

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

May 2025

God's Blessings to . . .



**May 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

From
the
Pastor's



Newsletter May 2025

He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20: 22

Dear Bethany,

With Easter being so late this year, May feels like a new beginning. I love the month of May. You are pretty sure winter is over and you are fully into Spring. You are planning your summer and maybe planting a garden. It is lovely. Even when we think spring will never come again, and winter seems to go on extra-long, spring returns. I personally am in awe of how God works. We are never too far away from a spring or a summer, or for that matter a winter or fall where there is death of something and a time of rest. Where there is death, there is rebirth. We are part of a cycle that continues throughout all the time. Jesus reminds us of death and resurrection. He reminds us that he was the victor over death.

We have entered a time called Eastertide. We are in between Easter and Pentecost, between the Resurrection and the day where the Holy Spirit fills the room, and three thousand people are saved. Pentecost comes on the 50th day after the Resurrection (June 8th this year). And Jesus made appearances for the first 40 days after the resurrection. Jesus had appeared to all his disciples several times and showed the holes in his hands to all of his disciples even though it is Thomas who gets the bad rap. He also breathes on his disciples, and they are filled with the Spirit so it seems they receive a double dose of the Spirit, as Pentecost is around the corner, this was perhaps to empower them until the day of Pentecost. We stand with this Holy Spirit as from the day of our baptisms. It is a part of us, today and always.

Eastertide is a time of rebirth and a time of assurance as we have just celebrated the resurrection of Eastern morn. It is a time of celebrating our baptism and knowing we are a part of the Holy Trinity - Three in One. We give thanks and praise for this time of rebirth and thanks and praise for knowing Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Hallelujah! Amen.

Happy Spring,

Pastor Susan

many adults and children starving and dying in the war. **The council by consensus decided to appoint a sub-committee of Phyllis Cavens and Beth Grambo to help our members be informed/empowered and learn how to advocate for this humanitarian genocide cause.**

Staff Report –

- **Facility Use Update-** Cancelled-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.
- ◇ **Approve Pastor Susan-**Attend for continuing education: WELCA Conference on May 2-3 and May 13, 14, 15 for Festival of Homiletics; and vacation for son's graduation June 10, 11, & 12. **It was moved and seconded to approve the dates as listed. Motion carried.**
- ◇ **Office-** Upgrading server computer in office--fyi
- ◇ **Days for Admin. Asst.-**Ginger did not use her trade day and is owed one for Easter Bulletins, etc. Ginger will arrange for these two days soon as they do not carryover to next year.
- **Vacation-**Approve Ginger's vacation for July 8, 9 & 10; **It was moved and seconded to approve the vacation of Ginger on July 8,9, & 10. Motion carried.**

Adjournment-Barb Clausen adjourned the meeting adjourned at ____

Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Wednesday, May 7, 12:15 ; Council – Thursday, May 15–3:00 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

- ◇ Still trying to connect with family to set Bill Zimmerman's service. – Set May 3 at 11:30
- **Goal/Action Plan Progress Report: Increase membership by 7%**-Retreat discussion and will reset goal;

Unfinished Business:

- **Lower Columbia Lutheran Conferences**-Stella is gathering toiletry supplies for Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP) and fund raising for the new washer at Beth's Place. (PCAP) program supports prevention and intervention with high-risk mothers and their children in the local area. Next meeting at Bethany on Wednesday, April 23 at noon to plan next steps—Beth Place pantry idea; Approval of June 4, 3:00;
- **Endowment Committee Update**-Committee is recommending we develop a foundation within the Ministry Growth Fund and drafted a purpose statement. Next meeting Thursday, April 24 1:00;
- **Directory**-Corrections are available in the narthex for everyone to add to their directories;
- **Sound System Report**-Work will start in May (sanctuary only), contract signed, down payment of \$11,000 made, and two purchased speakers for Fellowship Hall were ordered due to the potential tariffs in China; Total Cost for sanctuary and speakers-\$25,032.51
- **Council Retreat**-Re-scheduling the retreat for **Tuesday, April 29 and Thursday, May 1 1-4:00** each day;

New Business:

- **Members' Quarterly Meeting**- May 15, 5:00 in Faith Room ALL are welcome!
- **Resignation Newton Appoint 2025 Financial Review Replacement** -It was moved and seconded to accept the resignation of Kathy Newton with regret and to accept the appointment of Debra Takko in her place. **Motion carried.**
- **Council Feedback form**-due April 29th to Barb C
- **Library Books from Bookmobile for Homebound**-We have a brochure from the Longview Bookmobile that is using our parking lot that we will send out to Longview residence who are homebound BLC members. Card holders can also drop by the church on those Saturdays and check out a book—except when there is a funeral and then the bookmobile will be at Col Hts Elementary.
- **Movie "No Other Land"**-St. Stephens Episcopal is offering area churches a chance to pay \$100 for sponsorship of the \$900 total rental of this Oscar Award winning documentary on the Israeli attack on Gaza. After discussion, **it was moved and seconded to offer information to our members to purchase tickets to the movie in late May. Motion carried with one abstention.** Although we will not be a sponsor, we strongly believe in the humanitarian cause with so

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

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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

04	Norma Oyloe	14	Kelly Engebo
05	Tom Hughes	25	Gunars Arnits
		29	Tim Gosch

ANNIVERSARIES

7	Gil & Audrey Schauer
12	Dave & Nancy Skora
24	Larry & Evelyn Jackson
28	Tim & Tori Gosch
31	Randy & Beth Grambo

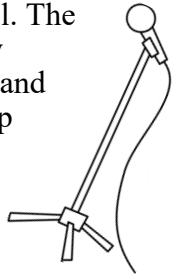
Emergency Fund for May-- Habitat for Humanity

This is a wonderful organization that accepts financial donations and many building and household goods for those who can use recycled materials. Giving money to this month's fund will help build houses in our county and help those who are struggling with housing needs.

As we do spring cleaning for the church rummage sale in June, also keep in mind that many of your sale donations to the church, if they are not sold, may end up helping those who can use re-cycled items from Habitat for Humanity. But give them to the church first for our sale!

Sound System Update

We are making our down payment for the sound system with a starting date for installation in May. We have cut back to only doing the sanctuary at this time as the cost is so high. Then we after we get this part paid for (hopefully, with the help of donations and fundraising), then we can tackle the sound and projection in the Fellowship Hall. The Council approved the \$11,000 down payment (previously covered by the congregation vote at the annual meeting), and the purchase of two additional speakers for the Fellowship Hall due to the threat of tariffs (nearly double the price if implemented.) We may store the speakers until that time, but for sure the price will be better before inflation!



Raffle Quilt and Baskets—Great Gifts!

Treat someone special to a lap quilt donated by a member with a value of over \$250. Tickets are on sale now and would make a wonderful gift for Mother's Day or a person in your life! Nothing better than to snuggle up with a warm quilt on a cool spring night! The quilt features dragon flies—the symbol of transformation and rebirth—a good symbol of spring and our lives in Christ! Buy ten or twenty tickets at \$2 each to increase your chances of winning and support the sound system at the same time! This drawing will be on Mother's Day so see Karen Langworthy now so you don't miss out!

Raffle baskets with great goodies are available as well with the ticket price of \$1 to also help the sound system project. This drawing has been extended to May 18th, so get your tickets and put them in the matching basket. Karen has these tickets as well!

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

- **Worship/Music:** Next meeting April 27 after coffee hour; next lay lead service on June 29th;
 - ◇ Easter April 20 attendance: 78
 - ◇ Lasana (Blind African Singer) is coming back on May 4
 - ◇ April 27, Russ Gilchrist will give the sermon, but Pastor Susan will lead the service;
 - ◇ Clarence & Kathy Newton were blessed on April 13 as they depart for Bonney Lake;
- **Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen
 - ◇ Grant money: EAT \$300, Refuge \$2500; Pat Reistroffer will assist with grants—Thank you!
 - ◇ FISH-May 27, with set up on Monday, May 26; Need pasta, shampoo, toilet paper...
 - ◇ Small Seeds and Sprouts Exploring a possible summer camp idea at Barnes School Gardens; April 13 was their meeting;
 - ◇ Mother's Day Events at Bethany (Col. Hts. May 6 & Lexington May 7);
- **Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer;
 - ◇ Opening-Need a second person to open the church on Sundays;
 - ◇ Clean-up report Saturday, April 12; (Donated bark dust spread on Saturday, May 10)
 - ◇ Life Works Hiring-Working on it;
 - ◇ Carol T. returned to Duct Tape
- **Stewardship:** No report
- **Mutual Ministry:** Next meeting TBA;
- **Women's Bible Study-** Meeting each Tuesday, 10:30 March 4, 11, 18, & 25 Faithfulness;
- **Education-** Pause during Lent;
 - ◇ Confirmation learned about Isaiah and Jeremiah; they have an assignment on the Psalms that they are completing for the class. They will help with the bark dust spreading. (10:00am May 10)
 - ◇ Confirmation Psalm assignments; Moments at the Lake- continue at the church;
- **Women of Bethany/Bible Study:** Brunch held at Barb Clausen's on Tuesday, April 15th for Kathy Newton;
- **Minister's Report:** Pastor Susan
 - ◇ **Support increased membership-**
 - ◇ **Time/Task Management-** Working ahead on bulletins with Ginger. (Ginger and I are planning an all-day workday.)
 - ◇ Completed: The second half of Lent with two more Wednesday soup suppers: April 2 and April 9 followed by Holy Week.
 - ◇ **Other-**Grauer-Attended pastor's memorial service;

February Council Minutes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Agenda— Thursday, April 24, 2025 12:00-1:15p.m.

Attendance -Tori Gosch, George Obermeyer, Susan Shiu, Pastor Susan Dollinger, Phyllis Cavens, Beth Grambo, and Barb Clausen;

Devotions and Prayer – Barb Clausen provided a devotion and prayer.

Call to Order and President's Report – Barb Clausen called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Decisions made between council meetings: Approved the Mother's Day Fund raiser raffles for sound system to begin April 21-May 11; Approved facility use for May 17 Sew Fun Day for Ladies of the Lake;

Agenda Changes-Added a film discussion;

Devotions for May15-Pastor Susan;

Secretary's Report – Beth Grambo

Filed minutes March 13 as printed;

- **Treasurer's Report** – Susan Shui

March		2025 YTD		March 2024		2024 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
\$7,160	\$13,060	\$26,999	\$37,682	\$24,979	\$12,479	\$41,700	\$35,726
Fell short -\$4,900		Fell short - \$10,683		Exceeded -\$12,500		Exceeded - \$5,974	

- **Synod Remittance** \$742.91 Benevolence - \$400.91 World Hunger \$242; Disaster Response \$100
- **Emergency Fund Report**- - \$94: \$75.20- Longview Salvation Army, \$18.80 Pastor Discretionary
- **Attendance for Averages:** February 48; March 51 (High March 9 of 62 (Birthday) and low March 30 of 42);
- **Lenten Special Offering Report** (Medical Teams International will be reported after Easter)
- **Financial Audit Report (Attached)** Postponed until the next meeting due to date change;

Ministry Reports –

- **Hospitality:** Joyce Croy
- ◊ Bark Dust Monopoly Fund Raiser-will be doing this from April 1-April 20th;
- ◊ Planning Easter Brunch-potluck; Mother's Day-men will cook; Father's Day-potluck;
- ◊ Lenten Suppers-Thank you for helping others use the kitchen;
- ◊ Newton Coffee Hour-providing in honor of Kathy & Clarence asked for cards for them;
- ◊ Funeral-Hospitality offered to take on the responsibility of the funeral food assignments Kathy did;
- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy No report

Ministry of the Month—Memorial Committee

A special thank you to the Memorial Committee members of Joyce Croy, Karen Langworthy and Gail Obermeyer who oversee the funds. Members provide thank you notes to those who donate to this designated fund and work with families who wish to provide a special donation or gift. They are responsible for recommending to council the financial allocations from the fund for a variety of church purposes. We are grateful for their participation and the many ways they have seen to support Bethany!

Rummage Sale—Save the Date and Start Your Spring Cleaning!

The Bethany Rummage sale will start collecting June 10th-12th in the Fellowship Hall with the sale Friday, June 13th and Saturday, June 14th. Please save those dates on your calendar to help the ladies sort/price, sell, and haul the remainder to various charities.

Your help is crucial to this great fundraiser.

RUMMAGE SALE

Setup: Tuesday, June 10
Sale: Fri-Sat, June 13-14

Clean out your closets, garage and cupboards

Please wait until June 10th to bring large items

Upcoming Events

Special Muscical Guest Lasana Kanneh

May 4
Honary Donation

Youth and Service Mother's Day Project

May 6th at 3:30 Lexington Elementary
May 7 at 2:30 Columbia Heights Elementary

Bark Dust Spreading day

May 10 at 10:00

Mother's Day

May 11
Pancake Breakfast following Service
(Men of Bethany)

Council / Quartlerly Meeting

Council -May 15 at 3:00
Quarterly at 5:00- All are welcome to help plan events
for the summer

Book Study

Scouting the Divine by Margaret Feinberg

See next page for more details

Book will need to be purchased by attendees before May 18th

FISH

Setup May 26th (Memorial Day)
Distribution May 27th

Tomato Sauce, spaghetti sauce, chili, rice, Toilet Paper

Bethany Lutheran and Lay Leaders of Lower Columbia Conference

"It only takes a handful of people to experience abundance"
-Pastor Susan Dollinger, Bethany Lutheran Longview

Bethany Lutheran in Longview is part of a collaboration between local ELCA churches to get together and do cooperative projects. The exciting part of this collaboration is that the intention is for the projects to be congregation driven rather than clergy driven.

This collaboration started just before Covid in 2019. The hope and dream was simply to get churches together and connect as a larger community in one conference. There were a few reasons for this – first and foremost to be able to do bigger things than they could do alone, but included was an honest assessment that mergers between some of these small churches might be part of their futures. If congregations could build relationships together that were already positive and mission-based, that possibility could also be positive and mission-based.

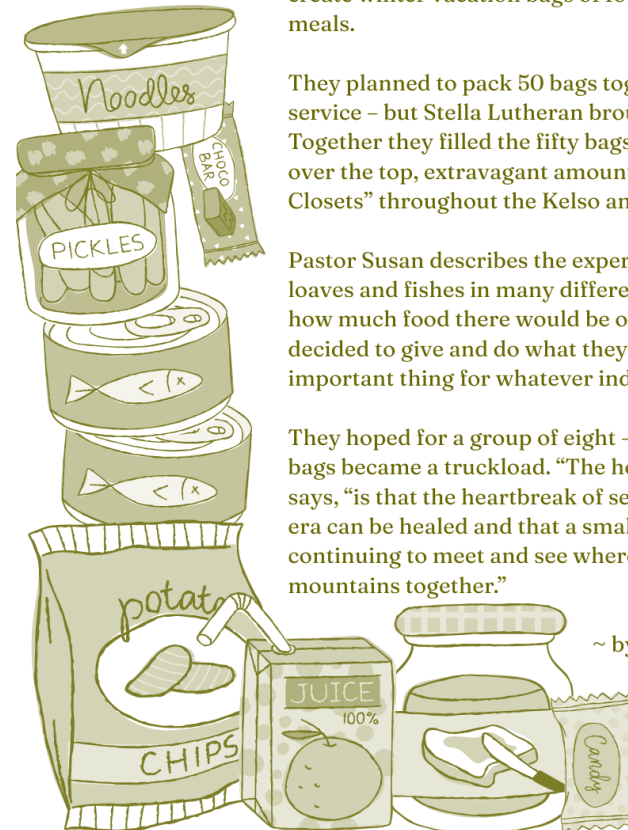
The most recent project was a collaboration between Bethany and Stella Lutheran Chapel. Both churches have strong lay leadership and a desire to serve their community. They pooled resources to create winter vacation bags of food for families that relied on school meals.

They planned to pack 50 bags together during an Advent worship service – but Stella Lutheran brought a TRUCKLOAD of food. Together they filled the fifty bags and packed another car with an over the top, extravagant amount of food to bring to "Resource Closets" throughout the Kelso and Longview school districts.

Pastor Susan describes the experience as an amazing abundance of loaves and fishes in many different ways. They started with no idea how much food there would be or what level of participation – but decided to give and do what they could, trusting that it would be an important thing for whatever individuals they were able to serve.

They hoped for a group of eight – ended up a group of thirty. Fifty bags became a truckload. "The hope for the future," Pastor Susan says, "is that the heartbreak of separation left over from the Covid era can be healed and that a small group of committed people, continuing to meet and see where the Holy Spirit leads, can move mountains together."

~ by Chavaleh Forgey, Synod Storytelle



Looking Ahead for Beth's Place and PCAP

The Stella and Bethany churches are *considering* a next service project to culminate on **June 4th at Bethany** if approved. You will hear more about our Beth's Place project to support the housing, counseling, and other services they provide for our community's un-housed youth. We want to have sign ups to "stock their pantry" so the volunteer chef who is training the youth to get health cards and become qualified for commercial kitchen work will have the food to feed themselves as well as learn a trade.

In addition, our in-gathering will also include the over sixty addicted mothers and pregnant women who are being helped by the Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) in our community. They are in need of every size of children's and babies' disposable diapers and a variety of women's toiletries. These women are in counseling and receiving help to become productive members of society and good mothers.

We welcome our new custodian Jeremy Harris



Jeremy and his job coach will be here every
Wednesday from 1:00-2:00.
If you see him, make sure to say hello!

FISH Needs Your Help!

Federal funds are being cut from programs like our Cowlitz CAP. Some of the money they receive is used by CAP to provide Bethany with food for food insecure qualified members of our community. Pam van den Driessche wants you to know **that the support our church gets is taking a large reduction**. If you can help provide some of the basic necessities to the approximate 100 people (25 families) we serve every six weeks, it would be appreciated. Make the check to Bethany with FISH in the memo, and it will reach her for purchases. If you prefer to shop, we need toilet paper, pasta sauce, soup, oatmeal, rice, canned chili, and many other items on the list included in this newsletter. The next FISH distribution is May 27th, so when you do your next shopping trip, please consider supporting those in need. The Grocery Outlet is great, and Bethany gets help from your purchases there—pick up a card in the narthex. You may drop off your FISH donations in the narthex in the turquoise tub or by the FISH storeroom door in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for being blessed to be a blessing to others!

Mother's Day PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The men of Bethany are celebrating the all our mothers with a special pancake breakfast following service on May 11.



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

May 6	10:30 am	Journaling p 40-41
May 13	10:30 am	TBA
May 20	10:30 am	Receiving the Spirit's Flame-Gather
May 27	10:30 am	Receiving the Spirit's Flame-Gather

Women's Bible Study for May found in Gather Magazine, Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers.



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 Bethany

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. No Moments on May 14th

Small Seeds and Sprouts

SPRING SERVICE PROJECT
SATURDAY, MAY 10TH AT 10:00 AM

BARK DUST SPREADING,
DRESS FOR OUTSIDE WORK



Longview Mobile Library at Bethany Lutheran Church

May 3- 1:30-2:30
May 17- 1:30-2:30
May 31- 1:30-2:30

If there is a church event during the scheduled time, the mobile library will be at the end of Parkview

Longview Mobile Library Homebound Delivery

If you are confined to your home and reside within the library's mini rural delivery service, you may benefit from free home delivery of library material. 360-442-5300



ATTENDANCE	
April	TOTAL
6	53
13	64
20	78
27	45
AVG	60

Offering to date April	
2024	2025
\$49,166	\$43,761
Expenses to date April	
2024	2025
\$47,521	\$60,919
	Includes \$11,000 deposit sound system

Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, May 4 - Communion

Greeter	Beth Milhiser
Ushers	Harry Blair/ _____
Reader	Phyllis Cavens
Communion Setup	Dot Blair
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	Lee Limpach
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	Barbara Bley /

Sunday, May 11 Small Seeds / Mothers Day Communion

Greeter	Small Seeds
Usher	1. Chris Engebo / _____
Reader	Small Seeds
Communion Setup	Pat Reistroffer
Communion Assist	Pat Reistroffer
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Men's Pancake breakfast

Sunday, May 18 Communion

Greeter	
Usher	1. Tom Hughes /
Reader	Duane Thompson
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Carol Thompson
Powerpoint	Dan Lane
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	Barb Clausen / Phyllis Cavens

Sunday, May 25 - Communion

Greeter	
Ushers	Bob Reistroffer / Pat Reistroffer
Reader	
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	_____ / _____.



Scouting the Divine

by Margaret Feinberg will begin Friday May 16th online at 10:00 and May 18th at 11:15

May 16 & 18– Read Intro pages 9-42

May 23 & 25– Read pages 42-66

Scouting the Divine is available for purchase on Amazon for \$15.66 or check your favorite retailer.

Please purchase before May 16th.



May

Bethany Lutheran Church 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	01 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape 1:00 Council Retreat	02 6:00 Girl Scouts	03 11:30 Bill Zimmerman service
04 Sunday Service Special Guest Lasana 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	05	06 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible St 11:00 Financial Review 3:30 Lexington youth 6:00 Boy Scouts	07 12:15 Exec Zoom 1:00 Jeremy Cleans 1:30 Moments at Bethany 2:30 Col. Heights youth	08 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape	09 6:00 Girl Scouts	10 10:00 Small Seeds and Sprouts Bark Dust spread day
11 Sunday Service Small Seeds & Sprouts 9:30 Worship 10:30 Pancake breakfast Mother's Day	12	13 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible st 3:30 Chi Cowlitz Women Educators 6:00 Boy Scouts Pastor out cont ed	14 1:00 Jeremy Cleans Pastor out cont ed	15 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape 3:00 Council Meeting 5:00 Quarterly Meeting Pastor out cont ed	16 10:00 Online Book Study 6:00 Girl Scouts	17 Ladies of the Lake Quilters (Fellowship Hall)
18 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Book Study	19	20 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	21 1:00 Jeremy Cleans 1:30 Moments at Bethany	22 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape	23 10:00 Online Book Study 6:00 Girl Scouts	24
25 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	26 FISH Setup Memorial Day	27 FISH Distribution 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	28 1:00 Jeremy Cleans 1:30 Moments at Bethany	29 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape	30 6:00 Girl Scouts	31