

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

July 2022

God's Blessings to . . .



**January 2024
Newsletter**

Bethany Lutheran Church



Bethany Lutheran Church

Church: 360-577-8240

2900 Parkview Dr. Longview, WA 98632

Pastor Susan Dollinger

Church Musician: Dorothy McMillan

Admin. Asst: Ginger Garner

Bethany website: www.bethanylongview.org

Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 9:30am - 3pm

Office email: secretary@bethanylongview.org

Pastor email: pastor@bethanylongview.org

Sunday Morning Worship Time

9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17

January, the beginning of the secular year, is a traditional time to reflect upon the year before and to reset for the year to come. Many people set goals at this time; some we stick to, and some don't make it past January.

For whatever reason, there is a natural rush to think about the year ahead and also about the year that is now behind. We pray for the memories of last year to be gentle ones and the anticipation of the new year to be one filled with hope.

Luther's morning prayer to start the new year comes to mind: *I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen"*

I pray for all of you, that you all feel Christ's power in you, that you feel God's light shine within, and that you carry both out into the world. May 2024 be a year of hope and happiness, joys and laughter. May you have less sorrow than last year and be healed in all the ways you need healing, whether that body, mind, or spirit. And may you find ways to draw closer to Christ in the coming year.

Remember in all your reflections and goal-setting that you are a beloved child of God today and always.

With Grace,
Pastor Susan

Online Worship

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

Uploaded to YouTube the following Tuesday.

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.

Join Zoom Meetings:

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

Or to call in:

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 615 311 9848

Password: 2900

Name/Position/Term
1. Joyce Croy (2024) 2nd Term
2. Barbara Clausen (President, 2024) 1st Term
4. Phyllis Cavens (2025)
5. George Obermeyer (2026)
6. Beth Grambo (Secretary, 2024) 1st Term
7. Tori Gosch (Vice President, 2024) 2nd Term
8. P. Susan Dollinger (Pastor)
Susan Shui (Treasurer)

Staff Report – From Ginger Garner

• **Facility Use -None**

Other- Ginger is nearing 90 days, Pastor scheduling a meeting for her 90-day review and goal setting. Results will be shared with council

• **Announcements and Adjournment** – Barb Clausen

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee – Wednesday, Jan. 3, 12:15

Council – Thursday, Jan. 4, 2023 – 2:00 pm

ATTENDANCE	
December	TOTAL
3	59
10	50
17	59
24	37
31	37
AVG	48

Offering to date (December)	
2022	2023
\$133,418.67	\$136,489.23
Expenses to date (December)	
2022	2023
\$129,683.98	\$133,971.24

*Please have newsletter articles submitted before
January 23 .*

*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.*



Dear Bethany,

*Thank you for the kind and thoughtful Christmas gift. I appreciate you all and
pray for your well-being and joy in the New Year. May you feel the same
blessing of generosity that you have given me in your own life.*

Warmly, Pastor Susan

Dear Bethany Brothers and Sisters:

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your love offering to me over the Christmas Holidays. A
lovely surprise...and muchly appreciated.

Mostly I appreciate you! What a delight to be in your presence worshipping with you
each week. It is an honor to serve the Lord and serve you as your music and worship
director/piano/and occasionally guitar, person. 😊

When we sing unto the Lord, there is nothing better! All music that is given to God
either in praise, lament, choruses, hymns, thanksgiving, camp songs, new songs, old
songs,all of it is blessed as we sing it to God.

Thank you once again for your thoughtful gift.

Blessings to you all

Dorothy McMillan

DEAR BETHANY,

YOU ARE TRULY AMAZING! THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR THE WONDERFUL
CARDS/GIFTS FOR MY BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS, I WAS THOROUGHLY
SURPRISED AND VERY MUCH APPRECIATIVE. I AM SO BLESSED TO BE HERE.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART- THANK YOU.

BLESSINGS FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR,

GINGER GARNER

Bethany's Corner



Shelly Limpach is our prayer chain contact. You may contact her with your prayer concerns through email at. If you have an urgent prayer

Continued Prayers & Healing

Audrey Schauer	Custer family	Gilchrist family
Dana Hughes	Kim Isakson	Barbara Price
Dave Foslien	Gail Obermeyer	Jennifer Nance
Vickey Aubol	Thibodeau family	Takko family
Duane Scott	Krista & John Croy	



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

07	Marily Isakson	17	Barb Clausen
08	John Pelster	20	Marlys Beck
10	David Foslien	22	Carol Thompson
11	Andrea Hines		Carol Lane
12	Judy Bailey	24	Rhona Archer
16	Shaylin Murphy	26	Gail Obermeyer

ANNIVERSARIES

29 Rick and Robin Siragusa

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- ◇ **Other-** Installing New Member Sunday-Dec. 17th; Preparing for the Bishop's Eucharist and Christmas Eve. Several pastoral calls and visits over the last month.
- **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report:**
- ◇ **Marketing-**Pastor is creating new brochure with welcome statement; council will distribute to Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- ◇ **Big Events-Tori** Doorknob tags for Christmas services? Not enough volunteers

Unfinished Business:

- **Caldwell Banker update-**Have gotten over **616** hits on the website so far-Barb Clausen
- **Evacuation Drill Columbia Hts. Ele.-**School still has not learned security system;

New Business:

- **Planning/Annual Meeting-**Barb C (devotions.; 2 Microphones; table set up; ballots; music;)

Dec. 12 Committee Reports due for Annual Report
Jan. 4 Council Meeting & Budget Development 2:00pm
Meeting Notice to All Members Thursday, Sent Jan.18
Annual Report Distributed Jan.21
Annual Meeting (in person) Sunday, Jan.27 11:00
Directories Ready-Jan. 28

- **Administrative Assistant Ninety Day Review Summary-Pastor Susan**
- **Emergency Fund List postponed to January-Barb C**
- **Quarterly Meeting of Members-Feb. 8 5:00**
- **2023 Nominations Committee Report-Barb C** Met Sunday Dec. 10 and each member has been assigned to seek replacements for the 2 council positions, the Financial Review, and the Nomination Committees;
- **Storm Damage to Portable Update-Pastor and Barb** indicated the roof is covered with a purchased tarp and we are seeking an estimate with the insurance adjuster.
- **Election and Transfer of New Members-Barb Tom Hughes is transferred. It was moved and seconded to approve Jeff Storm, Mary Storm, and Tim Marshall for membership at Bethany. Motion carried. WELCOME to our church family! They will be received Sunday, December 17th.**

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- ◇ Due to a shortened Advent season, we have only one soup supper this year.
- ◇ Had the privilege to hear two testimonials in service (one on the 10th, one on the 17th)
- ◇ Christmas advertised in the TDN Community Events and at the Chamber of Commerce newsletter;
- **Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen
- ◇ Thanksgiving and December monies delivered for family food boxes;
- ◇ Preparing for Angel Giving Tree deliveries made Dec. 14th-over 40 gifts!
- ◇ Next FISH-February 12th Set up Sunday, Feb. 11;
- ◇ Small Seeds & Sprouts: Pageant on Dec. 10 everyone had a good time and participants really owned their parts;
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Dave Foslien & Carol Thompson
- ◇ Christmas decorating as number of volunteers allowed.
- ◇ Weekly outside yard and lawn maintenance preformed.
- ◇ Weekly inside cleaning has been done dependent on number of volunteers available: vacuuming, sweeping, mopping, dusting, garbage & recycling cans emptied, supplies refilled bathrooms cleaned and sanitized, glass doors and large windows cleaned.
- ◇ The team appreciates the addition of Laura from Life Works who also washed glass doors;
- **Stewardship:**
- ◇ “Glimmers of Hope” Pledge Results: We received 26 pledges for a total of \$78,544. Many members unfortunately do not estimate a pledge so the financial secretaries will give us a estimate for budgeting purposes based upon past history. Thank you to the Financial Secretaries!
- **Mutual Ministry:** January TBD;
- **Education:**
- ◇ **Women’s Bible Study-** Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30 Dec.5, 12, 19; Jan.2, 9, 16;
- ◇ **Book Study-TBD**
- ◇ **Confirmation Update-** 8 doing it!
- **Women of Bethany:** No report
- **Minister’s Report:** Pastor Susan
- ◇ **Organizational systems-** Spent time with Ginger and Susan Shui thoroughly researching new financial software.
Spent time with Lee Limpach trying to fix the computer.
- ◇ **Life Balance-** Lighter load one of the weeks in Dec., which was very beneficial.

Upcoming Events

Annual Reports

Sunday, January 21

Bethany’s annual report will be available at church on Sunday, **January 21st** or in the narthex thereafter. *One per family please.* (Homebound will receive theirs in the mail.) If you see any errors, please report them to Ginger in the office so we can give updates to everyone.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28

We have scheduled the annual meeting in person on **Sunday, January 28** after the service and brunch potluck. Please mark your calendar and come join us so your voice is heard and member’s votes counted! All friends are welcome to join us and be up-to-date on what is happening at Bethany, but you must be a member to vote. 2024 directories will be distributed at this meeting and afterwards will be available in the office. (Homebound will receive theirs in the mail.)

Canned Food Drive

January 1- February 9

Area ELCA churches have been challenged to a canned food drive competition. Winners feed many hungry people.

Chili Cook off

February 10, time TBD

St. Paul in Castle Rock is hosting a Marti Gras Chili cookoff

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14

Join us for Lenten evening services

February 14-March 20

5:30 Soup suppers

6:15 services

Ministry of the Month: As we close out the financial year in January, we sing the praises of all our workers in finance who help us to be good stewards of the Lord's money. Financial Secretaries, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Financial Review Committee are all a wonderful support to busy Bethany. This has been an especially challenging year with the shortage of financial secretaries due to an employment change, health concerns, etc. Please let these wonderful people know how much they are appreciated for their confidential work! When you see them, thank *Susan Shiu, Pam van den Driessche, Barb Wilson, Bob Reistroffer, Bob Baldwin, Kathy Newton, and Ginger Garner!*

Children's Sweat Pants Needed

Columbia Heights Elementary School has a call out for children's sweatpants in **medium and large in black, navy, or gray**. When children get wet, have an accident, etc. the change of clothes allows them to stay in school and continue their learning. Please put new or gently used pants in the box lid in the Faith Room on the bookcase, and we will deliver them for you.



Emergency Fund for January: Family Promise is in the spotlight for our donations this month. According to the U.S. Council on Homelessness, 1 in 19 children will experience being homeless before age 6. Family Promise seeks to prevent children from experiencing that terrifying tragedy. Currently, two families are living onsite. One of them is a single mother with three children who is not earning enough to pay for both food and housing with her current employment. She has three children and is working very hard to increase her employment skills and is applying for better work. She has only been at FP a few months, and they are working with her to get housing as soon as her earning power increases. Your donations to the Emergency Fund for FP and your prayers do make a difference!

December Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, December 14, 2023 5:00p.m.

Barb Clausen 115 Roley Court, Kelso

Attendance – All members were present

Devotions and Prayer – Beth Grambo on Glimmers of Hope

Call to Order and President's Report – Barbara Clausen

- Decisions made between Council Meetings: Exec. Com approved purchase of new software for accounting and Servant Keeper;
- Agenda Changes-none
- Devotions for Thursday, January 4, 2:00 Budget Development, Council Meeting, & Pizza;

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

- Approve November minutes as emailed-filed

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui

- November 2023 offerings of \$8840 exceeded the budgeted expenses of \$7728.99 by \$1,110.01.
- Designated funds Balance as of November 30th is \$33,766.56. November 2023 YTD budget offerings of \$119,022.23 does not meet the 2023 YTD expenses of \$123,117.51. It fell short by \$4,095.28.
- November 2022 YTD Offerings of \$126,059.67 exceeded YTD budget expenses of \$118,722.52.

Synod Remittance-Undesignated benevolence \$256.20

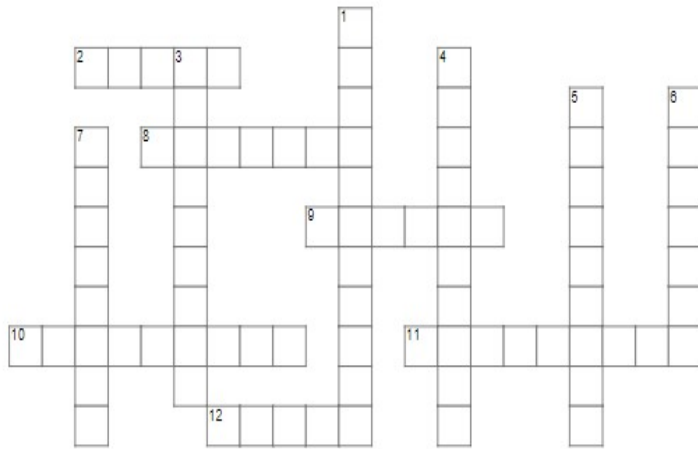
- **Emergency Fund Report**- \$98.28 for Christmas food baskets for schools & grant (Lexington \$485.33 & Col. Hts.242.67; Received an additional donation from an outside source to make up for the small Emergency Fund total;

Attendance for November Avg. 45 (One week we had 68!)

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy
 - ◇ Fundraiser Raffle-Received \$522.00 proceeds to technology & to kitchen needs;
 - ◇ Smorgasbord December 3 at 5:00--61st anniversary 70+ attended for a great night;
 - ◇ Bishop's Eucharist Beverages/Cookies-Dec. 14;
 - ◇ Annual Meeting Potluck Brunch-Jan. 28th after service;
 - ◇ Friendship Force (outside group) catered by Hospitality as a fund raiser;
- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy no report
- **Worship/Music:** Advent /Christmas Calendar Soup Dec. 13; Dec. 20 Comfort/Hope; Eve 4:00,11:00; New Year's Eve: 9:30 lay lead; Next meeting Jan. 21st;
- ◇ Having difficulty with the PowerPoint computer in the sanctuary. Thank you to Lee Limpach and John Pelster who have worked hard to fix it.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



ACROSS

2. A mechanical or electrical device for measuring time.
8. First month of the year.
9. All the descendants of a common ancestor.
10. the point in time at which something starts.
11. Low explosive pyrotechnic device used for entertainment purposes.
12. A social gathering of invited guests.

DOWN

1. January 1st
3. A white sparkling wine associated with celebration.
4. A firm decision to do or not to do something.
5. Counting numerals in reverse order to zero.
6. A person one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection.
7. Twelve o'clock at night.

Lamentations 3:22-24

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"

Finances: We are moving to Power Church for a new financial package that will handle income, expenses, and many more reports than we have been able to have in the past. It is designed for churches, so this should be helpful for us! In addition, it will tie to banking and give us a full picture of our finances. Please bear with us as we "roll" the data from our old program (Servant Keeper) into the new program, and be patient while all of our volunteers and Ginger learn the ropes. We so appreciate the many hours it has taken to make this big move, but it will bring us greater accuracy and keep us better informed!

The Lot: We have received over 600 hits and many saves. With the changes in Longview's zoning, it is possible that this land could have a bright new owner soon. Keep this in your prayers please for a good resolution!

Welcome New Members! In December and January, we are welcoming Tom Hughes as a transfer. Tom is a friend of George Obermeyer and a member of the Castle Rock Men's Choir. Jeff and Mary Storm will also become members. The Storms come to us from the Washougal area and are living in Kalama now. Tim Marshall will also become a member—you already know him as Aidan's father. (Aiden is a great acolyte and Sprout!) Tim works shifts on Sundays but he joins his son at church when he can. Welcome to the Bethany family! We are excited you are here!

Columbia Heights Box Tops

We are collecting Box Tops with this logo. If you would put your clipped tops in the box decorated with pansies on a table in the narthex by the Faith Room, it would be appreciated. The school PTO "buys" wonderful items for the school with these items, your participation is appreciated.



Growing in Faith & Knowledge

Women's Bible Study

We gather for prayers, cares, concerns, challenges, and celebration in the Faith room and on Zoom

Jan 2	10:30 am	Bible Study
Jan 9	10:30 am	Bible Study
Jan 16	10:30 am	Bible Study
Jan 23	10:30 am	Volunteer needed
Jan 30	10:30 am	Prayers & Women of Bethany plans

Our new study for January through April is from

GATHER Magazine

Scripture and nature: Teachers of Faith; the role of the created world in God's story and saving work.

January: Weather February: Creatures-March: Rivers April: Food

Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers. Call Kathy Newton for how to subscribe or questions about our study

Small Seeds and Sprouts

January 20
Sprouts at 12:30, Seeds at 2:00



Moment's at the Lake

Wednesday's @1:30

Bethany

This is a wonderful opportunity for people to sit in the Word and have holy conversation while we discuss the scriptures for the following Sunday.

HELP WANTED

FISH HOTLINE

Telephone Volunteer 1-4 PM, 1-2 times monthly. Calls are anonymously forwarded to your phone, so that you may volunteer from home. This position helps people with emergency needs they cannot afford. Contact Susan Shiu 360-431-2810

Duct Tape Crew

Duct Tape needs you! From dusting, cleaning floors, pulling weeds, and mowing. The Duct Tape crew needs your help. Contact Dave Foslein or show up Thursdays from 9-12. Coffee hour at 10:00.

Volunteer Ministries Coordinator Needed

We need someone to be our Volunteer Ministries Coordinator. This job consists of calling and/or emailing people to fill in the positions as needed for Worship on Sundays.

In the meantime, on the Narthex bulletin board there is a sign up calendar. If you would be willing to help in one these areas we would appreciate it.

Please let us know if you can help. Training is available.

Kitchen Coordinator Needed

Bethany Lutheran church is in need of a person who would be willing to be in charge of the kitchen for the next year. Duties would include...

- Making sure we have clean towels.
- Contacting Duct Tape if something needs repair.
- Coordinating volunteers for regular kitchen cleaning.

If you are interested in helping in this way, please let a member of Hospitality know.

January Ministry Volunteers

January 7 Sunday Service/ Communion

Greeter	Beth & Glenn Milhiser
Ushers (2)	Bob Baldwin/_____
Reader	Bill Zimmerman
Communion Setup	Dot Blair
Communion Assist	Carol Thompson
Powerpoint	Aiden
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	PK/ Barb
Coffee hour (2)	Dot Blair/_____

January 14 Sunday Service/ Communion

Greeter	Mary & Jeff Storm
Ushers (2)	_____/_____
Reader	Kathy Newton
Communion Setup	Carol Thompson
Communion Assist	Karen Langworthy
Powerpoint	
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	PK/ Barb
Coffee hour (2)	Kathy Newton/Milhiser

January 21 Sunday Service/ Communion

Greeter	Small Seeds/Joyce Croy
Ushers (2)	Small Seeds
Reader	Small Seeds/ Bill Zimmerman
Communion Setup	Shelly
Communion Assist	Shelly
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	Lee Limpach
Financial Secretary	PK/ Barb
Coffee hour (2)	Barb Clausen/_____

January 28 Sunday Service/ Communion

Greeter	Beth & Glenn Milhiser
Ushers (2)	Bill Zimmerman/_____
Reader	Renee Pelster
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour (2)	ANNUAL MEETING POTLUCK

****Please find a substitute if you can't volunteer for that Sunday.****

FISH



Bethany Lutheran Church 2024 distribution dates:

February 12	May 28	October 15
April 3	July 5	November 15

February needs- soup, canned fruit, mac 'n cheese, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned beans, chili, rice, dish soap, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper

Breakfast Group



Our Breakfast Group is meeting on Tuesday morning at 8:00am at the Corner Cafe located at 796 Commerce Ave. Suite 103 in Longview. What a great opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship!

Create a Prayer Bible throughout Lent

12:00-1:15 Wednesdays of Lent

February 21-March 20th.

We will be creating a simple Prayer Bible that you can keep. Each week, we will have instructions and a new theme to think and pray through; we will spend time looking up verses together. This will be a time of fellowship and also a time of prayer.

There will be a small fee for the course materials, which will include a paperback Bible and Bible safe materials (about \$10). If you own a Bible that you can dedicate to this purpose, the fee for the class will be less. **Please note that you will be writing in this Bible and highlighting verses in it.** This is a great class to bring a friend to. Please contact Pastor Susan if you are interested. If you are unable to pay the course fee, let Pastor Susan know, and we can help.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day Canned Food Drive Competition starts	2 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	3 12:15 Exec. Zoom 1:30 Moment's @ Bethany	4 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct Tape 2:00 Council/ Budget	5 6:00 Girl Scouts	6
7 Sunday Service New Member Sunday 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	8	9 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	10 9:30 Laura Cleans 10:00 Youth Services 1:30 Moment's @ Bethany	11 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct Tape 3:00 Council	12 1:30 Tea Party 95th Judy B. 6:00 Girl Scouts	13
14 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	15 Martin Luther King Jr Day	16 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts Bishop Convo— Pastor Gone	17 1:30 Moment's @ Bethany Bishop Convo— Pastor Gone	18 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct Tape Pastor Gone	19 6:00 Girl Scouts	20 12:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts
21 Sunday Service Small Seeds and Sprouts Sunday 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour Pick up Report	22	23 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	24 9:30 Laura Cleans 1:30 Moment's @ Bethany	25 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct Tape	26 6:00 Girl Scouts	27
28 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour Annual Meeting	29	30 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	31 1:30 Moment's @ Bethany	January		