

**Bethany Lutheran Church**

**25430 Bison Road**

**PO Box 37**

**Cushing, MN 56443**

**December 2022**



**Contact Information:**

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**Bethany's Website:**

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

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Luke 1:46-48*

As I read the words that Mary spoke after meeting her cousin Elizabeth, I understood her reflections to be more than an expression of praise of what is to come. Rather, as Mary spoke the words, 'God my Savior', she was sharing her confession of faith. And when she proclaims "my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" she was expressing her joy that she was already in God's presence and her need to be set free from the difficulties of the world by a God that understands all things was already being fulfilled. Mary is telling all, in these few verses, that she not only looks forward to the time of God's coming in the Christ child, but she was also celebrating her awareness that God had always been within her.

And as this is Mary's confession, so it also is ours. For we also confess that God is our Savior. And although we acknowledge that we use our education, our expertise, our skillfulness, our technology, and our legislation to work through much of the chaos that we have created in this world, it is ultimately to God that we turn to lead us to deliverance from our created disorder. It is to God, who fashioned the universe and created all things good, that we turn toward to find true and lasting peace, justice, hope, and love each and every day, not just at this time of the year.

The 20th century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "In the child of Bethlehem, the life of the world that is to come has come into the life of the world that is." This Season of Advent, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of the Christ child, is also a time, that we like Mary, continue to rejoice that our Lord and Savior is with us in the here and now, walking with us in our daily living. Amen.

*Teach us, in this Advent season,  
to find beauty in simplicity,  
to find richness in plain living,  
to find self-worth in self-giving,  
that we may be truly prepared  
for the day of our Lord's coming,  
who came not as a mighty king  
but as a child born in a manger in a barn,  
and who gave his life as a servant for our salvation.  
Grant this, we pray, in his name, Amen.*

*--Waldo Beach., Christmas Praise--*

God's blessings to you, in this season of rejoicing,  
*Pastor Carl*

# December 2022

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

## December 2022

**Team Bueckers:** Norb & Jan Bueckers, Ken & Judy Shorter, Lonnie & Shauna Stokes, Roxie Flicek, Charlie & Anna Hansen, John & Phyllis Nelson, Don & Heddie Wolbeck, Wade & Kayla Sandbakken, Rick & Donna Lundgren

## January 2023

**Team Oberton:** Elizabeth & Jim Oberton, Harvey & Helen Bloom, Gary & Pam Bellamy, Lois Brenner, Tom & Patty Crawford, Lucas & Tania Hendickson, Arnie Akkerman



Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Jim & Sandy Werner  
Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Darren & Lynn Bushinger

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Don Wolbeck  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Norma Pantzke  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Erin Mathiason  
Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Anna Hansen  
Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Mark Schlangen  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Brianna Hansen  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Chris Mathiason

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

Darren Bushinger 218-252-5011  
Norb Bueckers 320-760-9055  
Wendy Richmond 320-360-1981  
Gary Oberton 320-749-2992

Bruce Ford 218-575-2335  
Elizabeth Oberton 320-630-3100  
Brad Hansen 218-575-3081

During the month of November, the Bethany Quilting Group made the following quilt donations:

5 Lap Quilts to Oasis of Little Falls

16 Lap Quilts to the Memory Care Center at Lakewood Health Systems in Staples

1 Queen Size Quilt to the chemo therapy department in Little Falls

5 Full Size and 6 Lap Quilts to Teen Challenge

During the month of November, Bethany's Prayer Shawl Group made three prayer shawls. We gave five prayer shawls and five prayer afghans to Oasis. Three prayer shawls were also given to individuals.