

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

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Cushing, MN 56443

April 2022



Contact Information:

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Bethany's Website:

www.bethanylutherancushing.org

Living The Message Of Easter

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26.

A visitor to Ystad, Sweden told about a little Lutheran church located in that small village. It wasn't a particularly beautiful church, and it wasn't particularly exceptional in any way, except that on the inside wall, opposite the pulpit there hung an unusual crucifix. For on the cross was a figure of our Lord, life-sized and life-like. In fact, so life-like that there was real hair mangled beneath a crown of thorns.

How did this unusual crucifix happen to be in the Ystad Lutheran Church? In the early 1700's the King of Sweden paid an unexpected visit to Ystad and since he arrived on a Sunday morning, he then went to the small church to worship. When the pastor saw the King of Sweden in attendance, he was so overwhelmed and overjoyed, that he ignored the liturgical text for that Sunday, and instead replaced it with an outburst of tribute and praise directed toward the king.

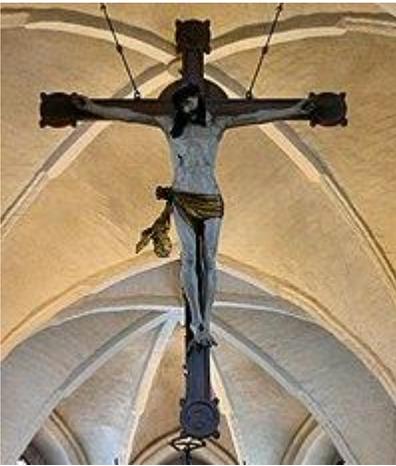
A few weeks after the monarch's visit the church received the aforementioned crucifix from the king. With it came a written royal command: *"Hang this within the church so that whoever stands in the pulpit will be reminded of the proper and important subject."*

I came across this story this past week as I was doing sermon prep for my Easter message, and it spoke to me about how I, and we, as a congregation, should approach the Sundays of the Easter season. As a pastor, I so often get caught up in trying to put together "a quality product" for the Sunday worship, sometimes to the point that I forget about why we gather on Sunday mornings. This story serves as a reminder that it's not about the "performance" of the service, rather it's about *the message of Christ crucified for you and me.*

We gather as a family of the faithful to celebrate “God’s love” for all creation. God loving us so much that He gave His only Son for us, so that we might come to holiness and live with him forever. That’s the message that you and I need to hear and share in these weeks of Easter. That our faithfulness is shared as we gather together to hear about and then live out God coming into the world to live, die, and live again for you and me. And then taking that message from our church out into the world to share it with others through our words and deeds.

In Christ,

Pastor Carl



April 2022

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

May 2022

Team Oberton: Gary & Susan Oberton, Marilyn Mueller, David & Maggie Petersen, Dave & Sharon Cina, Kathy Wray, Doug & Jackie Wiherski, Gary & Tracy Statema



Apr 3rd Roxie & Don Flicek
Apr 5th Brad & Mary Hansen

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

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

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Wendy Richmond 320-360-1981
Gary Oberton 320-749-2992

Darren Bushinger 218-252-5011
Bruce Ford 218-575-2335
Harvey Bloom 320-749-2929

Bethany's Church Council would like to remind people of the electronic giving option. Just as many of us already use direct deposit and online automatic payments for our household bills, this service allows our intended weekly and monthly offerings to get where they need to be to allow our church to continue to operate. Best of all, once your automatic deduction is made, the financial secretary and treasurer record it for you – you don't have to do anything else! If an online option just isn't right for you, that's okay too. You can mail in your regular offering to PO Box 37, Cushing, MN 56443. Thank you for supporting Bethany and the community we've all worked so hard to nurture. Vanco is the provider behind our church's eGiving app and they recently changed to Vanco Mobile. This easy-to-use app replaces the GivePlus Mobile app we were currently using to make our donations. Download the free Vanco Mobile app in the Google Play store or the Apple App store. Find our organization by searching Bethany Lutheran Church or by its invite code, GVDK73. If you have any problems or questions, please call Wendy Richmond at 320-360-1981.

Annual Garage Sale: Bethany will be having a sale on Friday and Saturday, June 3-4. Donated items can be put into the smaller Sunday School room. Proceeds will go toward youth activities.

There will be a special Congregational Meeting, Sunday April 24, following the worship service. The meeting is to discuss possibly purchasing a solar system for the church. The meeting will be followed by a potluck lunch. Pot roast will be provided.

The Pancake Breakfast in May (May 15) is being expanded to include biscuits and gravy!