
SEPTEMBER 2018 PARISH POST

St. Paul's & Buffalo Lutheran Churches

Comments from Pastor Thea . .

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Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"
(Matthew 18:20).

Greetings:

At this time of year the air is filled with the scent of freshly mown hay, the tangy aroma of chopped silage, and the pleasant fragrance of a newly combined field. Harvest time in rural America is marked by busy, joy-filled days as grain is gathered into barns and fruits are gathered into jars.

As fall approaches, it's not only the harvest that is gathered. Students, teachers, and staff gather in classrooms as they return to share their gifts and questions and the joy of learning from one another. The call goes out welcoming children back to Sunday School. Confirmation classes invite new and returning students together for a time of faith formation and building relationships. For adult groups and individuals it means a renewed study of the Word. Our hunger for community and for a deeper relationship with our living Lord draws us together to sit at His feet like Mary, "hanging on every word" (*Luke 10:39*). As we feast on the "Bread of Life" we are fed with the food that endures forever.

A year ago we began the conversation and discovery process of how it might look and work to join Our Savior, St. Paul's, and Buffalo Lutheran Churches into a parish formation. In June the vote and decision were made to establish a parish. This fall the leadership group made up of members of the three churches will gather to discuss the next steps. Some of the tasks ahead will include:

- updating membership lists if needed and studying constitutions,
- a Parish Agreement will be drawn-up and voted on – this will also involve discovering a name for the newly formed parish,
- the Ministry Site Profile will need to be fine-tuned.

When these actions are completed then the parish will be ready to form and vote on a call committee.

In the midst of all the activities of the individual churches, we continue to gather and further build a community of three congregations, striving to understand what God is doing, calling us together for the sake of God's mission in our place and time.

Continue to keep one another in prayer, and the abundant blessings of our Lord fill you with joy as we gather in His name!

Thea Monson, Interim Pastor

BUFFALO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Checking Account Balance \$1012.50

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

General Fund \$ 297.20

Building Fund \$ 3568.47

Food Drive \$ 212.03

Cares and Concerns and Activities

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 AM AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND AT 11:00 AM AT OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH, PAGE. TO REACH PASTOR THEA MONSON PLEASE CALL 701-668-2295, 218-820-7006 (cell), OR BY EMAIL AT : pastorthea2.0@gmail.com. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS PASTOR THEA'S NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

† May we keep Dan Halland 's family and friends in prayers of sympathy. Dan passed away August 29 and his funeral was held at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Valley City on September 3. A Benefit will be held for Family to assist with expenses that were incurred during Dan's illness on Thursday, Sept. 13 from 5-8 PM at the Tower City Community Center.

A Confirmation Orientation Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 23, at the Parsonage in Tower City for Parents and students involved in our program. Please call Pastor Thea if you are unable to attend this meeting and have any questions you have answered.

Red Willow Bible Camp

God's Work Our Hands Days at Red Willow. Red Willow has days full of service projects available for anyone wanting take part in God's Work Our Hands projects. We have three opportunities for you to give back to your camp: **Saturday, September 29th; Saturday, October 13th; and Saturday, October 27th.** The day would begin with check in between 9 and 10 a.m. there will be a break for lunch (RSVP please) and then end when work projects are completed. There will be a list of work projects posted on our website or available when calling the office very soon. If you want more information just call us at 701-676-2681 or email rick@redwillowbiblecamp.org or mark@redwillowbiblecamp.org.

Parish Nurse Concerns from Buffalo Lutheran Church Council President Kal Boyd - - - Kal has asked that we pay attention to details regarding the Parish Nurse Fund at Buffalo Lutheran Church. When making a donation to the Parish Nurse Fund the check should be made payable to Buffalo Lutheran WELCA, the WELCA will forward those funds to the Community Health Ministry. If you have any questions about this please talk to Kal about them and we'll try to answer the questions in the bulletin or the newsletter.

SEPTEMBER PARISH NURSE NOTES —

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Dear Family and Friends, Important Information for You!

Lest we lose our way in the darkness, the suicide must also be seen as an occasion to raise awareness in the community and most importantly, to reach out to the survivors with compassion and support...The parish/faith community can also be a place for education, not just about the risk factors for suicide, but also about mental health, thus helping to diminish the stigma associated with these conditions.

Father Charles T. Rubey, Founder Catholic Charities' LOSS Program

Suicide prevention starts with everyday heroes like you. Please share information about an important event happening in the Fargo-Moorhead community as you are able. The **Out of the Darkness Fargo-Moorhead ND Walk** brings together hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. Thanks to Walkers and Donors like you, AFSP has been able to set a goal to reduce the annual suicide rate 20% by 2025. The event was held Sunday, September 9 at the Scheels Arena in Fargo. Watch for this event planned for next year.

ACTIVITIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Honor Beads:

Losing someone to suicide or struggling with a mental illness can feel like no one understands what you are going through. Unlike other illnesses, it is difficult to look at someone and know their connection.

The Out of the Darkness Community Walk is a journey of remembrance and a walk that unites a community – a time to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental illness have affected our lives and our loved ones. We all wear honor beads - each color shows our personal connection to the cause, and helps us identify others who understand our experience

- WHITE - LOST A CHILD
- RED - LOST A SPOUSE OR PARTNER
- GOLD - LOST A PARENT
- ORANGE - LOST A SIBLING
- PURPLE - LOST A RELATIVE OR FRIEND
- SILVER - LOST FIRST RESPONDER / MILITARY
- GREEN - STRUGGLED PERSONALLY
- BLUE - SUPPORT THE CAUSE
- TEAL - FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF SOMEONE WHO STRUGGLES

Information forwarded to us from Gwen Fraase, our Parish Nurse

Would you like a visit from Pastor Thea or do you know somebody that would like that visit?

Please let her know or let us know at the church office! If you recommend that she visit someone make sure that person okays the visit. If you know of somebody that should be included in Sunday morning prayers be sure that person does approve of being mentioned in the prayers.

Can you help? We are trying to come up with a name for our newly-grouped parish of Buffalo Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and Our Savior Lutheran Church. If you have an idea for a name for our new group please share it with one of our Council Presidents, Kal Boyd or Chad Wetch.

Monday, September 10: Naomi Circle will meet at 1:30 PM at the Bev Jager home. Join us for Bible Study!

Sunday, September 16: Sunday School Classes will start today after worship service. Kathy Walburn is our "Head Sunday School Angel" this year again and we appreciate her dedication very much! Please invite any of our young people to join in Sunday School!

Saturday, September 15: A 58th year Tower City High School Reunion will be held from 11 AM-1 PM at the Tower City Community Center. Everyone is welcome to share a time to visit!

Do you remember Pastor Paul Johnston? He and his wife, Pastor Lilette Johnston, served here from 1986-1990. We received word from Trinity Lutheran Church, 1122 Jackson St., Sioux City, Iowa 51105 where Pastor Paul has been serving in active ministry for 13years and will retire after 42 years of service December 31. A Retirement Program was held in August for Pastor Paul. Anyone wanting to share memories of Buffalo Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Pastor Paul's work here is invited to send their thoughts to the above address at Sioux City, Iowa.

Sunday, October 7: St. Paul's Congregational Meeting planned for Sunday, October 7 after worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

God's Work Our Hands!

