

Saturday, April 2
EASTER JAM
9 A.M.

Sunday, April 3
JEWES FOR JESUS
9 AND 11 A.M.

Friday, April 8
LADIES NIGHT OUT
7 P.M.

Wednesday, April 13
NO WOW

April 14-17
HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE

Page 8

Thursday, April 21
SIIMON HAAMER
7 p.m.



Haamer to visit April 21

Dear Members of Charity Lutheran,

You are special people to us. You became partners of Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia in 2006. At that time, we were at a crossroads – we didn't have funds to continue our work, and we thought we might need to close our school. Your strong partnership that started then under the leadership of Pastor Bob Nordvall helped us avoid this huge crisis. We are truly thankful for your prayers, donations and long-time partnership.

Your donations for mission work in Estonia have had an inestimable impact. Your gifts have been used to train and equip local people who have become key persons in mission work. If someone supports mission work on the international mission field, then, according to my understanding, the most important task is to empower and equip local people.

Home of Hope Christian outreach center which was established at the end of 2019, is a long step forward in

(Continued on page 3)



Siimon Haamer will be presenting on his mission work at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21. Everyone is invited to attend.

Associate Pastor Sam Coleman

Run God's race with endurance

It's spring. I can prove it because I heard the song of the red-winged blackbird in the cattails by our pond at first light this morning. That red-winged blackbird is starting to look for a mate, and as the warmer and brighter days of spring approach, the beautiful cycle of life begins again. God is so good.

This brings to mind a beautiful passage of scripture I love and has been a promise point for me for many years. It's Hebrews 12:1-2, and it reads, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us

up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." (New Living Translation)



Associate Pastor Sam Coleman

(Continued on page 4)

What is Charity Lutheran

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) Other translations use "tenderhearted" for compassionate. I'm reminded of this verse when I read a particular Gandalf quote from



Doug Leet

Lord of the Rings (on this page). Gandalf is correct; the "small acts of kindness and love" really make a difference. Those small acts do make a difference. Last month, I was honored to celebrate twelve years of service on Charity's staff. And just like clockwork, I received an encouraging and congratulatory email from the same fellow at Charity, just as he had sent 11 times before.

When asked what Charity Lutheran is, one might respond that it's a fellowship of Christian believers, a faith family. Someone else might say it's that church on north Washington and Aspen. Is it the people? Is it a place? Well, it's both, and I pray that it's a welcoming place where people are kind and tenderhearted towards one another. That being said, we can look to our foundational and governing documents to see what Charity is. The preamble to our constitution states, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Created in God's image, redeemed by His Son, empowered by His Holy Spirit, the congregation is called to:

1. Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20);
2. Administer the Sacraments (Mark 14:22-25);
3. Study the Scriptures (Ephesians 4:11-16);
4. Instruct the youth and provide for their spiritual welfare (Matthew 19:13-14);
5. Witness to the community, nation, and world (II Timothy 2:15, Acts 1:18);
6. Support one another in prayer (James 5:16);
7. Help those in need (I John 3:17);
8. And practice responsible stewardship (I Peter 4:10-11)."

Please go check it out. You can read our constitution and bylaws from the "Vision Council" page on the website. And while you're there, go to the "Who We Are" page to see our Mission and Vision statements, our Confession of Faith and Acceptance of Documents, and the Prophetic Word spoken to Charity. It's all there. We need to be receptive to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives and our church body.

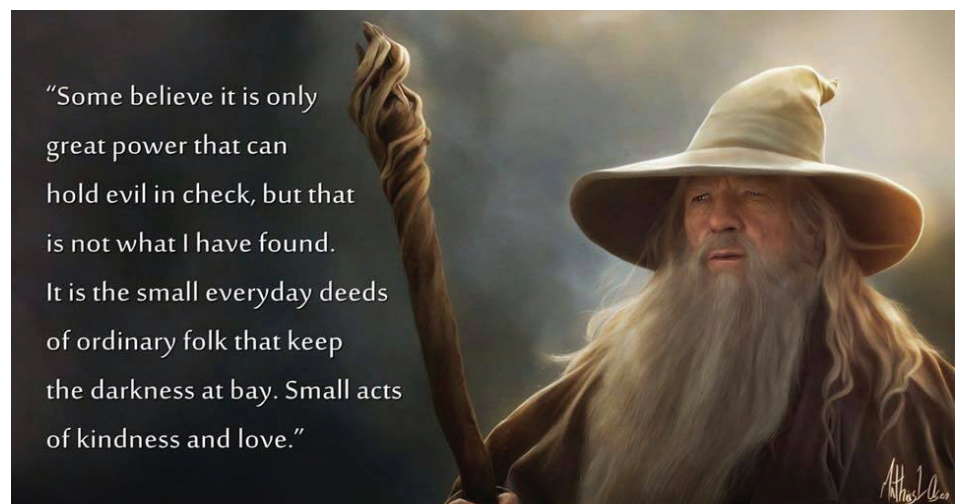
When I received my eleventh email (last year) from that diligent, encouraging fellow at Charity, we, as a congregation, embarked on our third senior pastor transition since I started. That averages less than four years between transitions; that's too frequent. In all of its 43 years, Charity has never employed an intentional interim ministry for any pastoral transitions. Nothing is guaranteed, but there seems to be value in using it now. A Charity person gave an airline analogy of constantly "changing pilots in mid-flight; never landing the plane to do the necessary maintenance checks and to recheck the flight plan" (see flight plan above). As a congregation, we fall into several categories this type of ministry can help with:

- we've experienced a recent controversial resignation of a pastor;
- preceded by another controversial resignation of a pastor, resulting in a split;
- a long-term pastorate that needed space between the old and the new;
- staff and multiple ministries in

- need of evaluation and strategy for receiving a new pastor; and
- experiencing benign neglect towards our mission, vision and foundational values.

Maybe the term "senior pastor" is a stumbling block for our congregation. Two and one-half years into my employment at Charity, I started hearing that term and the question, "Who should be the senior pastor?" Our focus should always be on the Lord, the only "Good Shepherd," and His plan for that next "pastoral shepherd" most equipped to lead our flock. I know that God has never said we won't have trials and tribulations, but He gives us the power to overcome them, along with hope for the future (Romans 5:3-5). I love that timeless prophetic word "Oaks of Righteousness" spoken to Charity years ago, which reads in part, "I have raised you up from a seed and made you strong in my might and in my power. And it is for this time, and for the days ahead that I have called you to be in this place. For the storms will continue to come, But I am with you; And I am your strength. I am the source of life that runs through you; For you are My oak (terebinth) of righteousness." By the way, the only time I've ever stumbled upon the term "terebinth" in the Bible was this past Saturday, when reading Isaiah 6:13 in our men's Bible study. Good hope-filled stuff.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.



"Some believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check, but that is not what I have found. It is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."

March Vision Council update

During the March Vision Council meeting, we had some members of Charity Lutheran attend to express their thoughts on the open position for Senior Pastor. We want to thank them and all the others we have received comments from since the February 27 Voters' Assembly meeting. We appreciate and take into consideration all the comments. I think it reflects well on Charity that even in times of transition and uncertainty, we can still talk and exchange information positively.

We are continuing our search for an

Intentional Interim Pastor with more than a dozen solicitations. Presently there are two positive responses that we are pursuing. Hopefully, one of those will bear fruit by the beginning of April. We continue in prayer and patience. Please pray with us.

In the meantime, Pastor Sam's workload is of concern. The Vision Council has approved the use of more guest pastors to take some of the workload off Pastor Sam. The schedule is pretty well fixed through Easter, but we should be able to reduce Pastor Sam's preaching load after that. As part of that workload reduction, I would like to remind everyone that Fridays are typically his day off and other than emergencies, please respect that. This is a busy time for all of our staff, and to continue functioning effectively, we need to respect their family time and time off. I would also recommend using the church office number for questions

or information needs where possible. From there you can be directed to the most appropriate staff person to help you. Thank you for working with the Vision Council and church staff.



Mike Fluharty
VC President

The Vision Council will also explore the possibility of a change to Charity's ByLaws. This change would prevent a Council member from serving on Charity staff in a paid position while concurrently serving on the Council. Presently there are no prohibitions concerning this situation. Discussion is continuing, and the Council remains cautious in any endeavor to amend the bylaws. Updates will continue on this situation, and input is welcome.



2022	
Feb. Actual Income	\$103,223
Feb. Budgeted Income	<u>103,262</u>
Difference	\$ 39
Feb. Actual Income	\$103,223
Feb. Actual Expenses	<u>82,536</u>
Difference	\$ 20,687
YTD Actual Income	\$201,760
YTD Budgeted Income	<u>206,523</u>
Difference	\$ 4,765
YTD Actual Income	\$201,760
YTD Actual Expense	<u>154,701</u>
Difference	\$ 47,059

Haamer shares 'flourishing fruits of long time mission partnership'

(Continued from page 1)

our mission work. This is actually the outcome of your long-time loyalty and trust toward us. In addition to the Tartu Academy study facility, Home of Hope is home to several Christian ministries: Christian radio (broadcast area 1.5-2 million square miles), a Bible school (160 students during two years), a Pastoral care center, Pastoral care 24/7 helpline (1,000 calls per month), Spiritual mentoring center and Youth activities for different age groups (about 70 young people attend). For more information, go to tatest.org.

that for a very long time. We understand what the people of Ukraine are fighting for and try to help them as much as possible. One Ukrainian refugee family is now living at Home of Hope in the guest apartment. In co-operation with local churches, we look for other housing opportunities for refugees.

We are not making short-term plans. Our goal is to proclaim the Word of God in Estonia, claimed to be one of the most secular countries in the world, for generations to come. We need your continuing help in this mission.

I hope to see you all in person at Charity Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21. I'll be visiting Bismarck with my assistant Mattias Haamer, and we will share much more about the mission and our current challenges.

Pastor Siimon Haamer
President of Tartu Academy of Theology

Memorials

MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

In memory of Jeff Schmierer by Wayne and Marie Levang.

GRIEFSHARE:

In Memory of Alvin Schultz by Lorri Mittleider.

After World War II, Estonia suffered for 50 years under aggressive Soviet occupation. It probably takes even more time to heal these heavy wounds that still exist deep in the souls of Estonian people. Today, you can see how cruel and evil the polity can be of the country that neighbors us to the east. We have known

Charity Call Committee report

Greetings from the Call Committee.

We met on March 17 and continue to press forward with our responsibility to search for and call a senior pastor. We trust God in determining the outcome of the intentional interim pastor search and are assisting the Vision Council as we are able in this process.

We are also updating some of our timelines and materials and continue to research outlets for advertising the senior pastor position when the time is right to do so.

We continue to be in prayer for God to guide us in this work and ask for congregation prayers as well. Please reach out to us with questions, either individually or through our email at callcommittee@charitylutheran.org. Thanks to all who have already reached out with emails and personal visits.

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

CALLCOMMITTEE@CHARITYLUTHERAN.ORG

From the pastor

(Continued from page 1)

I love these beautiful verses because they point us to what a life of faith is all about. It's a race of endurance. "Endurance" is synonymous with persistence, determination, faithfulness, and focus. These terms point us to what faith looks like. We aren't promised a relaxed, comfortable, or an easy life, but we are promised that when we endure and run the race set before us, there is joy, goodness, honor, and relationship with Jesus and our Heavenly Father.

Sometimes, I think we confuse "running the race" with the idea that we have to fix ourselves and get better somehow to then "run the race." But in this passage, the Lord gives us a different perspective. We don't run the race by focusing on ourselves, our triumphs or our failures and faults; instead, we run "by keeping our eyes on Jesus" by focusing on our "Champion." And when Jesus Christ went to the cross on Good Friday, He made the critical statement, "IT IS FINISHED." We run the race through the finished work of Christ on the cross, and it is the Holy Spirit at work within us that is leading us on this race of endurance. It's a race to become more like Christ every day and trust in his work within us more and more. It's a race to align ourselves with who Jesus is and who we are through him. And it's a race to remind ourselves that we are "saints" because of Him.

So how do we live this out? Hebrews 12:3 states, "When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility He (Jesus) plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls." (The Message)

This is the key. Our "endurance" in running the race is linked to reminding ourselves repeatedly of Christ's amazing love for each of us and his perseverance because of the "joy awaiting him." This is why prayer time with the Lord is so critical; why reading His Word is a crucial part of our lives; why fellowship with other believers who encourage our "faith-run" is emphasized repeatedly throughout scripture. Jesus Christ's love and sacrifice inspires us to persevere and remain faithful to what the Lord has called us to.

I think a huge reason spring is so beautiful when it finally arrives is that we have endured the winter with hope and reminders that spring is coming. That same hope of spring in the physical sense is the expectancy we can have as we reflect on Christ's love and sacrifice during this season of Lent, ending with the resurrection of Christ to new life on Easter. Spring has come spiritually, and we are reminded of Christ's amazing love, His amazing sacrifice, and His amazing perseverance. And this brings hope. God is so good.

Charity stitchers offer sewing lessons at new quilting group

Quilts for graduation will be the first focus of Charity's latest ministry meeting monthly on Saturdays in the Gazebo.

Anyone ages nine to 89 interested in learning about quilting and experienced quilters are invited from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the following Saturdays.

- Saturday, Apr. 30
- Saturday, May 14
- Saturday, Sept. 24
- Saturday, Oct. 22
- Saturday, Nov. 19
- Saturday, Jan. 28
- Saturday, Feb. 25
- Saturday, Mar. 25
- Saturday, Apr. 29, 2023

Coffee, snacks and lunch are provided, but you must bring your sewing machines and quilting tools if you have them. Beginners can contact Liz Landis at 258-1228 for a list of tools and or advice.

Experienced leaders will teach basic sewing skills and share quilting tutorials and ideas for making quilts for the Class of 2023 Graduates held on Graduation Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Thursday Women's Bible Study There's nothing new under the sun ...

For centuries thoughtful people have asked, "What's the meaning of life? Who created all this? Why am I here? What's the best way to live out the years I've been given?"

Would you like to read answers in the personal journal of the wisest man ever lived?

Please join us on Thursday mornings as we study "Ecclesiastics – Discovering Meaning in a Meaningless World" by Sue Edwards from March 24 through May 19. It's not too late to join in the Thursday Women's Bible study from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Books available at the class. Contact Shelley Traynor 701-226-2026 for more information.



What's happening in kids and student ministries this month

Preschool – We Go Together

Jesus Wants To Be My Friend Forever

Have you ever called someone your BFF? Maybe just the sound of it has you thinking of someone right now. BFF— Best Friend Forever. It's hard to be a BFF, even with the best of intentions. It's hard for you and me, but not for Jesus. Jesus is the one friend that not only wants to be our friend forever, but He can actually keep up His end of the promise. And, He went through a lot to make it possible. That's why, this month, we are sharing the Good News with preschoolers that Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Your friend. My friend. Their friend. Everyone's friend—forever! The best things that go together are my friend, Jesus, and me. And nothing, not even death, can come between us and His promise, because we go together forever and ever.

Monthly Memory Verse

I am with you always. *Matthew 28:20 NIV*

Elementary – Puzzled: Believe There's A Bigger Picture

Compassion

Life can sometimes feel like a giant puzzle. All we can see is the piece we're experiencing right now, and we're not sure where it fits into the greater picture the is forming. We can't always understand why some things happen to us or those we love. Yet, despite our confusion, we can have hope. God has kept promises throughout history. We can believe that God will continue to be with us through what we face now. Even in the toughest times, we can have hope because we know God is always working and can make something good out of something bad.

Monthly Memory Verse

In this world you will have trouble, but be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world! *John 16:33b NIV*

Middle School and High School

April 6: God Is Our Father

April 13: NO WOW - Holy Week

April 20: The Gifts & Manifestations of the Holy Spirit

April 27: WOW Finale - Color Wars

Wear a white shirt and pants/shorts/shoes that can get messy!



Upcoming Events

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!



Jews For Jesus

Join us for Christ In The Passover, an exploration of passover, the Last Supper, and your communion experience on Sunday, April 3, at the 9 and 11 a.m. services. More information on page 8.

Bake Sale Fundraiser

Charity's High School Students are going on a mission trip! Please stop by the bake sale table on Sunday, April 10, to say "hello" and purchase some freshly baked goodies to support their trip!

Art & Appetizers

Art & Appetizers is back! Space is limited, so register now using the QR code to the right. Cost is \$15/person for supplies. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer to share.



Let's talk about re**FIRE**ment

Sunday, March 20, was a day of celebration as I was released from my job as communications coordinator at Charity. Of course, it's hard to separate myself from my work at the church after 35-ish years of volunteering and then six years of employment. But rather than retire, I am on my way to refire.

In fact, retirement was so far from my mind, I almost missed the send-off cake on Sunday. I was setting up my loom for new dishtowels when Liz texted me, then called and said, "Did anyone remind you about having a cake for you between services." I ran into the bathroom and said to J.C., "Are you almost done in the shower? I have to get to church, it's my retirement cake today and I forgot."

Wow. Well, here we go. It's taken me a year to trust that I can maintain my lifestyle without committing to a "job." I have more than 50 years on my work record and still recall the first five-dollar bill I earned. I babysat for three children for 25 cents an hour; one was an infant. If you can do the math, that's 20 hours of sitting, and because I could, I washed dishes and picked up the house.

From there, I moved on to the Gackle Café with LaVonne Deutscher. She

became a second mother and mentor "foodie" for a mere 75 cents an hour. (If memory serves me, and I think it does.) but at that time, you could order a hamburger steak, potato, salad (Your choice of lettuce with dressing or cottage cheese and canned fruit.), dessert, bun and coffee for \$1.75.

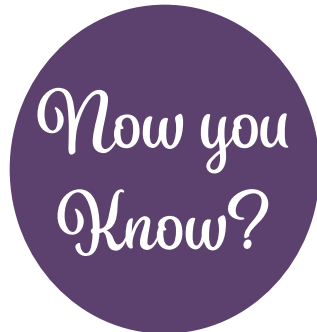
I went to school and worked in Moorhead, then Garrison, then Mandan. When I hit \$6 an hour, I thought, "I'm rich." I'm laughing out loud right now.

Over this past year, I have been evaluating what I want to be doing. I'm thinking I want out of everything so I can focus on my weaving and growing a great garden for the market. So, slowly

I have been learning to say no. I'm not quite there yet.

I have so many ideas, including a book that's half done, some sewing, and, more importantly, becoming a better grandmother. My husband and I also want to do some traveling during the winter. As the summer progresses and the garden requires more attention, it should be easier. I hope.

I write a weekly column for three newspapers and then post those musings



Thank you everyone for all the compliments over the years and the well wishes as I "Go and Grow" in the winter season of my life.

to my blog at www.TheRootSellers.com. you can also find me at the Bismarck Farmers Market during the summer.

The good news is, now that I have some time to myself, I can be a better volunteer at the church. Maybe I will actually attend a women's Bible study. Maybe I will lead one. In the meantime, I am praying for you all and will not be too far away from this my church for so many years. Charity you changed my life.

Share your compassion join our
Compassion in Action
stephen
MINISTRY
Training
Contact Edwina Njos 425-7402

**NEWSLETTERS AND BULLETINS ARE ONLINE AT
WWW.CHARITYLUTHERAN.ORG**



APRIL Birthdays

April 1
Desirae Seedorf

April 2
Jaxton Bullock

April 3
Ken Geiger
Britta Knudson
Dennis Simenson

April 4
Dave Lewis
Everly Lindsay
Austin Wagner

April 5
Shelby Wahl

April 6
Shirley Hanson
Pam Miller

April 7
Kelli Kuether

April 8
Ray Schock
Judi Trygg

April 9
Sonja Bosch
Paige Hardmeyer
Shelly Miller
Melissa Schmidt

April 10
Cole Christianson
Alan Dohrmann
Ryan Geiger
Dallas Sailer

April 12
Dylan Bouley
Grant Churchill
Andrew Hershey
Erin Thomas

April 14
Floyd Bentz
Aaron Harstad
Mindy Hochhalter
Benjamin Satrom

April 15
Steve Butts

April 16
Mason Kindel
Allison Sullivan
Evan Wagner

April 17
Bria Erickson
Niklynn Kuether

April 18
Angela Vincent

April 19
Marv Borgelt
Megan Reems
Paulette Robison

April 20
Lucas Butts
Danette Miller

April 22
Brent Allen
Levi Bro
Sophia Edland
Kaiden Heidt
Eric Hochhalter

April 23
Steve Harrington
Danielle Korsmo
Emelia Kost
Dennis Reep

April 24
Dylan Chamley
Sandy Erickstad
Elliot Thomas
Kaleb White Lightning

April 25
David Adrian
Monica Eckroth

April 26
William Anderson
Laurie Schaffer

April 27
Zachariah Bell
Cortney Krueger
Rod Melby
Maia Toman
Kathy Wermager

April 28
Jean Boyer

April 29
Cindy Mastel
Melodie Schulz

April 30
Phyllis Mehlhoff
Jessica Toman

Gospel

SHARING HOPE IN A WORLD FULL OF HURT!

April 24 • Death because of Sin – Romans 3:23,

May 1 • Life because of Jesus – Romans 5:8, John 3:16

May 8 • Clean because of Christ's sacrifice – Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 5:17

May 15 • Follow Christ in Faith – Romans 8:1, Ephesians 2:8-9

May 23 • Grow in Relationship with Him – Romans 10:9-10,

May 30 • Hope in our future – Romans 10:13, Hebrews 10:23

Sunday Sermon Series

April Anniversaries

April 2 – Bob and Patti Nordvall

April 11 – Cordell and Dorinda Wiest

April 17 – Garret and Shelby Wahl

April 18 – Ron and Linda Mathern

April 24 – Don and Kathy Nordquist

April 26 – Nathan and Jessica Toman

April 27 – Hilary and Lisa Wald

Hurting Women's group meets each Sunday

Hope for hurting women, with Karrie Bauman and Angela Vincent will meet in the Fireside Room at 1 p.m. Sundays. The book study is "Hope After Betrayal," by Meg Wilson. For more information call Angela Vincent at 701-391-8106. Book and Workbook are available to purchase online.

Amazing Grays date change

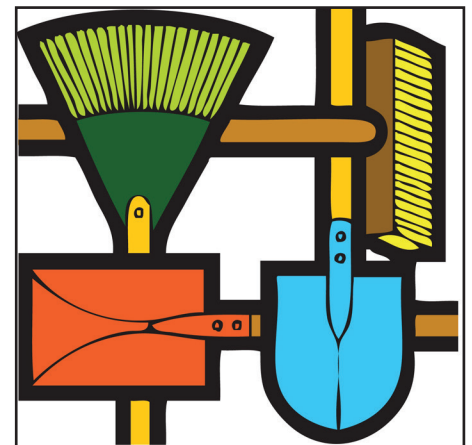
Amazing Grays will meet on Thursday, April 21, for their regular gathering in the fellowship hall. Dinner will be catered and you must RSVP Renee Walz at rwalz@bisman.net. The Grays will attend the Haamer presentation at 7 p.m. (see page 1)

Gospel Fest planned

Join Charity's Gospel Fest from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 24. Open to public. Sing along with Gospel hymns projected on screen.

Coffee fellowship following. Anyone can bring a treat to share. Offering taken is for Heaven's Helpers Soup Café.

Led by Lorri Mittleider.



YARDWORK Crew

Let's clean up the church grounds for Holy Week and Easter

**Saturday, April 9
8:30 a.m. - complete**

Bring gloves, garbage cans, rakes and a can-do attitude. No experience necessary!

Gather for a continental breakfast in the fellowship hall at 8:30 a.m. for assignments.

Questions?

Contact Doug Leet at 257-1228.



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

E-mail: office@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org



Christ in the Passover: An Interactive Experience

Charity Lutheran will host “Christ in the Passover: An Interactive Experience” at 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, April 3. This powerful, interactive experience, led by Jacob Fruchtman of Jews for Jesus, will illustrate the link between the Jewish feast of Passover and the last supper Jesus shared with His disciples.

Join us for a sensory exploration of the beautiful Jewish ceremony called a seder. As we taste the traditional symbolic foods, we’ll weave the story of the exodus and freedom from slavery together with the messianic hope realized in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The words “do this in remembrance of me” will take on an even deeper meaning to Christians as we learn the significance of the tradition Jesus observed the night before He died and give us a closer look at the very Jewish life He led.

Jewish or not, religious or not—all are welcome for this unforgettable, thought-provoking experience.



SUNDAY, APRIL 3 – JEWS FOR JESUS • 9 and 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 – 9 and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday Services

HOLY WEEK

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

6 and 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday with 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