

Buffalo Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches

NOVEMBER 2015 PARISH POST

Comments from Pastor Chris . . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

The last two Sundays of November are significant. Nov. 22 marks the last Sunday of the Church year, which is Christ the King Sunday. Nov. 29 begins the new Church year, which is the first Sunday in Advent.

Christ the King Sunday focuses on the rule of Christ over all things. It was begun as a Roman Catholic holiday in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. At this period in history, European nations were being taken over by fascists, national socialists, and communists. Against these nationalistic and secularizing forces, Pope Pius XI wished for a Church festival to underscore that the true king of Christians, and indeed the whole world, is Christ the Lord. The festival was moved to its current position at the end of the liturgical (church) calendar in 1970, at which time Lutherans and other Protestants began celebrating it.

The new Church year begins with the first Sunday in Advent. The reason for this is simple. Advent has a twofold focus. The first is on the incarnation of Christ into concrete, human history, the second is as a time to remind us of the return of Christ at the end of all things, that is, at his second coming. As such, it seems like a fitting thing to begin the liturgical year both recalling how our Lord became a man to suffer and die for the sins of the world, and to recall his promise to come again. Indeed, the Bible often talks of the return of our Lord being immanent, and we would be wise to believe the sacred Writ when it speaks thus of Christ. After all, our Lord has promised to come "as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2), that is, to come when we do not expect him to.

We live in an odd time and a strange culture, one that advises us to put off the weighty, important things of God until the last possible moment. Coming to celebrate the Lord's day with those who believe in him is seen as superficial. Coming to Sunday services to receive the forgiveness won by Christ through Word and Sacrament are held off until late in life, if they are ever entered into at all. Would it not be prudent and wise to regularly commune? To regularly be absolved of your sins? To praise the Lord with song and voice? To enjoy the foretaste of the life to come? Be not of the mind of this age, instead, come to receive what Christ wants you to have. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Checking Balance as of Oct. 26--\$2869.53
 (before Oct. bills were paid). Parish Nurse
 Account balance is \$628.10 (pd. Thru Oct.)
 Donations to the Buffalo Lutheran Church
 Parish Nurse Fund should be earmarked
 that way on the check memo line.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

General fund balance as of Oct. 28-\$4.86
 (Unpaid bills: \$269.98 City of Tower City)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Divine Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 AM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in November.

The Buffalo Daycare 15th Annual Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser—with Bake Sale Too!! Sunday, November 22nd from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Buffalo Community Center. Free will offering for the luncheon & bake sale items will be marked for sale. *Be sure to stop by for lunch and stay for cake to help us celebrate JoEllen's 20th year as director!*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . . Betty Kappel recently moved to One Oak Place at 1709 25th Ave. South #172 in Fargo. Her phone number is 701-364-9210 and she would enjoy visits in person or by phone.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH MINISTRY WILL HOLD A SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON at the Buffalo Community Hall from 11 AM-1:00 PM on Sunday, December 13. This event will be the major fundraiser for 2015 and free will offerings will be accepted. Tickets will be available for a variety of gift baskets. Since Buffalo Lutheran Church will have their the annual church meeting that day, we invite all to support our Community Health Ministry, since we will not hold a pot-luck dinner at the church.

Buffalo Lutheran Church WELCA News At the October 11 WELCA meeting it was decided to standardize serving at funerals for Buffalo Lutheran Church. We will serve open-faced sandwiches and bars after a morning service and bars **only** after an afternoon service.

BEYOND OUR WALLS - - ELCA WORLD HUNGER

More than 800 million people — that's 1 in 8 people in our world today — are hungry.
 As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Cares and Concerns

† May we remember with prayers of sympathy the family and friends of LaDonna Lee/Richman. She passed away October 28 in Fargo.

† May we remember with prayers of sympathy the family and friends of Louise Schneekloth. She passed away November 1 in Valley City.

May they rest in peace!

Dear Family and Friends,

This month I would like to consider the area of family health and specifically focus on Family Communication. We can all recognize the big difference between being talked at and being understood. Communication means to “bring near” and is similar to words we often use such as community, common and communion.

Basic communication requires at least willing hearts, time someone to listen and someone to share idea, feelings or information. Today we communicate face to face as well as through email, twitter, voice mail, videos and in writing, listening carefully to everyone’s view is essential; “By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established” (Prov.24:3-4)

Effective listeners are able to: **Fully** attend to the speaker. **Consider** what is said, how it is said, both verbally and non-verbally (80% of communication is shared non-verbally) (Pr. 1:5) **Clarify** what was shared so you can fully understand what the speaker means. Asking open ended follow up questions and providing non-judgmental feedback can be very helpful. (Is. 1:18). **Affirm** the speaker and the message. Let the speaker know you understand what was shared and offer a word of encouragement or support (I Thess. 5:11). **Avoid** approaches that demean the speaker and halt communication such as interrupting, telling them how they feel, changing the focus to the listener’s issues, and ridiculing and/or labeling (Pr. 21:23).

Effective speakers are able to: **Share** thoughts, ideas, and feelings (Pr.22:11), Use **direct communication**: talk with the person you have a concern with (Mt. 18:15-16), **Balance messages of concern with praise** and encouragement (Acts 20:2), **Accept feedback**, **Accept responsibility** for their own behavior and avoid blaming (Mt. 7:3), and **Separate the person from the behavior** (Heb. 8:12).

By using such approaches, **we do more** than solve problems; we **role model** healthy relationships and teach our children Godly ways to manage conflict!

May Christ fill your homes with His peace.

Peace in Him,
Gwen Fraase RN

Parish Nurse
Community Health Ministry

Buffalo & Tower City Lutheran Parish
Box 68
Tower City, ND 58071
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UPCOMING NOVEMBER 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

NOVEMBER DIVINE SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM WITH BIBLE STUDY AT 10:30 AM..

CONFIRMATION CLASSES every Wednesday at 1:41 pm at Maple Valley High School (unless otherwise notified).

November 11: Buffalo Lutheran Church Council meets at 7 PM at Buffalo Lutheran Church.

November 18: Joint Church Council meets at 7 PM at Buffalo Lutheran Church.

November 22: Buffalo Daycare Fundraiser: See details on Page 2.

November 24: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at 7 PM at Buffalo Presbyterian Church.

November 26: Give thanks for our many Thanksgiving Blessings!

November 29: First Sunday in Advent

November 30: Buffalo Lutheran Church Annual Reports due in church office.

Did you know that October was Pastor Appreciation month?