

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

PO Box 37

Cushing, MN 56443

August 2024



Contact Information:

Church phone 320-749-2140

Pastor Carl Larson 605-924-1121

Pastor Carl's email is

flcstaplespastor@gmail.com

Pastor Chris Mathiason 717-829-5237

Pastor Chris' email is

flcstaplespastor2@gmail.com

Wendy R. (secretary) 320-360-1981

Wendy's email is

wendy.richmond23@yahoo.com

Bethany's Website:

www.bethanylutherancushing.org

Being Lutheran

If you were to come to the church the past few months at 8:00 in the morning on any Tuesday through Friday, you might find me reading the book, Lutherans in North America by Richard C. Wolf. Now, the reason that I initially selected the book, was to simply discover a little more about the various flavors of Lutheranism in the United States. But the book has pushed me over the past number of weeks to wonder about being Lutheran - especially concerning biblical interpretation from a Lutheran perspective.

In the first few chapters of the book, the idea that is shared is that much of our Lutheran style of biblical interpretation comes from the lens we use to read it. Matthew's Gospel used the lens of Judaism to understand Jesus. That's why in the first Gospel, Jesus is often analogous to a new Moses, who comes out of Egypt and goes up on a mountain to teach and fulfill Hebrew prophecy over and over again. But in Luke's Gospel, Jesus becomes a much more universal figure who reaches far beyond Judaism to the far corners of the Greek/Roman world. The author makes the point, numerous times, that much depends on the lens that one uses to read the scriptures.

Over the last number of days, the book points out that the first Lutherans in North America that settled in Delaware and Pennsylvania read scripture under the lens of an intolerant colonial system. And, he then made the point, that for the congregations in those areas, the environment that their church first began—still influences how they do church today.

Our friends in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church built their church body when a large group of German Lutherans left their native Saxony in 1838 and immigrated to Perry County, Missouri (St. Louis). Due to a number of religious and social events, a church polity was established of congregational interdependence, a commitment to Christian education at all levels, and diligent pastor care. Again, the lens of their environment affected their understanding of scripture which affected how they do church.

We, as members of Faith and Bethany Lutheran Church, are also subject to the numerous lens that affect how we read scripture and ultimately worship. Our Scandinavian heritage, our settling in the central Minnesota, and our recent congregational history that is tied to developments in the ELCA all play a part in determining how we see our mission and ministry as followers of Christ.

With that understanding, here is my hope for our two congregations.

My hope is that, as Lutherans, we will always be a church that understands that others who might read scripture and worship a little different than we do, have come to faith by way of a lens different than the one that we see faith with. And yet we all worship the same God – but use different lens that gives us a slightly different perspective on how we worship God. And that's O.K.!

God's richest of blessings,

Pastor Carl

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Chis	5	6	7 6:00-8:00 PM Bowling in Little Falls	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Carl	12 4:30 - 7:30 PM Vacation Bible School	13 4:30 - 7:30 PM Vacation Bible School	14 4:30 - 7:30 PM Vacation Bible School	15 4:30 PM Vacation Bible School 7:00 PM Finale 7:30 PM Ice Cream Social	16	17 5:00 PM BBQ 6:00 PM Outdoor Worship Svc Pastor Carl
18	19	20 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Carl Food Shelf Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2024

Team Hansen: Brad & Mary Hansen, Glen & Amanda Bramstedt, Joel & Jeanine Pantzke, Andy & Kourtney Frank, Lois Breden, Wendell & Kim Schultz, Glen & Theresa Welters

September 2024

Team Hendrickson: Tania & Lucas Hendrickson, Darren & Lynn Bushinger, Mark & Mary Schlangen, Darline Molde, Bruce Ford



Aug 23rd Norb & Jan Bueckers

Aug 1 st	Tracy Kjeldergaard
Aug 4 th	Jan Bueckers
Aug 5 th	Donna Lundgren
Aug 5 th	Waylon Hendrickson
Aug 5 th	Kaleb Kjeldergaard
Aug 6 th	David Christensen
Aug 6 th	Everleigh Frank
Aug 29 th	Arnie Akkerman

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

Darren Bushinger 218-252-5011
Norb Bueckers 320-760-9055
Brad Hansen 320-232-9204
Tania Hendrickson 612-618-8454
Gary Oberton 320-749-2992
Elizabeth Oberton 320-630-3100
Maggie Petersen 320-630-3529

2024 Quilt Raffle: The quilt is on display in the fellowship hall. Tickets are being sold for \$1.00. See one of the Women of Bethany if you would like to sell tickets to friends and family. Also included in the raffle will be two handmade rugs, donated to Bethany at the Garage Sale. They are also on display in the fellowship room.

VBS: There will be root beer floats again this year on the last evening of VBS, Thursday, August 15th, around 7:30 pm, and the congregation is invited. You're also welcome to come at 7:00 for the VBS closing to enjoy some of the music and excitement of the week. AND, there will be a petting zoo in the church yard until 8:00. Plan on attending...and feel free to help put our church back together when the festivities are over.

Let's Go Bowling: Bennington's Entertainment Center (formerly Little Falls Bowling Center) offered Bethany two free hours of bowling (four lanes – up to 24 people). Shoe rental is included. We will be going on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 from 6-8 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions, please talk to Wendy or Darren.

Fall Dinner: Bethany is having a Fall Dinner on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 4:30 – 7:30 PM. The menu will be ham, roast beef sandwiches, au gratin potatoes, vegetable, salad and dessert. We are hoping to purchase the food with Thrivent Grants and are asking the congregation to provide dessert items. We are also looking for people to help with the set-up, serving and clean-up. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the fellowship hall.