



May 2024



**Pastor Ron Dahle**

# GOOD NEWS

## From Pastor Ron Dahle

### **EASTER, ASCENSION, PENTECOST – GRADUATION!**

The theme of my articles has been concentrating on the Church Calendar, and the significance of how it guides our worship. I hope this has been helpful. This month we have significant things happening. Theologically speaking, Easter is the main event that fulfills all of Scripture from Genesis chapter 3 to the New Testament. But we can't be done with just the resurrection, even if that is the main event of God's revelation in Christ.

We have the Ascension which is part of the whole incarnation event. Jesus is returning to the Father, from whom he came! This is necessary, in the words of Jesus, so that the Father, in the name of the Son, can

deliver the gift of the Holy Spirit to all of humanity!

Even though, throughout all Scripture, we see that the Holy Spirit was and is present, there was a very specific gift to the early church on Pentecost. It was the start of the New Testament Church, which continues now in our time. God has promised to be with us – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one God – for all eternity! We as the Church, are the 'body of Christ' on earth. We as the believing community are called and gifted by God through the Holy Spirit to do the work God has called us to do! We are to present God to the world through the Proclamation of the Gospel, gifted by the Holy Spirit to do the work.

Having said this, we also need to bring this down to earth in a practical way in our lives. Throughout our lives there are milestones by which we can see our progress. Graduation time comes to mind. Graduation from high school is a big event, and should be recognized in a good way. Also graduation from any advanced degree, or any trade school, or any grade is a milestone that should be celebrated. So I wish to extend a blessing to all who are graduating and moving on into the next adventure of life. Bring God with you as you go. God will always bless you when you live in relationship with God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May God richly bless each person during this season of the year!

-Pastor Ron Dahle

## EVENTS

Wednesday, May 8  
**WOW Bon Voyage**  
5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 11  
**Quilting Group**  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 12  
**Last Day of Sunday School**  
10:45 a.m.

Friday, May 17  
**Pinochle Night**  
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 19  
**Graduate Sunday**  
9:30 a.m.

Monday, May 27  
**Memorial Day**  
Office Closed

## Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

# The Primary Mission

"The mission is clear!" exhorted Pastor Julie Smith. She said, "The Church has one primary mission, and that is to make Christ known. The Gospel is what makes the Church the Church and our mission is to share it. It's clear. The way we do this is through the proclamation of God's Word of Law and Gospel." She went on, "The Church, when it is faithfully being the Church, keeps calling us back to the main thing. We return week after week after week to the same message that called us together as people of God. We return again to worship, which is the defining characteristic of the Church. When the Lutheran Reformers wanted to define the Church, what they settled on was this, 'The assembly of all believers, among whom the Gospel is purely preached, and the Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.' The Augsburg Confession, Article 7." And she added, "This is what defines the Church, gathered around the Word and Sacraments, and going out and gathering others to do the same."

If you haven't heard Pastor Julie's Keynote #3 message to LCMC's Annual Gathering last October, I highly suggest you listen to it. You can find it on LCMC's website under videos in the Annual Gathering event. Or on Charity's website, just type "Supplemental Sermon Content" in the search bar.

This leads us to the three wall panels on the back east-side wall of Charity's sanctuary (see photo on this page).

Have you ever noticed them? They were not designed as wall panels, but rather were affixed to the front of Charity's previous altar. The name of the creator and date is on the front of each panel, "Dawn Dirk, 1982." This would be the year following the groundbreaking and building of Charity's initial structure.



**Doug Leet**

When Lutheran pastors come out of the seminary, their primary mission is to "preach the Word" and "administer the Sacraments." These wooden panels depict that "primary mission." Panel three on the right is remarkably like an image shown in the appendix of Luther's Small Catechism, with the description, "Through these commonly harvested elements of the earth, bread and wine are made. In the Lord's Supper, participants receive Christ's very body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, new life, and eternal salvation." When I approached Pastor Bob Nordvall about these panels, he commented, "They depict symbols for the Gospel and the Sacraments. The cup of wine and crown of thorns, the Holy Spirit and the dove on one panel, the birth of Christ on another panel, and then the bread and the wine... the wheat and the grapes on the third panel."

Getting back to Pastor Julie, part of her message is that while the mission is clear, it has many challenges. There are many other priorities, inside and outside the Church, that want to be the primary mission.

# Financial Report

<b>March Actual Income</b>	<b>\$48,201</b>
<b>March Budgeted Income</b>	<b><u>\$53,450</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$5,249</b>
<b>March Actual Income</b>	<b>\$48,201</b>
<b>March Actual Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$37,519</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$10,682</b>
<b>YTD Actual Income</b>	<b>\$150,689</b>
<b>YTD Budgeted Income</b>	<b><u>\$169,350</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$18,661</b>
<b>YTD Actual Income</b>	<b>\$150,689</b>
<b>YTD Actual Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$121,677</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$29,012</b>

So as Charity keeps moving forward, with God's leading, let us keep the main thing, the main thing, and be aware of all the other things, good and bad, that are vying to be the primary mission.



# A Message from Pastor Julie Smith

Dear friends in Christ,

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

It was such a pleasure to be with you this past weekend. A spirit of grace and hope filled the sanctuary and fellowship hall. I know you've had a difficult journey in your most recent call process and that can be very discouraging for a congregation. Being a smaller congregation than you once were can also be very discouraging.

But as I observed your congregation, spoke with some of your leaders, and worshiped with you I did not sense discouragement. I saw a congregation that is engaging in the mission God has set before you and stands ready to embrace what the Lord has for you in the coming years.

As you continue your search for the next pastor that God has prepared for you my prayer for you is that this would be a time when the congregation grows together, when the temptation might be to grow apart. I pray that the anxiety that often accompanies a call process would give way to the hope and certainty that Charity is in Christ's hands, and he is always faithful to his church. I pray that you would pray for your call committee, for your leadership team, and for your next pastor.

And as you prepare for what lies ahead for your congregation, please know that your LCMC staff holds you in prayer and is anxious to be of assistance to you in whatever ways we are able. At times the congregations of LCMC can feel isolated and on their own to find their way ahead. We are here to serve you. And the other 995 congregations are with you in this great mission of the Gospel that we share.

Blessings on your work.

In Christ.  
Julie

Rev. Julie A. Smith  
Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships  
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

## 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."*





# Visitation Ministry

We are excited to announce that Charity Lutheran's Visitation Ministry is up and running. Carol Simenson will be the Visitation Ministry Coordinator. If you would like to request a visit, please contact Liz Landis at 701-258-1228 or email her at [liz.landis@charitylutheran.org](mailto:liz.landis@charitylutheran.org). Our visitors have received training and are ready to visit you at your home, or in the hospital or nursing home.

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## Charity Call Committee Report

In April, the Call Committee invited two pastors we are considering to visit Charity and preach the Sunday sermon. Pastor Kent Sperry joined us on April 28 and Pastor Ritchie Cole will visit on May 5.

Pastor Sperry recently left Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Beulah, where he served for the past nine years. Pastor Cole has been a pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for more than 14 years.

Both of these pastors have many talents and ministry gifts and we have enjoyed getting to know them better. We will continue our conversations with them in the weeks ahead. Please keep on praying for God to lead us to the person He has chosen to be our new pastor.

We ask you to reach out to any of us on the committee with questions or comments and we will share more information about these candidates with you as we move forward.

In the meantime, we have placed this position opening with several LCMC seminaries, and continue to reach out to individuals whose names you have shared with us as potential candidates.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to hearing from you. Our email address is [callcommittee@charitylutheran.org](mailto:callcommittee@charitylutheran.org).

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

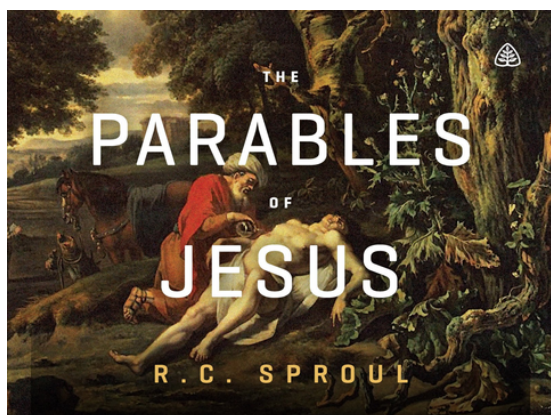
Call Committee questions can be emailed to:  
[callcommittee@charitylutheran.org](mailto:callcommittee@charitylutheran.org)

## May Events

### “The Parables of Jesus” Sunday Educational Offering

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

In this series, Dr. R.C. Sproul examines several parables of Jesus, exploring the rich truths they reveal about who Jesus is and what He came to achieve through His life, death, and resurrection.



### Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, May 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, May 11 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 Fellowship Hall. Contact Liz Landis at 258-1228 in the main office for more information.



### No Amazing Grays in May



## Stacy Walz - Cru Creative 1 Media

Hello Charity! My name is Stacy Walz, daughter of Al and the late Kathy Jaeger. I grew up attending church at Charity. My husband, Brian, and I live in Minot with our three sons Micah (8), Asher (6), and Noah (3). I work as graphic designer for Cru (originally founded as Campus Crusade for Christ) with their in-house media ministry team called Creative 1 Media.

As a team member of Creative 1 Media, I collaborate with designers, videographers, photographers, and web designers to produce beautiful and compelling material that accelerate the mission of Cru to connect people worldwide to the most beautiful message in the world, the love of God.

Recently I had the opportunity to design a prayer journal that is used by students going on summer mission trips. This prayer journal helps students dive deeper into their relationship with Christ and help them reflect on His word while serving on mission. I spent several months designing a printed book and app for a devotional study for Athletes in Action called *G2X - Gameplan to Multiply*. I've also collaborated with my team on designing promo materials for Cru conferences such as Winter Conference, Fall Retreats, and Bridges International Vision Conference. Creative 1 Media designs not only for Cru but for several of the ministries within Cru.

The video team with Creative 1 Media recently made a video called *The Whole Campus to the Whole World*. This video shares the heart and vision behind Cru. It's very moving, I encourage you to take a moment and watch. You can watch the video by scanning the QR code below or by going to <https://vimeo.com/892053691>.

I thank you, Charity Lutheran, for your continued support throughout the years. I am grateful to have the church home I grew up in as a ministry partner as together we share the love of Christ here and worldwide. If you feel led to give a special gift, you can do so at [give.cru.org/0861689](https://give.cru.org/0861689).



Scan the QR code to watch the video referenced above.

### 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!!



**Stacy Walz with her husband Brian and their children, Micah, Asher, and Noah**

# Seeking Someone to bring joy, creativity to Charity's flower beds, planters

**Laura Kourajian**

In your life, I hope, there are divine moments. Moments when God meets you right where you are. Moments that make memories you lean into when you need a lift.

During early spring some years ago, as Chad and I came into church from the west parking lot each Sunday, I noticed the raised flower beds on the south side of the church were unruly and full of weeds. This was a significant departure from their usual beauty.

"Someone really ought to take care of those beds," I thought to myself. "Spring is here. They should be cleaned up before summer sets in."

Every week, that same thought. Every week for three weeks, maybe a month. It took me that long to realize it didn't need to be my complaint but Someone else's job.

I needed to be that Someone.

Duane Bentz, a charter member, gardener, and landscaper at Charity, had been keeping those beds up ever since Tracey Leetun and a crew of faithful and diligent men, including Duane, relandscaped Charity's grounds. Tracey, an art teacher, designed the landscape, and the crew dedicated weeks of Saturdays to moving dirt, laying brick and planting trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Duane was giving up tending the flower beds, but marked the self-seeding annuals (black-eyed Susans, bachelor buttons, oxeye daisies and more) so when I pulled weeds I wouldn't pull the flowers, too.

I planned to tackle some of the job the following Saturday. I selfishly had no plan to do the full job. After all, there were other Someones who could help, too. This was the beginning of the first divine moment with these beds.

It rained most of the day before, which made me think (hope?) I might not be pulling weeds on Saturday if the rain continued. It didn't. So, I dug in. The soil was soft and giving, making weed pulling easy. Very easy.

After about an hour, I had cleared about a foot of the bed. Twelve inches. There were a lot of weeds. I decided I couldn't possibly finish the entire bed because I was a busy person and it was my day off and I had tasks at home to complete, but I would do what I could. Then Someone would have to finish.

Another hour, another 12 inches cleared. The messy flower bed was starting to look good, giving me a sense of fulfillment. Funny how that works.

I kept at it. It took about five hours in the warm Saturday sun. I finished and proudly looked back on my work. God had brought rain to soften the soil and had softened my selfish heart as well. His message was clear. It was a divine moment.

With lots of help from others at Charity, we have kept up those raised flower beds, always looking to glorify God and honor the work Tracey and his crew completed. Isn't Charity's landscaping beautiful?

My next divine moment came just before Duane and Darlene moved away several years ago.

It was a cool, gray, misty September morning. I had replaced the summer planting in the planters in front of the pillars with a fall arrangement, and I was planning to do a little fall cleanup on the beds. As I drove into the parking lot at Charity, I noticed Duane's pickup truck in the parking lot. Turns out, he had loaned it to someone, who had returned it to the church so Duane, who lived across the street, could retrieve it.

While doing that, he stopped to visit with me. What a delight for me! While we were visiting, Duane glanced over his shoulder at a car coming into the parking lot.

He paused in our conversation.

"Do you know who that is?" he asked me. I didn't.

"That's Tracey Leetun," he said, as surprised as I was to see him. Tracey and his wife were back in North Dakota, having moved away several years earlier, and while on their way to Grand Forks, he stopped at Charity to check on the landscaping.

**(Continued on page 10)**



**May 2**  
Penny Kaldor

**May 4**  
Carleen Carlson

**May 5**  
Emma Faragher

**May 6**  
Amara Baumeister  
Liberty Orn

**May 7**  
Alvina Fueller  
Don Nordquist

**May 10**  
Justin Schwarz  
Jan Selby

**May 13**  
Jaxon Smith

**May 14**  
Shelley Rowe

**May 17**  
Brad Allen

**May 18**  
Karen Swanson

**May 20**  
Kyler Bosch  
Sophia Okerson

**May 22**  
Debi Selby

**May 24**  
Brady Skjerseth  
Kris Morrissette

**May 26**  
Judy Smith

**May 27**  
Lisa Johnson

**May 29**  
Gary Fuchs

**May 31**  
Barrett Murray



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

- May 5** - Miles and Jo Cahoon
- May 10** - Ryan and Melissa Okerson
- May 11** - Ray and Sharon Schock
- May 16** - Clark and Lisa Johnson
- May 20** - Craig and Sandra Lohstreter
- May 22** - Noel and Marla Laxdal
- May 23** - Khalin and Tina Dendy
- May 24** - Richard and Andrea Collin
- May 26** - Doug and Jane Schulz
- May 27** - Arnold and Nancy Leno
- May 28** - Joe and Kris Morrissette





# stephen at Charity Lutheran MINISTRY.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY *by the* NUMBERS Celebrating 20 Years of Stephen Ministry at Charity Lutheran Church

# 13

Since Enrollment, we've sent a total of 13 members to be trained as Stephen Leaders at Stephen Ministries' regional training conferences.

Since beginning Stephen Ministry, over 190 hurting people have received Christ-centered care from Charity Lutheran Church Stephen Ministers.

# 190

# 20

Charity Lutheran Church has been enrolled as a Stephen Ministry Congregation since Jun 7, 2004.



The Stephen Leader team estimates that Stephen Ministry at Charity Lutheran Church has provided over 4250 hours of care!!

# 4250

# 49

Our Stephen Leaders have trained 49 lay Stephen Ministers to provide high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in our congregation and community.

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

# 10

To learn more about our Stephen Ministry, visit [charitylutheranchurch.org](http://charitylutheranchurch.org) or contact the church office.

## Seeking Someone...

(continued from page 7)

I was able to walk the grounds with Duane and Tracey. They told stories from their work on the landscaping. They approved of the changes we'd made over the years. They shared their wisdom.

That moment, that morning, I hold dearly in my heart.

I've had help from others at Charity (Marian Fluharty, Jeff Brown and my dear husband), and we have enjoyed taking care of the planters and the raised flower beds, planning each year for flowers, plants and colors we hope you will enjoy when you come into our church.

I think there may be Someone in our church who may enjoy it as much as I do, and the opportunity is there for Someone to take on all or part of this ministry. It truly is work that brings joy and offers unexpected divine moments.

If you are that Someone and would like to bring your creativity to Charity's flower beds and planters – no gardening experience necessary, we can train -- we would love to have you dig in this spring. Please visit with me, Doug or Liz. I can be reached at (701) 471-0075. Doug and Liz can be reached at the church, 701-258-1228.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

**WOW**  
Bon Voyage

ICE CREAM SUNDAES FOR DESSERT!

OUTDOOR GAMES IN THE UPPER PARKING LOT FOR ALL AGES

Wednesday, May 8

5:00 p.m. Meal (hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans & chips)  
6:15-7:30 p.m. Outdoor games

**All Charity families are invited to attend the WOW Bon Voyage on May 8!**

thank  
you

We are incredibly thankful to all of our amazing volunteers who helped with our children's and youth programming! Thank you for giving of your time to help our young people learn more about their faith and grow closer to Jesus. We also thank everyone who served on the WOW meal team to offer delicious meals each week.

**Vacation Bible School 2024 June 3-6  
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

PLEASE SEE THE BACK COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO REGISTER

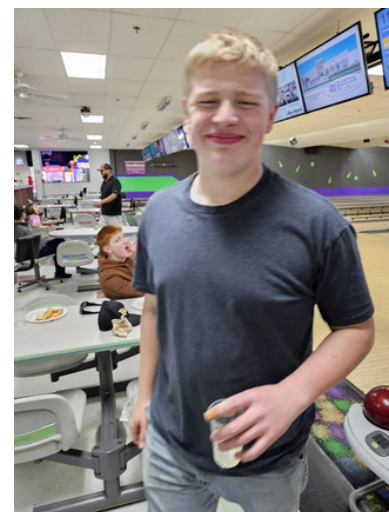


It takes a lot of wonderful volunteers to make VBS a success. If you are interested in helping coordinate or volunteer in any capacity, please email Jennifer Braun at [jennifer.braun@charitylutheran.org](mailto:jennifer.braun@charitylutheran.org).

# Middle School & High School Bowling Night



Charity youth in grades 6-12 enjoyed a fun night of bowling at Midway Lanes!





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## CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 Aspen Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503

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

Email: [contact@charitylutheran.org](mailto:contact@charitylutheran.org)

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

## Announcing Vacation Bible School 2024

June 3-6

6:00-8:00 p.m.



OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS SCUBA!  
"DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD"

Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about and experience the never-ending love of God.



Scan the QR code to register or visit the homepage of our website and click on the scrolling slide.

