

Buffalo Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches

FEBRUARY 2015 PARISH POST

Comments from Pastor Chris . . .

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

Lent is soon to arrive. Ash Wednesday, which begins the season, is February 18th. Lent is traditionally a time of preparation for the Easter feast, that is, the day we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and God, Jesus the Christ. What sorts of things do Christians do to prepare for Lent? You are probably familiar with some of these practices: fasting from food or other things (i.e. giving something up), almsgiving (increased giving to the Church and those in need in time and/or finances), increased prayer, greater study of Scripture and theology, making confession, more frequent attendance of church services, and more frequent reception of the Sacrament of the Altar.

Why do we do these things in Lent? Well, to be honest, we should strive to undertake a greater devotion to Christ and serving our neighbor in all our days, not just those within Lent. But, there is a greater focus on these in Lent to illustrate our lack of goodness and grace apart from Christ. When one sets a goal, such as greater prayer or disciplining one's flesh through fasting, one quickly finds the limits to one's own flesh and how strong the desire for complacency and sin really is within one's own members. We focus more on ourselves and how much we need to improve our spiritual state to better know the need we have for Christ and his Cross. Even though we can – and very well may – make progress to greater piety and devotion during Lent by undertaking these practices of the Church, we will know deeper the flawed, sinful reality of our flesh. How better to prepare for the feast of Easter than to know on a deep, intimate level the depth of our sin and to realize our utter reliance on Christ?

Keeping with this Lenten discipline, you may notice a few things about church services during this season. The liturgy will be less musical, there will be more silences during the service, images and art will be minimized, and the tone will be more penitential. I will be offering individual, private confession before Lent services on Wednesdays and by appointment during Lent. I encourage all of you to avail yourselves of this great gift from Christ. And, in case you are unaware, a pastor is sworn to complete secrecy concerning the content of a confession given to him or her.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

If you would like any advice, spiritual direction, pastoral conversation, private confession, or prayer, please contact me at cbrademeyer@gmail.com or at (701) 749-2309.

Why do we stand up and sit down in Church services?

The short answer is that we stand for two reasons: to show respect for Christ and to exercise our ministry as Baptized priests in Christ. We sit when we are to learn. Notice that according to the instructions in the hymnal, the only time we should sit is during the readings (except the Gospel) and during the sermon. Why? In order that we might learn from the sacred text and from the preaching of the pastor. The other parts of the service are when we are worshipping, that is, acting as the Baptized priests we are. This does have a biblical precedent: when one reads the Old Testament, especially Leviticus, one notices that the priests in the Temple never sat for any portion of their ministering to God. So we, who are priests in our Baptism, do not sit when we minister. Further, a church service is not a concert or other form of entertainment, but is the active ministration of Word and Sacrament given to all those Baptized priests who are in attendance.

FINANCIAL NEWS TO NOTE!

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH

General fund balance - \$8500.18

Parish Nurse fund balance - \$31.10

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

General fund balance - \$1490.59

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 with a Divine Service at 7 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Wednesday evening Lenten Services will continue at the church where our Sunday Services are held.

New St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council members are Colleen Clancy and Matt Richman. Council officers are: President Adam Wetch, Vice-President Adele Smith, and Secretary Linda Besette.



Fellowship Ice Fishing is being planned for Sunday, February 15, after our Worship Service. Everyone is welcome! Right now details are being put together and the plan will soon be announced. Get your fishing rods ready! If you need fishing gear please get your name to the church office so plans can be made.

† Cares and Concerns-- Tammy Richman continues to cope with cancer concerns. † Harriet Griffin remains hospitalized at Essentia in Fargo following a serious abdominal surgery. May we remember these ladies in prayer!

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Dear Family and Friends,

Many of us who have children sometimes feel we have "had enough" of them on occasion. So, what if they are getting on your nerves and are starting to misbehave? Before you do or say anything, calm yourself and think. Most of your children's misbehaviors do not require a fast response, so take a deep breath and think before you act.

Here are some tactics to use in response to misbehaving.

IGNORE** Misbehaviors that will not harm anyone or anything can be ignored. These behaviors are often only meant to irritate or gain attention; they can be bothersome, but if you ignore them, it will take away the audience or attention your child is seeking.

RE-DIRECT** If the behavior is a problem, have the child pay attention to something or someone else.

NATURAL CONSEQUENCES** Allow the natural consequences of the act to be the discipline. For example, if the child throws a toy--the toy is taken away. For older children, if they stay out later than agreed upon, the next day they must be home earlier.

SUSPENSION OF PRIVILEGES ** A child might lose a privilege to do something or have something that they like. Be certain though, to match the loss as closely as possible to the misbehavior. This will often result in the change in behavior you want to occur.

REVIEW OF THE RULES/LIMITS** Sometimes all children need is a reminder of the limits/rules you have set. A short, non-angry talk about the rules will let the child know what is expected.

EXTRA CHORES** For children 8 or older, a child may be asked to do extra chores to make up for the time they may have taken away from a chore the parent would do when they are disciplining the child.

RECOVERY TIME** Often, in the past, this was called a TIME OUT. It allows the child, and quite often the parent the chance to calm down. Make sure the child is away from the "action", when they are calmed down they can go back what they were doing before the misbehavior occurred. Sometimes just 2 -3 minutes is enough. When the time is over, give them a hug or another show of affection and send them back to whatever they were doing without any further discussion.

RE-ARRANGE SPACE OR PLACE** Sometimes, as parents, we need to realize that the things in our home can be arranged or re-arranged so that they are not enticing to the child and cause misbehavior.

*****PRAY** about your child-raising responsibilities and ask that God will help you and bless you as you do the wonderful, yet tiring work of being a parent or grandparent.

Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." "In the way he should go" is literally, "according to the child's way." Every child is different and has a unique personality. This verse points out that we should discern the individuality and character strengths God has given each child and utilize these strengths to assisting them to develop.

Peace in Him,

Gwen Fraase RN Parish Nurse

Community Health Ministry

<http://milwaukee-synod.org/resources/health-and-wellness/>

<http://www.allaboutparenting.org/parenting.htm> <http://www.allaboutparenting.org/parenting.htm#sthash.Zjckvxvz.dpuf>

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UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY DIVINE SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM. FAMILY BIBLE STUDY/SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY FOLLOWS DIVINE SUNDAY SERVICE.

Individual confession is available before Lenten Services by appointment with the pastor. You can contact him at 749-2309 or 701-710-0446. His e-mail address is cbrademeyer@gmail.com

February 1: St. Paul's Council meets after Divine Service.

February 3: Music Group meets to choose music at Buffalo Lutheran Church (contact Pastor Chris if you are interested)

February 4,11,18,25: Confirmation classes meet each Wednesday at 1:41 at Maple Valley High School.

February 11: Naomi Circle meets at 1:30 PM at Carol Howitz home. Buffalo Lutheran Council meets at 7 PM.

February 15: Fellowship Ice Fishing follows Divine Service

February 18: Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

February 25: Lenten Worship at 7 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.