



Good NEWS

Associate Pastor Sam Coleman

What a wonderful world

Sunday, June 5
PENTECOST
9 & 10:30 A.M.

Monday-Wednesday
June 6-8
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thursday, June 9
VBS FUN NIGHT
7 P.M.

Friday, June 17
PINOCHLE GAME NIGHT
6:30 P.M.

Sunday, June 19
FATHER'S DAY



Yesterday Sarah and the kids and I went on a horseback ride around Circle C Ranch. It was so beautiful! The grass was green, flowers were blooming, the sky was bright blue with white fluffy clouds, and shockingly, there wasn't any wind. What a wonderful world!

It made me think of the beautiful song "What a Wonderful World," sung by Louis Armstrong in his unforgettable voice.

I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
The colors of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying
"I love you"...

I love this song, but the reality is that we can also look at our own lives and the world around us and say it's not all wonderful. We understand that darkness, evil, shame, and suffering are going on

around us and in our lives, and it's sometimes really tough. We know there are days with massive storms that have impacted or will impact us for the rest of our lives. We've all experienced brokenness, sadness, and pain. If I was to ask you to name your problem or your pain, you would probably be able to name something pretty quickly.



Associate Pastor Sam Coleman

In a beautiful passage in 2nd Corinthians, God reminds us of the perspective he wants us to have during whatever pain we are in or storm we face. Paul shares with the Corinthian church that he was given a thorn in the flesh so he wouldn't become conceited. We aren't told what that thorn was, and I believe God didn't want us to know so that the promise He gives Paul holds true for each of us and our thorns in the flesh. Paul asks God to take away the thorn three different times, but Scripture tells us, "But he (the Lord) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

What? Paul had a physical ailment, some wounding, an addiction or a problem that was going on in his life that God refused to fix. That doesn't initially make sense to me at all, and I even get a little angry because there are things that my loved ones or I have experienced or are experiencing, and I want God to step in, heal the situation, and fix it.

(Continued on page 3)

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

Be encouraged

It's a beautiful, sunny 47-degree morning in late May, and as I write this, our yard is filled with the sounds of mourning doves. This may sound strange, but I've perfected that sound by cupping my hands and making the sound back to them in response. In my mind, it's like I'm conversing with them — those in my family shake their head. Ever since Rhonda and I moved into our house 30 years ago, we've been blessed with a backyard of mature trees, a sanctuary, if you will, for all kinds of birds to make their nests. It's a place to relax with each other or meditate alone. With June upon us, I can't help but feel that we are now in a race into summer with all of the busyness it brings, trying to fit in as much as we can into a few precious months. In the midst of that, I want to encourage you to recognize God's blessings in your life and to take the time to enjoy them.



Doug Leet

(Hebrews 10:24-25) In meeting together, try to keep a Sunday routine of going to a worship service, either at Charity or finding a local church to attend if you're traveling. As Nathaniel Oakland reminds us, even outside of Sundays, keep meeting with friends and small groups of Christian brothers and sisters. A way to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" is for us to hear each others' testimonies and to see each other in action with service to each other and our community.

So here is a challenge for you this summer. We want to hear from you. Whether it's a testimony of what Jesus has done in your life or opportunities of service you've taken advantage of this summer. We will find a way to share these things and be encouraged. We are reminded in 1 Peter 3:15 that we need to be aware of these things and be prepared to share with others, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

This summer, let's work on perfecting each of our stories so we are then prepared to share. Please send your testimonies or examples (and photos) of service opportunities you have done recently to doug.leet@charitylutheran.org.

The writer to the Hebrews sends encouragement in another way, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Amazing Grays summer events

The Amazing Grays will celebrate Flag Day with a catered dinner at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 14. Dessert will be provided by the FOMO Ice Cream Trailer between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Please RSVP by Sunday, June 12, to Renee Walz by texting 400-1201.

More information will be coming on the July Medora trip and the New Rockford Theatre play in August.

Gospel Fest includes patriotic music

June's Gospel Fest will feature patriotic music in addition to the regular old gospel tunes from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 22. Words are projected on the screen. Singing is led by the Fueller sisters, Lorri Mittleider and Christi Neumiller. This event is open to the public and a free will offering will be taken for Heaven's Helpers Soup Café. Bring a treat to share and stay for coffee fellowship following the sing.

Make a difference and serve There's no excuse - we'll train you

Volunteer Coordinator Nathaniel Oakland is looking for greeters, ushers, and coffee crews for Sunday worship. Liz Landis is coordinating communion hosts. Don't know how? There will be a training session from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 20 and Thursday, June 23, for new and current ushers, greeters, communion and coffee teams. Still unsure? Call the church office at 258-1228 or email [liz.landis@charitylutheran.org](mailto:landis@charitylutheran.org) or nathaniel.oakland@charitylutheran.org.

**JUNE 29, 2022
7-9 PM**

**CHARITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

\$10/PERSON

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

DESSERT

PHOTOGRAPHER

TWINKLE LIGHT DANCE

**REGISTER
HERE**

**FATHER & DAUGHTER
Princess Ball**

**FOR CHARITY GIRLS & THE MEN
WHO RAISE & INSPIRE THEM**

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL TEA PARTY

Charity girls and the women who raise, support, and encourage them are invited to dress in their finest tea attire and join us for a formal tea party at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 16, at Charity. Registration Fee: \$10/person.

TRANSFORMATIONAL PRAYER

Summer Schedule
Tuesday and Wednesdays
4: p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Call 258-1228 to schedule

June Vision Council update

The garden is finally planted, and it looks like we have seen the last frost for this spring, I hope. The east side of the state is praying it dries up, and the west side is praying for rains to continue — all about normal for North Dakota.

May Vision Council meeting was a continuation of wrestling with open positions on staff, reviewing summer property projects, and updates from soon-to-be arriving Intentional Interim Pastor.

I would also like to welcome Dennis Simenson to the Vision Council. He was appointed to fill the vacancy when family and work commitments required Carlo Marrufo to step down. Thank you, Carlo, for the time you did serve, and thank you, Dennis, for stepping in.

I would also like to thank all those that attended the May 24th prayer service. As we are entering into these 12 months with an Intentional Interim Pastor, we must all continue to stay prayerful and committed to the opportunity God

has offered us to grow, unite, and strengthen Charity in the larger body of Christ. With Pastor Brad's arrival in June, I would encourage everyone to lift him in prayer and welcome him at your earliest opportunity.



Mike Fluharty
VC President



2022	
April Actual Income	\$93,242
April Budgeted Income	<u>103,262</u>
Difference	\$ 10,020

April Actual Income	\$93,242
April Actual Expenses	<u>77,922</u>
Difference	\$ 15,320

YTD Actual Income	\$382,014
YTD Budgeted Income	<u>413,049</u>
Difference	\$ 31,035

YTD Actual Income	\$382,014
YTD Actual Expense	<u>318,911</u>
Difference	\$ 63,103

Memorials

MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

In memory of Walter Vietz by Vi Vietz and Shirley Hanson.

GRIEFSHARE:

In memory of Corrairie Schock by Lorri Mittleider.

Stitchin' It Up group seeks donations

A group of 14 women have formed Charity Quilters but could use a few more hands to create quilts for 2023 Charity graduates' gifts. These twin-size quilts remind our youth they remain in the hearts, minds and prayers of the Charity congregation. The group needs fabric, quilt batting, and cash donations to keep costs low with the goal of 48 quilts.

Both masculine and feminine fabrics are needed in patterns and solid cotton fabrics. Quilts can also be made from unique fabrics or a graduate's school year's T-shirts. Batting will be purchased in bulk and costs \$300 for about 22-24 quilts.

This is a blessed and prayerful group that hopes to bring a smile to the graduates and each other. We are very appreciative and thankful for the quilting fabric donation stashes already received. The group will resume meeting on the fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning in September in the Gazebo. There will be lunch, snacks and catching up with each other's lives.

What a wonderful world

(Continued from page 1)

But listen to God's promise again. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." The very things we so often look at as hurtful and challenging situations are also the times when God's amazing grace, His undeserved favor, His undeserved love for us is sufficient, and His power is made perfect. What God is challenging us to do is change our perspective on our weakness, our pain, our problem. When we realize that we can't do it, that sometimes He isn't going to fix whatever is going on, and that we are weak and in need of strength that He shows up and says He is enough for us, and we can continue because of Him.

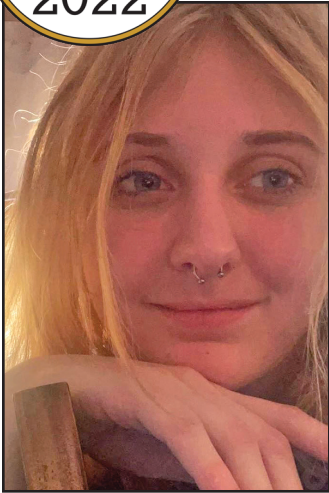
Paul continues, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so

that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Christ's power rested on Paul as a sinner needing God's grace. It didn't rest on a perfect person but an imperfect one. It rested on a man with problems that God allowed in his life, and Paul came to the point of recognizing his problems (thorns) as opportunities to see God's grace. This challenges us to take a different perspective of our weaknesses, problems, or mistakes and look at them as positives for showing Christ's power at work within us and through us.

So what is the Lord calling you to have a different perspective on? What thorn of the flesh, problem, or issue forces you to look to Jesus for His grace? Are you thanking the Lord for everything today? Probably not easily but remember, God's grace is sufficient for you! God bless you!



Congratulations 2022 Seniors



Ainsely Westmoreland



Brodie Sailer



Carter Nosbusch



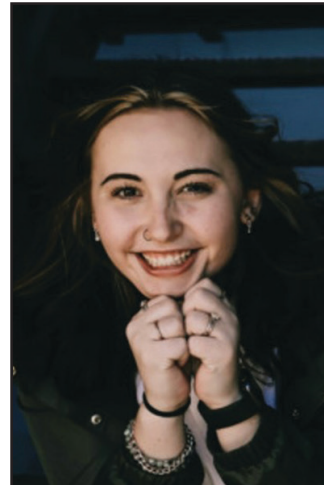
Charlie Molander



Dominick Harstad



Dylan Nosbusch



Isabelle Milas



Jack Wilson

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 1
Brandon Bauman

June 2
Noah Gange
Kyle Kuether
Stephanie Kuhn
Angela Oakland

June 3
Violet Vietz

June 4
Addison Churchill
Paul Kuetemeyer

June 5
Tracy Korsmo
Alexander Schumacher
Sarah Wegner
Lauren Wegner
Carol Wetsch

June 6
Carlo Marrufo
Madison Reems
Faith Stelter
Bobbie Westbee

June 7
Brett Schafer
Brooklyn Sailer

June 8
Gloria David
Craig Lohstreter
Charles Whitman

June 9
Adam Berglund
Judy Meidinger
Signe Penn

June 10
Brynley Becker
Abby Westbee

June 11
Kristina Bouley
Mark Murdock
Kellan Okerson
Evan Weaver

June 12
Lyla Allen
Roger Hollevoet
Ellery Portra
Melissa Reep

June 13
Carson Braun
Paul Coughlin
Michael Dwyer

June 14
Gaby Kincaid
Diane Melby
Owen Pulver
Angie Wagner

June 15
Ray Eckroth
Allan Knutson
Michael Vincent

June 16
Andrew Milas

June 17
Baylee Carlson
Aaron Edland
Dustin Peterson
Jason Weaver

June 18
Jackie Hollevoet

June 19
Greer Custer
Will Dohrmann
Ione Leet
Janet Schafer

June 20
Duane Bentz
Jeanette Miller

Congratulations 2022 Seniors



Josie Buntrock



Julian Einarsson



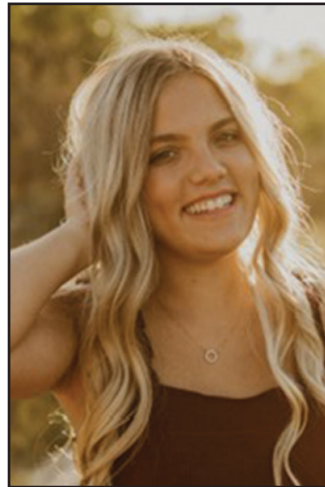
Megan Reems



Mikella Kost



Raine Skjod



Tanaya Aaseth



Team Pukmith



Treyten Benz

June 21
Hallie Dronen
Dennis Naasz
Kelsey Nisbet
Reece Theel

June 22
Ella Erickson

June 24
Daniel Beyer
Hudson Bullock

June 25
Connie Carter
Svetlana Peterson
Milton Westgaard

June 26
William Nisbet
Linda Westbee

June 28
Alaina Hill
John Kuhn

June 29
Adam Bartholomew
Germaine Krueger
Corina Larson
Audrey Liudahl
Mirian Theurer
Aveya Vogel
Roland Wiedrich

June 30
Hailey McEvers
Team Pukmith
Amber Torgerson

June 1 – Dennis and Melissa Reep
June 2 – Justin and Vanessa Anderson
June 2 – Morgan and Donna Doll
June 2 – Jim and Tamara Neumiller
June 3 – Don and Cheri Wenzel
June 7 – Allan and Cheryl Knutson
June 7 – Mike and Heather Miller
June 7 – Scott and Tracy Wegner
June 9 – Chad and Stephanie Maier
June 12 – Michael and Patricia Dwyer
June 12 – Nevada and Wendy Jorgenson
June 12 – Kevin and Debi Selby
June 12 – Jeff and Deb Uline
June 12 – Paul and Sara Vukelich
June 14 – Bruce and Autumn Roth
June 17 – Derek and Melissa Hill
June 17 – Allen and Kari Knudson
June 19 – Marv and Joyce Borgelt
June 20 – Bud and Betty Kuhn

June 21 – Art and Shirley Carlson
June 22 – Daniel and Patricia Beyer
June 22 – Roger and ElRita Nelson
June 23 – Doug and Barb Berglund
June 23 – Stan and Angie Misek
June 24 – Ryan and Kristen Faragher
June 24 – Bob and Pam Nelson
June 26 – Daniel and Allison Lubbers
June 27 – Dennis and Byrdi Naasz
June 27 – Roland and Dorine Wiedrich
June 28 – Jon and Norine Haugen
June 28 – Kevin and Dawn Kindel
June 28 – Aaron and Sharon Zempel
June 29 – Jeff and Rose Gitter
June 29 – Charles and Gayle Little
June 29 – Jerry and Renee Walz
June 30 – Glenn and Jan Mueller
June 30 – Duane and Faye Wangen

From the Intentional Interim Pastor Brad Miller

May be a week late, but on my way

Greetings from Jerusalem.

This is my fourth trip to Jerusalem. The trip was a pilot project funded by a grant to help pastors with the less than Masters of Divinity training grow in the depth and knowledge of their Biblical preaching and teaching. Results of the pilot project will take years to determine – but the initial impressions are positive. I was here as the teacher. I knew that seeing familiar sites with fresh eyes would allow me to learn and grow as well. But, wow, I was unprepared for what I learned about Interim Ministry.

Please see the
Interim Ministry
Process –
A Nautical
Analogy
on page 6

As I write this, I am sitting in a small hotel isolated from COVID19. Despite being vaccinated and boosted, it finally caught up to me a few days ago. I had a couple of unpleasant days, but now I feel physically fine. My scheduled trip is over, and the team that I was teaching has safely returned to the USA. I, however, am caught in a strange and uncertain process. The Israeli government rules for quarantine are in transition – they formally change

tomorrow. I just had my third COVID19 test, and now I am told that I probably have to go to “Covid Jail” – a special hotel on the other side of town. The primary way out of Covid Jail is to have consecutive “negative” daily tests. But, some people still show “positive” weeks after their recovery. So, there is a health declaration that you are eligible to receive after eight or 10 days from the start of your PCR test. (If you started isolation because of symptoms and a rapid home test, those days don’t count. If the eighth or 10th day is a Sabbath, you add a day.)

I need one proper negative test or a health declaration of recovery to board an airline flight for the USA. I also need a new plane ticket. At this moment, I am eight days from the scheduled pick-up of the U-Haul for my move to Bismarck. I am 10 days away from my last day in the pulpit at my present interim pastorate. My move is scheduled over the biggest move weekend of the year. One day late could mean postponing four days until loading help is available after the Memorial Day holiday. On a parallel track to all of this, my son learns more about potential back surgery in a few days. His surgery consultation will dictate whether my wife can fly to Detroit to help me pack and transport our vehicle.

All of the above are highly frustrating. I want to move on with the work that I need to do. I want to know when I will be able to fly, pack the truck, drive and start at Charity.

After nine interim pastorates, God has given me a real-life refresher course on the frustrations of pastoral transition. Unknowns stacked upon unknowns are part of the life of a congregation in pastoral transition. So, I am seeking to pause and take the advice I give to congregations: focus on what is known and trust God.



Pastor Brad Miller was treated to a camel ride on his recent visit to Jerusalem. Due to COVID19, travel plans have been delayed by a week, but he is on his way. If you wish to learn more about Pastor Miller, visit this link to an article written about his work. https://www.friendsfellowshipchurch.com/files/ugd/8474d5_c1f1600720444c1b984add5448bd75a6.pdf.

Wherever I wake up tomorrow morning, I will be a forgiven sinner entrusted with sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Nothing else matters more than that. So, I will spend the coming days reflecting upon Paul’s Epistles written in prison. Whenever I get to Detroit, there will be packing to do. I may lose a rental truck deposit. I may get to Charity a week late. I may spend much more on my return plane ticket than the original round-trip cost. I will be tempted to grumble daily – if not hourly. But not one of these troubles is of eternal consequence.

By the time most of you read this, most of the above will be sorted out. I have shared it all because I find it all instructive about ministry transition feelings. Soon (more or less), I will be in your midst. We will roll up our sleeves and work together on matters of eternal consequence because that is the church’s mission.

The Interim Ministry Process—A Nautical Analogy

Keep the Boat Afloat

Continue the basic ministry operations of Word & Sacrament, education, and pastoral care with as little interruption as practical. Deal with typical church crises and challenges as they arrive.

Churches, like ships, contain a complex set of systems—all of which can consume resources and attention. Staying afloat is priority #1!



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Take Bearings

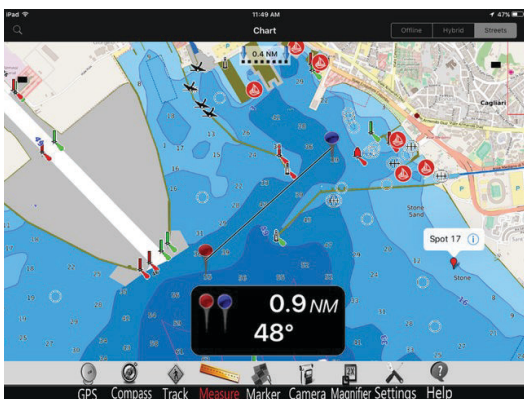
Assess the basic health of the congregation, especially in context of its history and future. Examine the findings and reflect on the most relevant insights.

Whether by sextant or GPS, ship handlers need to know where they are at all times and what condition all systems are in.

Underway Overhaul & Replenishment

While the congregation grieves the recent past, fix the things that need immediate attention—so that when the next settled pastor arrives his or her starting months are not dominated by overdue essential tasks.

Ships sometimes have the luxury of a Dry Dock. When in Dry Dock, the crew depart and all functions stop during extended maintenance. Churches never have that luxury! Churches are always “underway” and need to continue to function while fixing various systems.



Set General Heading

Help congregational leaders chart a general course forward. This is essential for the Call or Search Committee to be able to seek and communicate with the best possible candidates. Implementation and fine-tuning of a future path will commence once the new settled pastor is on board.

Ships must be equipped with proper supplies and charts and staffed for the voyage ahead. Churches, too, need to ready themselves for the expected challenges and opportunities in the next 3 to 7 years.

Prepare for Change of Command

A good Interim process is all about transition. These months are the pivot point between history and future. Though the Interim Pastor needs to be amenable and possess good people skills, they also need to always be thinking about how interactions prepare the way for the next settled pastor.

Command sounds a bit too corporate or military for many churches. But, regardless of how team-centric or empowerment-based your next pastor may be, their unique style and personality will mark a new era.



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E-mail: office@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org

Make Waves
WHAT YOU DO TODAY CAN
CHANGE THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Charity Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School
June 6-8 • Preschool 6-8 p.m. • Elementary 6-8:15 p.m.

VBS Family Night (completely FREE!)
Lion's Park Shelter 2 from 7-8 p.m.
Hillside Aquatic Center 8-10 p.m.