

**Bethany Lutheran Church**

**25430 Bison Road**

**PO Box 37**

**Cushing, MN 56443**

**July 2022**



**Contact Information:**

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

## Where Does The Good Samaritan Take Us?

*But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ... Romans 3:21-24*

When I was about 7 years old, I was given a Bible coloring book by my Grandma with coloring pages of what the publisher believed were the big events from the Bible. I can still remember the many classic Old and New Testament pictures: Adam and Eve in the Garden, Moses and the Burning Bush, David and Goliath. And from the New Testament, the birth of Jesus, Paul falling off his horse, and a picture of a Samaritan bending over a wounded man with the donkey standing beside him. All the coloring pages were very powerful pictures, but especially the one of the Good Samaritan. It was such a powerful image that it helped shape how I understood faith. For I believed and still believe that being a *Good Samaritan*, in the terms of Jesus' parable, still has the power to motivate kindness toward others.

The problem I see on this side of my seminary ordination, is that the Good Samaritan (which we will be studying in church on July 10<sup>th</sup>) really doesn't have a lot to do with my coloring book theology. For one of the major features of the parable is that it sets out to expose sin. It was after the lawyer comes to Jesus to test him by asking how a person gets to heaven, that Jesus turns the test back on the lawyer and questions his understanding of faith. And what Jesus gets from the lawyer is a "works" answer.

As with so many into merit-based religion, the lawyer thinks that the kingdom can be achieved on the basis of his own personal righteousness. But the concern expressed in the parable exposes the work's based theology of the lawyer's self-righteousness. His words do not point to love of God and neighbor. Rather, he only shows concern for his own self and eternal life.

In a sermon shared on October 12, 1534, Martin Luther said about the parable:

*"On these words the case will continue to rest: "Thou shall love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart," and again: "love thy neighbor as thyself." There is no getting around this.*

But after a time of much doing and living and nothing worthwhile has been achieved, nothing but empty hulls without the peas, and shells without the kernels, it is impossible to keep the Law without Christ, except that a man may be obliged to put on a pious front for the sake of honor or gain or from fear of punishment. For if God's grace in Christ is not recognized, the heart cannot turn to God, cannot trust Him, or have love and delight in his commandments, but can only resist them.

Luther shared that the parable puts our faith before us as <sup>24</sup>*they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

## July 2022

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

## August 2022

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



July 2	Tom & Patty Crawford
July 3	Doug & Jackie Wiherski
July 27	Gary & Susan Oberton
July 29	Joel & Jeanine Pantzke
July 30	Wendell & Kim Schultz

July 5	Katherine Wray
July 6	Jim Oberton
July 7	Harvey Bloom
July 8	Joel Pantzke
July 12	Wyatt Petersen
July 23	Jeanine Pantzke
July 30	Bob Miller

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

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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

**Vacation Bible School** will be held August 8-11 from 4:30-7:30 pm, for ages 4 through 6th grade, and we welcome older kids as helpers. This year's theme is Monumental, Celebrating God's Greatness. If you know a child who has not attended our VBS before and would like an invitation, please let Roxie Flicek know. Also, prayerfully consider how you'd like to get involved in this fun-filled week, as we'd love your help!

**Lenten Offering:** \$755.00 was collected during Lent, to help support the Ukrainians. The council made the decision to have Bethany match that amount, which would then be matched by the ELCA.



Baptism of Everett Dylan Hendrickson on June 26, 2022. Pictured with Pastor Carl, the Parents Lucas & Tania Hendrickson and Sponsors Shane & Noelle Oleson