

**Bethany Lutheran Church**

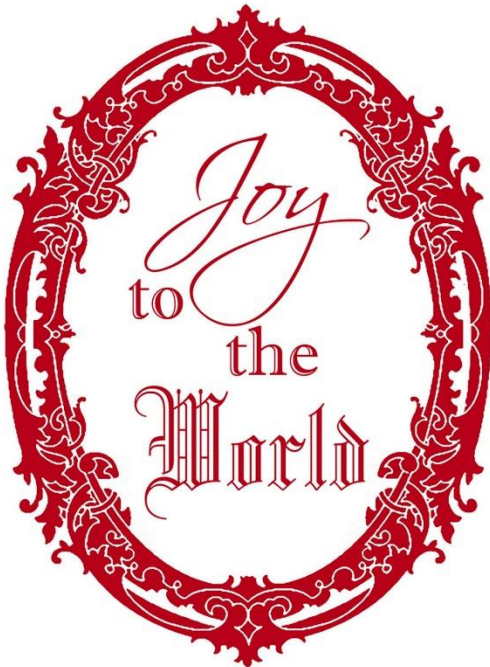
**25430 Bison Road**

**PO Box 37**

**Cushing, MN 56443**

**We will resume services on January 10, 2021, following CDC guidelines (wearing masks, social distancing).**

**January 2021**



**Contact Information:**

Church phone 320-749-2140

Pastor Carl Larson 605-924-1121

Pastor Carl's email is

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Pastor Carlton Smee 952-215-7474

Pastor Carlton Smee's email is

[pastorsmee@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsmee@gmail.com)

Wendy R. (secretary) 320-360-1981

Wendy's email is

[wendy.richmond23@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy.richmond23@yahoo.com)

**Bethany's Website:**

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

## The Name that does what it says...

*Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. – Matthew 1:20-21*

When I was a freshman in college at Bethel in Arden Hills, I lived in Getsch Hall. Getsch is located on "The Hill" opposite the main college building and shared the location with Bodien and Edgren Halls. It wasn't until recently that I learned that Getsch was named after Bill and Marjorie Getsch. They had really no connection to the school, they were not alumni, but they loved what Bethel stood for and beginning in 1980 they started to donate planned gifts to the school. This led to the dormitory being constructed that I called home for my first year in Minnesota, and it was named for them because of their generosity.

January 1<sup>st</sup>, for most of us, is the New Year. We buy new calendars, have to remember to change the year when we write out checks, and make all sorts of resolutions to hope that "this" year will be "our" year. My stepfather even makes ham hocks and black-eyed peas every New Years Day because the Okie in him believes that it brings good luck. I'm guessing, with the way things have gone in 2020, most of us will try anything to see this year put be better.

What most of us have forgotten in the church is that, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is commemorated. A feast that falls eight days from the birth of Christ that would have been the time when Jesus would have been circumcised and had his name first announced over him. A name that carries with it all the power and weight of the God-man. He being the Word of God made flesh, God's voice with skin on, was named this name that is above any other name because, just as the Scriptures tell us that God's Word that comes from his mouth will not return to him empty, but it will accomplish what the Lord pleases and will prosper in what he sends it to do (Isaiah 55:11), so too in Jesus whose name means "God saves." Those words were spoken into history as your Jesus took on that flesh and was laid in that manger. Those words were spoken into history as that flesh was nailed to the cross, suffered, died, and laid in that tomb. Those words, that name of Jesus, was shouted from the highest heavens and the deepest hells when that tomb burst open and God's sermon rose to life because he had accomplished what his name means, to save. To save you from sin and death. To save us from ourselves as we seek other gods.

As we begin this new year, that name of Jesus is again pronounced over us as a commemoration, knowing that every year begins and ends with Christ Jesus as your Lord. As that dorm was named for Bill and Marjorie Getsch, so too now is this year named for Christ, making every year the "year of our Lord." Regardless of how 2020 went, or how 2021 is going to go, because of that name, that Word, spoken into history that will not return to God empty, so it is in the best of times or worst of times that you are smothered in God's time. Psalm 31:15 has us praying, "My times are in your hands." This was true in 2020 (no matter how it seemed to go), it is true with 2021, and it will be true until time comes to an end. God's generosity began with creation, extended to you in the new creation bought by the blood of Jesus spilled for you and the Spirit which has come upon you, and continues in his name being placed upon you each day as you are one who has died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Because your name in God is his name, you become his, and he becomes yours. May the year 2021 be for you the realization of this blessing upon you even amid tragedy and suffering, knowing that God has not left you, but has spoken to you, and in his name grants you life forever more.

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Carleton Smee

# January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  New Year's Day	2
3  9:00 AM Virtual Coffee Hour	4	5	6  6:00 PM Bible Study	7	8	9
10  9:00 AM Worship Svc	11	12  9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	13  6:00 PM Bible Study	14	15	16
17  9:00 AM Worship Svc	18	19  9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls  6:00 PM Council Meeting	20  6:00 PM Bible Study	21	22	23
24  9:00 AM Worship Svc	25	26  9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	27  6:00 PM Bible Study	28	29	30
31  9:00 AM Worship Svc  Food Shelf Sunday						

## January 2021

**Team Bloom:** Harvey & Helen Bloom, Gary Kratz, Lois Brenner, Darren & Lynn Bushinger, Tom & Patty Crawford, Lucas & Tania Hendrickson, Irene Oldenburg, Arnie Akkerman

## February 2021

**Team Bramstedt:** Amanda & Glen Bramstedt, Joel & Jeanine Pantzke, Brad & Mary Hansen, Mark & Mary Schlangen, Andy & Kourtney Frank, Florence Jones, Mary Tanner, Lois Breden



January 14 Harvey & Helen Bloom

January 3 Susan Oberton  
January 4 Glen Welters  
January 4 Lawrence Schlangen  
January 8 Charlie Hansen  
January 9 Jacob Hansen  
January 12 Jim Werner  
January 17 Andy Frank  
January 19 Lois Brenner  
January 20 Phyllis Nelson  
January 23 Heddie Wolbeck  
January 28 Pete Hanson  
January 30 Kourtney Frank

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

Mike LuConic 651-249-9540  
Amanda Bramstedt 507-259-0411  
Wendy Richmond 320-360-1981  
Cindy Zetah 218-522-0075

Wade Sandbakken 320-749-2311  
Bruce Ford 218-575-2335  
Harvey Bloom 320-749-2929



***Septuagesima – A Season of Grace***

Do you know what Septuagesima means? Maybe you remember it from 60 years ago in the church calendar, or maybe not if you are younger. Join Pastor Smee for this special Bible study at Bethany in Cushing, **beginning January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**, as we delve into this forgotten 3-week pre-Lenten season prior to our observance of Ash Wednesday. You probably did not know that we used to prepare ourselves for Lent, in which we then prepare ourselves for Easter. One can never be too prepared, right? We will then dig into the three “lost” days of Holy Week as a timeline of Christ’s Passion – Holy Monday, Fig Tuesday, and Spy Wednesday.

**January 20<sup>th</sup>** – Septuagesima: The Story

**January 27<sup>th</sup>** – Septuagesima & Grace

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Sexagesima & Scripture

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** – Quinquagesima & Faith

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday (*NO CLASS*)

**February 24<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Monday

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Fig Tuesday

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** – Spy Wednesday



## **Bodin Austin Scherping**

**December 12, 2020**

**Bethany Lutheran Church**

Parents : Austin and Jessica Scherping

Sponsors: Justin Athman, Rebecca Athman, Connor Scherping  
(Grandson of Theresa Scherping Welters)

### **Financials for December:**

Weekly goal for general offering: \$1,500.00

Received December 6, 2020: \$2,360.00

Received December 13, 2020: \$11,288.76

Received December 20, 2020: \$735.00

Received December 24, 2020: \$1,065.00

Avg YTD Weekly Giving: \$1,440.31

**Attendance at Worship:** December 24, 2020: 31

A Message on Giving from Bethany –  
We have a new giving option!

Dear Members of Bethany Lutheran of Cushing,

Your Bethany Church Council is writing to thank you for your ongoing financial support. Through your contributions, we're able to share the message of Christ with our congregation and the larger community. Together, we are giving people strength and compassion needed to make it through difficult times such as these.

We trust that your support will continue even as we deliver our ministry online, electronically and on the phone. We have joined forces with an eGiving service, Vanco, which provides tools to make giving simple, even when we're unable to attend church. The eGiving service is safe and secure, and it allows you to control your contribution to the church. Vanco also gives ELCA congregations a discount for this service.

eGiving lets you set up recurring giving through either of these options:

- Give+ Mobile app at [https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco\\_ver3.vps?appver3=oo37DPDB\\_IkRvUYRT4XYFRYSLkeAY30iWI4jNLjDjUeOAdImOK-lyzQ3ujo0OPkjoWSag310\\_m90oxAmQ1PGfX65YgDdKBwT10nPYSexOuf0-rA5xRnEzC8B7taVaNI](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=oo37DPDB_IkRvUYRT4XYFRYSLkeAY30iWI4jNLjDjUeOAdImOK-lyzQ3ujo0OPkjoWSag310_m90oxAmQ1PGfX65YgDdKBwT10nPYSexOuf0-rA5xRnEzC8B7taVaNI)

Or – Download the “GivePlus” Mobile App on the App Store or on Google Play, enter the zip code for our church (56443) and set up your automated giving today. On the Bethany Give+ site Lutheran Cushing WebPay – you can easily enter your donation.

Please click on the links to see if any of these eGiving options will work for you or contact Cindy Zetah at 218-522-0075 for more information or to help you get set up. 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 Bethany is the only check you write out anymore, this is the easy way to go! If an online option just isn't for you, that's okay too. We thank you for remembering to mail your regular offering to our PO Box. Thank you again for supporting Bethany and the community we've all worked so hard to nurture.

Sincerely,

Bethany's Church Council