just outside of Bangkok. They were in the beginning stages of putting up a church building and needed financial help with getting the concrete footings and floor poured. In January, one of the agencies also working in the area was going to bring 60 men from the US to put up the building. Our gift allowed that initial work to be completed! When the next agency arrived they could immediately start, and in 9 days finished the church! We also re-connected with one of the seminaries that we support, Bangkok Theological Seminary. There were many other connections made in Thailand but it was time to move on to Laos.

In Laos we had two primary goals: to travel to the northern region of the country to check on the progress of the development of another church building, and to travel to the southern part of the country to visit with leaders of a church located on a large island. The northern church is led by a pastor who has done great work in growing the congregation and helping them to see the value of establishing a church. They have done all the work to set up the building, but had no funds to finish the inside. Our financial support allowed them to hang lights, put in a basic sound system and provide seating. The building can hold about 200 people and now they can all fit and hear and have room to sit! In southern Laos, the church on the island serves 1000 in worship but their building was only half done! Here our financial support was able to finish the building so that there is now room for all 1000 worshipers! The congregation is led by 5 pastors, all volunteers, but all deeply committed to the Gospel. At this last Christmas they had over 2500 people come to worship!

Flying to Cambodia allowed us to participate in a youth gathering for about 100 young people from across the nation. This was a training event to help these young believers share their faith with their friends and family. It was amazing to see their strong desire to bring others into a relationship with Jesus. Here too we met with our leader in Cambodia and as he introduced us to the pastors he supports; we saw again the amazing work being done there. Our pastor there supports 15 ministry sites throughout the nation and will also spend time in the neighboring country that is not open to the Gospel. There he must be very careful not to alert the authorities so that he can continue to support and encourage the leaders of almost 50 house churches, primarily in the central part of the country,

We were not able get to Vietnam or Myanmar on this trip, but our executive director, Pastor Tom Lovan is in constant communication with them and all our pastors and leaders in all five nations. We are grateful for Charity Lutheran's support and will do our very best to be good stewards of all that we receive!

Pastor Mark Vander Tuig, Ministry Coordinator  
Lutheran Asian Ministries





**March 1**  
Ian Schlecht

**March 2**  
Vanessa Kaldor  
Mark Landis

**March 5**  
Shelley Traynor

**March 7**  
Jennifer Farley

**March 10**  
Mesa Allen  
Hannah Erickson  
Georgia Kingsbury  
Arlene Schamberger  
Kalli Senske

**March 12**  
Charlie Chamley

**March 15**  
Nancy Leno

**March 20**  
Lydia Carlson  
Alivia Dendy

**March 22**  
Russ Bosch  
Kathy Nordquist

**March 23**  
Bryson Keller  
Kirk Mitzel

**March 27**  
Marlin Fried  
Melissa Hill

**March 28**  
Amy Hoffman

**March 29**  
Doug Leet  
Marie Levang  
Robert Nordvall

**March 30**  
Sue Balcom  
Cheryl Knutson



*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.

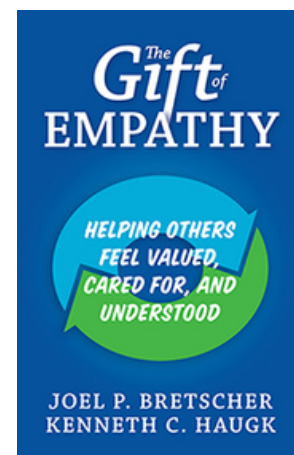
2025 Stephen Ministry, St. Louis, Missouri, will be 50 years old. They have been looking at the needs today and how and what Stephen Ministry can do. Stephen Ministry has begun a new Vision:

**"To equip ALL people to care and relate with greater excellence" Ken Haugk**

By all people, he means EVERYONE, not just those involved in Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry offers a **WHAT'S NEW AND UPCOMING AT STEPHEN MINISTRIES** Zoom sessions. (It was only 30 minutes long, with a Q&A afterward if you chose to stay). They offer to Stephen Ministers, Stephen Leaders, Pastors, Church Staff, Past Stephen Ministers/Leaders, Church Congregations, or others who are interested.

If the session you sign up for is full, they will have more, so leave your name and e-mail, and Stephen Ministry will send you an e-mail when the next class becomes available. Here is the link to sign up ----- [stephenministries.org/invitation](https://stephenministries.org/invitation)

One new and exciting thing Stephen Ministry is offering is a pilot testing of Ken Haugk & Joel Bretscher's new book *The Gift of Empathy* (See book right). This book is being pilot-tested by various groups (including church youth groups, church staff, Church-wide study, Bible Study Groups, Employers of Business for their Employees, etc.). You can learn more about the Pilot Test Program at [thegiftofempathy.org/pilot](https://thegiftofempathy.org/pilot)



## What We Provide

- Early access to an in-development copy of *The Gift of Empathy Discussion Guide*
- Upon the completion of your group study and return of the feedback questionnaires, a 50% reimbursement on all copies of *The Gift of Empathy* purchased for participants
- A complimentary copy of the published *Discussion Guide* when it becomes available in 2024

## What You Provide

- Your feedback on the content of the *Discussion Guide* to help us make the resource as valuable as possible
- Completed feedback questionnaires from each group leader and participant in your study
- Insights into the overall group experience and growth experienced by members of your study

## The Gift of Empathy Summary

Imagine a world where everyone's go to way of relating is empathy. That's the world *The Gift of Empathy* aims to make a reality, equipping readers to relate in empathetic ways that make a difference in people's lives.

*The Gift of Empathy* takes a fresh look at this important skill, examining what empathy is in isn't, offering practical guidance for empathizing well, and showing how to respond with empathy in all kinds of situations and settings. With ready-to-use principles and a rich selection of real-life stories, this book will empower you to better understand, connect with, and empathize with family, friends, coworkers, and others you may relate to.

By putting the ideas in this book into action and sharing the gift of empathy, you can enjoy more meaningful connections in all areas of your life.

## Lent

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)

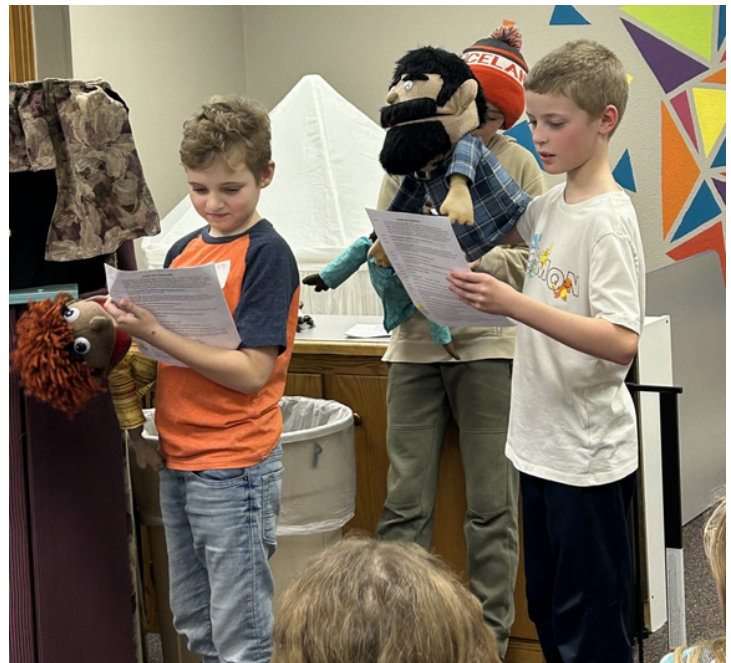
## Holy Week

Please join us for our Holy Week services. Each fifth grader that participates in the First Communion classes will then be able to celebrate Holy Communion during our Maundy Thursday service. We will also have Communion on Easter Sunday. There will be overflow seating available and our unattended nursery will also be open.

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
March 24	March 28	March 29	March 31
9:30 a.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	9:30 a.m.

# Wednesday Night WINGS



The Wednesday night WINGS program has been a wonderful experience for our young people! We are so grateful to all of our volunteers who help with WINGS and our Sunday School programming! THANK YOU!!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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[www.charitylutheran.org](http://www.charitylutheran.org)

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**Palm  
Sunday**

March 24

9:30 a.m.



**Maundy  
Thursday**

March 28

7:00 p.m.



**Good  
Friday**

March 29

7:00 p.m.



**Easter  
Sunday**

March 31

9:30 a.m.