

MARCH 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.

Conflict between the secular world and the Church is something that Americans have never really had to think about. In a general way, our culture and Church practice have been compatible for the vast majority of our history. We have Christian holidays recognized as federal holidays (for example: Christmas, and Easter). Sundays are customarily part of one's time off each week. Judeo-Christian values and ethics permeated our educational system. Christian institutions, such as hospitals and schools, were allowed and even flourished under our legal system. We are free to pray, worship, and practice our Christian faith as mandated by Holy Scripture. Secular society did not hinder our Christian practice and culture, even sometimes going as far as to support it.

While things have never been as comfortable for us as we like to remember, our current culture seems at best to be indifferent to Christianity and, at worst, hostile to it. For example, Valley City Public Schools have scheduled Sunday activities. Of course, the work around on this is that those activities are not "official". The School Board here at Maple Valley Public Schools have scheduled Wednesday meetings during Advent since I've been here. The Old Ten in Buffalo has Wednesday night bingo, even through Advent and Lent. The bar in Verona had its grand opening on Holy Saturday a few years ago. It's not uncommon at various schools in the area for kids to have Sunday sports practice. The NCAA has scheduled this year's March Madness during Holy Week and Easter. In short, the world around us has begun to devalue Church participation and has sought to fill that time with other activities.

Now, I'm not saying we must boycott our schools or anything like that. But we should take stock of ourselves. Wishy-washy commitment to the Church and an unflagging devotion to our school systems, especially in extra-curricular activities (especially sports) has led to this sort of thing. We are all going to be faced with a decision, especially parents. Which is more important: school or Church? Be careful about the choices you make. By participating in alternative events during what has been customarily Church time, we legitimate them. By refusing to skip events held during Church times, we tell our neighbors, children, and selves that Church is – at best – an optional activity, at worst, we show that Christianity is meaningless. This struggle will increase in coming years. Where will you stand? Will you be with the culture around us that abandons the Christian worldview that is its foundation? Or will you cling to Christ and his gift of salvation?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCHST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Watch for the Buffalo Lutheran Church financial report next month.

General Fund balance Feb. 22--\$3001.59

† *Cares and Concerns*

May we remember with acts of compassion the family and friends of Linda Lerud... Linda passed away February 6 and her Memorial Service was held February 12 at Epworth United Methodist Church, Valley City. Among her survivors are Tim Lerud and family of Tower City. May her memory be blessed!

We welcome to our world Hunter Steven Besette, newborn son of Sarah & Brett Besette of Tower City. Hunter was born February 23. May we remember the Besette family in prayer as Hunter grows.

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERS -- Our hard surfaced parking area is degrading at a fast pace. It would appear we did not receive the quality product that we were told would be used. If left without resurfacing, the area will experience a total loss of its integrity. A 2 inch overlay of hot tar blacktop should stabilize the situation and allow for long term use. Northern Improvement Company has given us a bid to do this job and expert advice for the best avenue to take which protects the initial investment. The bid is \$12,400 to do the whole area that is currently hard surfaced. We realize this is a lot of money. We need extra funds to do this project as Buffalo Lutheran Church cannot afford this expense with our current financial status. Please talk with any Council member for more information or call: 701-261-2223 (David Larson-President). Time is of importance as we will need to get on Northern Improvement's schedule this summer. Thank you for your consideration and any donation you may decide to give.

From BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

To Thrivent Members: A reminder to all who have Thrivent insurance, please be sure to contact Thrivent at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 1-800-847-4836, so your choice dollars will be directed before the March 3rd deadline. If you need help or have questions, please contact me at 701-633-5343. Lois Smith, Thrivent Advocate

Easter Worship Schedule

[These services are all at St. Paul's Lutheran Church unless otherwise noted!]

Palm Sunday, March 20: Confirmation

Maundy Thursday, March 24: Divine Service at 7 PM, First Communion

Good Friday, March 25: The Annunciation of Our Lord. Divine Service at 7 PM

Easter Vigil, March 26: Service at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hope, ND at 7 PM

Easter Sunrise Service, March 27: Divine Service-Buffalo Lutheran Church-7 AM (confirm this time)

Easter Sunday, March 27: Divine Service at 9 AM

Dear Family and Friends,

This newsletter was written by another Faith Community Nurse, Agnes Harrington. I felt it would be a good letter to share.

“A recent letter on the editorial page of the *Forum* prompted me to consider what understanding many of us have in regard to vaccinations. Britini Gapp, a Pharm D student at NDSU was responding to a statement made regarding Bison “flu” symptoms which caused many players to have severe vomiting bouts. The statement was, “they all had their flu shots”. Britini illustrated that the symptoms the players were demonstrating really would not have anything to do with the vaccination individuals receive against the “flu”, which is a respiratory illness.

This issue led me to give thought to the fact that many of us today really don’t understand about the need for adult vaccines, and particularly what illnesses they are for.

First, many adults are not aware that vaccines are not only encouraged but that we should have them to protect against several illnesses which may be very serious. Prime examples include, influenza, whooping cough (pertussis) and shingles (which is found in individuals who had chicken pox as children). Many of us have chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart problems or lung disease. If we develop illnesses like influenza with our weakened systems, we are more inclined to develop complications that may lead to other long term problems, time in a hospital and possibly death.

If we have vaccinations this will decrease the chance of transmitting serious illnesses to those around us, as many diseases that can be prevented by vaccinations may be contagious. Many times individuals will state, “I had all my shots as a kid!” While this may be true, the benefits of vaccinations many years ago may have worn off and new treatment is necessary.

From a practical standpoint, think about the effects of getting sick! You will miss work. You will have the financial costs of treatment at a clinic or hospital. Another aspect to consider is that if you are ill you may not be able to take the long anticipated winter vacation. Additional consideration must be given to traveling. If we consider international travel, we may need vaccines prior to leaving to protect us from illnesses found in other parts of the world that are not seen in our area. Don’t wait: Vaccinate! The time to consider this preventive measure is before the illnesses arrive in our area. Stay up to date on your immunizations.

In order to determine what vaccines are recommended for you personally, discuss these issues with your health care professional.”

Peace in Him,

Gwen Fraase RN

Parish Nurse Community Health Ministry

(Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “10 Reasons to get Vaccinated”) [http:// www.cdc.gov/features/adultvaccinations](http://www.cdc.gov/features/adultvaccinations). Agnes Harrington RN

BEYOND OUR WALLS- Dakota Boys Ranch

If you would like to discuss gift planning please call [1-800-344-0957](tel:1-800-344-0957) or [\(701\) 839-7888](tel:701-839-7888).

Make a gift today and for the future. Check out Dakota Boys Ranch.

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UPCOMING MARCH 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

MARCH DIVINE SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM FOLLOWED BY EDUCATION HOUR AT 10:00 AM. LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 7 PM DURING LENT PRECEDED FROM 6:00 -7:00 PM WITH A SOUP SUPPER.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES every Wednesday at 1:41 pm at Maple Valley High School through March 16.

March 9: Naomi Circle at 11 AM at Karen Tabor home; Buffalo Lutheran Council meets at 8 PM

March 14: Pie Day at Bethany Retirement Living on University from 1:30-3 PM and at Bethany on 42nd from 2-4 PM

March 20-March 27: Note the Worship Schedule on page 2

March 30: Joint Church Council at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 7 PM

St. Paul's members--We need volunteers to help out with the Wednesday night Soup suppers March 2-March 16. People to make soup, sandwiches, and bars and help with set up and clean up would be great! Contact council members to offer your help!

