

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

PO Box 37

Cushing, MN 56443

July 2024

Growing 
Together
in Faith

Contact Information:

Church phone 320-749-2140

Pastor Carl Larson 605-924-1121

Pastor Carl's email is

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Pastor Chris Mathiason 717-829-5237

Pastor Chris' email is

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Wendy R. (secretary) 320-360-1981

Wendy's email is

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Bethany's Website:

www.bethanylutherancushing.org

Tending The Garden/Growing Faith

...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen

I love being out in my garden. Every morning before going to work I make time to look out on the garden to see that all things are growing as hoped. And then after work the first thing that I do when I come home is walk out to the garden to see how things are reaching skyward. Besides physically spending time in the garden, I also make time in my weekly schedule to visit with my gardening authorities, my mom and dad. Both give gardening insights gained over the years on how to better grow the various fruits and vegetables.

But over the past few years, I've discovered a few truths of my own about gardening. And those truths are centered on the understanding that no matter how much I want the green beans to grow or the cucumbers to climb or the Brussel sprouts to sprout, so much of gardening is God's doing. I can prepare the soil, plant the seed, and provide water. But the majority of the work is done by God, as God provides the sun, the rain, the soil, and so many other components of the growing puzzle.

And in a very real way, that's how the growth of Bethany will happen. We are called to go out into God's garden, our world, and spread a few seeds that tell of God's goodness. We are to water those seeds by telling friends and neighbors about the nurturing love found in God's church. And we are to make sure that at worship a glimpse of the light of Christ is witnessed by all. That is what we are called to do.

God's blessings as you grow your garden.

In Christ,

Pastor Carl

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Chis	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship/ Potluck Lunch Pastor Carl	15	16 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	17	18	19	20
21 Joint Service at Faith in Staples 9:00 AM service, followed by a potluck lunch	22	23	24 6:00 PM VBS Planning Meeting	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Carl Food Shelf Sunday	29	30	31			

July 2024

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

August 2024

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



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

July 5 th	Katherine 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
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

Vacation Bible School: This year's VBS theme is hometown Nazareth, where Jesus was a kid. Kids will travel back in time to learn about Jesus' hometown and what his childhood was like! We'll learn how people stood up for their faith among people who doubted that a carpenter's son could really be God's Son. Sounds like an exciting week! Dates are August 12-15, 4:30 – 7:30 PM. VBS is for ages four through sixth 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 contact Roxie Flicek. 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!

2024 Quilt Raffle: The quilt is on display in the fellowship hall. Tickets are being sold for \$1.00. See one of the Women of Bethany if you would like to sell tickets to friends and family. Also included in the raffle will be two handmade rugs, donated to Bethany at the Garage Sale. They are also on display in the fellowship room.

Sunday July 14th Service: This worship service will have contemporary music similar to our outdoor service. We will have a potluck lunch after the service.

Outdoor Worship: The date of the next Saturday evening outdoor worship is August 17. There will be a BBQ supper at 5:00 PM and worship at 6:00 PM.

Joint Worship Service: Faith Lutheran in Staples has invited Bethany to a joint service on Sunday, July 21 at 9:00 AM to celebrate Pastor Carl's 25 years of ordination celebration. There will be a potluck lunch after the service. Please bring a dish to share. There will be NO service at Bethany on July 21.

Solar Update: This past month on June 20th we celebrated the one-year anniversary of the solar array being placed in service. In 12 months, the array has generated just over 68,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. That is enough energy to power the average Minnesota home for 7.5 years. This is also roughly 4,500 kilowatt hours more than what we had planned for when evaluating the project originally. Financially the solar array has also performed well. From June 2021 through May 2022, the Church paid \$6,359 in electric bills. From June 2022 through May 2023, the Church paid \$6,377 in electric bills. With the array producing energy from June 2023 through May 2024 the Church paid \$6,703 – yes that is technically \$326 more than we paid the previous year but it's because of the loan payments. Every month Bethany is paying \$594 for the loan we took out to cover the construction costs. If the loan had been paid off already, not only would Bethany have paid \$0 in electrical bills for the first year of production but Stearn's Electric would have actually paid Bethany \$425 for the energy we sold to them. Bethany Lutheran still owes about \$48,000 on the loan and has made significant advances in the last few months in securing the 30% Rebate promised in the Inflation Reduction Act. Our pre-registration has been approved, multiple tax forms have been completed, and we are now waiting for the IRS to update their system so that we can officially submit our request. Once we get the federal rebate, the council will determine what portion will go to the General Fund and what portion will be used to pay down the principal of the loan. **By this time next year when we are celebrating our second full year of energy production, it is likely there will be less than 4 years of loan payments remaining followed by 20-25 years of Bethany operating with no annual energy costs.** In the meantime, if you wish to help Bethany eliminate the loan payments sooner, please consider making a donation to the solar project - remember to include SOLAR in the designation on your check or envelope.