



Pastor Brad Miller

GOOD NEWS

Intentional Interim Senior Pastor Brad Miller

From the Pastor

There exists a gloomy abstract reality which threatens the functioning of any church: the Church Cancer Triad. This triad is composed of three components which are also intermeshed and strengthen one another. The three components are: arrogance, ignorance, and ingratitude. Each of these characteristics is unbiblical – indeed they are the opposites of things that Holy Scripture calls us to: humility, wisdom, and gratitude. Many negative words could be used to describe this wicked trifecta, but “cancer” captures the essence of how insidiously these evils grow and deprive the body of necessary resources.

Church Cancer Triad



Arrogance leads one to presume that he or she is better, smarter, more righteous, or anything else “more” than others in the Body of Christ. Arrogance can start from a practical vantage point. We may sincerely have read the most, or experienced the most, or sacrificed the most regarding some church or ministry topic.

The peril awaits in eschewing humility and presuming that our accumulated “points” negate the relevance of others views. Assuredly, someone in Thomas Edison’s workshop had the most experience with trimming the wicks of oil lamps – but such knowledge could not outshine the creative open-mindedness of the researchers seeking a filament for incandescent bulbs. It is great to understand “how we have always done it.” It is foolish to presume that nobody has valuable insights to offer.

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EVENTS

Wednesday, September 7
Middle School Orientation
6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, September 7
High School Orientation
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 11
Rally Sunday Services
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 13
Amazing Grays
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 24
Quilting Group
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 25
Fall Family Festival
5:00 p.m.

Executive Director of Ministries Doug Leet

Biblical Stewardship

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.” - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

The psalmist begins the 24th Psalm with, “The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;”

So the overall idea of biblical stewardship is not merely about our church budget and volunteering for Charity programs, but the main principle is that God owns everything, and we are entrusted as managers (stewards) acting on His behalf. A second principle of stewardship is responsibility. With being entrusted as stewards of God’s gifts, we are also responsible for managing things well according to God’s desires and purpose. Thirdly, with responsibility comes the principle of accountability. Here, the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) teaches us for those things that God entrusted to our care, each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us.

And lastly, there is the principle of reward. In Colossians 3:23-24 Paul writes: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” The above principles are adapted from Hugh Whelchel’s writings on the principles of stewardship.

A related topic is the concept of tithing. And also the not too distant topic of Luther’s doctrine of vocation, and how we serve God when serving our neighbors through our vocations. But those will be topics for future articles.

Please note the mid-summer July financial contribution amounts in the accompanying chart shown on this page. So far, August is looking to be more challenging than July. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s provision, and that we are good stewards of what is really His.



Doug Leet

Financial Report

July Actual Income	\$78,021
July Budgeted Income	<u>\$103,262</u>
Difference	\$25,241
July Actual Income	\$78,021
July Actual Expense	<u>\$91,561</u>
Difference	\$13,540
YTD Actual Income	\$624,815
YTD Budgeted Income	<u>\$722,836</u>
Difference	\$98,021
YTD Actual Income	\$624,815
YTD Actual Expense	<u>\$572,035</u>
Difference	\$52,780

Memorials

MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

In Memory of Loren Schock by Alvina Fueller.

TARTU (UKRAINE)

In Memory of Wilbert Fueller by Alvina Fueller.

TARTU (HOME OF HOPE)

In Memory of Wilbert Fueller by Alvina Fueller.

GRIEFSHARE

In Memory of Randy Spitzer by the Spitzer Family.

Mike Fluharty - Vision Council President**SEPTEMBER VISION COUNCIL UPDATE**

Greetings to you from the Vision Council. As an update from this past month, the regularly scheduled Vision Council meeting held on Tuesday, August 16 attracted at least 30 guests. There was time set aside at the beginning of the meeting where anyone with comments or questions about Charity's transition process had an opportunity to speak. This period lasted about two hours and 15 minutes, and everyone who desired to speak was afforded the opportunity. It was a good time for discussion, so thank you to all who participated. There will be a congregational Question & Answer time that's been set aside at Charity on Sunday, September 11 following the second service in the sanctuary. The Vision Council and Pastor Brad will be available for discussion and to answer questions.

**Mike Fluharty**

In addition, The Vision Council has received a request to hold a special meeting. The Vision Council will be meeting to find a date and time to hold the special meeting.

Please continue to pray for God's wisdom as we navigate through this transition process.

Charity Lutheran Vision Council

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

QUESTION & ANSWER OPPORTUNITY

On September 11th, immediately after the 11AM worship service, the Vision Council and Pastor Miller will provide a Question and Answer opportunity. The event will be for information purposes only and the intended audience is limited to Charity Voting Disciples. Because sensitive topics may be discussed, we are limiting the invitation to those who are at least 18 years old. There will be activities provided downstairs for youth. Babies in arms will be admitted at the discretion of each parent. All Charity disciples are invited and encouraged to pray for wisdom, patience, and truth in preparation for this event. Questions do not need to be submitted in advance, but you may do so prior to Friday, September 9th.



From the Pastor

(continued from page 1)

Ignorance is practically an automatic condition in our modern world. There are too many topics and too much information for any of us to master it all. As made famous by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld: there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know. And if one looks throughout the history of our country and other free countries, it is the latter category that tend to be the difficult ones. Recognizing the limits of our awareness is a wonderful starting point to minimize damage to self and others. Even if we could accumulate all of the available knowledge on a certain topic, it would not guarantee us wisdom. Scripture often mentions wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as desirable and as not exactly the same. Wisdom and understanding about anything is terribly difficult to obtain without testing our perceptions and presumptions with the insights of others.

Ingratitude rounds out this heinous trio. Ingratitude invites us to see everything that we have as being something that we have earned or been entitled to receive. In God's vast creation, there are some creatures that are remarkably self-sufficient from the moment that they are hatched. Human beings are far from that mark. How many of us reached our first birthday without help? Even as adults, how many of us raise all of our own food or travel only on paths that we have cleared? We need others and we need God. Perhaps some false faiths can teach people that they are wholly self-sufficient. Christians know that the blood shed by Christ is the only thing that gives us hope of forgiveness and eternal life.

Together, these wicked three influences encourage us to believe that we are better than others, smarter than others, and indebted to no one. These lies are stumbling blocks which prevent the Church from wholly serving Christ, reverently worshipping Christ, and faithfully abiding in His Body.

RALLY SUNDAY & RALLY WOW



SERVICE TIME CHANGE
Beginning on Sunday, September 11,
we will worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

A Charity Mission Moment

Bob & Patti Nordvall

On behalf of Pastor Siimon Haamer and Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) in Estonia, greetings in Jesus' name! We all say "Summer is fleeting", and it is apparently true! School is started, vacations are over and the harvest is in full swing! We hope your summer was both restful and fulfilling as you re-enter the traditional adjustments to the 9-month school year and the 3 seasons not as warm.

The Great Commission of Christ knows no seasons, and we are thankful for those who have been able to remember and support the various global mission commitments which Charity has embraced. Some updates from Siimon and TAT are exciting, and we hope you are able to take the time to go online to their website (tatest.org) for the latest in information and ministries. Pastor Siimon will again be visiting in the States for a couple of weeks, arriving Sept 28 in Minneapolis. Along with his nephew, Mattias, and Dr. Ove Sander, they will have opportunities to visit several congregations and many friends around the time of the LCMC National Gathering in Lakeville MN. Bob will be joining with them helping with transportation needs and contacts.

Recently, Siimon made an appeal for some support in the reprinting of his grandfather's book, "We Shall Live in Heaven." Many of you have read Harri Haamer's incredible story of faith through his incarceration in the Russian gulag, the labor camps of Soviet Russia. We are hopeful that a new publisher can be found and funds raised for the printing. Many have asked for copies since we ran out of the books. Please help if you can, through Charity!

TAT continues to take in refugees from the war in Ukraine, as the tensions and battles rage on in the region. Recent building up of Russian military in Belarus indicate that Putin will not be looking for peace, and Belarus will become the new staging area, drawing that country into major conflicts with neighbors. James: 4:1-2 reminds us of the reasons "wars and striving" are always happening, globally and locally! We pray for peace and resolution, even when those things are not sought after by powerful people in the world. The world needs Jesus, and the church of Christ needs hearts being recommitted to Him!

Bob had a very blessed and inspiring experience through the Lighthouse Church in Fargo recently. (He goes there once a month for a long weekend helping out) He participated in adult baptisms of 30 people (mostly recovering from addictions) in Lake Lida, southeast of Moorhead. More than 100 people made the one-hour drive to support, pray and celebrate in the time of rejoicing. The Great Commission of Christ, (Matt 28:16) always calls Christians to be working for Kingdom growth, especially when we live in times of great turmoil and strife everywhere! The testimonies of faith and healing were deeply moving, and the Holy Spirit is really bringing new life for so many whose lives have been torn apart by the powers of addiction and sin! Christ be praised!

God bless you as you enter the new "school year." Be renewed in your own hearts in your commitment to Christ, and in your commitments to love others as you share the saving Gospel of Jesus in our needy world. And thank you for your continued support of Siimon Haamer and TAT!

Bonfire Night at J.C. and Sue Balcoms Home



It was a beautiful August evening for a Bonfire! Thank you to all who have attended our Summer Bonfire Nights!



September 1

Rachel Bitz
Nora Pulver

September 2

Danny Johnson

September 3

Dominick Harstad
Dale Helfrich
Trevor Miller
Macel Monthye
Norlyn Swenson

September 4

Annette Erickson
Deborah Jonson
Josiah Penn
Micah Penn
Randy Schmeling

September 5

Sam Desir
Jeremiah Penn

September 6

Corbin Thompson

September 7

Brian Churchill
Morris Duffy
Rhonda Leet
Casen Maier

September 8

Chloe Berg
Cameron Braun
Sandra Lohstreter

September 9

Russell Sheets
Chara Wangen

September 10

Joanne Harrington

September 12

Joyce Borgelt

September 13

Fay Connell
Bryn Gotzfried

September 14

Ethan Berg
Roger Nelson
Faith Schlecht
Patty Swenson

September 15

Dedra Wood
Stan Misek
Jim Neumiller
Clarabelle Sullivan

September 16

Diana Harstad
Marcella Kost

September 17

Leanne Fried
Donna Garner

September 18

Oakley Holland
Kryston Lawler
Sara Vukelich

September 19

Revere Misek
Eric Satrom
Ryan Wagner
Tracy Wegner

September 20

JJ Bauman
Cassandra Sjostrom

September 22

LuElla Dahme
Joel Edland

September 23

John Hegstad

September 24

Lizzie Bro
Tina Dendy
Dave Lee
Lauren Lubbers
Douglas Sailer
Bryce Uline

September 26

Sutton Berg
Bridget Coleman
Genevieve Geiger
Daniel Samuelson

September 27

Doug Hruby
Valdie Magstadt
Valerie Strebe
Jordan Wutzke

September 28

Hannah Gerving
Jim Schmidt

September 29

Jaela Baumeister
Gabe Coleman
Doug Schulz

September 30

Marcus Butts
Beckler Wangen



September 1 - Shawn and Shelby Custer

September 1 - Mitch and Julie Kost

September 4 - Stewart and Angie Milakovic

September 4 - Jakob and Alison Schmid

September 4 - Justin and Missy Theel

September 5 - Andrew and Lindsey Robinson

September 6 - Clark and Sara Coleman

September 9 - Mike and Shelley Rowe

September 11 - Brad and Cassie Braun

September 12 - Andrew and Emily Hershey

September 12 - Kirk and Janet Mitzel

September 14 - Brad and Beth Allen

September 16 - Brad and Barb Heim

September 16 - Jeremy and Tanya Lasher

September 18 - Russ and Sonja Bosch

September 19 - David and Pam Adrian

September 20 - Ryan and Janae Geiger

September 21 - Justin and Sara Schwarz

September 21 - John and Linda Westbee

September 22 - Mark and Lisa Aamodt

September 25 - David and Nancy Jensen

September 26 - John and Charmaine Wehmhoefer

September 28 - Jeffrey and Deborah Jonson

September 28 - Steve and Karen Wolff

September 29 - Chris and Rachel Bitz



Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Please keep our new Stephen Ministry Trainees in your prayers as they start their training sessions this month.



Navigating Reactions to Difficult News

- Recognize that everyone reacts differently.
- Know that people's initial reactions will change over time.
- Take time to share your feelings—and listen to others'.
- As much as you can, go easy on each other.

@stephenministries

If you would like to speak to a Stephen Minister, please call the church office at 258-1228.



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.

ALPHA



Charity is offering Alpha by Zoom this fall on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9:30 p.m. for 11 Wednesdays. The first session began on August 24th, but you can join in a class at any time. In-person Alpha at Charity (in addition to Zoom Alpha) will be offered during the winter session starting in January. We will be looking for small group leaders for January, so the fall Zoom course will be good preparation for that. Contact Doug Leet at Charity to sign up or for more information, 258-1228 or doug.leet@charitylutheran.com.

An Alpha next-step study of the book of Philippians, "A Life Worth Living" for those that have attended the Alpha Course last year, or for anyone that's interested will be held on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room beginning September 18th. Contact Doug Leet at Charity to sign up or for more information.

AMAZING GRAYS

The Amazing Grays will meet Tuesday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. for a catered dinner.



Sr. Kathleen Atkinson, OSB, a sister of Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck will be our speaker. She founded Ministry on the Margins in 2013, a volunteer-based ecumenical ministry committed to supporting those who fall through the cracks during times of transition. Come join us to hear about her ministry.

Please RSVP to Renee Walz, 400-1201 by text or call by Sunday evening, September 11, so food can be ordered Monday morning.

QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group will meet Saturday, September 24, 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.



Oaks of Righteousness

The Lord God would say to you, Charity Lutheran, that I am with you.

And I have made you to be a terebinth; You are an oak in the midst of time.

Where there are storms upon the land, Even as the storms come across the prairies with fierceness,

I have called you to be an oak in the midst of this time.

And to stand, and to stand, and to continue to stand.

For you are a shelter -

You are a haven to many that I will draw under your mighty branches.

I have established you; and I have planted you.

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 of righteousness.

And I am with you; and I will stand with you,

And no one shall take you down.

For you are My tree,

You are My oak,

You are My terebinth, Says the Lord.

Prophetic word for Charity given through Pastor Fred Thoni on August 6th, 2000





2022-2023 Family Registration Now Open

Charity Family Registration 2022-2023

Register Here:



It's time to get registered for fall programs! All kids and students participating in ministry from nursery through high school must have a registration form on file. Visit our homepage or scan the QR code to register now!

Middle School Confirmation Orientation

Confirmation orientations have been scheduled for Wednesday, September 7. All middle school and high school students and parents are encouraged to attend. The middle school orientation will begin with a pizza & salad dinner in the fellowship hall at 6:15 PM. The high school orientation will begin at 7:30 PM and will be followed by create-your-own ice cream sundaes.

High School Orientation & Color Wars

High school parents are invited to a short introduction to high school ministry and continuing confirmation goals in the sanctuary on September 7 at 7:30 PM. Students will engage in color wars in the parking lot. We'll finish up with create-your-own ice cream sundaes in the fellowship hall!

If you are unable to attend these meetings, please e-mail jessi.herz@charitylutheran.org to receive important information.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Charity preschoolers are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal to church for a special stuffed animal sleepover on September 10 from 6-7 PM.

We'll have fun making sleeping bags for our animals, sharing a snack, and reading a story before we leave our fluffy friends at church overnight for a stuffed-animals-only slumber party.

Our stuffed animal friends will be waiting to be picked up at Sunday School the next morning!



FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL AT PAPA'S PUMPKIN PATCH

Join us for Charity's Annual Fall Family Festival on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 5:00 PM. We're bringing back some of the old favorite festival games like potato sack races, egg tossing, and food contests. Bring your lawn chairs, and beverages. We'll provide sandwiches, chips, fruit, and a dessert. This year's festival will take place at Papa's Pumpkin Patch in Bismarck.

First Grade Bibles

Children in 1st Grade will be receiving their NIV Bibles during both services on Sunday, September 25. Children may attend either service to receive their Bible. Parents should bring their 1st graders to service with them, and they will be dismissed to return to Sunday School with Maggie if they would like to after the presentation.



BEYOND BIBLE STUDY

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



Many have heard the phrase, "Repetition leads to recall." We believe the most important thing for our students to remember is that they are created by God in His image to glorify Him, and that Jesus gave his life as the one sacrifice for the forgiveness of all sin. We want to provide students with every opportunity to be reminded of these amazing truths!

This is where BEYOND Bible Study comes in. This group is an additional opportunity for middle school students to fellowship with their peers outside of Wednesday night confirmation class. We will spend Sunday mornings during 11:00AM service together racing to find Bible verses, playing games, and diving into the amazing Word God has provided for us. Join us in the New Youth Room to be loved and accepted exactly as you are!

If you have any questions about **BEYOND Bible Study** or would like to serve this group please reach out to Youth Director Jessi Herz jessi.herz@charitylutheran.org

Outdoor Worship Service - August 28th, 2022

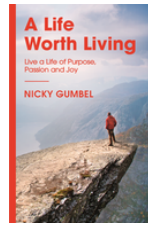
Thank you to everyone who came to our Outdoor Worship Service on August 28th at Sertoma Park. It was a beautiful morning for worship and fellowship. We also thank everyone who volunteered or who brought food to share.



Adult Small Groups

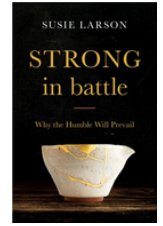
Sunday

8:00 a.m. Alpha Next-Step Study | Begins Sept. 18 | From the book of Philippians, "A Life Worth Living" | Doug Leet, 701-258-1228 | doug.leet@charitylutheran.org



Thursday

9:30 a.m. Book Study | Begins Sept. 8 | "Strong In Battle: Why the Humble Will Prevail" | Books available at class | Shelley Traynor, 701-226-2026 | shelltrayn@gmail.com



Sunday

10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class | Various Topics for September | The Book of Daniel Begins Oct. 2 | Kathy Wermager, 701-390-7587 | kathywermager@q.com

Saturday

8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study | Mike Smith, 701-226-0098 | smithswwjd@bis.midco.net

Sunday

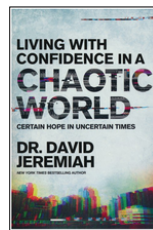
Hope After Betrayal | Times to be determined | Please contact Angela Vincent, 701-390-7587 | 89vincent@msn.com | Karrie Bauman, 701-202-2552 | skbauman@msn.com

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study | Begins Oct. 1 | Next Study to be determined | Chere Allard, 701-880-0818 |

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study | Begins Sept. 13 | Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World | Carol Bjork, 701-226-9023 | ckbjork@yahoo.com



Hobby Groups

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Adult Discipleship Class | Beginning in October | Led by Pastor Brad Miller and other instructors. Stay tuned for more details.



Wednesday

8:00 p.m. ALPHA by ZOOM | Began August 24 | 11 sessions and can join anytime | Doug Leet 701-258-1228 | doug.leet@charitylutheran.org



Amazing Grays

7:00 p.m. Second Tuesday each month | Potluck or catered meal and speaker to be announced | Renee Walz, 701-401-1201 | Kathy Wermager, 701-301-7587

Quilting Group

9:00 a.m. Saturdays once a month | Contact Liz Landis at 258-1228 in the main office for more information.

Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study | Begins Sept. 14 | "The Pursuit of Holiness" by Jerry Bridges | Please contact John Seedorf, 701-426-9768 or Ray Eckroth, 701-989-0329 for more information.



Pinochle Group

6:00 p.m. Thursdays once a month | Reserve a spot by texting John Seedorf at 701-426-9768

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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