

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

St. Paul's & Buffalo Lutheran Churches

A Note from the Pastor

[The angel said to Mary...] you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1:31-33

Jesus' birth is the most familiar in the Bible. It is one of the most familiar birth stories in the western world. Even if you've never been in church, most of us have seen "A Charlie Brown Christmas." We know about the angels, who appeared in the night sky, speaking the most beautiful words ever spoken: "Fear not! For behold I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people, All People! ALL PEOPLE!!!

Good news not just for the Jews, not just for the Christians, not the rich, not the poor but **All People**.

The Good news—unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord

A Savior—his name is Jesus, which means God will save Christ—anointed one, special, set aside for a special purpose, in ancient times Kings were anointed with oil. Jesus is King of the Universe

The Lord—Jesus is the boss, the ruler, God of the universe, creator of All things, one with the Father

Jesus is not the kind of King we would expect, certainly not the kind of God we would hope for. At least not how we would expect the king of the universe to present himself; born in a stable to an unwed peasant girl, his birth announced not to kings and priests, but to dirty shepherds and pagan astrologers from a foreign country.

In Jesus the grace of God appeared, bringing salvation to all.

The good news of Jesus is life in the midst of death, eternal life, the life of the ages, real life, spiritual life, the life of the ages—a life free from bondage to sin and death, from death hell and the grave.

Freed by the one called, wonderful counselor, mighty God,
everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

He will establish and uphold his Kingdom with justice and
righteousness forever.

Fear not! For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall
be to **ALL PEOPLE**, for unto you is born this day in the city of
David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Pastor Allen

Cares and Concerns and Activities

***DECEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE HELD
AT 9:00 AM AT BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH. PASTOR
ALLEN CAMPBELL CAN BE CONTACTED BY PHONE AT 507-
828-0272. HE WILL APPRECIATE BEING CONTACTED BY
PHONE REGARDING ANY SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS
BAPTISMS OR FUNERALS! IF YOU CAN'T REACH HIM
CONTACT CAROL HINTZ, OUR SECRETARY, BY LEAVING A
MESSAGE ON ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH'S PHONE
AT 749-2309 OR CALLING CAROL AT HER HOME AT 701-429-
0030 AND THOSE IMPORTANT MESSAGES WILL BE
FORWARDED TO PASTOR ALLEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE***

The Church Office should be open on Fridays from 1 PM-3 PM. If
you find you need something at a different time don't hesitate to call
Carol at her home at 701-429-0030.

Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Page will be having services on
Wednesdays – Wednesday School 5:45 – 6:20 p.m. and Wednesday
Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas worship will be held at Buffalo Lutheran at 9:00 am and at Our
Saviors Lutheran at 10:30 am on December 24.

December 2023

Dear Family and Friends,

It is the Christmas season again. I don't know about you but I find that "time flies"! It is so easy to be caught up in the "hustle and bustle" of the season and life that I forget to take time to reflect on why we celebrate this time in the first place.

I have to admit that I just can't wrap my head around the whole concept of Christmas. The fact that our kind and loving God was willing to leave a heavenly home, to venture to God's creation, become one of us....live with us....and suffer for and with us...and die, instead of just remaining in God's heavenly home...well, I guess I am just too human to understand this depth of love. Yet, Jesus, our Savior was willing to and did just that! What a lesson in unconditional and pure love.

The Bible refers to many verses on love such as;

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"

I John 3:1 "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."

I John 4:10 "In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins."

I John 4:18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." vs. 19 "We love because He first loved us."

I Corinthians 13:13 "So, faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

So, not only did God take on flesh form in the incarnation of Jesus, but through that act of love and giving, we not only receive eternal life, are and are called "children of God.", we have the

potential to live our lives not only with faith, hope and love but in a fearless and perfect love. What does that mean to you? I encourage you to ponder that concept for a moment.

I hope that this Christmas as we unwrap our presents, we will take time to open and unwrap our hearts to God's ultimate gift of love and share that love fearlessly with those we encounter in our lives.

Blessings this Christmas to all of you and God's Perfect Love,
Gwen Fraase RN BSN FCN for Community of Care