



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

*June 2024*

*God's Blessings to . . .*



**June 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](http://www.bethanylongview.org)**

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

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

**Pastor email: [pastor@bethanylongview.org](mailto:pastor@bethanylongview.org)**

### **Sunday Morning Worship Time**

**9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour**

**Council Meeting Minutes Continued**



*‘Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.’ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

Dear Friends,

For me, graduation is on my mind. With two graduates (one from UW and one from high school), I see this as both an ending and a beginning for all of us. Even more than the ending of school, it is the beginning of a new era.

For my son, especially, as he was a 2020 senior in high school and didn't get to graduate or go to prom or do a long list of things, I am thankful that he can experience it this time round. I have had various sadnesses and disappointments in life, but senior year of high school being shut down was a whole new level, and I know that my feelings were nothing compared to how our kids were feeling.

Graduation marks a new era, one that is yet unknown, and it creates a dividing line between what was and what will be.

In all of our lives, there is some type of graduation, a line that marks an era as over and officially in the past. Some of these graduations we welcome and some we don't. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, however, is the same, yesterday, today, and forever (*Hebrews 13:8*). That is who we seek when the line is drawn. We pray until there is peace that surpasses any understanding, and that peace, we pray, calms our anxious hearts. Many prayers for a wonderful summer for all of you and for all your worries to be given to God. Amen.

In grace and peace,  
Pastor Susan

- **Red Canoe**-Barb Clausen requested Red Canoe to release the lots from the mortgage for Fellowship Hall re-model for sale purposes; Council discussed the news that Susan Shui shared from Red Canoe that the current loan will need to be either paid off or refinanced upon the sale of the property. **It was moved and seconded to postpone this decision until more facts are available. Motion carried.**
- **Lay Leaders' Planning**-Barb gave Pastor Susan a date and a letter to send to churches;

**New Business:**

- **Annual Reviews of Staff**-Pr. Susan has completed Dorothy McMillan's review, and she is working on Ginger's.
- **Annual Review of Pastor**-Barb Clausen is compiling the results for the meeting;
- **Synod Education Workshops**-Zion Camas May 4 update Pastor Susan;
- **Staff Report** – None
- **Facility Use** –None

**Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee – Wednesday, June 5 (zoom) 12:15  
Council – Thursday, June 13, 2024 – 4:00 pm**

*Please have newsletter articles submitted before  
**June 19***

*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.*

| Name/Position/Term                           |
|--|
| 1. Don Wallin (2027) 1st Term                |
| 2. Barbara Clausen (President, 2027) 2ndTerm |
| 4. Phyllis Cavens (2025)                     |
| 5. George Obermeyer (2026)                   |
| 6. Beth Grambo (Secretary, 2027) 2nd Term    |
| 7. Russ Gilchrist (2027)                     |
| 8. P. Susan Dollinger (Pastor)               |
| Susan Shui (Treasurer)                       |

## Council Meeting Minutes Continued

### • **Education:**

- ◇ Women's Bible Study- Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30
- ◇ April 21<sup>st</sup> Class- Pastor read/discuss the books (Ezra and Nehemiah) (4 attended)

### • **Women of Bethany:** Kathy Newton no report

### • **Minister's Report:** Pastor Susan Dollinger

- ◇ Life Balance-very busy with a high school senior at home!
- ◇ Organizational Systems- working on the summer program;
- ◇ Was appointed Dean of the conference (first meeting with Bishop on May 7);
- ◇ Have completed staff evaluation with Dorothy McMillan, will meet with Ginger Garner soon. Will report results & goals to council in June.
- ◇ Reminder: Continuing education-Festival of the Homiletics is May 13-16

### • **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report:**

- ◇ Goal-Based upon the Call of Abraham a SMART Goal was made for our North Star:  
**To extend spiritual outreach and increase participation by at least 7%!**

- ◇ Discussion of Planning List July-August Public Events on Summer Evenings -Pastor Susan It was decided to have the four events in August;
- ◇ Pastor has requested June 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13 as vacation days, and a supply pastor for June 16. **It was moved and seconded to approve to a supply pastor for June 16.** Pastor will work with the council president to select the supply pastor.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Lot 8 & 14 Block 4, Monticello Acres WB Martins Addition** (Soonest closing will be July 3 due to feasibility study and changing the lot county filing to separate the property from the building sections, and remove the mortgage (lien) from the lot for sale purposes.) Susan Shiu was asked to gather for June savings options, building improvement loan, interest rate, & decide when to invite Beth to discuss foundation;
- **Plan to Move the Col. Hts. Sign-** Randy Grambo will recruit at least one other person to help disassemble, move and re-erect the sign when the sale of the property is close to the closing date on the property sale.
- **Evacuation Drill Columbia Hts. Ele.-**Principal now has full access for emergencies;
- **Portable Damage & Insurance Estimates Update-**Beth Grambo (from Randy)
- Negotiations are complete and work can commence as soon as we provide Serv-Pro with a check for half of the estimated total, which is \$13,348.50. It was moved and seconded to approve the issuance of the ServPro \$13,348.50 check in keeping with congregational motion earlier in the year. (Note: We have received the reimbursement from Church Mutual.)

# 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 request, please call the church office.  
bethanyprayer247@gmail.com

## Continued Prayers & Healing

|                  |                  |                    |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Evelyn Jackson   | Foslien Family   | Alice Snyder       |
| Bob Baldwin      | John Mullaney    | Bob Reistroffer    |
| Dana Hughes      | Kim Isakson      | Krista & John Croy |
| Barbara Price    | Gail Obermeyer   | Jennifer Nance     |
| Vickey Aubol     | Takko family     | Custer family      |
| Thibodeau family | Gilchrist Family | Judy Bailey        |



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Kyler Rahn       | 12 Evelyn Jackson    |
| 3 Ardyth Loewen    | 13 Pam Alexander     |
| 5 Karen Langworthy | 19 Dan Sharp         |
| 6 Cheryl Bean      | 22 Irene Breitenbach |
| 8 Audrey Schauer   | 26 Gil Schauer       |
| 11 Shelly Limpach  | 27 Debra Takko       |
|                    | 29 Kim Moran         |

## ANNIVERSARIES

7 Clarence & Kathy Newton  
17 Bob & Pat Reistroffer  
18 Robert & Barbara Price

# Growing in Faith & Knowledge

## Women's Bible Study

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

|         |          |                        |
|---------|----------|------------------------|
| June 4  | 10:30 am | Bible Study- Curiosity |
| June 11 | 10:30 am | Bible Study- Curiosity |
| June 25 | 10:30 am | Bible Study- Curiosity |

Women's Bible Study for Summer found in Gather Magazine, author Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, Pastor in Jerusalem. Three months of study exploring God's invitation to the people of God and to us today, taking a holy journey beyond certainty to curiosity, community and compassion, where we find abundant life in Christ.

Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers. Call Kathy Newton

## 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!

## Small Seeds and Sprouts



Thank you to Small Seeds and Sprouts for a wonderful Pentecost service. With very little instruction, the kids came up with ideas to represent the Holy Spirit in the forms of birds, fire, air, and water. There was an impressive display of ideas and creativity. We are grateful for each Small Seed and Sprout. Have a wonderful summer! We will return in August.

## Moment's at the Lake

Wednesdays @1:30

There will be a short break for Moment's at Bethany the first 3 weeks of June. **June 26** will return to Lake Sacajawea.

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.

# May Council Minutes

## Bethany Lutheran Church

### Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, May 9, 2024 4:00p.m.

**Attendance** –George Obermeyer, Don Wallin, Beth Grambo, Pastor Susan Dollinger, Phyllis Cavens, & Susan Shui; Absent: Barb Clausen and Russell Gilchrist;

**Devotions and Prayer** – Beth Grambo led the devotions.

**Call to Order and President's Report** – George Obermeyer called to order at 4:00pm.

- Decisions made between council meetings: none
- Agenda Changes: Added “Giving” letter; Loan payoff
- Devotions for Thursday, June 13, 4:00- Barb Clausen

**Secretary's Report** – Beth Grambo

- Approval of April 11, 2024 Council Minutes filed as printed

**Treasurer's Report** – Susan Shiu

- **Expense Report** April 2024 offerings of \$10,098 fell short of the budgeted expenses of \$11,650 by \$1,552. April 2024 YTD offerings of \$48,145 exceeded the 2024 YTD expenses of \$47,378 by \$767. April 2023 YTD offerings of \$47,913.42 fell short of budget expenses of \$48,921.21 Discussion was held about a member's request for all financial records to review; concern the council is not being fully transparent with the congregation.
- **Synod Remittance**-Undesignated benevolence \$ 353.44 was sent. *See Synod Mission*
- **Emergency Fund Report**- \$ 41.00 Emergency Support Shelter (plus Pastor's discretion.)

- **Attendance for April** Avg. 44

**Ministry Reports** –

- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy: Mother's Day May 12 Potluck breakfast, please plan to bring a dish;
- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy No report;
- **Worship/Music:** Pr Susan reported on the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting; Many new musicians have been added to the Praise Team roster; Passing the offering plate has become practice; Pentecost is May 19 (wear red); Lay-led Service on June 9 Chris Cotton will preach;
- **Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen
  - ◇ Summer Experience with youth is being planned;
  - ◇ Mother's Day Activity for the community: April 23 Lexington (15 children attended) & flowerpot, made cards, plant flower, story; Thanks to Bob and Pat Reistroffer, Barb Clausen and Pastor Susan for their work on this project.
  - ◇ FISH: Set up on May 27 and distribution on May 28
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pr. Susan Dollinger
  - ◇ Weekly- Replaced narthex lights, mowed most of the entire property (thank you, Russ!); Rick Loewen came to Duct tape on May 9th and worked with staff to identify where many things are located (three electric panels, etc.!)
  - ◇ Life Works-Justin will not be here to help on May 22, so Duct Tape will do cleaning.
- **Stewardship:** No report. *Need volunteers for this team!*

# Volunteers keep our church running

## Volunteer Coordinator Needed!

Are you able to make a few phone calls from the comfort of your home and fill in the clipboard blanks each month? (You can write them in and the office will type it up and send it out.) Please let Ginger or Barb know if you would consider doing this important work.

## Duct Tape Crew

Duct Tape needs you! From dusting, cleaning floors, pulling weeds, and mowing. The Duct Tape crew needs your help.

Thursdays from 9-12. Coffee hour at 10:00.

## 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

| <u>ATTENDANCE</u> |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| <u>MAY</u>        | <u>TOTAL</u> |
| 5                 | 34           |
| 12                | 51           |
| 19                | 52           |
| 26                | 49           |
| <b>AVG</b>        | <b>47</b>    |

| <u>Offering to date (MAY)</u> |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>2023</u>                   | <u>2024</u> |
| \$54,857.05                   | \$65,820.00 |
| <u>Expenses to date (MAY)</u> |             |
| <u>2023</u>                   | <u>2024</u> |
| \$59,863.48                   | \$60,237.02 |

# *Upcoming Events*

## Rummage Sale

June 4-6 Setup/ June 7-8 Sale

## Father's Day

June 16  
Pancake breakfast following Service

## Juneteenth

**June 19 Office Closed**

## Moment's at the Lake

June 26 @ 1:30  
Moment's at the lake returns to Lake Sacagawea

## Lay Members Sessions

May 30th 6:30-8:00 pm

Next year we will elect a new bishop in June of 2025. The synod would like to hold listening sessions for lay members. The first is May 30th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Vancouver from 6:30-8pm. They would like 2-5 people per congregation to go to one of the sessions. This is your opportunity to have input on the direction of the synod and weigh in on what you would like for a new bishop. Please see Pastor Susan

## FISH Distribution

July 5

We know that many people will be on vacation. If you are in town and can help with FISH on this date, we would appreciate it. Thank you.



## Summer Events

July 31 6:30 pm

Stay tuned for different summer evening events. We have one confirmed event on July 31st. Lori McDonald, who paints religious icons, will bring some of her collection to Bethany and hold a talk with questions and answers. More information is coming.

# FYI

## June Ministry of the Month:

Pastor Susan Dollinger, Ginger Garner, Dorothy McMullan  
What a team we have in these three wonderful leaders who provide excellent support for our church! Their inspiration, tireless energy, and dedication is outstanding! Not only do they create all of the essential parts to make the worship service happen, but they are great listeners and encouragers as we work together in the many church functions!

- Ginger has brought great organization and efficiency to our office and has maintained a sense of humor through all of the challenges we have faced!
- Dor. is encouraging the growth of our Praise Team and helped us worship our Lord through her music.
- Pastor Susan is an inspirational leader who leads with love and a passion for the Lord. She is enriching our knowledge of the Bible and drawing us closer to our Lord.

We appreciate these wonderful leaders and know that Bethany would not be the same without them!

## Stewardship team

Bethany needs a stewardship team that can run the stewardship season from September to November. We are looking for two or three people to plan and put together a campaign theme, etc. Please see Pastor Susan.

## June Emergency Fund:

Living Stone Ministry is a community in Christ in an unexpected place. There is a congregation both in Shelton and Monroe. As they worship together behind bars, they find hope within the tomb. They share knowledge of our Lord, learn about the Bible, and share the communion meal together.” I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me” This ministry brings Jesus to those seeking him behind bars and then uses the profits to help do local builds with families. Please label your check in the memo to contribute.

## June Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, June 30 *Communion*

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Greeter             | Jeff & Mary Storm                |
| Ushers              | Tim Marshall/ Bob Reistroffer    |
| Reader              | Barb Clausen                     |
| Communion Setup     | Dot Blair                        |
| Communion Assist    | Karen Langworthy                 |
| Powerpoint          | Carol Thompson                   |
| Live Service        | John Pelster                     |
| Financial Secretary | Mary Storm                       |
| Coffee hour         | Dot Blair/ Pam van den Driessche |

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

**We are in need of volunteers for Usher training.  
This is a very important roll each Sunday that must be filled.**

Please note that the portable is

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

until further notice. Please take caution around any loose equipment near the portable.

*Thank you to Randy Grambo for working with the portable contractors to start this project.*

## June Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, June 2 *Communion*

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Greeter             | Glenn & Beth Milhiser                     |
| Ushers              | George Obermeyer/ _____                   |
| Reader              | Renee Pelster                             |
| Communion Setup     | Nancy Skora                               |
| Communion Assist    | Karen Langworthy                          |
| Powerpoint          | Aiden Marshall                            |
| Live Service        | John Pelster                              |
| Financial Secretary | Barb Wilson                               |
| Coffee hour         | Barb Wilson/ Karen Langworthy/Judy Bailey |

Sunday, June 9 *Lay led*

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Greeter             | Joyce Croy                 |
| Usher               | _____ / _____              |
| Reader              | Kathy Newton               |
| Communion Setup     | Lay Led                    |
| Communion Assist    | Lay Led                    |
| Powerpoint          | Carol Thompson             |
| Live Service        | _____                      |
| Financial Secretary | Mary Storm                 |
| Coffee hour 1       | Kathy Newton/Beth Milhiser |

Sunday, June 16 *Communion*

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Greeter             | Bob Baldwin                    |
| Usher               | Bob Reistroffer/Tom Hughes III |
| Reader              | Judy Bailey/ Phyllis Cavens    |
| Communion Setup     | Pat Reistroffer                |
| Communion Assist    | Nancy Skora                    |
| Powerpoint          | Don Wallin                     |
| Live Service        | John Pelster                   |
| Financial Secretary | Pam van den Driessche          |
| Coffee hour         | Karen Langworthy/ Joyce Croy   |

Sunday, June 23 *Communion*

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Greeter             | Judy Bailey                             |
| Usher               | Karen Langworthy/ Pam van den Driessche |
| Reader              | Nancy Skora                             |
| Communion Setup     | Nancy Skora                             |
| Communion Assist    | Nancy Skora                             |
| Powerpoint          | Russ Gilchrist                          |
| Live Service        | _____                                   |
| Financial Secretary | Barb Wilson                             |
| Coffee hour         | Beth Grambo                             |

## The Call of Abraham and Bethany

Our goal this year: To extend spiritual outreach and increase participation in our church by at least 7%! Your council will lead the way to do marketing and work with members for special events, BUT the results depend upon YOU! Please pray and consider how you can be a part of increasing our participation. Who do you know that is unchurched that might come to special events—and then maybe a service when they see how friendly we are! Do you have a neighbor or friend that might be interested in one of the summer programs we are planning? Be God's eyes and ears to see how you can reach out to others! We need to bring people into Bethany and then pray while our Lord touches their hearts! Give a brochure and tell folks about us—we should not be the best kept secret on Columbia Heights!



## CALL OF ABRAHAM

Oh God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

| Sunday   | Monday                | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday              |
|--|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|
|  |                       |   |  |  |  | 1                     |
| 2 <i>Sunday Service</i><br><i>Pastor Susan Dollinger</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:30 Coffee Hour  | 3                     | 4 <u>Rummage sale</u><br>8:00 Breakfast Group<br>10:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>6:00 Boy Scouts | 5 <u>Rummage Sale</u><br>11:00 Justin Cleans<br>12:15 Exec (Zoom)<br><br>Pastor Vacation | 6 <u>Rummage Sale</u><br>9:00 Duct Tape<br>10:00 Coffee w/<br>Duct Tape<br><br>Pastor Vacation | 7 <u>Rummage Sale</u><br><br><br>6:00 Girl Scouts<br>Pastor Vacation | 8 <u>Rummage Sale</u> |
| 9 <i>Sunday Service</i><br><i>Lay led</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:30 Coffee Hour   | 10<br><br>Pastor Vac. | 11<br>8:00 Breakfast Group<br>10:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>6:00 Boy Scouts<br>Pastor Vacation | 12<br><br>Pastor Vacation  | 13<br>9:00 Duct Tape<br>10:00 Coffee w/<br>Duct Tape<br><br>4:00 Council<br>Pastor Vacation    | 14<br><br>6:00 Girl Scouts   | 15                    |
| 16 <i>Sunday Service</i><br><i>Father's Day</i><br><i>Pastor Kathy Braafladt</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:30 Pancake Breakfast<br>Pastor Vacation | 17                    | 18<br>8:00 Breakfast Group<br>10:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>6:00 Boy Scouts                    | 19 <b>Juneteenth</b><br><b>Office Closed</b>   | 20<br>9:00 Duct Tape<br>10:00 Coffee w/<br>Duct Tape   | 21<br><br>6:00 Girl Scouts   | 22                    |
| 23 <i>Sunday Service</i><br><i>Pastor Susan Dollinger</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:30 Coffee Hour   | 24                    | 25<br>8:00 Breakfast Group<br>10:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>6:00 Boy Scouts                    | 26<br>1:30 Moment's @<br>The Lake  | 27<br>9:00 Duct Tape<br>10:00 Coffee w/<br>Duct Tape   | 28<br><br>6:00 Girl Scouts   | 29                    |
| 30 <i>Sunday Service</i><br><i>Pastor Susan Dollinger</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:30 Coffee Hour   | <h1>June 2024</h1>    |   |  |  |  |                       |