



October 2022



Pastor Brad Miller

GOOD NEWS

Intentional Interim Senior Pastor Brad Miller From the Pastor

It is good to be back in Bismarck after my work in India. I taught two separate full day Pastors' Conferences. I preached at two worship services. I ministered at three orphanages. I delivered two video projectors and a camera system. And, I spent much time in meetings and in transit.

The Pastors' Conferences were about "Leadership Resiliency" and involved much discussion of Paul's epistle to Titus. The participants were all attentive and grateful. In fact, I saw gratitude everywhere that I went. Both LCMC Districts were grateful for the new audio-visual gear. The orphans were grateful for special meals and time spent learning the Bible story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Pastor Dake was extremely grateful for his new motorbike.

All 102 of our LCMC congregations in India are working under difficult circumstances. The Modi government is increasingly hostile towards all Christian churches. Poverty is widespread. The weather has been bad - with many areas affected by flooding. The receding floods left plentiful breeding grounds for mosquitos - so Malaria and various fevers were running rampant. Indian Lutherans are mindful of these challenges. They talk about them and pray about them. But, they don't let the burdens interfere with remaining grateful. They recognize that whatever food, shelter, employment, health, or transportation that they have comes from God's provision.

I will confess that I wasn't exactly in my emotional "happy place" when I got to India. The work and conflict at Charity had left me tired and a bit irritable. My body repeatedly protested that I am getting too old for ten-hour flights in cramped economy seats. Six outbound airline flights were exhausting.

But then, orphans ran up to me with big smiles and hugs. It is hard to wallow in self-pity when you see so much joy in folks who could legitimately find many more things to be cranky about!

(continued on page 4)

EVENTS

Tuesday, October 11
Amazing Grays
6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 21
Pinochle Group
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 22
Quilting Group
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 23
Mission Sunday
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 23
Gospel Sing-Along
2:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 29
Family Halloween Party
3:00 p.m.

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

Hope in Jesus

I love stories. So when Dr. Abdul Messiah, at Charity, recently told the story of K. K. Alavi, the young Muslim boy who converted to Christianity in his youth and grew up to be a Lutheran pastor (and Abdul's father), he had me hooked. One of my favorite verses is from 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the *hope* that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." God has a heart of gentleness for his children (see also Philippians 4:4 and Proverbs 15:1). Just like one of the Holy Spirit's primary roles is to continually point us to Jesus, our personal story, likewise, points others to the "reason for the *hope*" that we have, and that is Jesus in our life.

The story that Dr. Abdul shared reminds me of another story. That of a young Jewish boy growing up in Romania about a 100 years ago. Richard Wurmbrand became a Christian in his late twenties and then a Lutheran pastor. He wrote a book in 1967 called "Tortured for Christ." In his story of suffering as a Christian during World War II, first through the Nazi occupation of Romania, then the Soviet occupation, he gives thanks for the Nazi occupation. Why? Because he said the brutality they experienced under the Nazi's prepared them for the much more brutal occupation by the Soviets.

This story brings to mind another valuable verse, "Not only so, but we also glory (rejoice) in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, *hope*." (Romans 5:3-4)



Doug Leet

God has never told us that we would be spared trials. In fact, in James 1:2-4 we are told, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

The treatment of Christians under Soviet occupation that occurred across Europe in the 20th century was similar. Richard Wurmbrand's story led to a global ministry to the persecuted church called "Jesus to the Communist World," that later became "Voice of the Martyrs." Another story is that of Harri Haamer, Lutheran pastor and grandfather to Siimon Haamer, who was sent to a Soviet slave labor camp. We at Charity are intimately connected to Siimon, and his father Enoch, through the Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia. Harri Haamer gives his testimony of faith in the book, "We Shall Live in Heaven." These are stories of hope, hope in Jesus. I would recommend getting your hands on these books and reading them. They make our personal trials seem small, but they also serve to prepare us for trials to come.

Financial Report

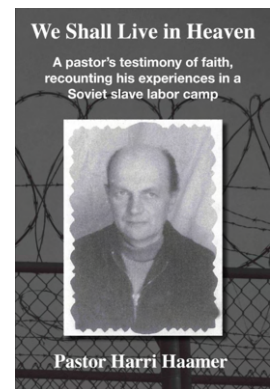
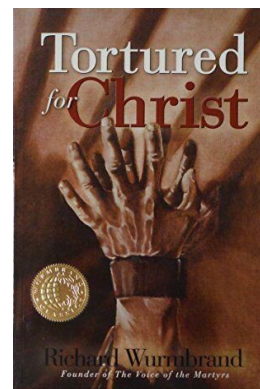
August Actual Income \$50,488
August Budgeted Income \$103,262
Difference **\$52,774**

August Actual Income \$50,488
August Actual Expense \$77,192
Difference **\$26,704**

YTD Actual Income \$675,303
YTD Budgeted Income \$826,098
Difference **\$150,795**

YTD Actual Income \$675,303
YTD Actual Expense \$650,721
Difference **\$24,582**

Book Recommendations



Mike Fluharty - Vision Council President

OCTOBER VISION COUNCIL UPDATE

Fall is upon us again. September and October are my favorite months but always sad to see summer end. It has also been a busy season at Charity. With meetings, staff changes, beginning of another WOW season, and starting the budget process for 2023.

Staff changes this month were the resignation of Maggie Portra, Landen Schmeichel, and Jon Samuelson. I would like to thank them for their years of service and wish them the best in whatever God has called them to.

With all of the changes going on in staff, division in our congregation, and impatience with the call process, it creates an ideal time to feel anxiety and panic, and become weary and frustrated. Kind of feels like the perfect time to quit doesn't it. I have felt all of these things. When that begins to overwhelm me I spend time in God's word. When you stand in His presence and look at the same situation that seemed hopeless, you see it so differently. In His presence I see Jessi, our new youth director, He sent us stepping up with a host of volunteers to keep our youth program going. Jen, our new communications director, who has stepped in to keep our worship team going with new volunteers. I saw God move to intervene in a special Meeting of the Voters' Assembly that would have hardened positions and division. God is moving in His church and now is the time to engage and ask, "What can I do?"

I encourage everyone to engage in this process by attending worship and fellowship with all and come to the Tuesday night prayer service that will continue through November. We cannot find unity in isolation, but we can find it together in worship, fellowship and prayer.

God Bless,

Mike Fluharty
Vision Council President



Mike Fluharty

Vision Council questions can be emailed to:
vision.council@charitylutheran.org

Upcoming Bible Study

Sunday

10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class |
The Book of Daniel Begins Nov. 6 |
Kathy Wermager, 701-390-7587 |
kathywermager@q.com



Real Results, Real Hope Beginning Experience
Beginning Experience (a faith-based ministry) peer-to-peer ministry is offering a ten-week session called "Coping with Life Alone" for those who have lost a love relationship through death, divorce or separation. Sessions are held from 7-9 p.m. and began September 11th. You can join anytime. For more information, please call Elaine at 701-400-1941. The program is open to people of all faiths.

From the Pastor

(continued from page 1)

Third world mission trips burst my bubble of so many things that I risk taking for granted: plentiful and safe drinking water, a shower or bath, safe transportation, freedom to worship without fear of government or mobs, food and shelter, reliable electricity, Malaria-free living, a library, health care, forgiveness of my many sins, and eternal life.

At Charity, I am grateful for: great guest preachers, dedicated musicians, a devoted staff, committed volunteers, faithful leaders, fellowship in the LCMC, and the privilege of serving a flock that regularly evidence their kindness and hospitality to their temporary shepherd.

Gratitude is an inoculant against the church cancer of ingratitude. It is also a wonderful way to reframe your perspective about the world around us.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

- Colossians 3:16

Photos from India



Gudipadu Pastors



Tanuku Orphanage



Pastor Dake on Motorbike

*****Thank you to everyone who donated money for the Motorbike Challenge. This motorbike will allow Pastor Dake to leverage his time for more effective ministry!**

Mission Sunday - Oct. 23 with special guest from Argentina

Lauri Desir

Our friend from Overseas Council, El Ahlwardt, a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana, along with Josue Fernandez will be sharing during Mission Sunday in the worship services. You might remember El as he's spoken at Charity quite a few times and had reported on trips to Cuba. This time, El is bringing Josue (pronounced like Ho-sway) as Overseas Council's new Executive Director. Josue and his wife live in Cordoba, Argentina but he and El are traveling around the United States and we're blessed that they'll be joining us for the weekend.

Josue has extensive pastoral experience in churches in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Queens, New York. While serving as a pastor, his passion for young people led him to develop a rehab program for drug addicts, create feeding programs for street children, and establish discipleship and young leaders' training programs.

Through our Benevolence funds we support the work of Overseas Council. They are involved in all regions of the world, including 70 countries and 135 seminary partners which have a total of 88,000 students who are studying to become pastors.

Their sister organization, United World Mission, has church-planting missionaries in more than 50 nations who are committed to forming ministry workers

Overseas Council and United World Mission says this about their ministry: "Our aim is to multiply flourishing leaders and effective ministries. We do this by equipping leaders formally in seminaries, non-formally in local churches, and informally as we do ministry together.

OUR MISSION is to EQUIP, ENCOURAGE and MULTIPLY leaders for the global Church and its mission. OUR VISION is to see a FLOURISHING CHURCH, led by well-equipped leaders, serving every city and neighborhood of the world."

Josue has been OC's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean since 2007. When asked how God has helped prepare him for his new role which he assumed July 1, 2022, Josue replied, "God has been helping me see that leadership is not about what you can do, but what God can do through your life. It is not a question of having things under control but allowing God to lead you to what He wants to do at this moment in history."

Please pray for El and Josue as they will be arriving from Montana and then traveling from Bismarck to Minnesota and the East Coast. We are eager to hear their encouraging testimonies from around the world.



Thank You!

Nathaniel Oakland

In early August my mother, Doreen Oakland passed away from an accident. This was a very difficult time for not only myself and my family, but to many around me. In Romans 12: 4-6 Paul describes the body of the church. "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function. So, in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all others."

We as a church body are unified through our relationship with Jesus Christ. Peter shared in 1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of Gods grace in its various forms. "

I want to say Thank You to the Charity Lutheran church body for being faithful stewards of Gods grace during my time of need. The numerous calls, food deliveries, hospital visits, cooking for the funeral, and the many other ways you served our family was amazing! I know I am not the only one in our church body who is grieving. Thank you for continuing to use your gifts to serve others like you all served the Oakland Family!

Remaining Hopeful During a Time of Uncertainty

How do we have hope in a time of uncertainty and transition? Perhaps it's fitting to talk first about change. Change is a part of everyone's life. Change can be bad or good. It can cause feelings of anxiety or fear, but it can also cause feelings of happiness and can lead to growth. Think of something that has changed in your life. How did you adapt? Were you hesitant to the change or did you adapt and learn from it? Was there a constant in your life? What is constant in our faith lives? The answer is simple. Jesus. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)*. Jesus fills our lives with good things and graces us with difficult things. In every single up and down, *"His love endures forever" (Psalm 118:4)*. In this time of transition at Charity Lutheran, one thing is certain. The church belongs to Jesus, but a church isn't a church without its church family. The faithful disciples of Charity Lutheran gather to worship and give praise to our wonderful God even in the midst of trials.

Hope can best be summed up by an old hymn tune, "My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' names. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand."

As Charity Lutheran continues to move forward, let us do so with faith and hope. Have faith that brighter days are ahead. Jeremiah 29:11 reads, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Have faith in the plans and walk with Jesus, who is the light of the world, one step at a time.

And I would like to close with a prayer: Jesus, only you know the future. Help us walk with eyes of faith to see that everything is for Your glory. Protects us, strengthen us, and fill us with hope. May we trust that you are leading us every step of the way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Jennifer Braun

Please scan the QR code below to listen to a recording of the hymn referenced in the article; *"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"* which was recorded by Jennifer Braun and Lorri Mittleider.



Gospel Sing-Along Sunday, October 23 2:00-3:30pm Charity Lutheran Church

This is for you and your Gospel music loving friends and family who enjoy listening to or singing along to Gospel music. Words are projected up on screen. Led by Fueller sisters, Lorri Mittleider and Christie Neumiller. Open to public. Coffee fellowship following. (Anyone can bring a treat to share.) The offering taken is for Heaven's Helpers Soup Café.

**GOSPEL MUSIC
SING-ALONG**
Sunday, October 23
2:00 - 3:30 PM
Contact Lorri Mittleider at (701) 400-1849 for more information.

*****Note New Day and Time!**

**October 1**

Marlys Coughlin
Trevor Heidt

October 2

Marla Laxdal

October 3

Scott Symington

October 4

Travis Anderson
Alayna Carlson
Julie Slag

October 5

Linkin Hill
Terri McEvers

October 6

Shirley Carlson
Jeremy Misek

October 7

Darlene Bentz
Alissa Knudson

October 8

Abe Dukart
Jeff Gitter
Cora Marruffo

October 9

Jacob Haugen
Brooklyn Lubbers

October 10

Art Carlson
Clint Coleman
Cooper Coleman
Becky Dohrmann
Maize Stockert

October 11

Oliver Anderson
Lisa Wald

October 12

Laura Kourajian
Brenna Lindell
Sy Maruffo
John Westbee

October 13

Rachael DeMaria
Alexis Harstad
Jaime Lawler
Linda Parsons
McCoy Wiest

October 14

Jane Schulz

October 15

Tricia Bentz
Clark Coleman

October 16

Ardean Harstad

October 17

Andrew Farley

October 18

CJ Maier
Sherri Samuelson

October 19

Jo Cahoon

October 20

Easton Robinson
Everly Robinson
Jennifer Skjod

October 21

Char DeMaria
Connie Shultz
Cassie Theurer

October 22

Bob Miller
Melanie Willoughby

October 23

Arlan Okerson

October 26

Jackie Casey
Connie Geiger
Maxwell Kost
Skye Wald

October 27

Nathan Farley

October 28

Emma Churchill
Kari Edland
Charlotte Milas
Kacie Schlecht

October 29

Danielle Grove

October 30

Joan Orvik
John Trygg

October 31

Harrison Custer
Anthony Vogel



October 1 - Travis & Jen Anderson

October 2 - Michael & Jennifer Farley

October 5 - Jon & Cindy Gums

October 5 - Matt & Penny Kaldor

October 8 - Eric & Laura Satrom

October 9 - Josh & Jaimie Peshek

October 9 - John & Judi Trygg

October 10 - Gary & Laurie Schaffer

October 10 - Shawn & Chanda Stelter

October 12 - Mitchell & Cassandra Becker

October 13 - JC & Sue Balcom

October 15 - Rod & Diane Melby

October 15 - Dennis & Carol Simenson

October 16 - John and Sandy Seedorf

October 19 - James & Janell Devine

October 19 - Myron & Rita Jahner

October 20 - Steve & Deanne Cunningham

October 21 - Freddy & Jennie Abbona

October 21 - Scott & Nichole Stoeckel

October 29 - Daniel & Karlee Klindworth



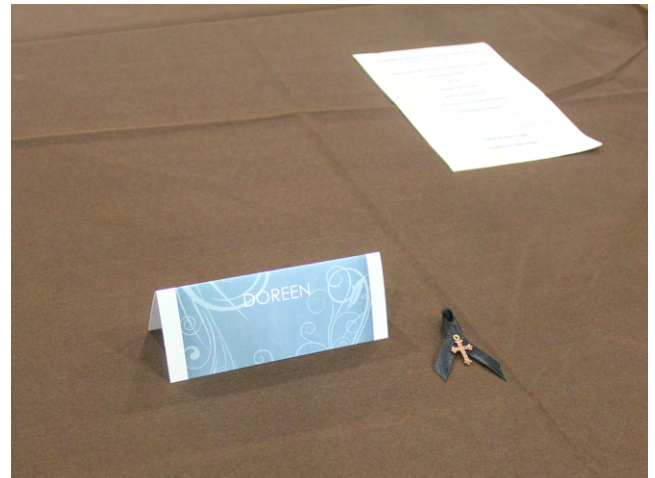
These Charity Lutheran Members, were welcomed into the Stephen Ministry Training Program with a welcome meal, a blessing of their books from Pastor Brad Miller and a get to know you time with all current Stephen Ministers. Missing from this group is a caring lady (Doreen Oakland) who was so excited to begin the Stephen Ministry journey with us. We honored her memory at our welcome meal with an empty chair and a ribbon next to her name.

These trainees have begun their fifty hours of training journey of learning, growing, and connecting with God, themselves, and each other. Each Sunday's bulletin will list the topic they will be learning. Read and pray for Charity Lutheran's new Stephen Ministry Trainees. *Sandy Seedorf ~ Stephen Ministry - Awareness Coordinator*



(l-r): Steve Miller, Char De Maria, Connie Geiger, Ken Geiger, Connie Carter, Scott Carter

*****Black ribbons are worn in memory of Doreen Oakland**



AMAZING GRAYS

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, October 11 at 6:00 p.m. for a catered dinner.



Andrew and Emily Hershey will speak on Adventures in Missions, short term mission trips and an upcoming Middle East Mission Trip.

Please let Renee Walz know if you plan to attend by Sunday evening, October 9, so she can order food. Please RSVP to Renee at 400-1201 by text or phone call.

QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we make graduate quilts for May 2023. We will meet from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Gazebo. Contact Liz Landis at 258-1228 in the main office for more information.



PINOCHLE GROUP

The Pinochle Group will meet Friday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768.



PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

prayer.chain@charitylutheran.org

Sandy Seedorf has volunteered to be Charity's Email Prayer Chain Coordinator. Her cell phone number is 701-426-9802 and personal email is: sandyseedorf1@gmail.com in the event you cannot email the prayer chain email address. If you would like to be added to this ministry or no longer wish to be on this vital and needed prayer chain, please get in contact with Sandy by prayer chain email or phone.

A reminder of HIPPA regulations, any email prayer chain request must have the permission of the individual or family to post an email prayer chain request.



Corporate Prayer

Corporate Prayer will be held Tuesday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m in the sanctuary. We would love to fill the sanctuary with those coming to pray, however even two is good because Matthew 18:20 states "*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*"

Our Communications Director, Jennifer Braun has written a prayer that will be used. Please cut it out to use for personal prayer.



Prayer for Charity Lutheran in This Time of Transition

Lord, we thank you and praise you for your unfailing love. We thank you for walking beside us wherever we go. We ask for protection and direction at all times. Help us to see only you, help us to seek only you. Help us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

As Charity disciples, we have been called to be an oak in the midst of this time. To stand, and to stand, and to continue to stand. To be a shelter- a haven to many. We have been called to be in this place even amid the storm. Surround all in leadership with protection, wisdom, and strength in the days ahead as they seek to do your will during this time of transition.

Lord, help us to be mindful of our purpose - that Charity is a shelter in Jesus Christ. Charity is a place for healing. With that healing we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve in the community for the glory of Christ. In all we do, help us to remember how deeply You love us and how faithful You are. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Elementary October 2022

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GRIT AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY



As we continue our journey through God's Big Story, we take a closer look at the lives of Joseph and Moses. Both of these men trusted God through hard circumstances and would not give up. These are two heroes of the faith, and we hope to help kids see how their stories connect between Genesis and Exodus.

God has been faithful throughout history and has helped people get through and overcome incredible difficulties. God's Son, Jesus, endured the pain of the cross and death itself so that we could have a forever relationship with God. God gives us the Holy Spirit to empower us to keep going, even when life gets difficult.

BEYOND BIBLE STUDY

A DEEPER DIVE INTO GOD'S WORD FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



Sunday mornings during the 11:00AM service will bring a great opportunity for middle school students to explore how science and faith can go hand-in-hand and learn a bit more about the God who created everything.



Confirmation

This month middle school confirmation students will be digging deeper with a quick review of Martin Luther's reformation and Biblical theology then moving on to the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and Apostle's Creed.

High School Youth Group

High school students will be tackling the big question, "Can science and faith coexist?" in October. Sometimes things our students hear from others, for example in science class or online, can seem to contradict with what the Bible teaches us. We want to equip our students with the powerful knowledge that science explains the "what" is happening while the Bible tells us the "Who" is responsible for it all.





First Grade Bible Presentations

During the services on Sunday, September 25th, Bibles were presented to our 1st Grade students. Parents handed the Bibles to their students to fulfill the baptismal promise to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of their child. May God bless these young people as they continue to know God in a deeper way.



Fall Family Festival

Sunday, September 25th we celebrated our Fall Family Festival! Thank you to everyone that came! It was a beautiful evening at Papa's Pumpkin Patch.





CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 Aspen Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503

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

Email: office@charitylutheran.org

www.charitylutheran.org

**FAMILY
HALLOWEEN PARTY**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29th

3:00-5:00PM

* Grab your best costume and join us for a not-too-spooky time!

- We will be having a costume contest with prizes for best individual and best family costume, snacks, games, and crafts!