



November 2022



Pastor Brad Miller

GOOD NEWS

Intentional Interim Senior Pastor Brad Miller From the Pastor

We have a rare challenge in seeking the next Senior Pastor for Charity. First, Charity really is a unique cross-cultural faith hybrid. Describing that hybrid accurately – without scaring away most candidates – is one challenge. Second, the narrative that is beginning to circulate within the LCMC will be most unhelpful to us. We need to create positive impressions among our candidate pool by shaping the perceptions about Charity. A mere Public Relations campaign would be futile. We need to accomplish things that reestablish Charity as a missional leader:

- Ukraine Mission Trip
- Conference on Evangelism: λογιστικό φύλλο AND πνεύματος αγίου
- Israel/Jordan May 2023 Learning & Mission Trip

The Ukraine Mission Trip will be mid-December. We are inviting the participation (funding, prayers, colored Christmas cards to deliver) of every LCMC and NALC church in the USA and Canada. The trip will go into Ukraine if possible, but if not would minister in refugee camps near the border. We would distribute food aid in the camps and Christmas cards that are hand decorated. We would distribute challenge coins and prayer cards to the military. This would follow the successful model that was used in Iraq with ISIS refugees and NPU soldiers.

The Conference on Evangelism will be in January. It will focus on the intersection of pragmatic evangelism tools (like metrics) and the very real but more abstract guidance of the Holy Spirit. The target audience will be pastors and church leaders passionate about the overlap of these topics. We will have fun with: "you've always wanted an excuse to visit ND in January." We will offer time and space for a meeting to restart the Evangelical Renewal District – if sufficient interest exists.

(continued on page 4)

EVENTS

Tuesday, November 8
Amazing Grays
6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 18
Pinochle Group
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 19
Quilting Group
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 23
Thanksgiving Service
6:15 p.m.

Sunday, November 27
No Sunday School
1st Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, November 30
Winter WOW Finale
5:00 p.m.

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

Evangelism in "Missions"

On a recent Sunday in October, Charity Lutheran was blessed to host a couple of mission organizations that we've supported over the years. We heard from the Overseas Council, with El Ahlwardt and Josue Fernandez, their new executive director, and we also heard from Pastor Bob Nordvall, representing the Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia. Both organizations are raising up future Christian pastors and ministry leaders and workers, and we are thankful that a new connection has been made between the two organizations.

Evangelism is simply spreading and preaching the good news of the Gospel. Charity has supported local and global evangelism to a great extent for a most of its existence. In the preamble to Charity's constitution, there are eight areas that our congregation is called to, and two of them speak specifically to evangelism:

- 1. Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ** - referencing Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- 2. Witness to the community, nation, and world** - referencing 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

As a faith family, we at Charity Lutheran will continue to build on its calling "to the community, nation, and world" by witnessing outside the walls of our building on north Washington Street.



Doug Leet

In upcoming newsletters, we will also explore how Charity can build on its calling to be that "shelter in Christ, transforming lives" inside and outside the walls of that same building. There are six other areas that are mentioned in the preamble to the constitution that we will cover in upcoming newsletters that will provide a solid foundation and focus for this congregation as we continue to move forward in our transition to calling the next senior pastor.

Please pray about your role in this faith family we call Charity, and how you can become involved to a greater extent over the next weeks and months. In regards to evangelism, whether it's by helping to aid those that are suffering in the Ukraine, by volunteering to put on a conference on evangelism at Charity towards the beginning of the year, or by considering being a part of a mission trip to Israel in the spring. And there will be different ways in other areas too, for all of us to pitch in and serve as we work to "spread the good news of the Gospel" and be that "shelter in Christ, transforming lives."

Financial Report

Sept. Actual Income	\$54,114
Sept. Budgeted Income	<u>\$103,262</u>
Difference	\$49,148
Sept. Actual Income	\$54,114
Sept. Actual Expense	<u>\$69,890</u>
Difference	\$15,776
YTD Actual Income	\$729,648
YTD Budgeted Income	<u>\$929,361</u>
Difference	\$199,713
YTD Actual Income	\$729,648
YTD Actual Expense	<u>\$733,808</u>
Difference	\$4,160



NOVEMBER VISION COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings Charity family! Please take a moment to read the Call Committee update on this page. As always, any questions for the Vision Council can be emailed to vision.council@charitylutheran.org, and any questions for the Call Committee can be emailed to callcommittee@charitylutheran.org.

Also, most likely you have received a letter in the mail this past week that includes a form to complete and return to Charity. Please read the letter, complete the form, and return to Charity in the enclosed return envelope by Monday, November 14. There is also a box at Charity for you to drop off the completed form. Additional forms available in Charity's office if needed.

God's richest blessings to you!

On behalf of Charity's Vision Council

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

CHARITY CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Call Committee met twice in October and will meet again on November 7. We are working with the Vision Council on coordinating a timeline for calling the new senior pastor, which will include initiating posting of the position opening on the LCMC website and at other locations.

We are also working on developing a final budget for the call process and updating the job description and congregation profile. Andrea Collin attended the LCMC Annual Gathering in Lakeville, Minnesota, in early October and visited with others from across the country about their experiences calling a new pastor.

Please reach out to us either individually or through our email at callcommittee@charitylutheran.org. We ask for your continued prayers for our congregation and the call process. Call Committee members - Beth Allen, Andrea Collin, Melissa Hill, Laura Kourajian and Scott Carter.

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

From the Pastor

(continued from page 1)

The Israel/Jordan Learning & Mission Trip will be next May. It will include roughly 6 days of learning at key Biblical sites in Israel and then 3 days of service project in northern Jordan among Syrian refugees. We would emphasize our deep commitment to the truth and power of Holy Scripture and demonstrate our love for neighbor through service.

Our office staff are getting the word out about these events to centrist Lutheran churches and pastors across North America. We need your help to carry out these vital projects. Visit the new Missions display in the fellowship area for updates. Pray for each event. Consider participating in or helping to fund these worthwhile activities.

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.*"



PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

prayer.chain@charitylutheran.org

Sandy Seedorf has volunteered to be Charity's Email Prayer Chain Coordinator. Her cell phone number is 701-426-9802 and personal email is: sandyseedorf1@gmail.com in the event you cannot email the prayer chain email address. If you would like to be added to this ministry or no longer wish to be on this vital and needed prayer chain, please get in contact with Sandy by prayer chain email or phone.

A reminder of HIPPA regulations, any email prayer chain request must have the permission of the individual or family to post an email prayer chain request.

November Office Closures



Ukraine Mission Trip

The humanitarian needs in and near Ukraine right now are vast. Charity is preparing to respond using the model that Pastor Miller refined while working in Iraq in the midst of the ISIS occupation of Mosul.

Because the situation in Ukraine is under constant change, some of these details will likely change or be adapted:



- Christmas Trip – Christmas is a hard time to be in a refugee camp far away from home. Hence, the weeks before Christmas are an excellent time to visit and bring the encouragement of the Good News alongside of practical humanitarian relief.
- Christmas Cards – We will hand-deliver Christmas Cards that are printed in the local language with the Christmas story from St. Luke, but are hand decorated with crayons or colored pencils.
- Direct Aid – We want to collect as many funds as possible to use primarily for delivering additional food assistance to refugees in the weeks just before Christmas. We all know how important traditional foods are in our household family traditions. Imagine being far away from your kitchen, your recipes, and your job (that pays for those special ingredients). Just a little extra protein or special holiday bread can be incredibly meaningful to families that have been displaced by war.
- Military Challenge Coins – We want to give the encouragement of Holy Scripture to those who are in the fight to save their country. We will create and distribute custom coins featuring the Full Armor of God from Ephesians 6, plus prayer cards in two languages.

Mission Sunday Speakers

We thank our speakers who shared their stories about their Mission Organizations on Sunday, October 23rd as we celebrated Mission Sunday.



El Ahlwardt



Josue Fernandez



Pastor Bob Nordvall

The Thankful Tree

Off the top of your head, can you list four things you are thankful for right now? The first four things that come to mind for me are my husband, our daughter, my faith, and my health.

But those are givens, right?

Of course, we are thankful for a loving family and good health. But what if we really dig deep and think about how God has specifically blessed us within the past month or this past year?

When you take the time to see the blessings you have in your life, your heart will be filled with gratitude.

This November at Charity Lutheran, we will have a "Thankful Tree" on display. We invite you to take a leaf, write a message about what you are thankful for and place it on the branches. No matter how difficult life seems at times, we always have something to be grateful for. As 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

We look forward to seeing our Charity Lutheran Thankful Tree blossom with leaves full of gratitude in thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Let's choose thankfulness together for the next 30 days.



Jennifer Braun

Upcoming Bible Studies



Sunday

10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class |
The Book of Daniel Begins Nov. 6 |
Kathy Wermager, 701-390-7587 | kathywermager@q.com

"Beginning Experience, a non-denomination peer ministry, is conducting 'The Weekend' for those who have lost a love relationship by death, separation or divorce on November 18-20, 2022 at the Abbey in Richardton. Contact Elaine at 701-400-1941 for more information. This program is open to people of all faiths.

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
The Book of Genesis begins Tuesday, November 15th |
The only book you will need is your Bible | Sandy Seedorf
701-426-9802 | sandyseedorf1@gmail.com

Genesis is the "seed plot" of the Bible. This is where we find the beginning, the source, the birth of everything. The book of Genesis is just like the bud of a beautiful rose, and it opens out into the rest of the Bible. From the first mention of Jesus, the accounts of Genesis all point to God's promise to redeem and bless His people.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along

Sunday, December 4

2:00 p.m.

Charity Lutheran Church

Event is open to anyone who loves to sing along or hear Christmas carols and holiday music! Words are projected up on screen. Led by Fueller sisters, Lorri Mittleider and Christie Neumiller. Please feel free to bring Christmas goodies to share during coffee fellowship. The offering taken is for Heaven's Helpers Soup Café.



Bring or invite your family and friends for a fun hour of song!



November 1

Taya Bauman

November 2

Charles Little

November 3

Sheri Buntrock
Christian Skjod
Edward Stoeckel

November 4

John Seedorf

November 6

Jeff Brown
Rob Erickson
Brady Korsmo
Tressa Lindsay
Eloise Sullivan
Justin Theel

November 7

Irelyn Duffy
Craig Keidel
Jaxon Miller
Brenda Reems
Ethan Schlecht

November 8

Marian Fluharty
Clark Johnson
Zach Pulver
Connor Wrolstad

November 9

Brad Hoffman

November 10

Sharon Zempel

November 11

Khalila White
Lightening

November 12

Linda Bucholz
McKenzie Dahle
Patricia Dwyer
Michael Fluharty
Tanya Lasher
Noel Laxdal
Sandy Seedorf

November 13

Elaine Magstadt
Nellie White
Lightening

November 14

Robert Bauer
Scott Wegner

November 16

Meghan Dohrmann
Tyler Giffey

November 17

Brahnan Heidt

November 18

Lexie Allen
Ron Mathern
Stanley Miller
Jakob Schmid

November 19

Sean Korsmo
Sybil Oakland
Kenneth Slag
Shea Theel
Charmaine Wehmhoefer

November 21

Noah Abonna
Clay Feland

November 23

Tamara Neumiller

November 24

Larry Hjemeland
Monica Lang
Jeremy Lasher
Ronald Rosenvold

November 26

Chris Bitz
Ruth Erickson
Barb Lee

November 27

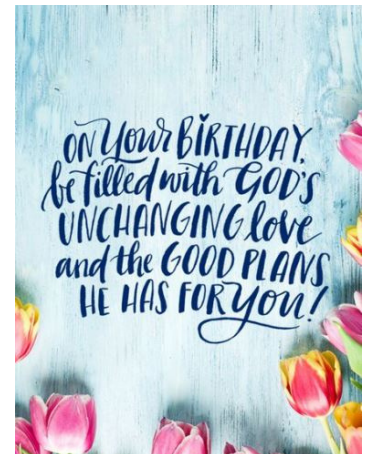
Joshua Kuhn
Linda Mathern

November 28

Lily Giffey

November 29

David Jensen



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



November 2 - Craig and Sarah Erickson

November 3 - Ray and Monica Eckroth

November 3 - Zach and Kristina Vincent

November 7 - Austin and Kayla Wiest

November 9 - Jim and Velvet Schmidt

November 13 - Adam and Kelsey Bartholomew

November 22 - Morris and Jocelynn Duffy

November 28 - Matthew and Kelsey Nisbet

November 29 - Ardean and Diana Harstad

November 29 - Doug and Kathy Hrubby



stephen MINISTRY.



(l-r): Scott & Connie Carter, Connie & Ken Geiger

Please continue to pray for our Stephen Ministry trainees as they continue their journey of learning, growing, and connecting with God.

AMAZING GRAYS

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. for a catered dinner.



Our entertainment that night will be the Braveheart Band. They sing a variety of music and the band raises money for families who have children with cancer. In 15 years, not a single band member has taken a cent. All band proceeds go to charity. **Please let Renee Walz know if you plan to attend by Sunday evening, November 6, so she can order food Monday morning, November 7. Please RSVP to Renee at 400-1201 by text or phone call.**

*****Others from the Congregation are welcome to join us at 6:45 for the band entertainment. Please come prepared to donate to this amazing group so they can help more families.**

A Stephen Ministry Story

Sent by God, Just for Me

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

She was patient, loving, and accepting.

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you.

Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.

Contact the Charity office if you need a Stephen Minister

QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, November 19 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.



PINOCHLE GROUP

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768.



Middle School Youth Group

A game of kickball quickly turned into a moment of the kids taking charge and helping Scott Carter load up tree branches to be hauled away. Thank you to our young people who stepped up to help. Many hands make light work and your efforts did not go unnoticed!!





Charity Students & Kids Ministry to hold a Collection Drive this November

Please help make an amazing impact in our community by bringing donations to the marked boxes by each entrance and the kids welcome desk during the month of November!

Give joyfully

Charity Students and Kids ministries are holding a food and household/hygiene item collection during November to help fill the shelves of local food pantries for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Please help us make an amazing impact by bringing donations to the marked boxes located by every entrance and the Kids welcome desk any time in November!



items of greatest need:

SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR OF ALL SIZES, HATS AND GLOVES, DIAPERS AND UNSCENTED BABY WIPES, TOOTHBRUSHES AND TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT, BODY WASH, SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, COMBS AND HAIR BRUSHES, FEMININE HYGIENE ITEMS, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS, CLEANING SUPPLIES, CAN OPENERS, CANNED FISH AND MEATS, WHOLE GRAIN PASTAS, PASTA SAUCES NOT IN GLASS CONTAINERS, BROWN RICE, COOKING OILS, NUT BUTTERS, JAMS AND JELLIES, CANNED SOUPS AND STEWS, INSTANT POTATOES, STUFFING MIX, GRAVIES, SEASONINGS, CONDIMENTS, CAKE MIX AND FROSTING WITH BIRTHDAY CANDLES.

Dates to Remember:

- No WOW November 23rd.
- No Sunday School November 27th.
- Winter WOW Finale November 30th, WOW will resume January 11th, 2023.

Charity Kids Christmas Service

SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH



CHARITY KIDS AND STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND SERVICE WITH THEIR SINGING VOICES READY & DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS BEST FOR OUR KID'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH.

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!



Help us welcome our newest members to Charity Lutheran. These families completed the steps to become a part of our family. New member Sunday was held October 9.



Nathaniel and Melissa Oakland and their kids; Ethan, Isaac, and Hannah



James and Alissa Demke and their son, Brock



Gary and Nancy Fuchs



Dustin and Jessi Herz and their kids; LilliAnne and Sohpia

Opportunities to Serve the Church

Kids and Student Ministry

Kids and Student Ministry is a vital part of our faith life at Charity Lutheran. Volunteering is a wonderful way you can do Our Lord's work. We are looking for help on Wednesday nights as well as Sunday mornings. If you would be able to volunteer, please contact Jessi Herz at jessi.herz@charitylutheran.org.

Music Ministry

Are you looking to share your musical talents here at Charity? Music is an integral part of worship. If you are a vocalist or instrumentalist, and would like to learn more about participating, please contact Jennifer Braun at jennifer.braun@charitylutheran.org.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit # 353
Bismarck, ND 58503

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

Please Join Us

Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 23rd

6:15 p.m.