



October 2023



**Pastor Ron Dahle**

# GOOD NEWS

## From Pastor Ron Dahle

### A BRIEF REVIEW OF WHY WE CELEBRATE REFORMATION SUNDAY

While the rest of the world celebrates a spooky holiday, the Lutheran Christian community, for the most part, celebrates Reformation Day; although, admittedly, many Lutherans have lost sight of the reasons behind the Reformation. Martin Luther's study of the scripture led him to a path he recognized as religious truth and salvation. He disagreed with the church's teachings of the Bible, with the priests serving as intermediaries between the Bible and the laity. He also strongly disagreed with the sale of indulgences whose proceeds were used to rebuild the church.

Luther is said to have posted his 'Ninety-five Theses' (95 points of discussion within the academic community in which he served as a teacher), on the door of the Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. This was on the eve of All Saints' Day. This became the traditional day for remembering the start of the Reformation.

Many opposed the movements of the church, but Martin Luther brought it to light and sought reformation within the church. His theses gave grounds for people to question the church; it was a time of large religious and social change.

Luther preached reformation, but his thesis was warped for political, social, and economic reasons by various emerging leaders of the movement. This brought about a fractionalization in the Roman Catholic Church and the emergence of the Protestant Reformation. Reformation Day is recognized by a number of communities around the world, especially the Protestants. It is an official holiday in most German states and seeks to celebrate the significant religious reforms brought on by "The 95 Theses." Reformation Day stands by truth and the Bible as the sole source of religious authority.

**(continued on page 4)**

## EVENTS

Sunday, October 8  
**Gospel Sing-Along**  
2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10  
**Amazing Grays**  
6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 20  
**Pinochle Night**  
6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 27  
**Halloween Movie Night**  
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 28  
**Quilting Group**  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 29  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
9:30 a.m.

# Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

## Lift Up a Banner!

Displaying banners in churches is not a twentieth century invention. In fact, Scripture mentions their use repeatedly in both the Old and New Testaments. In writing for Reformed Worship, Doreen Kellogg lists five ways that banners are used in a meaningful way as we gather and worship:

**Banners Identify Us** Early on in the Bible in Numbers 1 and 2 God tells the children of Israel to camp in tribal groups around the tabernacle and erect banners to identify their clans.

**Banners Call Us to Gather and Proclaim the Truth** "In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious." Isaiah 11:10 During the four Sundays of Advent, Charity displays a banner, "From the stump of Jesse," in the form of four weekly wall panels that beautifully depict the lineage of Jesus from Jesse, David's father.

**Banners Guide Us in Our Spiritual Battles** "Lift up a banner in the land! Blow the trumpet among the nations!" Jeremiah 51:27 Christians need encouragement as we face spiritual battles.

**Banners Announce Our Victory** "We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God." Psalm 20:5

**Banners Keep the Truth Before Us** Banners can help to be visual reminders of God's presence, God's truth, God's ways, and God's promises. Charity has used a variety of banners as visual reminders. From the Holy, Holy, Holy banner along the west wall, to the altar cloths, or paraments, to celebrate liturgical seasons.

A favorite are the bright cloths that are displayed on the altar, baptismal font, and lectern during Pentecost.

A banner that we hope to reclaim as we celebrate Reformation Sunday in October is the one that has gone missing in recent years, Charity's Reformation banner (see attached photo). It proclaims the main principles of the Reformation, the five Solas, or Alones:

- Sola scriptura: "Word alone"
- Sola fide: "Faith alone"
- Sola gratia: "Grace alone"
- Solo Christo: "Christ alone"
- Soli Deo Gloria: "to the glory of God alone"

In a circular pattern, it reads: "Salvation by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ Alone, on the authority of God's Word Alone."

Being reminded of these Reformation principles helps to keep us firmly grounded within Biblical Christian orthodoxy, without looking to other people to mediate our relationship with any part of our Triune God.



Doug Leet

# Financial Report

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>August Actual Income</b>   | <b>\$91,424</b>  |
| <b>August Budgeted Income</b> | <b>\$73,849</b>  |
| <b>Difference</b>             | <b>\$17,575</b>  |
| <b>August Actual Income</b>   | <b>\$94,424</b>  |
| <b>August Actual Expenses</b> | <b>\$47,264</b>  |
| <b>Difference</b>             | <b>\$44,160</b>  |
| <b>YTD Actual Income</b>      | <b>\$422,678</b> |
| <b>YTD Budgeted Income</b>    | <b>\$590,793</b> |
| <b>Difference</b>             | <b>\$168,115</b> |
| <b>YTD Actual Income</b>      | <b>\$422,678</b> |
| <b>YTD Actual Expenses</b>    | <b>\$434,796</b> |
| <b>Difference</b>             | <b>\$12,118</b>  |

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance on you, and give you peace.



# Vision Council Update

Greetings from the Vision Council. On September 13th Word on Wednesday (WOW) started up. The educational offerings were well attended by youth and adults. A big thanks to all the volunteers that worked very hard to put it all together. September also saw a lot of activity inside and outside of the church in cleaning, staining, yardwork, and parking lot sealing to get ready for the 23-24 winter season. A big thanks to all of you that have given your time and talents in getting it all done.

Budget preparation and staffing needs for 2024 continue to be topics of discussion. We are grappling with the reality of fewer members and how to bring our expenses and staffing needs into alignment with that. By the end of October, we should have a draft budget and staffing plan available for discussion.

At the September meeting the Vision Council also regretfully accepted the resignation of Beth Allen from the Call Committee. Beth has been chairing the committee since its formation and we very much appreciate all the time and effort she has put into it. The Vision Council will miss her steady prayerful leadership. Please join me in thanking her and all the Committee members for their work to date. The call process is always labor intensive and can often be a lengthy process. In our case it was also complicated by our recent history. We continue to pray for each Call Committee member and the call process.

I also want to continue to encourage you to join us as you can for the prayer service every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. Moving forward in prayer is the best way to discern and follow God's will for each of us and Charity as a whole.

God Bless  
Mike Fluharty  
Vision Council President

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



This 13 week GriefShare program is designed to help others come to a place where they can move from the state of mourning to experiencing real joy again in this new season of life. You can come any of the weeks up through mid-November. **Meets Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** at Charity Lutheran. Email Lorri at [mitlorri@gmail.com](mailto:mitlorri@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Real Results, Real Hope Beginning Experience

Beginning Experience (a faith-based ministry) peer-to-peer ministry is offering a ten-week session called "Coping with Life Alone" for those who have lost a love relationship through death, divorce or separation. Sessions are held from 7-9 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran. You can join anytime. For more information, please call Elaine at 701-400-1941. The program is open to people of all faiths.



# From Pastor Ron Dahle

(continued from page 1)

The world of the late medieval Roman Catholic Church was a complex one. Over time, the western church and particularly the office of the pope in Rome, had become deeply involved in the political life of western Europe. This mixing of the civil authority and the authority of the church contributed to abuses. These abuses were mostly surrounding the practice of the sale of indulgences or spiritual privileges by the clergy, with the full approval of the leaders in Rome. Luther and other reformers objected to this, but the posting of the Theses by Dr. Luther triggered the public objections. The final result was the expulsion of those reformers from the church in Rome.

But the church at large enjoyed loyalty as it had before. One development is clear: the political authorities increasingly sought to curtail the public role of the church and thereby triggered tension. *That tension continues to this day with the separation of the church and state here in this country.*

We as modern day Lutherans celebrate the return of the Church to the Word of God as the guiding light for our Spiritual Journey. We should not take this opportunity to misdirect our ideas about others, but to celebrate Jesus Christ as the cornerstone and study and apply the Word of God as the guide for our daily living. So with that being said, we will continue to celebrate the Lordship of Jesus Christ within our Christian Community!

-Pastor Ron Dahle

---

## Charity Call Committee Report

Since first beginning to advertise for our new pastor in January, here is a brief summary of our activity on the Call Committee:

We received 14 applications from individuals across the U.S. as well as a few other countries. Of those, we have interviewed six via Zoom. For each of these, we had a minimum of one meeting prior to the interview.

We have listened to several sermons and portions of church services from each applicant, and Beth Allen had multiple phone conversations with them gathering additional information prior to the interviews. She also had phone interviews with three other applicants we didn't interview.

This summer, Scott Carter traveled to the home church of one candidate to hear him preach and visit with him more. And, Andrea reached out to several references some applicants provided.

Because we haven't yet found the right pastor to call for Charity, we continue with our search. We have reached out to the LCMC about more strategies for reaching applicants and we have brainstormed ideas with other churches and pastors.

We are in the process of refreshing and reformatting the job position that is available to interested candidates. And, we keep moving forward, praying for God's guidance as we do. Please keep praying for God to show us the right person to be our next pastor.

Please reach out with any questions, comments or concerns at [callcommittee@charitylutheran.org](mailto:callcommittee@charitylutheran.org).

Call Committee members - Beth Allen, Andrea Collin, Melissa Hill, Laura Kourajian and Scott Carter.

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



# October Events

## Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, October 28 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we make graduate quilts for May 2024. We will also be working on a Reformation Sunday project (October 29). 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. **November 18 is the next quilting date.**



## Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768. **November 17 is the next Pinochle night.**



## Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, October 10, at 6:00 p.m. for a catered dinner. Sue Balcom will be the speaker. Please plan to join us.



**Please RSVP to Renee Walz, 400-1201 by text or call by Sunday evening, October 8, so food can be ordered Monday morning.**

## Gospel Sing-Along

Sunday, October 8

2:00-3:30pm

Charity Lutheran Church

This is for you, your Gospel Loving friends and/or family who enjoy listening to or singing along to Gospel and Patriotic Music and many hymns/songs from years gone by. Words are projected up on the screen! Led by the Fueller sisters Lorri Mittleider and Christie Neumiller. Open to the public. Coffee fellowship following. (Anyone can bring a treat to share.) The offering taken is for Heaven's Helpers Soup Cafe.



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

## HALLOWEEN FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**Come one, come all and get together for a Halloween Family Movie Night at Charity, where we will watch Spookley the Square Pumpkin. All ages welcome. Popcorn and treats will be provided. Please feel free to wear your non spooky costume...Even more fun if the whole family dresses up.**



*All Are Welcome  
Singles, Couples, Families*





# Outdoor Worship

Thank you to everyone who came or helped in any way with our outdoor worship service. It was a beautiful and blessed morning.



## 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



Confirmation  
**SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 29, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**



# Estonia Bible School Camp

Pastor Siimon Haamer



Friends of Estonia,

During August 14-18 we organized together with nine short-term missionaries from the USA an adult Bible Camp at Home of Hope. We had 30 participants and missionaries from Charity Lutheran Church (Bismarck, ND), Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church (Parker, CO), St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Garfield, MN) and Pastor Bob Nordvall as leader of the group. We are very thankful to all team members, including Donavon Hatzenbuhler, Linda and Arlan Okerson, and Kathy Wermager, from Charity as they answered God's call and were His ambassadors for us.

Theme of the camp was 'God's Call' and every day we dealt with a different Bible character: Joshua, Saul, Isaiah, Peter and Paul. We learned how they answered God's call and fulfilled their mission. We are planning to organize the next adult Bible Camp in August 2024 and we are hoping to again form a group of short-term missionaries from the USA, including Charity Lutheran. We will announce registration in November of this year.

Blessings,

Pastor Siimon Haamer  
President of Tartu Academy of Theology



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

**October 1**  
Marlys Coughlin  
Eddie Oakland

**October 8**  
Abe Dukart  
Jeff Gitter

**October 2**  
Marla Laxdal

**October 9**  
Brooklyn Lubbers

**October 4**  
Travis Anderson  
Alayna Carlson  
Julie Slag

**October 12**  
Laura Kourajian

**October 5**  
Linkin Hill

**October 14**  
Sonja Murray  
Jane Schulz

**October 7**  
Darlene Bentz

**October 17**  
Andrew Farley  
Addison Klemin

**October 20**  
Easton Robinson  
Everly Robinson  
Jennifer Skjod

**October 21**  
Cassie Theurer

**October 23**  
Arlan Okerson

**October 26**  
Connie Geiger

**October 27**  
Nathan Farley

**October 28**  
Kacie Schlecht

**October 30**  
Joan Orvik

**October 31**  
Harrison Custer  
Anthony Schlecht



Those who  
remain  
*in love*  
remain  
in God  
and  
*God*  
remains  
in them.

1 JOHN 4:16



- October 1** - Travis & Jen Anderson
- October 2** - Micheal & Jennifer Farley
- October 5** - Matt & Penny Kaldor
- October 9** - Eric & Bethany Johanson
- October 12** - Mitchell & Cassandra Becker
- October 13** - JC & Sue Balcom
- October 15** - Rod & Diane Melby
- October 15** - Dennis & Carol Simenson
- October 16** - John and Sandy Seedorf
- October 29** - Daniel & Karlee Klindworth





# stephen MINISTRY<sup>®</sup> at Charity Lutheran

## Who was Saint Stephen?

In the book of Acts, Chapter 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the days of the Apostles, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

As the Apostles worked to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ as his elders, some of the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in their daily distribution. The Twelve decided to ordain seven deacons to oversee their care. In doing so, the deacons extended the pastoral care of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the early Church.

So, the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom, to whom we can hand over this duty. We ourselves will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit,

*Acts: Chapter 6, 2 - 5*

That is what Stephen Ministry helps the church do today.

## God Doesn't Want Us To Walk Alone

There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties – loss of a loved one, illness, spiritual crisis, loneliness, job loss, divorce, separation, miscarriage, adoption, discouragement, and many others. God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone.

No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church is the house where everyone is welcomed, and no one is rejected.

*Pope Francis' Homily of 13 March 2015*

## What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is one child of God, walking beside another child of God who is hurting. It is a parishioner who has gifts for caregiving and provides emotional and spiritual care for others. Stephen Ministry pairs a person in need with a person who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.

Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one care to people in our parish who need someone to talk to, someone to walk with them during a difficult time in their life.

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ  
Galatians 6:2, NRSV*



## Wednesday Night Programming

Our Wednesday night programming is getting off to a great start! We have our WOW meal from 5-5:45 p.m., WINGS program (preschool-grade 5), Confirmation (grades 6-8), and High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) from 6:15-7:30 p.m. We are also offering our Bethel Bible Series for anyone in 9th grade to adults from 6:15-7:30 p.m. There is something for everyone on Wednesday evenings.



## October is Pastor Appreciation Month



Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Pastors. Pastors who have answered the call to serve and lead. We especially thank all the pastors who have assisted Charity during this time of transition; Pastor Ron Dahle, Pastor Sara Schwarz, Pastor Bob Nordvall. God, we know you are preparing the heart of the next Senior Pastor that is meant to come to Charity. May we remain faithful and be steadfast in our prayers for our next Senior Pastor.



# Charity Lutheran Staining Project

Thank you to our amazing volunteers who worked from September 11 through 15 staining the exterior of our church. 15.5 gallons of stain was used to complete the project. The area was stained using brushes, rollers, and a fine air sprayer.



Staining Volunteers:  
Mike and Shelly Rowe  
Mike Fluharty  
Connie and Ken Geiger  
Scott and Connie Carter

Thank  
YOU!





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](mailto:office@charitylutheran.org)

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

POPCORN AND TREATS PROVIDED!

**HALLOWEEN**  
Family Movie Night  
6:30-8:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WEAR  
YOUR NON-SPOOKY COSTUMES**

Charity Lutheran Church

Spookley  
the Square Pumpkin