



November 2023



**Pastor Ron Dahle**

## GOOD NEWS

### From Pastor Ron Dahle

#### **How about giving thanks where it belongs?**

Philippians 4:6

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

I don't know about you, but there are many times in my life that I have let things – even good things – take my mind away from what actually is the most important thing above all! That is, giving thanks to God for all the blessings that come my way – that I tend to take for granted! Can you relate to this?

This is not to say that there are not adverse things that happen in life.

We must not overlook things that come our way that are just beyond our understanding! Why... comes to mind. Why, Lord, did this have to come my way?? That is normal for us, but we have to realize that God looks at both our spiritual lives, as well as, our physical lives. First and foremost, God has provided everything that we need spiritually. There is nothing left out. God gives us, who believe in Jesus, the gift of faith in Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Look at Ephesians 2:8-9.

This Holy Spirit of God is given to us, and for us, as a gift from God. We are called by the Gospel of Jesus, and the Spirit has the ability to soften the most stubborn heart, to believe in Jesus, through this proclamation. At that point, we are given the gifts to serve.

Good works, done in God's name are a natural outcome of faith in Jesus. Our belief in God will change our perspectives in this life. We are no longer identified by circumstances in this life, but by faith in God.

Now, we are ready to understand what Paul writes to the Philippians – "Do not worry about anything..." The gift that comes is Peace. Not just any old peace, but the Peace of God!

**(continued on page 4)**

## EVENTS

\*\*\*Office Closed November 10 and 23 for holiday observances

Sunday, November 5  
**Confirmation**  
9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 14  
**Amazing Grays**  
6:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, November 18  
**Quilting Group**  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 22  
**Thanksgiving Service**  
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 26  
**NO Sunday School**  
**Educational Offering-Yes**

## Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

### Back to the Future

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NASB)  
But examine everything  
*carefully*; hold fast to that which is  
good."

By the time you receive Charity's  
November newsletter,  
Reformation Sunday will be  
behind us. As Charity continues to  
move forward, we need to be  
forward looking too, and not so  
much looking backwards.  
Although that doesn't always need  
to be the case.

G.K. Chesterton referred to  
tradition as being "the democracy  
of the dead." He wrote, "Tradition  
means giving votes to the most  
obscure of all classes, our  
ancestors. It is the democracy of  
the dead." Russel Kirk explains this  
more in his book, "The Shoulders  
of Giants," "In deciding any  
important moral or political  
question, Chesterton writes, we  
have the obligation to consult the  
considered opinions of the wise  
men who have preceded us in  
time. We owe these dead an  
immense debt, and their ballots  
deserve to be counted. Thus, we  
have no right simply to decide any  
question by what the momentary  
advantage may be to us privately:  
we have the duty of respecting the  
wisdom of our ancestors; and also  
we have the duty of respecting the  
rights of posterity, the generations  
that are to come after us."

One more quote, "Tradition is the  
living faith of the dead,  
traditionalism is the dead faith of  
the living." Jaroslav Pelikan

So, what does this  
have to do with  
Charity? There are  
things and events that  
have been valued in  
the past that are  
worth holding on to,  
and in some cases  
resurrecting. On  
Reformation Sunday,  
the Reformation

Banner is again displayed in our  
sanctuary, reminding us of the Biblical  
principles of the Reformation: Faith Alone,  
Grace Alone, Christ Alone, and Word  
Alone, as were expressed on this page in  
the October newsletter. And Luther's  
hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" will  
again have been sung in our worship  
service on that day.

Pastor Ron Dahle has expressed the  
importance of the seasons of Advent and  
Lent in the annual church calendar. An  
exciting development at Charity is the  
resurrecting of Advent Family Fun Night in  
2023. Mark your calendars for December  
3, the first Sunday in Advent. All ages will  
want to attend this event, but especially  
families with kids. It will be an enjoyable  
time for everyone, with cookie decorating,  
lefse-making stations, Christmas card  
decorating, creating Advent Candle logs,  
from 4-5:30 p.m. Then from 5:30-6:30 a  
light Fellowship Supper, concluding with  
prayer. What a way to start the season of  
Advent, together as a faith family! In 2024  
we may add back our wonderful tradition  
of creating a Charity Advent devotional.  
Start thinking about that now. Starting  
mid-year, we will begin soliciting  
contributions from Charity members for  
the devotional.



**Doug Leet**

## Financial Report

<b>Sept. Actual Income</b>	<b>\$51,472</b>
<b>Sept. Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$73,849</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$22,377</b>

<b>Sept. Actual Income</b>	<b>\$51,472</b>
<b>Sept. Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,374</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$13,098</b>

<b>YTD Actual Income</b>	<b>\$474,150</b>
<b>YTD Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$664,642</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$190,492</b>

<b>YTD Actual Income</b>	<b>\$474,150</b>
<b>YTD Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$473,266</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$884</b>

"And let us consider how to stir up one  
another to love and good works, not  
neglecting to meet together, as is the  
habit of some, but encouraging one  
another, and all the more as you see the  
Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25  
(NIV)

# Vision Council Update

Greetings from the Vision Council. Fall is here with all the color and beautiful sunsets. It seems like it has been an especially nice fall this year. With school, work, and all of the church activities I hope you have been able to still find time to enjoy and appreciate it.

The Vision Council met on October 17th and it was a busy meeting again. I am pleased to announce that Clark Johnson and Sarah Erickson have agreed to serve on the Call Committee and their appointment was confirmed at our last meeting. If you get the chance, please thank them and keep them along with all of the committee members in your prayers.

A large portion of the meeting was also spent sorting through the 2024 budget. I am pleased with the progress made and feel comfortable we will have a good, proposed budget to review with you at the next informational meeting. We are tentatively planning that for December 3rd and the Annual Voter's meeting on January 7th, 2024.

I would also like to mention how pleased the entire Council was to see the large attendance at the Informational meeting that was held on October 1st. It is always encouraging to see the participation and receive input from members. As our 2024 budget continues to be developed through November, please contact any of the council members or staff with ideas or suggestions you may have. You may also use the Vision Council email to reach out. The email address is [vision.council@charitylutheran.org](mailto:vision.council@charitylutheran.org)

As we enter 2024, we are also looking to reorganize our worship team. As in many other areas of our church that has needed to return to a more volunteer driven ministry, we are feeling the need to move the worship ministry in the same direction. I do not have a lot of detail to offer here but staff and the Council will be reaching out for ideas, suggestions, and people gifted in this area. If you feel a call or tug on your heart to help out in this area, we would love to hear from you.

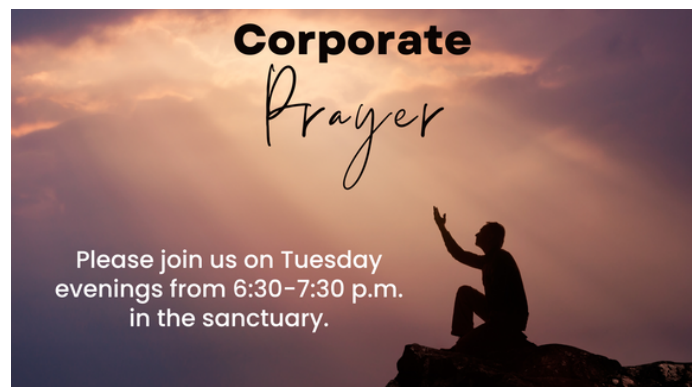
I will close as usual with a reminder about corporate prayer every Tuesday night at 6:30. Thank you to all of those who have been joining us and for those who can't make it in, remember God hears us wherever we are, so even if you can't be there, please say a short prayer lifting up our church and the larger body of Christ while giving thanks to God for being a part of his Kingdom.

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)

We are built by God to Worship God – to live in relationship with God. If God is absent in our lives, we will worship – other gods – usually, self becomes our god. When this is true, self gets to choose the rules, and becomes judge of everything, including God! This does not end well! It is not a real kingdom!

So, when we come to faith in Jesus, God can, and does, give us His Peace. Verse 7 says it all, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

We hope and pray that your Month of November can focus on Giving Thanks to God! When you welcome the message of the Gospel in the midst of things that are difficult to understand, and keep on trusting God for His blessings, Joy will be given by the Holy Spirit. May your Month be blessed with the Joy and Peace that comes from God.

-Pastor Ron Dahle

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## Charity Call Committee Report

Thanks to everyone who provided positive feedback after our report during the congregational information meeting last month. Your input is always appreciated.

We are sorry to have Beth Allen leave our committee, but have welcomed two new members, Sarah Erickson and Clark Johnson. Our congregation owes a huge amount of gratitude to Beth for all she has done over the past two years as head of this committee. Please thank her next time you see her. We look forward to the gifts Sarah and Clark are bringing to our work as we move forward.

At our October 18 meeting we elected Andrea Collin to head the committee. We also conducted a Zoom interview with an applicant for the pastor position. A second Zoom interview will be held on November 1, and following that we will decide our next steps with this candidate.

The revisions to the pastor job position are complete and we hope to be able to post it again on ours and the LCMC website very soon.

As always, we ask for your continued prayers for God's guidance as we move ahead with this process. Please reach out with any questions, comments or concerns at [callcommittee@charitylutheran.org](mailto:callcommittee@charitylutheran.org).

Call Committee members - Sarah Erickson, Clark Johnson, Melissa Hill, Laura Kourajian, Scott Carter, and Andrea Collin.

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



# November Events

## Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays will meet for our final meeting of 2023 on November 14 at 6:00 p.m. for a wonderful dinner catered by Ole & Otto's Catering (David Bjork).



Following dinner we will go into the Sanctuary for a sing-a-long with Lorri Mittleider singing some Thanksgiving and Christmas songs since we do not meet in December.

**Please let Renee know if you plan to attend (701-400-1201) by Saturday evening (Nov. 11) so she can get a final count to David.**

## Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768. **December 15 is the next evening.**



## Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, November 18 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. **December 16 is the next quilting date.**



"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 17-19, 2023 at the Abbey in Richardton. Contact Elaine at 701-400-1941 for more information. This program is open to people of all faiths.



## Other Dates to Remember:

- No WOW November 22.
- No Sunday School November 26.
- Winter WOW Finale December 6.

## November Office Closures



## New Educational Offering

**Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Began Sept. 29**  
**"Luther & the Reformation"**



Centuries after his death, Martin Luther is celebrated as an intellectual giant; a man who stood against popes and emperors in defense of the gospel. He was a brave opponent of the corruption that had infiltrated the Roman Catholic church. Plan to attend this study series that includes a 23-minute video followed with discussion. Learn what led Luther to make a courageous stance for the gospel in the 16th century. "Here I stand; I can do no other."

**\*\*\*This is a 10 week session.**

**Please stop by the welcome desk to sign up.**



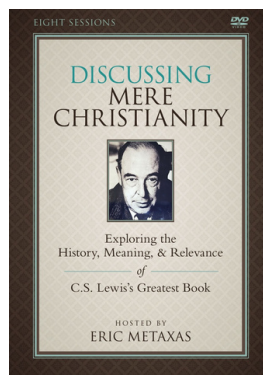
**Wednesday**  
**Educational Offering**  
**6:15 p.m.**

### SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND:

Join us for this unique study that used the Bible as a textbook. Gain new insights into God's Word through 40 easy-to-understand lessons - each with a custom picture to help you learn key biblical concepts. As you draw closer to God, you will discover more peace, joy and a greater sense of His purpose in your life.

## New Men's Bible Study

7:45 p.m. Men's Bible Study | Began Nov. 1 |  
 "Discussing Mere Christianity" | Books available for purchase | Please contact John Seedorf, 701-426-9768 or Ray Eckroth, 701-989-0329 for more information. This is an 8 week study.



## Introducing the



Plant a single potato, give it time to grow and it will produce multiple potatoes. So it is with any memorial, honorarium, donation or gift to the TRUST FUND. It grows and lasts forever while producing earnings for gifting. With a single donation become a SPUD CLUB MEMBER for 2023. Donate now and your name will remain on this list for the year!!

### 2023 Spud Club Members

Mark & Lisa Aamodt  
 Duane & Darlene Bentz  
 Scott & Connie Carter  
 Alvina Fueller  
 Ken & Connie Geiger  
 Jeff & Rose Gitter  
 Donavon Hatzenbuhler  
 Dave & Nancy Jensen  
 Matt & Penny Kaldor  
 Georgia Kingsbury  
 Chad & Laura Kourajian  
 Mark & Liz Landis  
 Dave & Barb Lee  
 Doug & Rhonda Leet  
 Wayne & Marie Levang  
 Craig & Sandra Lohstreter  
 Brad & Pam Miller  
 Don & Kathy Nordquist  
 Ken & Julie Slag  
 John & Sandy Seedorf  
 Norlyn & Patty Swenson  
 Jerry & Renee Walz  
 Kathy Wermager

# Lutherans for Life of North Dakota

## L. Jay Reinke

Greetings to Charity Lutheran from Lutherans for Life of North Dakota,

As the newest member of the ND Lutherans for Life Exec. Committee, I want to thank Charity Lutheran for the leadership it has shown in faithfully bearing witness to the sanctity of life in years past. Charity has been an example for other churches to follow. I also want to invite you to help re-launch the BisMan chapter of LFL at a planning meeting on Thursday, Nov. 2, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Bethel Lutheran. Youth and adults are invited.

On Friday, Oct. 6, three members from Charity joined with other local Lutherans for the 2023 North Dakota March for Life. After Matins worship at Zion Lutheran, about 30 children and adults walked to the ND State Capitol, where we joined hundreds who marched from the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Together we testified to the sanctity of all life.

In effect, the March for Life served as a kick-off for LFL in Bismarck. In the coming months, a number of LFL projects will roll out, including an invite to Bismarck-area youth to join in a book production/social media campaign called "The Yopp Project" (a title that comes from the Dr. Seuss Classic, "Horton Hears a Who," with its famous refrain, "A person's a person no matter how small.").

From mini-research projects, to fictional short stories, to writing and illustrating a short children's book, all published together in a single volume, our youth will be a pro-life voice. Students will also generate social media videos, songs, or otherwise speak a pro-life message via TikTok, Instagram, or their preferred social media platform. "The Yopp Project" will launch March 25, the Annunciation, when we remember that Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, working through God's word, spoken by the angel Gabriel.

Thank you, Charity, from LFL for your service. I hope you can join us Nov. 2, 6:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church on 615 E Turnpike Ave in Bismarck.

L. Jay Reinke



Among those photographed are Scott and Connie Carter as they marched for life on October 6 in Bismarck.





**November 3**  
Christian Skjod

**November 9**  
Brad Hoffman

**November 4**  
John Seedorf

**November 10**  
Gene Anderson

**November 6**  
Jeff Brown  
Tressa Lindsay  
Kaiden Ternes

**November 12**  
Michael Fluharty  
Noel Laxdal  
Sandy Seedorf

**November 7**  
Craig Keidel  
Jaxon Miller  
Ethan Schlecht

**November 14**  
Robert Bauer

**November 8**  
Marian Fluharty  
Clark Johnson

**November 16**  
Madilyn Bergrud

**November 17**  
Colter Senske

**November 18**  
Lexie Allen  
Ron Mathern

**November 19**  
Sybil Oakland  
Kenneth Slag

**November 24**  
Monica Lang  
Ronald Rosenvold

**November 25**  
Maria Skjerseth

**November 26**  
Chris Bitz  
Barb Lee

**November 27**  
Joshua Kuhn  
Linda Mathern

**November 29**  
David Jensen

**November 30**  
Bailey Amundson



**November 2** - Craig and Sarah Erickson  
**November 3** - Ray and Monica Eckroth

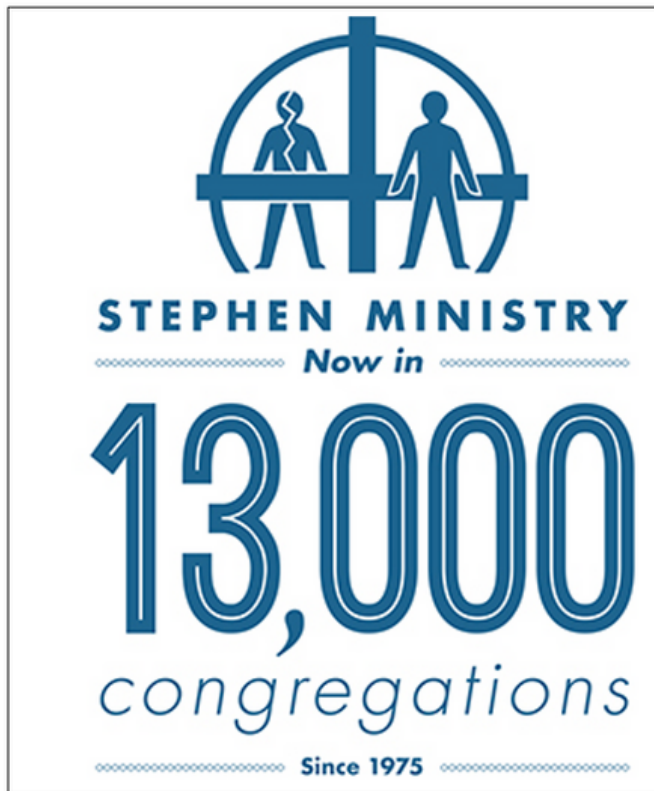




# stephen at Charity Lutheran MINISTRY.

## The Blessings of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and community.



Congregations carry out Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you" (*John 15:12 RSV*) in a powerful and practical way.

Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.

Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.

People who are hurting have a caring Christian presence provides emotional and spiritual support.

In short, Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of the church.

Our Church – Charity Lutheran

Call the Church Office at 258-1228 if you would like a Stephen Minister to walk with you through your hurts.

# Operation Christmas Child



This fall, Charity will be collecting boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

How can you help?

1. A \$10.00 gift will cover the cost to ship one box.
2. Return a filled shoebox, affix the label, and scan the QR code or visit the website to pay for shipping and activate your label.

\*\*\*Shoeboxes, age labels and shipping labels are all across from the elevator. We also have lists of suggested items to fill the boxes with.

Filled boxes need to be returned no later than Sunday, November 12, 2023 to the Charity church office so they can be shipped out.



## Christmas Carol Sing-Along

**Sunday, December 10**

**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.

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC SING-ALONG

**Sunday, December 10**

**2:00 p.m.**

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

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



# Servant Leadership Night for Charity Youth



Charity youth helped clean areas of the church and helped move stuff out of the storage unit on October 25.  
THANK YOU!



For the purpose of activities and food preparation, please RSVP by scanning the QR code above or sign up at the welcome desk.



Scan QR Code  
to RSVP

## Advent Family Fun Night

Sunday, December 3  
4:00-6:30 p.m.

4:00-5:30 p.m.

cookie decorating,  
lefse-making stations,  
Christmas card  
decorating, creating  
Advent Candle logs

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Light Fellowship  
Supper, concluding  
with prayer.

All ages will want to attend this event, but especially families with kids. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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

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

Please Join Us 

Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 22

7:00 p.m.