

## UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

[buffalocov.org/events](http://buffalocov.org/events)

### BIBLE READING PLAN

*Throughout the year*

The Navigators Bible Reading Plan offers special features that will aid you in your journey through the bible. To prevent the frustration of falling behind, which most of us tend to do when following a bible reading plan, each month of this plan gives you only 25 readings. You'll have several "free days" each month to catch up on any readings you may have missed in the past week. You can begin at any point of the year and alter the plan to best meet your needs. You can pick up the Bible reading plan at Welcome Center or download it online at [buffalocov.org](http://buffalocov.org).

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### UPCOMING SERMON - FAITH OVER FEAR

*January 8, Morning Services // With Pastor Reid Gilbert*

If we're honest, we all face fears – things like cancer, the economy, what people think of us, and even the unknown of what could happen. We are commanded over and over in Scripture to be strong, have courage, and not to fear, because we become afraid when we forget the truth of who God is and what He does. Pastor Reid Gilbert will use God's Word to point us to Jesus as our true source for hope and peace in 2023, in spite of a fearful world around us.

### JANUARY SALT

*January 17, 1:30 pm // Youth Room*

Join us as we celebrate LIFE! Cornerstone: Options for Women in St. Michael will share their ministry of providing services for families, especially those with unplanned or unwanted pregnancies. January 22 will be the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade, so this will be an especially important program.

### CHRISTMAS LOVE PROJECT - STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS

*Side By Side Ministries & Kingdom Builders School*

We encourage you to support two outreach and discipleship mission organizations – one near and one far. Both ministries reach people with the good news of the Gospel, then disciple and train them to bring the Gospel to their own communities. Our goal is to provide Side By Side Ministries with the funds they need to feed and minister to students in 2023, and to provide a water well for Kingdom Builders School for their students and surrounding area.

**Ways to give:** check, cash or online at [buffalocov.org/give](http://buffalocov.org/give).

### COMING THIS WEEK

**Monday, January 2** – Office closed

**Wednesday, January 4** – Awana, Hang Time, Confirmation and Wednesday Night Meals resume.

**Saturday, January 7** – Men's Breakfast, 8 am, Gym

**Sunday, January 8** – Sunday School for all ages and Chill Out resume.



## THE JOURNEY HOME

Pastor Mark Stromberg

### Matthew 2:1-23

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."*

*3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:*

*6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."*

*7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."*

*9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

*13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."*

*14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."*

*16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.*

*17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:*

18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene."

### THE ROUTE FOR THE JOURNEY HOME IS REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)

*"The lost coin...lost sheep...lost man"*

The glorious outrage of the gospel! The way back home.

*"As the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."*  
(Psalm 103:12)

*"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*  
(Jeremiah 31:34)

Confess and release!

### THE DESTINATION OF THE JOURNEY HOME IS THE FATHER'S HOUSE

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* (John 14:1-3)

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants (saints)."*  
(Psalm 116:15)

What better New Year's resolution could we have than to resolve to journey with Jesus in this life...and to look forward to the time when we will live with Him forever in a home that He is preparing for you and for me.

# welcome

## TO BUFFALO COVENANT

### NEW TO BCC?

Here at Buffalo Covenant, you can learn, grow and connect in an authentic and biblically-based community. If you want to know more about us, or have questions on how to get connected, please stop in at the Welcome Center.

### PRAYER

For prayer requests, contact the Church Office or fill out the prayer section on the Get Connected card and return to the Welcome Center.

### CHILD CARE

Child care is provided for infants through age five (pre-k) during both 9 am and 11 am services.

### COFFEE & PASTRIES

Grab a free coffee. Purchase a \$1 pastry from the BCC youth fundraiser in the Commons.

### GIVE

Offering boxes are in the back of the Worship Center or you can give at [buffalocov.org/give](http://buffalocov.org/give).

## sunday, january 1

### WORSHIP WITH US

**TODAY** The Journey Home (Matthew 2:1-23)

**CHILDCARE** No childcare today. Resumes January 8.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** No Sunday school classes today. Resumes January 8.

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT** Held in the BCC gym at 10:10 am  
January 1 - No Ministry Spotlight  
January 8 - Access Special Needs Ministry

**UPCOMING SUNDAY SERMONS** January 8 - Faith Over Fear with Pastor Reid Gilbert  
January 15 - But God! with Dean Brown  
January 22 - Special Guest: Richard Ross



**BUFFALO COVENANT**  
[buffalocov.org](http://buffalocov.org)