

Buffalo Lutheran & Tower City Lutheran Churches

FEBRUARY 2014 PARISH POST

Comments from Pastor Chris . . .

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

A continual focus in much of popular culture is a search for God. Many popular and well-sold books and movies, and many frequently visited websites and video clips deal with humankind's attempt to find the mysterious Spirit who many of sense lays hidden behind it all. Some people have spent their whole lives in search of a God who they never seem to quite find. Most of us fall prey to the blindness of the age as well. While we may know God through the Christian faith, we often fall victim to the idea that "everyone has their own path" to God.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a dangerous notion to hold. There is only one God in flesh, and his name is Jesus Christ. God is not a consumer good for us to edit according to our taste and whim, but is truly a Trinity of Persons who reveals himself to us through the holy prophets, the sacred Scriptures, the witness of the church, preaching, teaching, the sacraments, and fully as Jesus of Nazareth.

We do not need to seek out God, for he has already found us. Ask yourself, "Self, have I been Baptized? Have I received the Lord's Supper? Have I heard the pastor forgive my sins?" If you can answer, "yes" to these you can put your conscience at ease, for God has surely claimed you as his Word has promised.

What then for those around us who are ignorant of the church or who refuse to take part in our religion? Firstly, we must treat them as our Lord has commanded: "Love your neighbor as yourself"¹. We must pray for them, and ourselves, that the Lord would find us all in his grace on the last day. We should serve them in all ways, just as we serve ourselves. And, lest we forget, we should each model and witness our faith to those who do not believe. This does not mean that you have to name drop "churchy" things in conversation, nor does it mean that every subject should turn to Jesus. Instead, simply conduct yourself in accordance with your station. And, if and when the opportunity arises, do not hesitate to share your faith with others. This can be uncomfortable, but "faith comes by hearing".² Above all, remember that those who are outside the church are no worse sinners that we who are in, for all of us need Christ. Even those who attend services every week.

There are many challenges before us and the Christian church as a whole. We must never forget out thankfulness to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for what he has won for us on the Cross. We must never think that we are above seeking him in repentance. We must never forget he from whom our salvation comes.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris

¹ Mark 12:31

² Romans 10:17

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH

January General Fund \$1559.84

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

January General Fund \$2335.42

Buffalo Lutheran members please note - - - Our Parish Nurse Fund is low--- consider financial support at this time. As we begin sharing half of the parsonage expenses we are funding \$5,000 window replacement expenses (this donation due by March 1)

January Attendance Figures at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 5 40 January 12 70 January 19 71 January 25 Average 51

Anyone wishing to attend the annual Bethany Retirement Living meeting is asked to call the church office to volunteer no later than February 12. Each congregation can designate 2 voting delegates (plus our Pastor) to represent our congregations. This meeting is scheduled at Noon on Tuesday, April 8 at Bethany on University Campus. Lunch will be served in the Mavis Whiting Chapel at Noon with a short business meeting.

May we remember with prayers of caring Donna Lee. Greetings and prayers can be sent to her at "Donna Lee, 1371 East 4th Ave Space # 189, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Beyond Our Walls . . . Help Bethany Retirement Living

Bethany Retirement Living has been selected by Dakota Medical Foundation to participate in ***Giving Hearts Day***, a 24-hour online fundraising event created by DMF and Impact Foundation that will be held on **Thursday, February 13, 2014**. All contributions of \$10 or more - up to \$25,000 - that are given online at impactgiveback.org will be matched! Please consider supporting Bethany Retirement Living by forwarding this email to those you know care for the great work we are doing at Bethany. To have your contribution matched, a one-day only chance, simply go to impactgiveback.org on Thursday, February 13. Thank you for your continued support of Bethany's mission ***to provide living opportunities in a senior community shaped by Christian values.***

Welcome to our new Council members: At Buffalo Lutheran Church Wendy Pueppke, David Larson, and Jeff Beilke join our Council. At St. Paul's Lutheran Church David Olson, Linda Besette, and Adam Walburn are our newest Council members.

GIVING HEARTS DAY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014! All donations of \$10 or more will be matched, up to \$10,000 (\$4,000 from Dakota Medical Foundation and \$6,000 from local donors). With your help, Community of Care can raise much money to assist us in our goal "to enhance the quality of life of rural Cass County seniors in order to keep them in their homes & communities as long as safely possible". To make a secure online donation on February 13th, simply go to

www.impactgiveback.org You can also stop by our offices on February 13th (Arthur - in the mall, Casselton – in the Bremer Bank). Call our offices for more information - 701/347-0032).

FEBRUARY PARISH NURSE NOTES

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Communicating With Those Experiencing Hearing Loss

Dear Family and Friends,

Many individuals in our congregations struggle with hearing loss. For the hearing impaired, it is difficult and can be exhausting trying to hear what is being discussed especially when out in a group setting. How do you speak and communicate with people who have a hearing loss? Here are some helpful guidelines.

First of all, ask the person what can be done to make communication easier.

- * Get the attention of the person before you speak.
- * Speak up, but do **not** shout.
- * Speak slowly and clearly, pronouncing the beginning and endings of words.
- * Use facial expressions and gestures.
- * Don't overemphasize or exaggerate your mouth movements.

Rephrase rather than repeat a misunderstood sentence.

- Reduce background noise as much as possible.
- If in a group situation, make sure that speakers take turns rather than having multiple people talking at once or interrupting each other.
- Face the person in good lighting and ensure that their vision is not being impaired by bright light or shadow.
- Don't put objects in front of your face or cover your mouth with your hand while speaking.
- Verify understanding by asking the person to repeat what they heard.
- Do not rapidly change subjects. Deliberately introduce new topics to help the individual follow the conversation more easily.
- Remember that individuals with hearing loss generally do not "overhear" conversation; do NOT assume that they have been informed of something unless you specifically tell them about it.
- Keep in mind that a person with a hearing loss cannot catch up on an existing conversation as easily as a hearing person, so it may be helpful to summarize what has already been said when they join the group.
- If experiencing problems while communicating, you can always write down what you are saying and allow the person you are communicating with to respond in writing also.
- You may be able to communicate best using an assistive listening device (ALD).

We all know how important communication is and how if it not done well, many issues can arise. Hopefully, these hints will make communication with a person with a hearing loss much easier to accomplish and therefore meaningful for both parties. It is stated in the Bible, "he that has ears to hear, let him hear." May God grant us all the patience to hear and then to understand each other.

Peace in Him,

Gwen Fraase RN Parish Nurse
Community Health Ministry
<http://milwaukee-synod.org/resources/health-and-wellness/>

Buffalo & Tower City Lutheran Parish
Box 68
Tower City, ND 58071
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Upcoming February Events

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH AT 9:00 AM, FOLLOWED BY SUNDAY SCHOOL (no Sunday School February 16)

Pastor Chris plans to use Tuesdays as his office day. Pastoral guidance and individual confession are available by appointment with the pastor. You can contact him at 749-2309 or 701-710-0446. His e-mail address is cbrademeyer@gmail.com

Every Wednesday: Confirmation classes meet at the high school! 7th-8th grades meet from 1:40-2:30 PM; 9th grade meets from 2:35-3:25 PM

Feb. 2: SPL WELCA meets after worship
SPL COUNCIL meets-check on time

Feb. 12 : BUFFALO LUTHERAN COUNCIL meets at 7:00 PM

Feb. 16: ST. STEPHAN VISITATION GROUP meets after worship

Double-check for a Naomi Circle meeting time and place.

Keep in mind that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.