

## UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

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

### BELIEVER BAPTISM

*February 19, Morning Services // Worship Center*

We will be having an indoor Believer's Baptism service soon! Join us in the Worship Center to celebrate with those being baptized and worship with our entire church family during both services.

If you are interested in taking the next step in your faith journey by being baptized, there will be an information meeting on February 6 at 6 pm in Room 106. Please call the church office or visit [buffalocov.org/baptism](http://buffalocov.org/baptism) to sign up.

### DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

**Zephaniah - The Day of The Lord // Mondays, Feb 6-March 6, 6:30-8 pm // Kidspace**  
Zephaniah predicted the coming of the Day of the LORD in his short prophecy. The prophecy foretells that the LORD will hide His chosen people at Petra from the Antichrist's persecution. Join us for this five-week prophetic adventure with Dr. Oliver Blosser. Sign up at [buffalocov.org/evening-classes](http://buffalocov.org/evening-classes).

**Strong Fathers Strong Daughters // Tuesdays, Feb 7-March 14, 6:30-8 pm // Room 201**  
What a father does or doesn't do can have a huge impact on her development, well being and eventual happiness. If you have a daughter (regardless of age), join other BCC fathers to understand the critical role we have. Dave Macalena will facilitate this class based on the book "Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters" by Meg Meeker. Sign up at [buffalocov.org/men](http://buffalocov.org/men).

### WOMEN'S TASTE OF BCC

*February 17, 6 pm // Youth Room*

Join the women of BCC for a unique event that will tempt your taste buds and help you learn a little more about each other's heritage. Bring a dish, dessert or appetizer to share that represents your heritage. We'll enjoy the samplings and each other's company – space is limited so be sure to sign up early! Sign up online at [buffalocov.org/women](http://buffalocov.org/women).

### PEPPER: APPETIZER/DESSERT POTLUCK

*February 24, 6 pm // Youth Room*

The PEPPERS (ages 50+) are planning a sweet event to relieve the winter doldrums. Bring either an appetizer and or a dessert to share for a potluck in the Youth Room. We'll play a few games and have plenty of time to visit.

### COMING THIS WEEK

**Zephaniah – From Judgment to Justice:** Begins Monday, Feb. 5, 6:30 pm, Kidspace  
**Strong Fathers Strong Daughters:** Begins Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:30 pm, Room 201



## THE CALL OF CHRIST: THE FICTION OF NEUTRALITY

Pastor Mark Stromberg

**Matthew 8:28-34**

28 "When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. 29 "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

32 He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. 33 Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region."

**Luke 4:31-37**

31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath, he taught the people. 32 They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. 33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 34 "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

35 "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" 37 And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area."

When a crazy man asks a question, it is not necessarily a crazy question!

## THE FREQUENCY AND FUTILITY OF ATTEMPTING TO REMAIN IN THE 'NEUTRAL ZONE' ONCE HEARING THE CALL OF CHRIST

The whole town asked Jesus to leave (Matthew 8:34)

The Roman Governor, Pilate (Matthew 27)

St. Augustine "Confessions"

*"How often does a man, when heavy sleepiness is upon his limbs, defer to shake it off, and though not approving it, encourages it! Even though I was sure it was better to surrender to thy love, than to yield to my sins, and yet though the former course convinced me, the latter pleased and held me bound.*

*There was nothing in me to answer thy call, 'Awake, thou that sleepest!' but drowsy droning words, 'Yes, yes, presently, in a little while.' But that presently had no present and that little while grew longer. I could come, for I said within myself 'Let it be done now.'*

*And as I said it, I was at the point of resolve. I all but did it, yet I did it not, and the evil to which I was accustomed held me more than the better life I had not tried."*

Consequences are bound to the choices we make.

*"If serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves whom you will serve. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* Joshua 24:15

*"He that is not with me is against me."* Matthew 12:30

*"Neutrality does not serve righteousness. For to be neutral between right and wrong is to serve wrong."* Teddy Roosevelt

*"The choice to be neutral never sticks at neutrality, for choices, like splitting atoms, produces chain reaction. They go on creating new situations in which other choices have to be made. That is to say, the indifferent man tends always to become more indifferent. The neutral person tends inevitably to become the negative person. All of which, may I say, points out the tremendous importance of first decisions that are right."* Paul S. Rees

*"Into my heart...into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*Come in today...come into stay. Come into my heart Lord Jesus."*

# 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, february 5 WORSHIP WITH US

**TODAY** The Fiction of Neutrality with Mark Stromberg

**CHILDCARE** Available at 9 am and 11 am service (ages 0-5)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Classes available for all ages from 10:10-10:50 am

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT**  
Held in the BCC gym at 10:10 am  
TODAY - Mexico Mission Trip Recap  
February 12 - Men's Ministry

**UPCOMING SUNDAY SERMONS**  
**THE CALL OF CHRIST - FACT OR FICTION**  
February 12 - The Fact of Obscurity with Mark Stromberg  
**BAPTISM SERVICE**  
February 19 - Morning Services



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