

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

PO Box 37

Cushing, MN 56443

July 2023



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

Bethany Newsletter

Carl Larson, Pastor, Faith and Bethany Lutheran Church, Staples/Cushing

I am writing this devotion to you fully aware that my wife and I will be in the cradle of American Independence just days before the Fourth of July. This year, Carol and I decided to take a trip to the New England states and soak in a little American history. And one of our planned stops will be at the Adams National Historic Park in Quincy, Massachusetts. It was there, at his home in Quincy that John Adams wrote the following insightful words in a letter to his wife concerning the remembrance of Independence Day:

“I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

On the Fourth of July, many of us as Americans will do what John Adam’s believed would take place. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, we will gather with family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate our liberties. We will cookout at our homes and attend special gatherings at Staples, Cushing, and numerous other communities. Fireworks will clearly make their way into the evening skies. Patriotic music will be played and there will be a whole number of games and various competitions that will take place in our backyards, our parks, and in other community gathering places.

But while we take time to celebrate this important event in our countries history, it would also be good and proper to reflect on why we’re celebrating. Our founding fathers and mothers understood the risks necessary for this country to ensure the freedoms that we so often take for granted. They mounted a struggle against what they understood as tyranny to make sure that this country would be a nation guided not by a person, but by law. Among the many freedoms secured because of that struggle included our nation guarantee that all have the right to worship our God. So, on this Fourth of July, as we watch fireworks and wave flags in celebration, may we also pause to reflect on the gifts secured by our nations ancestors and take time to solemnly thank God for all that our freedoms allow.

God blessings to you as we celebrate our Independence Day.

July 2023

Team Oberton: Elizabeth & Jim Oberton, Gary & Pam Bellamy, Lois Brenner, Tom & Patty Crawford, Lucas & Tania Hendrickson, Harvey & Helen Bloom, Arnie Akkerman, Tracy Kjeldergaard, Steve Poole

August 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



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| July 2 nd | Tom & Pat Crawford |
| July 3 rd | Doug & Jackie Wiherski |
| July 27 th | Gary & Susan Oberton |
| July 29 th | Joel & Jeanine Pantzke |
| July 30 th | Wendell & Kim Schultz |

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| July 5 th | Kathy Wray |
| July 6 th | Jim Oberton |
| July 7 th | Harvey Bloom |
| July 8 th | Joel Pantzke |
| July 12 th | Wyatt Petersen |
| July 23 rd | Jeanine Pantzke |
| July 30 th | Bob Miller |

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 320-232-9204

Vacation Bible School: VBS will be held August 7-10, 4:30-7:30 pm. This year's theme is "Stellar, Shine Jesus' Light". Kids, mark your calendars so you don't miss this Out of the World event! VBS is for ages 4 through 6th grade, and we welcome older kids as helpers. If you know of a child who has not attended our VBS in the past and would like an invitation, please let Roxie Flicek know. Also, if you're interested in being a part of this fun week, talk with Roxie and we'll find a job for you. Talk with Wendy Richmond if you want to help in the kitchen. Thanks!

We'll be setting up and decorating for VBS on Sunday, August 6, at 3 pm, and will appreciate your help if you're available. We'll serve Root Beer Floats after our last VBS on Thursday, August 11. Please join us for floats and socialization around 7:45, or come earlier if you want to see some of what happens at VBS. This is a great time for our neighbors to get to know us and feel welcome. If you can, plan to help clean up afterwards. Again, we'll appreciate help!

Garage Sale: Thank you to all who helped with the garage sale! It was another successful sale. We raised over \$1,700.00 for the Youth Account. Final numbers will be available after all the monies are received.



Bethany honored their 2023 graduates on Sunday, June 11, Kortnee Olson and Alexander Oberton.