

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

January 2025

God's Blessings to . . .



**January 2025
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 2: 17

Ah, a new year. A satisfying feeling to recycle the old calendar and start a new one fresh. It is a wonderful and

traditional time to draw a line in the sand and start anew. I suggest also starting with a time of reflection on the year that lies behind. What went well? What didn't? How would you like this year to be different? Or the same?

I start each year with an exercise called "One Word." (I have the exercise if you want to try it.) Here you choose a word that you would like to be the theme of the year. From there, you choose a verse and a quote to go with your word (or sometimes the quote or verse helps you choose the word.) My 2024 word was δυναμια, a Greek word meaning I am able, I am capable. As there were a lot of life events, getting through each one was a trial of spirit and stamina. I am not 100 percent on my word for this year, but I think it will be Quiet, Stillness, or something along that line. It goes along with my morning time. I appreciate the still mornings before life awakens. It is a time to read the Bible, pray, and sip my morning mocha. I value the quiet of this time and it sets my mind and heart right for the coming day ahead.

I pray as you set your goals and life in order for 2025 that you will find a special time for you and God to just have together. May you feel the breath of the living God reinvigorate you and fill you with energy and a deep sense of peace for the year to come.

Blessings, Pastor Susan

ATTENDANCE	
December	TOTAL
1	52
8	73
15	64
22	49
24	49
29	47
Avg	56

Offering to date December	
2023	2024
\$136,489.23	\$130,717
Expenses to date December	
2023	2024
\$133,971.24	\$138,728.66
	Payoff of Building loan not included in expenses, property sale not included in offerings

*Please have newsletter articles submitted before **January 20***

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) 2nd Term
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

New Business:

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

Dec. 10 Committee Reports due for Annual Report

Jan. 7 Council Meeting & Budget Development 2:00pm

Meeting Notice to All Members Thursday, Sent Jan.10

Annual Report Distributed Jan.19

- **Quarterly Meeting of Members**-Feb. 13, 5:00 Faith Room
- **2023 Nominations Committee Report**-Barb C & George Obermeyer will schedule a meeting for the week of Dec. 9th with Pat Reistroffer, Lee Limpach, & John Pelster;

Staff Report – From Ginger Garner

- **Facility Use** -no new forms;
- **Other**- none
- **Announcements and Adjournment** – Barb Clausen adjourned the meeting at 4:15pm;

**Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee – Tuesday, Jan. 7,
9:00-9:30am zoom
Council – Thursday, Jan. 7, 2024 – 2:00-5:00pm**



THANK YOU

Bethany Lutheran Church Small Seeds and Sprouts

For a wonderful Christmas Pageant.

We appreciate you!

Bethany's Corner



Shelly Limpach is our prayer chain contact. You may contact her with your prayer concerns through email at BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com. If you have an urgent prayer request, please call the church office.

Continued Prayers & Healing

Barb Clausen	Annji Handley	Norma Oyloe
Bill Zimmerman	Evelyn Jackson	Bob Baldwin
John Mullaney	Bob Reistroffer	Kim Isakson
Barbara Price	Gail Obermeyer	Jennifer Nance
Takko family	Custer family	Thibodeau family
Gilchrist Family	Judy Bailey	David & Dana Hughes
Krista & John Croy		



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

07 Marilyn Isakson	17 Barbara Clausen
08 John Pelster	22 Carol Thompson
12 Judy Bailey	Carol Lane
16 Shaylin Murphy	24 Rhonda Archer
	26 Gail Obermeyer

ANNIVERSARIES

29 Rick & Robin Siragusa

Emergency Fund for January

We know that in many cases we have each been a few steps away from losing our jobs, health, insurance, and then our homes. We are grateful that we have not been homeless, and are blessed to be a blessing to others. Family Promise interviews homeless families, and those that qualify may receive temporary housing at the former Kelso Presbyterian church (or through grant funds) other low-income housing. Each family receives counseling on job skill, parenting, or other appropriate support as well as required goal-setting with accountability, and help in applying for jobs. Children are bused to their home school (requirement of the McKinney-Vento act) so there is the least disruption to their educational plan. FP exists on grants, donations, some county support, and individuals good will. Want the newsletter? office@fpcowlitz.org Want a tour? Sign up and go by 215 Academy Avenue. Join Bethany this month by putting your second-mile (extra) giving in the Emergency Fund plate in the back of the sanctuary.

Annual Meeting January 26 after the Potluck Brunch

Right after the service a potluck brunch will be served thanks to the assistance of our wonderful Hospitality Committee. At approximately 10:50-11:00 we will start the annual meeting. Each family unit may pick up one annual report on Sunday, January 19th so you have time to read it and get your questions answered. The meeting will then consist mostly of unfinished/new business separate from the report. If there is some business you would like included in the agenda, this must be received by Barb Clausen, Council president, prior to January 7th council meeting when the agenda is set. Only additions at the annual meeting, according to the guidelines, are announcements. The Constitution and Bylaws revisions will be a major part of the meeting and they will be available the week prior to the meeting as well. Friends are most welcome to attend and keep informed, but only active members (communing and giving in this two years) may vote—ELCA rules. We need a quorum of voting members so PLEASE attend!

Family Promise Dinners ~ 2025

This past year Bethany has been providing a dinner for the two families living at Family Promise in Kelso as they transition back into housing and learn new skills. If you would like to sign up to provide a dinner on the second Tuesday of a month, please see the circulating clip board or let Ginger know of your interest. You will get numbers and allergies a few days before, and you merely drop off the dinner at 5:00 at the door. If you have questions, please see Barb Clausen for help.

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- **Minister's Report:** Pastor Susan
 - ◇ **Increase membership**-no new members but some regular visitors; we have been blessed with many guests
 - ◇ **Time/Task Management**- Took some vacation days to balance;
 - ◇ **Other**- All Saints was a beautiful service on Nov. 5 and honored Ireone Olason, David Foslien, Duane Scott, Marlys Beck and Alice Snyder;
 - ◇ **Snyder Memorial** celebrated on Nov. 16 with 80 people in attendance;
 - ◇ **Advent Wednesdays** have averaged about 16;
 - ◇ **Byberg Conference**-use two continuing ed. days for Byberg & the remainder of the funds to cover the expenses for this January conference; **It was moved and seconded to eliminate the Bishop conference fee (as formerly approved) and use it for Byberg, as well as approve the two days Byberg continuing education. Motion carried**
 - **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report:** To extend spiritual outreach & increase participation in our church by at least 7% (by March)-Pr Suan, Susan Shiu, & Ginger will work on a report for the annual report; Please continue to invite guests—especially those who do not have a church!
- Unfinished Business:**
- **Lower Columbia Lay Leaders**-Council members were asked to attend Dec. 11 @ 1:30-Stella and Bethany will be the two participating churches;
 - **Priority Needs:** Computer and projector update-doing one at a time, but the new one is in the Faith room and working;
 - **Endowment Committee**-Barb Clausen reminded everyone that it starts in January if you know of any other members interested in joining;
 - **Peace Health-Kelso Family Community Resource Center Grant Update**-Barb Clausen said the grant has been submitted and she has a meeting with the Fdn. Person at Peace Health on Dec. 18th;
 - **Kelso Chamber Luncheon Report**-Pastor Susan and Judy Bailey attended. The benefits of membership will be reviewed at our budget meeting to determine if we wish to continue;

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy Alice Snyder memorial income \$90
- **Worship/Music:** New Year's Eve: 9:30; Jan. 5 lay-lead; Next meeting Jan. 19th
- ◇ Christmas advertised in the TDN Community Events and at the Chamber of Commerce newsletter;
- ◇ Advent Wednesdays Dec. 4, 11, & 18 at 12:15 followed by soup and fellowship;
- ◇ Christmas Eve service at 4:00pm on Dec. 24;
- ◇ Comfort and Hope service will be held Sunday, Dec. 22 at 4:00pm;
- **Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen
- ◇ Thanksgiving Monies delivered and December gifts and money delivered Dec. 16-17;
- ◇ Grant monies were added: Kelso FCRC 200; EAT 200: Columbia Hts \$150; Lexington \$250; This is from the Price Foundation and donations to the grant fund from Bethany;
- ◇ Next FISH-Set up Jan. 12 or 13; Distribution Jan. 14; Served 100 people—amazing!
- ◇ Small Seeds & Sprouts: Pageant on Dec. 8 after meeting Nov. 9 & 23rd;
- **Duct Tape Crew:** George Obermeyer & Russ Gilchrist
- ◇ Christmas decorating with church family on Sunday, Nov. 24th due to calendar;
- ◇ Weekly outside yard and lawn maintenance preformed.
- ◇ Weekly inside cleaning has been done dependent on volunteers available, (The team appreciates the addition of Justin from Life Works!) Joyce has addressed the floor;
- **Stewardship:**
- ◇ Had the privilege to hear three testimonials for the stewardship drive—Tree of Transformation—all about the power of prayer in our lives & the need to pledge;
- ◇ “Tree of Transformation” Pledge Results **33 family units**. Thank you to the Financial Secretaries! Those who do not pledge will be guesstimated—thank you to those who helped us accurately figure our budget.
- **Mutual Ministry:** February 19th, 11:00 next meeting;
- **Education:**
- ◇ **Women's Bible Study-** Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30 Dec.3, 10;
- ◇ **Pastor led Bible Study-**Fridays zoom at 10:00qm and Sundays 11:30;
- ◇ **Confirmation Update-** 8 youth participating
- **Women of Bethany:** No report

Ministry of the Month: The Financial Team

It takes many hands to manage the financials safely in an organization. We have the Financial Secretaries (Pam van den Driessche, Mary Storm, and Barb Wilson) who take in the weekly offerings, record them securely, make the deposits, add the electronic giving, and print the member statements—this is all handled confidentially and no one else has access to your records. The Treasurer (Susan Shiu) is responsible for oversight and monitoring the bookkeeping processes and recommending decisions to the Exec. Committee and Council. She makes sure we economize and get our state and federal reports done on time. The bookkeeper/administrative assistant (Ginger Garner) keeps the ledgers, writes the checks, balances the check book, pays the bills, and collaborates with the treasurer on the budget and all reports. Separate from this is the elected Financial Review Committee (Bob Baldwin, Kathy Newton, & Bob Reistroffer) who monitors the business practices, does careful scrutiny of all financial transactions for proper receipting, etc. and makes recommendations for any changes to the Council. Your gifts to Bethany are treasured and handled very carefully by all of these dedicated individuals! Thank you for your service!

Who Can Vote at Our Annual Meeting?

This is always a questions folks have and it is very difficult to answer for those of us who have been raised to be inclusive that all are welcome. **AND ALL ARE STILL WELCOME!** It is just that we are bound to follow the ELCA and Roberts Rules of Order 12th Edition for our formal congregational meetings. So you all come—friends included so you share our joys and challenges, but please understand the few times we vote only active members vote.

Our active membership that counts for a quorum does not include our friends, our homebound (since they cannot attend in person), or those who according to the ELCA Constitution have not communed or given in the past two years. Also, there is no proxy (absentee) voting as all must be able to hear and discuss at the time of the occurrence. After COVID we struggled to include online zoom option, but the noise, lack of two-way communication, etc. did not make this a successful experience.

Our active membership is re-counted before the annual meeting but is generally 70. Please join us as we must have a quorum to pass the budget or do any business on January 26, 2025 after the service and pot-luck brunch.

Upcoming Events

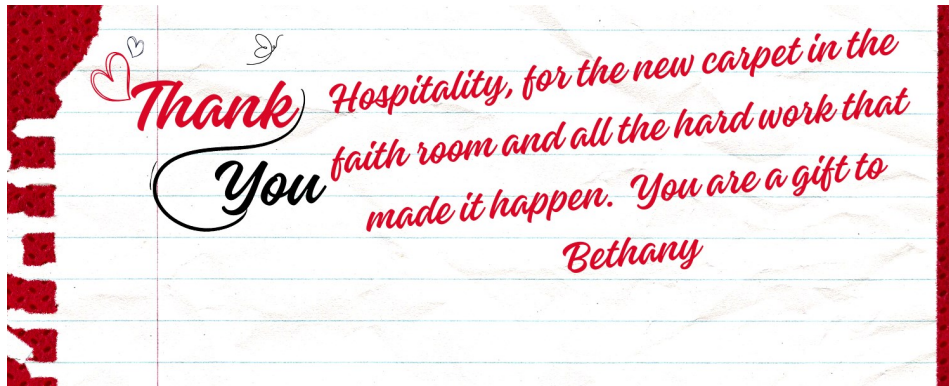
New Years Day
Office Closed

Council Meeting/ Budget Meetin
January 7 at 2:00

Small Seeds and Sprouts
January 11

Music and Worship Meeting
January 19 after service

Annual Meeting
January 26
Following service we will have our annual potluck then congregation al meeting. Please plan to attend.



Lay Leaders Advent ~ Hungry Kids Supplies

What an amazing group of Stella and Bethany folks gathered supplies, assembled 50 go bags and many boxes to help hungry school children in Kelso-Longview for the winter break! Stella brought two pick up loads and Bethany filled boxes, too. The Family Community Resource Centers in Kelso and Longview were so amazed and joyful to receive these bountiful gifts. Thank you from the children! Join your Lutheran friends at Stella Chapel at our next meeting Wednesday, February 26th at 12:00 for soup and planning!

December Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, December 5, 2024 3:00p.m.
Beth Grambo, 3234 Allen Street, Kelso

Attendance – George Obermeyer, Beth Grambo, Susan Shiu, Pastor Susan Dollinger, Phyllis Cavens, Russ Gilchrist, Don Wallin, and Barb Clausen

Devotions and Prayer – Phyllis Cavens

Call to Order and President's Report – Barbara Clausen called the meeting to order at 3:21pm.

- Decisions made between Council Meetings: Approved Friendship Force external facility use electronically.
- Agenda Changes Possible legislative impact on non-profits
- Devotions for Thursday, January 7, 2:00- Pastor Susan

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

- Approve November minutes as emailed

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui

Month- November 2024 offerings of \$10,125, fell short of the budgeted expenses of \$10,897 by \$772. November 2024 YTD offerings of \$118,095 fell short 2024 YTD expenses of \$126,931 by \$8,836. November 2023 YTD offerings of \$119,022 fell short of budget expenses of \$123,118 by \$4,096. Land sale proceeds are separated from this expense report.

Lot- The land sale proceeds in the amount of \$63,842.65 have been spent/distributed as follows: Red Canoe Mortgage payoff \$23,792; Building paint \$5087.38; Memorial Fund repayment \$621.50; Property insurance remainder of year \$4835.63; fix stairs/deck \$216.20; piano tuning \$150, sign placement \$805.35; 6 month CD \$23,000. Outstanding bills to be paid from proceeds: Re-key building \$584.81, Faith room computer \$409.25.

Synod Remittance-Undesignated benevolence \$500

- **Emergency Fund Report-** \$503.15 for Christmas food baskets for schools & grant (Lexington \$ 335.43 & Col. Hts. \$167.72; Will try to take some money from Hungry Kids grants to supplement.
- **Attendance for November Avg. 57**

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy
 - ◇ Smorgasbord December 1 at 5:00—62nd anniversary 102 attended for a great night;
 - ◇ Annual Meeting Potluck Brunch-Jan. 26th after service;
 - ◇ Friendship Force (outside group) catered by Hospitality as a fund raiser, Dec.8
 - ◇ Thank you for completing the new carpet in the Faith Room! Beautiful!

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.

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

THANK YOU

Randy and Beth Grambo for getting the sanctuary bulbs replaced and brightening up Bethany

Thank you

Dear Bethany Family,
Thank you for the nice tribute for my leadership on getting the lot sold, portable fixed and repairs! It took many of you to get it done and I am very grateful. We all work for the glory of the Lord in His house! Thank you also for the gift card to the fabric store- I see more banners, etc in our future! God bless you on and all!
Barb Clausen



Growing in Faith & Knowledge

Women's Bible Study

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

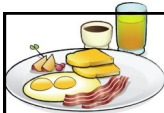
January 7	10:30 am	Bible Study
January 14	10:30 am	Bible Study
January 21	10:30 am	Bible Study
January 28	10:30 am	Bible Study

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

Bible Study on 1 Corinthians begins Jan 31

10:00 am online- Fridays
11:15 am in person- Sundays

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!

Moments at the Lake

Wednesdays @1:30

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.

Bethany

Small Seeds and Sprouts

January 11
12:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts



Thank You
to the hospitality team for the hard work that goes in to the annual Smorgasbord. It is a huge undertaking and we are thankful to have each of you. Thank you to the Castle Rock Mens Ensemble for coming and lifting our spirits with carols



Thank you

Dear Bethany family:

Thank you for the cards, prayers, well wishes and cash gift. I am always blessed and humbled by your generosity. I am thankful I can serve God and this congregation as your music director. I love hanging out with you all and singing unto the Lord together! You guys are so amazing. Thank you for making the community of Bethany the coolest place ever. I appreciate you so much. Thank you!



Dorothy McMillan

Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, January 5 - Lay Service

Greeter	Barb Clausen
Ushers	Bob & Pat Reistroffer
Reader	Russ Gilchrist
Communion Setup	Lay Service
Communion Assist	Lay service
Powerpoint	
Live Service	Lee Limpach
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Pam van den Driessche Shelly & Lee Limpach

Sunday, January 12 Small Seeds Sunday/ Communion

Greeter	Small Seeds
Usher	Chris Engebo/Harry Blair
Reader	Small Seeds
Communion Setup	Dot Blair
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Beth & Glenn Milhiser

Sunday, January 19 Communion

Greeter	Joyce Croy
Usher	
Reader	Phyllis Cavens
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Karen Langworthy
Powerpoint	Lee Limpach
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	Barb Clausen/ Phyllis Cavens

Sunday, January 26 - Communion

Greeter	Beth & Glenn Milhiser
Ushers	Karen Langworthy/ Russ Gilchrist
Reader	Kathy Newton
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	Lee Limpach
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Annual Potluck

Thank You

for the incredibly generous Christmas gift. Your kindness and thoughtfulness have touched my heart in ways words can hardly express.

It is a blessing to be part of such a caring and loving congregation. Thank you for your prayers, your kindness and for making Christmas special.

May God bless each and every one of you, and may the joy of the season continue to shine in your hearts throughout the year.

Ginger



Thank You

Thank you to Barb Clausen for creating a beautiful new Advent banner.

"Hope" is one of the the themes of Advent (along with Peace, Joy, and love.)

It is one we hold in our hearts as Easter people even in the darkest winter nights.

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

January

1
New Years
Office Closed

2
9:00 Duct Tape
10:00 Coffee w/
Duct Tape

3

6:00 Girl Scouts

4

12:30 Small Seeds
& Sprouts

5 *Sunday Service*
Lay Sunday
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 Coffee Hour
Undecorate Church

6
7
8:00 Breakfast Group
9:00 Exec (zoom)
10:30 Women's Bible
Study
2:00 Budget Meeting
Council Meeting
6:00 Boy Scouts

8
1:30 Moments @
Bethany

9
9:00 Duct Tape
10:00 Coffee w/
Duct Tape

10
Annual meeting
Notice to be mailed

6:00 Girl Scouts

12 *Sunday Service*
Pr Susan Dollinger
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 Coffee Hour

13
14
8:00 Breakfast Group
10:30 Women's Bible
Study
6:00 Boy Scouts
Bishops Convo- Pr out

15

Bishops Convo- Pr out

16
9:00 Duct Tape
10:00 Coffee w/
Duct Tape

17

6:00 Girl Scouts

19 *Sunday Service*
Pr Susan Dollinger
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 Coffee Hour
11:15 Music &
Worship

20
21
8:00 Breakfast Group
10:30 Women's Bible
Study
6:00 Boy Scouts

22
1:30 Moments @
Bethany

23
9:00 Duct Tape
10:00 Coffee w/
Duct Tape

24

6:00 Girl Scouts

26 *Sunday Service*
Pr Susan Dollinger
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 Pot luck
Annual Meeting

27
28
8:00 Breakfast Group
10:30 Women's Bible
Study
6:00 Boy Scouts
Byberg conference- PR out

29

Byberg conference- PR out

30
9:00 Duct Tape
10:00 Coffee w/
Duct Tape

31
10:00 Bible Study
online

6:00 Girl Scouts