

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

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Cushing, MN 56443

November 2023



Contact Information:

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www.bethanylutherancushing.org

Blessed November to you all. We are well into the Fall season. The colors of the leaves have been particularly striking this year. Yellows, reds and even brown as a contrast. I hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have had.

On Sunday, November 5th, we celebrate All Saints Day. A day set aside to remember all those who have died in the past year. We remember our loss but we also trust in Jesus promise of eternal life to all who believe. I wanted to write a little about what part the Funeral Service plays in our grief and in our hope in eternal life. We live in a time when we try to deny death. We don't like to think about the fact that we all will die. But the truth is, we will.

A Christian Funeral looks at death full in the face. We gather because we need a time to mourn, a time to be present with a mourning family, a time to think about a life that has ended and a time to hear God's promise of eternal life. The truth is a Funeral is not for the person who died. The dead are beyond this world, they are in God's care. The Funeral is a time for those of us who live. We need to say good bye and grieve. We need to hear that Jesus has gone ahead to make a place for us. We need a time to cry and a time to laugh over good memories.

Some people find funerals depressing and leave wishes that they don't want a funeral. I would argue it is much sadder to take away a chance for family and friends to say goodbye. We need times to grieve and we need times to remember. God is good, Jesus is our Savior and all who believe will receive eternal life. But we humans need time to grieve the loss of our loved ones. We give thanks for the funerals, memorial services and grave side services, not because we are happy someone died, we give thanks for the chance to mourn and the chance to hear God's promise.

The past few weeks have been full of funerals in the community. These people will be missed. I do give thanks for all who come together to offer Christian hospitality. It does take a village to make a funeral service. I am so grateful for all those who decorate, prepare food, clean up after and provided music. We fellowship over food, we hear good memories shared, we grieve the loss of our loved one and we hear again God's good news. I am so grateful to be part of a church that cares for families in their time of grief.

I am also grateful I get to speak words of hope. God has already defeated death. Even though we will die, we will live in God's presence forever.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Chris

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship/ Sunday School Pastor Chis	6	7 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	8	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship/ Confirmation Class Pastor Carl	13	14 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship/Break- fast/Sunday School Pastor Chris	20	21 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	26
26 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship/ Confirmation Class Pastor Carl Food Shelf	27	28 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	29	30		

November 2023

Team Oberton: Gary & Susan Oberton, Marilyn Mueller, David & Maggie Petersen, Dave & Shron Cina, Kathy Wray, Doug & Jackie Wiherski, Gary & Tracy Statema, Tom Sullivan & Ashley Statema

December 2023

Team Bueckers: Norb & Jan Bueckers, Ken & Judy Shorter, Roxie Flicek, Charlie & Anna Hansen, John & Phyllis Nelson, Don & Heddie Wolbeck, Wade & Kayla Sandbakken, Rick & Donna Lundgren



Nov 1st Gary & Pam Bellamy
Nov 1st David & Maggie Petersen

Nov 2nd Bruce Ford
Nov 10th Darline Molde
Nov 13th Ken Shorter
Nov 22nd Morgan Statema
Nov 24th Emily Oberton
Nov 24th Gary Statema
Nov 28th John Nelson
Nov 30th Henry Mathiason

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

Darren Bushinger 218-252-5011
Norb Bueckers 320-760-9055
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Tania Hendrickson 612-618-8454
Gary Oberton 320-749-2992
Elizabeth Oberton 320-630-3100
Maggie Petersen 320-630-3529

Solar Tax Credit

Bethany's solar array is up and working, and from here forward for 30 or so years, this building will produce its own energy. Clean, quiet and free, once the array has been paid for. Last summer, 2022, the federal government passed the bi partisan Inflation Reduction Act. Businesses and homeowners have been receiving a tax credit for years when they build a solar array. The new law expanded this tax credit and now non-profits like Bethany are eligible also. Because we do not pay taxes, we will receive a check for 30% of our cost. Bethany will file something like a tax return in the new year and when the IRS gets the details in place, sometime in 2024, we will have the chance to pay down our Stearns loan and begin saving more money.

Correction to the Annual Meeting Solar report.

In the annual meeting report, we got our numbers crossed a bit and offer here a correction. To recap, and I am rounding these first numbers off to the nearest thousandth. We paid \$100,000 to KB Electric to build our system, using \$36,000 that we raised during our solar campaign, along with \$54,000 we borrowed at 5.9% interest from the Stearns Electric Coop, we were left with the rest to be paid out of the Bethany General Fund, our day-to-day expense checking account. This amounted to \$10,891.

Now here is the best part, the solar array is producing well and looks like it will pay most or possibly all of its loan payments from here forward. Each year will be a little different because of weather conditions. If electric rates increase our savings will be stronger.

Update provided by Gary Oberton