

**Bethany Lutheran Church**

**25430 Bison Road**

**PO Box 37**

**Cushing, MN 56443**

**April 2021**



**Contact Information:**

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Pastor Carl Larson 605-924-1121

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Pastor Carlton Smee's email is

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Wendy R. (secretary) 320-360-1981

Wendy's email is

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**Bethany's Website:**

[www.bethanylutherancushing.org](http://www.bethanylutherancushing.org)

## Döstädning

*“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.” – Mark 16:6*

My family and I have been spending the last few weeks performing what could be akin to “Swedish death cleaning.” That is not the best phrase, right? But it is apropos. It comes from the Swedish word, *döstädning*, which gives us this literal translation – death cleaning. The idea is simple, as we get older in life, we accumulate a lot of things - clothes, books, craft supplies, tools, music, and on and on. What the Swedes have tried to share, which is similar to the work of Marie Kondo, is to strip away from ourselves the clutter we have collected in order to relieve that burden from our spouse or children upon our death. (Point of clarification – I don’t believe any of us are near death...) A little morbid, I know, but it seems to work and be necessary at times. You look at an item and wonder, “Will someone miss this? Will someone see in this a memory of me? Would they want it now, rather than finding it after I am gone?” All good questions. In so doing, we clear out things we have held onto that are not useful for memories or joyful living, and instead you get to pass on those things to those who may love them now.

As we enter this coming season of Easter, what we are leaving behind us is a Lent that helped us to see our sins, to know our need for Jesus, and to anticipate the coming Easter morning in which we announce that “HE IS RISEN!” With that tidings of good news comes a relieving of burdens. The sins you clutch tightly to your chest in order to beat yourself up time and time again, or the ones committed against you that you refuse to forget so you might use them against your spouse or neighbor when the time is right? Well, those are not yours anymore. Believe it or not, Christ at the cross has entered into the basement of your soul and gone through all those memories, all those pains and sorrows, and he stole them away from you. He took them with him to the cross so that they might die with him. He has done the essential death cleaning of your life by literally dying in order to clear out the clutter you refuse to let go of.

The Easter season (and it is a season – 50 days!!) then becomes the celebration of a lifetime. Celebrating the freedom Christ has won by releasing you from all that junk you carry around. All the shame and guilt, the “what-if’s” and the “sorry-for’s”. But in Easter, you also are celebrating the fact that you hear the announcement of the angel – “He is not here!” He is not in the tomb anymore. Meaning that all the sins of all the world were not strong enough to keep him there, and he has destroyed the power they have over you, winning the victory over your sin.

Often, we are ones who hide our sins because we think if people knew who we really were, we would want to die. Or if we unload it, especially the sins that have happened against us, then we will not be able to protect ourselves from the next time our brother or sister sins against us. If we do, we lose our edge and we give up our leverage. But Jesus says to you, “Sorry, but that is how life works this side of the empty tomb. All the weapons we use to fight our battles with sin and one another have been blunted. I am not there in the tomb anymore because I won all those wars with one swift victory. I won the battles in my blood shed for you at Calvary. If you want them back – Good luck.”

Having removed our sin, what he replaces it with is joy. Joy in his resurrection. Joy in knowing that we don’t have to play the shell game of hiding our trespasses. We can openly confess them knowing that he will forgive because he died for them already. And then we take this message, and we give it away to our friends and enemies so that we might forgive them and they might forgive us, which then brings them joy as well. Because otherwise, all we do in our life is try to atone for our own failings, or destroy one another so we might not feel as bad about ourselves. No dice. Christ Jesus has done the ultimate death cleaning for you. Now, allow that to be so for you each day this season. Meditate on that phrase – “He is not here.” Because he is not in the tomb anymore. And the tomb of your soul, where you feel those hurts and hatred’s? They are not there either. Instead, Jesus has already cleaned those out. They are gone, and he has put himself there instead. Know that all the places where you look for them are empty, and in their place is only joy. Joy in the One who cleansed you by his death.

In Christ our Victor,  
Pastor Smee

# April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>6:30 PM Joint Maunday Thursday at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples</b>	2 <b>6:30 PM Joint Good Friday Service at Bethany</b>	3
4 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion  <b>Youth Sunday</b>  <b>Easter</b>  Pastor Smee	5	6 9:00 AM Quilting/Prayer Shawls	7 6:00 PM Bible Study	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion  10:00 AM Confirmation Class  Pastor Carl	12	13 9:00 AM Quilting/Prayer Shawls	14 6:00 PM Bible Study	15	16	17
18 9:00 AM Worship Svc   Pastor Smee	19	20 9:00 AM Quilting/Prayer Shawls  6:00 PM Church Council Mtg	21 6:00 PM Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM Worship Svc  10:00 AM Confirmation Class  <b>Food Shelf Sunday</b>  Pastor Carl	26	27 9:00 AM Quilting/Prayer Shawls	28 6:00 PM Bible Study	29	30	

## April 2021

Team LuConic: Mike LuConic, Wendy Richmond, Darline Molde, Chuck & Char Stockman, Randy & Janet Beinhorn, Joanie Miller, Steve Ahlrich & Barb Anderson, Bob Miller & Becky Wetch, Dorothy Radke

## May 2021

Team Sandbakken: Wade & Kayla Sandbakken, Bill & Linda Bates, Marilyn Mueller, David & Maggie Peterson, Dave & Sharon Cina, Kathy Wray, Doug & Jackie Wiherski, Jim & Elizabeth Oberton, Gary & Tracy Statema



April 3 Roxie & Don Flicek  
April 5 Brad & Mary Hansen

April 1 Emily Miller  
April 1 Mary Tanner  
April 2 Michael Oberton  
April 2 Austin Hendrickson  
April 7 Becky Wetch  
April 8 Norb Bueckers  
April 14 Tracy Statema  
April 19 Brock Pantzke  
April 20 Janet Beinhorn  
April 21 Aubrey Petersen  
April 24 Norm Siekman  
April 30 Maggie Petersen

**Congratulations** - the mortgage for Bethany Lutheran Church has been **PAID IN FULL**. All funds received for and deposited to the Building Fund were used for the intended purpose of moving Bethany towards our goal of being **debt free**. Thank you and, again, congratulations!

We have opted to keep the building fund account open at the Mission Investment Fund for major building-related outlays down the road such as a new roof, carpet, etc., and future designations will be deposited to that account. As in the past, please note on your offering envelope if you wish to have some of your giving directed to the Building Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

Online Daily Meditation - Join Pastor Smee on the church Facebook page, his website, or his podcast, as we look at the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Each day will be a different one of our appointed prayers or readings, trying to see where God is speaking to us as we seek to hear the Gospel when we gather together each week. You can go to: [www.facebook.com/FLCStaples](http://www.facebook.com/FLCStaples), [www.facebook.com/CushingBeth](http://www.facebook.com/CushingBeth), or [www.treadweary.com/sounds.html](http://www.treadweary.com/sounds.html). Or search "The Treadweary Podcast" on your podcast provider.

**Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:**

Mike LuConic 651-249-9540

Amanda Bramstedt 507-259-0411

Wendy Richmond 320-360-1981

Cindy Zetah 218-522-0075

Wade Sandbakken 320-749-2311

Bruce Ford 218-575-2335

Harvey Bloom 320-749-2929

**Financials for March:**

Weekly goal for general offering: \$1,500.00

Received March 7, 2021: \$775.00

Received March 14, 2021: \$1,350.00

Received March 21, 2021: \$1,235.00

Received March 28, 2021: \$900.00

Avg YTD Weekly Giving: \$1,162.36

Food Shelf: \$110.00 March 28, \$124.00 Oberton honey sales

**Attendance at Worship:**

March 3, 2021 (Lent): 44

March 7, 2021: 30

March 14, 2021: 29

March 17, 2021 (Lent): 45

March 21, 2021: 31

March 28, 2021: 42

Pastor Carl will begin a new Bible Study on Wednesday, April 7, 6:00 PM at Bethany. It is titled "The Gospel According to Mark". Pastor Smee will begin a new Bible Study on Wednesday, April 7, at 10:00 AM at Faith. It is titled "The King's Study – Reading the Psalms with Jesus". All are welcome!

## Associate Pastor Call Committee

Met 2/28/2021

- Got to know one another and shared communication strategies.
  - o Margaret Grondahl (Chair, voting member)
  - o Carol Kert (Secretary, voting member)
  - o Britney Bursch (Council Liaison- non voting member)
  - o Deb Sing (Voting Member)
  - o Linda Heier (Voting Member)
  - o Roxie Flicek (Bethany Representative – non voting member)
  - o Jim Oberton (Bethany Representative – non voting member)
- Congregational Survey will be out very soon.

Met 3/7/2021

- Completed the congregational survey for associate pastor
- Started Ministry Site Profile (MSP)

Met 3/14/2021

- Went over Interview Questions
- Worked on information for Ministry Site Profile (MSP)

Met 3/21/2021

- Did first draft of Ministry Site profile (MSP)

Please feel free to contact the Associate Pastor Call Committee with questions, comments or suggestions.

### Faith Lutheran Church

Margaret Grondahl – [Margaret.grondahl4@gmail.com](mailto:Margaret.grondahl4@gmail.com)

Deb Sing – [dsing@arvig.net](mailto:dsing@arvig.net)

Linda Heier – [lheier50@gmail.com](mailto:lheier50@gmail.com)

Carol Kert – [lenk1@comcast.net](mailto:lenk1@comcast.net)

Britney Bursch – [innovationconsultingllc@gmail.com](mailto:innovationconsultingllc@gmail.com)

### Bethany Lutheran Church

Roxie Flicek – [roxiflic@brainerd.net](mailto:roxiflic@brainerd.net)

Jim Oberton – [obertonhoney@gmail.com](mailto:obertonhoney@gmail.com)