

## JANUARY 2016 PARISH POST

### *St. Paul's & Buffalo Lutheran Churches*

#### **Comments from Pastor Chris . . .**

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

A topic of much discussion of late has been whether Christians share the same deity as other religious groups, particularly whether Muslims and Christians worship the same God. This topic requires a bit of parsing out before we can arrive at our answer. Firstly, we must ask how we come to know anything of God. Secondly, whether such avenues of discovering who God is are reliable. Finally, we then must ask ourselves whether this means we have the same God as other religions.

As to the first question, there are really only two possibilities. Philosophers and theologians would parse them as general revelation and special revelation, which is simply meant to describe knowing God through human faculties, especially reason, and through God's own self-disclosure through prophets, holy texts, etc. According to the first notion, it is possible to know something from God simply by looking at His creation. By using our human abilities of thinking and observation, we can theoretically come to some knowledge of God through his handiwork. The second notes that God can disclose himself in a more direct fashion using prophets, sacred texts, visions, and the like.

So, then, are these reliable means? As Christians, we understand that God's definitive revelation of Himself is in His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, in turn, is recorded for us in the Holy Bible, the written revelation of God concerning His Son. What does the Bible say of all this? 1 Corinthians 10:19-20 refers to idols as demons, as does Psalm 106:37 and Deuteronomy 32:17. Idols, of course, are all things which are worshipped as gods instead of the God of Israel. Behind all these false gods is Satan, the father of lies. The Scriptures also tell us that "No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 ESV). In short, to deny Christ is to follow a false god. Satan's work in creation is to confuse us and lead us away from the One True God. However, he is not able to hide the fact that some god exists from us. But this avenue of knowing God so confuses who this God is that we are unable to know much about this deity, other than he/she/it exists and created the world. Christ, however, gives us the clearest possible picture of who God is, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9 ESV). Christ reveals to us that God is a Trinity, that is, the One God exists in Three Persons and that Jesus Himself is a Person of the Godhead. To deny Christ is to worship an idol made by human hands.

So, then, what do we do with other religions? On the one hand, we must acknowledge that some understanding of God is possible through general human experience; however, such knowledge is hopelessly muddled with human impressions, idols, and the work of Satan. On the other, we must, in keeping with the First Commandment and Jesus's own teaching, clearly state that anyone who denies Christ denies God. So, in summary, Christians only worship the same God as other religions

***Pastor Chri's Comments conclude on page 2***

who confess the divinity of Christ and the doctrine of the Trinity. Both of these doctrines are exclusively Christian teachings. If any person, no matter what he calls himself, doesn't do this, he is not following the One True God. Instead he worships an idol, which is simply a mask for demons.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chris

#### FINANCIAL NEWS TO NOTE!

##### BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Watch for Buffalo Lutheran financial news next month.

##### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

General Fund balance Dec. 31: \$2672.71  
Ask Jenni for a copy of your 2015 giving.

**The Community Health Ministry** will hold their Annual Meeting 7:30 PM on Wed, January 13, 2016 @ St. Thomas Hall. It is open for all to attend.

**St. Paul's Church will hold their Annual Church Meeting** January 17 after services. We will have coffee and goodies to share!

**Pastor Chris's calendar looks busy!** He will attend a Continuing Education event January 18-January 23 and a First Call Pastor's Meeting January 28-January 30.

Watch for details on an upcoming ice fishing get together planned for January 24.

† May we remember with prayers of sympathy the William Eggermont family and friends. Bill passed away December 30, 2015 at Sheyenne Care Center in Valley City. His funeral was held on January 4, 2016 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. May he rest in peace!

**Thank you!** I'd like to extend a special thanks for the very generous Christmas gift and the greetings from Buffalo Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches. *From Bette.*

#### **Red Willow Ministries Upcoming Events**

**Ice Fishing Derby:** Jan. 15-17. You bring the gear and BW provides hot meals and warm beds! Contact [www.redwillowbiblecamp.org](http://www.redwillowbiblecamp.org)

**Winter Fun Family Weekend:** Feb. 5-7, Give the gift of time together.  
Register online.

**Giving Hearts Day:** Feb. 11, check details out online,

**Annual Meeting:** March 20

**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** June 18-19

## **JANUARY PARISH NURSE NOTES - - Winter Coats**

Dear Family and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you will have a blessed 2016.

Now that winter is here, I would like to review a few tips with you about winter coats and car seats for children, also safe vehicle seating arrangements.

Bulky winter coats and snow pants should not be worn in a car seat as it makes the harness straps too loose to be effective in a crash. The fluff of a bulky winter coat can compress in a car crash making harness straps loose, which can cause injury or ejection.

How can your child stay warm and safe? Here are some options; #1 Wear no coat or a light weight fleece. Wear a warmer coat while going to and from the car. #2 Wear no coat and use a blanket for warmth. #3 Harness your child in the car seat and then put their coat on backwards or #4 unzip the child's coat and then buckle them.

It is helpful to warm your car ahead of time when possible.

Also, I would like to share another helpful hint. When dealing with children, the back seat is the safest place to ride. Airbags are designed for adults. They deploy at 200 mph in 1/20 of a second causing severe head and neck injuries to children and young adults. When adults wear seat belts, kids wear seat belts. Be a good example and buckle up for every ride. Lap shoulder belts provide the best protection for preteens and adults. Remember the old jingle; "Buckle up for safety buckle up....."

Peace in Him,

Gwen Fraase RN Parish Nurse

Community Health Ministry

Safe kids winter 2015

## **BEYOND OUR WALLS - Where can Thrivent Choice Dollars help?**

You may be eligible for Thrivent Choice, a program that allows you to direct dollars to an enrolled charity like Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Thrivent Choice eligibility and amounts are based on your insurance premiums, contract values, and Thrivent volunteer leadership. In order for your Thrivent Choice dollars to be distributed to charity, you are required to designate them each year. These dollars expire on Dec. 31. Last year, over \$38,000 Thrivent Choice dollars were distributed to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. If you were one of the generous donors who directed Thrivent Choice dollars to the Ranch in 2014, thank you. Your dollars were used to help connect kids to faith through our spiritual life programming. Log onto your Thrivent account ([www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice)) to check details!

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## **UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS**

*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](mailto:cbrademeyer@gmail.com)*

**JANUARY DIVINE SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM FOLLOWED BY SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH BIBLE STUDY AT 10:30 AM (NO BIBLE STUDY JAN. 17).**

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** every Wednesday at 1:41 pm at Maple Valley High School

January 6: Naomi Circle at Bev Jager home at 1:30 PM; Celebration of Epiphany at 7:00 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

January 9: Naomi Circle meets at Audrey Grieve home at 1:30 PM. Buffalo Lutheran Church Council meets (check time).

January 13: Buffalo Lutheran Church Council meets at 7:00 PM; Community Health Ministry Annual Meeting open to everyone at St. Thomas Catholic Church at 7:30 PM.

January 17: St. Paul's Annual Meeting

January 18-January 23: Pastor Chris away at a continuing education event.

January 24: Church Ice-fishing time tentatively planned for Noon, meeting at St. Paul's.

January 28-January 30: Pastor Chris away at First Call Pastor's Meeting

