

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~ Philippians 4:6-7

Please place in offering basket.

Email prayer chain requests must be sent to prayer.chain@charitylutheran.org.

701-258-1228
www.charitylutheran.org

 contact@CharityLutheran.org

 facebook.com/CharityLutheran

 twitter.com/CharityBismarck

 WiFi Guest Password: Shelter1

Charity Family Prays for

ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER? Please use the detachable prayer request form on the left side of this page to request prayer and place it in the offering basket. You may also have your prayer request put on the email prayer chain.

December Congregational Prayer

Pray for the persecuted church around the world!

Anniversaries


- December 17 - Tom and Angela Oakland
- December 19 - Ken and Connie Geiger
- December 20 - Thomas and Karen Swanson

Healing

Sharon Schock, William Seedorf, Roland Wiedrich, Alan Smith, Sharon Zimmerman, June Benedict, Jason Weaver, John Rahn, Sue Balcom, Kacie Schlecht, Marlin Fried, Dennis Torgerson, Rick Collin and Ray Schock.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME LISTED HERE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 258-1228.

Our Military

Brett Miller, Jason Hoge, Garret & Lorna  Illerbrunn, Rob Duncan, Al Dohrmann, Wyatt Gross, Austin Wald, John Forde, Stephanie Hawronsky, Leroy Taylor, Michael Berman, Missy Dassinger, Donovan Clark, Zachary Watkins and Joshua Kuhn.



Witness to the Light

Pastor Ron Dahle

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023
9:30 a.m.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

If you believe in Jesus, we invite you to join us at the table regardless of your background. Please let us know if you received communion today by filling out the tear-off tab in this bulletin. You can place it in the offering basket or hand it to an usher.

 *Welcome to Charity Lutheran Church*

Sunday, Dec. 17 - Saturday, Dec. 23

SUNDAY: Third Advent Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:45 a.m. Luther & the Reformation Bible Study | Sanctuary |

10:45 a.m. **No Sunday School - Resumes Jan 14, 2024**

10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study | Fireside Room |

3:00 p.m. Christmas Movie Matinee - "The Star" | New Youth Room | Bring your favorite blanket/pillow/ snacks provided

TUESDAY:

9:30 a.m. **No Tuesday Women's Bible Study, Resumes Jan 2, 2024**

5:30 p.m. Vision Council | Fireside Room |

6:30 p.m. Corporate Prayer | Sanctuary |

WEDNESDAY: **No WOW Activities until Jan 3, 2024**

6:15-7:30 p.m. - **No Bethel Bible Series, Resumes Jan 3, 2024**

7:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study | Fireside Room |

"Discussing Mere Christianity" | Ray Eckroth & John Seedorf |

THURSDAY:

9:30 a.m. **No Women's Bible Study, Resumes Jan 4, 2024**

SATURDAY:

8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study | Fireside Rm | Mike Smith |

Our Vision: Charity is a place for healing where changed lives are gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit and released to serve in the community for the glory of Christ.

Offering: Thank you for your tithes and offerings. You can give during the service or anytime by clicking the GIVE link on the middle navigation pane of our homepage or by text to give; 701-401-8250.

Livestream: Charity live-streams the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service on Facebook, our YouTube Channel or on our website by clicking on watch now.

Annual Meeting

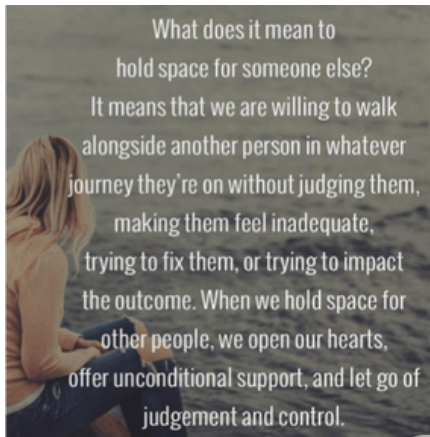
The Annual Meeting of the Voters' Assembly

will follow the 9:30am service on **Sunday, January 7**. There will be a brief time for fellowship with fruit and muffins before the meeting. The agenda includes approval of the budget and election of the following candidates.

Vision Council: Mike Fluharty, Sonja Murray

Trust Fund Committee: Nancy Jensen, Don Nordquist

Nominating Committee: Randy Traynor, Deb Uline, Jerry Walz



Please call the church office at 258-1228 if you would like more information. Our Stephen Ministers are here to help!

Upcoming Bible Study

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will meet Jan. 2-23, 2024 for "Why in the World" by Andy Stanley. Guides are \$10.00 and please let Carol Bjork know before Christmas if you will be attending, so she can order the study guides.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

WOW Resumes - January 3

Amazing Grays - January 9

Sunday School Resumes - January 14

Pinochle Night - January 19

Quilting Group - January 27



COME ONE, COME ALL AND GET TOGETHER FOR A CHRISTMAS FAMILY MOVIE MATINEE AT CHARITY, WHERE WE WILL WATCH "THE STAR"; AN ANIMATED MOVIE ABOUT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ANIMALS. THIS MOVIE IS SURE TO PREPARE YOUR HEARTS FOR CHRISTMAS. ALL AGES WELCOME. POPCORN AND TREATS WILL BE PROVIDED. DOORS OPEN AT 2:30 P.M. AND WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEW YOUTH ROOM.



Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I am:

a visitor

a member

received communion

interested in Charity

requesting a visit

other

Youth Ski Trip

Sign-up is now available for the youth ski trip in January. This fun event is for kids in 4th-12 grade. Please scan the QR code to sign up. Checks made payable to Charity Lutheran with "ski trip" in the memo and can be dropped off at the church office.

BOTTINEAU SKI TRIP

ENJOY WINTER WITH US



19-21 JANUARY, 2024

WE WILL BE STAYING AT LAKE METIGOSHE CHRISTIAN CENTER. BREAKFAST AND DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED. YOUTH WILL NEED LUNCH AND SNACK MONEY.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CHARITY LUTHERAN
COST IS \$180 DUE 12/15/23**

CHARITY YOUTH 4TH -12TH GRADE



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER!

..... PLEASE JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30AM

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00PM & 10:00PM

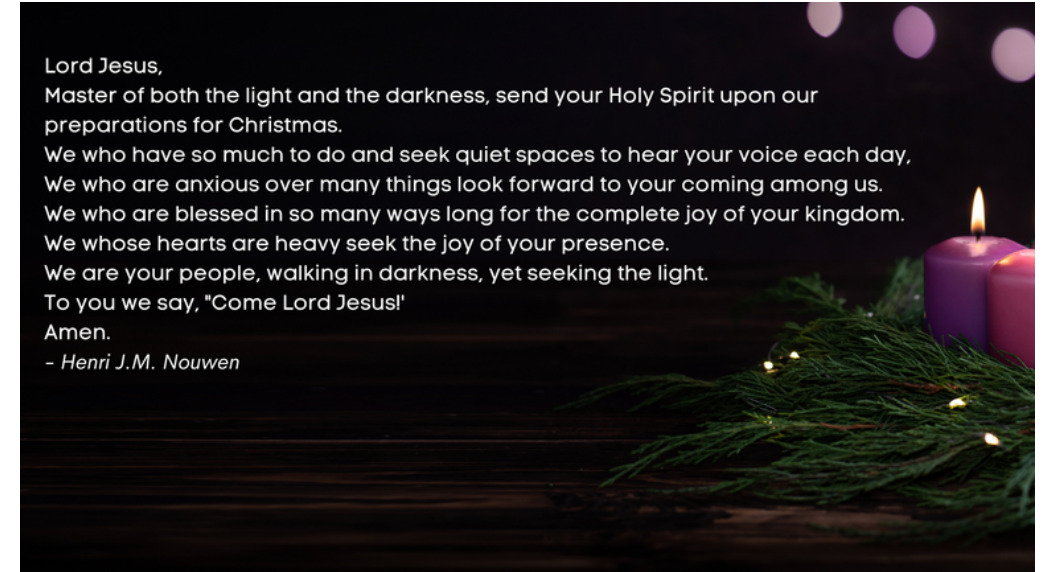
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* BOTH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
WITH CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION *

.charity

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.
- Henri J.M. Nouwen



Poinsettia Plant Order Form

Join us in decorating
the church for
Christmas

Scan QR
Code

Corporate Prayer

Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary. Please
join us. 3rd week is for Vision
Council meeting agenda.





The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

The most common Advent candle tradition involves four candles around the wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection.

A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary.

Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white.

Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.



The third candle is referred to as the Shepherd's candle. On the third Sunday of Advent we celebrate the joy of Christmas. To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.

Charity's Advent Banners

This is the third Sunday in Advent, a time of transition from darkness and death to new life and fulfillment, with the birth of the Christ Child at Christmas.

Around 1988, several women from Charity created the banners for the wall to your right. There are four panels in a series depicting the prophecy of Christ's birth as written in Isaiah. Each Sunday, a new banner will be added crafting the sense of anticipation and progression during the Advent season. This series is based on Old Testament readings.

These lessons from Isaiah tell about a time when people will return to God. There will be justice and peace. The stump of Jesse and the barren desert will sprout and bloom. Sorrow will give way to joy, war will be replaced by peace and God will give his people the ultimate sign: a virgin shall conceive and bear a son. Although each banner is independent, all four together form a unified panorama.

The first banner is a mountain towering over a barren desert. This represents the mountain of the Lord spoken of in the first reading from Isaiah.

The second banner continues the sweep of the desert, but in the foreground is a stump with one new branch growing out of it: the Root of Jesse from which a new shoot appears.

In the third banner, more stems, leaves, and some buds appear in the third panel as the desert begins to rejoice and blossom.