



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

July 2024

God's Blessings to . . .



**July 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



Dear Bethany,
 Happy July! One of our kids at a crowded fireworks show put their hands over their ears and said, “No more booms! No more booms!” As someone who loves fireworks, I remember having a range of sad emotions, from sadness for my little one to sadness that we would have to leave the fireworks show, which I was enjoying very much, to figuring out how to leave the fireworks show, as we were crammed packed with people.

Life gives us fireworks all the time, and at the same show, some are enjoying their experience, and some are saying, “No more booms,” and want to run away. In other words, situations can be negative or positive for different people depending on circumstances and time in life. There are times when we don’t see the positive until many years later, nor do we see the suffering of others because we are having fun. Sometimes you can enjoy the fireworks, and other times that you need to leave the show in order to protect those you love, or yourself from the “booms.” I pray that this 4th of July is a good holiday for you and that it comes with family and happy pets and places to go if you so choose. I pray that things that have rocked your world in the past give you a new perspective now that you can use to help another who might be in the same situation. I pray you know God is there in life’s booms, and also in the peaceful summer days ahead. May you find joy and comfort and warmth these days.

May God bless you all. Happy July, Pastor Susan

R.A. LONG TIMBER BARON

FREE TO THE COMMUNITY WITH DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR. YOU CAN RESERVE YOUR SEAT WITH A DONATION. THIS IS THE LAST EVENT OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF LONGVIEW.

PERFORMANCE IN THE R. A. LONG AUDITORIUM
 JULY 12,13, 14, 19, 20, & 21 FRI & SAT PERFORMANCES 7:30PM
 SUNDAY PERFORMANCES AT 2:00PM.

written by Travis Cavens



Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- Portable Damage & Insurance Estimates Update on Costs ServPro-Susan Shui
- (First Payment \$13,348.5) Randy met with Joe from Sloans flooring today to discuss the portable. He said that the total cost to replace like for like (commercial grade carpet) is \$3,270.00. The cost for linoleum is \$5,900.00, and the cost for glue down vinyl plank is \$6,700.00. **It was moved and seconded to spend the insurance allotted money on floor covering since the portable has such limited use. Motion carried.** Barb C asked Beth Grambo along with one or two other members to select the appropriate floor covering as soon as possible so ServPro can finish their work.
- **Lay Leaders’ Meeting-**Barb and Pastor Susan Date to be set (May Ann Nelson-Stella is in rehab and we want to have her join us.)

New Business:

- **Removing the Mortgage from the lot filing with the county-**Barb C The bank is working with the title company and will file with the county paperwork to separate the lots from the lien. This requires a modified deed and a reconveyance. The cost will be \$622.20 and is required to sell the lot. This money will be taken at the time of the property sale.
- **Church Mutual Policy Change and Cost-**George Obermeyer reported that there was little change in the policy. **It was moved and seconded to continue to carry our insurance with Church Mutual. Motion carried.**
- **Synod Education Workshops Report-** Pastor Susan;
- **Staff Report :**
- **Vanco** (Online giving) has built a free online giving easily built, customizable platform for churches to utilize. Pam VD and Ginger will attend a video viewing. Decision tabled until the next meeting.
- **Budget Format-**After discussion, it was determined that we would prefer the budget format as developed & only print 3 copies of thereport. Ginger will set this up & after a couple of months will report back about the time it takes.
- **Facility Use** –None
- **Copy Machine Costs-**We are having to pay extra as we are over the contract, and concerned this may continue. It was decided to ask members not to use the machine for their own use. It was suggested that for the summer on a trial basis we would re-format the worship bulletin to use less copies-even consider not publishing the song verses as long as they are available on the screen.

Announcements and Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee – Wed., Sept. 4, 12:15

- **Council – Thurs, Sept. 12, 2024 – 3:00 pm**

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

- **Minister's Report:** Pastor Susan Dollinger
 - ◇ Life Balance-On vacation!
 - ◇ Organizational Systems-combining pastor and admin. Asst. calendar dates;
 - ◇ Other-Synod is still conducting listening events about the selection of the next bishop;
 - ◇ Annual Staff Reviews-Annual Reviews Completed! Pastor Susan, Musician Dorothy McMillan, and Ad. Asst. Ginger Garner have completed their annual reviews. Council members will be receiving a full report at their next meeting. Each has one or two goals for continuous growth. We are blessed to have a wonderful team! Thank you!
- **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%!**
 - ◇ Update on Scheduled Events-
 - 7/10-First event for regular attendees-An evening with s/mores around a campfire! (*Anyone with small portable fire pits, please let Pastor know. Volunteers to help set up and bring the supplies would be appreciated.*)
 - 7/31-Lori McDonald with religious art icons—interesting stories;
 - 8/7- A Veteran's WWII Story-Gil Schauer;
 - 8/14- Your Personal Safety-Dor McMillan;
 - TBD-Art with Glen Milhiser;
 - ◇ Marketing Details-Barb Clausen and Ginger will work to get these events published & business card lists so we can bring in visitors;
 - ◇ How to Engage Members in bringing unchurched visitors? Any ideas of how who could help us?
- **Unfinished Business:**
 - **Savings Options with Best Interest Rate**-Susan Shiu **It was moved and seconded that contingent upon the sale of the lots, we would put \$50,000 in a short-term CD at the highest available interest rate (Bank America) and the remainder in a designate savings fund until such time as we determine a church foundation. Motion carried.** (Note: The council may revisit the location with the Longview branch closing.)
 - **Rummage Sale**-Income \$2,626.00! A hard job well done! Thank you! (The Rummage Committee has since recommended that the proceeds go to the painting of another portion of the building. They will also have a picnic raffle to support painting. Decision pending.)
 - **Consideration of a Foundation & Inviting Beth from ELCA**-Pastor Susan will arrange for the synod expert on establishing a foundation to make a presentation tentatively on Thursday, August 22 at 3:00pm.
 - **Lot 8 & 14 Block 4, Monticello Acres WB Martins Addition** (Closing July 3)-Barb C reported that the sale is moving forward. We have offered support to the buyers, but it's not needed.
 - **Plan to Move the Col. Hts. Sign- Beth & Randy Grambo** **It was moved and seconded to authorize Randy Grambo rent any needed equipment to remove and re-position the BLC Columbia Heights sign to Parkview so visitors will see it from the stop sign. Motion carried.** He will work with the PUD, etc. to assure the safety of drains/wires;

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

Norma Oyloe	Carol & Duane's niece, Kim	
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



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Duane Thompson	25	Barbara Price
3	Kyle Rahn	29	Susan Shiu
25	Chris Cotton		

ANNIVERSARIES

6	Chris & Kelly Engebo
26	Rick & Ardyth Loewen
	Lee & Shelly Limpach

Growing in Faith & Knowledge

Women's Bible Study

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

July 2	10:30 am	Bible Study- Community
July 9	10:30 am	Bible Study- Community
July 16	10:30 am	Bible Study- Community
July 23	10:30 am	Bible Study- Community
July 30	10:30 am	Women of Bethany Meeting

Women's Bible Study for Summer found in Gather Magazine, Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers. Call Kathy Newton for how to subscribe or questions about our study



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



Small Seeds and Sprouts is off for the summer and will resume on Sept. 14.

Moment's at the Lake

Wednesdays @1:30

We meet on the Kessler side of Lake Sacagawea, 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.

June Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, June 13, 2024 4:00p.m.

Attendance –Absent-Beth Grambo;

Devotions and Prayer – Barb Clausen will lead the devotion

Call to Order and President's Report – Barb Clausen

- Decisions made between council meetings: Decided to file paperwork Red Canoe to release the two lots from the property lien so the land can be sold.
- Agenda Changes: Pastor added minor additions
- Devotions for Thursday, August 15- Russ Gilchrist
- No July meeting unless needed; start time will be 3:00 beginning in August;

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

- Filed as printed-May 9, 2024 Council Minutes

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shiu

- **Expense Report-** May 2024 offerings of \$17070, exceeded the budgeted expenses of \$11,884 by \$5,186. May 2024 YTD offerings of \$65,820.00 exceeded the 2024 YTD expenses of \$60,237.02 by \$5,583. May 2023 YTD offerings of \$54,857.05 fell short of budget expenses of \$59,863.48 by \$5,006.48.

- **Synod Remittance-** \$597.45

- **KLMA Report-**Susan reported that we requested to withdraw the \$7900 donated many years ago and invested. **It was moved and seconded to deposit the money in designated funds for savings until we determine if we will start a foundation.** (Note: this will take about sixty days to transfer.)

- **Emergency Fund Report-** ER Fund: Habitat for Humanity/pastor disc. \$268 (plus Pastor's discretion.)

- **Attendance for May** Avg. 47

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy: Quilt Raffle made enough to cover expenses for provided items for the picnic—thank you everyone for ticket purchases! (Congratulations, Zander!) The committee will provide some items for the Father's Day breakfast. Joyce, Tori, Barb W, Karen, Nancy, & Shelly; August 11 will be the church picnic—the quilt raffle has paid for the food to be purchased;

- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy No report

- **Worship/Music:** Pastor Susan Lay Sunday June 5th

- **Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen

◇ Youth Summer Experience-a service project is being planned;

◇ FISH-very sad one family was a no-show; Next set up July 30 and distribution is July 5;

◇ Rally Sunday-will include blessing the backpacks;

- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pr. Susan Dollinger

◇ Weekly & Life Works-continuing to keep our facility clean & running! Thank you!

- **Stewardship:** No report. *Need volunteers for this team!*

- **Mutual Ministry:** No report

- **Education:** Women's Bible Study- Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30

- **Women of Bethany:** Kathy Newton Meeting June 25 10:30

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>JUNE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2	43
9	36
16	51
23	49
30	46
AVG	45

<u>Offering to date (June)</u>	
<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
\$61,881.73	\$74,349
<u>Expenses to date (MAY)</u>	
<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
\$71,239.71	\$70,019

Upcoming Events

FISH Distribution

July 3- Setup /July 5 Distribution



Many people are out of town during this FISH time; if you can help, we need volunteers. Last Fish, we served 25 families, which equaled 99 people.

The next FISH Distribution will be October 15

July 4

Independence Day -Office Closed

Moment's at the Lake

Wednesdays @ 1:30

Lake Sacagawea

Bethany's Wednesday Series

Starting July 10- 6:30 -8:00pm

We will have summer activities on Wednesday evenings as a community outreach

7/17- Smore's Night

7/24-Glenn Milhiser Painting

7/31- Lori McDonald, who paints religious icons, will bring some of her collection to Bethany and hold a talk with questions and answers.

8/7- Gil Schauer- Atomic Bomb Testing

8/14- Dor McMillan- Personal Safety

Outdoor Service

Sunday August 11

Annual Picnic and Backpack/ school supply drive

Bible Study

September 15

We will begin a new Bible Study on the book of Luke

July Ministry of the Month:

Congregational Council

The members of your elected church council spend time reading materials, listening to member input, taking on tasks to gather information to council, signing documents, attending quarterly meetings, the one (or two) hour council meeting each month, prayer time, and representing the church as needed. This varies but amounts to five or six hours per month. Your officers spend more hours with the Executive Committee meetings and other duties as they arise. Please take the time to show your appreciation for being willing to serve God's church.

Barbara Clausen, President	George Obermeyer, Vice President
Beth Grambo, Secretary	Susan Shiu, Treasurer
Russ Gilchrist	Phyllis Cavens
Don Wallin	Pastor Susan Dollinger

Stewardship Team Needed

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.

July Emergency Fund:

Bread for the World ~ A World without Hunger

"Open your mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without help." -Proverbs 31:8a NLV

Our second-mile giving, Bread for the World, is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. The mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Food banks are also essential – but Bread for the World focuses on advocacy. Why? Because federal nutrition programs provide roughly 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities combined. With the stroke of a pen, our government leaders have the power to create policies and programs that impact millions of people at once. Our faith in Christ is the foundation for their mission and compels them to love our neighbors near and far--- led by the values of faith to stand up for those experiencing hunger all over.

Thank You

RUMMAGE TEAM

Thank you to everyone who donated, priced, helped set up, helped clean up, & hung around organizing and selling.



You all are amazing. We are very appreciative of your efforts.

July Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, July 7 *Communion*

Greeter	Tom Hughes
Ushers	_____ / _____
Reader	Barb Clausen
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Karen Langworthy
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	_____ / _____

Sunday, July 14 *Communion*

Greeter	Joyce Croy
Usher	Karen Langworthy/ _____
Reader	Duane Thompson
Communion Setup	_____
Communion Assist	Carol Thompson
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour 1	Carol Thompson/Kathy Newton

Sunday, July 21 *Communion*

Greeter	Susan Shiu
Usher	Bob Reistroffer/Pam van den Driessche
Reader	Renee Pelster
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	Lee Limpach
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Barb Clausen/ Phyllis Cavens

Sunday, July 28 *Communion*

Greeter	Nancy Skora
Usher	Karen Langworthy/ Pam van den Driessche
Reader	Barb Clausen
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	Lee Limpach
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Debra Takko

The Bethany Lutheran Lots for Sale

At the time of this writing, the sale is expected to close on July 3rd with the asking price of \$69,000! Bethany's net proceeds is estimated to be \$63,008.72. Your council has voted to open a short-term savings and put the check in that account so it will grow interest and allow us time to make some major decisions.

In order to complete the sale, we had to file the 2017 surveyor's paperwork with the county so it would accurately have the separate lot footage on record. Then we have had to work with our mortgage carrier (Red Canoe) to remove the lien on the lots and have the mortgage only on the building and remaining property. Then we have to file that paperwork with the county in order to clear the lots for sale.

In August, we will meet with the Lutheran advisor to explore the possibilities for establishing a foundation. (Our governing documents (required by the ELCA) requires every church to have a foundation, but we have never developed one. In August, the council will determine how much money is put in the foundation, how much is used to pay down or pay off the mortgage, and how much to keep in capital improvement and savings. If you have thoughts on any of this, please drop a note explaining your suggestions in the president's mailbox so we may consider all input in August.

(If you only talk to a council member over the busy summer with folks coming/going, your full thoughts might not be remembered, so please jot them down for us!)

If you have further questions, please feel free to call Barb Clausen at 206.669.2014.



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.

Bethany Lutheran Church July 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study	3 9:00 FISH Setup 1:30 Moment's @ The Lake	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 8:30 FISH Dist. 6:00 Girl Scouts	6
7 <i>Sunday Service</i> <i>Pastor Susan Dollinger</i> 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	8	9 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study	10 1:30 Moment's @ The Lake	11 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct Tape	12 6:00 Girl Scouts	13
14 <i>Sunday Service</i> <i>Pastor Susan Dollinger</i> <i>Message Russ Gilchrist</i> <i>Patrick Murphy music</i> 9:30 Worship Service	15	16 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study	17 1:30 Moment's @ The Lake 6:30 Smores night	18 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct Tape	19 6:00 Girl Scouts	20
21 <i>Sunday Service</i> <i>Pastor Susan Dollinger</i> 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	22	23 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study	24 1:30 Moment's @ The Lake 6:30 Glenn Milhiser	25 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee w/ Duct Tape	26 6:00 Girl Scouts	27
28 <i>Sunday Service</i> <i>Pastor Susan Dollinger</i> 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	29	30 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Meeting	31 1:30 Moment's @ The Lake 6:30 Lori McDonald Icon Art			