

the connection

:: Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. Traditional
9:30 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Contemporary

:: Mailing Address

1601 Highway 25 N
Buffalo, MN 55313

:: Phone

763.682.1470

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buffalocov.org

Thru the Bible: The Thread of Redemption

Pastor Max Frazier

April 2 – *Victory at Jericho* - Joshua 1-6

This is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible. We even have a song that relates its importance. But the victory at Jericho is a story that has its inceptions back in the very early chapters of Joshua. Really this victory is the culmination of a series of faith events that Israel experienced as they entered into the Promised Land. It began with a crossing of the Jordan – at flood stage, no less. Then there was the faith of the two spies bolstered by the faith of a Jerichoite named Rahab. And there was the faith of General Joshua as he followed a most unusual military plan. Yes, faith is the victory that overcomes the world!

April 9 – *Ai & Gibeon—Over Confidence Brings Disaster* - Joshua 7-10

“The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat” – with those words ABC’s Wide World of Sports began its broadcasts episode after episode. That phrase accurately describes the differences between Jericho and Ai. But what went wrong after seemingly everything went so right? The answer is as simple as the failure to pray. Both at Ai and at Gibeon, Joshua and his leaders evaluated the situation and determined that they did not need to involve God. And tragedy struck. It is so easy to be over-confident, especially after a thrilling victory. Yet, in our own strength we can do nothing – absolutely nothing. Prayer is the key.

April 16: *Easter Sunday – What Are You Seeking?* – John 20:15

A child is not very old before he/she begins the search for significance in life. Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose? And, along the way, that search can go in many different directions. Some seek significance and purpose through being accepted by others. Others seek for significance through the “toys” of life. Still other seek to discover a peace through a religious experience. The only true significance in life is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

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April 23 – Deborah and Barak – Freedom from the Canaanites – Judges 1-5

The Book of Judges is not an easy book to read. One gets the impression of riding on a roller-coaster. It is a book describing the failures of a nation because of failures within the home. Generations who are not taught the things of God while in the home become generations that follow the gods of other nations easily. One such pattern is described in the account of Deborah and Barak who successfully led Israel to victory over their Canaanite oppressors. There are many lessons to be learned from this account, including: the need to get involved when the problems arise – do not just wait around for someone else to do it. Also, there is the need to exercise those gifts that God has given to you – they are vitally important for the success of the mission. A third lesson is to be totally reliant upon the presence of the Spirit.

April 30 – Gideon – Freedom from the Midianites – Judges 6-8

The story of Gideon is another of those familiar stories from this most unusual book. Gideon, described by God as being a “valiant warrior,” seems to be anything but that. He is full of fear and uncertainty. He needs to be coaxed along by God. One of his moments of uncertainty is evidenced with his “fleece” request. Are there ever times when it is permissible to ask God for a “fleece” request? How does this relate to our faith and dependence upon God? Gideon’s story is that of an amazing victory that still defies military strategists. But why does his story end so badly? What lessons can be learned? Again, we will see that success often is the key to failure in our relationships with God.



JOIN US FOR EASTER MORNING SERVICES!
Sunday, April 16
8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:15, 10:15 & 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Services

BCC Financial Update

BCC FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH FEBRUARY 2017

General Fund Tithes and Offerings:

February Budget:	\$110,000
February Actual:	\$123,109
February YTD:	\$235,000
Offerings YTD:	\$271,364

Building Fund:

February Offerings:	\$25,955
Loan Balance:	\$1,542,003

Thank you for your generosity!

Pick up your 2017 offering envelopes in the Lobby today! If you would like offering envelopes, please indicate this on the contact card and place in the offering plate, sign-up at the envelope table or call the Church Office (763) 682-1470.

BY-LAWS FORUM

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

At the Buffalo Covenant Church annual meeting on January 29, 2017, three changes were made to the church constitution. In light of these changes, various by-law changes now need to be made to help us minister most effectively. The by-law changes are more numerous and will spark thoughtful questions. In order to explain the thinking behind the proposed by-law changes two documents have been prepared:

- *Reasons For Constitution & By-Law Changes*
- *Proposed By-Law Changes: Questions and Answers*

In addition, the following will be available for you to review:

- *The BCC Constitution*
- *The Proposed By-Laws*
- *The BCC ministry organizational chart*

We trust these materials will be informative and helpful. In addition, two more dates have been reserved for forums. Elders and pastors will be available to discuss with you any questions you may have about the proposed by-law changes.

Please Note: The best setting for extended discussion about these changes will be the forums.

FORUM SCHEDULE:

*Sunday, April 23 | Room 200
9:00-9:30 a.m., 10:30-11:00 a.m.*

*Sunday, May 21 | Room 200
9:00-9:30 a.m., 10:30-11:00 a.m.*

The proposed By-Laws will be voted on at the church business meeting on Sunday, June 4, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.



APRIL FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDES

The weekly devotional and worship information in this guide corresponds with Max's sermons and our Sunday School lessons. Take it home and worship with your family! April Family Worship Guides are available in a bin under the designated frame in the Commons.

APRIL FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*"Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be
with you wherever you go."*

- *Joshua 1:9*



BCC ADULTS

There are multiple weekly and monthly opportunities to connect with others, to grow spiritually and to be supported through participating in a Class, Bible Study, Prayer Group, Support Group or Social Gathering.

MONDAYS:

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

Mondays | Room 200 | 12:00 p.m.

Members of this group pray weekly for BCC, the pastors and staff, and the needs of the BCC congregation. This prayer time is open to all of the BCC family.

MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays | Room 201 | 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study on the book of Colossians.

TUESDAYS:

DEEP WATERS: MEN'S GROUP

Tuesdays | Room 201 | 6:00-7:30 a.m.

Men's discipleship training studying the book of 1 Corinthians.

DEEP WATERS: WOMEN'S GROUP

Tuesdays | Room 201 | 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Women's discipleship training studying John Maxwell's book "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership".

GRIEFSHARE

Tuesdays | Room 108 | 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The structured program encourages participants to move forward through their unique grief journey while trusting God as their true Comforter and Healer. For more information and registration, please call Dick and Lois Barth (763) 682-3742 or the church office (763) 682-1470.

S.A.L.T.

Tuesday, April 18 | Youth Room | 1:30 p.m.

Last year was the 130th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. On Tuesday afternoon, April 18, Buffalo Covenant's SALT Family will welcome David Jones as their guest. Mr. Jones will be sharing with us the story of this remarkable symbol of liberty and freedom. Our program will begin at 1:30 p.m. We will be meeting in the youth room. Our guest is a gifted speaker who is in great demand. There will also be a time of sharing in many of the old gospel songs of the faith. And the most delicious refreshments anywhere within Wright County will be served. Invite a special friend to come and share with you in this informative program about the most famous statue in the world.

HOPEKEEPERS LIFE SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, April 25 | Room 200 | 6:30 p.m.

HopeKeepers is for individuals who live daily with a chronic illness. We are reading "Facing Your Giants" by Max Lucado, and supporting one another through facing our "giant" of Chronic Illness. If you have questions or would like to visit the group, contact Katie Rhodes (763) 682-1470.

WEDNESDAYS:



REFRESH - MOTHERS OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP *Informational Meeting, Wednesday, April 19 Pastor Mary's Office | 6:00 p.m.*

Are you a mother of a special needs child? You're not alone. A new community is forming here at BCC called REFRESH. This group will provide an opportunity to connect with other moms of special needs children of all ages looking to God's word for truth and wisdom that speaks to the demands you face everyday. There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00pm in Pastor Mary's office. For details call April Swartzler (612) 578-7489.

THURSDAYS:

WOMEN'S MISSION CONNECTION *Thursday, April 27 | Room 108 | 9:00 a.m.*

LOVE FOR A LIFETIME *Thursdays, April 20-May 25**

(*please note date change)

Youth Room | 7:00- 8:30 p.m.

A six-week marriage enrichment seminar led by Rick & Jody Kantor. The seminar provides concrete Biblical teaching, activities, advice and experiences

that have helped their marriage to prosper through significant changes and challenges. To register for the seminar, please text or call Rick and Jody at (763) 772-3030 or email: Therosestory@gmail.com, or sign up in the Commons.

SUNDAYS:



DISCOVER BCC *Sundays April 30- May 21 | 11:00- 12:00 p.m.*

If you are interested in making Buffalo Covenant your church home please join us for Discover BCC. Over the course of four weeks, you will learn about our church's mission, values and history. We will review our core beliefs, and give you a chance to ask questions. You will get a chance to tour the building, meet others, and find places to get involved. All intended to help you—as we say—be a disciple who makes disciples of Jesus. At the end of the four weeks you will have the opportunity to become a member of BCC. To register, please contact Pastor Steve at stevwint@buffalocov.org, or sign up in the Commons starting April 9.



NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 30 | Gym | 12:15 p.m.

Are you new to Buffalo Covenant and would like to learn more about our church family? We invite you to join us for a free lunch! At this informal event you can meet with pastors, staff and members to learn more about classes, groups, events, serving opportunities, and ways to connect here at BCC. Free childcare is available for children through age 5 following the meal; older children are welcome to stay with their families. To register, please see the sign-up in the Commons by April 23.

For more information, contact Pastor Steve (stevevint@buffalocov.org; 763-682-1470).



SAVE THE DATE!

NIGHT OF WORSHIP & PRAYER

Friday, June 2 | Youth Room | 7- 8:00 p.m.



PASSOVER SEDER FEAST

***Wednesday April 12, Thursday April 13,
& Friday April 14 | 6:00-8:00 p.m.***

The Passover is a Jewish "feast" commemorating the Israelites freedom and release from Egypt. There will be delicious food, and lots of fun as we taste, shout, dance, sing and celebrate the freedom we have as believers in God! Join us for this family-friendly event during Holy Week. Tickets available in the Commons on Sunday mornings, and the church office during the week.

SEDER DANCING

Sunday, April 9 | Gym | 4:00-5:30 p.m.

We also want everyone to know that we will be doing some traditional Jewish dancing! Nikki Palks, a Messianic Worship leader will be coming to our Seder celebrations to lead the dancing. She will be here each evening, but also on Sunday afternoon, April 9, from 4:00 to 5:30. She will teach the basic dance steps to anyone of any age who wants to get in on the fun. Even if you don't attend the Sunday class, you can still join the dancing at the Seder, but it might be more fun to know a little ahead of time! So bring your friends and family along and learn to do the worship dances we will enjoy together at the Seder.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

5:00-6:00 p.m. | Youth Room

All Proceeds go to the Youth Israel Team

APRIL MENU:

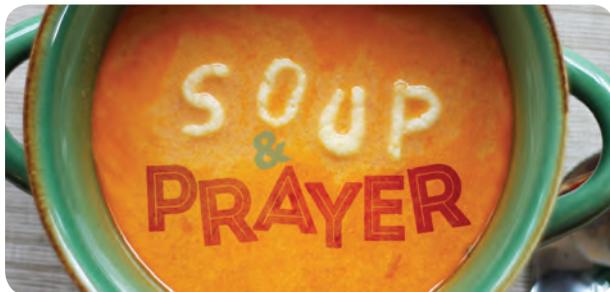
- Wednesday, April 5: No Meal - Spring Break
- Wednesday, April 12: No Meal - Holy Week
- Wednesday, April 19: Pulled Chicken Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Chips & Cookie
- Wednesday, April 26: Spaghetti



20'S & 30'S BUNCO NIGHT

Friday, May 5 | Youth Room | 6:00 - 8:00p.m.

A night of fun and fellowship is planned for couples in their 20's and 30's. Join us for a great night of Bunco and the opportunity to make connections with some new faces! Bring an appetizer or snack to share. Childcare will be provided. No need to know the game of Bunco - we'll teach you! Please RSVP to Brooke Zumbusch (brookezumbusch@gmail.com) or Lauren Johnson (lwurm08@gmail.com).



PRAYER & SOUP GATHERING

Sunday, April 23 | Room 201 | 12:15 p.m.

Please join us for a simple meal of soup and bread and a time of prayer at 12:15 p.m. in Room 201. We will lift up America's new administration and the need for peace and unity in America. Let us pray that hearts be changed and lives transformed.

NEW WIDOW CARE MINISTRY

The BCC Care Team is considering starting a ministry for widows. If you are a widow and you would enjoy gathering for monthly social events with other women who have been widowed, please call either Judy Grochow at (763) 843-0155 or Reid Gilbert at the church office (763) 682-1470.



BCC+YOUTH

HANG TIME (GRADES 6-8)

Wednesdays | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Youth Room

CHILL OUT (GRADES 9-12)

Sundays | 7:00-9:30 p.m. | Youth Room



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

NO HANG TIME - April 5 & 12

HANG TIME END-OF-YEAR PARTY

April 26 | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Youth Room

Last Hang Time large group until Summer Activities start.

NO CHILL OUT - April 2 & 16

CHILL OUT END-OF-YEAR PARTY

April 30 | 7:00-9:30 p.m. | Youth Room

Last Chill Out large group until Summer Activities start. Supper will be provided.

**WORLDVIEW STUDENT
RECOGNITION - April 23**

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - May 7

SENIOR SUNDAY - May 21

GRADUATING SENIORS

We need information from you by May 7 for the Senior Sunday May 21 bulletin. Please email, or turn-in the following information **by May 7 to Julie Ellis** (julie@buffalocov.org):

- Name
- Parents names
- Names of people who have been a spiritual influence in your life
- Plans for your future
- Date of your open house
- Wallet size senior picture

If you would like to be a part of the Senior Sunday Service on May 21st, please talk with Pastor Val (763-682-1470; val@buffalocov.org). Also, you may bring in an open house invite to Julie if you wish to have one displayed in the Commons.

CUB FOOD BAGGING ISRAEL FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 29 | Cub Foods | 8:45-2:30

The students traveling to Israel invite you to shop at Buffalo Cub Foods on Saturday, April 29th, from 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The students will be bagging groceries for Cub customers to help raise funds for their upcoming trip.

BCC KIDS



VBS 2017 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

***Galactic Starveyors - Searching the Visible,
Discovering the Invisible***
June 12-16

There are MANY places to serve our Vacation Bible School - we need decorators the week prior, leaders and helpers for preschool and elementary the week of, and cleaners afterwards. If you would like to be part of the MOST FUN WEEK OF THE YEAR, contact Janine Kruger or Stephanie Anderson (janine-kruger@hotmail.com; sraeanderson@yahoo.com; 763-682-1470).

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

NO AWANA - April 5 & 12

2ND GRADE MILESTONE - April 9

5TH GRADE MILESTONE - April 23

AWANA AWARDS NIGHT - May 3



ELEMENTARY MILESTONE: COMMUNION

**Sunday, April 9 | 11:00 a.m. | KidSpace
For 2nd Graders and their Parents**

We will learn how to approach the Lord's Supper with respect. This session will also help parents to decide when their children should begin to take communion with the family.



ELEMENTARY MILESTONE: SERVICE

**Sunday, April 23 | 11:00 a.m. | KidSpace
For 5th Graders and their Parents**

As our children grow in their faith and in their knowledge of God and His Word, they are encouraged to serve the Lord. The children decide on several mission and service activities, and take positions of leadership and responsibility.



AWANA-GO PROJECT

Our Awana club at Buffalo Covenant Church has been a major supporter of the translation of the Awana Books into the Oromo language in Ethiopia, contributing over \$4,200.00 to this project over the past two years. This translation work is now completed! The plans for Ethiopia over the next three years are to train 2,520 leaders to launch Awana in 1,260 churches. Now, it is time to help these new clubs get established! We want to help provide training, handbooks in their language, and supplies to the churches that will host Awana clubs in Ethiopia.

Our Awana-Go Project for this year will help make Awana a reality in Ethiopia. Here's how the boys and girls at BCC can help!

1. Earn some money (chores, allowance, projects) to give!
2. Bring your AWANA-GO offering to club each week.
3. Turn it in to the secretaries at check-in.
4. The offerings will be tabulated by color team!

The team that raises the biggest offering for AWANA-GO will win a great prize.... AND.... best of all...boys and girls in Ethiopia will learn about our Lord Jesus!



DATES & REGISTRATION 2017

That time of year for thinking about summer camps at Lake Beauty Bible Camp (LBBC) has begun! Register online at lbbc.com. LBBC Camp brochures are available in the Commons under the designated frame.

- **FRONTIER KIDS: July 4-6** (For campers who have completed 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade)
- **JUNIOR HIGH: July 9-14** (For campers who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade)
- **TRAILBLAZER: July 16-20** (For campers who have completed 3rd, 4th or 5th grade)
- **SENIOR HIGH: July 30- August 4** (For campers who have completed 9th-12th grades)

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided for the Frontier Kids & Trailblazers. If we have enough campers going to the Jr. High and Sr. High camps, we will send the van. If not enough campers are going, we will connect the names with other parents so you can carpool together. The van leaves at 1:30 p.m. (come at 1:15) on the day kids go to Lake Beauty and they are back around 3:00 p.m. on the day they return. Space is limited. To sign up your kid(s) to get a ride in the church van TO and/or FROM Lake Beauty, contact Katie (office@buffalocov.org; 763-682-1470). *The deadline is June 15th.*

Missionary Updates

Pick-up a Missions Handbook from the Welcome Center if you want our Missionaries information.



LISA HENDRICKS - Timber Bay

Timber Bay offers hope to youth who struggle during adolescence. We accept kids as they are — providing them a safe place for building healthier relationships with God and others.

Let me share one brief highlight: Pam came to us as an angry 14 year old. As with many youth, she struggled with her parents, her life choices, and authority. But over time, through patient biblical mentoring, she came to accept God's forgiveness and was then able to offer it to others who had hurt her along life's journey.

God hardwired Pam with creativity. I encouraged her to grow her skills and she went on to graduate college with a degree in Graphic Design. Her Senior Project, put on in a gallery for the whole student body to see, was a artful expression of God's love and grace. Today, Pam is a Graphic Designer at Crown College. Isn't that a beautiful story of God's redemptive creativity?

Another area of my focus within Timber Bay is developing our Cooking Program. I regularly meet with a group of kids who are interested in learning how to prepare meals. We work on reading food labels to learn nutritional information, and go shopping to

learn how to buy food on a budget. The goal? Teach kids basic life skills and how to prepared healthy meals. After our shopping outings, we go back to our Timber Bay meeting place and prepare meals made from scratch. This is a fun small group mentoring avenue that affords kids important lifetime skills.

Thank you for your continued support for my ministry with Timber Bay. Together, we are building a future of hope that is rooted in the love of Jesus.

Care to learn more about our ministry? Visit timberbay.org or email me at lisahendricks@timberbay.org (We are always looking for volunteers for our growing outreach)

With love and appreciation,
Lisa

**Join us in praying for
STEVE AND GINA WINTERMANTEL
& HAZEL, ABE, JOSIAH, AND CYRUS
as the family is currently in South Sudan on a
survey trip to explore the possibility of serving long
term with a missionary team in South Sudan.**

The team's focus is evangelism, relational discipleship, church planting, and utilizing veterinary medicine, animal husbandry and agriculture as means to serve unreached people in villages near the town of Torit.

The Wintermantels invite you to join with them in prayer as they seek to discern the Lord's will regarding the possibility of serving in South Sudan. To learn more about their trip you can visit their blog at: ripefortheharvest.blogspot.com



In the Community



MOPS ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

DONATE:

Monday, May 8 | 6:00-8:00 pm

Tuesday, May 9 | 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

SHOP:

**Wednesday, May 10 & Thursday, May 11
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Our local Buffalo MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) is hosting their annual garage sale and will be accepting donations. Please bring in any used or new items that you would like to donate from our "Items We Love" list below. Then come and shop to support this local group of moms!

Items We Love:

Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Personal Accessories, Media, Housewares, Books

Items We Can't Accept:

Weapons & Explosives, Hazardous Waste, Construction Materials, Flammable Products, Large Appliances, Automobile Parts, Food, Mattresses and Box Springs, Sofas

Holy Week

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Passover Seder - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Passover Seder - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Passover Seder - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Community Good Friday Service
12:00 p.m.**

Buffalo Evangelical Free Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Traditional Service - 8:00 a.m.

**Contemporary Services -
9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 a.m.**



BUFFALO COVENANT