



charity

MAY 6 - THUNDER ALLEY

MAY 8 - MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH

MAY 15 - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 22 - GRADUATE & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 30 - MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

Hello May

Good NEWS

He Loves Us More Than The Sparrow

Pastor Sam Coleman

Right now I am looking outside the window at a bunch of tweety birds in the aspen trees near our bedroom window. They just survived a huge spring storm that dumped 20+ inches of snow and had many days of crazy winds in a storm that many of us here in North Dakota will remember as the Easter storm of 2022. I always wonder how the sparrows, robins, and blackbirds survive those crazy conditions and then a week after the storm are out singing again and making their beautiful bird songs.

This makes me think of the beautiful passage in Scripture that states "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?" (Matthew 6:25-26)

This passage comes from a portion of Scripture called the "Sermon on the Mount" where Jesus is talking specifically to his disciples about what a life of following him really looks like. And I love that the Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of the world, Maker of all the beautiful things we see in nature including the birds, tells us not to worry about everyday life. He encourages us to put our trust in a loving Heavenly Father that not only feeds the birds but knows about them and us and asks the question, "Aren't you more valuable to him than the birds are?" Perhaps we sometimes question that and, knowing ourselves, we may wonder

as the Psalmist did "What is man that you are mindful of him?" I know I do. Sometimes it is hard to imagine that the Lord is taking care of me in every situation of life and that I can trust him completely in every circumstance, situation or problem. But that is the promise Jesus gives to us.



Pastor Sam Coleman

And if we are really willing to listen to the Lord and trust him in this, it will radically change our perspective from one of worrying and fretting to one of trust and rest in Him. This doesn't mean that we aren't diligent in the tasks we have before us or that we don't work hard but we start from a place of trust and thanksgiving. Instead of asking the Lord to provide for us, we can start our prayers thanking the Lord for His provision before we even ask. We can start our days knowing that He knows and has seen every situation we will face and is leading and taking care of us through it. I love that in the Lord's prayer which Jesus teaches to his disciples a few verses earlier in the chapter, Jesus starts out with this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10)

The start of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray starts out with a focus on the identity of both the Lord

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Resurrection Sunday



Doug Leet
Executive Director of
Ministries

It's just a few days after Easter Sunday and there are shrinking remnants of snow from the Holy Week weather event we experienced, which some have referred to as Blizzmarck, Snowpocalypse, or Snowmageddon. As someone from our Wednesday night men's group observed, "The grass was brown when the snow came, but now that it's starting to melt, it's all green underneath." Praise the Lord for the much needed moisture and the new growth it brings!

The message of Easter can be summed up in a couple of verses from the Book of Revelation, "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.'" Rev. 1:17-18

With Easter 2022 behind us, what does it mean for us as believers, and how does it change anything, especially in how we live. It is one thing to believe that Jesus was "crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead," as we state in the Apostle's Creed, but it is quite another thing to live with the resurrection power offered to us on that first Easter.

When Jesus told John, "Do not be afraid," we need to hear that too. There is so

much that each of us are going through that causes us to worry and be fearful, when in reality, there will not be one of us who will avoid tribulation in this life. Jesus doesn't offer us a way out, but a way of overcoming tribulation. A great truth of Easter is that each of us is made in the image of God, and that He wants to be with us forever. Easter assures us that bullies don't win. Jesus showed us that when he told Pilate that he has no power over him that wasn't given to him from above. Jesus can be our example; He's the source of the resurrection life available to us. At Easter, Jesus hands over the "keys of death and Hades" to us, so we can lock up fear and death forever. If we believe and act like all people are made in the image of God, it affects how we treat each other. Daily, let us counter the worry and fear with prayer and meditation, and also let us act how we believe and start treating others with love and respect. And that resurrection life, that new growth, will start showing in us too!

For the record, the above thoughts and some of the comments were gleaned from an Easter message from Pastor David Housholder, who partnered with Charity, when, at the beginning of Covid, he started a series of Zoom Alpha courses that he invited us to participate in. His Easter message can be seen on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKkaggeNU_w (Resurrection Sunday Message from Revelation 1:17-18. David Housholder).

Financial Report

March Actual Income	\$87,907
March Budgeted Income	\$103,262
Difference	\$15,355
March Actual Income	\$87,907
March Actual Expenses	\$80,901
Difference	\$7,006
YTD Actual Income	\$289,666
YTD Budgeted Income	\$309,787
Difference	\$20,121
YTD Actual Income	\$289,666
YTD Actual Expense	\$237,389
Difference	\$52,277

Summer Service Time Change
May 29th - September 4th
9am & 10:30am

From the pastor cont...

and ourselves. It says "Our Father in heaven." Isn't that beautiful? He is our Father, we are His child, and we can trust Him with absolutely everything in our lives.

The Lord provides for us, encourages us, disciplines us in love when we need it, but ultimately is taking care of us each moment because He loves us even more than He loves the sparrows.

God Bless you! Pastor Sam Coleman



Mike Fluharty – Vision Council President

Vision Council Update

I hope you all had a blessed and wonderful Easter. No doubt, there were many travel plans changed that week with the weather challenges. The moisture was certainly a blessing but I was having a hard time remembering that as I was shoveling out snow. But those memories will fade away in May as we see everything green up from the wet snows.

In April's newsletter the Vision Council was still searching for an Intentional Interim Pastor. We had two positive responses that we were pursuing. With prayer and patience that search has concluded. On Good Friday God blessed us with an agreement with Reverend Dr. Brad Miller. He will begin a twelve-month contract on June 1, 2022. The first three or four months will involve him getting familiar with Charity and working with staff, leadership, and the congregation to generate a general assessment of where we are as a church. From that assessment, we can begin to develop plans that strengthen and unify us as one body in Christ to fulfill God's purpose for us. We look forward to all of the experience and training Pastor Miller can

bring. God has truly blessed us with this resource. But we all must remember the work is for us, as the disciples of Charity to do. Our efforts will define what Charity Lutheran is and will be in the future. We must remain prayerful through this process, always searching for God's will and our individual contribution to it.

Two other open positions at Charity are Youth Director and Communications Director. Interviewing has begun for the Youth Director position and the Communications Director position will be posted in the next few weeks. Please keep these two openings in your prayers for God to deliver the right candidates to Charity.

We also spent a little time at April's Vision Council discussing communications. Seems like we spend a lot of time communicating about communications but never quite seem to actually communicate. That being said, we are resolved to improve communications. We are trying to make better use of monthly newsletter, weekly bulletin, email blasts, and scrolling screen announcements prior to services.



Mike Fluharty
VC President

But that also only addresses communications in one direction. How does any individual in the congregation ask questions or give input to leadership? There is a Vision Council email address that can be accessed through the Charity

website. You can call the church office and ask to have a VC representative call you. Typically, one or more of the VC representatives are at any church service and available for a brief chat or set up a time for a longer discussion. You could also contact any council member or Doug Leet, if you have an item you want to address to the entire Vision Council. Communication is just one of those items we will always struggle with, but with effort and grace never give up on.

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. We did not meet as a committee in April but have been continuing with our individual research and project assignments. We have also supported the Vision Council in its search for an intentional interim pastor.

Our next meeting will be held when Pastor Miller is in Bismarck and able to meet with us.

In the meantime we encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, either individually or through our email at callcommittee@charitylutheran.org.

Thanks to all who continue to pray for our congregation and for God to lead us forward.

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

Relational Discipleship

What is a disciple? This is such a tough question. Another question to ponder is what are the characteristics of a disciple?



In Matthew 16:24 a follower of Jesus must “deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” In Matthew 4:19 Jesus was talking to Peter and Andrew while fishing, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” These two men are the first Jesus called as disciples.

Three key characteristics of a disciple are defined in that verse. “Follow me” is an invitation to accept Him. To be a disciple we need to let Jesus lead, and we follow. Second part of the verse, “and I will make you” talks about letting Jesus transform our lives and mold our hearts. We need to be willing to be changed. The third part of that verse is “fishers of men.” This is a response of action! This affects our lives and what we live for. We are saved for a purpose. To be a disciple we need to join Jesus on his mission to love and reach a lost world.

A pastor told me a disciple is defined as “one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another such as Christianity.” He later described the difference between being a follower and a disciple. A follower is (literally) one who follows, comes after another. A disciple is defined as “a person who learns from another, especially one who then teaches others.” A step further a different pastor told me the entire purpose of a church is to make disciples who then make disciples. This brings up the question, if we make disciples in the church with our congregation is that enough? Do we as followers of Jesus (disciples) need to continue that and make more disciples? The first and last words from Jesus to Apostles were “follow me” and therefore “go.” Jesus wants more than followers; He wants disciple makers.

I have asked many people at Charity Lutheran Church if they have ever invited anyone from church over to their house, or if they have ever gone to other peoples’ houses. Only a few people responded to me that they have. Many have the same excuses that I personally have used in the past. “My house isn’t very clean.” Or “I don’t really have time; I am busy.” I personally have been a “follower” and been very excited to sit in the church pew ready to learn from whoever is preaching. Is that enough? I encourage everyone to think about what Jesus has called each of us to do. To “follow me”, and to become a disciple ultimately making “fishers of men!”

As we get into the summer months where we are all enjoying the weather in our homes and traveling, let’s set a goal. Crazy 8’s! I challenge you to invite 8 people over to your house for fellowship. It doesn’t matter the ages, couples, or singles. Invite 8 people over to get to know you and your family!

One new way you can connect and disciple others is attending or starting a life group. Many of you have asked what is a life group? It’s a small group that does life together. Some might meet monthly, twice a month, or weekly. Some of these groups are hobby groups that are for recreation, fellowship, and learning new hobbies! Some are bible study groups. All are Christ centered whether you are going kayaking or discussing the recent sermon series! Please contact me at Nathaniel.oakland@charitylutheran.org if you have a group that you want added to the website or are seeking to join a new group.

May Anniversaries

May 3 – Curt and LuElla Dahme

May 5 – Miles and Jo Cahoon

May 7 – Carlo and Stephanie Marrufo

May 10 – Ryan and Melissa Okerson

May 11 – Ray and Sharon Schock

May 15 – Jeremiah and Siri Penn

May 16 – Clark and Lisa Johnson

May 16 – Karl and Lori Lemmerman

May 16 – Terry and Daphne Ziegler

May 17 – Doug and Nichole Sailer

May 19 – Grant and Kristina Bouley

May 20 – James and Brianna Krause

May 20 – Craig and Sandra Lohstreter

May 21 – Wayne and Paula Dosch

May 22- Larry and Pauline Hjelemland

May 22 – Noel and Marla Laxdal

May 23 – Khalin and Tina Dendy

May 23 – Delton and Susie Heid

May 23 – John and Chara Wangen

May 24 – Richard and Andrea Collin

May 25 – Aaron and Kari Edland

May 26 – Jon and Carol Mielke

May 26 – Dan and Nicole Phillips

May 26 – Doug and Jane Schulz

May 27 – Tracy and Mary Korsmo

May 27 – Arnold and Nancy Leno

May 28 – Jon and Kim Collado

May 29 - Mark and Jill Anderson

May 29 – Mike and Julie Bernhardt

May 29 – Marvin and Julie Dahle

May 30 – Alan and Becky Dohrmann

May 31 – Stanley and Cheryl Voll



Child & Youth Happenings



Thank you Alli!

Please join us in appreciation of Alli Sullivan's faithful ministry to the preschoolers at Charity these past four years. Alli's gift for instructing the little ones has been a blessing to Charity and has carried us through this time as she served as our preschool director, later taking on the responsibility of the nursery kids. Alli has a special love and passion for kids and Charity appreciates her service. God's blessings to Alli and her family as she focuses more on her family and homeschooling her girls. There is currently a plan being developed to restructure the children's ministry area to provide for a good continuation of the program moving forward.

A Note from Alli

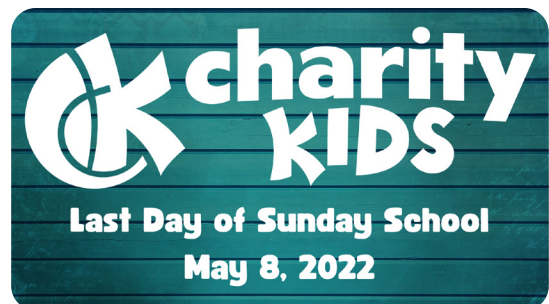
Dear Charity, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to share the love of Jesus with your little ones these last 4 years. After lots of prayer, I have decided to step down from my position as Nursery/Preschool Ministry Director. While it has been a tough decision, I know God has great plans for my family and me.

Thank you again Charity and thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with nursery and preschool these last 4 years. There would truly be no children's ministry without you.

VBS Donations

VBS is just around the corner and we are looking for donations! If you are able to donate supplies, please check the donation sign up poster located in the Fellowship Hall and add your name to the items you are able to give. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Please contact Maggie at (701) 955-5574 or maggie.portra@charitylutheran.org with questions.



Class of
2022!

**Graduation Sunday is
May 22, 2022**

We need your baby & senior photos!

Please e-mail photos to:
maggie.portra@charitylutheran.org
by Sunday, May 15

**THUNDER
ALLEY
BOWLING
NIGHTS**

MIDDLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 9-11 PM
\$10/PERSON
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Make Waves

Are you ready to Make Waves and change the world around you?



Register for VBS 2022 today!

PRESCHOOL VBS

June 6-8, 2022 | 6-8 PM

Preschoolers who are at least 3 years old and fully potty trained are invited to explore the ocean with us as we discover just how BIG God is and how much He loves each and every one of us!

ELEMENTARY VBS

June 6-8, 2022 | 6-8:15 PM

Kids who complete K-5th grade in the 2021-2022 school year are invited to dive deep into God's word with us as we learn how we can use the gifts He's given us to change the world around us!

Don't forget VBS Family Night!

June 9, 2022

Popsicles on the Playground
Lion's Park Shelter 2
7-8 PM

Family Swim Night
Hillside Aquatic Center
8-10 PM

Charity Students & Adults:

Are you ready to have a blast helping kids Make Waves this summer? Our volunteer sign-up is now open in the East entrance by the elevator! Nursery care and a kid-friendly meal will be available to volunteer families.

Please note the age requirements below before signing up:

Students who've completed at least 6th grade
may sign up to be assistant tribe leaders.

Students who've completed at least 8th grade
may sign up to be tribe leaders.

Students who wish to volunteer in a rotation area
must check with Maggie before signing up.

Adults who wish to be team or rotation leaders
must check with Maggie before signing up.



Tell your friends!

Every friend that registers for VBS earns an entry for a Make Waves prize drawing for your family and their family!

Drawing will take place at closing on day one of VBS.

**Mother's
Day
Brunch
Fundraiser**

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Join us for a delicious Mother's Day brunch served by our High School Mission Team. A freewill offering will be collected for this summer's trip to the Dominican Republic.

**charity
KIDS**

**Sunday
FUN DAYS**

Sunday Mornings
9:00 AM
10:30 AM
Ages 3 - 12
(Kids will be dismissed from services after worship.)

Sunday Fun Days on May 15 & May 22 will start at 9 & 11 AM. Drop off in North Parking Lot.

**fun & creative
relational
ministry**

New * FUN DAY * theme every week!
Featuring: outdoor activities, games, crafts, movies, Bible stories, snacks, and more!

May 15 - August 28 | No Sunday Fun Days May 29 or July 3

2022 First Communicants

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Cia Albrecht | Audrina McNally |
| Kellen Aldinger | Nicholas Murdock |
| Alayna Bitz | Toby Nelson |
| Brock Demke | Siri Neset |
| Sadie Dengel | Cassius Placek |
| Irelyn Duffy | Rilynn Reems |
| Amiera Flying Horse | Teagan Schmidt |
| Patrick Frankeberger | Frances See Walker |
| Sawyer Hanson | Fisher Smith |
| Brahnan Heidt | Levi Stoeckel |
| Owen Johnson | Bryce Vercimak |
| Silas Kaldor | MaKenzie Vogel |
| Hayden Kincaid | Emma Vukelich |
| Logan Klemin | Seth Vukelich |
| Natalie Laverdure | Carсен Weisenberger |
| Keira McDonald | Ethan Ziegler |
| Ian McEvers | |

**First Communion
Service**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022
6:15 PM

Sunday FUN DAYS

May 15

BRING YOUR BIKE,
SCOOTER, ROLLER
BLADES, OR SKATES
AND A HELMET!

PARK YOUR WHEELS IN THE NORTH
PARKING LOT BEFORE CHURCH.

May 22

GARDEN PARTY



WEAR CLOTHES YOU CAN
GET MESSY IN!

May 29

NO SUNDAY FUN DAY



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

June 5

CHALK PARTY



WEAR CLOTHES YOU CAN
GET MESSY IN!

June 12

PAJAMA & MOVIE DAY



WEAR YOUR FAVE PJS
AND BRING A WATER
BOTTLE & PILLOW

June 19

BARNYARD
BLAST



June 26

SENSORY PLAY DAY



WEAR CLOTHES YOU CAN
GET MESSY IN!

July 3

NO SUNDAY FUN DAY



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

July 10

KINDNESS CHALLENGE
DAY



July 17

TEA-REX
PARTY



July 24

BIBLE SCIENCE DAY



WEAR CLOTHES YOU CAN
GET MESSY IN!

July 31

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



DRESS IN CHRISTMAS
COLORS!

August 7

PAINTING PARTY



WEAR CLOTHES YOU CAN
GET MESSY IN!

August 14

IT'S A ZOO!
ANIMAL PRAYER PALS



August 21

CAMPING ADVENTURE



August 28

NATURE EXPLORATION
DAY

SERTOMA PARK
SHELTER 10

10:30 AM ONLY

Sep. 4

NO SUNDAY FUN DAY



HAPPY LABOR DAY!

New Member Welcome

Please say "Hello" to our newest members of our Charity family, installed in March!



Hallie Dronen

Tom and Angela Oakland
Emmett, Sybil and Eddie



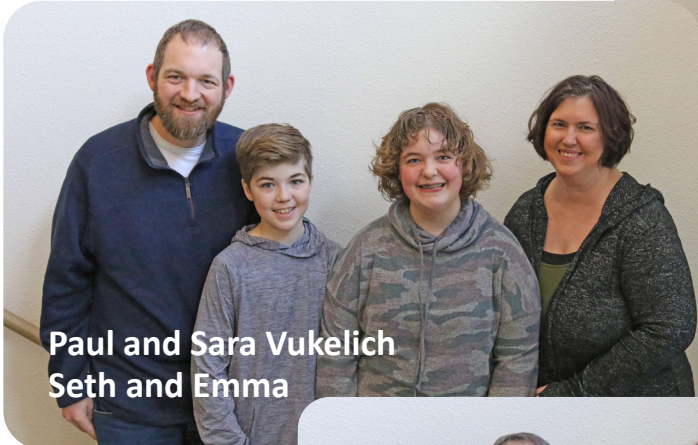
Becky Bell, Tristen and Zachariah



Ethan & Danielle Berg
and Charlotte



Paul and Sara Vukelich
Seth and Emma



Bob and Shelly Miller



Charity's Support for Cru

We are so grateful to Charity Lutheran for their years of support to our work with Cru! We are firm believers that God has made a way for us to reach out to college students and we don't do that alone. Your prayers and financial backing mean the world to us.

Moments before I (Kristen) wrote this, I spent over an hour laughing with girls that I shouldn't know. They grew up on the wrong side of town, so to speak. They wouldn't necessarily bring themselves to a Christian group. One in particular is suspicious of the church and consequently guarded toward the Lord. They have bad habits. They've experienced too much for 20 years of living. They know pain. I've told them at times that until they're able to have hope (in life and in the Lord), I'll have hope for them. They have my heart. God is at work drawing many from "the wrong side of town" to His heart.

In March, Neal took a group of students and volunteers to serve in Dallas TX for a week over spring break. This week was called "Welcome the Refugee," and it was focused on assisting aid and resettlement of Afghan allies. Many of the volunteers that joined us were employees of Bismarck Global Neighbors, a local organization helping local refugees and immigrants in our area. Our students were quick to report how much they'd learned about the world and God's love during their week there. A story from the week: "It was a unique night as six Afghan women joined us and really opened up to us about the trials they have faced in the Refugee journey. On the way back to their apartment complex, one of the women said 'Rebekah, you Kharejis (outsider or foreigner in Dari) like to talk about your emotions.' The rest of the car laughed. But then she said 'Afghans we have so much pain. Our hearts are heavy. When we talk about these emotions, it empties the pain in our heart.' " Bekah has worked with Afghan people for over a decade. She is married to an Afghan national and her knowledge of the power of the gospel and understanding of the Afghan people has blessed many. We're grateful that our group could rub shoulders with her and other great teachers.

May Birthdays

May 1
Sawyer Coleman

May 2
Penny Kaldor
Heather Miller
Taylor Roth

May 3
Caroline Portra
Abby Bro

May 4
Terry Ziegler
Carleen Carlson

May 5
Emma Faragher
London Olson
Rilynn Reems
Jeff Wood

May 6
Amara Baumeister
Ian McEvers

May 7
Alvina Fueller
Don Nordquist

May 8
Navy Allen
Alex Wegner

May 9
Remick Thompson

May 10
Jennie Abonna
Justin Schwarz
Jan Selby

May 11
Tristen Bell
Al Hill

May 12
Danielle Berg
Brianna Krause
Seth Vukelich

May 13
Bonnie Fix
Jaxon Smith

May 14
Logan Goetzfried
Shelley Rowe
Kaia Sheets

May 15
Brenner Peshek
Charmaine White
Lightning

May 16
Linette Kuehn
Brent Reems

May 17
Brad Allen
Ryan Anderson
Julie Dolbec
Angie Misek

May 18
Ethan Hegland
Mikella Kost
Terry Milas
Karen Swanson

May 19
Rick Boyer
Connie Haluzak
Teagan Schmidt

May 20
Kyler Bosch
Bob Bucholz
Sophia Okerson

May 21
Katie Haugen
Jonas Jonson
Maria Stoeckel

May 22
Gary Christianson
Debi Selby

May 24
Jordan Christianson
Gabriel Dohrmann
Angela Klempel
Nolan Sheets

May 26
Annie Dukart
Marc Larson
Judy Smith

May 27
Lisa Johnson
DeAnn Lewis

May 28
Judah Coleman
Jean Frykman

May 30
John Wangen

May 31
Elizabeth Barrett
Karlee Klindtworth



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E-mail: office@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org

Stephen Ministry at Charity

Stephen Leaders are asking for the congregation's prayers for Jill Anderson as she prepares to attend an amazing week of training that will fully equip her to serve as a Stephen Leader. Jill has been a Stephen Minister since 2019 and we look forward to her joining the Leadership Team.

Stephen Leaders are lay leaders and pastors who have attended training above and beyond the 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training to work together as a team to lead Stephen Ministry at Charity. If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry, please call the church office.

