

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

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Cushing, MN 56443

June 2021



Contact Information:

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Go!

The LORD said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. - Genesis 12:1

Twenty-five years ago, this spring, I was planning for a new stage of my life. Like most graduating seniors I was looking ahead to college. I was looking forward to what was going to happen and where I was going to end up. I had no plans for my future beyond going to Minnesota to Bethel College, graduating as soon as possible, and returning to California with the hopes of knowing what I was supposed to do. I never imagined I would meet my wife, Carry, within the first week. I never thought I would spend my summers working on campus because I wanted to stay. I never thought that this was the place God was sending me for more than half of my life. I have always been California boy, through and through. Minnesota was the land of my mother, but not necessarily my home.

However, over the last twenty-five years Minnesota has become my home. It is where I was married. It was where I bought my first car and my first house. It is where my kids were born, and where I learned about life as an adult. Minnesota is where I was “saved” from my “fundamentalist” past and became a Lutheran (there are not many in California), and where I entered pastoral candidacy and the seminary (for the second time). Five years ago, Minnesota is where I was ordained and where I received my first call in northern Minnesota. It is where God, finally, after 15 years, fulfilled his call upon me to serve the church fulltime.

The text we have from Genesis 12:1 has always been important to me as I think back on this reality of how my life has been led and guided by the Lord. How he took me from my father's house and sent me to a land I did not know, and it was there that all these blessings were poured into my life by his grace.

But now, as most of you know, I am making a reverse pilgrimage. After these twenty-five years in Minnesota, God has opened some doors for me to return to California to continue to serve as a pastor, while being closer to my family. It is an opportunity I have been waiting for, but never thought it would happen, nor did I imagine that it would be such a hard decision. I will miss Minnesota. I will miss the people I have fallen in love with through ministry and life. I will miss you as you were a church that was there to pick me up at a time in which I was wondering whether I should still continue to be a pastor.

Genesis 12, with its story about Abram and his calling, is not just part of my life, but it is also about you. It is about the reality of God's call upon you. Where might God be calling you to go that is not on your radar right now? What is God asking you to do, to lose, to give up, in order to serve his purposes in the world? Where is God calling his church to go, which may not be where we are prepared to go, but he is telling us to “Go!”? In what way might he be challenging you as a congregation to be open for change and newness at a time when you are happy or comfortable with the status quo, or yearning for what used to be that is gone due to a pandemic?

Abram was seventy-five years old when God called him to leave his home and family and go be a sojourner in a land he never saw before. He was given a promise of this land passing to his children, which he would never live to see the fulfillment. As we journey through this life as disciple of Christ, we find ourselves being called to "Go!" whether we like the idea, are prepared for it, or have been asking for it. Allow God to speak to you in these last few years. Allow his word to cling to your bones as you wonder whether the road will be bumpy, winding, long, or a dead end. God will uplift you and hold you close. God's mercies be with you now and always.

In Christ,

Pastor Carleton Smee

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 PM Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion Clean-Up Day Youth Sunday Pastor Smee	7	8 9:00 AM Cookie Baking	9	10	11	12
13 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Carl	14 6:45 PM VBS Planning Meeting	15 6:00 PM Church Council Mtg	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Smee	21	22	23 6:00 PM Bible Study	24 1:30 PM Worship & Music Meeting	25 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Youth Garage Sale	26 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Youth Garage Sale
27 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship Food Shelf Sunday Pastor Carl	28	29	30 6:00 PM Bible Study			

June 2021

Team Flicek: Roxie Flicek, Ken & Judy Shorter, Lonnie & Shauna Stokes, Pete & Louise Hanson, Cory & Tracy Natvig, Charlie & Anna Hansen, John & Phyllis Nelson, Don & Heddie Wolbeck

July 2021

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



June 2 nd	Jim & Elizabeth Oberton
June 5 th	Carlton & Carry Smee
June 18 th	Bill & Linda Bates
June 20 th	Tom & Sandy Bjorge
June 20 th	Pete & Louise Hanson
June 20 th	Glen & Amanda Bramstedt
June 20 th	Carl & Carol Larson
June 24 th	Ken & Judy Shorter
June 27 th	Dave & Sharon Cina

June 4 th	Betty Loberg
June 4 th	Marilyn Mueller
June 8 th	Leone Johnson
June 10 th	Dave Cina
June 10 th	Joanie Miller
June 13 th	Theresa Welters
June 22 nd	Helen Bloom
June 24 th	Mike LuConic
June 25 th	Tom Crawford

God's Work Our Hands: Spring Cleanup Day will be Sunday, June 6, following the service.

Online Daily Meditation - Join Pastor Smee on the church Facebook page, his website, or his podcast, as we look at the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Each day will be a different one of our appointed prayers or readings, trying to see where God is speaking to us as we seek to hear the Gospel when we gather together each week. You can go to: www.facebook.com/FLCStaples, www.facebook.com/CushingBeth, or www.treadweary.com/sounds.html. Or search "The Treadweary Podcast" on your podcast provider.

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

Mike LuConic 651-249-9540
Amanda Bramstedt 507-259-0411
Wendy Richmond 320-360-1981
Roxie Flicek 320-749-2026

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

Youth Garage Sale: Bethany will be having a sale on June 25-26, 2021. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them to the church. We will put them in the Sunday School room. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda or Wendy.

Landscaping: Bethany needs someone to take over the landscaping maintenance. If you are interested, please let Wendy know.

Cushing Days: Cushing will be having a car show on Saturday, July 31. Bethany will have a Free Will Pancake Breakfast that morning. We will be looking for members to help out as the date gets closer.

Custodian: Bethany is also looking for someone to take over the custodian position. This is a paid position with about 10-15 hours a month. If you are interested, please let Wendy know.

2021 Quilt Raffle: Raffle tickets are now available to purchase. Tickets are \$1.00. The drawing will be on September 19. The queen size quilt is on display in the fellowship hall. If you would like to help sell tickets, please see Wendy or Jan Bueckers.

Fellowship Baking: During the summer months, we will meet once a month (2nd Tuesday of the month) to bake cookies for fellowship. All are welcome! We will meet from 9:00 – noon.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held IN-PERSON this year!!!! YAY!!! We're thrilled to again provide our fun and exciting VBS!! Dates are Monday - Thursday, August 9-12, from 4:30 - 7:30 pm for ages 4 through 6th grade. Stay tuned for further information!! We'll have our first planning meeting on Monday, June 14, at 6:45 pm. Anyone interested in helping with this amazing ministry is welcome to join in the fun. Also, if you know of a child in the area that would like to attend and hasn't attended before, please get names and addresses to Roxie Flicek.



Confirmation May 23, 2021
Garrett Olson, Kortnee Olson, Pastor
Carl Larson, Alexander Oberton, Corey
Hansen



Quilt for Women of Bethany 2021 Quilt
Raffle