



September 2023



Pastor Ron Dahle

GOOD NEWS

From Pastor Ron Dahle

Why do we as Christian Churches use a 'Church Calendar?'

We human beings are temporal creatures, but this doesn't simply mean that we live according to clock time, the tick-tock of passing seconds and minutes. Time has different qualities; time is experienced differently. We can spend an hour waiting for a late bus, or we can spend an hour absorbed in a lively conversation or absorbed in a good book or a great movie. By the clock, it's the same duration, but the experience of time is very different. Our time is never simply the experience of the passing seconds and minutes, or months or years.

We human beings are also temporal creatures in the sense that we organize our time. We organize our days by schedules, according to different activities that we need to accomplish. We organize our weeks in a rhythm of work and leisure. We organize our years by holidays and anniversaries, by birthdays and vacations. And we do this collectively. We do this as groups. Every society has a national calendar. In the United States, we have national holidays like the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving. Everyone in the United States celebrates Christmas; even those who are not Christians are celebrating the birth of Jesus.

These holidays are not simply celebrations, but they are moments for collective memory, for remembering past events of our society, for memorializing and celebrating our heroes, for remembering what it is that makes us the people that we are.

We follow a schedule in the Church Year as well so that we do not miss remembering all the blessings that come to us from God. When we worship the Living Lord, we remember all that He has done to and for us here in this world. It is also a look forward to the life that comes to us after we have passed on from life here.

(continued on page 4)

EVENTS

Office Closed September 4 in observance of Labor Day



Sunday, September 10
Rally Sunday
9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 12
Amazing Grays
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 13
Rally WOW
5:00 p.m.

Friday, September 15
Pinochle Night
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 23
Quilting Group
9:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 30
Confirmation Catch-up
9:00 a.m.

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

WOW - Word on Wednesday...

...and on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday! While there isn't a nifty acronym for each day of the week, Charity's aim in adapting it on Wednesday evening is to focus on the centrality of God's Word in our life, 24 hours of the day, seven days of the week.

When the "Sufficiency of Scripture" is mentioned, we refer to Charity's statement in Article II of our Constitution that states, "The congregation further accepts the canonical scripture of the Old and New Testaments as the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God and *the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.*" (italics added) It means that all authority comes underneath that of scripture. We need to know, understand, and live what scripture says, and use it as a guide in all things. How do we do that? By becoming Bible literate. How many of us would raise our hand if asked the question, "Would you like to be able to read and understand the Bible more than you do now?" I think most of us would raise our hand; I know I would.

Here is where the Bethel Bible Series comes in. It's a congregational program where we use the Bible as our textbook, covering both the Old and New Testaments in 20 sessions each. We will begin with the Old Testament this school year, and then cover the New Testament the following year.

Starting in September, the Bethel Bible Series will take us through a disciplined overview of the Old Testament, with each lesson utilizing an illustration in the form of a picture that will serve as a visual aid in understanding the theme for what the Bible is telling us. As our Bible literacy increases, the deeper we can dive into our devotional life, as well as other Bible and book studies we engage during the course of the year.

The mission of the Bible Bethel Series is: *"Lead church members into a disciplined study of Scripture in such a way that they encounter the Living Christ."*

There are dozens upon dozens of scripture references about the Word of God. A few key ones are: Hebrews 4:12; John 1:1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105; James 1:22; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 4:4. Look them up in whatever translation you use, and read them. In addition to your Bible, one good resource is Bible Gateway, as an app on your phone or computer. It has a parallel feature too, where you can compare the different translations of a particular scripture.

Please join us this year, as Charity has Educational Offerings for all ages focusing on the Word of God, where the Holy Spirit guides and where we *"encounter the Living Christ."*



Doug Leet

Financial Report

July Actual Income	\$46,621
July Budgeted Income	\$73,849
Difference	\$27,228

July Actual Income	\$46,621
July Actual Expenses	\$50,156
Difference	\$3,535

YTD Actual Income	\$331,155
YTD Budgeted Income	\$516,944
Difference	\$185,789

YTD Actual Income	\$331,155
YTD Actual Expenses	\$387,520
Difference	\$56,365

Memorials & Gifts

GRIEFSHARE

In Memory of Duane Wangen by Lorri Mittleider

TRUST FUND

In Memory of Duane Wangen by Randy & Shelley Traynor



When: Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. for the WOW (Word on Wednesday) school year beginning September 13.

Where: Charity Sanctuary

Who: 9th grade to Adults

Vision Council Update

Crazy to think we are headed full steam into fall. School is getting underway, the temps are trending lower, and the days are getting shorter. Along with that, our fall programming will be starting up at church. I'm excited for the opportunities we have coming up for all ages, and Vision Council invites you to dig into one or more of the studies and grow with us as we delve deeper into God's Word.

This last month, Vision Council had a fair amount of discussion on our fall Wednesday night programming. We have several volunteers stepping up into key leadership roles to serve our various age groups on Wednesday night. The goal of the night is to provide programming opportunities for all ages focusing on the study of God's Word, to allow families to come together for the evening, enjoy a meal with our church family, and then have some focused study and curriculum for each age group. All programming will end at the same time to make it easy for families to engage in the evening as a unit and be home at a reasonable time for our elementary age kids and allow some time to get some homework done for our middle and high school kids.

We also reviewed the status of our Pastor search. There have been some applicants for the position and Vision Council will continue to review each applicant and assess how to move forward. We are fortunate and thankful for Pastor Ron Dahle serving us with his preaching and teaching during this time.

Income for July was slightly above the average and our general tracking for year-end income hasn't changed significantly. We started to have very high-level discussions on our 2024 budget to give Doug, Robert, and staff some guidelines as they work to start laying out the details of the budget for our annual meeting.

The last note I wanted to share is that we finalized our Vision Council leads for corporate prayer through the end of the year. If you haven't participated in corporate prayer, or it has been a while, I challenge you to join as you are able on Tuesday evenings through the fall. Philippians 4:6 reminds us "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God." We want to be a church that follows God's lead and does as He asks – and he most definitely wants us to pray!

On behalf of Vision Council – may God bless you and your family during this fall season!
Matthew Kaldor

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

RALLY SUNDAY & RALLY WOW

RALLY SUNDAY September 10

WORSHIP
9:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 AM

ADULT EDUCATION
10:45 AM

charity

RALLY WOW SEPTEMBER 13

WOW
WORD ON WEDNESDAY

5:00-5:45 p.m. WOW Meal
6:15-7:30 p.m.

Preschool-5th grade: WINGS program
Middle School (6th-8th grade): Confirmation
9th grade-Adults: The Bethel Bible Series
9th-12th grade: High School Youth Group

From Pastor Ron Dahle

(continued from page 1)

When we believe in Jesus, we know that God has prepared a place for us in full relationship for all eternity in the kingdom of Heaven!

Church festivals are not a new thing. The Old Testament is full of examples. The entire book of Psalms, for example, was used in Worship before the Christian era. A fine example is,

Psalm 100:1-5: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. **Worship the LORD with gladness**; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the **sheep** of his pasture. Enter his **gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise**; give thanks to him and praise his name. For **the LORD is good and his love endures forever**; his **faithfulness** continues through all generations.

Or:

1 Chronicles 16:34-36: Give thanks to the LORD, for **he is good**; his **love endures forever**. **Cry out, "Save us**, God our Savior; **gather us and deliver us** from the nations, that we may give thanks to your **holy name**, and glory in your praise." Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

The ancient Church assigned colors, so we have banners and stoles for each of the seasons in the church year. It is only a more modern idea that we dismiss church festivals, and go our own way. But in doing so, it implies that all that old stuff has no meaning in our modern world.

I think people are missing out by not celebrating and remembering all the important ways that God has blessed us when we don't observe the church year.

So, join with me in celebrating the Blessings of God throughout the Church Year, by observing the Church Calendar!

-Pastor Ron Dahle

Charity Call Committee Report

The Call Committee wants to express our appreciation to everyone in the congregation who has prayed for our work as we reply to inquiries about the Senior Pastor position and have interviewed several individuals. We especially thank those of you who have prayed on Tuesday nights for us and our work during the weekly corporate prayer sessions.

We conducted a Zoom interview with another pastor on August 21 and are praying for God's direction on how to move forward. We continue to reach out to LCMC pastors about the position through the updated website listing and will send another email to rostered pastors in the next few weeks.

As a committee, we are going through a 30-day devotional focusing on the call process. If anyone would like to also work through this devotional, please email us at callcommittee@charitylutheran.org.

We are learning patience as we wait on the Senior Pastor God is preparing to send to us. Please reach out with any questions, comments or concerns at 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

September Events

Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, September 23, 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. **October 28 is the next quilting date.**

Pinochle Group

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768.



October 20 is the next Pinochle night.

Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. for a catered dinner.



Members from the Tartu Mission Trip will share personal experiences about their time in Estonia and will answer questions anyone has about their mission trip. Please join us.

Please RSVP to Renee Walz, 400-1201 by text or call by Sunday evening, September 10, so food can be ordered Monday morning.

Saturday, September 9 9am-3pm



Charity Parking Lot

Do you have gently used items that you were planning to get rid of? We have an opportunity for you to sell your unused items and help Charity. We will host a one-day rummage sale in our east parking lot on Saturday, September 9 from 9am-3pm. Each party is responsible for collecting money from sales and proceeds will go towards the Charity Lutheran General Fund. This is also a great fellowship opportunity to serve alongside your fellow Charity Lutheran family members.

How will this rummage sale work?

Just like a rummage sale at home. You will bring your items and set up a table. If you are able, please bring your own tables. We only have a limited number of tables available. You or someone from your family must be present at your table for the entire day. At the end of the day, all unsold items go home with you as Charity is unable to take them or store them.

If you are interested in having a table at the rummage sale or are interested in helping at the rummage sale, please fill out this short form by scanning the QR code below or visit our church website at www.charitylutheran.org. A link is available on the scrolling slides on the homepage and there is also a sign-up sheet on the welcome desk.



Outdoor Movie Night

Thank you to Mark and Liz Landis for hosting our August outdoor movie night! It was a wonderful evening!



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 CATCH UP"

Saturday, September 30
9am-1pm

Anyone past 8th grade who has participated in youth events at Charity without being confirmed will be able to cover the catechism basics in one day. This includes any adults at Charity. Those who complete this class will be ready to be confirmed - regardless of service hours, mission trips, or other former requirements. Please reserve your spot by contacting the office!

The whole class will be confirmed together
on October 29, Reformation Sunday.

snacks provided

Tartu Mission Trip 2023

Linda Okerson

Tartu Academy in Estonia sends heartfelt greetings to their Charity Friends.

Our 2023 mission trip to Tartu Academy of Theology in Tartu, Estonia, was a renewed commitment to the ministry and training of pastors and church workers. It is a relationship that has been ongoing thanks to the generosity of the members of Charity Lutheran and other LCMC church families. This year, Donavon Hatzenbuhler, Kathy Wermager, Arlan and Linda Okerson and Pastor Bob had the privilege of representing Charity along with Pastor David and Anne Gran from St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Garfield, MN and DeDe Elliot and Connie Reinhardt from Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church in Parker, CO.

Pastor Eenok Haamer (Founder of TAT) shared his childhood experiences during the Russian occupation with us. We visited many of the sites where he and his family hid at that time. It was through these experiences that God gave him his vision of the ministry which has become Tartu Academy. Together with his son, Pastor Siimon Haamer (Dean of TAT), and the generosity of many Christian Friends, the Home of Hope became a reality. Today the “Home of Hope” or “Pastoraat” is a school of ministry and training of pastors and church workers.

On our first Sunday, Pastor David was the guest pastor at Mustvee (Pastor Eenok’s church) and a second service at Kukita (The Old Believers’ Church). There Pastor Eenok was honored for 59 years of service and we were treated to coffee and dessert.

Each morning began with devotions, lesson planning, and visits to area churches, landmarks, and a Ukrainian refuge center. We were blessed with a light lunch there and the chance to visit.

Our lessons were held each afternoon at the Pastoraat. Throughout the week, we discussed the faith of Joshua, Saul, Isaiah, Peter and David and how we identified with them. Each day, one of us gave a testimony. There was a time for coffee and fellowship each day and our friendships grew stronger throughout the week. Friday was bitter-sweet as we said goodbye to our special new friends in Christ.

On Saturday, we returned to Tallinn. Pastor David was the guest pastor at Pastor Sanders’ church, Nomme Rahu Lutheran Church on Sunday. They hosted a luncheon for us following the service.

On Monday, our mission “family” boarded the plane for the long journey home, knowing in our hearts that we would always share a special bond that only God can give.

We are forever grateful for the opportunity you have provided us. Your prayers sustained and uplifted us. If I could have shared one small memory with you; it would have been when we prayed the Lord’s Prayer. The Estonian voices blended with our American voices was like sweet music. All Glory be to God.

Blessings & Love,
Linda Okerson



Pastoraat (Lower Level)



Mustvee



Kukita



Nomme Rahu



September

BIRTHDAYS

September 1

Rachel Bitz

September 3

Macel Monthye
Norlyn Swenson

September 4

Josiah Penn
Micah Penn
Randy Schmeling

September 5

Jeremiah Penn

September 7

Rhonda Leet

September 8

Cameron Braun
Sandra Lohstreter

September 14

Roger Nelson
Faith Schlecht
Patty Swenson

September 17

Leanne Fried
Donna Garner

September 22

LuElla Dahme

September 24

Tina Dendy
Dave Lee
Lauren Lubbers
Douglas Sailer
Bryce Uline

September 26

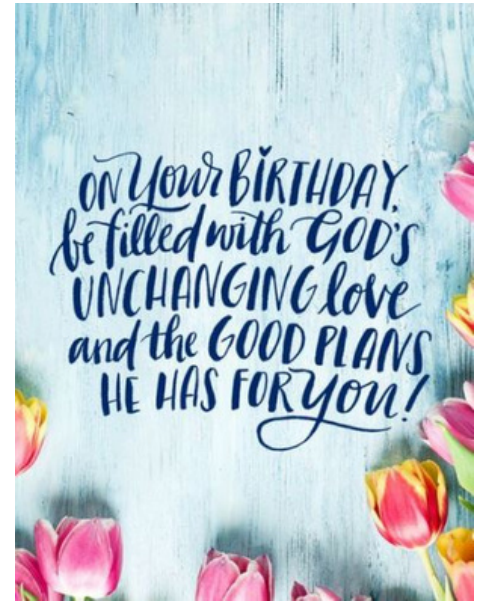
Genevieve Geiger

September 27

Valerie Strebe

September 29

Jaela Baumeister
Mason Bergrud
Doug Schulz



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



1 JOHN 4:16

- September 1** - Shawn and Shelby Custer
- September 4** - Stewart and Angie Milakovic
- September 5** - Andrew and Lindsey Robinson
- September 9** - Mike and Shelley Rowe
- September 11** - Brad and Cassie Braun
- September 12** - Andrew and Emily Hershey
- September 12** - Kirk and Janet Mitzel
- September 14** - Brad and Beth Allen
- September 16** - Brad and Barb Heim
- September 18** - Russ and Sonja Bosch
- September 20** - Ryan and Janae Geiger
- September 21** - Justin and Sara Schwarz
- September 22** - Mark and Lisa Aamodt
- September 25** - David and Nancy Jensen
- September 28** - Russell and Kalli Senske
- September 29** - Chris and Rachel Bitz





stephen MINISTRY.

at Charity Lutheran

The words we say have a major impact on how well we show our empathy to others. Despite our best efforts to empathize, it can be all too easy to say things that have the opposite effect—what we call *empathy busters*. Here are five common empathy busters to watch out for:

1 **"I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL."**

People told us over and over in our research that they strongly disliked this phrase. They felt like the other person was dismissing the uniqueness of their pain. In reality, nobody can ever know exactly how someone else feels, so avoid this phrase.

2 **"YOU HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR."**

While it might seem helpful, encouraging someone to focus on what they have to be thankful for communicates, "You shouldn't be feeling the way you feel. Look on the bright side instead." This empathy buster invalidates the other person's feelings and can come across as judgmental.

3 **"IT COULD BE WORSE."**

As one person said, "Yes, it can always be worse, but that sure doesn't make me feel any better!" This cliché pushes people to change their mindset, which doesn't help when they're already dealing with a challenging situation.

4 **"GOD DOESN'T GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE."**

When people are already struggling, being told that God gave them this difficult load and expects them to be able to bear it can cause a host of negative reactions. This phrase dismisses their emotions, and they'll likely feel worse.

5 **"YOU SHOULD/SHOULDN'T . . ."**

Empathy is about the other person—their feelings, wants, and needs. Telling someone what they should or shouldn't do minimizes their feelings and treats them like a project instead of a person.

These empathy busters come from Stephen Ministries' newest book, *The Gift of Empathy*, available exclusively from Stephen Ministries. If you would like to visit with a Stephen Minister, please call the church office at 258-1228 for more information.

NEW



Wings stands for Witness in God's Service. The purpose of WINGS is to reach children with the gospel of Christ, and to guide them to a personal relationship with Christ. To help children become familiar with the Bible stories and the application of Bible truths to their lives. Provide them opportunities for learning scripture, memorizing Bible verses, prayer time, and for sharing their faith. Provide activities, stories, and music which show the church as an enjoyable place to meet with friends for good fellowship. and to create an awareness and opportunity for the child's service to God and others. **WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:15-7:30 p.m.**

We need weekly volunteers for listening to memorized Bible verses (8-10 people), helping with classroom teachers (2-4 people), awards (1-2 people). We also need people for one time a month positions for recreation, music, servant leaders and crafts.

If anyone is interested in helping with WINGS, please contact Deb Uline at 527-5359.

Charity Family Registration
2023-2024

Register Here:



2023-2024 Family Registration Now Open

It's time to get registered for fall programs! All kids and students participating in ministry from preschool through high school must have a registration form on file. Visit our homepage or scan the QR code to register now!

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS
September 10 at 10:45 a.m.



RALLY WOW

SEPTEMBER 13

WOW
WORD ON WEDNESDAY

5:00-5:45 p.m. WOW Meal
6:15-7:30 p.m.

- Preschool-5th grade: WINGS program
- Middle School (6th-8th grade): Confirmation
- 9th grade-Adults: The Bethel Bible Series
- 9th-12th grade: High School Youth Group

Educational Offerings

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study | Begins Sept. 12 | Guardrails: Avoiding Regret in Your Life | Carol Bjork, 701-226-9023 | ckbjork@yahoo.com



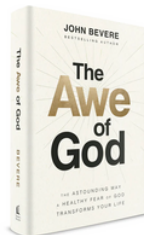
Books have already been ordered. You can find them at amazon or christianbook websites. Parable in town may also have some in stock.

Wednesday THE Bethel Bible Series

6:15 p.m. Study for 9th grade to Adults | Begins Sept. 13 | The Bethel Bible Series | This series will be led by gifted leaders within our church | Please sign up at the welcome desk and order your books. They will be used for the entire year.

Wednesday

7:45 p.m. Men's Bible Study | Begins Sept. 13 | "The Awe of God" | Books available in the office at no charge | Please contact John Seedorf, 701-426-9768 or Ray Eckroth, 701-989-0329 for more information.



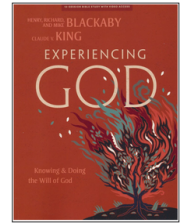
Is the desire of your heart to be close to God?

Do you long for an intimate relationship with your Creator but He seems elusive? Perhaps it is because something essential is missing in your life—the fear of the Lord. Don't let this frighten you. Fearing God is very different than being afraid of God. It's the key to everything. Holy Fear is not a topic you'll hear much about these days, but if you want to build a faith that stands strong through troubled times, you cannot afford to ignore it.

In this six-session video Bible study, bestselling author John Bevere explores more than forty promises in Scripture given to those who embrace holy fear—rewards such as holiness, wisdom, legacy, confidence, happiness, and security. He invites you to take a fresh look at what it means to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. And he shows how approaching God in this way allows you to discover the deeper relationship with the Lord that your soul longs for and that He desires to have with you.

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Book Study | Begins Sept. 7 | "Experiencing God" | Books available at class. Please bring your Bible | Shelley Traynor, 701-226-2026 | shelltrayn@gmail.com



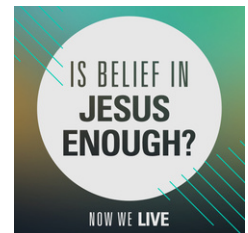
Experiencing God: Are you ready to experience a radically God-centered way of life? Join us on Thursday mornings as we come to know the intimate love relationship through which God will reveal to you His will, His ways, and His work.

Saturday

8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study | Mike Smith, 701-226-0098 | smithswwjd@bis.midco.net

Sunday

Starting Sunday, September 10 at 10:45 a.m. following the worship service.



A six-session study of the Christian worldview developed by Summit Ministries. There are numerous worldviews, so why does the Christian worldview matter? Christianity claims to be not just another worldview, but the one true story of reality. Unfortunately, so many of the views and beliefs of our culture are not based in reality. The biblical narrative outlines how God is the Creator, how He relates to humanity, and how He is working to reconcile the world to its intended purpose.

This series, titled NOW WE LIVE, will present the reasoning as to why the Christian worldview is THE source of TRUTH. Each session will include a 13-minute video, and there will be participant guides with questions that will be addressed. Every video includes a conversation with two Christian apologists who discuss the reasonableness of the Christian faith. Among those advocates are names you will recognize, such as Kirk Cameron, Lee Stroble, Tony Perkins, Sean McDowell, and many others. There will be an opportunity for much discussion during the 45-minute period that will follow the video.

Please consider participating. You can email Doug at doug.leet@charitylutheran.org or complete the registration sheet at the sign-up table.

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Email: office@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org

**RALLY
SUNDAY**

September 10



WORSHIP

9:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 AM

ADULT EDUCATION

10:45 AM

