

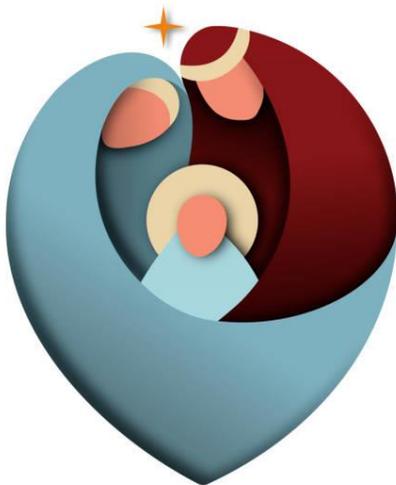
Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

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Cushing, MN 56443

December 2021



Contact Information:

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I Wonder as I Wander

"I Wonder as I Wander" is one of my favorite Christmas Carols, but as I looked into it's authorship, I found it to be one of the most interesting as well.

The [Christmas Carol](#), was written by American folk singer [John Jacob Niles](#) and has its origins in a song fragment collected by Niles on July 16, 1933. While in the town of Murphy in Appalachians North Carolina, Niles attended a fundraising meeting held by a group of evangelicals who had been ordered out of town by the local police. Niles wrote in his autobiography,

A girl had stepped out to the edge of the running board platform attached to the automobile. She began to sing. Her clothes were unbelievable dirty and ragged, and she, too, was unwashed. Her ash-blond hair hung down in long skeins. But, best of all, she was beautiful, and in her untutored way, she could sing. She smiled as she sang, smiled rather sadly, and sang only a single verse of a song.

The girl, named Annie Morgan, repeated the same verse seven times in exchange for a quarter per performance, and Niles left with "three lines of the verse, a garbled fragment of melodic material—and a magnificent idea".

Based on his collected fragments of the song, Niles composed the version of "I Wonder as I Wander" that is known today. His composition was completed on October 4, 1933 and Niles first performed the song on December 19, 1933, in [Brasstown, North Carolina](#). From there it was published in [Songs of the Hill Folk](#) in 1934.

For us, as members of Bethany and Faith Lutheran, we can find the Christmas carol in the blue With One Voice hymnal. I love the haunting sound of the carol and try to include it a number of times in worship during the Christmas season.

But, as we prepare, anticipate, and await the coming of Christmas, this carol reminds us to take time to wonder and see Christmas through many different perspectives. Attempt to view Christmas from the perspective of a five year old, or as you hold a baby, imagine Mary's thoughts and the things she likely pondered in her heart. Wonder with the shepherds about the birth of the Christ child, and consider how they felt when those glorious angels appeared in the sky on a "seemingly ordinary" night. Consider the angels perspective as they proclaim the greatest news to a group of shepherds who were to tell the world. Wonder how the wandering Wise men understood Christmas as they brought unusual gifts to an infant.

As you wonder and wander through Advent and into the Season of Christmas, listen to the story of Jesus' birth, which can seem on the one hand to be so simple, and yet can become so complex. Reframe and wonder about Christmas using the lens of the many people who had a part in unfolding the story.

There is certainly so much to ponder about the birth of Jesus, and yet, the importance of the story remains that God came to us as a baby. He knows what it's like to be human. To feel what we feel, skin his knee, hug his mom and dad, learn from Joseph how to be a carpenter, celebrate with his family, walk with us and among us.....and to ultimately save us.

Blessings to you and your family as you wonder and wander through the Advent Season.
Pastor Carl

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm Bible Study	2	3	4
5 9:00 am Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School Pastor Chris	6	7 9:00 am Quilting/Prayer Shawls	8 6:00 pm Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Confirmation Class Pastor Carl	13	14 9:00 am Quilting/Prayer Shawls	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship Svc 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School Pastor Chris	20	21 9:00 am Quilting/Prayer Shawls 6:00 pm Church Council Mtg 7:00 pm Bible Study	22	23	24 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas
26 9:00 am Worship Svc 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Confirmation Class Food Shelf Sunday Pastor Carl	27	28 9:00 am Quilting/Prayer Shawls	29 6:00 pm Bible Study	30	31	

December 2021

Team Bueckers: Norb & Jan Bueckers, Ken & Judy Shorter, Lonnie & Shauna Stokes, Roxie Flicek, Cory & Tracy Natvig, Charlie & Anna Hansen, John & Phyllis Nelson, Don & Heddie Wolbeck, Wade & Kayla Sandbakken

January 2022

Team Bloom: Harvey & Helen Bloom, Gary Kratzke, Lois Brenner, Tom & Patty Crawford, Lucas & Tania Hendrickson, Arnie Akkerman, Jim & Elizabeth Oberton



Dec 18th Jim & Sandy Werner
Dec 31st Darren & Lynn Bushinger

Dec 3rd Don Wolbeck
Dec 4th Norma Pantzke
Dec 10th Anna Hansen
Dec 10th Mark Schlangen
Dec 11th Brianna Hansen

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

Norb Bueckers 320-760-9055
Amanda Bramstedt 507-259-0411
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

Thrivent Grants: Anyone with Thrivent accounts have until the end of the year to request the \$250.00 grant. If you need help or need ideas of what to do with the grants, please talk to Wendy Richmond or Roxie Flicek.

Fun activities during the Christmas Season:

Dec 5th following the service – ornament making

Dec 12th Blessing of the Christmas Tree, following the service—decorate Christmas tree

Dec 19th Christmas Program

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service

Dec 26th singing Carols during the service

Jan 2nd Burning of the Christmas Tree

Do you know of someone who is lonely, isolated or sick and would enjoy receiving a prayer shawl, afghan or lap robe? Talk with Jan Bueckers, Roxie Flicek or Irene Oldenburg.

Camp Shamineau invites you and your family to the 18th Annual “Community Christmas Celebration” on Saturday, December 11 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. This is a FREE event. Enjoy Hay Rides, Wreath Making, Pony Rides, Climbing Wall, Zip Line, Photos with Santa, Campfire Donuts, Specials at the Gift Shop, Christmas Treats, Leather Shop, Crafts and Build Your Own Living Nativity (costumes and set provided). Camp Shamineau is located 4 miles south of Motley or 25 miles north of Little Falls on Highway 10, then 1 ½ miles east on Ridge Road. For information call 218-575-2240.

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.

Bethany Lutheran Church

COUNCIL MTG MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:00 PM

Members Present: Pastor Carl Larson, Norb Bueckers, Darren Bushinger, Bruce Ford, Gary Oberon, Harvey Bloom and Wendy Richmond

Devotions: Pastor Carl opened with a reading from Revelations, Chapter 1.

Pastor's Update: Pastor Carl and Pastor Chris have been discussing ways to make Bethany and Faith more unified. Twice a year, the two pastors would like to work together at Bethany and twice a year at Faith. They would also like the youth to have joint activities. Pastor Chris will be presiding at the 4:30 Christmas Eve Service.

Officer Elections:

President: Norb Bueckers

Vice President: Darren Bushinger

Secretary: Wendy Richmond

Financial Secretary Reports: Bruce made a motion to accept the financial report seconded by Harvey. Motioned carried.

Council discussions:

Pastor Carl made some cards to give to members to invite them to the Christmas Eve Service. Members can then invite family, friends and neighbors.

Bruce made a motion to put an ad in the Record, seconded by Wendy, motioned carried. Gary will work on this.

Committees: do we need to get these groups started again? Pastor Carl suggested having groups meet once a month, on the same night as the council meeting. Meet an hour before the council meeting, have a potluck supper.

Hand Sanitizer: It was decided to have a bottle of hand sanitizer available at the front of the church for members to use after sharing the peace, before going up for communion.

Christmas Tree: December 12th, immediately following the service, we will decorate the Christmas tree. It will be put into place the night before.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:00 PM. Next Council Meeting December 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM.