**FEBRUARY 2017 parish post**

**St. Paul’s & Buffalo Lutheran Churches**

***Comments from Pastor Chris. . .*** Page 1

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

Now, on to the 6th Commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery. What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse. – *The Small Catechism*

 This commandment is one of the more obviously broken in our society in this present age. We are told to love and honor our spouse, but it is something of a cliché that we instead make fun of the “old lady”, the “old ball and chain”, the dumb brute, etc. This is not a form of respect. Even if said in jest, such talk only diminishes the sanctity of the marital union to people who talk this way and who hear such talk. Loving and honoring one’s spouse means that one is to refrain from all sexual activity and thought outside the bonds of Holy Matrimony. It is, of course, a sin against God to act sexually outside of marriage, but it is also a sin against your spouse. Even if you fooled around some number of years before ever meeting your husband or wife, your actions were directly against his or her honor. The marital act is sacred and should only be shared with the one you’ve been bound to in Holy Matrimony. All other sexual expressions should be discouraged. This means no cheating or flirting with anyone else. This means no looking at another person in lust. Jesus tells us, “(E)veryone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:28 ESV). This latter part is very difficult in a society that wishes to be unencumbered from all sexual restraint. Pornography generates between 10 and 12 billion dollars of economic activity in the United States alone. Many TV shows and ads feature amounts of sexual content that would have been unthinkable just a few decades ago. In short, we live in a society that is utterly permeated with sex. This isn’t as innocent as we would be led to believe; exposure to such material can lead to people objectifying each other. That is, seeing each other as objects to be used for one’s own purposes, rather than as human beings created by God Himself. Worse still, many people have turned sexuality, which God gave us to bind husband and wife together in

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***Comments from Pastor Chris continue…*** Page 2

marriage and to generate new life through childbearing, into a recreational activity. And, as with most other recreations, it seems a goodly number of people are not satisfied staying in these bounds. Attempts to mainstream all manner of perversions have ramped up in recent years. Besides the successful attempt to rewrite the legal understanding of marriage to include same sex couples, there have been campaigns to normalize polygamy, human-animal relations, and pedophilia. However, we Christians are to stand against such cultural pressure, as enormous as it is. Marriage, despite our society’s fevered attempts to expand or destroy it, stands as God designed it: the union of a man and woman oriented toward the engendering of new life through natural reproduction. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris Brademeyer

FINANCIAL NEWS

 Buffalo Lutheran Church St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Checking $3534.06 General Balance $2897.71

Parish Nurse 118.10 All bills are current

 (Dec., Jan., and Feb. paid)

**Cares and Concerns**

* **A**  Remember with prayers of care and compassion the family of Susan (Schneekloth) Bautista. Sue was living in Washington and she passed away January 9. Local survivors are her brother, Lynn Schneekloth, and local Schneekloth family members. May she rest in peace!
* **Ione Jonson** was expected to be discharged from Sanford Hospital and should be back at Sheyenne Crossing now.
* **Naomi Circle** will meet at Karen Tabor’s home on Tuesday, February 7, at 1:30 PM.
* **The Annual Ice Fishing Event** will be held Sunday, February 12. We’ll meet at St. Paul*’s* Lutheran Churchat 11:30 AM. Bring your ice fishing accessories, if you don’t have what you think you’ll need people will be willing to share their things.
* **MAPLE VALLEY CARNIVAL wi**ll be held Friday, February 17 at Tower City High School from 6:30 -8:30 PM. There will be lots of games, a photo booth, and a Maple Valley/Post Prom Cake/Cupcake or Cookie Decorating Contest. Adele Smith and Deb Miller can answer your questions!
* **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** February 19(more details on **back page)**

PARISH NURSE NEWS - -Fire Safety Page 3

Dear Family and Friends,

 There are three important steps we can do to protect ourselves and family members.

1. Install smoke alarms on all levels of your home.
2. Test them every month to make sure they are working properly.
3. Plan and practice home fire drills.

 Smoke is deadly and sneaky. It has no sound and you usually cannot smell it when you are asleep. Smoke contains poisonous gas and can cause a person to quickly become unconscious. Make sure there are smoke alarms on every level of your home. Check the alarms every month to make sure they are working properly. Replace broken alarms. There are some alarms that allow you to make a recording of your voice. This may work better for children or individuals who respond quicker to a human voice rather than a mechanical noise such as an alarm. Younger children will need assistance to escape a fire. Fire sprinklers help save lives by giving occupants more time to escape. Check to see if your apartment has them, or if they can be added to your home.

 Plan and practice your escape. Fires spread very fast and you and your family must get out of the house and to safety quickly. Make a fire escape plan. Draw it on paper and discuss it with your family. Choose a meeting place outside in a safe place by your home. Know the two ways to get out of a room. REMEMBER TO STAY LOW. Write 911 on the phone and if your cell phone is close to you, take it out of the building so you can call for help. Make sure you are able to open all doors and windows easily. Know where to meet safely outside. If you live in an apartment building, know all the ways to get out fast. Know if there is a plan for getting everyone out of your building. Check with your building manager if you have questions or want to review the policies in place or if you want to request an apartment fire drill. PRACTICE your set fire plan at least two times a year.

 You can prevent a fire by always staying in the kitchen when food is cooking. Making sure there if at least three feet of space between a space heater and anything that may burn. Do not sleep with space heaters on. . Only adults should burn candles. Keep candles away from children and pets and blow out candles if you are not in the room or if going to bed. Do not leave matches or lighters where young children can reach them. Do not leave them in purses or pockets of your clothes. Keep them locked away. A good site to check is; [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org)

Peace in Him,

 Gwen Fraase RN Parish Nurse CHM

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

More News from Pastor Chris Page 4

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday, which is on March 1st this year. We will be having a service at Buffalo Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM. Lent is a time for us to “clean house” spiritually, so to speak. It gives us a chance in the liturgical rhythm of the Church to make an effort at greater devotion and piety toward our Lord Jesus. Lent is a great time to begin a practice of daily prayer, for example, the prayers for morning and evening in your Small Catechism. It is also a good time to begin reading a daily devotion. There are many such books and aids available, but it can be as simple as picking up your Bible and starting on one of the Gospels. A good practice that doesn’t take too much time is to read a chapter a night before bed, which can also serve as a reminder to pray. Lent is also traditionally linked with almsgiving, making extra donations to the poor and the Church, and fasting, abstaining from food and drink in order to discipline one’s sinful desire for more than we need. Individual confession, the practice of confessing one’s sins privately to the pastor (who is sworn to complete secrecy, even under threat of death) is a great practice to undertake in Lent. It can be a great spiritual blessing to have a confessor. I recommend that each of you should try this, at least once. This season is also a great time to start coming to services, both Wednesday and Sunday, even if it has been some time since you’ve attended. Jesus is always at His church for His people, and He is ready to forgive the repentant who come for His gifts in the services of the Church. If you need any advice or guidance on Lent practices or devotions, I am always available.

**CALENDAR**

***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*

*Confirmation meets every Wednesday beginning January 11 at 1:10 PM at Maple Valley High School.*

Divine Services will be held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and March Divine Services will be held at Buffalo Lutheran Church.

**February 8:** Buffalo Lutheran Church Council meets at 7 PM

**February 12:** St. Paul’s Council meets at 8 AM; Annual Ice Fishing event, we’ll meet at 11:30 AM in Tower City, extra fishing paraphernalia available

**February 17**: Maple Valley Carnival sponsored by Junior Class and Post Prom Committee. Cake Decorating Contest (talk to Adele Smith and Deb Miller)

**February 19:** Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at Buffalo, sponsored by Buffalo Volunteer Fire Dept & Buffalo Area Quick Response Unit, 7:30 AM-12:30 PM

**March 1:** Ash Wednesday begins Lent with a Divine Service at 7 PM at Buffalo