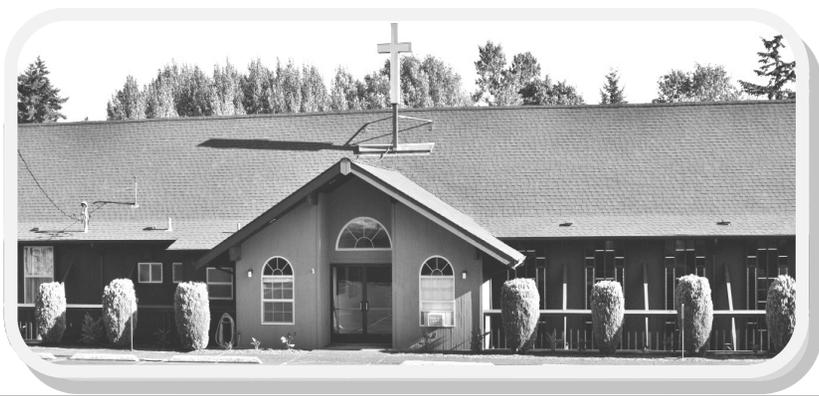




# August 2020 Newsletter

## Bethany Lutheran Church



**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
2900 Parkview Drive  
Longview, WA 98632

**Church: 360-577-8240**  
**Fax: 360-577-2614**

**Pastor Megan Filer**  
Cell: 360-431-1988

**Bethany website:** [www.bethanylongview.org](http://www.bethanylongview.org)

**Office Hours** Closed through May

**Secretary office email:** [secretary@bethanylongview.org](mailto:secretary@bethanylongview.org)

### **Worship Time**

**9:30** Worship (Zoom & Facebook)

**10:30** Coffee Hour (Zoom & Phone calls)



*...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*  
-Isaiah 40:31

Waiting is the worst. Our daughter, Hadley, tells me all the time how practicing patience is so hard and not fair and not fun (that's why we practice it a lot of course). But lately it feels like we've all been practicing our patience, waiting for this pandemic to be over, for the virus to run its course, for things to return to some semblance of normalcy. And as we wait and wait, that renewal just doesn't seem to come.

As I write this, our county has just announced its first deaths to COVID-19, and my heart breaks. It breaks for those who have lost their lives, for those who have lost their family members and loved ones, and it is yet another reminder that we are not done waiting.

I've found myself feeling disappointed and deflated as we postpone our outdoor worship services. I am grateful and relieved for the re-opening subcommittees decisions, whether it be because of the additional risk (not to mention workload) an additional services puts on me or because as I write this it's clear that our county hasn't been ready yet. But even in this gratitude and relief, I'm still disappointed, as we continue to wait.

And so in my own practicing of patience, I turn to Isaiah. As Isaiah preaches to a people who waited far longer than we have, I find hope and comfort in the Lord's reminder—for those who wait.

This text is a reminder that there is light at the end of the tunnel, even if the tunnel winds and changes and normal looks vastly different at the end of it. Isaiah reminds us that in the midst of our waiting, of our disappointments, there is always hope—hope for renewed strength, for energy, and for perseverance.

May the God whose presence surrounds us as we wait continue to lift you up this month and bring you hope as we practice patience together.

Blessings,

Pastor Megan

## Staying Home & Staying Connected

We believe it is in the best interest of our congregation and our community to suspend all gatherings at this time. We recognize that during this time, many might find themselves feeling isolated, and we want you to know that your church family is still here for you, even if it is via phone, email, or online.

### Staying Connected

Please consider connecting with at least one or two other members from our church directory via phone and asking them to regularly check in with you as well. This may be daily phone calls or every other day. Let us know who you're connecting with via email or phone so that we can make sure no one is being left behind.

Women of Bethany are encouraged to connect with a fellow bible study buddy to call at 10:30am each Tuesday to have a phone-call bible study. Breakfast group and Duct Tape group are encouraged to connect with at least one fellow member during your regular meeting time via phone. The Moms of Young Children Book Club will be meeting weekly via Zoom.

### Worship @ Home

We will be streaming worship online at [facebook.com/bethanylongview](https://www.facebook.com/bethanylongview) as well as on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSrgbiDWVYBB8ibeB7qZpvg> and via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/6153119848>. The most recent video of worship will be available below once we begin. You can also listen to Pastor Megan's sermons online here: <http://bethanylongview.org/sermons>. During our worship at home, each service will include a time where you may receive communion at home with whatever elements you have available, they will be included in our communion together electronically.

### Offering @ Home

To continue with your offering, checks may be mailed to the church office, you can sign up for Simply Giving here: <http://www.thefellowship.com/downloads/simplygiving.pdf>, or you can use the [Vanco GivePlus+ App](#) on your phone to give electronically. For assistance, give us a call to walk you through any of these processes.

### Church Office

The church office continues to be closed. The phones will be forwarded and our secretary Kim will be working from home as much as possible. Essential tasks may be completed at the church building such as treasurers meeting, emergency maintenance, or staff needs. The alarm will be armed.

### Prayer

During this time of anxiety and worry, prayer is so important. We continue to pray for those who are affected by COVID-19, for those who are self-quarantined, for those who are experiencing isolation, anxiety, and fear, we lift all afflicted to our Lord in prayer. Know that you are not alone, God is with you and we are in this together. Please call, email, and reach out as you need.

# Bethany's Corner



Susan Johnson is our prayer chain contact. You may contact her with your prayer concerns at 360-261-9122 or email her at [BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com](mailto:BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com).

## *Continued Prayers & Healing*

|              |                 |               |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Takko family | Custer family   | Yockey family |
| Judy Bailey  | Rae Davenport   | Amy Thibodeau |
| Krista Croy  | Donna Zimmerman |               |



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 02 Butch & Pam Alexander | 08 Ivan & Betty Olson      |
| 03 Glen & Beth Milhiser  | 14 George & Gail Obermeyer |
| 05 Gene & Debra Zandi    |                            |

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 04 Bob Reistroffer | 12 Olivia Engebo |
| 05 Rick Loewen     | 13 Xander Gireth |
| 06 Bob Baldwin     | 27 Eric Johnson  |
| 07 Roger Lee       | 29 DiAnn Foslien |
| 10 Phyllis Cavens  |                  |

# Upcoming Events!

## Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with set up and clean up for our outdoor worship service.

We also need volunteers to help ensure that we are following all of the health and safety requirements. In addition, we are still seeking singers and readers for our online service.

*Let Pastor Megan know if you are interested in helping.*

## Rummage Sale

The rummage sale has been postponed again, more information will be coming soon. The rummage sale has been our biggest fundraiser in the past so we are looking forward to a great one again this year. Please hold on to your donations and you will be able to bring them into the church at a later time. Questions? Ask Barb Wilson or Carol Lane.

Thank you for all your great stuff!!

## Ministry of the Month!

For August this month, we are giving thanks and celebrating the members of our Re-Opening Subcommittee. From research, meetings, planning, policies, and logistics, this new team has been working hard during these months and we are so grateful for all that they do. Thank you to Council President

Tori Gosch, to Duct Tape representative Rick Loewen, to Council & Duct Tape representative Carol Thompson, and to Worship/Music representative Renee Pelster.

Thank you for all you do!

## Youth and Family Link Community Baby Shower

Access to baby items is essential to giving a baby a healthy start. A Community Baby Shower is a community-wide effort to collect baby items to support mothers in need with basic supplies to benefit a baby's health and development. When we support mothers, our whole community does better. Below is a wish list of items needed to distribute to individuals in the community.

### **How You Can Help**

Your donation of newborn necessities will help new and expectant parents experiencing economic hardship give their children a stronger start. Please note we can only accept donations of NEW ITEMS.

Items can be dropped off or sent to Youth and Family Link (907 Douglas St., Longview, WA 98632) or purchased off the Community Baby Shower Wish List at <https://a.co/frwxSRX>

## **Small Seeds Children's Ministry**

Small Seeds Saturday – Giving our young ones space to grow in their faith, to play and to get to know each other. Small Seeds Saturday is two hours of games, Bible, crafts, & fun!

### **Wednesday's at 4pm via Zoom**

Small Seeds Sunday – Knowing that part of planting small seeds for our children is helping them to see how Worship can be for them too! These special worship services will have the usual litany simplified, song choices familiar to our young ones (and the young at heart), a children's message, as well as an invitation to our children to help lead through lighting the candles and ushering.

**Mark your calendar: August 9th @ 9:30am**

# Growing in Faith & Knowledge

## MYC (Moms of Young Children) Book Club

We have a new group for mothers with young children that meets for a weekly book club Wednesday mornings at 10am on Zoom to discuss the reading, faith, and shared

## Online Worship

Sundays at 9:30am, Streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom.

Join us as we gather electronically to worship together as the Body of Christ from our homes.

## **NEW! Zoom – Video & Phone**

Using Zoom, you can login to worship with us via your computer, phone, or even by calling in to listen. Join the call as early as 15 minutes prior to our worship start time for fellowship with your Bethany Family. Coffee hour chat via Zoom will also be available for 30 minutes following worship.

Join Zoom Meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/6153119848>

Or to call in:

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 615 311 9848

Password: 2900

## **A Lament - Crying in Love for Change! ~ Barbara Clausen**

Creator, Heavenly Father...

Walking the angry path on this timeless lonely beach

Crying out to you to wipe out hate and prejudice

Seeing agonized faces of struggling women and tortured blacks

Bloodied and bruised with broken dreams for the future.

Rise up, come to heal us! Rise up, come to help us see a better world!

See love, forgiveness, and opening doors

Throughout our weeping land.

We flock to follow you with humble spirits.

Hoping for a healing, transformed world.

We pray for peaceful change.

## **GOVERNOR INSLEE REQUIRES FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW THESE SAFETY PRACTICES FOR COVID-19**

This poster is required to be visibly posted both indoor and outdoor.

Indoor access should be primarily through the front door. All attendees shall wear face coverings before, during and after the service (whether indoor or outdoor).

There may be no physical contact between servers, members, nor visitors. Anything to be consumed may not be presented to members nor visitors in a communal container nor plate.

No choirs shall perform during the service.

Restrooms may be used providing that access is controlled and limited to no more than 2 people (in our case 1) at a time. Individuals waiting must maintain 6 feet distance between each person.

Soap and water and alcohol based (60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol) hand sanitizers shall be present at multiple convenient locations. All persons should be required to wash their hands before and after using the bathroom, before and after eating and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose.

Disinfectants must be available to employees, members, and visitors throughout the location inside and outside.

Clean and disinfect all high touch surfaces after each use; include work stations, mirrors, chairs, armrests, door-knobs, handrails, and restrooms. Use soapy water followed by disinfectants.

Organization must place 6 feet radius markings on floors and seats to help guide members and visitors.

Increase ventilation rates where feasible.

Ensure that tissues and trashcans are placed throughout the location.

All must self screen for signs of symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving at the location (taking temperature, staying home if experiencing fever, cough, or other symptoms).

## Reopening Update

Our Re-Opening Subcommittee decided that with our county's current rate of new COVID-19 cases, it is in the best interest of our members to postpone our outdoor worship service. At this time we are not scheduling another target date. The subcommittee will be meeting again on August 12th at 12pm. For those who are not able to access worship videos online with us, **beginning this Sunday August 2nd at 12:30pm** we will be hosting a small, socially distanced worship watch party at the church. Pastor Megan will play the morning's worship service on the projector for those gathered. If you would like to attend, please **RSVP** by contacting Pastor Megan at [pastor@bethanylongview.org](mailto:pastor@bethanylongview.org) or at her home number 360-822-9334. Attendance will be **limited to 10 visitors** who have signed up ahead of time, masks and physical distancing will be required. You may bring your communion elements with you to consume in your vehicle after the service has ended. Masks, hand sanitizer, and communion elements will be available if needed.

We continue to keep our Bethany Lutheran family in our prayers, and look forward to connecting with each of you soon.

### **If you are planning to join us for in-person service**

- ◇ Check your temperature before leaving your home, if you have a fever please stay home and worship with us online
- ◇ Bring face covering (cloth or disposable masks) for yourself and your family
- ◇ Remember bread and juice to be left in your car for receiving communion at the end of the service

### Donations Wanted

We are seeking donations of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and disposable masks.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

## Serving with Bethany

Throughout our newsletter you can see upcoming events and opportunities for service, fellowship, worship, and more. As we continue to grow, we recognize how important it is to invite others into service with us.

We are also always looking for new ways to serve our Lord and our neighbor together, if God has put a project on your heart, fill out an event proposal!

Many of the upcoming events and opportunities you can read about are still in need of volunteers for planning, and for the day of the events! We invite you to pray about the ways God might use you to serve our Lord and serve our neighbor together!

### **Upcoming Service Opportunities:**

- FISH Food Pantry Distribution  
Contact Pam Van den Driessche or Marge Yockey
- Duct Tape Maintenance Volunteering (Thursdays 9am-12pm)  
Contact Rick Loewen or Dave Foslien
- Office Help Volunteering (Thursday Mornings)  
Contact Kim Moran
- Caring Ministries (Cards, Phone Calls, Visits)  
Contact Pastor Megan
- Church Council, Committees, and Finances  
Contact Pastor Megan, Tori Gosch, or Barb Wilson



### **Upcoming Youth Opportunities:**

- Small Seeds Ministry (2nd Weekend of the Month)  
Contact Pat Reistroffer or Pastor Megan

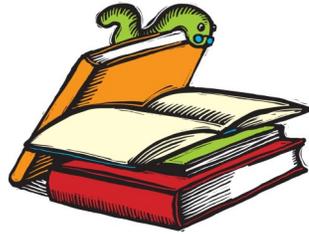


# Serving with Bethany continued...

## Upcoming Fellowship

### Opportunities:

- Member Sunday Celebrations  
Contact Pastor Megan



## Upcoming Education

### Opportunities:

- Every Tuesday...Women of Bethany Bible Study at 10:30 am. All are welcome.  
Contact Kathy Newton.

## Upcoming Worship Opportunities:

- Praise Team (Sunday mornings)  
Contact Pastor Megan
- Worship Ministries (Ushering, Reading, Coffee Hour, Communion assisting/setup, PowerPoint, etc)  
Contact Ardyth Loewen



**Do you have your own idea for an exciting ministry God is putting on your heart?** Let us know! Event proposal forms are available in the office or on the bulletin board, you chat with Pastor for more info!

| Offering to date (June) |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 2019                    | 2020         |
| \$70,954.15             | \$ 67,665.00 |
| Expenses to date (June) |              |
| 2019                    | 2020         |
| \$71,508.97             | \$70,690.66  |

# July Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church  
No Council Meeting

## People of the Bible

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | Q | F | Q | N | I | V | S | H | D | R | A | M | B | G |
| E | M | C | O | K | O | G | R | A | Z | N | X | L | M | H |
| E | V | P | Y | J | A | M | H | J | M | Q | E | Z | N | S |
| R | L | P | A | B | A | J | O | I | M | S | I | Z | D | T |
| S | S | M | R | N | B | Y | G | L | A | A | O | J | A | R |
| D | E | I | J | O | R | N | F | E | O | N | R | N | V | E |
| S | E | S | T | A | A | B | T | Y | U | S | H | Y | I | T |
| L | K | H | O | H | H | S | U | S | E | J | Y | Q | D | E |
| L | H | A | J | M | A | Q | W | T | U | E | H | Q | M | P |
| E | P | X | H | N | M | D | P | B | P | P | V | A | V | I |
| J | O | S | H | U | A | A | D | A | E | V | D | E | X | E |
| Z | H | R | M | J | U | K | W | S | U | A | C | D | X | A |
| J | O | H | N | L | T | T | O | W | E | H | T | T | A | M |
| U | L | H | T | U | R | J | G | B | N | P | D | L | P | C |
| T | Q | F | R | V | F | K | S | J | Y | J | T | T | O | I |

|         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| ABRAHAM | ADAM    | DAVID   |
| ELIJAH  | EVE     | GABRIEL |
| JAMES   | JESUS   | JOHN    |
| JOSEPH  | JOSHUA  | MARY    |
| MATTHEW | MOSES   | NOAH    |
| PAUL    | PETER   | RUTH    |
| SAMSON  | SOLOMON |         |

## Devotional

As Council did not have a meeting this July, Pastor wanted to share a devotion for you to share in at home for this month from St John's Lutheran Church in Indiana (For more of their daily pandemic devotional, check it out online: <https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/2020/03/pandemic-hope-devotional/>)

From Week 4, Sunday

I invite you to read with me John 14:1-4: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."

—What did you hear in this story? What was your favorite part? How do you experience God's love in this reading today? How might you respond to this love?

Let us pray—Amazing God, you come to us when our hearts are troubled, promising us space within your light, dwelling places of hope and comfort. You prepare a place for us, and you draw us near to you. Be with us during this time, help us to bring your peace and comfort to our loved ones and those we connect with, continue to fill our hearts with your peace. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

Faith Practice: Download a reflective coloring sheet, or try making your own at <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2017/05/reflective-colouring-sheet-john-146-7-i.html>

You are known and loved by God, may God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you, may the Lord turn God's face to you and give you peace. Amen.

## Meetings At Bethany!



### Women of Bethany

Women of Bethany will be meeting four times this year! You can join us for our next meeting on the 5th Tuesday of March, June, and September at 10:30am. Also, we are in need of a chairperson to lead our group. Meeting only 4 times a year would make it even easier.

Please give this some thought and prayer.

### Breakfast Group

Our Breakfast Group is currently not meeting, but as the Elks at the Elks at 900 Ash Street in Kelso opens up more, we may begin gathering again for delicious food.. What a great

opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship!

Free coffee if you arrive before 8:00am.



### Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30 on Zoom.

### Duct Tape Crew

The Duct Tape Crew meets on Thursday mornings at 9am and are the "fix it" crew at Bethany. This group of men and women repair, clean, install, mow and do many other things to keep our church beautiful and up and running. If you have ever used duct tape and like donuts, you are highly qualified. Come join us at 10am for coffee.



**2020 Church Council**

Tori Gosch / President ..... goschrae@gmail.com ..... 360-560-9535  
Glenn Milhiser ..... glennbeth@centurylink.net ..... 360-431-2997  
Carol Thompson ..... duanecarolthompson@q.com ..... 360-425-3733  
John Pelster/Secretary. .... john.pelster@gmail.com ..... 503-309-7357  
Carol Lane/Vice President ..... ca3424927@gmail.com. .... 360-431-3564  
Norma Oylo..... whonho2@gmail.com. .... 360-274-7851  
Bob Reistroffer/ Treasurer. .... BReistrof@aol.com ..... 360-636-5125  
Don Wallin / Treasurer ..... Dew2@q.com ..... 503-556-8716  
Megan Filer/ Pastor ..... pastor@bethanylongview.org .... 360-431-1988

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

**“BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A FAMILY  
SHARING LOVE AND CARE, WHERE ALL ARE  
WELCOME AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED US.”**

**Our Vision Statement:**

**“We are a Christ-centered church that  
reaches out in our community building  
connections through loving service.”**

*Newsletter articles must be submitted before the 20th of the month prior in order to be published. There will be a reminder in the weekly announcements reminding everyone about the deadline.*

*While all efforts are made to keep original submissions, article submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, spelling, grammar and formatted to fit in the space allowed.*



**Bethany Lutheran Church  
2900 Parkview Drive  
Longview, WA 98632**

**August 2020**

**God's Blessings to . . .**