

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

*July 2025*

*God's Blessings to . . .*



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

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

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

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

**Sunday Morning Worship Time**

**9:30 Worship    10:30 Coffee Hour**



*12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. 1 Kings 19: 12-13a*

Greetings Bethany, In mid-June I attended the Synod Assembly, as there was a bishop election, the entirety of the assembly was all business. It took all five votes to elect a bishop, and it was an exciting process. Many have asked how electing a bishop occurs. There were five scheduled votes. The first vote was general, everyone could nominate any ordained clergy, even if they were from another synod. In the first vote sixteen people were nominated.

From there those people had about an hour to either take their name out of the running, or quickly fill out forms to keep their name in. After that, we voted on seven candidates. Three people were new, and four people had been campaigning for longer times. This vote left seven people on the ballot.

On the second day, all seven people had a chance to give a four-minute speech. We voted again, which left us with the top three. Each person then answered three questions. I don't remember all the questions but there was one that was something to the effect of "Tell us about a time when you really felt the Holy Spirit enter into your ministry." When our newly elected bishop talked about how the Holy Spirit entered his ministry, was also when I felt the Holy Spirit enter into the room like a powerful energy. It brings goosebumps to my arms still. After this we had two candidates left, and in our 5th vote, our new bishop was elected. I thought it was an interesting and exciting process.

Our newly elect bishop is Rev. Keith Marshall from Enumclaw, WA. I told him in the receiving line what I had experienced, and he said, there were many people who had told him the same thing. It was a "Wow!" moment for sure. I love when things like this happen, and it is so powerful. There are just times when you know that the Spirit is present. I have had several experiences where this has occurred. In this time it was a woosh of an energy, but I have seen the Spirit come in a butterfly, felt it in an electric zap, and also in the stillness. I would love to hear your stories

Please extend prayers to Bishop Elect Reverend Keith Marshall as he is coming into such a time as this. May God be with us all.

Many blessings,

*Pastor Susan*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Please consider even sharing the load others are carrying. We need 1-2 people to take turns opening the church on Sunday mornings—see Russ Gilchrist for what it involves.

Then we need 1-2 people to sign up the service volunteers each month. We are trying not to disturb your worship service with the clipboards, so if folks would volunteer to meet people after church in the narthex and ask each family/individual to help us, that would be great. Many hands make light work!

ATTENDANCE	
June	TOTAL
1	41
8	64
15	48
22	40
29	35
AVG	46

Offering to date June	
2024	2025
\$76,575	\$65,523
Expenses to date June	
2024	2025
\$89,602	\$80,342

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

**THANK YOU**

FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THAT THE  
RUMMAGE SALE TEAM PUT INTO MAKING  
IT A HUGE SUCCESS THIS YEAR! SO FAR  
\$2,969 HAS BEEN RAISED, WITH MORE TO  
COME!

TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED, WE  
CERTAINLY COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT  
WITHOUT YOU! THANK YOU!



## Longview Mobile Library at Bethany Lutheran Church

**July 19 12:00-1:00** 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



### Ministry Volunteers

#### Sunday, July 6 - Communion

Greeter	Susan Shiu
Ushers	
Reader	Duane Thompson
Communion Setup	
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	Carol Thompson
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	Phyllis Cavens/ Jeff Warne

#### Sunday, July 13 Communion

Greeter	
Usher	
Reader	
Communion Setup	
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	

#### Sunday, July 20 Communion

Greeter	
Usher	
Reader	
Communion Setup	Carol Thompson
Communion Assist	
Powerpoint	
Live Service	
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	

#### Sunday, July 27 Communion

Greeter	Phyllis Cavens
Ushers	
Reader	Phyllis Cavens
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	Gabe Pelster
Live Service	John Pelster
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	

### July Emergency Fund

“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 used to 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/cancel policies and programs that impact millions of people at once—and much of this aid has been eliminated in 2025. Please consider writing your second-mile giving check to either Bread for the World (for advocacy) or the Lutheran World Relief (for direct food distribution). Our faith in Christ is the foundation for their mission and compels all of us to love our neighbors near and far--- led by the values of faith to stand up for those experiencing hunger all over the world.

### Farewell Vespers by Bishop Jaech

Bishop Jaech will be holding a few Farewell Vespers to say thank you and goodbye to people throughout the Synod with light refreshments afterwards.

Sunday, July 6, 4PM, at St. Andrew Lutheran, Vancouver

Sunday, July 13, 4PM, at St. Mark's by the Narrows, Tacoma

### July Ministry of the Month: Council Members

Please thank these elected members who devote their time, their prayers, and their ideas to both the administrative business and the spiritual side of our Bethany! They participate in a two-hour council meeting once a month, respond to email voting, etc. on a needs basis, and officers attend a monthly zoom meeting to prepare the agenda. They are responsible for hiring staff, recommending pastoral calls to the congregation, organizing congregational meetings, approving all contracts, and keeping us accountable for our work. Their advocacy and support for staff and members as well as the work of our congregational projects is vital to our success for the Lord's work to be done at Bethany.

When you see them (or drop them a note of gratitude): Tori Gosch, Vice President; Beth Grambo, Secretary; Susan Shiu, Treasurer; George Obermeyer; Phyllis Cavens; Susan Dollinger, Pastor; and Barb Clausen, President.

### Here is a spiritual practice for the month of July: Stillness

Try to spend quiet time stilling your mind. If you have never done this, set your timer for 30 seconds and the next day a minute and then a minute and a half. Try and get to 15 minutes by the end of the month. If you are not new to this practice try and get to 20 minutes at least once a day, and if you are already an expert and can do this easily, try adding in a second meditation in the evenings.

*Pro tip: Mornings are the best time for a meditation but anytime works.*

Why do this: Aside from the long list of health and mental health reasons that a quick Google search will bring up, spiritually it gives you space. Space from all the distractions out there. Space in your heart and your mind to hear God, to feel God. It can help calm your anxiety or your fears.

1. Turn off cell phone sound, (but you can set your timer) – you can do this by setting the Do not Disturb button on your phone settings (don't forget to turn it back on afterward). And also you can set your alarm to vibrate so that it isn't so jarring.
2. You can say a prayer of beginning for openness and stillness, and a thanksgiving prayer for the time with the Lord at the end.
3. If your mind wanders, use a mantra word, like “peace” or “love” or “quiet” that you say over and over in your mind to bring you back to the stillness.
4. Keep a journal near by and write down any thing at the end.

Try it. Let me know your results. *Pastor Susan*

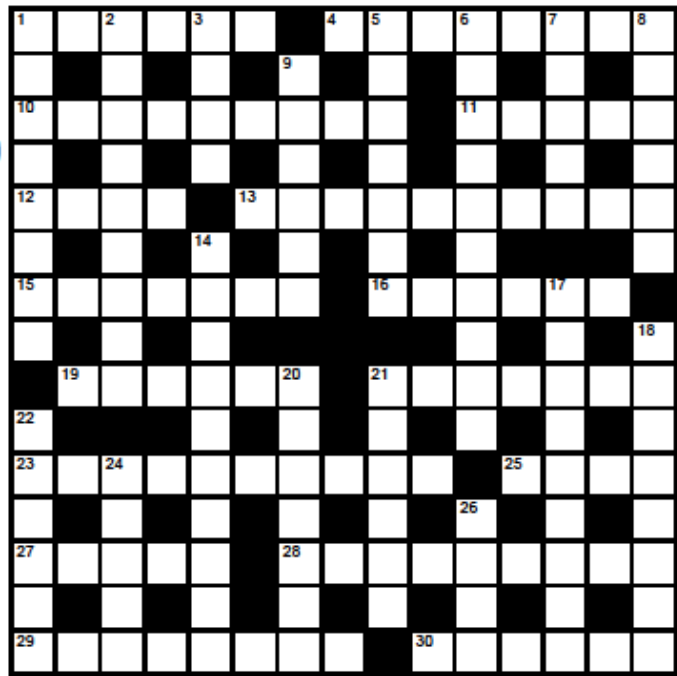
# BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a \_\_\_\_ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but \_\_\_\_\_ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

## Living Stones Prison Ministry

A few of you have visited the twenty-year Living Stone Prison Ministry in Shelton in the past and some of you have heard the previous minister when he visited Bethany. Currently, the pastor, Eric Utto-Galameau, is a quarter-time pastor, so it is not possible to visit at this time. Their service every Thursday evening is from 6:30-8:30 pm. and includes a 9-15 member band for a praise-filled worship--with great enthusiasm. Pastor Eric also mentors the band, and it plays at other Christian worship services throughout the week. He would like continued prayers for the ministry. If you feel called to serve on their outside board, please contact Pastor Eric as there are openings. Also, if you wish to contribute to meet their 2026 needs, send your check to the church SW WA Synod with Living Stones in the memo at 420 121st St. S, Tacoma, 98444. Praise the Lord our Synod can support this important ministry to bring hope to the incarcerated!

## Volunteer Signup

The signups for all of our volunteer spots is now located in the narthex on the table next to the FISH barrel.

*Mathew 5:15-16 What Is Our Call? "No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

This is a call to action for us believers! Where are you shining your light? We are to find those who are ready to hear/receive the gospel and to bring them to know the Lord personally. Do you know someone who needs the Lord? (As shy Lutherans, let's find ways to make this easier.) Who can you encourage to join us who does not have a church? Maybe invite them to our summer events, whether it is the S'Mores and Gospel Singing, or something else of interest. Once they come in the church door, get to know us, then offer to bring them to a Sunday service. It is the Lord working with Pastor Susan who then will touch their hearts and light the light in their hearts. You don't have to be a strong evangelist (many Lutherans aren't) but you can shine your light (host them) and invite them to church. If you are coming to summer events, please call the office and reserve your spot so we know how many to plan for!

# Wednesday Nights Summer Series

**July 16 @ 5:30**

## **S'mores and Songs**

This is a wonderful way to kick-off our summer series and spend time with others! Come enjoy our summer-time together! Bring a lawn chair, weather permitting. Open to members, friends, and guests—please RSVP the church office to reserve your spot and assure we have enough food!

**July 23 @ 5:30**

## **Hearing Loss advocacy**

Want to learn more about your hearing health and how to advocate for it? Join Heidi Crabtree to learn more about it. Our hearing is a vital part of life that helps to prevent social isolation, depression, and frustration. Join us in learning what you can do to help yourself and others!

**July 30 @ 5:30**

## **Sharing the Latest Scams & Protection**

We will share recent information from a variety of sources about current scams and how to protect yourself to prevent fraud. A variety of resources and tips will be shared. Be smart and don't fall victim to smart criminals!

**August 6 @ 5:30**

## **ELCA Indonesia World Hunger Presentation**

**August 13 @ 5:30**

## **Autism Awareness**

**August 20 @ 5:30**

## **Water Color**

Come work with watercolor whether you are a beginner or experienced! We will find joy and laughter as we creatively explore this medium and develop a picture. Pastor Susan Dollinger will help you feel comfortable in developing your art work! Fee for supplies:

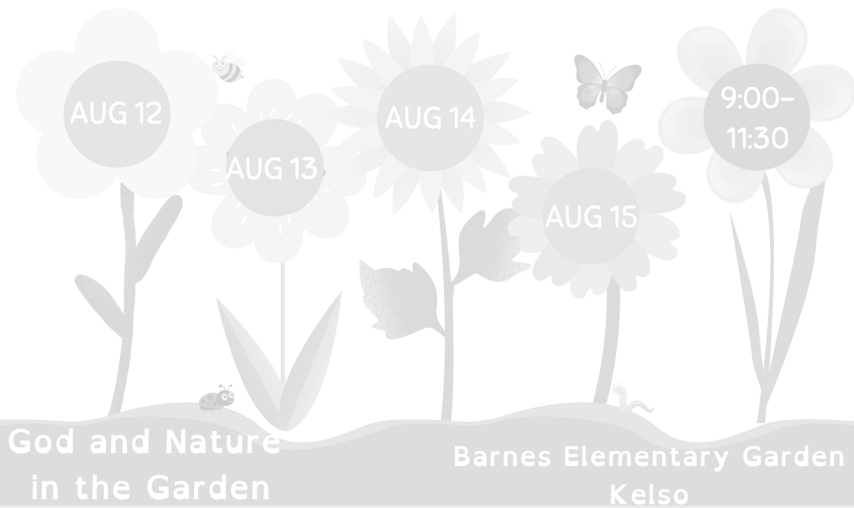
## **Bethany Lutheran Church**

360-577-8240

2600 Parkview Dr.

Longview, WA 98632

# Small Seeds and Sprouts Summer 2025



# FISH

NEEDS

JULY 2 SETUP

JULY 3 DISTRIBUTION

*SOUP, CHILI, PASTA SAUCE*

## Opportunities to Gather and Learn

### *Women's Bible Study*

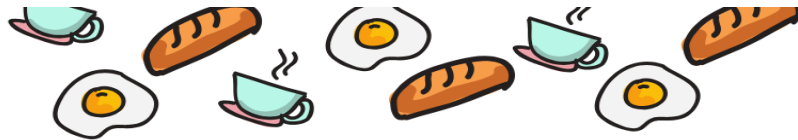
We gather for prayers, cares, concerns, challenges, and celebration in the Faith room & on Zoom



July 1 10:30 am

Women's Bible Study is based through Gather Magazine,

Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers.



### Breakfast Group

Our Breakfast Group meets on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am.

#### **Corner Cafe**

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.

We meet on the Kessler side of the lake, about 3 blocks off of Ocean Beach Hwy.  
Bring a lawn chair and a Bible

## 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

Bob Baldwin	Barb Clausen	The Newtons
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		



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

01	Duane Thompson	26	Barbara Price
25	Chris Cotton	29	Susan Shiu

### ANNIVERSARIES

6	Chris & Kelly Engebo
19	Pastor Susan & Patrick Murphy
26	Rick & Ardyth Loewen
	Lee & Shelly Limpach

July

# Bethany Lutheran Church

2025

<u>SUNDAY</u>	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>01</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>02</b> FISH SETUP 1:30 Moments at Lake	<b>03</b> FISH DISTRIBUTION 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape	<b>04</b> Independence Day	<b>05</b>
<b>06</b> Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts  Ginger out of office	<b>09</b> 1:00 Jeremy Cleans 1:30 Moments at Lake  Ginger out of office	<b>10</b> 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape 10:00 Financial Review  Ginger out of office	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 1:00 Jeremy Cleans 1:30 Moments at Lake 5:30 Summer Series Smores and Songs	<b>17</b> 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:00 Mobile Library
<b>20</b> Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> School Supply drive begins	<b>22</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 1:00 Jeremy Cleans 1:30 Moments at Lake 5:30 Hearing Loss Advocacy	<b>24</b> 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00 Breakfast Group 6:00 Boy Scouts  Pastor out of office	<b>30</b> 1:00 Jeremy Cleans 1:30 Moments at Lake 5:30 Barb Clausen Scams  Pastor out of office	<b>31</b> 9:00 Duct Tape 10:00 Coffee Duct tape  Pastor out of office	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>