

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

### **OCTOBER 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.

It seems that every few years or so, someone makes a big deal about the end of the world/ the return of Jesus / the rapture. In case you haven't heard, this year was supposed to bring about some Big Event, including (but not limited to) the world possibly ending. The culprit this time? Four blood moons (lunar eclipses) that happened to coincide with certain Old Testament, Jewish feasts. So, then let's set the record straight on this topic. What does the Bible teach about the end of the world?

Firstly, we must acknowledge something very important: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36 ESV). Yes, you read that right, no one knows when our Lord will return to bring this age to a close, not even the Lord Jesus himself. Since this is the case, we can reasonably infer that the world will not be ending when someone predicts it will, as no one knows the exact time.

Secondly, we must dispel some of the false teachings around this event. This may be shocking, but the Bible does not ever mention a "rapture", that is, the teaching that those who follow Christ will be taken out of the world before the kingdom of the antichrist is set up. Christians are instead warned that they will suffer and be persecuted before Christ's return, not that they will be taken out of the world to avoid those sufferings (Matthew 24:9-14). As for the antichrist, the Bible never mentions that this is a singular person, nor does it mention that the antichrist is only going to be found at the very close of the age. The book of 1 John mentions this title several times, each time referring to those who oppose Christ and his rule. In short, all that stands against Christ is anti-Christ, which is what the term literally means in Greek.

Finally, we must admit something about all of this: the Bible says very little about the end of the world. Why should we assume that is does? I think that the grave error here is that many people feel that our Lord is far off, somewhere distant from us in time. However, this is not the case. Christ is here with us through his Word, preached and taught, and in the holy Sacraments given to his Church. Why should we fret about what may come or when the world will end? He is with us now, holding us in faith until such time as we are called to him, either by our death or his eventual return. Trust in him, not in roadmaps given by crackpot preachers. Christ will not abandon you now or in the future. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Checking Balance not available  
 Any donations to the Buffalo Lutheran  
 Parish Nurse Fund should be earmarked  
 that way on the check memo line.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

General fund balance as of Sept. 30: \$1311.19  
 Unpaid bills: \$2288 (Church & Parsonage  
 Insurance)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Divine Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 AM at Buffalo Lutheran Church in October.

**Buffalo WELCA** will meet on Sunday, October 11, at 8:20 AM before the Divine Service.

**Do you know where the Quilts made by the Buffalo Lutheran Church WELCA go?** A quilt is given to someone under Hospice Care and a quilt is also given to those undergoing treatments at the Roger Maris Cancer Center. These are special blessings for people in these situations in life.

*Ask the Pastor ...*

Why is the Baptismal Font in the back of the Church?

Answer: Churches are traditionally laid out to match the floor plan of the Temple in Jerusalem, in a symbolic sense. The altar represents the presence of God, and the rear wall represents the world. Christians come into the church building each week from the world into God's presence, so to speak. Baptism, of course, is the way by which Christians are severed from the body of death that is the world and brought into the Body of Christ, the Church. The font being at the rear of the church represents this. It is near the door to remind us that we have been bought from death into life through the water and Word when we were baptized.

**St. Paul's WELCA invites everyone to our Annual Bazaar on November 1, from 10 AM-1 PM.** Raffle tickets will soon be available. This year for sale at the Bazaar we will offer gently used items, RADA cutlery and more. Enjoy Fellowship and a Soup & Sandwich lunch!

**BEYOND OUR WALLS - -STEWARDSHIP**

Stewardship means "belonging to God" - all that are and all that have comes from God. We are grateful to God for it all, and responsible to God for how we use it. Stewardship is a relationship to family, self, nature, work, friends, country, church and God. Stewardship defines your love, caring and responsibility for what is important in your life. Stewardship produces fruit, effort, labor, resources and month for the subjects of your care.

Dear Family and Friends,

This month I would like to consider the concept of wholistic health and healing. Healing does not mean just the lack of illness or disability. Actually, the root of the word means wholeness. This is how the concept of wholistic health came to exist. We recognize that our wholeness involves harmony and balance among all aspects of our life, with our relationship with God as our center.

Lyman Coleman in his study entitled Wholistic Health states; "The Biblical concept of wholeness is expressed by the word 'shalom' in the New Testament. The word means: well-being...health...happiness...and harmony. The word implies the healing of all fractures between man and God, man and man, man and nature, and among man, nature, and God." Wholistic health refers to a process of wholeness that exists when there is harmony or balance among the different aspects of our life. It includes all the dimensions of our life, including; **Physical health** that relates to our physical body and development. **Emotional health** relates to an awareness and acceptance of our thoughts and feelings. **Intellectual health** involves the creative use and development of our minds. **Spiritual health** is directed towards finding meaning and purpose in our lives. It includes an appreciation for powers greater than ourselves. **Social health** relates to the development of relationships among people. **Vocational health** involves our work efforts which are directed toward personal satisfaction and service to others. **Environmental health** relates to the relationship with and cares for our neighborhood, town, state, country, planet and universe.

Jesus refers to this gift of shalom or wholeness with these words, "...Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). May the Lord help us value the precious gift of life He has given us. Peace in Him,

Gwen Fraase RN, Parish Nurse, Community Health Ministry  
Seasons of Wellness, Bible

*Pastor's note:* in the above citation, Lyman Coleman is incorrect. "Shalom" is never used in the New Testament, as none of the New Testament is recorded in Hebrew; instead the New Testament books were written in Greek. The Greek equivalent is the word "eirene". Both words are best translated by the English word "peace". We must also remember that "wholeness" or "harmony" or "happiness" are not the primary work of Christ in his Gospel. His chief work was his death for your sins, in order that you might enjoy eternal life.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chris

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## UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

***Pastoral guidance and individual confession are available before Wednesday Services or 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)***

***OCTOBER DIVINE SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM. CONFIRMATION CLASSES EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1:41 PM AT MAPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED)***

October 7: Naomi Circle meets at 9:00 AM at Karen Tabor home.

October 8,9,10: Pastor Chris and family away on vacation.

October 14: BL Council meets at 7 PM.

October 18: St. Stephen Visitation Group meets at 10 AM.

October 21: SPL Council meets at 7 PM.

November 1: SPL WELCA Bazaar to be held at Tower City Community Center from 10 AM – 1 PM

**"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 NRSV**