



October 2021

Sunday, Oct. 3
3:30 P.M.

GRIEFSHARE BEGINS

Tuesday, Oct. 12
6 P.M.

AMAZING GRAYS

Sunday, Oct. 17
**NEW MEMBER
LUNCHEON**

Sunday, Oct. 24
**NEW MEMBER
SUNDAY**

Saturday, Oct. 30
**TRUNK-OR-TREAT
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH EVENT
FOLLOWED BY
CHARITY
FAMILY NIGHT**



Good NEWS



Pastor Sam Coleman

Ordinary miracles

A song on my best of the best playlist by Sarah McLachlan is titled, "Ordinary Miracles," and I love the lyrics. ***"It's not that unusual when everything is beautiful; It's just another ordinary miracle today. The sky knows when it's time to snow, don't need to teach a seed to grow; it's just another ordinary miracle today. Life is like a gift, they say, wrapped up for you every day, open up, and find a way to give some of your own. When you wake up every day, please don't throw your dreams away, hold them close to your heart, 'cause we are all a part of the ordinary miracle today. The sun comes out and shines so bright and disappears again at night. It's just another ordinary miracle today."***

I love the concept of "ordinary miracles" because of all the miracles that happen around us each moment that we aren't even often aware of. Just the fact that we wake up each morning and the sun is at the exact proper distance from the earth so we can experience days and seasons is incredible when we see it for what it is.

And autumn seems like an exclamation of miracles as leaves turn yellow, orange or red. Other examples are the cool mornings warming up to beautiful days and then cooling down, perfect for an evening bonfire or a football game. Apples, pumpkins, gourds and stalks of corn remind us that harvest is here, and we gather the bounty of the warm summer. Even the smell of newly fallen leaves raked into piles are reminders of the ordinary miracles of the season and growth and life.



Pastor Sam Coleman

These observations bring us to an essential question. "How do I respond to the ordinary miracles all around me?"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Staff updates

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. As Charity is currently in transition with our pastoral staff, it's important that we recognize Associate Pastor Sam Coleman as our sole pastor on staff right now.



Doug Leet

Pastors hold a special office of ministry in local congregations, and they serve us in so many ways that we don't even realize. While we should be encouraging and celebrating their service all year-round, October has been set aside so we can celebrate them. Here are some thoughtful ways you can do that:

- Write personal notes of encouragement and appreciation.
- Treat him with things he likes: we all know he's an outdoorsman and

likes fishing, hunting, camping and boating, and he really likes chocolate covered pretzels (but no caffeinated coffee, please).

- Volunteer your time for things he needs. Whether it's projects around his home, or other special ministry needs at Charity.
- Celebrate his wife Sarah too. Include her in your notes of encouragement and appreciation, or send one specifically to her.
- Give him a gift card to a favorite restaurant or store.
- Invite Sam and his family over for dinner.
- Add books to his library. Find out his interests, like theology or art.
- Help your preschoolers and children to create hand-made appreciation cards for Sam, Sarah and the kids. Have them decorate them with hand-drawn pictures of their family.
- Arrange to take care of their kids, so they can go on a date night.
- Pray for Sam and his family, and let them know when you do.



Nathaniel Oakland
Charity Connections Coordinator

Nathaniel David Oakland began serving Charity as the Connections Coordinator in September. His favorite go-to Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11-13 : *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Nathaniel and his wife Melissa, moved to Bismarck recently with their three children Ethan 11, Isaac 9 and Hannah 7.

"In July 2020, I was praying trying to figure out if moving to Bismarck was what God wanted for our family. Melissa and the kids flew to Bismarck while I continued to work for the Seattle Police Dept. I was sitting in a park in Seattle working on the 4th of July. We listed our house for sale. I slept at the precinct for only a few hours, but I woke up and I knew that God had a plan for us in Bismarck. It was an exciting feeling. Only a few hours later I got a call, and agreed on a full price offer," he said.

Nathaniel loves to listen to a wide variety of Christian music. Currently Crowder and Needtobreathe. His new favorite song of the past year is "The Blessing."

Outside of church, Nathaniel and his family enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, snowboarding, and going to sporting events. Pretty much anything with family and friends. He said he was looking forward to spending some time out in the North Dakota Badlands.

Nathaniel said, "At a very young age I heard the story of Joseph in a sermon at church. I was captivated by everything that happened. I never was able to follow along and listen to a sermon before that. I couldn't believe it was true. I remember being so captivated by Joseph."

Financial Report

August Actual Income	\$112,340
August Budgeted Income	<u>96,080</u>
Difference	\$ 16,260

August Actual Income	\$112,340
August Actual Expenses	<u>83,653</u>
Difference	\$ 28,687

YTD Actual Income	\$756,150
YTD Budgeted Income	<u>768,644</u>
Difference	\$ 12,494

YTD Actual Income	\$756,150
YTD Actual Expense	<u>798,473</u>
Difference	\$ 42,323

We'd also like to introduce you to a new hire at Charity, Nathaniel Oakland.

Nathaniel began working in a new part-time role as our Connections Coordinator. With the Connections Ministry becoming a core ministry at Charity, we'd like to welcome Nathaniel Oakland on board in that capacity.

Please get to know Nathaniel, because he'd like to get to know you.

Whether it's the welcome teams on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, the new member interest process we have at Charity, recruiting volunteers, or serving as the staff liaison with small groups, Nathaniel will be working hard to bring our connections ministry into alignment with Charity's mission and vision statements.

Please read his about Nathaniel in the next column.

Call Committee Report

The Call Committee was busy in September preparing materials to begin calling a new Senior Pastor. On Sept. 20, Beth and Scott met with the Vision Council to discuss and coordinate logistics about the call process.

To date, we have prepared a draft congregation profile, a draft online job posting for the LCMC website and a budget proposal, all for Vision Council review. And, we have compiled community packets to share with interested applicants.

Please check here every month for the latest updates. We encourage anyone from the congregation to contact us with questions or concerns. Our email address is: callcommittee@charitylutheran.org. Feel free as well to reach out to any of us directly. We ask for your continued prayers as God guides us in this process.

Committee members: Beth Allen, chair; Adam Berglund, vice-chair; Andrea Collin, secretary; Melissa Hill, Laura Kourajian and Scott Carter.

Building a house

I would like to start this month's news article with this verse from Proverbs 24:3-4: ***By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.***

God is working in our house of worship. The holy spirit moves within us.

I would like to assure the congregation that we are in constant prayer and are following God's path for Charity Lutheran Church, whatever that may be. We need to trust in his will and his ways. If anyone has concerns or comments, please email the vision council at vision.council@charitylutheran.org



John Seedorf
VC president

You can also talk with any council member or call me personally at 701-426-9768.



MEMORIALS

Memorial Trust Fund –

In memory of Dorothy Lommen by Alvina Fueller, Georgia Kingsbury

In memory of Wayne Reep by Don and Kathy Nordquist

Circle C Ranch –

In memory of Barbara Reed by Alvina Fueller

Call Committee questions can be emailed to:

CALLCOMMITTEE@CHARITYLUTHERAN.ORG

October Birthdays

October 1
Marlys Coughlin
Trevor Heidt
Alec Toman

October 2
Marla Laxdal

October 3
Scott Symington

October 4
Travis Anderson
Alayna Carlson
Julie Slag

October 5
Linkin Hill
Terri McEvers
Nicole Phillips

October 6
Shirley Carlson
Jeremy Misek

October 7
Darlene Bentz
Alissa Knudson

October 8
Jeff Gitter
Cora Marruffo

October 9
Jacob Haugen
Brooklyn Lubbers

October 10
Art Carlson
Clint Coleman
Cooper Coleman
Rebekah Dohrmann
Maizie Stockert

October 11
Oliver Anderson
Myron Jahner
Jane Mann
Lisa Wald

October 12
Laura Kourajian
Brenna Lindell
Sy Marruffo
John Westbee

October 13
Rachael DeMaria
Alexis Harstad
Jaime Lawler
Linda Parsons

October 14
Jane Schulz

October 15
Tricia Bentz
Clark Coleman

October 16
Ardean Harstad

October 17
Andrew Farley

October 18
CJ Maier
Sherri Samuelson

October 19
Jo Cahoon

October 20
Easton Robinson
Everly Robinson

October 21
Char DeMaria
Dylan Schmidt
Cassie Theurer

October 22
Melanie Willoughby

October 23
Arlan Okerson

October 26
Jackie Casey
Connie Geiger

October 26
Aaron Haverlock
Skye Wald

October 27
Nathan Farley

October 28
Emma Churchill
Kari Edland
Charlotte Milas
Kacie Schlecht

October 29
Danielle Grove

October 30
Joan Orvik
Simon Phillips
John Trygg

October 31
Harrison Custer

Charity Lutheran Church community outreach and family-night event

TRUNK OR TREAT

4 P.M. SATURDAY, OCT. 30

AND
CHARITY
FAMILY
NIGHT

ALL ARE WELCOME

Everyone is invited to trunk-or-treat. Each family decorates their car and passes out candy or trinkets of their own choosing. Three cars will be selected for **GRAND prizes** by People's Choice. **PLEASE sign up your trunk decorating idea at the east entrance to avoid too many duplicates.** Following the community event will be a Charity family night with a supper and prizes.

- 2-4 p.m. – Trunk set up in parking lot
- 4-6 p.m. – Trunk or Treat event
- 6-8 p.m. – Charity Family Night in Fellowship Hall

CHILLY CHILI BAR

At 6 p.m. join us for a Chilly Chili and Hot Dog Bar. Enjoy homemade chili with every kind of topping or enjoy a hot dog with your children.

PUMPKIN CARVING

Why mess up your house when you can bring your own pumpkin to church to carve. After supper, tools will be available for carving. Each pumpkin will receive a battery-operated candle.



Leave the 99



This hen searched around the whole yard for its poult. How much harder does Goes search for us?

It's officially Autumn. The cottonwood leaves have turned. The Harvest Moon filled the night skies and has since waxed into another phase.

Blame it on the cooling nights and warm, soft days, but birds and animals seem to be on the move. Like we retreat to our air-conditioned homes and workspaces, wildlife also avoided the heat of the day during our extra-hot summer weather. It's time for some temperate autumn weather.

The middle of October begins the rutting season. Fawns have lost their spots for the bark-colored coats of winter. We are catching glimpses of young bucks between the bare branches of leafless trees.

There's a ferd (flock and herd) of turkeys wandering through the yard every day at about the same time each morning and returning at dusk. The group of 12 to 20-plus make the same journey every year around the perimeter of our yard north of Mandan. Sometimes they stop and drink from our irrigation ditch. At night you can hear the commotion created when they run and launch into the branches of cottonwood trees to sleep away from the coyotes' reach. And, there are plenty of yowling coyotes. Maybe it's the full moon?

About a week ago, from my kitchen, I could hear a turkey "putting" or "yelping" or "kee-keeing" by itself around the perimeter of the yard. The path most promenade by the ferd. It would call, then stop and wait. It would call and then stop and wait, looking in all directions.

The bird circled the yard and disappeared into the wooded area to the west.

The next day I made a note of the missing poult. (A poult is a baby turkey that is not yet a yearling, and the Kee-kee and Kee-kee Run call is a unique sound just for the poults out there in the wild.)

I was heartbroken. The hen calling around the property the day before, I think, was looking for her poult. It was the only young one in the entire flock. That probably means it was the only egg that escaped the raccoons or coyotes stalking the night.

The first worship song I heard at church that Sunday was "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury. There's a line in that song, "leave the 99," with no other explanation. That phrase may need some clarification to people unfamiliar with the parable of the lost sheep in Matthew 18:10-14 - The Parable of the Lost Sheep.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way, your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Pondering the lost poult and how desperate the hen sounded as she called out that day, coupled with how I would feel having to search for one of my children, led me to a "moment."

If that turkey, or the duck I witnessed searching for its chick on the river one summer day, would take the chance and leave the safety of its "flock" to search for a "child," well, the thought was overwhelming. In my mind, it means God created these humble creatures with an overwhelming instinct to "leave the 99."

I cannot even imagine the power of God's motivation as he searches for His lost children.

Did you Know?

Miracles

(Continued from page 1)

Do we wake up each morning with thankfulness and expectation of the miracles we will experience today, or has life become monotonous, and it's hard even to see or enter into the miracle of life?

Are we overcome and amazed by the beauty of God's creation, or are we simply putting in the time or perhaps feel like we are carrying burdens and weights on our shoulders? Are we taking time to truly appreciate God's gifts of life, time, and beauty or are we constantly in a hurry to get things done, running, running till life's no fun, as another song states?

I believe God asks us these questions a lot of the time. And our honest response to these questions is critical. I know I've had to confess to the Lord and ask His forgiveness for ignoring or glossing over the gifts He has given me. I've also asked Him to help me be more thankful; grateful for His blessings, and He answers that prayer.

I think of the phrase, "Please be patient with me because God's not finished with me yet." Just the fact that God gives us his forgiveness and grace is amazing. And then He continues to shower us with His goodness, provision, and love each moment in the "Ordinary Miracles" we experience.

These verses from Psalm 65 are excellent reminders of God's unique hand in all the ordinary miracles we experience each day.

"You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy" Psalms 65:5-8

It is my prayer that as you experience the ordinary miracles that are all around us that you would take some time to enjoy them, thank God for them, and then be filled with hope, joy, and peace and have an extraordinary day. God Bless You.

~ Sue B. Balcom

~ Pastor Sam

Stacy Walz - Cru Creative 1 Media

Hello Charity! My name is Stacy Walz, daughter of Al and the late Kathy Jaeger. I grew up attending church at Charity. My husband, Brian, and I live in Minot with our three sons Micah (6,) Asher (4), and Noah (1). I work as graphic designer for Cru (originally founded as Campus Crusade for Christ) with their in-house media ministry team called Creative 1 Media.

As a team member of Creative 1 Media, I collaborate with designers, videographers, photographers, and web designers to produce beautiful and compelling material that accelerate the mission of Cru to connect people worldwide to the most beautiful message in the world, the love of God.

My specific team focuses on designing promotional materials for conferences and events that Cru ministries host throughout the year. Here are some examples:

- Cru Winter Conference – a gathering of college students
- Epic Conference – an Epic Movement gathering of Asian-American college students
- Legacia – a Destino gathering of Hispanic college students
- Vision Conference – a Bridges International gathering of international and American students
- FastBreak – a gathering of high school students

For seven years, I have been on part-time staff working remotely from our home. This has allowed me to be at home with my



Brian and Stacy Walz and their three sons, Micah, Noah and Asher.

boys and still use my gifts to further God's kingdom. Sometimes it is challenging to be a mom who works from home, but God has blessed me to manage both work and being a mom well.

I thank you, Charity Lutheran, for your continued support throughout the years. I am grateful to have the church home I grew up in as a ministry partner as together we share the love of Christ here and worldwide.

OCTOBER



October 1 – Travis and Jen Anderson
October 2 – Micheal and Jennifer Farley
October 5 – Jon and Cindy Gums
October 5 – Matt and Penny Kaldor
October 6 – Derek and Jackelyn Bold
October 8 – Eric and Laura Satrom
October 9 – Josh and Jaimie Peshek
October 9 – John and Judi Trygg
October 10 – Gary and Laurie Schaffer
October 10 – Shawn and Chanda Stelter
October 12 – Mitchell and Cassandra Becker

October 13 – JC and Sue Balcom
October 15 – Rod and Diane Melby
October 15 – Dennis and Carol Simenson
October 16 – John and Sandy Seedorf
October 19 – James and Janell Devine
October 19 – Myron and Rita Jahner
October 20 – Steve and Deanne Cunningham
October 21 – Freddy and Jennie Abonna
October 21 – Scott and Nichole Stoeckel
October 22 – Sam and Sarah Coleman
October 29 – Daniel and Karlee Klindtworth

“After the death of my mom, I needed someone who would listen – even to the same stories over and over – and who wouldn’t be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That’s who my Stephen minister was, and I don’t know how I would have gotten through it without her.”

Molly

Need an ear?

Call 258-1228 for more information.

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*

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22

Cost: \$15 (80 seats available) REGISTER TODAY
UNDER UPCOMING EVENTS AT CharityLutheran.org
or scan the qr code.



K ELEMENTARY



Dress Up Days

- Oct. 3 & 6 Monochromatic Mania - dress in all one color; your favorite color!
- Oct. 10 & 13 Bible Guess Who? - dress up as your favorite Bible character or story.
- Oct. 17 & 20 When I Grow Up, I Want To Be... - dress for your future career.
- Oct. 24 & 27 It's A Zoo In Here - dress up as your favorite animal.
- Oct. 31 & Nov. 3 Pajama Party - wear your PJs to church!

God is one of a kind, with no beginning and no end. Everything God has created is unique and one of a kind, including people created in God's image. Every person is an original reflection of God in how they love, care for others, imagine, create, and solve problems. To see how we can do this well, we should look to Jesus. Jesus showed us what it means to be created in God's image in the way He loved all people and helped people feel like they had value—no matter who they were or what they had done. We can reflect this as we discover who we're meant to be and live out the individuality God gave us. We're going to have a little extra fun celebrating individuality this month with dress up days.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue? Or if dinosaurs actually existed? Or have you ever had some big questions when it comes to faith and Jesus? Well, over the next four weeks we're going to be tackling some of those big questions in confirmation and in high school - you don't want to miss it.

Collecting candy for Trunk or Treat

We are collecting candy for Trunk or Treat! If you wish to contribute, candy donations may be placed in the candy collection bins in the East Entrance.

PRESCHOOL



Preschoolers love to show adults how BIG they are . . . "Look at my BIG muscles! Look how BIG I can jump! Look at this BIG bite!"

We don't have to teach a preschooler to show everyone how big they are. And, if we're all honest, there's something deep inside us that wants to do something big, too. We want to show the world that we can do things that matter— things that really matter. Could it be that we were all made to do big things? We think so.

That is why we have planned an entire month around what being a Super Kid really looks like—doing the things God made us to do. God made us to do BIG things.

SOCKTOBER!

CHARITY ELEMENTARY KIDS ARE COLLECTING NEW PAIRS OF SOCKS TO BE DONATED TO KIDS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THE TRIBE THAT COLLECTS THE MOST NEW PAIRS OF SOCKS WILL WIN A PIZZA PARTY THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7, 2021.

EACH TRIBE HAS A COLLECTION BOX LOCATED IN THE EAST ENTRANCE.

WHICH TRIBE WILL BRING IN THE MOST PAIRS OF SOCKS AND WIN THE SOCKTOBER CHALLENGE??

SMALL SOCKS.

BIG SOCKS.

EVEN IN BETWEEN SOCKS.

ORANGE SOCKS.

BLUE SOCKS.

AS LONG AS THEY ARE NEW SOCKS!

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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OCTOBER IS

Pastor
APPRECIATION
MONTH

LET'S SHOW OUR PASTOR HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE HIM. DOUG HAS SOME IDEAS IN THIS MONTH'S COLUMN.