

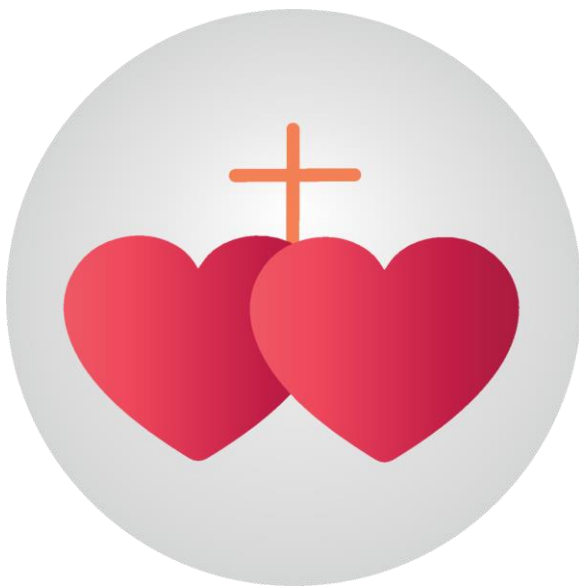
Bethany Lutheran Church

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February 2023



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Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we might be saved.

It was just two Saturday's ago that Carol and I drove down to St. Paul to watch our grandson Avery, a 4th grader, play in a basketball game, and then we celebrated with him after an exciting win. So, this past Saturday, Carol and I called my son Christian to find out the latest on how my grandson's basketball team came out this weekend. Christian reported back: *"There was a shooting last week at the Jimmy Lee Rec Center where an employee of the Center shot a 16 year old. They were having a disagreement and the rec employee followed the teenager out of the Center and shot him in the head. I don't know any of the other details other than the city closed all rec centers until further notice. The Jimmy Lee Center is where a good number of Avery's games are played. But, a decision was made that all St. Paul Rec Centers are to be closed until further notice. So, there probably will be no more basketball games for the boys for a while."*

Right away, my thoughts went to:

- "How and why do these things happen?"
- What's wrong with our society that this is the way we as a culture have decided to handle disagreements?
- Is it that we have become such a gun culture that we turn to a handgun to handle our disagreements?
- All of the mass shootings this January along with the beating death of Tyre Nichols in Memphis has me wondering 'where have we gone wrong as a nation, a world?'

It was on Sunday, before our church service at Faith that I read scripture from a devotional I read called Daily Texts. The Sunday text was from Psalm 80:19: *Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we might be saved.* And the prayer for the day: *Tender and merciful God, I bask in the light of your presence. Scriptures assure me that in this dark time you, Light of the World, are with me. In my doubt and distress, please comfort me. I trust in your promise that there is light and through these dark times, God, your hand holds mine. Thank you. Amen.*

I don't seem to have many good answers to the deep difficulties that we in our society face. But I am assured that our God does. So, as the text and prayer infer, I give the problems that seem unanswerable over to our God.

In Christ,
Pastor Carl

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 am Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship/ Sunday School Pastor Chris	6	7 9:00 am Quilting & Prayer Shawls 5:00 PM Bible Study	8	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship/ Confirmation Class Pastor Carl	13	14 9:00 am Quilting & Prayer Shawls 5:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Church Council Mtg	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Breakfast/Fellow- ship/Sunday School 10:30 AED/CPR Tng Pastor Chris	20	21 9:00 am Quilting & Prayer Shawls 5:00 pm Bible Study	22 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Svc	23	24 6:00 pm meet at Bethany for 7:30 pm Paramount Center "Blind Boys of Alabama" Show	25
26 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Fellow- ship/Confirmation Class Food Shelf Sunday Pastor Carl	27	28 9:00 am Quilting & Prayer Shawls 5:00 pm Bible Study				

February 2023

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

March 2023

Team Bushinger/Ford: Darren & Lynn Bushinger, Bruce Ford, Leone Johnson, Carla Fritz-Wolff, Mark & Mary Schlangen, Norma Pantzke, Florence Jones, Darline Molde, Irene Oldenburg



Feb 2 nd	Pam Bellamy
Feb 3 rd	Brad Hansen
Feb 4 th	Wade Sandbakken
Feb 5 th	Elizabeth Oberton
Feb 7 th	Dorothy Radke
Feb 9 th	Kayla Sandbakken
Feb 11 th	Richard (RJ) Sandbakken
Feb 12 th	Sandy Werner
Feb 14 th	Andy Cina
Feb 15 th	Irene Oldenburg
Feb 15 th	Mary Hansen
Feb 16 th	Darren Bushinger
Feb 17 th	Tania Hendrickson
Feb 21 st	Roxie Flicek
Feb 26 th	Lucas Hendrickson
Feb 27 th	Ben Mathiason

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

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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

Solar Project: Thank you to everyone who has supported the solar project to date! As we move towards our build date in May, 2023, our campaign to raise contributions to support the project continues. Please consider a donation! Any questions about pledges or outright gifts may be directed to Lynn Bushinger 320-232-9980 or Jeanine Pantzke 320-749-2921.

Trip to Paramount: On Friday Feb. 24th Bethany will sponsor a road trip to the Paramount Theatre in St Cloud for an evening show. The Blind Boys of Alabama are a longstanding gospel and spiritual band that originated in a school for blind black children in Alabama. We will meet at Bethany around 6:00 pm and carpool down. We will get an exact time when we can speak with those lucky ones who are going. Tickets are \$25-29. Please connect with Mike LuConic or Gary Oberton. At this time, we have bought only 10 tickets, so don't hesitate.

AED: February 19, 2023, at 10:30 there will be an informal AED and CPR training class. It is **not** a certification class.

Solar Project Jumps Ahead at Bethany! In case you missed the latest news on our solar project, here is an update. At our special congregational meeting on Sunday January 22, we voted 22 to 5 to build the solar array this spring or summer. There were still some financing details to be worked out and it was decided the council would make those decisions soon. We are happy to report this was done last Sunday, the 29th.

Earlier in the week, Kris Bartkowicz the owner of KB Electric of Bowlus, met with Pastor Carl and President Darren and a few others for a fun and informative meeting. KB Electric is a small family business owned by Kris and his wife. The crew consists of Kris, his wife, her father and Kris's son. Many details were discussed and a tentative timetable set up. The snow needs to melt and the ground needs to dry up before construction begins. We are fourth on the summer build list and with good weather will begin as early as mid-May. All who attended the meeting left excited and energized, Kris seems like a great guy and we feel we made the correct choice in a builder.

The financial plan worked out on Sunday included signing a \$53,600 loan from the Stearns Electric Association, we will have a monthly payment of \$594, which will be only slightly over the amount of income the system produces. We are on track to allow the system to pay for itself. Please brag about this project to your friends and neighbors. Well, maybe not brag, but let's get the word out. Solar energy is an interesting subject right now and we can all enjoy this moment and milk it for all it is worth as an attention getter for Bethany. Thanks to all of you at Bethany who worked on this and all of us who made it possible together. God Bless You All