Bethany Lutheran Church

2900 Parkview Drive Longview, WA 98632

God's Blessings to . . .



April 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



Galatians 5: 22-23

The Fruit of the Spirit

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Dear Bethany,

Blessings to you this Lenten season. During our Wednesday evenings, we have been following the theme of the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Our first Lenten Wednesday was about generosity and kindness as we prayed over the to go bags and had a little Girl Scout comes and tell us all about Jesus. We had a beautiful prayer service on stillness and patience around the cross, and a service on faithfulness in the sanctuary. Join us for our final two services, a prayer service on gentleness, and self-control on April 2nd; and for peace, on April 9th, we will hold a service called the Healing of the Nations. If you haven't attended the Healing of the Nations service yet, I encourage you to do so. We pray over every nation of the world. It is quite a moving service (I think so anyway). And Easter morning we will celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ, and the love of our Savior as we proclaim, "Hallelujah Christ has Risen indeed."

I am thankful always for the return of Spring and for Easter that is fully alive with hope, and healing if needed, and love and joy and all the fruit of the Spirit.

May you have a blessed Lent, and a blessed Easter. May you feel the renewal of the season and the new birth through the resurrection.

In Kindness,

Pastor Susan

• Lenten Offering: Decided April newsletter article; brochures in the narthex, & temple talk; April 4 Portland dinner auction fund raiser is open to members to attend—see Phyllis Cavens or Renee Pelster for dinner details asap; 1.5-minute video on Sunday; Lenten offering mention on Sundays and Wednesdays—It was moved and seconded to approve the Lenten Wednesday offering for Medical Team International. Motion carried.

Staff Report –

- Life Works -Justin with Life works gave his 2 weeks notice on February 19. Resignation accepted. He had found a position with more hours. Pr. Susan has a meeting with Lifeworks scheduled March 13th to discuss our needs for a new employee. It was moved and seconded to provide one hour per week every week at minimum wage for better regularity. Motion carried.
- **Longview Public Library** agreement signed allowing them to set up every other Saturday in the Lower Parking lot. Advanced notice will be given to library in cases of Celebration of Life.
- **Financial Audit Committee** Met on March 6, 2025 to learn about the Power Church accounting program and to discuss the audit roll moving forward. An official Audit is scheduled for April 23.
- Facility Use Update- *Pending* Mt. St. Helen Hiking Club- Currently they pay \$60 per meeting with storage for 4 bins, 35 people attending. They meet 8 months out of the year (bad weather months) on the 4th Tues (may be willing to change days as this conflicts with boy scouts) 5-8 pm. Looking to change locations in October.
- Adjournment-Barb Clausen adjourned the meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm
 - Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Tuesday, April 2, 12:00 Council Thursday, April 24 12:00 pm;

Name/Position/Term 1. 2. Barbara Clausen President (2027) 2ndTerm 3. Susan Shiu (2028) 1st 4. Phyllis Cavens (2025) 1st 5. George Obermeyer (2026)1st 6. Beth Grambo (2027) 1st 7. Tori Gosch (2028) 1st 8. P. Susan Dollinger (Pastor)

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- ♦ Will be planning Bill Zimmerman's Celebration of Life
- Goal/Action Plan Progress Report: Increase membership by 7%-Retreat discussion and will reset goal;

Unfinished Business:

- Lower Columbia Lutheran Conferences-Met Feb. 26, Wednesday at Stella Chapel noon and planned a meeting at Trinity with the women to gather supplies for Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP). This program supports prevention and intervention with high-risk mothers and their children in the local area. Date TBA Considering an event with Beth's Place later this spring;
- Endowment Committee Update-Members met March 6 to review the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and the Ministry Growth Fund and determined our direction. We will now proceed to develop draft documents to take to the congregation; Next meeting Thursday, April 24 1:00-2:00;
- **Directory-**A list of corrections will be forthcoming; (deadline was Feb. 26)

New Business:

- **Quarterly Meeting of Members-** Thursday, Feb.13th met and discussed for name tags for Sunday morning Birthday Bash, magnetic reusable name tags consideration, consider donations from a list of needed supplies;
- Parking-Need for additional handicapped parking spots in upper lot and re-stripe the rest; At the recommendation of Duct Tape, it was moved and seconded to have 3 handicapped spaces added to the upper lot. Motion carried. It was also suggested that we encourage those who are able to park in the lower lot to make room for those who need a flat surface entry;
- Council Retreat-Re-scheduling the retreat for Tuesday, April 29 and Thursday, May 1 1-4:00 each day;
- **Sound System Report**-Review quotes and determine if ready to commit; After discussion it was recommended that we postpone a decision and have the third quote submitted no later than March 29th. A decision needs to be made by April 6 or request an extension on some quotes. Pastor will convey this and come with a recommendation for a contract. **Postponed.**
- Fund Raiser Approval- Rummage sale proposed Set up Tuesday, June 10, Sale Friday June 13-14; Clean up June 7; It was moved and seconded to approve the rummage sale with Karen Langworthy responsible. Motion carried.
- Lenten Offering: Decided April newsletter article; brochures in the narthex, & temple talk; April 4 Portland dinner auction fund raiser is open to members to attend—see Phyllis Cavens or Renee Pelster for dinner details asap; 1.5-minute video on Sunday; Lenten offering mention on Sundays and Wednesdays—It was moved and seconded to approve the Lenten Wednesday offering for Medical Team International. Motion carried.

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

02	Lynne Dalleck	09	David Hughes
03	Renee Pelster	25	Mirabella Murphy
07	Larry Jackson	28	Karen Gilchrist
80	Beth Grambo		
09	David Hughes		

ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Dan & Martha Sharp
- 28 Russ & Karen Gilchrist

April Emergency Fund: Emergency Support Shelter

The shelter serves abused men (off-site), women, and children of Cowlitz & Wahkiakum counties with a wide variety of programs, including counseling, medical help, safety planning, police/court services, victim compensation, and access to community resources. Victims of both domestic and sexually violent crimes are helped to escape from violence to hope. This month, our local support in the ER plate will help those in need. Thank you for your second mile giving!

Life Works & Duct Tape

Sadly, our helper, Justin, has moved on after being with Bethany a year, and we are currently seeking a new helper. The council has authorized one hour a week every week at the recommendation of Duct Tape and the Life Works staff. This regularity will mean that some cleaning will be rotated every other week to meet our budget and help out our volunteers. We wish Justin well in his endeavors and thank him for his time here.

Designated funds:

Building, Capital Improvement and Sound System

If you have been giving to Bethnay's Building Fund, please change the wording to Capital Improvement. This fund pays for major improvements to the facility or to major equipment needed to run the church including deductibles, a new piece of kitchen equipment or for the new sound system.

There is also a designated fund specifically for the sound system. It is a costly project and the donated money will go towards the sound board, wiring, microphones, projector, etc. (Quotes for this project are currently being taken).

When the council settles on the authorization for this sound system project, we will use some of the money from the capital improvement, and the sound system account but there will be left over money in the Capital Improvement fund to cover emergencies.

We are grateful for whatever you are able to designate for the general fund and beyond, If you have any questions, please ask the Treasurer, Susan Shiu.

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy The office carpet is installed and the plastic chair shields were added; Thank you!
- Worship/Music: Next meeting March 16th
- Lent starting March 5 Ash Wednesday, Theme Fruit of the Spirit; homeless To go bags March 12 at 4:30; Holy Week starts April 13-Easter April 20; Next lay led service March 30;
- Lasana (Blind African Singer) is coming back on May 4
- Youth/Service: Barb Clausen
- ♦ Grant money: EAT \$300, Refuge \$500, K- FCRC \$400; aut 1.000
- ♦ Next FISH-May 27, with set up on Monday, May 26; Need pasta, shampoo, toilet paper...
- February 19-served 8 seniors, 49 adults, 34 kids, and 3 babies for a total of 94 in 25 families;
- Small Seeds and Sprouts March 15&16;
- Exploring a possible summer camp idea at Barnes School Gardens with Pat R.
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer; Need a second person to open the church on Sundays; Clean-up day scheduled for Saturday, Saturday, April 12; Hoping to get a new person Life Works to help with custodial;
- Stewardship: No report
- Mutual Ministry: Met February 19 and next meeting April 30;
- Women's Bible Study- Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30 March 4, 11, 18, & 25 Faithfulness:
- **Education-** Galatian's 11:15 in person will end on March 9;
- ♦ Confirmation learned about the Psalms; Moments at the Lake- continue at the church; Confirmation working on Proverbs;
- **Women of Bethany:** No report; Next meeting March 25, Tuesday at 10:30:
- Minister's Report: Pastor Susan
- ♦ Support increased membership: At the Bishop's convocation, Pastor led two groups of pastors at Small Rural Congregations and we began to create a list of needs for support. List sent to participants & Synod;
- ♦ Time/Task Management I learned that January and annual meetings are its own season and not a time for much else!
- Other- Pastor was so sorry to have missed the Birthday Bash, etc. Truly heartbroken. COVID hit. Had to arrange Sunday and Ash Wednesday. Grateful for those who helped both with services, and also with Bill Zimmerman. A special thank you Pr. Bob Ross of Castle Rock who helped me with Bill a great deal. This was a very challenging situation.
- Attended a webinar for Lutheran Community Services. They are in a lawsuit against the government to be able to resettle many refugees. It is a reminder that refugees enter into this country legally and the states agree to settle them for a certain amount of days. They are fighting for the rights to do this as promised.

February Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Zoom Council Meeting Minutes– Thursday, March 13, 2025 3:00p.m. **Attendance** – Beth Grambo, Barb Clausen, Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer, Tori Gosch, Susan Shiu, & Phyllis Cavens;

Devotions and Prayer – Beth Grambo led the reading and prayer. **Call to Order and President's Report** – Barb Clausen called the meeting to order at 3:06.

- Decisions made between council meetings: Approved the Longview bookmobile to use our lower parking lot one Saturday a month and plug into our electricity. They will move if we have a celebration of life service conflict.
- Agenda Changes-Temple Talk-Medical Teams International-Phyllis Cavens
- Devotions for April 24 at 12:00 Council Meeting-Barb Clausen

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

Filed as approved

Treasurer's Report – Susan Shui

February		2025 YTD		February-2024		2024 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
\$10,230	\$12,114	\$19,700	\$24,579	\$6,083	\$11,874	\$13,721	\$22,649
fell short by \$1,884		fell short	by \$4,879	Fell short	t by \$5,791	Fell short	by \$8,928

- Synod Remittance-\$358.05
- **Emergency Fund Report-** Lutheran World Relief \$424.80, Pr. Discretionary \$106.20
- Attendance for February Avg. 48
- Synod Report-Thank you Susan and Ginger for submitting the report;
- CD matures March 17-Do we roll it over for 6 month or put in savings to start our foundation fund?; It was moved and seconded to deposit the money in savings upon maturity to prepare for the our opening a Ministry Growth Fund as a part of the ELCA Endowment. Motion carried.
- Ministry Reports –
- Hospitality: Joyce Croy
- <u>Big Band Birthday Bash</u> for Our 90's! March 2 A great success! Thanks
 to Pastor for the idea and for the gracious Hospitality Committee! We
 celebrated five members with lots of food and memorabilia! Approximately ten guests were welcomed!
- ♦ Bark Dust-Thank you to the two individuals who are donating bark dust for the two sign areas! Barb Wilson has proposed a fundraiser for the additional bark dust. It was moved and s seconded to approve the max. of \$400 monopoly fund raiser from April 6 to May 10 for the north, south, and remaining front of the church. Motion carried.
- ♦ <u>Planning Easter Brunch</u>-Hospitality brunc ; <u>Mother's Day</u>-men will cook; Father's Day-potluck;

Ministry of the Month: Duct Tape, Altar Care, & Communion

Wow! Do we have wonderful volunteers who give their time to the building and grounds—always using plenty of duct tape, of course; altar care who changes banner, altar cloths, fixes the candles, etc.; and the angels that prepare the communion and serve it! All of these service opportunities provide for a wonderful worship services and comfort, cleanliness, and TLC to our building and grounds. You are such a blessing to all of us, and we thank you for your dedication and faithfulness!

Longview Library Bookmobile on Campus

One Saturday a month in our lower parking lot, you can find the bookmobile plugged into the building. It is a way to share our campus with others and make Bethany known in our community. If you have a Longview Library card, here is a place to shop for books on loan!

Lutherans Like to Eat!

Thank you to the Hospitality Committee for organizing our social events so often. Plan ahead for the Easter continental breakfast—invite your friends and family on **Sunday**, **April 20**th and look for the potluck information from them! **Mother's Day**—bring your friends and family back on **Sunday**, **May 11**th when the men of our church treat the ladies to a pancake breakfast! Finally, mark your calendar for Father's Day, **Sunday**, **June 15**th for a potluck! These are great opportunities to reach out God's hand and invite others to worship with us. Have family/acquaintances that don't have a church home? Make them welcome at Bethany!

Homeless Bags: Blessed to Be A Blessing!

Wow! Thank you so much for opening your hearts and donating so many nutritious foods and hygiene products! We filled fifty (50) bags to help those with food insecurity. Pick up bags in the Fellowship Hall and hand out to those you find in need. It is a chance to do God's Work with Our Hands!

Sound System Update

The Council is receiving three quotes from companies, analyzing them, seeking expert advice, and will prepare to make a decision soon. It is hoped that we can move into at least a first phase of this big project in late April-May, so that the quality of our worship services will improve. Thank you for your patience and for giving to this BIG project!

Upcoming Events

Council Meeting

April 3

Stations of the Cross Art and Artifacts

Due April 10

Small Seeds and Sprouts

April 12 at 12:30

Duct tape Cleanup day

April 12 at 9:00 am

Bethany Lutheran Church
HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE
6:00 PM APRIL 17
Maundy Thursday
6:00 PM APRIL 18
Good Friday

Lower Columbia Lutherans

April 23 at 12:00 Bethany Fellowship Hall

your fellow Lutherans will be meeting with us at Bethany for a bowl of soup and planning! We are working to sponsor an opportunity to support Beth's Place, the shelter for homeless youth that has opened in the former Carriage House Restaurant. They could use our help in helping unhoused youth get on their feet! Join us to learn more—RSVP Ginger if you are coming so the soup pot will be full enough!

Council Retreat

April 29 part I May 1 Part II

Medical Teams International Lenten Offering

Current catchment population almost 6MM (5,941,855) as of today. Refugee & IDP catchment population – 2,843,666 and national catchment population 3,098,189 – these are the numbers of people that we have access to serve.

Last year 9.10MM catchment over the 6 countries. 2.3MM healthcare consultations. 292 health facilities. 523 nutrition sites. 94.5% cure rate among those treated for moderate or sever acute malnutrition in Ethiopia, Sudan & Uganda. 90% of children under 2 in Uganda, Tanzania & Ethiopia project areas are fully vaccinated for their age.

CHW (Community health workers) 2,374 and reaching 73,783 individuals in the countries we serve – Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, Colombia (and US)

Are all of our camps UN sanctioned? Medical Teams works in a variety of contexts globally. Some sites are refugee camps, others are refugee settlements, and sometimes we work in host community facilities or in community centers using mobile medical units. Wherever we work with refugees, we work together with UNCHR, as they are responsible for facilitating a safe environment. We do not run any camps, but help provide healthcare to refugees, internally displaced people, and local communities due to crises where external support is needed.

Who are our nutrition partners in camps? We directly implement nutrition projects in many locations, coordinating with WFP (World Food Program) for supplies where we can.

Do we have other major medical partners? We work with the Ministry of Health in the countries we operate, and have a few partners (other NGOs) who are able to program activities around disability, mental health, water and sanitation, and mobile medical units in contexts like Ukraine and Colombia. We have a partnership with Providence for our US dental programming. Wherever we work, we coordinate with the government and other actors who are providing similar services to ensure there is no overlap.

Medical Teams is not working in Gaza

TITLE DEED BOARDWALK

Throughout April we will be collecting money for bags of bark dust to beautify our grounds. We have a fun Monopoly fundraiser. Buy a Monopoly property costing between \$11 and \$44 We need many bags of bark to spread out, so let's fill the board up! On May 10 come and help spread the bark dust, we will need as many people as possible to help out. THANKS!

Thank You

Chris Cotten, Beth Grambo, Barb Clausen for helping on Sunday when I was sick, and to all the people who helped with pastoral care with Bill Zimmerman in his final days.

Join us for our 15th Annual Cares Campaign! An Evening of "Breaking Bread"

Join us on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, for an inspiring evening! Enjoy a catered dinner, mocktails, an auction, a paddle raise, a dessert dash, mystery houses, inspiring stories and more.

Get your ticket now or sponsor a table of eight!

If you'd like to donate an auction item or help sponsor the event, please contact us at chelseaa@choblv.org or call 360.560.1694



Opportunities to Gather and Learn

Women's Bible Study

We gather for prayers, cares, concerns, challenges, and

	celebration in	the Faith room and on Zoom
April 1	10:30 am	Faith Risks: Jairus & the faithful woman
April 8	10:30 am	Faith Risks: Jairus & the faithful woman
April 15	10:30 am	Faith Risks: Jairus & the faithful woman
April 22	10:30 am	Faith Risks: Jairus & the faithful woman
April 29	10:30 am	Women of Bethany

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!

Moments at the Lake Bethanv

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.

Small Seeds and Sprouts

April 12 at 12:30





LOT ON SUNDAYS

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>			
March	TOTAL		
2	46		
9	62		
16	57		
23	49		
30	42		
AVG	51		

Offering to date February				
2024	2025			
\$38,652	\$31,154			
Expenses to date March				
2024	2025			
\$35,722	\$37,682			

Wednesdays throughout Lent dinner Schedule

Date	Soup	Bread/ Rolls
April 2	1. Barb Wilson	Nancy Skora
	2. Joyce Croy	
April 9	1. Nancy Skora	Barb Clausen
	2. Duane and Carol Thompson	

Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, April 6 - Communion

Greeter Duane Thompson

Ushers Harry Blair/Russ Gilchrist

Reader Duane Thompson
Communion Setup Pat Reistroffer
Communion Assist Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint Carol Thompson
Live Service Lee Limpach

Financial Secretary Pam van den Driessche

Coffee hour Karen Langworthy/ Barb Wilson

Sunday, April 13 Small Seeds / Palm Sunday Communion

Greeter Small seeds and sprouts

Usher Chris Engebo/Tom Hughes/ Barb Bley

Reader Small Seeds and Sprouts

Communion Setup Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist Pat Reistroffer

Powerpoint

Live Service Lee Limpach Financial Secretary Barb Wilson Coffee hour Hospitality

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday Communion

Greeter Judy Bailey

Usher Chris Engebo/Karen Langworthy

Reader Barb Clausen

Communion Setup
Communion Assist

Powerpoint Carol Thompson
Live Service Lee Limpach
Financial Secretary Mary Storm

Coffee hour Continental Brunch by Hospitality

Sunday, April 27 - Communion

Greeter Susan Shiu
Ushers Harry Blair/
Reader Barb Bley
Communion Setup Nancy Skora
Communion Assist Nancy Skora
Powerpoint Dan Lane
Live Service Lee Limpach

Financial Secretary Pam van den Driessche

Coffee hour Carol Thompson



<u>Good Friday – Stations of the Cross Gallery</u>

Calling all artsy types, Small Seeds and Sprouts, and spiritual type people. I would like those who are interested to provide a "piece" that would go along with the station of the cross. It could be a poem, quilt, wood carving, pottery, something you have already, or a photograph or music; the following are the stations (technically, there are 14 stations; these are a combined version.) We will build this as we go. Due by April 10

- 1. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane;
- 2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas, arrested, and condemned
- 3. Jesus is denied by Peter three times
- 4. Jesus is judged by Pilate and crowned with thorns;
- 5. Jesus takes up his cross, Simon of Cyrene helps him to carry his cross, and Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
- 6. Jesus is crucified
- 7. Jesus promises the repentant thief he will be with him in paradise, and Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other.
- 8. Jesus dies on the cross
- 9. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

April

Bethany Lutheran Church 2025

-			9			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	02 12:15 Exec Zoom 1:30 Moments @ Bethany 5:15 Soup Supper 6:00 Service	·	04 6:00 Girl Scouts	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Sunday Service 9:30 Worship .0:30 Coffee Hour		8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	1:30 Moments at Bethany 5:15 Soup Supper 6:00 Service healing Nat.	9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape Stations of Cross art due	6:00 Girl Scouts	Duct tape Cleanup 12:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday Service Small Seeds & Sprouts 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour		8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	1:30 Moments at Bethany		6:00 Good Friday	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
caster Service 0:30 Worship Continental Breakfast		8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts Earth Day	12:00 Lower Col. Lutheran Conference 1:30 Moments at Bethany	10:00 Coffee Duct tape	6:00 Girl Scouts	
27	28	29	30	01	02	03
Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour		8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study Council Retreat 6:00 Boy Scouts	11:00 Mutual Ministry 1:30 Moments at Bethany			