



December 2021

Sunday, Dec. 5  
**CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS  
PROGRAM**  
9 AND 11 A.M.

Wednesday, Dec. 8  
**CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS  
PROGRAM**  
6:15 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 12  
**HOLIDAY GRIEF  
SERVICE**  
2 P.M.

Friday, Dec. 24  
**CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICES**  
12:30 P.M.  
2:30 P.M.  
4:30 P.M.

December

Good

# NEWS

Pastor Sam Coleman

## Promise fulfilled, promise to come

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from that time and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.*

Isaiah 9:6-7

All I've got to say to this passage of Scripture is AMEN! LET IT BE SO!

I've heard these verses from Isaiah many times over the years, especially as Christmas approaches. They bring back such good memories of candlelight services, time spent with family and friends, and looking at Christmas lights.

Handel's "Messiah" is such a beautiful rendition of these verses. The music and words fill my heart with joy. It's like the feeling of a song that brings back amazing memories; or going someplace familiar; or the feeling of the good life or a warm home.

I was reading some of the comments on YouTube about the London Philharmonic



Pastor Sam Coleman

rendition of the "Messiah," and one comment read, "As a child, my parents filled our home with this timeless piece of music. My dad believes this is the music that will accompany Christ during his second coming. Now that I'm older, I think my dad is right. Thanks, mom and dad." When I saw this comment, it made me smile.

As I read the passage over again, it strikes me that the second part hasn't come true yet. The first part is fulfilled when we celebrate Christmas in the person of Jesus Christ. He came first as a babe in a manger, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and ultimately as the Suffering Servant that would pay for our sins. That's what Christmas is all about!

But the second part of this passage tells of a mighty king who will have the government on his shoulders, and of his government and PEACE, there will be no end. He will establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Executive Director of Ministry Doug Leet

# God is Charity's refuge and strength

*"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"* Psalm 46:10.

This Bible verse was shared by Kathy Wermager towards the beginning of an informational forum held by Charity's Vision Council and Call Committee to update our congregation on the call process for a senior pastor. Psalm 46 begins with, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." What a good word to share.

In this transition at Charity, our congregation has an overwhelming need: to be faithful to God's guidance and His Word. It can be hard to "be still" and to "wait on the Lord" because we think we know what we want, but it's what we're called to do during this time. It is my hope and prayer is that we are supportive of those on the Vision Council and Call Committee who have been chosen to lead us as we move forward in this process; that we are supportive of Charity's staff as they work day in and day out doing the work they've been hired to do; and that we are supportive

of each other as we grow in faith and service together.

How can we, as a congregation, be faithful to God's guidance? A critical way is through corporate prayer, gathering together to pray for His guidance in our transition.

In Acts, when Peter preached to the crowd, through the working of the Holy Spirit, thousands became believers.

And what did these new believers do? "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42. As we look to schedule a time of periodic corporate prayer (stay tuned), please lift up Charity daily in your personal prayer life, and also be open to meeting with other Charity folks to seek God's will and guidance for this special

congregation of believers.

Thank you for your tithes and offering. As you can see by the accompanying financial chart, we have reduced our year-to-date general fund deficit to just under \$2,200, nearly even for the year through October. We have continued to realize expense savings the last couple of months from open positions at Charity, including the senior pastor position. Please note that this is a temporary savings, as we seek to fill these positions in the future. We can be thankful for God's provision for Charity, and be prayerful about how we can continue to offer support in 2022.



Doug Leet

## Budget Forum scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 12

You are invited to attend an open forum with the Vision Council to review Charity's draft budget for 2022. This forum will be held between services Sunday, Dec. 12, in the new youth room. (Down the stairs to the left past the elevator.)

## Annual meeting set

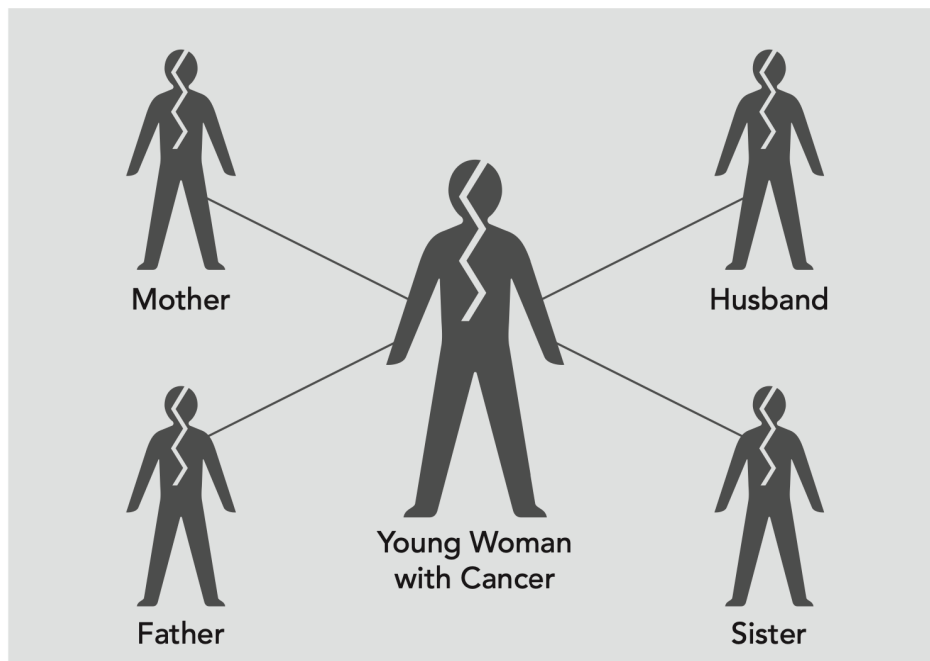
Charity's annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly will be held on Sunday, Jan. 9, at which time the budget vote will be held.



Oct. Actual Income	\$93,512
Oct. Budgeted Income	<u>96,080</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 2,568</b>
Oct. Actual Income	\$93,512
Oct. Actual Expenses	<u>64,150</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 29,362</b>
YTD Actual Income	\$ 934,470
YTD Budgeted Income	<u>960,804</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 26,344</b>
YTD Actual Income	\$934,470
YTD Actual Expense	<u>936,668</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 2,198</b>

OTHERS AFFECTED BY A CRISIS

A STEPHEN MINISTER CAN HELP CALL 258-1228



# What is Intentional Interim Ministry?

**G**reetings from the Call Committee. Last month we met jointly with the Vision Council about hiring an intentional interim pastor. See the information below, "What Is It?" which provides more perspective on how this ministry works with churches.

Also in November, we visited with Charity staff to get their thoughts on what they would like to see in our next senior pastor. We appreciate them taking time to share with us their perspectives on this time of transition.

Several committee members participated in the congregational forum with the Vision Council on Nov. 21. Thanks to everyone who attended and shared your views.

Please keep us in your prayers and continue to reach out to any of us with questions, either individually or through our email at [callcommittee@charitylutheran.org](mailto:callcommittee@charitylutheran.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

Committee members are Beth Allen, Adam Berglund, Andrea Collin, Melissa Hill, Laura Kourajian and Scott Carter.

## What is it?

The Intentional Interim Ministry promotes renewed congregational health in seasons of pastoral transition. Trained Intentional Interim Pastors, Consultants, and Coaches are available to help churches navigate these transitions based on the needs of the congregation and the community it serves. An intentional interim can create momentum for the church's mission in contrast to the typical slumping season that is marked by waiting.

### Types of Intentional Interim Ministries

- **The Transitioning Church**

A congregation that has experienced a long-term pastorate and needs to create space between the old and new.

A congregation that is facing challenges and changes as it looks to future ministry.

- **The Teams Church**

A congregation with staff and/or multiple ministries that require an evaluation and strategy for receiving and working with a new pastor.

- **The Troubled Church**

A congregation that has experienced a split, a controversial resignation of the pastor, or some other stressor.

- **The Tranquil Church**

A congregation that is plateaued or declining due to neglect with regard to their mission, vision, and values.

- **The Terminal Church**

A congregation that may be nearing the end of its life cycle and needs to transition through a hospice or closure time and/or adapt to a different form of ministry.

- **Note-Some churches represent a combination of these needs.**

# Call update on interim pastor

**I**n the book *Living True – 40 days to get back to you* by Christy Wright, she says, "If we're willing to lean in and listen to the truth God offers us, we'll not only find healing, we'll also be drawn into a deeper relationship with him. We can trust God because he not only tells us the truth, he is the truth we've been searching for."

That is the goal of many Christians to have that deeper relationship with him. We need to continually pray for his guidance and his will to be done.



**John Seedorf**  
VC president

As we move into December, we will be holding an open budget forum in between services on Dec. 12. Charity's annual member meeting will be held on Jan. 9.

As we move forward in our search of for an Intentional Interim Pastor, we should have held interviews for this by the printing of this newsletter. Some of the questions that we are looking for answers on are:

1. How have you helped a church with high turnover rates?
2. How have you helped a church heal from a split?
3. How have you helped a congregation heal when a pastor has left under duress?
4. How have you increased membership at a church?
5. What do you see as your main goal for Charity?

As we pray for guidance for our church, please pray for those that can't make it home for the holidays with their loved ones.

Thank you.

Call Committee questions can be emailed to:  
**CALLCOMMITTEE@CHARITYLUTHERAN.ORG**

# Holiday grief service set

Charity's annual holiday grief service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, in the sanctuary.

This service is for those grieving the loss of loved one(s) this past year, looking to honor their memory, and to worship in the presence of others who have experienced significant losses as well.

Participants receive a lit candle with loved ones name written on it to be placed on the Christmas tree following a time of reflection and writing a message to your loved one. The service also includes a short video, a short message by Pastor Sam, and singing familiar Christmas hymns.

If you know of someone that would be blessed by attending this service, please pass along word. All who grieve are invited.

Contact Lorri Mittleider 701-400-1849 with any questions.

## Come and carol

A Christmas Carol Songfest hosted by sisters, Lorri Mittleider and Christie Neumiller, is planned for 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19.

Choose from both traditional gospel and a few contemporary Christmas songs to express your worship in song to our Lord and King, Jesus. This event is open to both our congregation and the greater community, as well. Invite your friends to join in to sing these wonderful songs.

Questions? Text or call Lorri Mittleider at 701-400-1849.

## December Anniversaries

**December 5** – Dave and Barb Lee

**December 8** – Jim and Jennifer Skjod

**December 10** – Arlan and Linda Okerson

**December 19** – Ken and Connie Geiger

**December 20** – Gary and Doreen Oakland

**December 20** – Thomas and Karen Swanson

**December 21** – Sean and Amy Helgeson

**December 27** – John and Stephanie Hegstad

**December 28** – John and Stephanie Kuhn

**December 30** – Steve and Nadine Butts

# Being 'in' Christ

There are many ways to remind of God's daily blessings. The gift of good health and the ability to walk two miles down the road enjoying the last of the temperate fall days. Simply looking out the window and seeing thousands of geese flying overhead, making a joyful noise to the Lord, makes my heart ache with joy.

Once again, during my daily devotion time, I experienced a light bulb moment. My mother passed away five years ago in October. She wasn't a reader. As you know, most of that generation only attended school until the eighth grade before working full-time on the farm, or as in my mother's case, eventually off the farm.

During the last five years of her earthly struggle, I made a point to call her every day and try to visit as often as possible as we moved her in and out of assisted living and nursing home care. It wasn't very easy.

My mom's Bible was always on the coffee table in their modest condo. I don't know which of her children has it, but I remember picking it up on occasion. Inside the pages was a photo of mom when she was about 18.

I knew even though she didn't like to read; she was reading her Bible. I wasn't sure about the significance of that photo until I heard Nicki Gumbel talk about "being in Christ."

Galatians 3:26-28 reads, "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male

and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Gumbel made a case for this passage in Galatians using what he had learned from Colin Urquhart's book "In Christ Jesus." He said, "I had never realized how significant that little word 'in' is in the New Testament.

Understanding that, as a Christian, you are 'in' Christ Jesus revolutionizes how you see yourself, your self-image, your identity and how you understand your value to God."

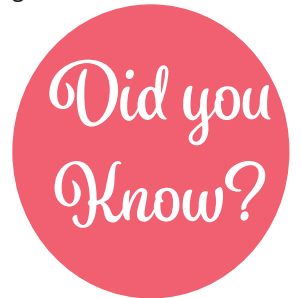
His suggestion was to write your name on paper, hold your Bible to represent Christ, place the paper in the Bible, and close it. Now, you are in Christ wherever your Bible goes; you go in Christ, not as a part of the book, but totally identified with the book.

Whoa. Light-bulb moment.

Isn't that a great reminder of who we are? During her final days on earth, albeit unwittingly, my mom placed herself "in" Christ. She spent time with him daily, remembering all the lessons of her childhood.

Even though I am unsure who has her Bible, I know where the photo is – in my Bible reminding me that I know where she is – "in Christ" until we meet again in heaven.

~ Sue Balcom



## Promise fulfilled, promise to come

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

that time and forevermore. What an amazing promise that gives such hope and joy during the turmoil in many areas of life worldwide.

Here is a promise from the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings that has been fulfilled in part, but the next part will be even more amazing. I LOVE IT. I love that we can know God's promises

and trust him, and when we do, we experience the joy, wonder, and peace He gives us. He's already fulfilled part of his promise, and we get to celebrate that.

We also get to celebrate His promise that hasn't been fulfilled yet. And may it fill us with joy, peace, and expectancy of the coming King this Christmas season. Merry Christmas.



# 2021 Advent Collection Mission

## 4 Ways To Participate

**1. Donate a turkey or ham for a Christmas meal.** We are providing the fixings for a Christmas meal for each family we are collecting for. Turkeys and hams can be brought to Charity between December 8 - December 20 and will be stored in the freezer so long as we have space.

Grab a "Turkey or Ham" card off of the display board in the fellowship hall. This card contains all the details you'll need to know to complete this form of giving.

**2. Gather items to fill a household goods box.** We would like to give each family a box of household goods that are sometimes hard to purchase.

Grab a "Household Goods Collection" card off of the display board in the fellowship hall. This card contains all the details you'll need to know to complete this form of giving, including the list of items we would like to include in each box.

**3. Collect food items with your family** through the Advent season to fill a food box for a family to use over the school break. Each food box collected will provide items for a Christmas meal and additional food items to help families get through the winter break.

Grab a "Advent Food Collection" card off of the display board in the fellowship hall. This card contains all the details you'll need to know to complete this form of giving, including a list of which items should be added each day.

**4. Make a monetary donation.** Funds donated will be used to purchase perishable items such as butter, eggs, etc. to be added to the collected boxes.

Monetary donations may be placed in the drop box in the main office.

### Advent Food Collection (Family of 4)

**Day 1:** Canned Yams

**Day 2:** Canned Fruit

**Day 3:** Chicken Broth

**Day 4:** Pasta Sauce

**Day 5:** Peanut Butter

**Day 6:** Canned Vegetables

**Day 7:** Rice

**Day 8:** Canned Ravioli/  
Spaghetti-o's/etc.

**Day 9:** Canned Soup

**Day 10:** Bisquick Baking Mix

**Day 11:** Sugar

**Day 12:** Jelly

**Day 13:** Canned Tomatoes

**Day 14:** Canned Beans

**Day 15:** Powdered Milk

**Day 16:** Spaghetti Noodles

**Day 17:** Flour

**Day 18:** Canned Meat  
(Tuna, Chicken, etc.)

**Day 19:** Applesauce

**Day 20:** Vegetable Oil

**Day 21:** Baking Powder

**Day 22:** Saltine Crackers

**Day 23:** Olive Oil

**Day 24:** Stuffing Mix

**Day 25:** Loaf of Bread

### Household Goods Collections

Dish Soap	Sponges
Toothpaste	Toothbrushes
Toilet Paper	Kleenex
Deodorant	Feminine Hygiene Products

**All items should be returned to Charity no later than 12 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19**

# Grace, Grace, *Marvelous* Grace A Women's Gathering

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. *Hebrews 4:16*

## Natalie Dawn Hanson featured keynote



**REGISTER  
TODAY**

**Seating is limited  
and filling up fast!**



**Natalie Dawn Hanson**

Tickets are still available online for Charity's women's retreat, "Grace, Grace, *Marvelous* Grace," set for 9 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22.

Natalie Dawn Hanson, who is a niece of Don and Kathy Nordquist and David and Jennifer Bjork, will headline this one-day event and registration is limited to 80 women. Hanson is an author, speaker, and coach.

She's the author of *Made to Soar: Christ-Centered Truths to Encourage, Equip, and Empower Moms*; creator of the online

coaching program, *The S.O.A.R. Method*; and founder of the *Made to Soar* Movement and the *Soaring Sisters* Community all designed to guide women from places of uncertainty, insecurity, and unsteadiness to places of clarity, courage, and strength in all areas of their lives so they can discover their divine identity and purpose, live their dreams with passion, commit to a life of intention and unity with God, and band together as sisters in Christ to positively impact the world and build up the next generation of believers.

Hanson believes every woman was created to unfurl her wings and soar in the joy and beauty of her divine purpose, and she's committed to empowering women to do so.



**Tickets are \$15 and includes lunch. PLEASE register for the event and select your breakout sessions online at [Charity-Lutheran.org](http://Charity-Lutheran.org), scan the QR code or call the church office at 258-1228, if you have already registered.**



**CHILDCARE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED.**

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 9-9:30 a.m.    | Registration   |
| 9:30-10 am.    | Announcements and Worship with Charity's team  |
| 10-11 a.m.     | <b>God's Gift of Grace Now What?</b><br>Natalie Dawn Hanson  |
| 11 a.m. - Noon | <b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>   |
|                | <b>1. Drawing Close to the Waymaker</b> – During this time we will use worship, art and prayer to lay down your burdens and open your hearts to God's promises and healing. Prayer ministry will be available also. Brenda Whitman |
|                | <b>2. Art of Worship</b> – Exploring creativity as an act of worship. Sarah Coleman  |
|                | <b>3. Spiritual Gifting/ Love Language</b> – How to live life more abundantly by knowing your spiritual gifts and love languages. Chere Allard   |
|                | <b>4. Let's Talk About It</b> – Review of Natalie Hanson's message Q& A. Carol Bjork   |
|                | <b>5. Legacy – Live It! Leave It!</b> Legacy focuses on what will endure. It's about passing on things of lasting value to those who will live on after us. Shelley Traynor  |
| Noon - 1 p.m.  | <b>LUNCH</b>   |
| 1-1:30 p.m.    | Worship with Natalie Hanson  |
| 1:30-2:30 p.m. | <b>Claim Your Purpose, Embrace Your Race.</b> Natalie Dawn Hanson  |
| 2:30-3:30 p.m. | <b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b><br>Repeat Morning Sessions  |
| 3:30-4 p.m.    | Closing  |

# Thank you to Charity for help during the pandemic

This year I had the opportunity to attend our LCMC Gathering in Hilliard Ohio, together with our MMI President Brett Johnson from Minneapolis, Minn. We had a display of our MMI ministry representing our churches from Mexico.

The Pandemic, as you may know, brought many changes in our world. We have lost many of our loved ones, family and friends, and still, many are under the attack of the COVID virus.

Besides the physical sicknesses and the loss of our beloved ones, we had to stop gathering as a church, and for almost two years, we have been doing ministry broadcasting live.

Today more than ever, our church is alive. The message of the Gospel has not been locked in, and we have been able to help with their faith, not just those who we had inside our four walls, but many are getting the benefits of our preaching and our worship online.

We have been very busy using the media to reach out with counseling, testimonies, prayers, music etc.

This year we had to consolidate Spirit of Joy and Spirit of Faith in one single rented building. We could not continue paying rent in one of them and gathered at the one Spirit of Joy was using. Since November Spirit of Joy and Spirit of Faith have been worshipping in a single rented building again and online via Facebook.

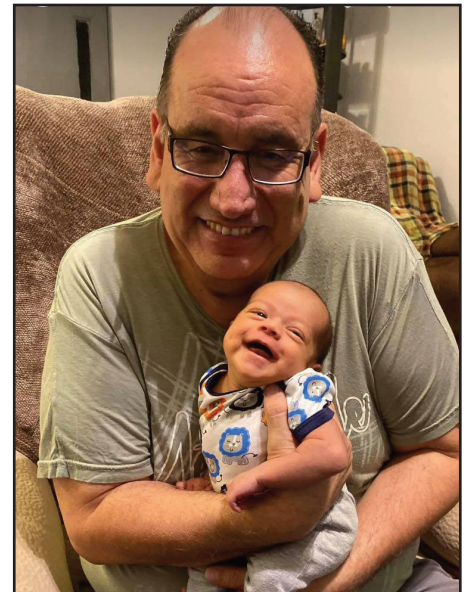
Little by little people are returning to worship at the building and are more confident without abandoning the protocols given by the health department to avoid more people getting Covid.

These last two years have been hard, I cannot deny it. But God has been very faithful to us, through you, people from CHARITY LUTHERAN and a few other churches that despite the situation never have abandoned us.

We were so afraid, but trusting at the same time in God who is our provider. Many God moments we have experienced during these years of trial. But we have seen his hand acting in our favor.

We are succeeding just by the grace and mercy of our God. Our ministry is on the go. God is with us through Christ the Savior and his Beautiful Holy Spirit that empowers us.

~Rev Enrique Estrada, LCMC Director



## DECEMBER Birthdays

**December 1**  
Chad Kourajian

**December 2**  
Lisa Aamodt  
Vanessa Anderson  
Doreen Oakland

**December 3**  
Cassia Coleman  
Mavis Mikkelsen  
Marisa Misek  
Luke Portra  
Zachery Vincent  
Jerry Walz

**December 4**  
Mindy Austin  
Michaela Casey  
ElRita Nelson

**December 5**  
Braden Haverlock  
Liz Landis  
Jason Sellers

**December 7**  
Betty Cass  
Kayla Wiest

**December 8**  
John Erickstad  
Norine Haugen

**December 9**  
Steve Miller  
Joey Desir

**December 10**  
Olivia Duffy  
Alvin Jaeger  
Ashley Westbee

**December 12**  
Parker Doll

**December 15**  
Marlene Bohrer  
Rena Jungling  
Judi Swanberg  
Coen Lamp

**December 16**  
Anna Bernhardt  
Brittany Hausauer  
Jonathan Samuelson

**December 17**  
Eliza Bullock  
Kristin Faragher  
Jo Lindquist  
Maggie Portra  
Cheri Wenzel

**December 18**  
Sue Hagen  
Cody Maier

**December 19**  
Payton Bauman  
Ashley Pulver

**December 20**  
Beverly Anderson  
Ana Dendy  
LaVonna Gums  
Daniel Klindtworth  
Sophie Portra  
Carol Simenson

**December 21**  
Jon Gums

**December 22**  
Patricia Beyer  
Zachary Devine  
Taleah Sapin

**December 23**  
Patricia Beyer  
Samson Parnell

**December 24**  
Emily Hershey  
Dar Helfrich  
Stephanie Maier

**December 25**  
Nathan Bro

**December 27**  
Nadine Butts  
Lauden Gums  
Jack Smith

**December 28**  
Kathy Hruby  
Sharon Rosenvold  
Sara Schwarz

**December 29**  
Kassidy Kaldor  
Jack Naset

**December 29**  
Edwina Njos  
Alison Schmid

**December 30**  
Jill Anderson  
Shelby Custer  
Carter Kost  
Missy Theel  
Deb Uline

**December 31**  
Lauri Desir  
Avery Liudahl  
Jewell Mehlhoff  
Alvin Schmierer  
Sharon Zimmerman





CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



A SHELTER IN CHRIST TRANSFORMING LIVES

**CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
120 Aspen Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503

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

E-mail: [office@charitylutheran.org](mailto:office@charitylutheran.org)

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



## Charity Kids Upcoming

9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 • Kids Christmas Services

11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 • Kids Christmas Services

6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8 •  
Kids Christmas Services

6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 • Jingle Jam

Friday, Jan. 14 • Bottineau Ski Trip

## Charity Student News

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8 •  
High School Christmas Party

6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 • Middle School  
Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

8-12 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12 • Middle School Fun Night

Friday, Jan. 14 • Bottineau Ski Trip

## Christmas Eve Worship



**Friday, Dec. 24**

**12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.**