

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

PO Box 37

Cushing, MN 56443

February 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

Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, COVID, the Primaries, and Resurrection

This past week, as I was getting ready for the up and coming season of Lent, I set aside the issues of the day, issues like the war in Ukraine, the Israel/Palestinian Crisis, COVID, the Presidential Primaries and numerous other pertinent topics, and instead allowed my mind to find refuge in faith language found in an article written by Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee.

Rev. Dr. McAfee wrote: “We claim to value life in our country, but we don’t have much time for resurrection. The religious leaders and theologians and the politicians of Jesus’ day didn’t either. The Sadducees refused to believe in a resurrection at all. And when others saw what happened before their very eyes, as in the case of Lazarus, they conspired to kill him, and put him right back in the tomb where he belonged. The disciples wanted no part of a resurrection. They scattered like chaff in the wind before Jesus died, and had no idea that Jesus might reappear. Thomas could scarcely bring himself to believe in the resurrection even after the fact. Were the technology available, it’s safe to bet that Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea would not have permitted a resurrection to take place either, but would have instead brought Jesus down off the cross as soon as possible, stuck a few IV’s in his veins, hydrated him with saline solution and put him on life support until all options could be considered. And given the fact that they had no clue what Jesus was talking about when he occasionally alluded his approaching death, they certainly would not have considered Old Testament prophecies, or any number of messianic texts, Psalm 22, for example, to be a sort of emergency directive or Living Will. Even as we gather during Lent and prepare for Easter, we’re ambivalent about the resurrection. Most of us would agree that we live as though Jesus were still in the tomb – where, we might add – he belongs. A resurrected Jesus can be a nuisance sometimes, inconvenient and demanding.”

What Rev. Dr. McAfee did for me, was give me permission to look beyond the issues of our day that are so often surrounded with politics and division and look toward the faith and life issues of the resurrection. For as a follower of Christ, that is where his promises point. And that is where our questions and concerns in our world today should eventually lead.

God’s richest of blessings to you.

Pastor Carl

February 2024

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 Chis	5 4:30-6:30 PM MnDOT Project Open House	6 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship/ Confirmation Class Pastor Carl	12	13 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	14 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15	16	17
18 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship/Break- fast/Sunday School Pastor Chris	19	20 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	21 5:45 PM Soup & Sandwiches 6:30 PM Lenten Service	22	23 6:00 PM Family Movie & Game Night	24 11:00 AM Funeral for Norma Pantzke
25 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship/ Confirmation Class Pastor Carl Food Shelf Sunday	26	27 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	28 5:45 PM Soup & Sandwiches 6:30 PM Lenten Service	29		

February 2024

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

March 2024

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



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	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

The Minnesota Department of Transportation will be holding a Project Open House at Bethany on Monday February 5 from 4:30-6:30 PM. See page 3 of the January 28 issue of the Morrison County Record for more information.

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

Family Movie & Game Night: Join us on Friday, February 23, 6:00 PM. Movie, games and fun for all ages. Pizza, snacks and popcorn will be served. We will be watching “The Secret Life of Pets”.

Obituary for Norma J. Pantzke

Norma J. Pantzke, 95-year-old resident of Randall, MN passed away Sunday, January 21, 2024 at St. Otto’s Care Center in Little Falls, MN. A Funeral Service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cushing, MN with Rev. Carl Larson officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until the hour of the service at the church. Burial will be in the Parker Bethany Cemetery in rural Randall, MN at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Bethany Lutheran Church Building Fund. Caring for Norma and her family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Norma was born December 4, 1928 to the late Claude A, Sr. and Sarah “Alice” (Haywood) Stoner at their home in downtown Sioux Falls, South Dakota. During her childhood, Norma and her family moved to California and later returned to the Randall and Cushing, MN area. She graduated from high school in Little Falls, MN. Beginning in her youth Norma enjoyed outdoor activities; she was a champion at marbles and was known as “Dyna,” short for dynamite for her ability to hit a softball to the outfield. Norma had a green thumb, with a passion for vegetable and flower gardening as well as maintaining an “indoor jungle” of houseplants throughout her life. Norma was united in marriage to Edwin G “Sonny” Pantzke, Jr on September 20, 1948 and they worked together and raised their family on the Pantzke homestead that has been in the family for over 100 years. They had 9 children together and Edwin had a daughter from a former marriage. Edwin passed away in November 1979. Norma prides herself in her large 5-generation family that also includes 22 grandchildren, 60 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous young tagalong family and friends who ate at her table and slept in her house. In addition to being a homemaker and raising her children, Norma sold World Book Encyclopedias door-to-door for a brief time and also was a Census taker. Norma moved from the farm in rural Randall where she had lived for over 71 years to a small independent living apartment in Randall in November 2019. In November 2022 she moved to St. Otto’s Care Center. Norma was an avid reader and also enjoyed feeding the birds in her later years. She loved the outdoors and prided herself in maintaining her own large home and yard with vegetable and flower gardens until moving off the farm. Norma enjoyed baking and prepared desserts for every meal and baked large batches of bread and rolls twice weekly. Her Christian faith was very strong, and she was active in her Lutheran Church serving on the Altar Guild, Church Council, as a Sunday School teacher, singing in the choir, and assisting with weekly fellowships at a local Senior Care Facility for many years.

Norma is survived by her sons, John (Vicki) Pantzke of Estelline, SD, Richard Pantzke of Little Falls, MN, and Joel (Jeanine) Pantzke of Randall, MN; daughter, Linda Pantzke of Little Falls, MN; stepdaughter, Connie (Pantzke Jasorka) Swanson of Sturgeon Lake, MN; daughters-in-law, Loni (Wimmer) Pantzke of Little Falls, MN, Kathy (Rutz) Pantzke of Rice, MN, Audrey (Heinz) Pantzke of Randall, MN; former daughters-in-law, Teri (Bergquist) Pantzke of Minneapolis, MN, Laurie (Stern) Belka of Eden Prairie, MN; sisters, Diana (Stoner) Nelson of Sioux Falls, SD and Maxine (Stoner) DeBaun of Garden Grove, CA; and many grand, great-grand, and great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edwin; infant baby girl; sons, Steven, Gerald, Timothy, and Curtis; stepson-in-law, Arvid “Buzz” Swanson; grandson, Jesse Pantzke; granddaughter, Penelope Henline; brothers, Richard, Eugene, Claude Jr, and Dennis Stoner; sisters, Beverly Myers and Marilyn Garrison.