

Good

March 2022

Wednesday, March 2
ASH WEDNESDAY
LENT SERVICES
12:10 P.M. AND
6:15 P.M.

Friday, March 4 **LADIES NIGHT OUT 7 P.M.**

Monday, March 14
FREEDOM IN CHRIST
6:30 P.M.

Friday, March 18
PINOCHLE
GAME NIGHT
6:30 P.M.

Friday, March 25 HIGH SCHOOL GAME NIGHT 7 p.m.



Pastor Sam Coleman

Abiding in Him

pring is coming! It may not feel like it right now, especially as I look outside and see snow swirling past the window, and the temperature is -12 with a real feel of -35. As a friend of mine from Virginia stated when they came to North Dakota a couple days ago, "Who lives here anyway?"

Hahaha.

I think North Dakotans have even more appreciation for spring when it comes because of the harsh winters we often experience. A silver lining is we rally together and understand our need for each other because of the winter. And, no matter how long the winter, spring will come and with it the grass will begin to turn green, the meadowlarks return, and soon the sap in the trees will cause them to send out new leaves and the flowering crabapples will blossom in preparation for bearing the little miniapples that feed the birds.

In the Bible, Jesus makes a powerful statement to his followers. He says, "Abide in Me, and I will abide in you. The branch cannot itself produce fruit, unless it abides on the vine. Likewise, you cannot produce fruit unless you abide in Me." (John 15:4)

Jesus emphasizes the verb "abide" in this statement. The dictionary definition of abide is: "to remain; continue; stay," "to have one's abode; dwell; reside," "to put up with; tolerate," and I especially like this last definition "to wait for; or await." In the Bible, "abide" also takes on a greater intimacy and is often used to show the need to rely on the Lord in every aspect of one's life. Just like we as North Dakotans understand our need

for each other, especially in facing harsh winters, abiding is about being in a place where one remains close, where a relationship is sustained. There can be an element of expectancy awaiting as well.

I love that Jesus



Pastor Sam Coleman

gives us this description of a branch that bears fruit and tells us that the key to producing fruit and living a life of eternal significance is in abiding and remaining in him. It's in relationship with Him, trusting in Him, and walking with Him. I have to say that when I read this statement by Jesus, I have some questions such as, "Am I abiding in Christ continually?" or "How often do I go about my day or tasks

without giving them to the Lord or asking

for his involvement in them?" or "Have I

surrendered and submitted my own will

to the Lord in every area of my life?"

I think these are good questions for all of us to ask, especially when looking at the last part of Jesus' statement. He said, "Likewise, you cannot produce fruit unless you abide in me." These words of Jesus bring conviction to my own life and a perspective change. I realize that instead of making a decision or following my ideas and goals and then asking for the Lord's blessing, I think the perspective change is that I need to ask the Lord first what he would have me do, how he would have me do it, and then

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Missions: Charity's DNA

ven before Charity joined LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) in 2001, Charity had been CLMC. What is CLMC, you might ask? It is Charity Lutheran in Mission for Christ. Yes, I am playing around with words and abbreviations, and while Charity was not formally CLMC, it is very much the case that "Missions" and Charity go way back.

After listening to Charity member Jen Anderson's message on Mission Sunday and hearing the convicting David Platt video, "Risk it All For Christian Mission," that she shared, it made me appreciate Charity's mission-minded history that



2021	
Dec Actual Income	\$180,352
Dec Budgeted Income	96,080
Difference	\$ 84,272
Dec Actual Income	\$180,352
Dec Actual Expenses	<u>98,263</u>
Difference	\$ 82,089
YTD Actual Income	\$1,202,212
YTD Budgeted Income	<u>1,152,966</u>
Difference	\$ 49,246
YTD Actual Income	\$1,202,212
VTD Astrod Francisco	4 4 3 0 0 7 0

\$1,202,212 <u>1,152,966</u> \$ 49,246
\$1,202,212 <u>1,128,870</u> \$ 73,342
\$ 98,637 <u>103,262</u> \$ 4,625
\$ 98,637 69,257 \$ 29,380

much more. If you haven't heard that video, I'd suggest taking six minutes to listen to it.

In Charity's preamble to its constitution, the first thing that Charity as a congregation is called to do is proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20)

But even long before our current constitution and bylaws were adopted in 2003, the roots of Charity's mission focus started with the call and arrival of Pastor Bob Nordvall, along with his wife Karen, in 1985.

They came to Charity pretty fresh off the mission fields (or islands) of Papua, New Guinea, in the southwestern Pacific, where their children, Karl and Siri were born. Their first call after Papua New Guinea was to Taylor's farming/ranching community in western North Dakota, where they spent three years.

Charity was their second call after serving overseas, and it became home to them with Pastor Bob serving as senior pastor for twenty-five years. Starting with his involvement in EEMN (Eastern European Mission Network) in 2004, Pastor Bob has led 16 trips to Estonia (many of those with Charity folks) to aid Pastor Enoch Haamer and his son Siimon with the Tartu Academy of Theology, training Estonians in Christian evangelism. Our youth have been immersed in missions too.

Starting with our first youth director, Randy Upgren, then followed by our second youth director Sam Coleman, various mission trips have been offered.

Sam himself has led nine trips with youth and adult chaperones to Guatemala to benefit the God's Child Project.

Through that early guidance and tending to by Karen Nordvall, and other faithful stewards like Darlene Bentz, Pat Wheeler, Leanne Fried, Georgia Kingsbury and



Doug Leet

others, those roots grew and blossomed into what it is today a missions and benevolence committee that oversees the distribution of 12 percent of Charity's general fund income to nearly two dozen global and local missions and ministries.

Over the past ten years, this has amounted to 1.3 million dollars in support, and in 2021 alone, \$167,345 was distributed. The fruits of this mission support is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world; it's what Charity as a congregation is called to do.

Lauri Desir leads the current missions and benevolence committee, herself a former missionary to Haiti (her sons Sam and Joey are Haitian-born), and aided by a dedicated missions-minded team. For more information on the different missions and ministries Charity supports, please take a look at the benevolence distribution reports shown on our website's mission page at charitylutheran.org, under the serve tab.

I say, 'goodbye' and you say, 'hello'

Please take note about two staff changes at Charity happening this month.

Doug Sprynczynatyk has accepted the job as the facility and grounds maintenance supervisor filling the position vacated by Jeff Brown. Sprynczynatyk began training into this new position in late February.

And, Sue Balcom, Charity's Communication Coordinator, will be celebrating her final Revelation series bulletin and day at Charity on Thursday, March 24. Balcom will be retiring into a full-time farmer and artist with her business "The Root Sellers."

Balcom has been a member of Charity since 1985-ish and is looking forward to becoming a better volunteer in addition to spending some time with her husband, J.C.

You can contact Balcom at RootSellerSue@gmail.com.

So, please join us in welcoming Sprynczynatyk to his new position; his contact email at Charity is Doug.Spry@charitylutheran.org.

Update on Vision Council

want to begin by introducing myself. My name is Mike Fluharty, and I will be serving as your Vision Council President for the year 2022. Thank you to all the VC Presidents who have gone before me and all their work for Charity Lutheran Church.

Thank you goes out to all who either attended or set time aside at home to pray with the Vision Council and Call Committee on the evening of Feb. 15. It was great to see so many praying for God's will for Charity's future. I felt it lifted both the Vision Council and the Call Committee and united us. We have to remain in prayer that God will be faithful and guide us through this time of transition. A special thanks also to Pastor Terry Sletto for leading us.

I want to refer to Pastor Sam's article in the February newsletter. It kind of hit home when he was writing about Revelation 3:20. Pastor Sam was pointing out the sense of intimacy and getting to know others over a meal, and it occurred to me why the Vision Council shares a meal before each monthly meeting. I am not sure when the practice started,

but typically one or more of the meeting attendees volunteers to bring supper.

The meeting begins with eating and fellowship; what a great way to draw closer and get to know each other. It makes me reflect on how much we need to do that in our daily lives. We live in a fast-paced, busy world. Hosting in our homes is almost a lost art. I for one, need to disengage a little more (maybe a lot more) from my electronic media and engage more in breaking bread with friends, neighbors and fellow disciples in the pursuit of fellowship, encouragement, and prayer. Thank you, Pastor Sam, for giving me an insightful moment.

During the February Vision Council meeting, we reviewed the Charity Sunday morning bulletin prayer list. It is a list of twelve items to pray for intentionally. Each prayer item is assigned a month and will appear each week in the bulletin. Vision Council will be working with staff to resurrect the practice.

February is also finding us searching for an intentional interim pastor. Since last fall, the Vision Council and the Call



Mike Fluharty VC President

Committee have been praying and working towards this. I am looking forward to everything an intentional interim pastor can bring to Charity. Healing, better methods of conflict resolution, mentoring of staff, guidance for Vision

Council, expertise in the call process, to name a few. The intentional interim pastor's experience, wisdom and training can lead us down a path that will make Charity's body of believers stronger spiritually with a positive stage set for the success of the future called Senior Pastor.

I want to close by thanking all of you for this opportunity to serve at Charity, and please feel free to reach out to me or any of the Vision Council members if you have any questions or comments.

Contact the Vision Council at vision. council@charitylutheran.org.

Vision Council questions can be emailed to: VISION.COUNCIL@CHARITYLUTHERAN.ORG

Charity Call Committee report

Greetings from the Call Committee. Prior to our meeting on February 15, we joined the Vision Council and other Charity members to pray for the future of Charity and the pastoral call process. We continue to support the Vision Council in these next steps.

We know God is at work in our congregation and we wait patiently for his will to be done.

Please remain prayerful for the work we are doing and continue to reach out to us with questions, either individually or through our email at callcommittee@ charitylutheran.org. We look forward to hearing from you and thank those who have sent us emails and visited with us personally.

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

Call Committee questions can be emailed to:

CALLCOMMITTEE@CHARITYLUTHERAN.ORG

Memorials

MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

In memory of parents, Edwin and Betty Loken by Edwina Njos.

In memory of Vernon and Carol Lykken and Jerome Miller by Steve and Pam Miller.

ADVENTURES IN MISSION

In memory of Wilbert Fueller by Alvina Fueller.

March Anniversaries

March 5 - Thomas and Ruth Bettenhausen

March 6 - Rick and Jean Boyer

March 9 - Jason and Terri McEvers

March 10 - Floyd and Tricia Bentz

March 15 - Dave and DeAnn Lewis

March 16 - Dennis and Amber Torgerson

March 25 - Stan and Jeanette Miller

March 29 - Matt and Tena Liudahl

What's happening in kids and student Ministries this month?

Preschool - Put On Your Shoes

Series Description - Everyone Can Be Friends With Jesus

While Jesus was on earth, He lived a life that very clearly said, "Everyone can be friends with Me." While not everyone took Him up on His invitation, those that did were changed forever in the best way. That is why we are teaching preschoolers that no matter what kind of shoes we wear, everyone can be friends with Jesus. We can be friends with Jesus no matter how young or old. We can be friends with Jesus wherever we live and whatever language we speak. We can be friends with Jesus no matter how much money and education we have. There are no special requirements to be friends with Jesus. It's a come as you are kind of friendship that lasts forever. Everyone can put on their shoes and follow Jesus because everyone can be friends with Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse

"Come and follow me," Jesus said.

Matthew 4:19 NIrV

Elementary – Jam Session: Cooperation

Series Description - Compassion

Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God. God created us to work together in a community. Throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish something big for Him. When we work together, we reflect what Jesus envisioned for His followers. Our love for one another can point people to Him.

Monthly Memory Verse

Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIrV

Middle School - Who is Jesus?

Discovering who Jesus really is

Memory Verse: "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 NLT

March 2: Ash Wednesday - MS students attend service with parents

March 9: NO WOW - DODGEBALL WARS @ Horizon Middle School

March 16: Because of Jesus, you are never alone and your mistakes don't hold you back.

Never Give Up: a series on hope

Memory Verse: The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.

Psalm 145:18 NLT

March 23: The Life of Abraham

March 30: The Life of Peter

April 6: The Life of John

High School

Prism: Discovering who Jesus really is.

Memory Verse: "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 NLT

March 2: Ash Wednesday - HS @ Julie Dolbec's House

March 9: NO WOW - DODGEBALL WARS @ Horizon Middle School

March 16: Because of Jesus, you are never alone and your past doesn't hold you back.

Never Give Up: a series on hope

Memory Verse: The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth. **Psalm 145:18 NLT**

March 23: The Life of Abraham

March 30: The Life of Peter

April 6: The Life of John

Upcoming Events

ASH WEDNESDAY

The WOW schedule for Ash Wednesday will be slightly modified:

5 - 6 p.m. • WOW Meal

6:15 - 7:15 p.m. • Charity Kids (Nursery - 5th Grade)

6:15 p.m. • Ash Wednesday Service

8 p.m.-? • High School @ Julie Dolbec's House

Charity Kids (elementary) will be receiving ashes downstairs.

Middle school students are asked to attend the Ash Wednesday Service as part of their confirmation journey. There will not be any regular confirmation rotations following.

9th-12th Grade Progressive Dinner

The high school progressive dinner will take place on Sunday, March 6. Please meet in the Charity parking lot at 5 p.m. We will return to Charity at approximately 8:30 p.m. Friends are welcome. All attendees must sign up in advance by Wednesday, March 2, on the sign-up sheet in the east entry.

Student Ministry Dodgeball Wars

Wednesday, March 9

Middle School 6:15-7:45 p.m.

High School 8 - 9:30 p.m.

There will not be regular WOW on Wednesday, March 9. Middle school and high school students will instead meet at Horizon Middle School at their usual times (MS - 6:15 p.m., HS - 8 p.m.) for Dodgeball Wars and more games. Parents should plan on dropping off and picking up at Horizon. Gatorade and snacks provided.

Charity Kids Nerf and Nachos Night

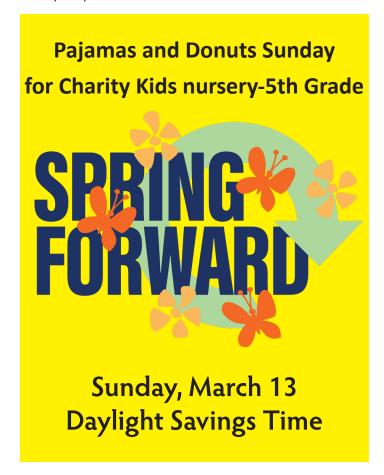
Wednesday, March 9

5-7:30 p.m.

There will not be regular WOW on Wednesday, March 9. Charity Kids and their parents are invited to a night of Nerf Wars and Nachos instead. We'll start in the Fellowship Hall with a Nachos meal from 5-6 p.m. We'll spend a few minutes cleaning up (and allow time for parents of middle schoolers to drop them off at Horizon for Dodgeball Wars) before the Nerf Wars begin.

Everyone should bring their own nerf weapons. No automatic or battery powered weapons are permitted. Please only bring nerf weapons that use the original style Nerf Bullets.

Charity will provide all the nerf ammunition.



TOBY MAC &



DAVID CROWDER

Toby Mac and David Crowder **High School Concert Trip**

9th-12th graders are invited to hop on the Charity bus for a trip to see Toby Mac and David Crowder in concert at the Fargodome on Friday, March 11. We'll leave Friday morning and return after the concert that night. Due to generous donors, this trip will cost only \$20/person and includes transportation, dinner, and a concert ticket. As always, friends are welcome. Pre-registration required.

Family Trivia and Game Night

A family trivia and game night is happening on Saturday, March 19 at 6 p.m.. We'll provide the trivia portion of the evening and beverages. Each family is asked to bring some board games (clearly marked with their name) and an appetizer to share

The night begins with appetizers and a family-friendly trivia battle (each table plays as a team) and prizes, followed by board games. This event is open to all ages, but we are asking for preregistration to ensure we have enough space for everyone. Sign up in the east entry by the elevator or by adding your name(s) at the QR link provided.



1st Communion

First Communion classes for 5th graders will begin on Sunday, March 23, and Wednesday, March 26, and last for two weeks. Students may attend on Sundays or Wednesdays but do not need to attend both. 5th graders are required to attend a regular Sunday service with their parents on Sunday, April 3, when Jews for Jesus will be at Charity to present "Christ in the Passover," as part of their 1st Communion education.

First communion will take place during Maundy Thursday services on April 14. Students whose last names begin with A-L are asked to attend the 6 p.m.. service and students whose last names begin with M-Z are asked to attend the 7:30 p.m. service. If your family is unable to attend during the designated service time, please contact Maggie Portra as soon as possible. There will be a group photo of all 5th graders taken at 7:10 P.m. in the sanctuary. Parents of 5th graders should check their e-mail for more information.

Easter Jam

Save the date for an Easter celebration you don't want to miss. Saturday, April 2, is Easter Jam. Join us in the fellowship hall at 9 a.m. for breakfast, followed by the Easter Jam Family Experience (FX) in the sanctuary at 10 a.m.. Plan to stay afterwards for Easter Egg decoration, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and more.



Opportunities to serve

Easter Jam Meal Team

Do you have a passion for breakfast foods? We need your help. We're going to serve a buffet style breakfast before Easter Jam on Saturday, April 2, and we need some help in the kitchen. Please contact Maggie Portra if you are willing to serve on this team.

VBS Decorating Committee

There is still time to join the VBS Decorating Committee. Contact Maggie Portra if you are interested in helping create an overthe-top experience where kids and families come together to see how God can work in them to create change in the world around them.

Band Day Parade Committee

Calling all builders, artists, and trailer owners. We are gearing up for this year's band night parade and we want to create an AMAZING float as we promote VBS. If you are interested in being part of this team - whether through building, creating, or loaning a trailer, please plan on attending an initial planning meeting in the New Youth Room on Sunday, March 13, at 12:30 p.m. following services.

Upcoming Family Ministry Events

Wednesday, Marchch 2 -

Ash Wednesday (Modified WOW Schedule)

Sunday, March 6 - High School Progressive Dinner

Wednesday, March 9 - NO WOW

Wednesday, March 9 - Charity Student Ministry Dodgeball Wars

Wednesday, March 9 – Charity Kids Ministry Nerf and Nachos Night

Friday, March 11 - Sunday, March 13 - Winter SOULstice Retreat at Crystal Springs

Friday, March 11 – Toby Mac and David Crowder HS Trip to Fargodome

Saturday, March 19 - FamilyTrivia and Game Night

From the pastor

(CONTINUED from page 1)

follow his guidance and promptings. Perhaps it is the same for you?

My perspective change is also what would be called "confession." Confession and receiving forgiveness are realizing we have been doing something wrong, changing our minds and perspectives, and agreeing with God that we need to change. And perhaps that is what abiding in Jesus is all about. Jesus made

his statement about "Abiding" to his followers just before he died on the cross for the whole world's sins. He knew that there could be no forgiveness for sin apart from him, and I believe He was inviting us to experience cleansing, forgiveness, and a fresh new start each day and each moment as we abide in him. It's like he invites us to experience the new and let go of the old every moment!

One of my favorite aspects of spring is

the smell of freshness and new growth in the air. I love the hint of new life as the ground thaws, and then new life begins. And Jesus invites us to experience that same freshness and newness of life in his love, forgiveness, and grace; to forgive ourselves and others, let go of our old tendencies and open up to the new thing God is bringing us into.

I hope you join me in entering into the "Spring" Jesus does in our lives as we "Abide" in Him.

Building a relationship with Crystal Springs Camp

he ministry of Crystal Springs Camp near Medina has been growing steadily through God's grace and the great partnerships we enjoy with churches in our region, including Charity Lutheran.



Our mission is to glorify God by creating an environment where people can be renewed through encountering the truth, love and iov

of Jesus Christ. Each year we have the great privilege to minister to kids in 2-12 grade throughout nine youth programs and minister to their families through two weekends of family camp.

Camping is a great way to get people into

the beauty of God's creation while at the same time getting the word of God into the hearts of young people so that they might know what it's like to walk closely with the Lord - reaping the peace, joy and intimacy that forgiveness through Jesus brings.

As the culture around us continues to drift further away from the wisdom and knowledge of God, we can see the importance and impact of maintaining a focus on the truth of God's revelation. Our theme this year is "Thy Word is Truth," and our prayer is that God would make that plain to the kids that attend. Your prayers and support towards this effort are deeply appreciated and greatly encourage us.

Over the last few years, Charity Lutheran has deepened its relationship with the camp by sending kids and financial support to help make our mission a reality, and we are so very thankful. As our programs continue to grow, we



need more space to house our campers and staff. To answer that problem, we began a new dorm project called the Fireside Lodge, which will enable us to accommodate our female summer staff and extra cabins of girl campers in the summer. The project is ongoing, and the progress has been slowed somewhat by the cold and windy winter season, but we are praying that God would provide the people and time needed to complete this summer. Thanks again for your partnership, and we would love to see you at camp this summer.



March 1

Cindy Gums Linda Obv Ian Schlecht

March 2

Aiden Austin Jenn Frankeberger Vanessa Kaldor Mark Landis Claire Liudahl Matthew Reep Brodie Sailer

March 3

Siri Neset Jackie Schacher

March 4

Julie Bernhardt Liam Chamley

March 5

Tena Liudahl Shelley Traynor

March 6

Esther Anderson

March 7

Ruth Coleman Jennifer Farley Matt Liudahl

March 8

Ion Mielke

March 9

Scott Stoeckel

March 10

Georgia Kingsbury Arlene Schamberger

March 11

Erin DeMaria Nicholas Murdock

March 12

Charlie Chamley Andrew Edland Siri Penn Cheryl Voll

March 13

Karly Knudson

March 14

Mary Ann Foss Laura Satrom Gracie Wangen

March 15

Lucy Hugelen Nancy Leno

March 16

Jax Gums

March 17

Stephanie Hegstad Bryan Keidel

March 18

Paula Dosch

March 19

Caleb Collado Melinda Sheets

March 20

Lydia Carlson Alivia Dendy leff Hanson leanne Hartert Gracelyn Peterson Connie Volk

March 22

Oliver Bartholomew Russ Bosch Kathy Nordquist Patti Nordvall

March 23

Caleb Coleman Mike Miller

March 24

Mark Anderson Luke Hegstad Iulie Kost

March 25

Ion Collado David Lindell

March 26

Chad Portra Lou Schwindt

March 27

Marlin Fried Melissa Hill

March 28

Amy Hoffman Kent Theurer

March 29

Doug Leet Marie Levang Robert Nordvall Daphne Ziegler

March 30

Sue Balcom Cheryl Knutson

March 31

Cale McEvers Brenda Whitman



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CRITICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST

Noon Ash Wednesday Service 12:10 WOW Ash Wednesday Services 6:15 p.m. COMMUNION and IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Noon Lenten Services begin March 2 through April 6 12:10 -12:45 p.m.

March 2 • Ash Wednesday (two services)
Critical Characteristics of Christ (Compassion)

Matthew 20:29-34

March 9 • Critical Characteristics of Christ (Humility)

Matthew 21:1-11

March 16 • Critical Characteristics of Christ (Courage)

Matthew 21:12-17

March 23 • Critical Characteristics of Christ (Servanthood)

John 13:1-10

March 30 • Critical Characteristics of Christ (Faithfulness)

John 14:1-6

April 6 ● Critical Characteristics of Christ (Advocacy) John 14:15-21



SUNDAY, APRIL 10

9 and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday Services Alaska Trip Fundraiser between services

HOLY WEEK

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

6 and 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday First Communion Services

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

7 p.m .Good Friday Worship

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 EASTER

7:30 Sunrise with Communion 9 and 11 a.m. Easter Services Nursery at 9 and 11 a.m. only Two venues available