

Buffalo Lutheran & St. Paul's Lutheran Churches

NOVEMBER 2014 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. Amen.

Dying is a terrible tragedy. There really is no such thing as a “good” death, although one can make a case for a “better” way to die. I know that such a notion may seem strange to some, but hear me out: death is a wicked thing, no matter the circumstance or the age of the one who is to succumb. St. Paul writes, “the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a NRSV)” – in other words, death is a thoroughly *unnatural* state for human beings to find themselves in. That is to say, God does not desire the death of his beloved creatures, but do to the state of affairs of this age, death happens. The Apostle goes on to say that the antidote to this universal, terminal condition is “the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23b NRSV).

Death, for those who have been given into Christ, is no longer something to fear, after all, the Lord Jesus Christ is life himself (John 14:6). In fact, many early Christians understood their suffering in this age, which is entirely corrupted with sin, and their eventual deaths as ways in which they were united to our Lord’s own passion and death. Suffering was not seen as oppressive, but liberating. After all, suffering is simply the death throes of this age, lashing out against the life-giving reign of our eternal King.

This topic has become very popular in contemporary media. Brittany Maynard, a 29 year old wife and mother and stage four brain cancer patient who currently lives in Oregon with her family, has elected to receive a prescription medication to end her life instead of allowing the disease to run its course. I do not wish to ascribe any motivations to this woman’s decisions as I do not know her, rather I wish to make an observation about our cultural discussion on death as a result of her decision (if you are unfamiliar with the story, a quick google search will turn up a number of articles on the topic). It seems that many today fear suffering and death and wish to legally allow the option of legal euthanasia, or assisted suicide. Control is an illusion, but it is a deception which provides some measure of comfort for those whose life is nearing an end. Dying in one’s own way and with minimal pain and discomfort has a certain appeal.

However, this is not where we should allow ourselves to retreat on the matter. Death is a greater enemy than even suffering, as horrible as it is. Even more than this, this is the place where the light of the Gospel can really shine: Christ has died to redeem you from sin, death, and the devil! What then should we fear? Disease, suffering, and death may claim

(Pastor Chris’s comments continue on page 2.)

our bodies, but we are Christ's! No power that can destroy our physical selves can ever remove us from the loving embrace of Christ! And, though our bodies be destroyed, they will be restored to us in the Resurrection of the Dead at the end of all things.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we should take it upon ourselves to share this Gospel with those in need of it. Where death rears its ugly head, we should let the light of the Gospel shine ever more brightly. For in the light of our Lord, even the dark shadow of death loses its inky blackness and, along with that, its fearful hold over us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

FINANCIAL NEWS TO NOTE!

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Watch for Buffalo Lutheran Church's

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

General fund balance-October 23-\$1171.63

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember in prayer care and healing for Edie Smith as she is recovering from recent hospitalizations at home. Remember, too, healing Cheryl (Olson) Benson as she recuperates from Bypass surgery in Texas.

Remember with prayers of sympathy the family and friends of Duane Aljoe, formerly of Tower City. He passed away October 22 in Fargo.

Buffalo Daycare Center's 14th annual Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser and Bake Sale will be held Sunday, November 23rd from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Buffalo Community Center. There will be a free will offering for the lunch. Bake sale items will be priced. Purchase some goodies for your Thanksgiving table!



The Tour of Homes sponsored by the Community Health Ministry will be held November 30 from 1-5 PM. Get your tickets and maps and have lunch at the Olde High School in Buffalo. Five rural homes (both Tower City & Buffalo homes) are on the Tour List.

Thrivent News - - November 9, 2014

Members of Thrivent Financial have the unique opportunity to vote for the leaders of their local Thrivent chapters. Chapter leaders manage and administer funds available through the Care Abounds Communities program, which supports activities our members conduct to help others and their communities. The leadership board also supports educational and social activities that bring chapter members together. Call Lois Smith for more information at 633-5343. *Thanks for the help, Lois!*

Dear Family and Friends,

Often, people wonder about receiving the new shingles vaccine. Their primary physicians have encouraged them to do so. Merck has produced ZOSTAVAX™, which is given as a single dose by injection under the skin. Adults aged 60 or older are being offered this vaccine to prevent shingles. Zostavax™ contains a weakened chickenpox virus [varicella-zoster virus]. You may not remember having chickenpox, but in the US, over 90% of adults have had it.

Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once you have had chickenpox, the virus can stay in your nervous system for many years. For reasons not fully understood, the virus may become active again and shingles results. Increased age and immune system problems may increase your chances of getting shingles.

Shingles is a rash that is usually on one side of the body. The rash begins as a cluster of small red spots that often blister. This rash can be very painful. Shingles rashes usually last up to 30 days and, for most people, the pain lessens as it heals. However, there can be complications associated with this disease, such as long-term, debilitating pain, infection of the blisters or visual changes, including blindness, if the eye is involved. This vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of shingles and the pain and other complications.

You should not get the vaccine if you are immunocompromised from taking steroids or have had recent treatment for certain cancers, if you have just gotten blood products, or are allergic to gelatin products or neomycin. Always check with your doctor regarding your ability to receive this injection.

The Zostavax™ vaccine is not covered by Medicare Part B, and it can cost from \$175 to \$250 with administration costs. However, you should check with your Medicare D drug plan, or any other drug plan you have, if not on Medicare D. Some plans will provide coverage, but patients must pay the cost up front, and then submit the receipts and bills for reimbursement. If you are interested, ask your physician, if he or she has not already mentioned it. It is worth checking in to. But be sure you are aware of the cost and the payment process.

“The human spirit will endure sickness; but a broken spirit—who can bear?”

Proverbs 18

Peace in Him,

Gwen Fraase RN Parish Nurse

Community Health Ministry

Buffalo & Tower City Lutheran Parish
Box 68
Tower City, ND 58071
Return Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Tower City, ND 58071
Permit #1



Upcoming november events

**NOVEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH AT 9:00 AM.
PARISH BIBLE STUDY FOR EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY FOLLOWS DIVINE SERVICE.**

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

November 5,12,19,26: Confirmation classes each Wednesday at 1:41 at Maple Valley High School

November 1: All Saints Day Worship Service at BL at 7 PM.

November 2: SPL WELCA meets at 10 AM.

November 9: WELCAs Thankoffering Service; Thrivent Election 2014 Event.

November 16: St. Stephen Visitation Group meets after Parish Bible Study.

November 18: Please have Buffalo Lutheran Church Annual Report info into the office.

November 19: Joint Council meets at Buffalo Lutheran Church at 7 PM (confirm this date!*)

November 23: Buffalo Daycare Soup & Sandwich Lunch from 11 AM-1 PM.

November 25: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Buffalo Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM.

November 30: Tour of Homes (see details on page 2).

*Check on individual Council meeting days and times as well as the Joint Council date.