

It is Vacation Bible School week here in Buffalo Center. The churches in town come together to host this ministry event each year around this time. We rotate the location between Bethlehem Lutheran, First Congregational, First Reformed and the United Methodist Church. This year Bethlehem has the privilege of hosting. And it has been fun to see people from the various churches come together to plan and now lead VBS. As I write this, about 60 kids are registered. The theme is Keepers of the Kingdom. The kids are learning about the armor of God from Ephesians 6:10-18 and what it means to stand for the Truth.

Three weeks after VBS is done it is (sorry for saying the “s” word) school. Where has the summer gone? And then, soon after school begins, One God Network fires up for elementary, middle school and high school students. And, of course, that is on top of everything else going on.

[Yes, Pastor, we know all of this. What’s the point?]

The point is, we a lot going on for a small town and thus we have much in which to be thankful. We have a dedicated community that loves to come together, case in point, Bison Days. We love celebrating the 4th of July together. We love supporting one another when someone is going through a tough time. We love to love on our children together. We love having fun together. I was recently reminded of this togetherness in this community while corresponding with an individual about a prayer request. Things have been going well with this person recently and they were expressing their gratitude for this supportive community. They felt blessed to have so many people praying for them. And that, right there, is one of the many joys of a small town.

I say all of this to continue to encourage you to pray for our children as they are in VBS right now, and soon will be in school. Pray for our school district, staff, teachers, volunteers, etc. Prayer for our businesses, fire department, ambulance and police officers. Prayer for our elected leaders and other community leaders. Give thanks to God for the people He has brought together to live in this great community.

Thank you, God, for this community of people. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.